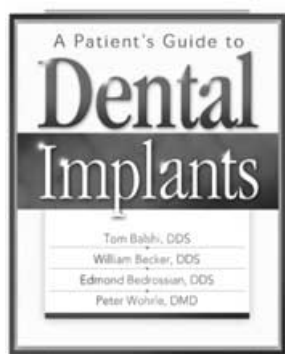


# Book Reviews

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## **A Patient's Guide to Dental Implants**

*Balshi, Becker, Bedrossian, & Wohrle. Addicus Books, Omaha, NE, 2003: ISBN 1-886039-65-8 (106 pages; price \$14.95; addicusbooks.com)*

Good patient education literature is hard to find, particularly when it comes to dental implants. Currently available patient education tracts are uniformly designed to sell a commodity, to raise prospective patients' enthusiasm for choosing implants for their treatment. By the same token, these books generally fail to offer an unbiased discussion of dental implants, neglecting the inherent risks, potential disappointments, and other treatment options available. For these reasons they fall short of educating patients to the degree necessary to give a truly informed consent. With this in mind, *A Patient's Guide to Dental Implants* is a pleasure to find.

It must be made clear that this volume is designed to be a health improvement book for the consumer market, even though it has found considerable interest within the dental community. It was compiled by a team of authors who enjoy an enviable professional reputation and have extensive writing experience. Together, they provide a balanced perspective of the clinical fields of interest necessary for success in implant dentistry.

The uninitiated reader will be pleased to find that the text follows a logical progression of topics covering: (1) how implants work, (2) a comparison of implants with other treatment approaches, (3)

common questions patients ask, (4) a step-by-step discussion of the surgical and prosthodontic procedures, and (5) care and maintenance of implants. Plain language is used to introduce these concepts, making them accessible to readers of a variety of educational levels. Common questions are answered directly, and the discussion is accompanied by clear diagrams which illustrate the text's main points. The book also includes a comprehensive listing of other readily available sources of information (ADA, implant focused organizations, etc.) and how to reach them, including website addresses for readers who wish to broaden their information search. Finally, there is a useful glossary of terms.

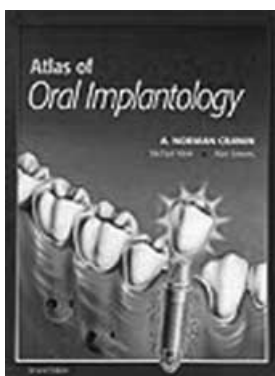
Although it is not wholly without its moments of bias, this book comfortably meets the goal of providing a basis for the process of informed consent. It provides a good comparison of nonimplant and implant treatments as well as a realistic picture of the risks and expectations accompanying implant treatment. In Chapter 5, the authors provide an excellent narrative of what a patient can expect during and following the implant placement procedure. This narrative would be particularly useful in reassuring anxious patients by allowing them to become familiar with, and therefore desensitize themselves to, each procedure before it is encountered. Further expansion of the narrative section dealing with the prosthodontic procedures would be welcome.

The book could be further focused by deleting occasional sections that do not speak directly to the mission of informed consent (e.g., "Why We Lose Teeth?"), but as this is a book written for the popular press, the inclusion is logical. The authors still tend to oversell implant treatment just a bit, which can be excused, however, given the lifetime commitment they have made to implant treatment.

Even though the book is priced very reasonably, the 106-page volume is probably too expensive to provide a copy to every prospective implant patient. It is, however, inexpensive enough that

every practice could have 1 or 2 copies to place on the waiting room table, or to loan to those patients who need more time and information before making this important decision. Now, we need a CD-ROM version to send home with those interested patients!

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### **Atlas of Oral Implantology, 2nd Edition**

A. Norman Cranin, Michael Klein, and Alan Simons.  
Mosby, Inc., St. Louis, 1999: ISBN 1-5566-4552-X (504  
pages, 1300 illustrations; price \$210)

Covering all diagnostic, surgical, and prosthetic aspects of implant dentistry, the *Atlas of Oral Implantology* would be most beneficial to general dentists wishing to incorporate implants in their practice, although it is a good reference book for those providing implant dentistry at all levels in their practices.

The primary author is Dr. A. Norman Cranin. Michael Klein, a prosthodontist, and Alan Simons, an oral surgeon, are listed as consultants. Dr. Cranin guides the reader through all the steps in rehabilitating a patient with dental implants. The book contains 29 well-illustrated chapters and 13 appendices, which cover, among other areas, informed consent forms, antibiotic prophylactic regimens, and CAD-CAM computed tomography.

Dr. Cranin has over 40 years of experience with dental implants, has contributed to the development of both blade and subperiosteal implants, and has numerous publications on both the basic science and clinical aspects of dental

implants. The text reflects the author's knowledge and experience and is written in a simple-to-follow manner.

The first few chapters deal with diagnostics. Here, the reader is introduced to various implant systems, even those currently out of favor. Throughout the book, the author gives more than due importance to blade implants and subperiosteal implants, so readers should read Chapters 4 and 5 before deciding the correct implant type for their patients. Chapter 3 deals with medical conditions that may present contraindications to implant placement. The information contained is exhaustive for most dentists, but the author has taken care to present it in a logical sequence, and with the help of figures, tables, and charts, he makes it easy to understand. However, it would be more helpful to know how medical conditions affect implant success rather than simply generic information about the conditions themselves, which seems to appear straight from a medical textbook.

Table 4-2 outlines most implant types along with their characteristic properties. This table would be valuable to a dentist trying to learn about implant placement and subsequent restoration. Since most practitioners use only 1 or 2 implant systems in their practice, it can be a handy aid when deciding which implant systems to incorporate into one's own practice. Most of Chapter 4 discusses various radiological diagnostic tools. Prosthodontic treatment options are explained in Chapter 5.

Chapters 6-19 address the surgical aspects of implant dentistry. The chapter on armamentarium offers advice on selecting a delivery system for implant surgery. Two chapters are devoted to soft tissue grafts and bone grafts. The surgical techniques are described in great detail, and in Tables 8-1 and 8-2 the author again presents the different types of grafts, including their indications and other relevant information.

There are 3 chapters on root form implants. One covers general principles and 2 chapters cover specific surgical techniques used in most of the common implant systems. These chapters are recommended even for those dentists who do not wish to place implants themselves. The discussions are easy-to-follow and very well described. The surgical steps are explained in some detail with a few cautionary words added. For example, while placing the Branemark implant into the osteotomy site, the author writes, "It is safest to

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