

## Orthodontic Cephalometry (1995)

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The book's 13 chapters are the collaborative effort of 20 authors from Europe, the USA and Thailand. Athanasiou has collected and co-ordinated the different contributions and also authored or co-authored seven of the 13 chapters. With a topic as diverse as cephalometry it is difficult to cover every aspect within the limits of a single book. A substantial number of research and clinical papers have been devoted to the topic of cephalometric radiography since its introduction 64 years ago by Hofrath and Broadbent.

As opposed to many other publications regarding cephalometry, this book does not present one single cephalometric analysis, but rather tries to shed light on the different aspects of cephalometry from the basic technique of producing X-ray films through a thorough explanation of the relevant anatomical structures to computerized cephalometric systems. Individual cephalometric analyses are summarized in the last chapter, that also list a vast number of landmark and reference plane definitions. Some aspects that are rarely found with regard to cephalometrics are the discussion of the terms 'validity' and 'reproducibility' in evaluating different methods, specific problems and superimposition methods in the analysis of changes over time, ethical aspects in taking cephalograms, and the advantages of using computer-aided cephalometric analysis.

Special mention has to be made of the chapter on non-orthodontic pathologies that can (and should) be detected on lateral headplates. This

is a topic that is probably not dealt with adequately in most dental and orthodontic training programmes. The chapter on the more research-related aspects of craniocervical angulation, pharyngeal relationship, and hyoid and tongue positions is especially unique. Up to now researchers did not have a comprehensive list of possible landmarks and variables regarding these problems. Similarly the collection of landmarks and variables in the chapter on the evaluation of antero-posterior cephalograms is quite unique in the literature. Lastly, an outlook on the future regarding digital computed radiography with its associated increase in quality and reduction in radiation dosage completes the scope of the book.

In summary, the book gives a vast overview of aspects related to orthodontic cephalometry. Due to the vastness of the topic the book lacks some aspects in the clinical application of cephalometric analysis, including a number of analytical methods. However, theses are already available in the form of numerous atlases and books by many authors. The strengths of the book lie in the fundamental principles of cephalometric radiography and in providing a valuable database for the planning of research projects. It is therefore recommended as a reference work in the libraries of research institutions and as reading during a postgraduate training programme. It can only be hoped that the price will not deter the latter group from obtaining the work.

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