

Book Reviews

Interpreting Dental Radiographs (2003)

Authors: Keith Horner, John Rout and Vivian Rushton

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

ISBN: 1-85097-052-1

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

efficacy of fixed retainers? How did they derive a sample size? Did the power calculations give all appropriate information? Was the trial properly monitored?

This booklet has none of these parameters, it is written by someone who clearly has enormous clinical experience of using bonded retainers. There is a statement that sums up the author's approach where he feels that fixed retainers are the only solution for preventing relapse and unfavourable tooth movements which are seen in adulthood. Most orthodontists would agree with

this latter statement and thereafter a number of cases are used to illustrate the use of bonded retainers. The illustrations are good and there are some interesting clinical tips which are well illustrated. I am not entirely clear who this book is aimed at, it would certainly make an interesting read for most postgraduates but the author might reconsider the use of his title at some stage to give a more accurate reflection of the content of his work.

Jonathan Sandy

History of Periodontology (2003)

Editors: Fermín Carranza and Gerard Shklar

Publisher: Quintessence Publishing Co. Limited, New Malden, Surrey, UK

Price: £29.00

ISBN: 0-86715-424-1

In scope, this is a 200-page work of history. It is written in a general way and represents a stroll through developments in dentistry and periodontology. It is not a work of dental science and is not a challenging read.

The first hundred pages deal with general matters of scientific and medical interest taking the reader, in stages, from the prehistoric era through to the twentieth century. There are many entertaining cameo quotes from well known early authors and much of this material relates to the oral cavity and the specifically the periodontal tissues. For example, Celsus is cited as recommending the use of undiluted wine to be held against the gums in the event that they bleed. Orthodontics is mentioned, as early as page 33, in a discussion by Abulcasis (born 936) of the merits of filing prominent teeth.

There are some details of early microscopy and anaesthetic developments. The photographs and figures in this book show an array of dignitaries. There is a daguerrotype from 1846 of an operation under ether anaesthesia with William Morton wearing a garish

waistcoat. Particularly interesting are the radiographs of the hand of Röntgen's wife from 1895 and Walkhoff's own teeth from the same period.

The history of the twentieth century is more an account of the personalities of periodontology rather than their science. There is a photograph of Sicher, Orban and Weinmann gathered around a monofocal microscope. This is consistent with the forward to a book that seeks to identify the contribution of the pioneers. Readers will note that the book is written from a North American point of view and, as a result, much of the more recent European contribution to periodontology is subject to *précis*. There is also included, throughout the book, a background of general world and European history, which many would have difficulty in recognising.

The book list citations at the end of each chapter and these help to confirm it as more of a coffee table edition for the common room than reference work for the library.

Neil Pender