

since conjunctival lesions may arise in some patients with pemphigoid.

- (a) *Herpetic gingivitis* is characterized by an acute diffuse gingival erythema, ulcerations and vesicles and is accompanied by fever and cervical lymphadenopathy. In contrast, the gingivae in our patient are characterized by chronic erythema (>5 years) with extensive desquamation rather than ulcerations without vesicle formation and without general symptomatology.
- (b) *Erythema multiforme* is characterized by acute episodes of extensive ulcerations throughout the oral mucosa, often seen in young patients but with no pyrexia, cervical lymphadenopathy and malaise. Our patient had gingival lesions at the age of 52, without free periods from the disease, and his lesions were found strictly in his gums and not in other parts of his mouth skin and other mucosae.
- (c) *Lichen planus* is a chronic

mucocutaneous disease which rarely affects only the gingivae, showing desquamation alone or in combination with white lesions. In our case no white lesions were noted.

Q2. Which laboratory investigation(s) is/are mandatory for the diagnosis?

- (a) Histopathological examination;
 (b) Immunofluorescence (direct/indirect);
 (c) Blood tests (haematological, biochemical, immunological);
 (d) Cell culture.

A2. The answer to which laboratory investigation(s) is/are mandatory for the diagnosis?

(a) Routine *histopathological examination* is useful as it determines if the lesion arises from the epithelium or from the underlying connective tissue. The disorders are characterized by the following:

- Pemphigus by intra-epithelial acantholysis;
 - Pemphigoid by subepithelial bullae;
 - Lichen planus by a dense zone of chronic inflammatory cells at the upper part of corium;
 - Herpetic gingivitis and erythema multiforme show changes within the epithelium and lamina propria ('interface dermatitis').
- (b) *Direct immunofluorescence* may help distinguish pemphigus from pemphigoid by the deposition of IgG, or IgA between epithelial cells in pemphigus or along the epithelial basement zone in pemphigoid.
- (c) *Haematological tests*, such as white blood count, and biochemical tests, such as blood sugar, thyroid hormones, or antibodies for viruses are rarely helpful for the diagnosis.
- (d) *Cultures* are useful only for inoculation and growth of bacteria, fungi or viruses from the gingivae but here provide little help for the diagnosis.

Book Review

Oral Radiology 7th edn. By Stuart C White and Michael J Pharoah. London: Elsevier Health Sciences, 2012 (652pp, £74.65 h/b). ISBN 978-0-3230-9633-1.

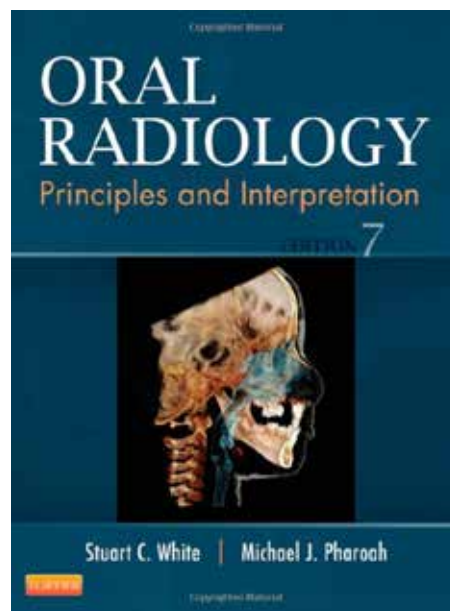
This book first appeared in 1882 and is now in its seventh edition. During the intervening years it has evolved to meet the ever changing field of dental and maxillofacial radiology but no more so than with this current edition with the updated and expanded chapters on Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) scanning and digital imaging. Another significant change has been the introduction of colour, both in the typesetting and some of the figures. This has not only brought a freshness to the appearance of the book, but has allowed the contributors to revise and update a number of the figures and illustrations.

The book runs to 652 pages and has 21 contributors, all eminent in their field. It consists of 34 chapters divided into four main sections: Foundations (physics, radiobiology and safety); Imaging (radiography – outlining conventional and modern

imaging techniques); Interpretation (radiology – comprehensively covering disorders of the teeth and jaws and surrounding tissues using the relevant imaging techniques such as CBCT); and a final section on 'Other Applications' made up of implants and forensics, this latter chapter appearing for the first time.

The book is well written, easy to understand, and is illustrated with high quality images of good examples depicting a wide range of conditions and disorders that affect the teeth and jaws. The text has subheadings making it easy to follow and is succinct but detailed.

There is little to fault this book. Because of the excellence of previous editions, I have waited eagerly for this new edition and I have not been disappointed. It is comprehensive in its coverage making it one of the best reference books available on dental and maxillofacial radiology. I can thoroughly recommend it for those wishing to improve and update all aspects of radiography and radiology, be they dental or postgraduate



students, including those who have specialized in the field of dental and maxillofacial radiology.

John Rout
 Department of Radiology
 University of Birmingham School of
 Dentistry