

**FEATURES  
SECTION**

## Book Review

### **Mini-Implants in Orthodontics: Innovative anchorage concepts**

B. Ludwig, S. Baumgaertel, J. Bowman (eds)  
Quintessence Publishing Co Ltd, London, 2008  
204 pp., hb, £98.00  
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One of the most significant advances in orthodontics of recent times has been the introduction of mini-implants or temporary anchorage devices (TADs). Their simple technique for placement and vast array of clinical applications has meant they have become an accepted component of orthodontic treatment. As with any newly evolving treatment modality peer-reviewed articles are published on a monthly rate and specific mini-implant systems are often advocated by speakers at various conferences. It would therefore be helpful for the prospective clinician to have the clinical and evidence-based material available in one concise, succinct and non-biased format. This book aims to do just that and can be considered more akin to a manual or clinical guidebook predominantly aimed at familiarizing the clinician embarking on making TADs part of their everyday clinical armentarium.

There is logical progression through eight chapters starting at the very beginning considering the concept of anchorage as *Newton's* Third Law and a section describing traditional methods of supplementing anchorage. The chapter is a good introduction and makes for easy reading.

The longest chapter in the book follows suit covering aspects and selection among different mini-implant

systems to include screw design, accessories in the delivery program and interconnection with orthodontic devices. Up to 18 mini-implant systems are covered including the more popular systems used in the UK and as such an objective viewpoint is felt as a neutral reader. The information is neatly summarized in tabular format to allow side-by-side comparison between systems. The appendix of this chapter contains a sample checklist of questions the clinician may want to use in evaluating a mini-implant system.

Subsequent chapters cover insertion of mini-implants and clinical solutions for different orthodontic movements. Included are simple, easy to follow diagrams and high quality images of the instruments involved and clinical technique which complements the text nicely. Risks and prevention strategies are also outlined as is a section on integrating mini-implants into clinical practice. This also includes an informed consent document and separate information leaflet for patients which practitioners may wish to use as a template.

Overall, this is a nicely presented, well balanced book which will appeal not only to orthodontists but to clinicians in overlapping specialities including oral surgeons and restorative dentists. Although the context is primarily clinical, the book is well referenced to the current available evidence-base and the sequence of subject matter flows logically from one aspect to another. It represents a good starting point for clinicians wishing to make TADs part of their everyday orthodontic practice.

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