

Book Reviews

**Practical Advanced Periodontal Surgery. Serge Dibart. ISBN: 978 0 8138 0957 1
Wiley Blackwell. Hardback. 192 pages. £39.50**

This book is written by one of the recognised leaders in the field of periodontal surgery, Serge Dibart and a team of experts, mostly drawn from the faculty of Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine, many of whom have had a significant input in developing novel periodontal surgical techniques. The book is extremely well illustrated with a large number of very high quality images of the pre-, peri- and post-operative appearance of patients undergoing a number of complex periodontal surgical procedures.

The book is organised into 11 chapters, which cover aspects of bone physiology and metabolism, wound healing and aspects of complex and advanced periodontal surgery. The chapters are written by different people which, on one hand, occasionally results in some variations in terminology, but on the plus side results in an interesting array of different writing styles and case presentations. The book clearly was written by colleagues trained in America. Thus, readers in the UK and Europe may not rejoice in some of the terminology such as terms like “cuspid” and “laid a flap”. The book provides a very comprehensive resume of current knowledge on bone biology together with an extensive consideration of wound healing. The surgical anatomy relevant to the periodontium is described in great detail which is welcomed as this area is often overlooked.

The bulk of the book presents various cases involving combined orthodontic, restorative, endodontic and prosthodontic approaches together with periodontal surgical techniques. Some of the procedures are very extensive and are not routinely undertaken in UK or Europe. An example is periodontally accelerated osteogenic orthodontics (PAOO); this is a technique in which a full thickness flap is raised and then holes/grooves are drilled into the cortical bone to encourage bleeding. The surgical area is then covered with a bone graft and the flap is replaced. The aim is to increase the alveolar bone volume and reduce the chance of relapse following orthodontic treatment, but this is a very invasive surgical technique and there are no mentions of the possible negative consequences of this procedure or its limitations. The same chapter also includes the interesting topic of placement of mini-screws directly into the bone with the screw heads exposed in the oral cavity as a means of providing orthodontic retention as the screws are effectively immobile and don't move (unlike teeth) when used for anchorage.

Chapter 5, which covers surgical endodontics is a pleasure to read. It is very pragmatic and argues that not all teeth with endodontic involvement should be extracted and implants placed. The chapter is philosophical and considers

the different ways of defining success when considering the outcomes of root canal therapy versus implant placement and advocates that the reader avoids “herodontics”. The chapter also has a very interesting section on intentional re-implantation of endodontically-treated teeth following extraction and root preparation. As would be expected, the use of MTA is extensively covered.

The chapter on periodontal and prosthodontic surgery describes very complex cases that include various combinations of crown lengthening, grafting, implant placement, crown and bridge-work, all of which are beautifully photographed and annotated and all which have spectacular outcomes. There is also a chapter on alveolar distraction surgery as a means of increasing alveolar bone volume. Concepts of papilla preservation are emphasised throughout the book, which also includes a summary on the placement of short implants. Techniques for sinus augmentation are presented. A case is described involving a missing maxillary first molar with inadequate bone volume for placement of implants. The patient undergoes an extensive procedure including sinus lifting, bone grafting and implant placement. Many practitioners would question whether this is the best option for the patient who could have easily and effectively been managed by the placement of an adhesive cantilever bridge.

A section at the end of the book on periodontal medicine feels slightly out of place. This chapter describes various oral pathology and oral medicine findings such as pyogenic granulomas, mucocoeles, lichen planus, pemphigoid, etc and brief descriptions of these conditions are presented together with brief summaries of treatment options.

