

Book Reviews

European Journal of Orthodontics 27 (2005) 103
doi:10.1093/ejo/cji035

Preparing for dental practice (2004)

Authors: F. J. Trevor Burke and Ruth Freeman
Publisher: Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK
Price: £24.95
ISBN: 0-19-850864-6

Many dentists say that as they left dental school they thought they knew everything about dentistry, until they started working, and then they realized they actually knew nothing! This is a unique book that deals with many important matters that are of interest to young dentists as they embark on their new careers, many of which are not normally covered within the standard undergraduate dental curriculum.

The authors have not only covered clinical themes, but also many of the social, psychological, ethical, legal and business aspects of the practice of dentistry. The book provides useful advice about dentist–patient and dentist–staff relationships, as well as addressing the treatment and primary care elements of practice building. There are very beneficial sections on career options, medical and dental emergencies and cross-infection control.

As for orthodontics, the book has valuable advice for general practitioners on indications for referral, and making patients dentally fit before referring them. The one omission is pictures of the aesthetic component of the Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need. Of course, conditions that merit referral to other specialists are also covered.

A minor criticism is that the text is perhaps not sufficiently comprehensive regarding everyday regulations, such as not mixing National Health Service and private treatment, equipment inspections, clinical audit/peer review obligations, the new PDS contracts, obtaining advice concerning disability access, and the myriad notices and certificates (e.g. concerning waste collection or radiography) that dentists need to display in their surgeries. It would have been useful to dedicate a chapter to the various regulations that a dentist needs to be aware of, as he or she is about to set up practice. The young practitioner would still need to consult colleagues or professional organizations to obtain more detailed or specific advice. The index also suffers somewhat from brevity, with words such as ‘consent’, ‘inspections’, ‘partnership’ and ‘vaccination’ notably missing.

For the most part though, *Preparing for dental practice* is a very helpful, informative and practical textbook that will be invaluable for newly qualified dentists, or associates (whether generalist or specialist) who wish to become practice owners. The publication of a book like this has long been overdue.

Mahmoud Pourghadiri

European Journal of Orthodontics 27 (2005) 103–104
doi:10.1093/ejo/cji036

Risk management in orthodontics: experts’ guide to malpractice (2004)

Authors: Thomas M. Graber, Theodore Eliades and Athanasios E. Athanasiou
Publisher: Quintessence Publishing, New Malden, Surrey, UK
Price: £78.00
ISBN: 0-86715-431-4

Many textbooks contain chapters on the iatrogenic complications of orthodontic treatment, but, as far as I could determine, this is the only textbook solely devoted to orthodontic risk management. One cannot help feeling that this text has been a long time coming, but with an ever-increasing interest in orthodontic treatment it is a fabulous overview of the myriad issues that may beset both the patient and the clinician.

This is a beautifully and appropriately illustrated 238 page hardback book aimed squarely at anyone who works in clinical orthodontic practice. The pros are supported by seminal and current orthodontic literature and the references are presented, in varying volumes, to support the text. Chapters are written by both Americans and Europeans and by clinicians and scientists and the text concludes with the valuable input of an American attorney-at-law.

The book begins by identifying, examining, and classifying clinical risk and then discusses the potential responses of the hard and soft tissues to orthodontic scenarios. The authors are at pains to point out that there is much published that is contradictory, but they try to ensure that both sides of the argument are presented rather than relying upon unsubstantiated personal opinion.

There are interesting chapters exploring the effects of bleaching on orthodontically treated teeth; the effects of orthodontic materials on local and systemic systems, and a useful summary of the causes of orthodontic pain and discomfort. The usual iatrogenic suspects of enamel decalcification, debonding damage, periodontal responses, and root resorption are all well documented.

One or two of the chapters are a little wordy on some of the heavyweight subjects and these could have benefited from a final paragraph summarizing and concluding to refocus the mind. The chapter on medical problems covers a wide range of conditions and is another useful text. My only disappointment is that there could have been more on combined treatment plans that involve our restorative, oral surgical, and orthognathic colleagues.

This book concludes with legal input and in his down-to-earth chapter, the attorney-at-law stresses that communication is the crucial aspect of the relationship between patient and clinician. Perhaps his most important advice when providing orthodontic treatment is to 'do what you'd do to your own children' and that your chairside manner dictates the number of lawsuits you will be involved in.

The appendix section includes drafts of the very detailed AAO medical and dental history forms, and these differ for adults and children. There are over 120 questions in each of these and one can only imagine how long the consenting process takes from consultation to bond up for anyone who ticks a 'yes' box.

As many of the chapters outline the evidence-based management of the sequelae of orthodontic treatment, this text will be particularly useful to the postgraduate orthodontic trainee looking to answer those examination-style questions 'how would *you* manage the following clinical scenario'? At £78 it is certainly more affordable and, I would imagine, easier on the stomach than an hour in your solicitor's office.

Alex Cash

European Journal of Orthodontics 27 (2005) 104
doi:10.1093/ejo/cji037

Orthodontic concepts and strategies

Author: Frans P. G. M. van der Linden
Publisher: Quintessence Publishing, New Malden, Surrey, UK
Price: £110
ISBN: 1-85097-094-7

The stated purpose of this book is to provide clinically relevant information on how appliances can be used. In particular, it aims to cover the practical aspects of treatment, with tips on how to obtain the best results. There are 18 chapters covering a wide range of topics, from interceptive treatment, functional, fixed and removable appliance therapy and their combinations, occlusion, adult treatment, and through to retention. It is beautifully illustrated, showing the author's cases treated over more than 20 years, as witnessed by the banded incisor teeth in some of the pictures. By being, in effect, a retrospective review over a practising lifetime, this book provides numerous useful tips for the 'wet fingered' orthodontist. In particular, the chapter on removable-fixed appliance combinations is probably

unique in an era where there is now a greater emphasis on purely fixed appliance treatment.

A number of criticisms that could be made include there being almost too many illustrations, with some of the diagrams being too small and busy to interpret with ease. The accompanying text could also have been usefully structured with subheadings in order to make it easier to follow. Finally, the two chapters covering the use of headgear make only brief mention of the safety aspects of its wear and the chapter on retention has no mention of the use of modern vacuum-formed materials.

However, on balance, this book is a worthwhile read for both the postgraduate student and experienced orthodontist alike.

Tony Ireland

Copyright of European Journal of Orthodontics is the property of Oxford University Press / UK and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.