

**FEATURES
SECTION**

Book Reviews

The Orthodontic Treatment of Impacted Teeth, 2nd Edn

Adrian Becker
Informa Healthcare, London, 2007
340 pp., hb, £135.00
ISBN 1841844756

It is almost 10 years since the first edition of this book was published, and the content reflects the changes that have occurred during that period, mainly in the field of radiographic diagnosis. There are 14 chapters. The first chapter relates the general principles of diagnosis and treatment, and three chapters later we have a seemingly isolated chapter on 'Treatment Strategy'. There are useful chapters that cover the aetiology, diagnosis and treatment of maxillary incisors and maxillary canines. A chapter devoted to incisor root resorption associated with impacted canines presents the cases for three different management options, and points to published research on the fate of teeth with resorbed roots and the effects of orthodontic treatment. This single study suggests that such teeth have a good long-term prognosis.

There is also a chapter on the management of impacted teeth using lingual appliances – a procedure that should perhaps only be attempted by somebody at the top of their game – and/or implants. The author is to be congratulated on their inclusion of Chapter 12 – The anatomy of failure. We all learn more when things do not go as planned, and the hazards of managing impacted teeth are illustrated and discussed. The lessons of a lack of careful planning and communication between different specialties are clear.

Those of us who already have the first edition will see many of the illustrations and chapter layouts in this second edition. This is not a criticism – the illustrations are there to amplify the text, which they do adequately. The additional material enhances what was already a useful book that filled a niche in the available literature. By contemporary standards the cost of the book is quite high, and, given the subject matter, it is unlikely that it will be purchased and read by any other than hospital consultants and orthodontic trainees.

Richard Oliver

An Introduction to Orthodontics, 3rd Edn

Laura Mitchell
Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2007
270 pp., sb, £42.99
ISBN 0198568124

The appearance of a third edition of this book shows that it is reaching, or has reached, the status of a 'standard' undergraduate orthodontic textbook. The cover has departed from the traditional turquoise and blue OUP livery and shows a three-dimensional CT of a maxillary arch with orthodontic brackets and an archwire against softer shades of blue (almost Cambridge blue in places!). What is new in the third edition? There are two new chapters: Retention and Orthodontic First Aid; there are two new contributing authors: Zarana Nelson-Moon and Simon Littlewood; and there are some minor changes to some of the chapter titles. The page remains easy on the eye with plenty of colour illustrations. The layout has changed into a two column per page style which, due to the format of the headings that break up the page, can be difficult to follow. As a result, undergraduates who are unfamiliar with the subject matter may find themselves even more confused than before. At the end of each chapter the familiar style of bibliography points to relevant and up-to-date references for further reading. Chapters by the new authors are, as expected, different to those in the second edition, and there have been changes of wording and illustrations in the other chapters. The chapter on 'Orthodontic First Aid' is clearly a response to the requirement by the General Dental Council in the UK that students be competent at managing the broken appliance.

If you already have the second edition, is it worth buying the third edition? Probably not – the amount of new information is limited. However, it can be recommended for dental undergraduates as a good 'standard' text, and is useful to have in the practice for staff to refer to, particularly dental nurses who may be working towards the NEBDN Certificate in Orthodontic Nursing, and for the new breed of dental care professional – the Orthodontic Therapist.

Richard Oliver

Skeletal Anchorage with Microimplants

A. Korrodi Ritto

Facies – Centro de Estudos Harmonia Facial, Porto, 2007

83 pp., hb, €125.00

ISBN 9729957635

The aim of this book, as stated by the author, is ‘not only to show the potential benefits that microimplants and skeletal anchorage can bring for modern orthodontics, but also to provide some historical background as to their appearance and development, and the basic rules for their successful use’.

The book is well divided into clearly defined chapters, introducing the reader to the subject with an initial chapter on ‘Historical Background’. The second chapter on ‘Abbreviations and Terminology’ is particularly clear and a great asset before reading the rest of the text.

Parts of the book are informative, but the problem lies in the details, and in orthodontics this is often of greatest importance. Occasionally the text within the chapters themselves does not flow and important details regarding, for example, the distinction between upper and lower dentition and type of crossbite being corrected are omitted. The text would clearly have benefited from this.

There are some interesting illustrations and clinical photographs used, but again because of a lack of clear labelling it is sometimes difficult to pick out the

mechanics being illustrated. In relation to the photographs, there is a lack of information regarding the treatment plan and aims of treatment, and often several cases are mixed up making them difficult to follow logically.

The actual mechanics employed from the temporary anchorage devices are written about in passing and this text would have benefited from a chapter dedicated to the various adjuncts employed in use with microimplants.

On a positive note, chapters entitled ‘Complications’ and ‘Removal’ are succinct and well illustrated. However, the penultimate chapter entitled ‘New techniques and Equipment’ references other research in passing, but mainly discusses Ritto’s own developments and research, which does not present an unbiased view.

If you are willing to overlook these problems, then this book could be useful as an introduction to microimplants. However, at €125.00 it is expensive for the amount of information it contains. Despite the fact that the book does not claim to be a definitive text on the subject, the author does believe the text to be ‘suitable as a practical manual and a convenient reference work, particularly for those who intend to take their first steps into this area’. However, if the reader was interested in getting involved with this type of treatment, then this book is no substitute for the information that can be gained from respected research and well-run courses.

Meryl Spencer