

**FEATURES
SECTION**

Book Review

Clinical Facial Analysis. Elements Principles Techniques

Fabio Meneghini
Springer, Berlin 2005
182 pp. + CD ROM, hb £100
ISBN 3 540 22832 2

Dr Meneghini describes himself as a facial surgeon, who has a base in the Postgraduate School of Maxillofacial Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine, Padova University in Italy. The book is based upon a 4-day course in clinical facial analysis.

The book provides a step-by-step guide to the collection and analysis of data for a variety of facial problems that include both hard and soft tissues, but which concentrates primarily on the soft tissues.

The early part of the book is devoted to the acquisition of clinical facial photographs and the accompanying CD ROM has a copy of a poster demonstrating all the various facial views. This, together with exhaustive checklists that conclude each of the chapters on analysis, which are also on the CD ROM, the author recommends are printed off and used as reminders in the consulting room. The chapter on Lips, Teeth, Chin and Smile Analysis contains some basic

descriptions of antero-posterior and vertical incisor relationships, and reinforces the link between the lip position and the dentition. The section on Smile Analysis was disappointing, providing only examples of different smiles, but no analysis. The following chapter on Dentofacial Deformities is where the orthodontist will feel most at home as we see antero-posterior and vertical skeletal problems illustrated and analysed using McNamara's method. In this chapter, correct information regarding mandibular growth rotation is given in the text, but incorrect information given in a legend accompanying a figure. The 'accordion' analysis that compares long and short face individuals is also confusing. The book does not include any of the more challenging situations, such as cleft lip and palate deformities, or craniofacial syndromes.

Overall, the book is well illustrated and presented, and draws the reader's attention to many different aspects of the face that must be considered when contemplating surgery. However, because of this, it will only have value for those orthodontists who work closely with surgical colleagues.

Richard Oliver