

## Book reviews

**The Prevention of Oral Disease, 4th edn.** Edited by John J. Murray CBE. Oxford University Press. 2003. ISBN 0-19-263279-5. 286 pp. £35.

What a great textbook! This is an essential read for the whole dental team to prevent oral disease in today's world. It does not limit itself to dental caries, periodontal disease and soft tissue surveillance but includes 'modern' problems such as tooth wear and preservation of the ageing dentition. The text further expands to encompass oral health policy whilst still enabling the reader to read about specifics such as diet, Fluoride therapy and how to design a sports mouth guard. The individual chapter authors are well known in their subject areas. I particularly enjoyed chapter two: 'Diet and Dental Caries'. Placing key pieces of information in coloured boxes throughout helps the busy reader, though such a well-written and informative book deserves colour images. This text answers all the questions posed by patients today. It is a must for every bookshelf.

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**Traumatic Dental Injuries: A Manual, 2nd edn.** By Jens Andreasen, Frances M. Andreasen, Leif K. Bakland & Maria T. Flores. Blackwell Munksgaard Publishing, Oxford. 2003. ISBN 1-4051-1108-9. 88 pp. £24.99 (paperback).

The second edition of this popular book is a welcome update, and with an enlarged bibliography, extended chapters and several new contributions, *Traumatic Dental Injuries: A Manual* is a very comprehensive work on traumatic dental injuries (TDIs). The inclusion of computer enhanced radiographs should make this edition easy to follow but the opportunity to improve the labelling and titles for the graphs and illustrations and to clarify terminology was not altogether grasped!

The bibliography on the epidemiology and prevention of TDIs is more extensive than in the last edition, reflecting the amount of research carried out over the past 10–15 years and perhaps the concerns that TDIs are a public health issue. This should have encouraged the authors to expand the relevant chapters to include additional information about the risk factors and causes of TDIs, and their prevention. A more comprehensive mapping of TDIs would also have been helpful.

Two new chapters on 'Diagnosis of Pulpal Healing Complications' and 'Diagnosis of Periodontal Healing' are an excellent attempt to explain and illustrate the various outcomes of TDIs, and to assist in diagnosis. Although the expanded sections on information to the public and the new section on patient information are welcome additions, the new section on tooth survival is disappointing.

There will be a lively discussion about the timing of emergency treatment of TDIs, as outlined in the third new chapter, 'Treatment Priorities of Dental Trauma'. This contribution divides the need for emergency treatment into acute (within a few hours), subacute (< 24 h) and delayed (> 24 h) requirements.

The problems which may result from the long-term use of calcium hydroxide are mentioned in several chapters and are more fully explained in the chapter on 'Endodontic Implications of Dental Trauma'. The use of an alternative, mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA), in the endodontic treatment of TDIs is well illustrated with a step-by-step explanation in the pictures and text.

I wholeheartedly recommend this new edition which has dealt with a vast and complicated subject in a simple, straightforward and easy-to-use way. It will continue to be an essential book for teaching paediatric dentistry to both undergraduate and post-graduate students, and an invaluable chair-side reader and reference book for all dental practitioners, whether or not they are paediatric dentists.

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