

FEATURES SECTION

Book Reviews

Orthodontic Radiographs Guidelines (Guidelines for the Use of Radiographs in Clinical Orthodontics)

K. G. Isaacson and A. R. Thom (Eds)
British Orthodontic Society, August 2001
24 pp. £7.00 (including postage and packing)

This 24 page colourful and elegant booklet is an up-to-date revision of previous guidelines, incorporating the new UK Ionising Radiation Regulations [IR(ME)R-2000], which comply with the European Union Euratom Directive.

The aims of identifying good clinical practice and desired clinical outcomes in the use of radiographs in orthodontics are met.

The introduction outlines basic information about radiation risk and dosages and emphasizes the principle of 'Clinical Justification of Radiographs'. This is followed by an outline of the new UK regulations that are presented in a concise and clear manner. The orthodontic applications of various radiographic projections are discussed appropriately under five headings: Screening, Radiographs for orthodontic treatment, Teaching and research, Temporomandibular joint disorders, and Medico-legal aspects. Also included is a brief description of the basic principles of digital radiography. The section on 'Quality Assurance' is particularly useful, as it is now obligatory under the new regulations.

The flow charts at the centre of the booklet, give the reader, at a glance, a straightforward guide to the indications and contra-indications for orthodontic radiographs.

The text, throughout, is clear, well laid out, and referenced. The illustrations are of good quality.

This excellent document is strongly recommended to all orthodontists, trainees, and auxiliary orthodontic personnel. It is a 'common sense' and very useful guide to all members of the dental team, both within and outside the UK.

E. G. Absi

Dental Law and Ethics

Paul Lambden (Ed.)
Radcliffe Medical Press, Oxford, 2002
182 pp., pb
ISBN 1-85775-911-7

This new book fills a void in the market by addressing healthcare ethics and law from a dental, rather than purely medical, perspective. Copies have been made available to all final year dental students in the UK.

Paul Lambden, the editor, has assembled an impressive team of 11 contributors, all of whom have expertise in dentistry, as well as ethics and law. Several of the authors are doubly qualified. This helps to ensure the validity of the book for practitioners in general dental practice, hospitals and the community. It is unusual for an ethics book to be written entirely by clinicians or those who are clinically qualified, but this clearly enhances the clinical focus and appeal of the book.

The comprehensive contents list covers a range of 14 topics, all of which are directly relevant to dentists in whichever area they work. This list includes: the General Dental Council; rights and responsibilities in dentistry; professional duties of dentists; resource allocation and business ethics; the clinical relationship; informed consent and confidentiality; dental care for children and for mentally disabled adults; practising in the NHS; negligence and litigation; legal considerations in Scotland; medical and dental research.

The book is well laid out, well indexed, and well referenced. It contains a number of useful *aide memoires* and frequently clarifies the prevailing healthcare law by relating it to dentistry, rather than medical practice.

I recommend this book to all dentists, dental students, and professionals complementary to dentistry. It should be required reading in all UK dental schools and vocational training schemes.

Mark G. Brennan