Book reviews

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ORAL PRECANCER: DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF POTENTIALLY MALIGNANT DISORDERS

P. Thomson (ed)
Wiley-Blackwell
price £82.95; pp 236
ISBN 9781444335743

Peter Thomson and his team from Newcastle have worked together to create this textbook based on the complex disorder of oral precancer. With over 30 years of experience Peter Thomson has a vast amount of knowledge on this subject, which shows throughout this well presented text. The book aims to propose a rational basis for an interventional clinical management protocol for oral precancer using not only past experience but also the current literature, which the authors admit is rather misleading. The intended audience is not clearly outlined but the detail of the text implies that it is for specialists or those about to embark on the oral and maxillofacial specialist career pathway.

This hard-backed book contains a multitude of clinically relevant photographs across 12 chapters. Every chapter finishes with a comprehensive list of references should the reader wish to expand their knowledge further.

The introduction consists of an explanation of dysplasia and looks briefly into leukoplakia, erythroplakia, prevention and treatments – these are recurring themes throughout the book. The terminology section is excellent for clearing up the often muddy area of precancerous titles in an easy to understand manner. Later, applied anatomy

is covered with suitable photographs. Further chapters cover histology and carcinogenesis in detail but are interspersed with flow charts for simplified information. Chapter four delves further into each type of precancer with high quality pictures and includes an interesting section on premalignant conditions such as immunosuppression and lichen planus with good data for malignant transformation.

Chapter five addresses the difficulty of observing these asymptomatic lesions by using simple examination and diagnostic aids including dye. Again, the pathological aspect is addressed in a very complex manner that may be too deep for some. Management and malignant transformation of the lesions are possibly the best chapters, as they show how surgical techniques are performed, and include handy summary boxes and a mnemonic for revision purposes.

The latter part of the book consists of research from the authors themselves and 11 case studies are presented, which demonstrate the rationale and difficulties in decision making for precancer.

In conclusion, this book is comprehensive in its discussion and imaging of oral precancer. The authors explain the disease process excellently with exemplary photographs. They also allow the reader to go further into the research if they so wish – a great tactic to avoid the book becoming too wordy, which occurs a little in the pathology sections. I would highly recommend the book for those wishing to expand their knowledge on oral malignancy at a specialist trainee or higher level.

C. Steel

PATHOLOGY OF THE HARD DENTAL TISSUES

A. Schuurs
Wiley-Blackwell
price £109.99; pp 456
ISBN 9781405153652

This is the first edition of a unique textbook dedicated solely to pathologies relating to the dental hard tissues. A total of 456 pages are filled with high quality radiographs and photographs that allow the reader to easily visualise the conditions discussed. The book is heavily evidence-based with thousands of references made to an array of highly regarded scientific journals.

The book is divided into four sections. Section one, 'Developmental anomalies', covers anomalies in tooth number, morphology and size, and developmental anomalies of enamel and dentine.

Section two, 'Anomalies of eruption', revises tooth eruption on a microbiological level and summarises the commonly occurring variations in eruption of the deciduous and permanent dentition. This chapter then goes on to discuss causes of abnormal eruption of the dentition and the appropriate management of these conditions.

Section three, 'Post-eruptive hard tissue physiological changes and pathological conditions', is the most extensive section encompassing common dental pathologies and their management including caries, erosion, tooth resorption, common pathologies of the ageing dentition and finally, dental trauma and tooth discolouration. Aetiology and management of these conditions are discussed at length. Particularly impressive is the text refer-