Overall, this book is beautifully illustrated with high quality images, showing a variety of extensive and advanced periodontal surgical techniques. It is not likely to be of much use to the general dentist, and only a small proportion of periodontists will be regularly undertaking the types of procedures described in the book. However, for those clinicians who are interested in furthering their surgical knowledge, this book may be useful though of course could not, in any way, substitute for adequate training under close supervision. Criticisms relate to the fact that the majority of cases presented involve very complex, expensive and lengthy surgical interventions. There is no real discussion of alternative options that might be considered, and in many cases there may be much simpler and more conservative treatment options which would be perfectly adequate. There is also no critical appraisal of the techniques which are presented and no evidence base regarding the success rates and outcomes of the pro-

cedures. Clearly, the authors have selected cases which show the procedures in the best light and to a degree, this is understandable. If these limitations are accepted, then this book is an enjoyable read and could be useful for practitioners who are working at the top end of the spectrum of advanced surgical techniques.

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Critical Thinking, 2nd Edition: Understanding and Evaluating Dental Research. Donald Maxwell Brunette. ISBN: 978 0 86715 426 9. Quintessence. Softback 320 pages 80 illustrations. £25.00

This book is an updated edition of a very relevant text about understanding and evaluating dental research. The editor is Professor Brunette from the Department of Oral Biological and Medical Sciences at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and contributions are made by Kathryn Hornby and Carol Oakley from the same institution.

At first glance this book looks weighty and rather plain; as a student I would have steered away from a book that was limited to a one-coloured spine with pictures of cogs on the front cover! Needless to say that the old adage holds true and despite the cover, this book is remarkably easy to read.

The start of Chapter 1 seems a little dry; had I picked up the book in a library I would probably have returned it to the shelf. In reality the first few paragraphs would better serve as a prologue; currently they seem to exist purely to complement the title of the book. That said, during the remainder of the Chapter the book really finds its feet. The reader is introduced to the traditional components of a scientific paper and the 'road to publication'. Despite a slight divergence from habits in the United Kingdom, both serve as a perfect introduction to the rest of the book.

The next chapters highlight the potential motivational differences between individual scientists whilst directly tackling the important and often overlooked issue of rhetoric. The book also deals nicely with the 'hot potato' of using the internet as a method for searching the dental literature.

Effort has been made to adequately introduce the concept of logic and the use of analogy, hypothesis and causation. There was a real risk that these chapters could have been too in-depth and tedious, but in reality they were kept short

and to the point. Chapter 8, 'Quacks, Cranks and Abuses of Logic' bought the more 'playful' section to a close before getting down to the often dreaded topic, Statistics.

The chapters on discrete and continuous variables and errors of measurement are concise and easy to follow. I particularly liked the chapter dealing with the importance of measurement in dentistry; this made good reference to the concepts of accuracy and validity, and it is always refreshing to read something which has been made subject-specific. The same goes for the chapter 'Discussing measurements in clinical practice'.

An interesting chapter on research strategies introduces the reader to the concepts of funding, time constraints and focus before providing a fairly comprehensive discussion about internal and external validity.

The book draws to a close with some deeper statistical concepts including bias, the Bayesian approach to induction and argument mapping. On the back of this, the reader is afforded the opportunity to try some exercises in critical thinking. Comments on the problems are provided at the end.

On the whole this book takes a refreshing approach to many potentially dry topics. Despite the odd typographical error it is remarkably easy to read and makes good reference to other sources of information where needed. I would recommend this book to individuals starting out in a research role or simply as an aide memoire for the more seasoned academic.

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TMDs. An Evidence-Based Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment. Daniel Laskin, Charles Greene and William Hylander. ISBN: 0867154470. Quintessence. Hardback. 560 pages, 435 illustrations (110 in colour). £93.00

Most systematic reviews of treatment modalities for Temporomandibular Disorders (TMDs) have tended to conclude that there is not enough good quality evidence to base our treatment of these conditions on. I was therefore intrigued as to how this book would approach what would appear to be a difficult subject; the answer in brief is, very well.

