

Book Reviews

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Treatment of oral diseases. A concise textbook (2004)

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This is a concise textbook of oral medicine providing up-to-date, practical and reliable information on the diagnosis and treatment of oral diseases. The author outlines some important treatment philosophies which form the basis of this book. He quotes Hippocrates, 'to benefit, and not to harm', which emphasizes the importance of practising evidence-based medicine and dentistry in modern times.

The book has a simple layout with diseases arranged in alphabetical order and information presented in point-form throughout. This enables the reader to obtain quick and direct information about a particular condition, in contrast to comprehensive conventional oral medicine textbooks. The book contains three parts: Part I: Diseases. This forms the main part of the book, covering 120 oral diseases. A brief summary of each disease is presented – definition, aetiology, main clinical features (both oral and systemic manifestations), diagnosis and differential diagnoses, and detailed treatment guidelines with suggested therapeutic strategies. Information presented for each condition is appropriately supported by up-to-date references. Part II: Drugs. Commonly used drugs in the treatment of oral diseases are presented in this section. Their main clinical uses, preparations, dosage

and their respective side-effects are carefully tabulated. Part III: Laser therapy. This section provides background information and the basic principles of laser application in oral medicine. The advantages of this minimally invasive surgical technique are highlighted.

It is a little disappointing that clinical photographs, diagrams and illustrations of each disease are not included in the book. Nor is there description of the surgical treatment of oral diseases in any detail. I therefore recommend the author's excellent *Color Atlas of Oral Diseases* as an ideal supplement for the reader. Nevertheless, it is acknowledged by the author in the preface that this book is not meant to be a substitute for a thorough knowledge base or comprehensive literature on each and every therapeutic component used in clinical practice. Nor is it aiming to present details of surgical techniques.

I can recommend this book as a good choice for dental students, dentists, general practitioners, postgraduate students in oral medicine, oral medicine specialists, and dermatologists as a learning textbook or clinical handbook in oral medicine.

Mervyn Yeen Hoong Chin

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