

Book Reviews

Oral Surgery for the General Dentist

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This book arrived for review just as I was leaving the office one afternoon to travel to a meeting. I picked it up to take with me so that I might read and review it during my long journey. Immediately, it became apparent that this is no lightweight text—its relative weight to size is deceptive and this is due to the very high quality of the production. On that occasion I left the book behind—returning to it when I had more time and better support—this is a book best read at a desk!

This is a beautiful book, lavishly illustrated with 1649 colour pictures, and comes from the same stable that has produced six previous titles under the general heading of: *Color Atlas of Dental Medicine*, all edited by Rateitschak & Wolf. This latest offering covers the area of oral surgery (minor oral surgery as it used to be known), now, perhaps, falling within the proposed new speciality of 'Surgical Dentistry' in the U.K. This may make the availability of the book in the U.K. more timely—certainly, this book would be of interest to any surgeon undertaking dento-alveolar surgery, and any staff member or student assisting or observing them! The authors, in the preface, offer a narrower definition of oral surgery than usual: 'surgical procedures in the oral cavity that can be performed on an outpatient basis under local anaesthetic'.

This book is a surgical manual or atlas; it is not a textbook, so do not expect to find within its pages the justification of a technique, an exhaustive literature review, or an

examination of the clinical effectiveness of a procedure. Basically, it is a high quality 'how to do it book'.

The early chapters discuss, in some detail, how to perform a patient examination. The following chapters go on to describe the surgical and medical principles associated with treatment. There are then pictorial guides to the authors' approach to simple extractions, performing surgical removal of retained roots, dealing with apical infections, performance of apicectomies, and treatment of cysts. In many areas, for example, the description of cysts—definitions, classification systems, and types of treatment are detailed. Diseases of the maxillary sinuses and salivary glands are approached in a similar manner, as are tumours. Later chapters deal with soft tissue procedures that may need to be performed in and around the mouth, and the management of trauma. Throughout the text practical tips and suggestions are given.

Who might be interested in this book?

Well anybody associated with oral or dento-alveolar surgery. Certainly, any library should have it. This is one of those 'easy-to-read' books (lots of pictures!) that a student might pick up to re-awaken their interest in the subject after dozing off over a more traditional textbook. General dental practitioners with an interest in this area also may choose to have the book available in their surgeries.

Is this book of interest to orthodontists?

Yes, I believe it is. Many of the procedures described and illustrated may be performed to support a treatment in which an orthodontist participated in the planning. It is useful to be reminded what is involved in any surgery being considered. This surgical atlas should be of interest to postgraduate students and orthodontic specialists alike.

M. L. J.