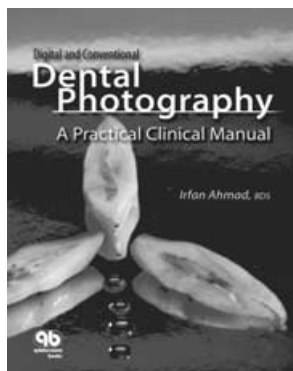


Book Reviews



Digital and Conventional Dental Photography: A Practical Clinical Manual

Irfan Ahmad. Quintessence Publishing Co., Inc., Carol Stream, IL, 2004: ISBN 0867154365 (248 pages, 262 mostly color illustrations; price \$86; soft cover, spiral binding)

Written to provide comprehensive information on clinical and laboratory dental photography using both conventional and digital media, this book is intended for use by laboratory technicians and general practitioners as well as dental specialists. The text is divided into three sections. Section I reviews the basic concepts and methods of dental photography and is divided into three chapters. The first chapter discusses the technical elements of photography and covers, in some detail, different light sources and their effect on the obtained image. Light manipulations and modifications are also discussed, followed by a summary of recommended lighting techniques for various photographic objectives. The author also presents information on the angle of illumination, magnification, depth of field, and resolution.

The second chapter, "Visual & Psychological Perception," discusses the idea that some factors, often not perceived at the time of viewing, may touch our deep psychological state and influence our conscious actions. In the third chapter, the author discusses, again in some detail, the armamentaria for conventional and digital photography and gives recommendations for

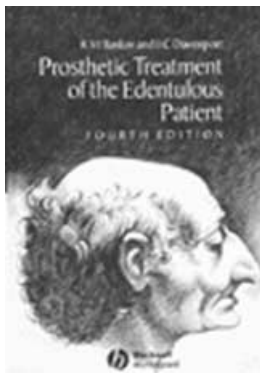
dental applications. The up-to-date information contained in this chapter's first section is most beneficial.

Section II, divided into seven chapters, covers dental imaging, including facial composition, natural dentition, restorations of the anterior and posterior teeth, periodontal and surgical procedures, dental pathology, and laboratory procedures. With the help of colored illustrations and real-life pictures, the author provides a very detailed explanation of how to obtain these images. Dr. Ahmad gives complete instructions on which camera and film to use, required lens, type of exposure, and the recommended lighting, diffusers, and background to obtain the best possible image. The author clearly proves that a picture is worth a thousand words, by providing excellent and comprehensive, easy-to-read coverage of how to obtain many dental images that can be of great benefit to those new to the field of dental photography as well as those more experienced.

The third section, "Image Management," is divided into two chapters. Chapter 11 discusses the processing, storage, and archiving of conventional and digital images. Chapter 12 offers discussions of the equipment needed for digital editing, along with image optimization and sequencing, and achieving true color, brightness, and contrast. Image presentation to patients, colleagues, and the dental community is discussed in some depth. The author closes this chapter by briefly addressing copyright considerations.

This book is a valuable resource for all those interested in dental photography. The author presents a great amount of valuable information in a clear, concise, and easy-to-read manner. The spiral-bound manual is replete with color illustrations and helpful sidebar tips. The author deserves credit for producing a well-written and comprehensive informational text that provides a wealth of techniques based on his knowledge and experience. This text would be of great benefit for those interested in dental photography.

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**Prosthetic
 Treatment of the
 Edentulous
 Patient,
 4th Edition**

*R.M. Baskar and John Davenport. Blackwell Publishing
 Company, Boston, 2002: ISBN 0-632-05998-2 (328
 pages, 80 B/W illustrations; price \$54.99)*

This 4th edition text on edentulous prosthetic treatment offers a biologic approach to edentulous care rather than the mechanistic, technique-oriented approach of many texts on the same topic. Clinical techniques or treatment approaches are supported by literature references in the text and additional supporting literature is included in the bibliography. General principles are emphasized and provide moderate to in-depth discussion of clinical techniques. This updated edition provides numerous high-quality lists, tables, flow diagrams, illustrations, and black and white photographs. Each chapter is organized by subject headings, aiding the transition between chapters, and facilitating the reader's understanding. This book can best be appreciated by students with prior clinical experience with edentulous patients, or used as a supplement to a novice's basic education material. The postdoctoral student will receive an insightful overview of the multifactorial components in comprehensive care for the edentulous patient and find the references helpful for further study. The authors' clear, concise writing style might also stimulate academicians to develop innovative teaching approaches.

The text is divided into two sections. Section One (Chapters 1–5) presents general information

regarding the edentulous patient and fundamental principles. Each chapter begins with a brief introduction tying it to previous chapters and describing the focus of the current chapter. This creates a consistent building of the reader's knowledge and a sense of a common theme throughout the text. Section Two begins with Chapter 6, which provides a nice preview of the ten remaining chapters, focusing on clinical care.

In the first two chapters, the authors appraise edentulism and discuss some changes commonly occurring in older adults. This excellent overview of what edentulous care entails would be of great benefit to readers of all levels. The authors point out that our aging population will be retaining more teeth to an older age, making the acceptance of complete edentulism more difficult, and not without psychological issues that will affect many patients' willingness, determination, and ability to cooperate and participate in their care. They also emphasize that the compromised health of many older patients and their high expectations for outcomes of care will demand that caregivers have more knowledge and skill in treating complete edentulism. Not only will dentists need excellent clinical skills, but they will also need to understand the issues faced by the aging population and be prepared to counsel and educate. The aforementioned emphasis should serve as a statement to the dental profession, both in private practice and in educational institutions: that basic, fundamental principles of complete denture care must be mastered to serve this growing edentulous population successfully.

Given the anxiety created by tooth loss for some patients, Chapter 3 outlines the principles of treatment contributing to a successful transition from natural to artificial dentition. The condition of the teeth and supporting tissues, position of teeth, age, health, and patient wishes as related to this transition are explored. The authors produce an excellent section on immediate dentures, with the associated laboratory and clinical procedures and a list of advantages and disadvantages for the dentist and the patient. Chapter 4 discusses the stability of dentures with respect to retentive forces exceeding the displacing forces that act on the complete dentures. The forces are described in relation to the design of the dentures, creation and maintenance of a seal, and patient's adaptive ability. Here, the use of high-quality illustrations

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