BOOK REVIEW

YOUR CHILD'S TEETH. A COMPLETE GUIDE FOR PARENTS

E. Weidman Sterling, A. Best-Boss
The John Hopkins University Press
price £12.00; pp 296
ISBN 9781421410630

We all know the importance of maintaining good oral health and how overwhelming the dental visit can be for both patients and their parents. This book is a comprehensive guide intended to answer questions that parents may have regarding their child's dentition and oral health. The guide was written by health educators within the United States, with the assistance of paediatric dentists. The book is further supported by the US National Children's Oral Health Foundation.

The book itself is clearly arranged and divided into three parts. The first recognises the worldwide epidemic of dental caries and focuses upon a step-by-step guide of prevention: from oral hygiene instruction to the dental appointment itself and instruments that may be used. In part two the authors succinctly guide parents through common queries that they may have at a particular stage of their child's dental development; from new born to teenage years. The content is laid out with logical 'questions and answers'. These are supported with the use of diagrams when necessary. The final part considers dental and oral health problems, including dental trauma. This chapter also explains the clinical stages involved with orthodontic treatment, root canal treatment and dental extractions. Boxes containing clear lists and important facts are displayed throughout.

Although the book has been developed for the American parent, with advice regarding dental insurance and the steps involved in finding a paediatric dentist, it is relevant to parents within the UK. This is indeed a 'complete' guide; however, some may be deterred by the fact that the book is nearly 300 pages long. I think the book emphasises that parents crave written information regarding oral health and potential dental interventions. It provokes the question whether we, as dental professionals, should provide this more routinely for patients within primary and secondary care?

J. KIRBY

PHOTO STORY

On 16 May 2014 Chief Dental Officer Barry Cockcroft CBE opened a new dental centre on Wells Road in Bristol. The Wells Road practice, part of the Integrated Dental Holdings (IDH) chain, is the single largest site in Bristol: a merger between

Broadwalk Dental Surgery, Wells Road Dental Surgery and Gairloch House Dental Practice. All three dental teams have come together to form the new practice housed in completely refurbished premises, and will deliver services to both NHS and private patients.

DENTAL STEM CELLS MAY ASSIST STROKE PATIENTS

Stem cells from teeth can develop and form complex networks of brain-like cells, according to laboratory studies undertaken at the University of Adelaide's Centre for Stem Cell Research.¹

Although these cells haven't developed into fully fledged neurons, researchers believe it's just a matter of time and the right conditions for it to happen.

Dr Kylie Ellis, Commercial Development Manager with Adelaide Research & Innovation, who conducted the research as part of her physiology PhD, said: 'Stem cells from teeth have great potential to grow into new brain or nerve cells, and this could potentially assist with treatments of brain disorders, such as stroke. Ultimately, we want to be able to use a patient's own stem cells for tailor-made brain therapy that doesn't have the host rejection issues commonly associated with cell-based therapies. Another advantage is that dental pulp stem cell therapy may provide a treatment option available months or even years after [a] stroke has occurred.'

This work with dental pulp stem cells opens up the potential for modelling many more common brain disorders in the laboratory, which could help in developing new treatments and techniques for patients.

1. Ellis K M, O'Carroll D C, Lewis M D, Rychkov G Y, Koblar S A. Neurogenic potential of dental pulp stem cells isolated from murine incisors. *Stem Cell Res Ther* 2014; 5: 30 [Epub ahead of print].

LARGEST STUDY OF ITS KIND CONNECTS TOOTH LOSS WITH HEART DISEASE

A large study from Sweden involving patients from 39 countries has associated periodontal disorders such as tooth loss and gingivitis with increased risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD).

More than 15,000 patients with chronic coronary heart disease provided information on their

dental health, with results showing that indicators of periodontal disease such as fewer remaining teeth and bleeding gums were common in this patient group.

Conversely, a lower prevalence of tooth loss was associated with lower levels of CVD risk factors, including lower glucose levels, low density lipoprotein cholesterol levels, systolic blood pressure, and waist circumference. Diabetes and smoking were also less prevalent among patients with more teeth, while

the likelihood of higher education, alcohol consumption and work stress were greater.

This study is thought to be the largest of its kind to assess dental disease in coronary patients.

1. Vedin O, Hagström E, Gallup D *et al*. Periodontal disease in patients with chronic coronary heart disease. *Eur J Prev Cardiol* 2014 [Epub ahead of print].