This book draws from multiple eminent contributors from the TMDs research field each chapter being headed by a relevant expert in the field. There are thirty-six chapters in total, divided into six sections. Two of these sections make up the Biologic Basis of TMDs and the remaining four constitute the Clinical Management of TMDs, this being the larger part of the book. All sections of the book are beautifully illustrated, with a quarter of the illustrations being in colour. Despite the multiple contributors the book retains a similar style throughout and therefore is easy to read.

The opening chapter, as one would expect, is devoted to the, "normal anatomy" of the TMJ and provides comprehensive coverage. I was however a little surprised that the embryological development of the TMJ was not covered in more depth here. It is however, briefly covered in the introduction to the chapter on congenital and developmental anomalies. The pathophysiology of TMDs is covered with organisation and clarity in subsequent chapters before the book attends to the clinical management of TMDs.

Initially the clinical management chapters consider the diagnosis of TMDs. The modalities available for diagnosis and the concepts of aetiology are explored. The chapter on aetiology manfully covers the concepts and does so in a pragmatic manner. What is very pleasing in the chapters following is that there is a very realistic interpretation of the

"evidence" available to base management of TMDs; presenting enough of the facts to the reader to allow a personal opinion to be made but also offering a balanced point of view. A good example is in Chapter 24 when it examines the evidence available for acupuncture.

Certain chapters certainly caught the eye as being practically very useful, Chapters 18 and 28 covering trauma to and surgery of the TMJ respectively. Other useful features of the book included succinct and understandable descriptions of benign and malignant disease of the TMJ (Chapters 21 and 35), an extremely useful summary of the pharmacological approaches and the doses required for medical management of TMDs (Chapter 23) and tables documenting the indications for and uses of oral appliance therapy (Chapter 25). The place of occlusal treatments is consigned to providing functional or aesthetic correction in those few patients who need such an approach following the relief of pain.

This is an extremely valuable addition to the literature, at present, but obviously will need updating on a regular basis to remain current. It is probably a little advanced for the undergraduate but would be comprehensible for them to use as an extended text and could be recommended in that context. For postgraduates, specialists and GDPs with an interest in TMDs I feel this is a compulsory reference text as it covers practical issues alongside theoretical debate.

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Manual of Minor Oral Surgery for the General Dentist. Karl R.Koerner. ISBN: 0813805597. Blackwell Munksgaard. Paperback. 336 pages, 603 illustrations. £49.50

There have been a number of notable texts published in the last five to six years tackling the subject of Oral or Oral and Maxillofacial surgery. The difficulty for all of these books is in their naming. This is due to the discrepancies around the world in the definition of what comprises the speciality of Oral surgery as opposed to Oral and Maxillofacial surgery. They can therefore be either too encompassing for Oral surgery or not extensive enough for Oral and Maxillofacial surgery depending on your country of work's perspective. This book seemingly however, delivers on its title and provides a good broad practical overview of Dentoalveolar (minor oral surgical), procedures for the General practitioner.

The book draws from multiple contributors who all have extensive surgical expertise and appear also to have some, "office-based" practice. It consists of eleven chapters starting with the patient history and assessment and then moving

on to cover, surgical extractions, surgical management of impacted teeth, conservative surgical crown lengthening, evaluation/treatment of oral lesions, anxiolysis, infection, peri-operative bleeding, third world dentistry, pre-prosthetic and periradicular surgery. The scope of coverage is sufficient for its presumed target audience but some of the areas covered have now started to become the remit of the Endodontist or Restorative dentist. This does not however, detract from the quality of these chapters and they are extremely useful references.

The second and third chapters cover surgical extractions and surgical management of impacted teeth comprehensively. They set the theme for the book with excellent line illustrations and beautifully clear intra-operative photos continuing throughout. The authors are to be congratulated on the quality and quantity of these photos as they make the book

a joy to read and clarify what sometimes is a difficult topic to visualise. Unfortunately in chapter 8, Anxiolysis for oral surgery, the book is somewhat let down by the inclusion of what appear to be PowerPoint slides as diagrams. These are not clear, some are too “busy” and they are out of character with the rest of the book.

