

Book Reviews

Clinical Management of Temporomandibular Disorders and Orofacial Pain (1995)

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This textbook includes 21 chapters with contributions from 26 authors. The editors' goal of providing a book useful to both clinicians and dental students is well fulfilled. The layout of the book is attractive and the high quality of the illustrations, including the radiographs, set a good example. Although the book covers the spectra of temporomandibular joint function, dysfunction and pathology, temporomandibular disorders, other than joint related, and orofacial pain of non-masticatory origin, the book is easy to read due to its logical structure.

The first chapter, 'Functional Anatomy and the Biomechanics of the Temporomandibular Joint', is not the most comprehensive in the literature but it is the best description of the function of the temporomandibular joint that I have read so far. For someone who has never dissected a temporomandibular joint and studied the movement of the disc and condyle in an autopsy specimen or worked with radiographic cine imaging of patients, this chapter gives a very good understanding. The description of the temporomandibular joint, its morphology, function, dysfunction and diseases, is based on the same basic principles that apply to other human synovial joints, which makes it logical and easy to understand.

General concepts of diagnosis and treatment are adequately addressed in a separate chapter and give a good overview and understanding of the different aspects. Because the definition of successful treatment is often a subject of debate among clinicians, the authors have chosen to use the term 'management' in preference to 'cure' and 'treatment' and therefore give a more objective approach to the subject.

The second chapter addresses the cervical

spine, and provides a good description of its functional anatomy, common pathologies and trauma. The physical examination is described step by step and can be followed in illustrations. The assessment by conventional radiography is very detailed with multiple illustrations. Magnetic resonance imaging is, however, only briefly mentioned although today it constitutes a most important diagnostic tool with its ability to visualize not only hard but also soft tissues. The following chapters focus on the mechanisms of pain and the understanding of the psychological profile of the patient.

The chapter 'Disorders of the Temporomandibular Joint' presents a general discussion, including characteristics and management of the more common disorders involving the TMJ. Disc displacement is well described in the fifth chapter, both regarding diagnosis and therapy. The authors have chosen to restrict the text only to anterior and anteromedial disc displacement and therefore consistently use the abbreviation ADD. This is unfortunate because the abbreviation can be taken for a synonym of disc displacement in any direction and recent studies have shown that displacement in the anterior or anteromedial direction is not the most common type but rather displacement in the anteriolateral direction. It would have been beneficial if the specific and more severe clinical symptoms which can be associated with medial disc displacement had been addressed. In total, the more common disorders of the temporomandibular joint are well covered from a clinical and diagnostic viewpoint.

The two chapters on radiographic imaging of the temporomandibular joint cover the subject well. The text is easy to follow for the dental

student, for the clinician with limited knowledge of radiology, and is of interest to those experienced in radiology. The chapter 'Radiographic Evaluation of the TMJ' is restricted to techniques other than MRI, which forms a separate chapter by a different author. The excellent imaging algorithm, showing choice of imaging based on presenting symptoms, is covered in the second of the two chapters on radiography, while it would have been logical as an introduction to the subject as such. The two chapters together fully cover the different imaging techniques applicable for the temporomandibular joint.

Management of temporomandibular disorders include six chapters covering occlusal appliance therapy, pharmacotherapy, an overview of physical modalities and procedures, behavioural and psychosocial management, surgery of the temporomandibular joint and

long-term management of the temporomandibular disorder patient.

Finally orofacial pain of non-masticatory origin and headache disorders are addressed. The chapter on differential diagnosis covers a number of different conditions and the reader is guided through the diagnostic process to the differential diagnosis of orofacial pain with the feeling that a labyrinth of obscurity has been straightened out.

In summary, this textbook has a logical outline and an attractive layout with excellent illustrations which makes it not only suitable for dental students but also serves as a guide for practitioners. Experienced clinicians will no doubt gain insight from the expertise of the various contributing authors and their ability to discuss complex subjects on a clinical level.

I can warmly recommend this textbook.

Annika Isberg

The Periodontal Ligament in Health and Disease, 2nd edition (1995)

Barry K. B. Berkowitz, Bernard J. Moxham and Hubert N. Newman

Times International Publishers Ltd, London

Price: £149.50

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Although a second edition of the original 1982 version, the addition of two new chapters and the considerable modifications made by the editors lead them to consider this as a new work.

The combination of a page size permitting 1000 words per page with 446 pages make this a large book. There are 21 chapters which deal comprehensively with the anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, cell biology and pathology of the periodontal ligament and associated tissues. Specifically excluded from the text, by the editors, is any mention of periodontal therapy.

The chapters have been written by 32 different authors. However, not all these authors are equally well known and it may have been an advantage to list the authors and their areas of expertise at the beginning of the book. This comment also has relevance to the interpretation that authors place on their delegated areas. For example, Embery and colleagues produce an excellent chapter on ground substance from the

basic science point of view which stops short of fully describing the clinical relevance of the topic.

There are some 380 illustrations and figures, of which 110 are tables and line drawings. The 172 colour illustrations allow a vivid appreciation of both the histological staining techniques used and the clinical presentation of the conditions described. This is particularly noticeable in the sections dealing with immunocytochemistry.

This book is to be highly commended to those readers wishing to acquire a detailed knowledge of the periodontal ligament particularly in relation to the structure and pathology of the tissue, since it is in those areas that the monograph is at its best.

Orthodontists will note the inclusion of a chapter on histology by Rygh and Brudvik which, although well presented and illustrated, largely reiterates previous work. Davidovitch discusses cell biology in relation to orthodontic