

Books, videos, CD-ROMs, DVDs and any other relevant items submitted for a review in the *BDJ* should be addressed to:  
Kate Maynard, Assistant Editor, British Dental Journal, NPG, 4-6 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW

## Oral care in advanced disease

A. Davis, I. Finlay  
UK: Oxford University Press  
price £39.95, pp 221  
ISBN 0192632434

This is an excellent and readable book. It is edited by two palliative medicine consultants but the content of the book for practical purposes can be applied to patients seen in all specialities. The contributors to the chapters are knowledgeable and obviously have a great deal of practical experience. They support their statements with references and the book is well laid out with tabular illustration of points mentioned in the text. Studies that have been reviewed are annotated in tabular form and this is most helpful. There is audit information documenting the important role that dental input has in a palliative care setting.

I found that I learnt a great deal reading this textbook; for instance if the total body water is reduced by 8% then saliva production decreases to almost zero. There is a wealth of useful information contained within the book. The chapter on oral pain is particularly good and there is a chapter on oral paediatric problems. Many of the chapters have useful websites at the end of the references to take the reader to further sources of information. The chapter on oral infections gives a good insight into plaque formation and is particularly detailed and practically based.

The book has a centrepiece detailing most of the photographs throughout the book in colour, with black and white copies in the relevant chapters.

Overall this is an excellent book and deserves to be available if not read by all healthcare professionals who are concerned to provide holistic care to the people they are privileged to look after. It also demonstrates the importance of involving dentists and dental experts in the care of patients with advanced disease. I would thoroughly recommend this book.

J. Welsh

## Bell's orofacial pains: The clinical management of orofacial pain

J.P. Okeson  
UK: Quintessence  
price £47, pp 592  
ISBN 086715439X

This book covers almost every conceivable syndrome in the field of orofacial pain, and is exhaustive in the meticulous analysis of many of the lesser known conditions. However, the many pages dedicated to uncommon manifestations of pain are perhaps at the expense of the ones that the general practitioner is much more likely to encounter on a regular basis. Also, the 100 odd pages written about the neurophysiology of pain may seem a little excessive to the majority of readers.

Another factor making this book less suited to the general practitioner is the relative lack of information given with regard to the management of the simpler conditions. Where specific drug regimes are mentioned, dosage often is not.

Finally, the fact that the book is American is reflected in the difference in opinion for certain treatment. Stereotactic Radiosurgery is not mentioned anywhere, and other principles of treatment that are not considered as first line in the UK are described in detail.

Overall though, this is a well written text that will provide answers to many questions. It certainly has its place with the specialist, but I feel there are better texts out there to cater for the needs of the GDP.

J.A. Stafford

## Dental statistics made easy

N. Smeeton  
UK: Radcliffe  
price £21.95, pp 162  
ISBN 1857756568

This book is intended for 'the dental student or practitioner who wishes to discover the

rationale behind the application of statistics to dentistry.' The emphasis is on developing a basic understanding of the key issues, and not on details of calculations. Only a few simple formulae are given, and are separated from the main text in an appendix. Efforts have clearly been made to make the book accessible to those with a statistics phobia, even down to the front cover, which consists of the title spelt out in big, comforting, brightly coloured letters.

The layout of the text is very readable, with a few key messages highlighted in boxes in each chapter. References for further reading are listed at the end of each chapter, along with a few 'Test your understanding' exercises.

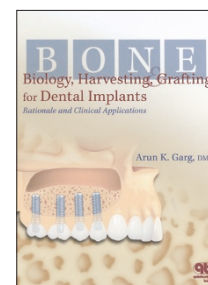
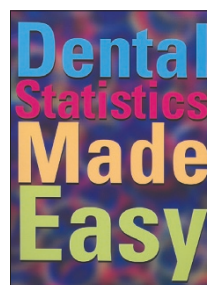
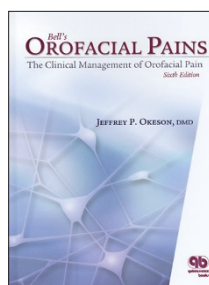
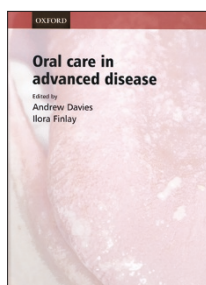
The first half of the book deals with planning a study, and covers the types of study commonly undertaken in dental research, with a separate chapter on randomised controlled trials. Sampling techniques are also discussed. A useful chapter gives an overview of ethical considerations in conducting a study.

