

Book Review

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Monographs in oral science. Vol. 22: fluoride and the oral environment (2011)

Editor: M. A. R. Buzalaf

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This book provides extensive information about current concepts relating to the use of fluoride in dentistry. This hardback has 11 chapters and 178 pages. The chapters read as a series of review articles, each starting with an abstract and finishing with a citation list of between 38 and 169 references. The editor has assembled 11 collaborators so that different chapters are written by respected experts in the field and the editor has contributed to seven of the chapters.

The book comprises of two sections. The first section discusses the sources of fluoride intake of children and its metabolism. Two chapters cover the biological biomarkers of exposure to fluoride as classified by the World Health Organisation (1994). This section ends with chapters on acute and chronic toxicity of ingested fluoride.

The second section deals with the modes of action of fluoride and the methods of fluoride application in the prevention of caries and erosion. The chapter on the modes of action of fluoride for caries control has high-quality schematic diagrams, which help to clarify this complex subject. The chapter on the use of topical of fluorides for

caries control gives an evidence-based overview of this area and should be a very valuable source of information for all clinicians who prescribe fluoride. The beautifully illustrated chapter on the role of fluoride in the protection against erosion recommends the need for further research in order to better understand the effectiveness of various fluoride agents and formulations in the prevention of erosion.

Overall, the content of the book is detailed; yet, there are plenty of interesting and relevant tables, graphs, and illustrations, which help to enhance and aid the reader's understanding. This book is essential reading for clinical and basic science teachers, postgraduates, and research workers in this field. It will also provide the clinician with up-to-date information on the clinical efficacy and possible side effects of fluoride.

In summary, this book will be of great interest to those in this field, which encompasses many of the disciplines of dentistry and should be a very valuable resource to all those engaged in this field.

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