

has been found to exceed 90%.' Accuracy for what? In what clinical context are the authors advocating the use of this preparation? They make no mention of false negative and false positive results.

The text also seems to lack the classical order of conventional disease classification. There is often no attempt to apply the 'surgical sieve' of diagnosis. The chapter on gastrointestinal disease is a prime example of this (p. 57) where the congenital and acquired disorders are all thrown in together.

There are also issues of how pertinent the text may be to a European context—in particular drug nomenclature. This is exemplified in the chapter on endocrine disease (p. 89) with anti-diabetic drugs and, again, with the regimens for antibiotic prophylaxis (p. 163).

The major problem with this book lies in the huge variation in standards between the different chapters and contributors. Some chapters are of very low educational standard whereas some others, such as those on the subject of Facial Pain, rise to the heights. I am, therefore, not convinced that the authors' aims are achieved and maintained throughout the text.

The authors' attempts to fulfil the North American expectation that Oral Medicine is (1) management of the medically compromised patient and (2) the management of patients with facial pain, oral mucosal diseases, salivary gland disorders, and the oral manifestations of systemic diseases, leaves each area weaker than if they had been attempted as individual texts. However, the interactive clinical cases on the CD-ROM make the purchase worthwhile for those wishing to embark upon continuing professional development. Otherwise, I would stick to the established texts already available on the market dealing separately with the medically compromised patient and oral medicine.

John Gibson

Prosthetic Treatment of the Edentulous Patient, 4th edn

R. M. Basker and J. C. Davenport
Blackwell Munksgaard, Oxford, 2002
315 pp., softback, £29.50
ISBN 0 632 05998

What relevance does a textbook on edentulous patients have to orthodontics? The answer to this question is in Chapter 12—*Dentures and muscles*, where the relevance of orthodontics to the practice of prosthodontics is discussed. Although occlusion for complete dentures is

somewhat different to that of the natural dentition, I think orthodontists should find this chapter interesting, especially the discussion of development of the natural occlusion.

The fourth edition of this text closely follows the format of previous editions. Most of the original photographs and line drawings are present, but they are much improved. The book could be further improved with some clinical colour photographs, but I imagine this would greatly increase its modest price. The chapters have been enlarged to bring them up-to-date and this edition includes cited references in the body of the text as well as a bibliography at the end of each chapter. I particularly welcome the emphasis placed upon the dentist's responsibility for providing the technician with detailed prescriptions for laboratory work. Additionally, suggestions for quality control and enhancement for audit have been included at the end of each clinical chapter.

Clinical treatment of edentulous patients starts at Chapter 7. The previous six chapters set the scene with an appraisal of the complete denture situation, the transition to the edentulous state and factors affecting prognosis. Personally, I would have preferred to read these chapters as a discussion towards the end of the book as I found them distracting as an introduction. Also, the management of edentulous patients starts with a discussion of copy denture techniques, rather than the basic principles of complete denture prosthetics. I can understand the rationale for this sequence, as the authors acknowledge that future demand for complete dentures will be from older, more difficult patients, but this is more likely to be appreciated by experienced practitioners rather than undergraduate students.

I was surprised to see there are some outdated ideas and errors remaining. For example, the book describes 'socketing' for immediate dentures; the contraindications for immediate dentures are incorrect and do not include radiotherapy to the jaws. Also, the practice of staging extractions with the removal of the posterior teeth first followed by an immediate denture to replace the anterior teeth after the posterior sockets have remodelled is not discussed. I feel Chapter 3 needs further, thorough revision. The authors later mention that 'denture hyperplasia is the result of chronic irritation, a well-recognized cause of malignancy'. There is absolutely no evidence whatsoever to substantiate this remark and this myth should no longer be propagated. Surgical treatment of the enlarged, undercut maxillary tuberosity seems to have been omitted.

