

Book reviews

Nonparametric Statistical Methods, 2nd edn (1999)

Authors: M. Hollander and D. A. Wolfe

Publisher: John Wiley & Son, Chichester, West Sussex

Price: £58.50

ISBN: 0-471-19045-4

Nonparametric methods of statistics are those which rank data in order, rather than use actual numerical values. At first sight, this means that they seem to sacrifice important basic information. In reality, however, they are very powerful. They have the advantage that they make few assumptions about the underlying populations from which the data were drawn, and they certainly do not assume a normal distribution, unlike almost all parametric methods. They are also relatively insensitive to distortion by outlying observations.

This is the second edition of a classic student textbook on the use of nonparametric statistical techniques. It consists of 11 chapters, as well as numerous statistical tables. It also includes a comprehensive index and a large number of references to the original literature. Each chapter

begins with a clear explanation of the statistical procedure to be covered and these are followed by examples. This is in contrast with many textbooks on statistics, which introduce the example, followed by applying a particular technique. It is then difficult to apply the technique to one's own problem. The fact that this book adopts a different approach makes it very user friendly.

Overall, I commend this book strongly to dental researchers. Though aimed at students undertaking a university course in applied statistics, it is lucid and sufficiently well presented to be useful to all who work with statistics, and want a straightforward and thorough account of techniques for solving real problems. I shall certainly keep this copy to hand, and guarantee that it will be well used.

John Nicholson

Oral Health for the Orthodontic Patient (1998)

Authors: Siegwad D. Heintze, Paul-Georg Jost-Brinkmann, Christian Finke and Rainer-Reginald Miethke

Publisher: Quintessence Publishing Co. Ltd., New Malden, Surrey

Price: £38.00

ISBN: 0-86715-295-8

The issue of comprehensive oral health and hygiene during orthodontic treatment is too often under-estimated. This book aims to emphasize the possible role of orthodontic appliances (both fixed and removable) in the aetiopathogenesis of periodontitis and dental caries. The means for minimizing the orthodontic patient's risk of periodontal disease through professional and at-home reduction of oral bacteria are discussed.

The description of instruments and methods for the evaluation of oral health, the measurement of risk, and hygienic measures is quite detailed and scientifically-based. The keystone of the volume is the section presenting a systematic programme for preventing oral health problems in individual patients wearing orthodontic devices. As the authors state, oral health is not a coincidence. It is a specific task of the orthodontist/

dentist, and of the auxiliary personnel to provide the best possible concept of prevention and care for that specific patient.

The list of references is impressive and the reader is helped by the presence of an analytical

index and by helpful illustrations and graphs. Contributions like this are welcome and highlight the importance of a co-ordinated inter-disciplinary approach to the individual patient.

Tiziano Baccetti