

33. Malden NJ. Warfarin and extractions [letter]. *Br Dent J* 2003; **194**: 65.
34. Gibbons AJ, Sugar AW. Evidence for continuing warfarin during dental extractions [letter]. *Br Dent J* 2003; **194**: 65.
35. Balderstone RH. Warfarin and extraction [letter]. *Br Dent J* 2003; **194**: 408.
36. Mehta DK. Dental surgery in the anticoagulated patient [letter]. *Br Dent J* 2003; **194**: 530.
37. Lloyd RE. Dental surgery in the anticoagulated patient [letter]. *Br Dent J* 2003; **194**: 530.
38. Malden N. The great warfarin debate [letter]. *Br Dent J* 2003; **195**: 2–3.
39. Kerr R, Blacklock P. Multispeciality agreement needed [letter]. *Br Dent J* 2003; **195**: 119.
40. Scully C, Cawson RA. *Medical Problems in Dentistry* 4th ed. Oxford, London, and Boston: Wright, Butterworth-Heinemann, 1998: pp.49–50.
41. Edwards JE, McQuay HJ, Moore RA. Single dose dihydrocodeine for acute postoperative pain. *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2000, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD002760. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD002760.
42. Stockley IH, ed. *Stockley's Drug Interactions* 6th edn. London: Pharmaceutical Press, 2002: pp.233–304.
43. Rice PJ, Perry RJ, Afzal Z, Stockley IH. Antibacterial prescribing and warfarin: a review. *Br Dent J* 2003; **194**: 411–415.
44. Drugs in the peri-operative period: 4 – cardiovascular drugs. *Drug Ther Bull* 1999; **37**(12): 89–92.
45. Martin MV, Longman LP, Palmer NAO. *Adult Antimicrobial Prescribing in Primary Dental Care for General Dental Practitioners*. London: Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK), The Royal College of Surgeons of England, 2000.

Book Review

Salivary and Oral Health 3rd edition. By Michael Edgar, Colin Dawes and Denis O'Mullane. BDJ Books, London, 2004 (64pp., £24.95p/b). ISBN 0-904588-87-4.

The 3rd edition of this well-known book now has six contributors and includes new material and illustrations.

Although the preface indicates that the book is aimed at the 'progressive and inquisitive practitioner', both undergraduate and postgraduate students will also find the contents of its eight chapters useful.

The introductory chapter, on anatomy and physiology of the salivary glands, sets the scene effectively with a general overview of these topics, and additionally discusses the importance of saliva, its functions and the consequences of its deficiency. In common with other chapters, it has helpful tables and schematic diagrams which are pleasingly designed but can be difficult to interpret owing to the use of very fine, discontinuous, non-contrasting pointers linking legends to the diagram. Most of the figures do, however, satisfactorily serve their intended purpose.

Chapter 2 addresses the mechanisms of salivary secretion. Although this is a complex topic, it is made accessible even for the reader who is a non-scientist. However, enhanced explanation of some of the jargon is required. It seemed anomalous that there was no explanation as to 'seven membrane spanning domain G protein linking receptor superfamily' when the term 'ligand' was defined. The chapter concludes with a brief discussion on mucarinic

agonists, including that of *Cevimeline*, a drug that is currently unavailable in the UK.

The following chapter discusses salivary flow rate and composition, whilst chapter 4 addresses the aetiology, diagnosis, management and clinical implications of xerostomia. This chapter opens by citing infection as a causative factor of xerostomia, and further implies that dry mouth may also be due to tumours, salivary calculi and mucocoeles. However, it is most unlikely that such pathologies will cause xerostomia directly, and I felt that the aetiological aspects were potentially misleading. Similarly, the information on diagnostic tests was somewhat theoretical in its approach and of limited practical help. For example, the unwary reader may believe that patients with suspected Sjogren's syndrome should be HLA tested when this is inappropriate.

Chapter 5 deals with salivary clearance and effects on oral health and chapter 6 addresses saliva and its influence on plaque pH. Perhaps chapter 7, on protective functions of saliva, may have been better placed earlier in the book, where it would have given the reader more insight into the potential sequelae of xerostomia.

The final chapter deals with mineral equilibrium and two photographs, indicating arrested and active carious lesions in this chapter of the book, are difficult to interpret.

Most chapters conclude with a section entitled 'Clinical

Highlights', which constitutes a list of bulleted points of clinical relevance to dentistry. This is most useful and will be appreciated particularly by a clinical readership.

In summary, notwithstanding the above minor concerns, this is a very useful guide to the subject matter, being both well explained and generally well illustrated. Undoubtedly, this book will appeal to both dental undergraduates and postgraduates, particularly those in Oral Biology.

John Hamburger
Birmingham Dental School

