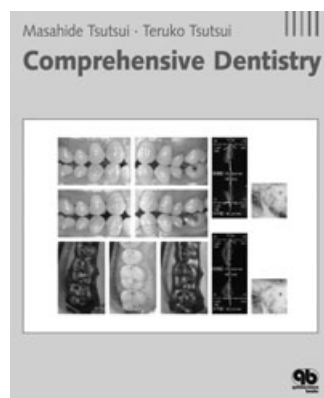


Book Review

Comprehensive Dentistry



*By Masahide Tsutsui and Teruko Tsutsui.
Quintessence Publishing Co., Inc., Chicago, IL, 2008: ISBN 978-1-85097-161-0 (444 pages; 3000 illustrations, mostly color; price \$278.00)*

This book is a collection of long-term success stories from two of Japan's most respected and influential clinicians. It presents 150 cases to elaborate and support the authors' unique treatment philosophy and combines carefully designed strategies with a comprehensive approach to address patients' esthetic, prosthetic, orthodontic, endodontic, occlusal, and periodontal needs.

The authors define comprehensive dentistry as: "Instead of the full-mouth occlusal reconstruction utilizing combined prosthodontic, periodontic and orthodontic treatment, comprehensive dentistry is the approach that emphasizes diagnosis based on a complete evaluation of inflammation and force element in order to achieve maximum therapeutic effect with minimum invasion." This approach requires understanding all aspects of the stomatognathic system as well as their relationship to the whole body.

The book is divided into five chapters. In the first chapter, "Diagnosis in Comprehensive Dentistry," a philosophy is established based on the treatment goals of achieving "homeostasis of the functionally stabilized stomatognathic system through minimal therapeutic intervention." Figures 1 to 40 provide a clear illustration of four levels of these interventions: a tooth unit, a dentition unit, an occlusion unit, and a patient unit. The authors emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach by keeping both the big picture and the details in mind.

The second chapter focuses on the forces affecting the stomatognathic system and their control. Readers will notice the authors' emphasis on the relation of posture, habits, symmetry, and related occlusal problems. Accompanying a detailed outline of their occlusal philosophy, the cases present both "tight" and "loose" occlusion type with various complications and treatment modalities. In the preface of the book, the authors state,

"some of the presented hypotheses might not be commonly accepted theories;" however, the force control philosophy is introduced as the "backbone" of the authors' current clinical practice.

In the third chapter, "Restorative Tooth Movements," the authors define "restorative tooth movements" as "tooth movements with therapeutic intention of restoring harmony that originally existed." Microscopically, the purpose of restorative tooth movements is to reconstruct the physiologic periodontal environment and to redistribute the occlusal forces; macroscopically, the purpose is to stabilize the position of the mandible in relation to the cranium and maxilla. Figure 3-1 provide classifications to highlight the difference in concepts from those of conventional orthodontic treatment.

In the fourth chapter, "Inflammation Control and Establishment of Maintainable Periodontal Tissue," the authors discuss various objective-oriented periodontal surgical procedures for improving the internal and external environments of the tooth/periodontium complex. The authors use many well-documented cases of crown lengthening, access flaps, resective therapy with osseous surgery, and regenerative therapy to highlight the importance of periodontal treatment of comprehensive dentistry.

In the fifth chapter, "Prosthetic Treatment and Improvement of the Oral Environment," therapeutic intervention is the theme. Emphasis on the periodontal concerns in prosthodontic treatment and excellent application of prosthodontic principles can be seen throughout the case studies. The authors also include implant restorations as part of the comprehensive treatment. This section describes how to integrate traditional full-mouth reconstruction with implant-supported prostheses.

The book is carefully translated from the original text published in Japanese; however, it will take some time for the readers to get familiar with the authors' style and expression. The tables, diagrams, and clinical data are very helpful in clarifying the concepts.

The authors' multidisciplinary approach and strategy, attention to detail in treatment and systematic documentation/recalls will be an inspiration and challenge to readers' clinical philosophy. Each case study will provide a platform for reflection and dialogue. Readers of all levels and of different specialties will enjoy the excellent display of consistent quality care with long-term success presented by the Tsutsuis.

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