

Book Reviews

Interpreting Dental Radiographs (2003)

Authors: Keith Horner, John Rout and Vivian Rushton

Publishers: Quintessence Publishing Co. Ltd, New Malden, Surrey, UK

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Price: £28

Radiographs are an invaluable tool in dentistry. Nowadays a great deal of emphasis is placed on the correct selection of radiographs and on modern techniques. The changes to the United Kingdom legislation have highlighted these areas of dental radiography. Radiological interpretation is a fascinating area of dentistry and one that is less extensively covered by legislation, books and courses, yet this is an exercise which every dental practitioner undertakes at some point. It is a subject on which some notable and vast tomes have been written. It is therefore pleasing and useful to find a small, almost pocket sized, book that condenses much of the wisdom of a huge publication into a small A5 size hardback book of 163 pages.

This book is prefaced by an explanation that the objective is to produce an aid to predominantly common interpretative problems arising from mainstream radiography in general dental practice. The authors have been influenced by the requests that they have received over the years to report on films submitted by dental practitioners and this book reflects their enormous combined experience in this field.

The book is divided into areas of interpretation that reflect these objectives—chapters cover interpretation of imaging of dental caries, periodontal disease, periapical disease, dental anomalies, dental trauma, retained and unerupted teeth and roots and the interpretation of radiolucencies and radiopacities. The layout is logical and clear, giving clinical presentation and radiological features of an abnormality, and followed by guidance on subsequent imaging and management. There are numerous illustrations, at least one or two per page, and the

range and interest of these will enrich the readers' knowledge and understanding. One disappointment is in the quality of some of the illustrative radiographs, particularly some intra-oral views, which have reproduced with a speckled and granular effect which can detract from the pathology being demonstrated. There are many extremely helpful tables that are valuable for quick reference.

The book begins with a realistic introduction to the principles and problems of interpretation. The chapter on dental caries gives a useful up-to-date perspective on the role of radiographs in caries diagnosis, explaining the indications, limitations and strengths. The appearances of inflammatory lesions of the teeth and jaws are demonstrated with numerous radiological illustrations. In chapters on the radiological diagnosis of radiolucencies, radiopacities and lesions with a mixed lucent and opaque appearance a systematic approach to diagnosis is presented, with the emphasis clearly on views that would be available to the dental practitioner. The index is fairly comprehensive, meaning that you have a good chance of finding information on an abnormality if using this as a reference book.

This book is an interesting refresher and would be of value as a resource to any practising dentist who regularly uses conventional or intra-oral digital imaging systems, so I would anticipate that the appeal would be a wide one. I can also see it being helpful to undergraduates and in postgraduate studies where an overview of the value of radiology within their specialty would be useful.

Jackie Brown

New evidence-based orthodontic treatments (2003)

Author: Robert Cerny

Publisher: Dr R Cerny

Price: (not given)

ISBN: 0-646-42315-0

This booklet, which is 90 pages long, has an extremely exciting title, 'New evidence-based orthodontic treatments: Using permanently fixed retention for quicker, easier and better results without serious relapse'. Is this

yet another randomised control trial which is going to change our clinical treatment? Does it have a starting point with a systematic review or meta analysis? Is there a clear-cut hypothesis with a trial designed to test the