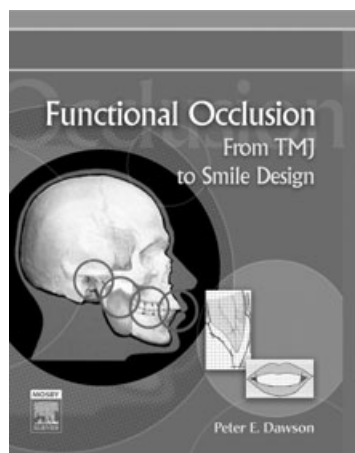# Book Review

Functional Occlusion: From TMJ to Smile Design

By Peter E. Dawson, DDS. Mosby Elsevier, 2007: ISBN 032033717 (648 pages; 1,269 illustrations; price $160, hard cover).

This text is a compilation of Dr. Peter E. Dawson's clinical knowledge and expertise as an educator. This new book succeeds the classic text *The Diagnosis and Treatment of Occlusal Disorders*. It is comprised of 47 chapters on 602 pages. The chapters are revisions of previous writings by Dr. Dawson with updated color photographs and new caveats from the author. The information provided in the book is invaluable and will provide the reader with a background on anatomy, function, and correct sequencing of treatment based on a very precise diagnosis.

The text is written in three parts. Part I, "Functional Harmony," contains the first 22 chapters and encompasses the jaw anatomy, jaw function, and definitions/classifications of different occlusal schemes. Occlusal instrumentation selection is also reviewed. Part II, "Dysfunction," covers the next six chapters. Differential diagnosis and classification of disorders, imaging, and bruxism are reviewed in detail. Part III, "Treatment," includes Chapters 29-47. The different modalities of treatment for Angle Class I-III are described as well as mal-occlusions defined by crowding, impingement on soft tissue, and splayed or separated teeth. Additionally, the postoperative care required for maintaining the reconstructed occlusion is discussed.

Highlights from Part I are the Dawson techniques of load testing the patient in centric relation and his classification system for diagnosing the patient's occlusion. The chapter dedicated to the neutral zone covers an important topic often overlooked by other authors. Chapter 30 in Part III, "Solving Occlusal Problems Through Programmed Treatment Planning," is an example of how an accurate diagnosis and systematic solution are put together in multidisciplinary harmony. Throughout the text, the information portrayed in the photography is accurate, neat, and clean. The use of drawings and diagrams is appropriate and easy to read. The clinical record and laboratory forms documented in this text are also very useful reference tools. One highlight this reviewer found most interesting was the confrontation of the trend of neuromuscular dentistry found in Chapter 34. The author's critique and analysis of problems arising from treatment of patients in less than ideal jaw positions is noteworthy and is valuable reading.

The unique way in which this book is written (as was its predecessor) and what separates it from most other texts is this: Dr. Dawson takes the reader from basic anatomical review to diagnosis and treatment with a defendable, literature-backed scheme of treatment from start to finish. One argument could arise that the author makes too many statements of fact, which are backed by his own observation over the years he has been in clinical practice and education, or he references himself too frequently. Dr. Dawson's observations are, however, augmented with adequate references and reading recommendations included at the end of the chapters.

In summary, this text is an excellent reference tool. It will add value to any dental library, no matter what skill level the practitioner may hold. In addition, this is also a reference tool for the dental laboratory and other dental specialists.

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