The second half covers the expected territory of the normal distribution, t-tests, chi-squared tests, regression, correlation and non-parametric tests, all with a distinct absence of complicated formulae. These are followed by a chapter on the basic concepts of sample size determination.

The final chapter gives a very helpful discussion of statistical refereeing, detailing the purpose of statistical referees, and giving several examples of common problems they may identify, along with the appropriate corrective action.

Overall, this book does exactly what it says in the title very well. The book will not equip a dentist to do the job of a statistician, and is not intended to do so. It will however allow a dentist to become sufficiently informed to work effectively alongside a statistician as part of a multidisciplinary team.

G. Burnside



## Fundamentals of color: Shade matching and communication in esthetic dentistry

S. Chu, A. Devigus, A. Mielezsko

UK: Quintessence  
price £47, pp 168  
ISBN 0867154349

I received this book with a high degree of expectation, well aware of Quintessence Publishing's reputation for quality colour reproduction, as well as attention to detail. The concept of colour, the understanding of the underlying physical laws governing our perception of colour, communicating this information to members of the dental team, and incorporating this into relevant clinical applications has been an overlooked area of aesthetic/restorative dentistry.

The collaboration between the three authors, representing academic and clinical dentistry, and dental technology, has resulted in a book which covers this difficult topic thoroughly, while making it comprehensible for those who have forgotten their high school physics! There is a plethora of excellent graphics, supplemented with high quality clinical slides, illustrating the many aspects of colour understanding.

The book is organised rationally, taking us through the theories of colour and how these relate to the specifics of dentistry, and explaining how various elements affect colour and our perception of colour. Of notable importance is how this information should be used when choosing the appropriate restorative material.

The final half of the book deals with the myriad problems associated with shade matching, ranging from the traditional comparison of natural tooth shade to standardised shade guides, and concluding in detail with the various technical tools available to the clinician and technologist to quantify and

communicate the appropriate shade for the restoration. Many clinical tips are given and illustrated allowing the clinician and technologist to establish a system whereby effective communication can be achieved, increasing the probability of producing predictable restorations. By using quality digital photography and innovations in spectrometric analysers, interpreted with computer technology, it is now within the realm of the GDP and technologist to create lifelike, naturally aesthetic restorations.

I can recommend this book for the dental student, experienced clinician, and technologist interested in learning about colour, shade communication, and how to use this knowledge in attaining quality restorations for their patients.

D. Winkler

## Bone biology, harvesting and grafting for dental implants: rationale and clinical applications

A.K. Garg  
UK: Quintessence  
price £96, pp 279  
ISBN 0867154411

This text presents a comprehensive review of techniques for improving bone volume for dental implants. The text is divided into four sections, namely, bone biology, bone harvesting, bone grafting and future directions. Each chapter is beautifully illustrated with high calibre clinical photographs and line drawings throughout. At the end of each chapter, there is a summary of chapter content and concluding remarks. In addition to the author presenting his own operative preferences, the scientific literature is extensively cited.

The first chapter gives an overview of bone biology and its role in the osseointegration process prior to description of bone grafting techniques. In

the second chapter, a thorough overview of graft materials and techniques is presented. This includes specific clinical indications for use of autogenous bone grafts, allografts and xenograft materials. Chapter 3 covers guided bone regeneration techniques, and research studies are comprehensively cited to support the text. Chapters 4 to 7 deal with alveolar ridge preservation and bone harvesting techniques from the ramus and symphysis of the mandible, and the tibia. In addition to a comprehensive description of the clinical procedures, the author also deals with the possible complications. Interestingly, the author does not cover harvesting of bone from the iliac crest in detail; this may be a reflection of his own preference based on clinical experience. Management of the host sites in the anterior and posterior maxilla is discussed in Chapters 8-11. Finally, Chapter 11 presents possible future directions in bone biology and grafting. This includes the use of Growth Factors and gene therapy to regenerate bone. The reader is left feeling that there are exciting times ahead if the *in vitro* and animal studies can be replicated *in vivo*.

The case photographs are predominantly of surgical procedures, and it is difficult to appreciate the impact on the cosmetic side of the procedures described. Given my background as a prosthodontist, it would have been nice to see more clinical cases taken from pre-treatment, through the surgical phase and on to the final restorations. This would have enhanced the excellence of the text still further in my opinion. Further discussion of the management of soft tissues in conjunction with bone grafting would also have been helpful.

This text is ideally suited for surgeons and restorative dentists whose clinical practice is largely confined to the provision of implant dentistry. It would also be an excellent reference text for postgraduate trainees/students who are likely to be heavily involved in the provision of implant retained prostheses in the future.

F. Allen