

Book Reviews

Practical conscious sedation (2004)

Authors: David Craig and Meg Skelly

Publisher: Quintessence Publishing, New Malden, Surrey, UK

Price: £28.00

ISBN: 1-85097-070-X

This book provides a thorough document on the essentials of conscious sedation.

There are nine chapters, all written jointly by the two authors. The first covers the historical development of conscious sedation. While interesting and reasonably thorough, it leaves out any of the history pertaining particularly to the UK—the British did have a role in the modern development of inhalation sedation! Just look at the literature of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Basic physiology and anatomy, and pharmacology are covered in Chapters 2 and 3. As the authors say, this is a whistle stop tour, but nevertheless gives all the information needed by a practitioner using these techniques.

Chapter 4 covers treatment planning and, again, is an example of a well-ordered chapter covering the essentials of the problems presented by the anxious dental patient and also the issues raised by medical problems. Figure 4.2 is a mistake, as the illustration is for a modified visual analogue scale. Venham's scale of anxiety is completely different from the illustration.

Chapter 5 is a detailed account of the equipment needed for safe and effective sedation. One omission is the dental prop—is it safe to use on partially conscious patients? The authors should provide some advice on this aspect of the technique, which is often poorly understood.

Chapter 6 deals with clinical techniques and is a model of clarity. It must be seen as the heart of this book. Any clinician who reads these pages carefully will be in a strong position to provide effective sedation to anxious dental patients.

Are the techniques safe? Chapters 7, 8 and 9 cover the avoidance and management of complications, sedation in special circumstances, and standards of good practice and medico-legal considerations.

Taken as a whole, this book is excellent. It fulfils its aims admirably. If I were about to write a book on sedation, I would not bother—this book says all that is needed on the topic. The authors are to be commended on a succinct and clear text supported by appropriate illustrations.

Graham J. Roberts

Orthodontic pearls: a selection of practical tips and clinical expertise (2004)

Author: Eliakim Mizrahi

Publisher: Taylor & Francis Books, London, UK

Price: £75.00

ISBN: 1-84184-252-4

The main author of this book states that it is aimed at providing the type of knowledge that is only acquired after time and experience in clinical practice. Each chapter includes a selection of highlighted 'pearls' of advice and information within the body of the text. There is a wealth of clinical and practical tips with contributions from more than 30 orthodontists from around the world.

The book is divided into various sections: administration, pre-treatment, clinical treatment and appendices. The administration section discusses the design, layout and running of practice premises, and would be extremely useful for the postgraduate trainee who is setting up their first practice. However, established

practitioners would also find this section of great interest. The pre-treatment section encompasses record keeping, case discussion, marketing and the psychology of orthodontic treatment. This section includes an excellent chapter on clinical photography.

The bulk of the text comprises the clinical treatment section. This includes numerous tips and clinical illustrations. I particularly enjoyed Chapters 9 and 10, which describe the use of a wide selection of headgear, sliding jigs, torquing auxiliaries and uprighting springs. There is also some excellent advice on the management of displaced and impacted second molars. Chapter 12 deals with fixed and removable retainers, including the use of Essix retainers to produce minor tooth

movements. The final section comprises a series of appendices, which are a collection of sample letters to practitioners, patients and parents.

The enthusiasm for clinical orthodontics of the main author and contributors is apparent throughout the

book. This is a great collection of tips and advice, and I have no doubt that orthodontists would find it an interesting and enjoyable read, regardless of their level of experience.

Chris Johnston

Dental biomechanics (2003)

Editor: Arturo N. Natali

Publisher: Taylor & Francis Books, London, UK

Price: £72.99

ISBN: 0-415-30666-3

This small but compact book is an in-depth overview of the biomechanics of dental tissues and selected dental materials. Forty contributors analyse the mechanical properties of hard (bone) and soft [periodontal ligament (PDL)] tissues and materials (implants, archwires) in 12 chapters through a basic engineering approach. The distribution of various subjects (orthodontics, implantology) and disciplines (imaging, biomechanics) is somehow oddly structured. The book begins with two chapters on the biomechanics of bone and PDL. The last chapter (mechanics of materials), which should have preceded the material listed, from a context perspective, is listed at the end of the book. Perhaps the extensive use of integral functions made this chapter the closing text. Chapter 3 is a good summary of X-ray tomography and its applications to bone analysis (morphological, density), but could have been incorporated in Chapter 4. This chapter deals with quantitative and qualitative aspects of host bone in implant prostheses—both not directly related to the main subject of the book. Chapters 5 and 6 could be viewed more as aspects of materials science of titanium (manufacturing, production, raw material properties) rather than biomechanics. The following chapter (7) deals with the testing of the implant before its placement. Chapters

8 and 10 are of interest to orthodontists because they discuss the superelasticity of NiTi wires and various biomechanics during orthodontic treatment. Chapter 9 is irrelevant to mechanics or biomechanics, as it illustrates the placement of an implant. Chapter 11 is a numerical approach to dental biomechanics with the use of finite element analysis. Some of the biomechanical aspects of conventional prosthetic applications, such as crown–cement interfaces and loading of multi-unit bridges, are not included in the text.

It seems that the book is written for engineers who would like to see the application of these principles to clinical practice and familiarize themselves with various procedures. This is also implied by the overview of the page layout and general style, which resembles that of physics and engineering books with the absence of glossy colour illustrations, despite the book's high price. Although the text lacks a specific clinical target group, as the range of clinical subjects is narrow and mostly related to orthodontics and implants, it may be an ideal working tool for scientists in the field of biomechanics and mechanics of materials.

Theodore Eliades

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