

## Book Reviews

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### Preparing for dental practice (2004)

Authors: F. J. Trevor Burke and Ruth Freeman  
Publisher: Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK  
Price: £24.95  
ISBN: 0-19-850864-6

Many dentists say that as they left dental school they thought they knew everything about dentistry, until they started working, and then they realized they actually knew nothing! This is a unique book that deals with many important matters that are of interest to young dentists as they embark on their new careers, many of which are not normally covered within the standard undergraduate dental curriculum.

The authors have not only covered clinical themes, but also many of the social, psychological, ethical, legal and business aspects of the practice of dentistry. The book provides useful advice about dentist–patient and dentist–staff relationships, as well as addressing the treatment and primary care elements of practice building. There are very beneficial sections on career options, medical and dental emergencies and cross-infection control.

As for orthodontics, the book has valuable advice for general practitioners on indications for referral, and making patients dentally fit before referring them. The one omission is pictures of the aesthetic component of the Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need. Of course, conditions that merit referral to other specialists are also covered.

A minor criticism is that the text is perhaps not sufficiently comprehensive regarding everyday regulations, such as not mixing National Health Service and private treatment, equipment inspections, clinical audit/peer review obligations, the new PDS contracts, obtaining advice concerning disability access, and the myriad notices and certificates (e.g. concerning waste collection or radiography) that dentists need to display in their surgeries. It would have been useful to dedicate a chapter to the various regulations that a dentist needs to be aware of, as he or she is about to set up practice. The young practitioner would still need to consult colleagues or professional organizations to obtain more detailed or specific advice. The index also suffers somewhat from brevity, with words such as ‘consent’, ‘inspections’, ‘partnership’ and ‘vaccination’ notably missing.

For the most part though, *Preparing for dental practice* is a very helpful, informative and practical textbook that will be invaluable for newly qualified dentists, or associates (whether generalist or specialist) who wish to become practice owners. The publication of a book like this has long been overdue.

Mahmoud Pourghadiri

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### Risk management in orthodontics: experts’ guide to malpractice (2004)

Authors: Thomas M. Graber, Theodore Eliades and Athanasios E. Athanasiou  
Publisher: Quintessence Publishing, New Malden, Surrey, UK  
Price: £78.00  
ISBN: 0-86715-431-4

Many textbooks contain chapters on the iatrogenic complications of orthodontic treatment, but, as far as I could determine, this is the only textbook solely devoted to orthodontic risk management. One cannot help feeling that this text has been a long time coming, but with an ever-increasing interest in orthodontic treatment it is a fabulous overview of the myriad issues that may beset both the patient and the clinician.

This is a beautifully and appropriately illustrated 238 page hardback book aimed squarely at anyone who works in clinical orthodontic practice. The pros are supported by seminal and current orthodontic literature and the references are presented, in varying volumes, to support the text. Chapters are written by both Americans and Europeans and by clinicians and scientists and the text concludes with the valuable input of an American attorney-at-law.

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