

Book Reviews

The Herbst Appliance (1995)

Author: Hans Pancherz

Publisher: Editorial Aguiram, Sevilla, Spain

Price: \$29.00

ISBN: 84-88153-07-4

In this comprehensive clearly written book on 74 pages with 77 illustrations, Professor Pancherz shares his solid clinical experience and selected results in simple figures and diagrams from his unique prospective clinical studies on the effect of the Herbst appliance. All essential information is there, in a very comprehensive way. The first part covers clinical and laboratory procedures for both the banded and splinted versions of the appliance. The middle part describes the effects of the appliance on the dentofacial complex, soft tissue profile and masticatory function—including the immediate, early and late post-treatment effects, and factors contributing to stability or unfavourable post-

treatment changes, respectively. Finally guidelines on the indications and treatment timing are given, the use of the Herbst appliance as a part of a two or three stage treatment procedure, and retention.

Professor Pancherz has conducted a model study for clinical research, and committed himself to share the findings in the different orthodontic journals over the years—in this neat publication the work is updated and summarized in his own style characterized by simplicity and based on facts only. I certainly enjoyed the content and the format and I am convinced that other readers will also do so.

Urban Hägg

Introductory Statistics: A Modelling Approach (1995)

Author: J. K. Lindsey

Publisher: Oxford University Press, Oxford

Price: £19.50

ISBN: 0-19-852345-9

This book, according to the publishers, has been written 'for the student who, as a medical, biological, or social scientist, will use computers and statistical techniques to design surveys or experiments and analyse the resulting data'. In the spirit, if not in the letter, this should include orthodontists.

The approach is fairly rigorous, and the book covers a lot of ground, reaching, for example, logistic regression in chapter 2, although simple linear regression waits until Chapter 5. Chapter 4 covers as many distributions as my undergraduate statisticians are likely to meet in their entire degree. Chapter 6 covers topics that are statistically very challenging, although frustratingly 'repeated measures' receives only two pages which gives a bare flavour of what is possible. Repeated measures are relevant to orthodontists as teeth within a person is a form of repeated measure.

A serious omission within the book is any systematic development of study design, such as clinical trials. Although there are many interesting examples including medical ones, none are dental. The mathematical requirement is described as minimal, but unless a reader is prepared to work systematically through the book, familiarity with the basics of 'A' level would be helpful.

In summary, a reader who is already statistically minded might learn lots of interesting things from this book, but for most readers grappling with analysing or reading about statistics, a book such as (Campbell and Machin, 1993) would be a far better start.

Deborah Ashby

References

Campbell M J, Machin D 1993 Medical statistics: a commonsense approach, 2nd edn. John Wiley, Chichester.