

to these drugs, and the usual dosing parameters and dental considerations are also listed. The dental considerations are unique, and dentists should find these very helpful in their practice. There are also black and white photographs of nearly all of the medications. This section does allow for a printed copy in English or in Spanish that can be given to the patients and may be very useful if they do not receive this from their pharmacy.

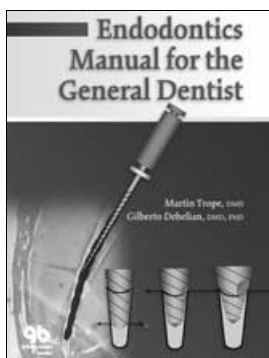
Section 5 covers anesthesia. There are 20 drugs, which may be useful in local and general anesthesia, as well as IV sedation, listed here. These drugs are discussed in a manner similar to those in Section 4.

Appendix A provides helpful information for medical diseases and conditions and is arranged in table and box form, dealing with antibiotic prophylactic recommendations for several categories of patients. Restriction guidelines for local anesthetic vasoconstrictors are also discussed, as is the dental management of patients at risk for acute adrenal insufficiency and patients taking anticoagulants, and for drug use in hepatic dysfunction and chronic renal disease patients.

Appendix B consists of clinical algorithms of nearly 50 conditions. The algorithms provide a clinically effective way to make diagnoses of these medical conditions. These algorithms have been taken from two medical texts dealing with this algorithmic approach to decision-making. These are extremely useful in making medical diagnoses and understanding the various aspects of a differential diagnosis.

The editors have succeeded in providing a text and CD that provide dental clinicians easy access to information on medical topics and their relation to dentistry. I feel that this approach is very effective as a reference text; however, this would best serve as an adjunct to other texts that deal with these topics in greater detail and with colored illustrations. Another major aspect of this text is the 950 patient education handouts in English and Spanish that allow better communication with the dental patient. A textbook of this nature, of course, would need to be updated on a regular basis and this could be done easily on the CD. I believe the editors have successfully achieved their desired purpose—to provide large arrays of easy-to-find, succinct presentations of topics needed to properly provide dental care.

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## **Endodontics Manual for the General Dentist**

*Edited by Martin Trope, DMD, Gilberto J. Debelian, DMD, PhD, Quintessence Publishing Co, Ltd., New Malden, Surrey, United Kingdom, 2005: ISBN 1085097-089-0. (70 pages; 111 radiographs, color images and illustrations; price \$68, soft cover)*

The editors of this soft cover text have provided the reader with a broad-based review of endodontics for the general practitioner or non-endodontic specialist who performs endodontic therapy on a regular basis. Chapter 1 reviews the clinical definition of endodontics, explains the disease process of apical periodontitis, and advises that different treatment approaches are needed depending on the diagnosis. Vital pulp therapy and necrotic pulp therapy are briefly described with the use of photographs.

Chapter 2 reviews the chief complaint and symptoms, diagnostic tests, radiographic findings, and clinical findings of the patient. This chapter clearly explains the diagnosis of reversible pulpitis, irreversible pulpitis, and necrotic pulp using charts, illustrations, and photographs. The authors discuss the nature and history of different types of pain. They emphasize that the patient's chief complaint needs to be thoroughly evaluated and analyzed. Several diagnostic tests including cold test, hot test, electric pulp test, and percussion and palpation are described in detail. The editors also explain that radiographic findings are not considered reliable diagnostic tests.

The remaining chapters discuss root canal therapy and list several scientific studies that describe what constitutes success in root canal therapy and the requirements for success. Chapter 3 reviews treatment phases in root canal therapy. The authors explain the difference between teeth with vital pulps and teeth with non-vital pulps. They attempt to describe the difference between use of stainless steel files and the step-back and modified step-back technique. This chapter also introduces the crown-down technique with nickel titanium (NiTi) files. The changes in materials used for files, the design of the files, and proper use of NiTi files are briefly discussed.

Chapter 4 describes the clinical procedures for root canal therapy. The authors explain proper radiographic technique to estimate working length, and a chart shows average length of teeth and frequency of canals found in each tooth. Several tips are presented to guide readers in creating access cavities with multiple photographs of sectioned teeth. A case for the aseptic technique that reduces cross contamination is presented as one of the key components to successful endodontic therapy. The authors also discuss the controversial subject of the working length of the tooth. Root canal instrumentation is described in several sections with color illustrations of the modified step-back technique with stainless steel files and the crown-down technique with NiTi rotary instruments. Several NiTi file systems are photographed and described briefly, but no specific system is advocated. Use of the electronic apex locator is discussed, along with radiographs to determine working length. The authors recommend interappointment medication and specific intra-canal medication to be used as irrigants. Unfortunately, root canal filling is discussed briefly, and only one technique is described. Most dentists are familiar with lateral or vertical condensation with tradi-

tional materials such as gutta percha. The editors suggest that gutta percha plus sealant is the "weak link in endodontic therapy," and their clinical protocol for root canal filling uses the Resilon System. Resilon is a modified resin core material used in combination with a dual-cure sealant to fill the canal space. More evidence-based literature discussing the outcomes and assessments of Resilon vs. gutta percha should be included.

Chapter 5 discusses the treatment outcome and prognosis of endodontic therapy. The authors include the American Association of Endodontists Case Difficulty Assessment Forms and Guidelines to assist the dentist in identifying cases to treat and cases to refer to a specialist. Factors affecting the prognosis of endodontic therapy, including pretreatment, treatment-related, and post-treatment factors, are discussed briefly. The authors recommend treatment follow-up 6 to 12 months after completion of endodontic therapy.

This book offers a brief synopsis of endodontic diagnosis and treatment for students, newer practitioners, or experienced clinicians who desire a quick review. The authors provide variety of information in a clear and easy-to-read manner. The text does not describe root canal instrumentation and filling technique with enough detail for the reader to learn a particular technique. The second chapter is helpful in diagnosing the confusing array of symptoms or lack of symptoms that often confront the practitioner. This book is a good review for the general practitioner or non-endodontic specialist who performs endodontic therapy on a regular basis and is familiar with several techniques.

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