

## Book review

**Restorative Techniques in Paediatric Dentistry – An Illustrated Guide to the Restoration of Carious Primary Teeth, 2nd edn.** MS Duggal, MEJ Curzon, SA Fayle, KJ Toumba & AJ Robertson. Martin Dunitz Ltd, The Livery House, 7–9 Pratt Street, London NW1 0AE. 2002. ISBN 1-85317-592-7. pp 152, £52.50.

In this publication, the authors attempt to give an overview of the possible restorative techniques applicable to the primary dentition. They clearly explain the approach of the book at the outset, and constantly remind the reader of the need to research and consider further the other aspects of child patient management and social expectation. Each chapter deals clearly and concisely with the topic selected, and the references at the end of the book encourage the reader to explore each aspect in more depth.

Using examples of radiographs and excellently photographed clinical situations, the chapter on radiography demonstrates how essential radiographs are, both for the detection of disease in the primary dentition and for selecting the most appropriate restorative technique at the outset of treatment. This material is complimented by a easy-to-follow flow-chart advising on the frequency of radiographs.

Local anaesthesia is an aspect of child restorative dentistry that many undergraduates and general practitioners seem to find difficult and daunting, but the chapter on this subject is clearly written, and well illustrated with clinical photographs and diagrams.

The chapters on rubber dam isolation, and the different restorative techniques, pulp therapies and types of restoration that are available, are concise

and again excellently illustrated. Perhaps more could have written about the alternative materials that are available: polycarboxylate cement is described as the material to cement stainless steel crowns, but a glass ionomer cement can be equally suitable. However, there is a useful comparison of criteria for the techniques within the text and a clear illustration of these techniques, some of which can be very demanding to the inexperienced dentist or the undergraduate dentist in training.

The guide allows the dentist to realistically envisage and follow each procedure without having to resort to using a child patient as an actual 'teaching tool'. The examples of the case studies are again clearly illustrated and concisely described. For completeness sake, reference to and explanation of the Wright–Frankl scale could have been included together with the streptococcus mutans levels that are of significance. The references are all given at the end of the text, but it might have been more useful to have the relevant ones at the end of each chapter.

Overall this is an excellent 'illustrated guide', and the authors have produced a very useful discussion and teaching tool. Some of the illustrations could also be used for parent–child education and information. It should be noted that the reference to the 'NHS capitation system' will soon be obsolete: We are now awaiting April 2005 with some trepidation!

S. GAUBERT  
*Associate Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry,  
Bart's & London Dental Institute,  
Senior Dental Officer,  
Greenwich Primary Care Trust,  
London, UK*

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