

Book Reviews



Textbook of General and Oral Medicine

David Wray and Gordon D. O. Lowe with John H. Dagg, David H. Felix, and Crispian Scully. Churchill Livingstone Publishers, New York, NY 1999: ISBN 0-443-05189-5 (368 pp, 191 illus; price \$52; softcover)

The minute many dental students complete their boards, all too often, they begin to lose their edge when it comes to basic science education. Unless patients or situations challenge our knowledge, some of that education fades and the ability to feel confident when dealing with medically compromised patients or speaking with physicians on an educated level may be reduced. This textbook was written to prevent that, by providing information about general and oral medicine. The book is intended for use by dental students and general practitioners, as well as specialists. While the specialty of oral medicine has a surplus of text, it remains vital to periodically review the major subjects to remain current. This text, providing an essential review of general and oral medicine, is uniquely cross-referenced between its two main sections. This arrangement shows the reader the relevance of general medicine as related to dentistry with the goal of maximizing the understanding of oral medicine. The book has 27 chapters organized into two parts (general medicine and oral medicine) and is fully illustrated with color pictures and diagrams.

Part I of the text covers general medicine. Chapter 1 supports the necessity of general med-

ical study and offers applications for dentists, including communication with other health care providers. It highlights several possible medical emergencies that may well occur in dental settings. This chapter also makes a point that sometimes the dentist is the first line of defense in the diagnosis of medical problems. Special emphasis is placed on medical history in Chapter 2. The authors emphasize that taking a history is a professional and social introduction, and a great way to establish communication between the doctor and patient. The importance of reviewing current medical problems and past medical history, as well as a thorough review of systems, is emphasized. Chapter 3 addresses the clinical examination and emphasizes that this begins as soon as the patient walks into the operatory. Observations made about illness, physical disabilities, mental disorders, and abnormalities of the head and neck should be reviewed and, if necessary, discussed with the patient's primary medical provider. Only after obtaining pertinent information about the patient's general health are the examination of head, neck, mouth, and teeth continued.

Chapter 4 is designed to familiarize the dentist with the procedures commonly performed to diagnose, treat, or exclude disease. This portion of the text could be useful to the dental practitioner in educating the patient, by allowing the reader to become familiar with common treatments a physician may recommend. Chapter 5, a review of infections, offers the reader thorough and current information concerning HIV and hepatitis; epidemiology, transmission, management, and prevention of infection are summarized. This section also summarizes general viral, bacterial, and fungal infections. This is an essential chapter for examination of the pathology associated with some of the most important diseases affecting dentists and their patients. Chapter 6 presents disorders of the cardiovascular system. Identification of signs and symptoms of cardiovascular disease and how to interpret an EKG are important for any health care provider. The chapter also reviews

common medical emergencies. Rheumatic fever and endocarditis are also discussed, including the current British recommendation for prevention of endocarditis in patients with a heart-valve lesion, septal defect, patent ductus, or prosthetic valve dental prophylaxis. These are not, however, the same recommendations put forth by the American Heart Association. Chapters 7–16 review the systems essential to having a basic understanding of general medicine. A clear understanding of this material is a good aid for communicating with the patient's primary physician and helps the dentist provide the best treatment for the medically compromised patient.

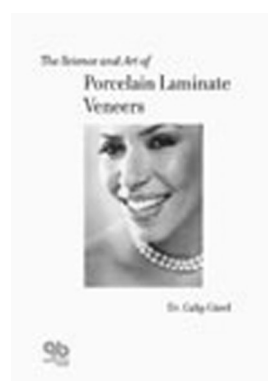
Part II covers the discipline of oral medicine. The importance of localized and oral manifestations of systemic disease is highlighted in this section of this text. A very positive aspect of this section is that the authors organized the chapters in a manner that is very clinically relevant. It takes you into real-life situations and raises questions such as, "Is it an ulcer or a white patch? What is the differential diagnosis?" Chapter 18 reviews one of the most important aspects of dental treatment—the clinical examination. History taking and physical examination are the foundation of any dental treatment, and the book includes an example of a medical history questionnaire. The authors review oral ulceration etiology, environmental factors, and treatment of such ulcerations in Chapter 19. They go on to note that all undiagnosed ulcers lasting more than 3 weeks should receive a biopsy so as to exclude carcinoma.

Vesiculobullous disorders are the focus of Chapter 20. Pemphigus, pemphigoid, linear IgA disease, erythema multiforme, and other disorders are reviewed, compared, and contrasted. The authors are able to take a very confusing topic and make it understandable. Chapter 21 covers the difficult topic of mechanical chronic irritation to neoplastic lesions in an easily readable format. Also very helpful to the reader is the inclusion of TNM classification associated with the clinical staging of head and neck cancer. Chapters 22 and 23 intersect oral mucosal infection with many examples of HIV and immunodeficiency. Oral manifestations of systemic diseases complete the text.

As the population is aging and people are enjoying longer and fuller lives, they have increasingly more convoluted medical histories and are undergoing more complicated treatment. Frequently,

these patients have the most potential for the occurrence of oral pathology. Under no circumstances is this book designed to be an all-inclusive reference for general and oral medicine; it is a clearly written, well-organized text designed for the dental reader. The book achieves its goal of reviewing the major subjects in a manner that is neither verbose nor lacking depth, and supports these subjects with striking color photographs. The dental practitioner will appreciate the organization of pertinent material into tables throughout the book.

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The Science and Art of Porcelain Laminate Veneers

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The interest in and demand for esthetics in dentistry have been two of the most persistent trends in recent restorative dentistry. Patients demand esthetics, and the dental practitioner is challenged to deliver restorations that look natural, provide the desired esthetic result, and will stand the test of time. This book is written for general practitioners who have little to no experience in the area of porcelain laminate veneers and desire a single source to help them get started. It is also written for practitioners who have been providing these restorative services for years, but need more in-depth information on all aspects of the porcelain laminate veneer so they can meet more complex esthetic challenges. In the preface, the author

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