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Book Reviews

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Radiographic cephalometry: from basics to 3D imaging, 2nd edition (2006)

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Cephalometric radiography is a standardized and reproducible form of skull radiography utilized by orthodontists to assess the relationship of the teeth to the jaws and the jaws to the facial skeleton. Standardization is necessary for cephalometry which is the measurement and comparison of points, distances, and lines within the facial skeleton. Therefore, orthodontic diagnosis and treatment planning rely on cephalometric radiography and those involved in this field should have an in-depth knowledge of this field.

This book is well illustrated with 22 chapters ranging from the historical role of cephalometry right up to date with three-dimensional imaging. The text provides a detailed description of the various methods of cephalometric analysis available to the practitioner, with descriptions of the many landmarks that may be measured and assistance on localizing these points. However, these landmarks are located on line drawings, which allow much easier location than on a radiograph, suffering from superimposition of the left and right maxillofacial skeleton.

In terms of radiography, the book describes the methods of film and digital-based imaging. Mention is made on the use of intraoral units to undertake cephalometric radiographs; this method is no longer used in the United Kingdom, and is therefore historical. More could have been made of the acquisition of digital cephalometric radiographs, with the differing scanning methods available with CCD technology and the dose limitation that can be provided by the imaging programs available with these units.

Mention is made of cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) imaging and its role in orthodontic treatment planning; it is good to see that the authors are concerned with dose limitation to the patient, as a question is asked, should all patients be subjected to CBCT imaging. The advantages of CBCT imaging are mentioned with the various reconstructions available from the data. This information is also displayed on the compact disk (CD) that accompanies this book.

From the list of contributors, it is evident that this is mainly a United States-based text and therefore little is made of contributions to cephalometric radiography from Europe; for example, there is no mention of triangular collimation of radiographs, since the whole of the maxillofacial skeleton is rarely required for the most commonly requested lateral cephalometric radiograph.

In summary, this is a well-presented and illustrated book, with the addition of a CD providing templates and further imaging that cannot be displayed in a textbook. It is highly recommended to those who have an interest in imaging and cephalometry.

Jonathan Davies