

Book Reviews

Principles of Operative Dentistry. A J E Qualtrough, Julian Satterthwaite, Lekan Morrow and Paul Brunton. ISBN – 1405118210. Price £24.99

The authors of this book seek to inform the reader about the theoretical concepts that underpin the delivery of operative dentistry and endodontology in clinical practice. The aim stated in the preface is to deliver the knowledge required by undergraduate dental students, and professions complimentary to dentistry, who are completing these clinical skills elements of their course. This is a commendable aim, to condense all that is needed into less than 200 relatively small pages, but one that is only partially achieved.

The book is structured into eight chapters. Basic Information in Chapter 1 introduces ergonomics in dentistry, examination of the dentition, cariology and moisture control. Chapter 2 introduces principles surrounding surgical caries management and placement of direct restorations. The chapter includes alternatives for caries removal, restorative materials selection, and methods of retention for restorations. Chapter 3 introduces the principles behind endodontic treatment through diagnosis, instrumentation and obturation. Chapter 4 follows with a number of related aspects of endodontics, specifically: traumatic; periodontal; elective treatment; and subsequent restoration. Chapters 5 and 6 introduce indirect restorations. The structure follows the expected clinical pathway through the indications, restoration prior to preparation, preparation design, restoration design and finally cementation. Consideration to impression technique and temporisation is given, along with the role of the occlusion. Chapter 7 introduces the ever forgotten requirement of maintaining a restored dentition. Finally, Chapter 8 highlights the need for evidence based practice and routes to reviewing the literature.

The information within this text delivers a good basic structure for the professional (training or practicing) to set about the process of understanding the principles surrounding operative dentistry and endodontics. It is of a manageable size to read in half a day and will revisit themes for the practitioner to think about and provide directions of study for the student. There is some good referencing to the supporting literature therefore allowing a quick route to further reading, but as ever this is not extensive. There are a number of good illustrations but the use of black and white photography is somewhat unavoidably bland.

The advantage of this text is that it summarises heavily, but this is also where I have my main difficulty in recommending it as a text to an undergraduate population. If it is not carefully supplemented, with significantly further reading, it is unlikely that the understanding of the basic principles of operative dentistry and endodontics will be developed. The current mind set of the majority of undergraduates is tactical; they will seek to predict the minimum requirement of knowledge required each stage of the course and potentially miss very important concepts along the way. Interestingly, the book closes with a chapter about developing skills for lifelong learning, unfortunately, if it is promoted as a core text, it delivers a potential of this is all that you need.

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TMDs. An Evidence-Based Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment. Edited by Daniel Laskin, Charles Greene and William Hylander. ISBN 0867154470. Hardback, 560 pages, 435 illustrations (110 in colour). Published by Quintessence 2006, ISBN 0-86715-447-0. Price £93

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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