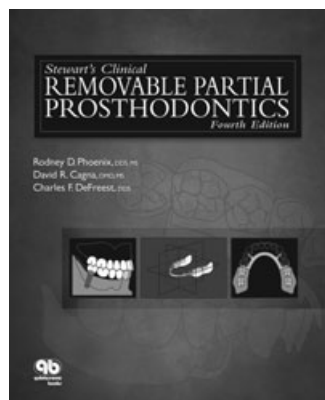


Book Review

Stewart's Clinical Removable Partial Prosthodontics, Fourth Edition



Rodney D. Phoenix, David R. Cagna, and Charles F. DeFreest. Quintessence Publishing Co. Inc., Chicago, IL, 2008; ISBN 978-0-86715-485-6 (518 pages; 1316 illustrations, price \$98.00).

This textbook, built on the excellent foundation of previous editions, provides an overview of removable partial denture (RPD) treatment in contemporary dental practice, with an emphasis on clinical and design aspects. Supported by improved photographs and illustrations, the text is intended to help students, general practitioners, and specialists consistently provide high-quality prosthodontic treatment for their patients.

The book is divided into five sections. The first section, Chapters 1 to 4, presents basic concepts in and philosophy of removable partial prosthodontics. This fundamental information and terminology are prerequisites for understanding the clinical procedure sections that follow.

Chapters 5 to 7 delineate the importance of data collection in removable partial prosthodontics. Clear descriptions and excellent photographs make this textbook an outstanding resource for step-by-step survey and design procedures. The newly added Prosthodontic Diagnostic Index is presented as the last part of Chapter 6: the 2nd diagnostic appointment. It would be more appropriate to describe the classification and its application prior to the development of a treatment plan.

Chapters 8 and 9 highlight two special design considerations. I-bar design concept and implant-assisted RPDs are two different but effective alternatives for Kennedy Class I and Class II partial edentulism. After these options are considered, a comprehensive treatment plan can be formulated. These new chapters include an excellent review of the literature, treatment plan considerations, classification, and clinical applications of implant-assisted RPDs. The authors provide detailed rationale to support the treatment option. Tables and illustrations highlight the benefits and indications of the treatment; however, contraindications, disadvantages, and possible limitation/risks should also be discussed in this chapter. It would provide a more balanced, objective evaluation of the proposed treatment option.

Chapters 10 to 18 cover the clinical and laboratory phases of RPD therapy, as well as the postinsertion observation and maintenance stages. Excellent quality photography facilitates visualization and understanding of these procedures.

Chapter 19 provides an overview of three commonly used temporary RPDs: interim, transitional, and treatment prostheses. Chapter 20 introduces special forms of RPDs, including Swing-lock RPDs. Chapter 21 is a review of intracoronal and extracoronal attachment direct retainers.

In the preface the authors state: "Our aim is to provide readers with a clear understanding of RPD concepts and procedures. In turn, we hope this book will lead to improved patient treatment and years of enjoyable dental practice." This textbook did more than that. It once again confirmed the importance of removable partial prosthodontics in contemporary dentistry. It also encourages readers to apply new treatment options to improve traditional design and treatment concepts. As the need for removable prosthodontic treatment increases in the 21st century, this textbook will continue to be a great resource and reference for every quality-oriented clinician.

Chiu-Jen Hsu, DDS
*Assistant Professor, Section of Prosthodontics, Division of
Primary Care, College of Dental Medicine, Health Professions
Division, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
E-mail: chiujen@nova.edu*

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