

The medical history: clinical implications and emergency prevention in dental settings

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This book is intended for dental hygiene students who are in the preclinical phase of their studies. The authors also recommend that the book could serve as a valuable resource for clinical faculty to review and could act as a tool for calibrating the clinical faculty with regard to the health history review process. The book addresses each aspect included on a comprehensive medical health history, discusses the rationale for each question and identifies risks for an emergency condition. The most recent edition of the American Dental Association Health History is used as the example of a comprehensive health history.

Each chapter begins with a listing of key terms and a succinct definition of the term along with chapter objectives. The text is clearly organized with subheadings for quick reference. Some key information is highlighted and presented in summary boxes within the chapter. Clinical photographs are included but are reproduced in black and white, which does not allow for clear and comprehensible distinction of the oral condition being discussed. The photographs do not add any value in this format and in further publications of this book colour photographs should be seriously considered.

There are intermittent self study questions throughout the chapter that would assist the student to be continually assessing their retention of the content as they read through the chapter. This is an effective approach to encourage the student to be assessing their learning as they read through the material, rather than waiting until the end of the chapter, as is more typically done in other books. Each chapter finishes with long answer review questions, a case study question, and the answers are immediately available at the end of the chapter.

References are listed at the end of each chapter which provides ready access to other resources as needed.

For each medical condition included in the health history, a short pathophysiology description is provided along with the application to practice including recommended follow-up questions. The potential emergency situation and the methods to prevent it from occurring is briefly described. Lastly, a brief synopsis is provided on how to manage the situation in case of an emergency. Generally, the book gives a succinct presentation of each of these elements on the health history. It provides a very good working knowledge of the medical conditions and for more details on any condition, the student or clinician could refer to the references listed in each chapter, which are typically current sources of additional information.

The book is organized into 14 chapters. The authors note that the book was specifically organized in this manner to accommodate a typical 15-week term found in many post-secondary educational programmes. The authors recommend that the book could be used during a dental hygiene programme's preclinical phase. The student could complete one chapter each week.

I would highly recommend this book for dental hygiene students in their preclinical phase of study and the follow-up questions would be a continually valuable resource. Lastly, I also highly support the use of this book for a clinical faculty calibration activity as suggested by the authors.

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