

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

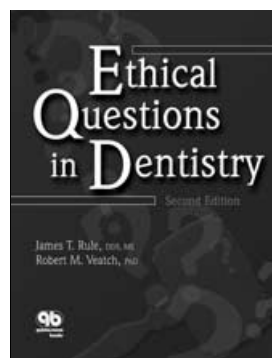
The last section of the book demonstrates the use of PRP in the craniofacial and reconstructive patient. The first chapter, "Reconstruction of Major Tumor- and Trauma-Related Defects," provides a detailed explanation of the use of PRP in bone grafting to the mandible/maxilla and mid-face reconstruction. 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

American College of Dentists to task regarding the College's definition of a profession.

The book describes a "phenomenal" increase in attention to ethics in the past three decades in *medicine*, and comes to the conclusion, as it did in the first edition, that dentistry is (still) 15 years behind in analysis of ethical issues. This is, or should be, a striking and distressing comment, especially so because dentists and dental educators frequently express self-satisfaction about how "well" dentistry is doing as a profession and career relative to medicine. Is it appropriate to come to an important conclusion such as this, and to communicate it to dental students and applicants to dental schools, when the basis for such a conclusion has much to do with income and the assertion that dentistry might not be so strenuous in the era of managed care?

The book notes "[t]here is some unease within the profession—possibly reflected in public attitudes—about a tendency for increasing numbers of dentists to put their own interests above the interests of patients." Nonetheless, the authors point out that interest in dental ethics is on the rise, and it seems clear that while few dental faculty have formal training in ethics, dental educators are much more ethically sophisticated than they were 11 years ago. As Rule and Veatch note, dental school accreditation standards now require a course in ethics, and hygiene schools have followed suit. This is indeed an encouraging development, for it implies that the next generation of dentists might perceive their ethical obligations to be an essential component of dental practice, and they surely will be ahead of their forebears.

In a section called "Ethical Versus Legal" the authors use the example of how dentists often see their informed consent duties as *legal* rather than *moral* to conclude that "It is apparent that some confusion exists within the profession over the very nature of, and foundation for, the relation between patient and dentist." That's a provocative statement, made all the more important because it was not written by youthful, wild-eyed radicals. Jim Rule served as a dental school department chair for 20 years and Dr. Veatch is an extremely well respected former director of the influential Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown.

One would do well to choose this text for a dental school ethics curriculum. It presents theory in a clear way, focused specifically on dentistry. It provides 88 realistic cases for discussion, along

with the authors' reactions and responses. There's a section on ethical concerns within dental schools, an important topic because of its ability to "hook" dental students and hold their attention.

Thankfully, a 1967 translation of the Hippocratic Oath appears in appendix 1, and while many invoke this oath, in all likelihood, few have actually read it, for to modern eyes it is a strange document, indeed. The oath seems to prohibit abortion, euthanasia, sexual relations with both male and female patients, and it specifically advocates that doctors give money to their teachers if they are in need. You will not find the words "Do not harm" anywhere in this oath.

The authors have updated their section on "HIV Issues" and have added an important section on the history, nature, and importance of the concept of a "profession." This is another reason this book would be a good choice for dental educators, as students arrive at dental school malleable, but with little or no realistic views of what a profession is and why it matters so much. The situation only worsens when dental educators use the concept of "professionalism" to manipulate students into wearing ties and cleaning soda cans from lecture halls before they depart.

The chapter on professions is mandatory reading, even if only to understand the historical development of the notion itself. The authors conclude this section with the following observation: "... its definition is by no means agreed upon by all. In fact, there is no consensus about what a profession actually is." The authors eventually settle on the sociologist Paul Starr's criteria¹ for a profession. In that model, professions are characterized by specialized knowledge, a service orientation, and self-regulation. Rule and Veatch summarize powerful criticism of the professions and somewhat humbly conclude that "while members of professions do not always live up to their stated ideals as fully as they claim. . ." the ideals "still serve as worthy aspirations to all concerned."

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Reference

1. Starr P: *The Social Transformation of American Medicine: The Rise of a Sovereign Profession and the Making of a Vast Industry*. New York, Basic Books, 1982, pp. 514.

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