Book Reviews

Contemporary Cephalometric Radiography

Author: Kunihiko Miyashita

Publisher: Quintessence Publishing Co. Limited, New Malden, Surrey, UK
Price: £150.00
ISBN: 4-87417-517-1

This unique book is an English edition of its Japanese counterpart. Essentially it is an atlas of radiological anatomy seen on standardized views, namely true lateral cephalometric skull, cephalometric postero-anterior (PA) skull and submentovertex (SMV) projection. The materials are selected from the author's own collection of over 200 human skulls of various ages and races. The radiographs and the tracings are shown side by side for clarity. To further enhance understanding of radiographic anatomy and the origin of the various superimposed bony shadows, there are numerous high-quality photographs, radiographs and tracings of individual whole bones and of serial sections of skulls. All these photographs and radiographs are accurately taken with the bone(s) in the three standardized projections. The meticulous attention to detail is most admirable.

There are three major sections describing the procedure for tracing all the landmarks on the three standardized cephalometric views. They make rather dry reading but, nonetheless, the expertise of the author is clearly communicated.

He painstakingly points out any pitfalls and makes useful expert observations, e.g. the nasion on a lateral cephalogram is more easily identified after the eyelids have been drawn in. The occasional analogy is also thrown in, e.g. 'shape and size of the zygomatic arch are similar to those of a soy bean'.

Of particular value are the sections in the Appendix showing radiographic images and tracings of a symmetrical skull and an asymmetrical skull, with and without head rotation. Metal markers fixed to the skulls demonstrate the exact position of various landmarks. The Glossary contains definitions of all cephalometric landmarks and gives a reference for each. Regrettably, there is no index.

The high quality of the radiographs and the accuracy of the tracings and photographic projections, coupled with detailed procedures for tracing, make this book a valuable reference book for clinicians, teachers and researchers who use cephalometric techniques in their work.

Suk Y. Ng

Understanding Orthodontics (1997)

Harold T. Perry and David P. Forbes

Publisher: Quintessence Publishing Co. Limited, Malden, Surrey, UK
Price: £22.00
ISBN: 0-86715-315-6

The book is well presented with good illustrations, making the subject easy to understand for the parent and patient. There is an extremely comprehensive overview of what orthodontics is, the aetiology and significance of a 'bad bite', types of treatment available, their objectives and

timing, care of appliances and the role of retainers. The book concludes with a useful section on commonly asked questions and their answers.

Orthodontic treatment for any patient involves many concepts which can be difficult to

understand at the start of treatment. The use of such information booklets, made available in waiting areas, could help patient understanding and perhaps improve co-operation. This book is orientated towards the 'American' patient, particularly with reference to the timing of treatment and the justification of costs involved.

Amandeep Johal

3-D Interactive Visualisation of Inverse Anchorage Technique in Orthodontics (1995)

L. Carrière and J. Carrière

This CD-ROM describes José Carrière's Inverse Anchorage Technique. It was tested under Microsoft Windows 95 on a Gateway 2000 desktop and a Toshiba portable computer, both of which had 133 MHz Pentium processors with 16 and 32 Mb of RAM respectively.

Installation

The CD-ROM does not install onto a computer's hard disk and does not use the Windows 95 Autorun feature to run up automatically on loading. This is a pity as the unwary may find it difficult to start the program as no instructions are given. The program requires the presence of Apple QuickTime to run the video elements of the presentations and a copy of this is available on the CD-ROM. Having hunted for a file named Setup or Install, success was finally achieved by running a file called 'Carrière'. Having said that, the installation was faultless for both computers, and both video and sound cards worked first time without problems. The program is robust and caused no interference with other software.

Interface

The presentation uses a proprietary interface which bears no resemblance to any Microsoft Windows product. The interface is very polished with elaborate fade ins and outs, stunning video sequences of moving teeth accompanied by orchestral music. Both English and Spanish audio tracks are available on the CD. The English translation is at times quaint with the use of such words as 'protocolised' and 'objecti-vated'; this orthodontic technospeak sounds impressive but ultimately conveys little to the listener. The interface is moderately intuitive, and indeed has to be as there is no written help or prompts within the program; in time, however, the glossiness of the interface palls as it interferes with the more serious business of finding one's way around the CD and using it as an educational tool.

Content

The CD-ROM is divided into four main sections which deal with Concept, Description, Materials and Treatments. The Concept section contains a short biography of José Carrière, a description of the Carrière method and the highly impressive Carrière Clinic. The Description section covers the fundamentals of treatment, the inverse anchorage equation and the stages of treatment. As its name implies, the inverse anchorage technique would appear to defy conventional orthodontic logic by putting a priority on starting treatment in the maxilla first in extraction cases. The Materials section covers bands, brackets, archwires and traction elements. The final section consists of seven example treatments covering the spectrum of mal-occlusions to demonstrate how the inverse anchorage technique is used.

There is no search or index facility and since the program depends on hierarchical menus, navigation is slow and it is difficult to know where one is, where one is going or where one has been in the program.