

Book review

Pain and anxiety control for the conscious dental patient (1998)

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This book deals with a complex subject area in a clear and precise manner. The authors, who have published and researched in the field, demonstrate a lucid grasp of the material and have chosen a style accessible to readers with various levels of prior knowledge.

There are 351 pages divided into 22 chapters and two appendices. Each chapter is set out by logical heading and subheading, using a well annotated short note format which is pleasing to read. All of these subheadings are listed in a very comprehensive 13-page contents section and supported by a 17-page index. These excellently detailed contents facilitate identification of areas of interest and will save readers a lot of time when looking for particular sections.

The scope of the work includes anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, local anaesthesia, and forms of sedation. There is great detail of the pharmacology of agents used. Illustrations, figures, and tables are plentiful with at least 204,

some multiple, in the text. The line drawings of chemical structures are particularly clearly presented.

Inhalation sedation is well covered and hypnosis is included. This gives the book a very up to date feel.

The preface declares that the book represents a comprehensive approach to the management of acute pain and anxiety, and this aim is well fulfilled. However, there is no specific identification of a readership. The price of the paperback version should ensure popularity with dental undergraduates. The range and detail of the book make it of interest to operative dentists at post-graduate level. Orthodontists need not feel excluded since the section on peripheral mediators of pain will have direct interest to those wishing to contemplate the tissue response generated by the forces of tooth movement.

Neil Pender