

## Book Reviews

### Mandibular Growth Anomalies (2001)

Author: Hugo L. Obwegeser

Publisher: Springer-Verlag GmbH & Co. KG, Heidelberg, Germany

Price: DM3 98-00; £137.50

ISBN: 3-540-67214-1

This excellent textbook covers the terminology, aetiology, diagnosis, and treatment of mandibular growth anomalies. The understanding and management of mandibular growth problems has improved dramatically in recent years and Obwegeser's work has done much to aid this. The subject is of importance to both orthodontists and maxillofacial surgeons and, although the main emphasis of the book is surgical and does not cover orthodontic methodology, it is a must for every orthodontic department. It is likely to be a useful reference source at postgraduate level and beyond.

The book is divided into three sections. Part I covers 'The Basics', including aetiology, diagnosis and treatment planning, and the philosophy of corrective surgical planning. There is also an excellent chapter on the influence of the condyle on mandibular growth, which concludes with a summary of useful deductions drawn from the clinical case presentations. These clinical cases, which are presented throughout the text, are undoubtedly one of its major strengths. They are well illustrated with photographs, radiographs, and excellent line drawings of proposed surgical procedures.

Part II covers 'Condylar Hyperactivity' and builds on the classification first proposed by Obwegeser and Makek in their landmark paper of 1986. It includes chapters on hemi-mandibular hyperplasia, hemi-mandibular elongation, and hybrid forms of abnormal growth, as well as a section on growth anomalies in acromegaly. Again, each chapter is well illustrated with case presentations.

Principal surgical procedures including historical and technical details are covered in Part III. Complications, how to avoid them, and how to deal with them are also discussed. In addition, there are sections describing the management of masseter muscle hypertrophy and bony surplus, as well as a short chapter on tongue reduction. The book concludes with a comprehensive reference list.

This book is certain to become a well known reference text for both orthodontists and maxillofacial surgeons. Other clinicians including paediatricians, paediatric dentists, ENT, and plastic surgeons may also find it useful. It would make a valuable addition to any library.

Susan Cunningham

### Temporomandibular Pain—Clinical Presentation and Impact (2000)

Author: Jens Christoph Türp

Publisher: Quintessenz Verlags-GmbH, Berlin, Germany

Price: £20

ISBN: 3-87652-648-5

This short volume highlights two important principles about the clinical presentation of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) pain and how

it can incapacitate the patient. First, although simple mechanical explanations of the condition are appealing, they can be deceptive because

they focus on the local anatomical problem. Secondly, a full picture may only emerge if patients are encouraged to describe the experience in their own words, even if this results in a lengthy story.

These conclusions arise from four linked investigations using several hundred subjects living in the USA. The main investigation of the series was unusual in that it involved the analysis of unsolicited letters written to a patient support group. Patients describe their great discomfort, often worsened by unsuccessful and inappropriate treatment, such as disc replacement by alloplastic graft. The letters show that, although many sufferers from TMJ pain can still function fairly normally, in a minority it has profound adverse effects, not only on their own lives, but on the lives of their families. Indeed, long-standing TMJ pain, often accompanied and perhaps exacerbated by several unsuccessful treatments, leaves some patients feeling victimized by the whole health care system and surgeons in particular.

From further studies based on questionnaires, we learn that a group of around 200 patients had between them consulted health personnel in 44 different categories, ranging from acupuncturists to social workers. This suggests that conventional therapy is often not effective and that no single clinical discipline can help all those afflicted by the condition.

Spread of pain outside the immediate site of the TMJ and even the facial region was found to be common. This increases the incidence of pain-related disability and can considerably impair the quality of life. Not only the patient, but their family, friends, and colleagues can feel the impact of this condition. (In this, as in other studies of TMJ pain, the majority of presenting patients were female.) The author concludes that TMJ pain can only be fully understood if it is placed in a biopsychosocial context. In this regard, the disorder is likely to be similar to others involving chronic pain, especially of the facial region.

Potential readers should not be discouraged by the fact that this book is a published dissertation for it lacks the turgidity and prolixity often found in such products. It begins with an excellent review of related epidemiological studies, and then succinctly describes the pathology and neurophysiology of the condition. The results of the author's investigations are of course fully documented, discussed, and summarized. A bibliography containing over 500 references reflects the high standard of scholarship of the whole work.

D. A. Luke