Overall, despite these minor criticisms, *Prosthodontic Treatment of the Edentulous Patient* remains an excellent textbook, packed full of useful information for undergraduate students, experienced practitioners, and even orthodontists!

Jeff Wilson

Controversies in the Management of Salivary Gland Disease

M. McGurk and A. Renehan (Eds)
Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2002
328 pp., hb £75
ISBN 1 19 263278 7

'Controversies in the management of salivary gland disease' should alert the non-specialist of the existence of such problems. What better way to publicize this than to bring together leading exponents to present current evidence based opinion, on topics within the field? This book is an account from the proceedings of a salivary gland conference, held in 2001, at Guys and St Thomas's hospitals. Each lecture and the discussion stimulated is faithfully recorded as individual chapters, concluded with an editorial comment.

The book is an eye-catching hardback with 27 chapters of either single or double authorship. There are 328 pages, but the number of illustrations makes progress through the material easy.

The text commences with a preface, where the two editors point out that they have attempted to re-evaluate all the clinical and pathological data relating to salivary gland disease. Challenges to long-held beliefs are made by providing the reader with evidence-based material. The contributors are listed and represent an eclectic group, drawn from the major centres around the UK, mainland Europe, North America and Australia. The book is divided into four main sections, dealing with general issues, benign neoplasms, malignant neoplasms, chronic salivary disease and calculi.

Chapter 1 addresses the issue of epidemiology. Discrepancies in the currently available national data are highlighted. The inevitable effect this will have on the planning of future clinical services is emphasized. Next, aetiological factors such as radiation, viruses and tobacco consumption are considered, although nicely balanced with the impact of molecular biology. There is a good discussion on the classification demands of surgeons balanced against the more inclusive needs of

the pathologist. Arguments for the WHO and the AFIP approaches are made.

Chapter 4 emphasizes the importance of a clinical examination, whilst highlighting the role of ultrasound, CT and MRI in investigating disease. Nuclear approaches are mentioned if only to outline their limited use.

Chapters 5 and 6 provide evidence supporting partial parotidectomy and extra-capsular dissection in contrast to formal superficial parotidectomy, for the treatment of benign tumours such as the pleomorphic adenoma. Tumour spillage management is discussed in terms of radiotherapy versus a watch and wait philosophy. Some evidence is presented that first time recurrence requires surgery with adjuvant radiotherapy. Finally, the concept of malignant change in pleomorphic adenoma is deemed no more than possible although the evidence is far from conclusive. Chapter 10 touches on Warthins tumour responding to standard treatment, although the editor raises the question, unanswered, as to whether this lesion really is a tumour? The reader is warned of the high malignant rate in childhood parotid tumours. To treat such lesions a centralized multi-speciality centre is proposed.

Section three deals with malignant salivary gland neoplasms. A discussion on survival factors opens the section, with emphasis on stage over grade. The reader is advised to remove tumours on the clinical findings, rather than relying too heavily on the pathology. The next chapter (15) discusses the role of radiotherapy as an adjuvant in malignancy management. A special case is made, not to rely too heavily on radiotherapy for sub-mandibular disease. Chapter 16 looks at predictive factors for neck metastases and recommends radical surgery for their treatment. The poor prognosis of salvage surgery is discussed, whilst Chapter 18 looks at distant metastases, a previously poorly investigated topic. Chapter 19 examines in greater detail the adenoid cystic carcinoma, reporting thoughts from pathologists and surgeons. They conclude that the bigger the tumour and the higher the grade the poorer the prognosis. Skin metastases are dealt with in Chapter 20 highlighting the poor prognosis of malignant melanoma in comparison to squamous cell carcinoma, but recommending radical excision for these lesions. Chapter 21 is a real gem with Professor Paul Speight sharing his unique expertise on the salivary lympho-epithelial lesions and Malt Lymphoma.

Section four is dedicated to chronic salivary disease and calculi. Issues dealt with include epidemiology and aetiology of salivary stones, although exact causes