

Book Reviews

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The handbook of cephalometric superimposition (2011)

Authors: Herman S. Duterloo and Pierre-Georges Planché

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The handbook of cephalometric superimposition by Herman S. Duterloo and Pierre-Georges Planché is a dedication to the memory of Professor Arne Björk, 1911–96 in recognition of his great contribution to the understanding of postnatal human craniofacial growth. The Leitmotif of the textbook is based on Björk's longitudinal implant studies that build the scientific basis for assessing craniofacial growth by two-dimensional (2D) cephalometry.

The book contains much more than what the title would let us believe. It has eight chapters. The first chapter describes the exciting history and origin of superimpositions and their interpretation for explaining growth. The chapter ends with a meticulous description of how the metal markers were placed by Björk. The second chapter deals with validity, reliability, and method error in structural superimposition. The third chapter entitled 'Interpreting Growth and Growth patterns' is a brilliant

survey of the concepts of facial growth. With the exception of an obvious misprint in the location of the 'key ridge' in one of the illustrations and the contention that hydrocephalus is connected with insufficient bone growth, this chapter is superb and highly recommended for dental students as supplementary literature in their courses on craniofacial growth and development. The fourth chapter elaborates on 'Interpreting Image Variation due to anatomic variations and to radiographic positioning errors'. It contains a systematic description for each anatomic landmark of the skull. A short fifth chapter 'Interpreting Growth and Treatment Changes in Superimpositions' deals with changes due to skeletal growth and orthodontic treatment. In chapter 6, these movements are discussed in depth by illustrating a number of patients before and after treatment. I compliment the authors' recommendation to focus on three items for case assessments: method description (what has been measured and how), description of observations, and interpretation of the observations. The seventh chapter is

a guide about how to manually make a structural superimposition and the final chapter deals with computerized superimposition.

The textbook is an excellent synopsis of all things related to 2D cephalometric superimposition. The authors present extended reference lists for each chapter as well as a 'recommended reading' list that precedes each chapter. There is a vast amount of high-quality illustrations, although the font of the captions are small, which makes them appear insubstantial. They also contain a lot of unnecessary repetition from the text. Of note is the cover illustration that stands out with an amazing black and white image of the face. This textbook is a unique and valuable addition to the orthodontic literature that can be recommended to everyone who needs to possess an in-depth understanding of craniofacial growth and its modulations through orthodontic intervention.

Jan Huggare