BOOK REVIEW

Craig's
RESTORATIVE
DENTAL
MATERIALS

CRAIG'S RESTORATIVE DENTAL MATERIALS, FOURTEENTH EDITION

Ronald Sakaguchi, Jack Ferracane, John Powers
2018; Elsevier
price £84.99 pp. 352
ISBN: 9780323478212

Dental materials can be a challenging subject to understand. However, the importance of dental materials in current practice cannot be emphasised enough. Knowledge and best practice are ever changing and *Craig's restorative dental materials* covers everything you would need to know to understand and use materials properly in a clinical and laboratory setting.

The book is now in its fourteenth edition and has been extensively updated to include many recent developments in dental material science and new materials for clinical use. The book is ideal for postgraduate students looking to supplement their knowledge of dental materials with the clinical application and underlying science. An excellent website also accompanies the book providing extensive graphics, text and mind maps to supplement the chapters in the book.

The format of the book follows previous editions and is organised by clinical procedures. There are a total of sixteen chapters with the first seven chapters giving a background to dental material science.

This includes discussing the role and significance of restorative dental materials, the oral environment, concepts in dental treatment design, the properties of dental materials, testing of materials, biocompatibility and the general classes of biomaterials.

The following nine chapters discuss the different categories of materials including sealants, composite resins, metals, ceramics, impression and casting, adhesion and luting materials and dental implants. The final two chapters are on digital imaging and tissue engineering which has been extensively updated. These topics are discussed in a detailed and informative manner. Each chapter is accompanied by illustrations and diagrams, with a concise and relevant reference list at the end of each chapter.

In summary, the book provides a comprehensive review of restorative dental materials relevant to all clinicians. The book discusses in great detail the science, application and relevant evidence-based studies to accompany the information. As it would be expected with such a book on dental materials, chemistry is discussed in depth and perhaps for an undergraduate student, it is unnecessarily complex and would be better suited for postgraduate students.

I was impressed by the detail of information in this book and it has most definitely helped solidify my understanding of dental materials and its clinical applications. An essential for those planning on further training in the restorative field.

Hamzah Ahmed

Clarification on 24-month dentist appointment plans welcomed

The Scottish Government has clarified its position on recommending the length of time patients should have between dentist appointments.

BDA Scotland has welcomed the clarification from the Scottish Government that means the latter will not proceed with recommending 24-month recall intervals for what are termed 'low risk' patients by default.

The Oral Health Improvement Plan¹ that was launched (by the Scottish Government) in January 2018 contained proposals to extend the dental recall interval for some patients to 24 months and cited NICE guidance that patients not considered to be 'at risk of or from oral disease' may be extended over time up to an interval of 24 months.

The suggestion was strongly opposed by the BDA which said there should be a 12-month interval maximum for check-ups.

In a survey of dentists that featured in BDA Scotland's recently published *Oral Cancer Action Plan*² 97% of respondents said they had concerns this would undermine detection of oral cancers, while more than three quarters (77%) identified it as a major or severe risk.

The BDA said that dentists were often the first health professionals to detect oral cancers. In 2016, 1,240 people in Scotland were diagnosed with the condition and while there have been improvements in other cancers in recent years, there has been a 37% increase in oral cancer deaths in the last decade.

Speaking to STV following the launch of BDA Scotland's *Oral Cancer Action Plan*, Scotland's Deputy Chief Dental Officer Tom Ferris said: 'We have not said 24 months. The research said it's a possibility. That's for the decision that will be made by the patient and dentist

together about what is the best interval between check-ups [...] so they are right to raise their concerns. We will have another period where we discuss with the profession.'

Robert Donald, Chair of the BDA's Scottish Council said: 'We welcome assurances that 24-month dental recall intervals will not be introduced - and that 'high-risk' patients will be seen more frequently than those in good oral health. The Chief Dental Officer has been explicit that it will be for the dentist and patient to jointly decide on the appropriate recall interval.

'The Scottish Government has acknowledged publicly that we are right to raise our concerns on this issue. The profession will have a further period of discussion with government to explore these concerns and hopefully come to a sensible solution that does not put our patients lives at risk.

'We believe that patients should be seen as often as is clinically necessary, and that "high-risk" patients might need to be seen more frequently. We remain convinced the many worthy ambitions in the Oral Health Improvement Plan will not be achieved without new investment.

'It is now more than ten months since the Plan launched - and, apart from the introduction of occupational health services for dentists and their teams - which we have campaigned for and welcomed - none of the 41 actions in the Plan have been completed.'

1. Scottish Government. Oral health improvement plan. 2018. Available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/oral-health-improvement-plan/> (accessed December 2018).
2. BDA. Oral Cancer: A Plan for Action. 2018. Available at https://www.bda.org/dentists/policy-campaigns/public-health-science/public-health/PublishingImages/Pages/Scotland-oral-cancer-awareness-campaign/Oral_cancer_plan_WEB.pdf (accessed December 2018).