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Detection, assessment, diagnosis and monitoring of caries (2009)

Editor: Nigel Pitts
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This is a 15 chapter, 216 page book on the topic clinical management of dental caries. Each chapter starts with a small abstract and concludes with a citation list of 20–67 references. Nigel Pitts has assembled 22 collaborators, so that different chapters, except for the four written solely by the editor, are put together by multiple authors well known in the field. Presentation standards are high with quality photographs, diagrams, and figures.

The chapters read as a series of review articles with the aim of identifying and explaining evidence concerning

the detection and diagnosis of the caries process in both children and adults. Not surprisingly, the International Caries Detection and Assessment System (ICDAS) is prominent in the text as the epidemiology of caries detection is a major theme of the monograph.

While these issues will be of interest to orthodontists, the sections concerning the management, by dentists, of carious lesions will be of less direct interest. The specific concern for orthodontists of early, reversible carious lesions does figure briefly. However, there are two chapters that are of

particular interest. Chapter 4 describes 'Novel lesion detection aids' and Chapter 12 'Novel preventive treatment options'. In these two chapters, there are explanations of non-invasive diagnostic techniques and some recently developed preventive strategies that are of practical use in clinical orthodontics.

This monograph represents a comprehensive expression of the current evidence base for caries diagnosis and

management. The problem with a book of this type is that the field of study moves forward fairly rapidly. For example, ICDAS has already been through a number of iterations. The techniques used to identify carious lesions are also evolving. This text is a sound contemporary representation.

Neil Pender

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