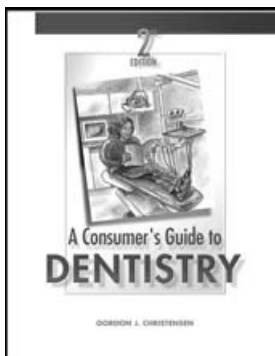


# Book Reviews

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## **A Consumer's Guide to Dentistry, 2nd Edition**

*Gordon J. Christensen. Mosby, St. Louis, 2002: ISBN 0-323-01483-6 (214 pages; price \$51.95; hardcover)*

Dr. Gordon J. Christensen, an internationally recognized educator, has written this text for dental patients, giving them adequate information about dentistry, dental health, and treatment options. This book is also useful for dentists and dental auxiliaries who need to communicate with patients using easy-to-understand written information that can be of great help in patient education, solutions to different dental health problems, and maintaining good dental health.

This book contains 20 well-written chapters. The first chapter, "How to Use this Book," helps the reader understand the book's format. Using a table of contents, it aids readers in finding the answers to nearly every question they might have.

Chapter 2, "In Dentistry," provides the reader with a well-written, easy-to-understand explanation of different dental specialties. It will help the reader learn more about the various types of dentists and the scope of the services they provide. Reading this chapter will be of great help for understanding the following chapters.

The third chapter, "Finding the Right Dentist," gives the reader reliable ways to find a clinician who will be suitable for a particular patient, and warns the reader of wrong reasons that might play a major factor in selecting the patient's dental health provider.

Chapter 4, "Managed Care Programs in Dentistry," provides an honest view of the types of dental care plans available in the United States. The chapter discusses fee for service dentistry, dental health maintenance programs, preferred provider organizations, indemnity dental insurance plans, and direct reimbursement. At the end of this chapter, Dr. Christensen gives an overview of all dental benefits. It appears that he prefers fee for service payment plans, direct reimbursement, and direct assignment, because, he says, these three types of payment provide the most freedom for patients to select the type of therapy they desire.

Chapter 5, "Controlling Pain in Dentistry," informs the reader about various methods dentists use to control pain; the author emphasizes that most of today's dentistry should be nearly painless.

Chapter 6 is "Infection Control in the Dental Office," an explanation of methods used in the dental office to prevent the spread of infection. Dr. Christensen assures the patient/reader that the chance of contracting disease from another patient while in the dentist's office is highly unlikely.

In Chapter 7, "Root Canals, Dead Teeth Inside of Teeth," the author describes the procedure of root canal treatment in layman's terms. He emphasizes the importance of root canal treatment in retaining natural teeth and, although the cost of this therapy is relatively high, the result is a natural dentition that functions as if the teeth were completely normal.

Chapter 8 is "Cosmetic Dentistry and Improving Your Smile." Dr. Christensen discusses different dental conditions and what the dentist can do to correct these problems to give the patient a more attractive facial appearance and smile, thus improving self-esteem and confidence.

Chapter 9, titled "Oral Challenges for the Mature Person," addresses the most significant challenges that occur in the mouth of elderly patients, along with preventive and therapeutic measures.

Chapter 10, "Implant Dentistry: Substitutes for Tooth Roots Placed into Your Jaw," discusses implants as an alternative for people with many missing teeth and as an advantageous option for edentulous patients. Dr. Christensen explains that implants can provide both retention and support for the prosthesis. Implants, when placed properly, allow tooth and gum replacements that appear natural and function almost as effectively as natural teeth.

Chapter 11, "Temporomandibular Joints, Temporomandibular Dysfunction," discusses different occlusal problems and management procedures for temporomandibular disorders (TMDs). The author recommends that TMD patients obtain a second opinion before starting any TMD treatment.

Chapter 12 deals with diseases and surgery related to the oral and facial areas. The author discusses different oral diseases and their management along with some common, and not so common, surgical procedures in a very easy-to-read and well-explained manner.

Chapter 13, "Straightening Teeth," discusses malocclusion in general and, then in more detail, discusses conditions, signs, and symptoms related to orthodontic treatment. In the final segment the author discusses what the orthodontic, pediatric dentist, or general dentist can do to manage these conditions.

Chapter 14, "Dentistry for Children," discusses conditions, signs, and symptoms related to pediatric dentistry, and what the pediatric dentist or general dentist can do to treat these conditions.

Chapter 15 deals with gums and bone surrounding the teeth. It discusses conditions, signs, and symptoms related to periodontics and what the periodontist, general dentist, or dental hygienist can do to manage these conditions. Dr. Christensen emphasizes the importance of having and maintaining a sound foundation of bone and gum tissue in order to maintain good, healthy teeth.

Chapter 16, "Crowns or Bridges Cemented onto Teeth," discusses different conditions related to fixed prosthodontics. Topics include a single missing tooth, several missing teeth, broken, or decayed teeth, and what the prosthodontist or general dentist can do to treat and manage these conditions. The author discusses different treatment modalities and the advantages, disadvantages, alternatives, and risks related to this type of treatment. This chapter provides comprehensive

information about fixed prosthodontics and is well organized and easy-to-read.

Chapter 17, "Dentures Replacing All or Some Teeth," discusses signs, symptoms, and treatment options available. The author also discusses the advantages, disadvantages, risks, costs, and results of each treatment option.

Chapter 18, "Fillings for Teeth," discusses conditions, signs, and symptoms related to restorative or operative dentistry such as tooth sensitivity, tooth discoloration, defective restorations, and tooth decay. Treatment options are provided in detail.

Chapter 19, "Protecting Against Future Problems," discusses necessary oral hygiene measures. The author emphasizes the importance of practicing preventive measures to avoid dental disease and that patients should take this upon themselves to maintain healthy teeth.

This book is a resource for patients, dentists, and dental office staff. The material is presented in a clear, concise, and easy-to-read manner. This book provides comprehensive patient education material and the author deserves credit for producing a well-written, informative text.

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**The Art of the Smile: Integrating Prosthodontics, Orthodontics, Periodontics, Dental Technology, and Plastic Surgery in Esthetic Dental Treatment**

*Editors: Rafi Romano, Nitzam Bichacho, and Bernard Touati. Quintessence Publishing Co., Inc., Hanover Park, IL, 2005. ISBN: 1-85097-096-3 (446 pages; 1110 color illustrations; price \$258)*

This textbook was written to provide comprehensive information on the interdisciplinary care involving prosthodontics, orthodontics, periodontics, dental technology, and plastic surgery. The authors of this book emphasize the importance of the team approach among all specialties as

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