

Orthodontic Treatment: The Management of Unfavorable Sequelae (1996)

James A. McNamara, Jr and Carol-Anne Trotman (Eds)

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Orthodontists are becoming ever more aware of the risks associated with the treatments they offer, as well as the benefits, and this monograph in the Craniofacial Growth Series addresses an area of growing concern in the present increasingly litigious times. It records the proceedings of the 1995 R. E. Moyers Symposium which was held at Ann Arbor, and is dedicated to Dr Moyers, who died in January 1996. Its 17 chapters come from a distinguished international panel of contributors, and include reviews, original research, and previews of ongoing research projects.

The book has three parts, beginning with an introduction by Rolf Behrents who identifies complications which are patient-related, such as poor compliance, those which are practitioner-related, where inherent difficulties go unrecognized by the operator, and those which could not be anticipated. There are many dramatic clinical examples which show the importance of proper training and of learning from mistakes. There follows a psychologist's view of the causes and nature of human error, reminding us that it is not only novices that make mistakes; experts can sometimes allow habit to dictate over reason. The legal aspects of risk management are then discussed, and the need for informed consent and good records is emphasized.

The second part makes up the majority of the book, and includes reviews and research reports about the relationships between orthodontic treatment and root resorption, caries, perio-

dontal disease and temporomandibular joint dysfunction (TMD). The complications and limitations of adult orthodontics and orthognathic surgery are also discussed. There is too much material to describe in detail here, but all the articles are worth reading, and the extensively referenced review articles are especially helpful and will be greatly appreciated by postgraduate students. These include contributions from Gibilaro and Proffit on resorption, Feigal and Levy on enamel caries, and McNamara, Seligman and Okeson on TMD.

The editors describe the third part of the book as considering related topics, although the three articles seem somewhat remote from the book's main purpose. They look at developmental anomalies associated with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, a new statistically based cephalometric analysis, and a study of the very late stages of facial growth, including gender differences and the effect on post-orthodontic stability.

The book is well produced, and for the most part the black and white illustrations have reproduced satisfactorily. It is inevitable in a publication of this kind that the articles vary in their style, and not all papers will appeal to all readers. However, there is a great deal of valuable and thought-provoking material here, much of which will be of value to postgraduate students and their teachers. The book is reasonably priced and will make a very useful addition to any orthodontic library.

Nigel Carter