

Book Reviews



Dental and Craniofacial Applications of Platelet-Rich Plasma

Edited by Robert E. Marx and Arun K. Garg. Quintessence Publishing Co., Inc., Carol Stream, IL, 2005: ISBN 0-86715-432-2. (168 pages; 364 illustrations [mostly color]; price \$98, hard cover)

The application of emerging biotechnology in clinical practice is the next major event in reconstructive surgery. Application of platelet-rich plasma (PRP) is a technique that uses the patient's own growth factors to enhance healing. Growth factor therapy will play an essential role in the treatment of both ordinary and exceptional disorders. Understanding how these agents impact tissue response to injury and surgery will enable us to extend the boundaries of therapeutic options. The editors should be congratulated for providing a comprehensive yet practical approach to the clinical use of PRP. Use of PRP has been found to accelerate wound healing in normal and compromised tissue. The authors provide an organized approach to the use of this treatment technique, and this book is well suited to a broad audience, including clinicians, investigators, and students. Narrative description of PRP technique is supported by the use of detailed color illustrations presented in a step-by-step format. This style provides a concise and understandable explanation of PRP.

The text consists of 168 pages, including a nice dedication to Drs. Marshall A. Urist and Thomas K. Hunt, two of the most important sur-

geons/researchers of wound healing of our time. Divided into three sections consisting of two chapters each, the book also includes an excellent appendix on the principles and techniques of phlebotomy. In addition, there is a valuable and important consent form that any practitioner may easily incorporate into office practice.

The first section is devoted to the basic science of PRP and its role as a growth factor in bone and tissue regeneration. The first chapter, "The Biology of Platelets and the Mechanism of PRP," consists of diagrams and illustrations showing how PRP affects healing. The authors include clinical photos, radiographs, histology, and illustrations comparing treatments with and without PRP. This material allows the reader to assess the value of PRP. The next chapter, "Development of PRP and Its Clinical Importance," shows how PRP is obtained and prepared for use. The last portion of the chapter provides a comparison of different PRP machines and a list of important factors to assist the reader on the proper selection of equipment intended for office use. Also, there is a frank and concise discussion on the use of bovine thrombin, which the reader may use to provide to information to patients about these materials.

The second section is devoted to procedures performed in the oral cavity. In this section, general practitioners and specialists of the oral cavity will find descriptions of PRP application for most routine treatments. The first chapter, "Acceleration of Bone Regeneration in Dental Procedures," includes patient selection, technique, and uses for PRP in various grafting indications. These include sinus lift, vertical and horizontal ridge augmentation, socket preservation of bone in third molar removal, periodontal defects, and alveolar ridge preservation. The next chapter, "Regeneration of Soft Tissue in Dental Procedures," is devoted to the use of PRP to promote soft tissue healing. Examples include free gingival grafts, connective tissue grafts, and repositioning flaps. The photographs in this section include a nice demonstration of

PRP on an ulcer of a diabetic's foot, demonstrating enhanced healing by PRP.

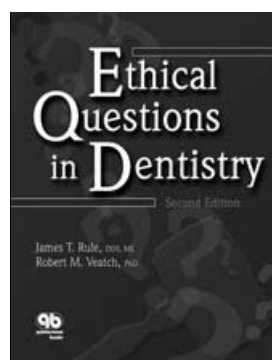
The last section of the book demonstrates the use of PRP in the craniofacial and reconstructive patient. The first chapter, "Reconstruction of Major Tumor- and Trauma-Related Defects," provides a detailed explanation of the use of PRP in bone grafting to the mandible/maxilla and mid-face reconstruction. The authors demonstrate the diversity of the technique by showing its application to construction of an entire mandible. Other examples show how PRP is incorporated into reconstruction of challenging mid-face defects secondary to failed prior reconstructions and tumor resection. The cases are documented with a nice series of clinical photographs. The use and rationale for PRP in alveolar cleft grafting is discussed and illustrated by surgical photographs. The concluding clinical example demonstrates the author's technique of the "tent pole" reconstruction method for rehabilitation of the severely resorbed mandible. The last chapter, "Soft Tissue Craniofacial Applications," presents the use of PRP for soft tissue healing after facial surgery. The subjects include rhytidectomy, blepharoplasty, and fat grafts.

The appendix is an excellent reference source on the techniques of phlebotomy with wonderful anatomical photographs. The photographs are easy to follow and show the authors' dedication to producing a book that shows a practical approach to the use of PRP.

PRP is a growth factor delivery system with many clinical applications. The authors have succeeded in showing the varied clinical situations by which PRP can be used in the head and neck region. The authors have elegantly pointed out (and the reader should bear in mind) that with any skill, there is a requirement of didactic education, guidance, and practice. I can recommend this book as an excellent source for surgeons who wish to incorporate PRP into their clinical practice as well as a reference for the advanced practitioner who can benefit from the logical approach to the technique.

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Ethical Questions in Dentistry, 2nd Edition

James T. Rule and Robert M. Veatch. Quintessence Publishing Co., Inc. Carol Stream, IL; 2004: ISBN 0-86715-443-8. (320 pages; no illustrations; price \$35, soft cover)

The first thing to notice about this edition is its accessible format. The book feels good in the hand, is larger than the first edition, and the print is bigger. It's easier to read and navigate, important qualities in a topic capable of putting people off. The book consists of three parts (an ethical theories section, a dental ethics section, and a section that includes case studies of specific special problems such as third party financing and impaired professionals). There are 14 total chapters.

A second important quality is not so immediately obvious: This book is well written. The language and sentence structure are clear and smart. The authors convey respect for the reader by connecting just the right number of dots. They write as if they assume you are smart enough to understand without being lectured to.

This edition, produced 11 years after the original text, includes changes based on "constructive criticism" the authors received after they wrote the first edition. There are still only three textbooks in the specific area of dental ethics, and Rule and Veatch's book is one of them. Prospective authors are available, but publishers are typically lukewarm about the likelihood of a return on investment. You can't publish books that few will read.

There is yet a third attractive aspect of this book: It is provocative. The authors take dentistry to task, a responsibility that ethicists can't walk away from. These two writers are willing and able to think independently, and they often disagree with the prevailing wisdom of dental ethics and other authors in their field. They even take the

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