

# Book Reviews

## **Postgraduate Notes in Orthodontics**

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Bristol University, M.Sc./M.Orth Programme  
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This manual is produced in house by the Department of Child Dental Health at the University of Bristol and is available only through them. It is in the growing fashion for abridged revision notes that appear popular to undergraduate and postgraduate students preparing for examinations. In addition to this obvious attraction, it can act as a useful sieve of the relevant literature to direct a student through the huge amount of literature in orthodontics.

There are 15 main sections with bullet points highlighting the main features of a topic area. These are listed with a column of references alongside which steers the student towards a relevant reference in the literature. The whole of the reference list for a particular topic is then listed at the end of each section.

This style of presentation does not lend itself to easy reading, but this is not the role of such a publication. There is a danger that a student could develop an academic

myopia if there was an over-reliance on the selective facts as presented, or even a failure to explore more deeply or widely the other academic literature available on a particular subject. As is often the case the exclusion of some works from the reference list will prove irritating for some readers, but in the main the papers referred to are well balanced and wide-ranging. One minor irritation is the style of presentation of the references at the end of the section. These are presented by author and journal and a full title would be more appropriate in this section to inform the reader more fully.

The final section is a chapter of viva style 'question and answers' supported by scanned-in visual images. These are useful to give students some idea of the kind of structure of examination questions, but I would have preferred to see more references in the answer section to references in the literature to support the conclusions drawn.

This manual will undoubtedly prove attractive to students on postgraduate orthodontic courses. It has a great deal to recommend it. However, students should be cautioned from adopting an over-reliance on its contents and use the publication for which it is intended, as a guided reading list and a springboard for developing a critical understanding of the literature in postgraduate studies.

P.D.