Management of the complications of minor oral surgery are described in varying depths throughout the book especially Oro-antral communications, which receive little coverage. However all are given sufficient coverage so as to be recommended as a quick reference for the anxious general practitioner. Bleeding is covered extensively in a stand-alone chapter and is one of the book’s outstanding chapters covering cause and management pre, peri and postoperatively.

Generally this book does justice to its title and provides excellent practical, detailed information on most aspects of minor oral surgery, especially in relation to the surgical removal of teeth and pre-prosthetic surgery. I would recommend it as a valuable addition to the General Practitioner’s book collection in surgery. It would also be useful for undergraduates as a reference text for minor oral surgery especially due to the beautiful photographs and clear diagrammatic explanations but is probably a little too basic for specialists.

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Applied Occlusion (Book/DVD Set). Editor: R Wassell, A Naru, J Steele and F Nohl. ISBN: 978-1-85097-098-9. Quintessence. Hardback, 178 pages, 177 colour illustrations. £28.00

This book comes from the University of Newcastle Dental School whose Restorative Department has a strong reputation in clear and supportive teaching. The style of the writing is quite conversational; this is sometimes used as a criticism by reviewers on scientific papers or textbooks. However I find it very engaging and I think that most readers will feel that they are being gently taken down a clear explanation of the Principles of Good Occlusal Practice and how to apply them.

The start of each chapter sets out the aims and outcomes, whilst at the end there is a concise conclusion of what has been explained. Finally on inside the back cover, there is a DVD, which clearly demonstrates some of the points being made in the text. To take the analogy of a “conversation” further; the authors use this DVD to say “Let me show you what I mean”. I am certain that this format will become increasingly popular in textbooks and the authors and editor of the series are to be congratulated on its use.

Chapter 1 is entitled “The Intercuspal Position and Dentistry” and answers in less than half a page the important and complex question - “*Is there an ideal occlusion?*” From this *academic* debate, almost immediately it goes on to discuss ‘the high restoration’ demonstrating the clinical relevance of this book. In addition to explaining the danger of leaving a restorations high, there is a small section on why restorations should not be left “low”. The useful section on how to avoid laboratory made restorations being high gives an explanation of each of the stages at which an error may occur.

Chapter 2 entitled “Normal Function and Avoiding Damage to Restored Teeth” has an excellent description of anterior guidance; an area which dentists often find difficult. In Chapter 3 “Deflective Contacts, Interferences and Parafunction”, there is a beautifully succinct section on bruxism. They strike a nice balance in Chapter 4 [Reorganising the Occlusion] between encouraging dentists not

to be over-awed by changing a patient’s occlusion whilst emphasising the care needed to achieve a good result. There is a clear review of the different occlusal philosophies that have been used in Restorative Dentistry over the years. The ever increasing use of implants to support crown and bridge work is addressed in Chapter 6 and this is, in my view, essential reading for anybody placing or restoring implants.

In Chapter 7 the authors gently take us through the mine-field of the relationship between Occlusion and Temporomandibular Disorders. Whilst being careful to confirm that there is no evidence of a causative relationship between Occlusion and Temporomandibular Disorders, they emphasise the need for all Restorative Dentists to have an understanding of this group of conditions. I cannot imagine a reason why every Restorative Dentist would not want to learn from this chapter with its easy to follow explanation and examination protocols.

Finally Chapter 8, which represents about half of the book, has a list of 12 *Occlusal Techniques*; e.g. taking a facebow record and adjusting a new restoration. All of these are of interest and importance in clinical restorative dentistry. Because of the clarity of the explanations and the encouragement given to use these techniques, this chapter is worth the price of the book and DVD alone.

I highly recommend this book. The authors are to be congratulated on the way they have provided help to the aspirant Restorative Dentist in this potentially difficult area. At no time will the reader feel intimidated or that they are being lectured at. It will be a book that most dentists will want to keep in their surgeries.

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