

References

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Book Review

Radiology for the Dental Professional
8th ed. By HH Frommer and JJ Stabulas-Savage. London: Elsevier, 2005 (£37.99, 56.95 EUR). ISBN: 0-323-03071-8.

This is the eighth edition of a well-established textbook of dental radiography and radiology that was first published in 1974 and was previously entitled *Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries*. As with previous editions, the authors express that their purpose is to 'apply basic principles to clinical practice'. With the introduction of a new co-author, Professor Stabulas-Savage, comes the new title and expanded text which aims to widen the intended audience to not only include professionals complementary to dentistry, but also dental undergraduates and practising dentists and hygienists.

The emphasis of this book relates to dental radiography and includes: basic radiation physics, image formation, and biological effects of radiation, radiation protection, processing, intra-oral and extra-oral radiographic techniques, quality assurance and legal issues.

New to this edition are chapters on the dental x-ray machine, radiography of the temporomandibular joint, quality assurance and basic principles of radiographic interpretation. The authors have designed each chapter to relate to a one-hour lecture period and I feel that this does in fact work very well. I welcome the helpful hint feature in the radiographic techniques section, which offers practical tips for improving radiographic images.

I found the radiography

content to be clearly explained and logical; unfortunately however, the radiation dose units of rads and rems are predominantly described, although SI units are mentioned. In addition, the importance of rectangular collimation is discussed, but the majority of images relating to technical procedures demonstrate circular collimation in practise. I feel that it is also worth noting that the legislation chapter relates to regulations relevant to the United States of America and are therefore of limited relevance to the United Kingdom training curriculum.

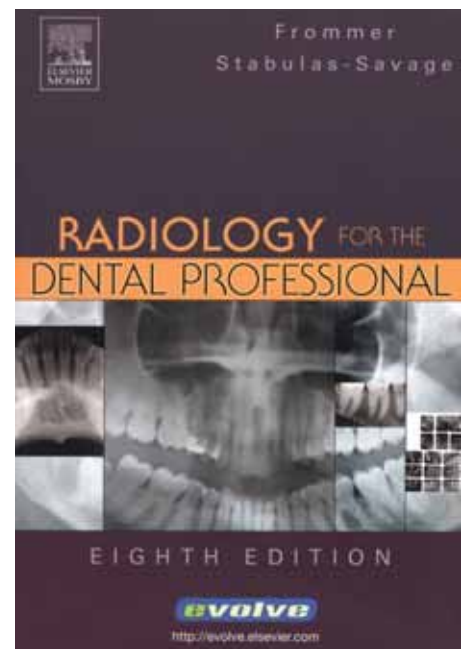
The chapters on radiographic interpretation are brief and only provide the reader with a basic overview of pathology affecting the dentition and surrounding structures. This makes me question the book's appeal to both the dental student and, in particular, the practising dentist.

On the whole, the chapters are well written, comprehensive and concise. There are certainly a substantial number of illustrations throughout; diagrams and photographs are clear; however, I feel that some of the radiographic images are of inferior quality when compared to some radiographic textbooks on the market. An example of this relates to the periapical images seen on pages 198–199.

I generally enjoyed this updated and expanded textbook of *Radiology for the Dental Professional*. The radiography content is clear and well written. I do, however, feel that the radiological interpretation section is rather sparse in content and I would like to see this area

expanded further. In addition, I would question the use of this edition in the teaching of the UK dental student.

Rebecca Davies
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CPD ANSWERS

March 2006

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| 1. B, D | 6. A, C, D |
| 2. A, C, D | 7. A, B, D |
| 3. B, D | 8. A, B |
| 4. A, B, C, D | 9. B, D |
| 5. A, C | 10. A, D |