

recommended for protecting the anterior teeth. Correct polishing procedures can reduce the surface roughness of abrasive porcelain restorations.²⁷ Orthodontic treatment is recommended to correct Class II division 2 and Class III incisal malocclusion during adolescence.

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BOOK REVIEW

Antibiotic and Antimicrobial Use in Dental Practice, 2nd ed. M.G. Newman and A.J. van Winklehoff, eds. Quintessence Publishing Co. Ltd., New Malden, 2001 (304pp., £27.00 p/b). ISBN 0-86715-397-0.

Superbugs and antibiotic resistance are rarely out of the headlines these days and the dental profession, in line with other prescribers, have a duty to prescribe antibiotics judiciously. A text on antibiotics and antibiotic use in dental practice should therefore be a welcome addition to the practitioners bookshelf. This second edition, edited by Newman and Winklehoff, is certainly comprehensive. There are chapters on new and evolving clinical issues such as oral malodour, paediatrics, implant dentistry, legal

implications and even considerations for female patients. The editors rightly highlight the need for precise strategies and guidelines governing the use of antibiotics, however, I was unable to detect either of these in the text.

There are 21 contributors to the text and this has probably contributed to some confused messages and inconsistencies, for example, the use of tetracyclines in the prophylaxis of bacterial endocarditis. The layout of the text with key facts, clinical insights and important principles lost their impact on reading each chapter. Some important messages, although eloquently written, seemed to get lost in the text, for example, 'Antibiotics should be used very selectively in the treatment of periodontal disease. Narrow indications should replace the indiscriminate repeated use advocated by some manufacturers.' These key facts would

have been better placed at the end of each chapter.

Despite the prominent disclaimer about the differences in suggestions between chapters – I feel this text has lost an opportunity for consensus between such a distinguished group of contributors with some clear and concise guidelines for practitioners.

The book has a distinct North American feel to it which may or may not appeal to the reader. As a result, many of the drugs, for example, ciprofloxacin and dosages are either not in the Dental Practitioners Formulary or do not comply with current UK practice guidelines, for example 'loading doses of penicillin VK of 1000mg'. In view of these issues, I would find this text difficult to recommend to UK dental practitioners.

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