

## **Technique Tips**

## Controlling Bleeding during Surgical Procedures – the 'Mini-Sucker'

It is often necessary to ensure good haemostasis during dental procedures, to ensure that blood contamination does not interfere with restorative or other techniques. There is often not adequate access for conventional suction tips and such tips may produce more suction than is desirable. Haemostasis can therefore sometimes be difficult to achieve, for instance during regenerative surgery when enamel matrix derivative is used. In this technique, it is important to maintain a clean, blood- and saliva-free root surface prior to application of the enamel matrix

derivative gel. It is not unusual for there to be oozing of blood from the base of the infrabony deficit due to inflammation and this risks blood contamination of the root surface. Adrenaline-impregnated gauze can be used to help with vaso-constriction but one simple and effective technique is to use a blunt needle on the end of a standard surgical suction tip (Figure 1). The metal of the needle does not form a perfect seal with the plastic of the suction tip but there is enough suction from the end of the needle to control bleeding from the base of the defect.



**Figure 1.** A blunt needle on the end of a standard surgical suction tip.

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## **Book review**

100 Years of Women in the Dental Profession in UK 1918–2018. Janine Brooks. Cambridge Scholars Publishing (246pp; £61.99h/b). ISBN 1-5275-3133-3.

Janine Brooks wrote this book in 2018 to celebrate the achievements of women dental professionals in the 100 years since some women in UK achieved the right to vote in 1918. Unfortunately, the 100 years does not fit with our dental suffragettes because Lillian Murray (the first woman to qualify as a dentist in UK) qualified in Edinburgh in 1895. Fortunately, our pioneers get a brief mention later in the text.

Early chapters look at the position of women in dentistry in 1918 and the history between 1918 and 2018. Of particular interest is the Women in Dentistry (WiD) group started in 1985 and wound up in 2007 with its aims achieved. These included equality for women in the NHS pension scheme, provision of maternity pay for women in the General Dental Services and entitlement under the NHS pension scheme for widowers of dentists. The history concludes by describing where women were in 2018. The diagram on the book cover indicates women in all influential positions in the profession.

The main part of the text celebrates the success of 57 women, dental nurses, a technician, hygienists, therapists and dentists. Most are working now. These short autobiographies include: current responsibilities, the individual's dental story, most memorable achievement, advice to younger self on qualifying and mentoring. Each is accompanied by a picture and I particularly enjoyed the horse, the mountain and the hat!

There are some recurring themes to the individual stories. These women are often in administrative roles, teaching or specialists, particularly in Dental Public Health. Most describe postgraduate studies and further degrees. They have often perceived that something needs changing and have sought and accepted the challenge. For many, the hours spent running the show takes them away from the chairside. I found what was not, or rarely, mentioned, intriguing. Family and work/life balance were rarely mentioned; pregnancy, maternity leave, misogyny, the relevance of a good salary, did not feature. Equality was never mentioned but the author considers it an issue and she devotes a subsequent chapter to it.

This was for me an interesting read; the history was well described and the snapshots of some women's current roles in the profession were very thought

provoking. Women are prominent and confident in running NHS dentistry. In 2018, of 4 Chief Dental Officers in the UK, 3 were women. However, from what I read (*British Dental Journal, BDJ In Practice, Dental Update*, BDA website), there are serious problems with delivery of NHS dentistry in some parts of the United kingdom. I found it disturbing that this was rarely mentioned in this book.

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100 Years of Women in the Dental Profession in the UK, 1918-2018

Janine Brooks

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