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## Clinical success in early orthodontic treatment (2005)

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This book states on its back cover that its aim is to address important issues in early orthodontic treatment, and has over a 100 pages of illustration and text covering all aspects of early intervention.

The six chapters cover normal growth, establishment of the occlusion, obstacles to the development of dentofacial harmony, diagnosis and clinical assessment, as well as treatment and a review of appliances. There are many colour illustrations demonstrating the developing occlusion and malocclusion and the text is clear and well headed making it easy for the reader to identify specific areas of interest. The authors are clearly practitioners of early orthodontic treatment and the tone of the book is to urge the clinician to intercept developing problems as they present. One drawback of this approach is that there are many assumptions and suggestions made by these authors regarding the causes of malocclusion, and whilst these allow the reader to understand the treatment approach identified in this book they would not always be considered common lines of thought.

The treatment approach to most commonly occurring early malocclusions advocated by these authors is to employ expansion mechanics and I feel not enough

discussion is made about the long-term stability following this type of treatment.

The book has a chapter clearly identifying the appliances used which is most helpful although some of the designs are, in this reviewer's opinion, rather over complicated. The authors clearly demonstrate some of the reasons for the development of malocclusion, although some of the line and schematic drawings are complicated and difficult to interpret. Their approach to clinical assessment is thorough, although some of their soft tissue assessments appear to lack sound clinical basis. The section on radiographs encourages the use of the Ricketts' analysis and I feel they perhaps over stress the need for this complex analysis in an early age group.

Overall I feel this book is interesting and clearly illustrated and provides the experienced orthodontist with some interesting views on early treatment. For the less experienced practitioner it perhaps leaves too much to the imagination regarding the implications of early treatment and where further intervention or stabilization will be required.

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