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## Book reviews

### **Quintessentials for General Dental Practitioners**

A major series covering 9 principal topics in 36 volumes

*Editor-in-Chief: Prof Nairn HF Wilson*

Published by Quintessence, Surrey, 2002

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Hardback: £28; 160pp; full colour

'The 'Quintessentials for General Dental Practitioners' series, written by a team of distinguished UK dentists headed by Professor Nairn Wilson, distils current best practice into authoritative and readable handbooks. Each volume covers basic principles and key issues and the series builds into an unrivalled library of evidence-based dental medicine'.

Quintessence Publishing Co Ltd.  
Surrey, UK.

### **Rational Root Canal Treatment in Practice**

*JM Whitworth*

ISBN 1-85097-055-6

This is Volume 1 of the endodontic series of 'Quintessentials for General Dental Practitioners'. We are promised Volumes 2 and 3, Managing Endodontic Failure in Practice and Managing Dental Trauma in Practice, later in 2003, with Volume 4, Managing the Vital Pulp, to follow in autumn 2004.

This is a compact text that deals concisely with practical issues relating to root canal treatment and divides the continuum of clinical root canal treatment into 8 chapters. The first 3 chapters cover the funda-

mentals of endodontic disease, the immediate management of symptomatic teeth and the preparation for definitive treatment. Chapters 4 and 5 discuss entering the canal system, before chapters 6 and 7 detail the conditions required for first creating, and then preserving, periapical health.

The generic skills needed to prevent or treat apical periodontitis are emphasised, specifically correct diagnosis and aseptic technique. A range of shaping and obturation techniques are illustrated both with line diagrams and colour illustrations. There are numerous radiographic images of apparently 'well root filled' teeth but we are reminded that if saliva has not been excluded during the treatment process a successful long term outcome is far from certain. This is a very welcome addition to the endodontic literature and will be useful for undergraduates as well as its target audience.

### **Atlas of Neural Therapy with Local Anesthetics, second edition**

M P Dosch

Published by Thieme, Stuttgart, 2003

ISBN 3-13-130572-X GTV

ISBN 1-58890-105-X TNY

214 pages, 174 illustrations

This is an odd one; definitely not mainstream dentistry. The first edition was published in 1985 and in the review copy the publisher notes that this book is 'an authorized translation of the fifth German edition published and copyrighted 1994'. However, we never judge a book by

its cover (that incidentally has three diagrams depicting the knee, the brachial plexus and the sacrum) and the 'Complementary Medicine' icon in front of the title only served to interest us more.

'Neural therapy' it transpires is 'not just another injection technique. It is a complex, safe, and very effective system for our time... a traditional European healing system focusing on the health of the autonomic system'. If I have understood the concepts correctly, the basis of neural therapy is that the injection of small amounts of local anaesthetic into strategic sites can eliminate the undesirable effects of neural irritation (interference fields). A 'lightning reaction' should be observed i.e. all remote disturbances controlled by the interference field must disappear completely at the moment of the injection and the patient must remain completely symptom free for at least 8 hours in the case of teeth (longer elsewhere in the body). If symptoms recur, the injection should be repeated at the same site and thereafter the patient must remain symptom free 'for at least as long and preferably longer than on the previous occasion'.

The first 192 pages deal with Segmental Therapy, the Lightning Reaction and the Search for an Interference Field, Head and Neck, Chest, Back, Abdomen, Pelvis, Extremities: arms, legs. Only the final 17 pages deal with dental problems. The chapter on 'Interference Fields in the Teeth and Jaws' is divided into 15 sections. Each section has the image of a periapical radiograph, a 'matching' colour diagram and a short text passage describing the relevant

issues, i.e. the cause(s) of the interference field.

Some of the statements are oversimplifications, e.g. sections 3 and 4 misrepresent the bacterial aetiology of apical periodontitis by stating 'the radiopaque filling material projects a few millimeters past the apex and has caused inflammation in the jaw around the tip of the root' and 'the highly infectious reaming instrument left *in situ*'. Section 7 appar-

ently depicts a radicular cyst associated with a 'solitary canine'. We are told that 'successful elimination requires removal of the entire cystic sac with its epithial lining' – does this imply surgery? I'm sure most of us would attempt root canal treatment first if the tooth was to be saved. What is not clear is what 'neural therapy' can do for the various lesions depicted. I cannot imagine that injecting some local

anaesthetic near to a tooth with apical periodontitis, or at some distant site, will have anything other than the usual transient effect. If only it were that simple!

Jeremy Hayes,  
University of Wales College of  
Medicine,  
Cardiff

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