

Book Reviews

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Treatment planning for the developing dentition (2006)

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This text is part of the highly successful Quintessentials of Dental Practice series. It comprises six chapters and an index. Each chapter begins with an aim and objectives/outcome to guide the reader, and concludes with a short list of references for recommended reading. The text is easy to read with high quality illustrations and well-laid-out tables.

Chapter 1 covers the first dental visit and information gathering. It highlights the importance of leaving the child with a good lasting impression of their experience and addresses the pros and cons of the parent being present or absent during the visit. The steps in assessment are detailed thoroughly including radiographic and caries risk

assessment before going on to describe the stages in treatment planning.

Chapter 2 deals with interceptive orthodontic treatment. It takes an interesting approach to screening using the acronym MOCDOO (missing, overjet, crossbite, displacements, overbite, others). The importance of early assessment is emphasized and examples of interceptive treatment are provided.

Chapter 3 concentrates on planning for prevention. It highlights preventive strategies which should be individualized, based on each child's risk of caries, erosion, gingival and periodontal disease, and trauma. It includes very useful tables on do's and don'ts of dietary advice, fluoride supplement prescription, fluoride toothpaste usage for children and fluoride rinses. The considerations for fissure sealants and mouthguards are also covered.

The restorative phase of treatment is presented logically in Chapter 4. Beginning with 'why bother filling primary teeth?' it then proceeds to planning restorative care in the overall treatment plan and the sequence of restorative treatment. The controversial area regarding the use of local

anaesthetic for restorative treatment in children is discussed followed by the recommendations for rubber dam. Restorative materials, use of removable prostheses, bleaching and management of pulpally involved teeth are all considered. There is a concluding section on special restorative challenges encountered in children.

The management of dental emergencies is dealt with in Chapter 5. These include management of pulpal pain, orofacial infections, trauma, non-accidental injury, acute temporomandibular joint pain and clinical/radiographic features of oral lesions which justify specialist referral.

Finally, Chapter 6 deals with a recall strategy. It explains that frequency of recalls for children should be based on individual clinical need but should be flexible and continually reassessed depending on new clinical findings and risk assessment.

Overall the text is well written, clear and concise. It is a very valuable resource recommended for all dental practitioners involved with the developing dentition.

Declan Millett

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