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BOOK REVIEW

Local Anaesthesia in Dentistry. By P. D. Robinson, T. R. Pitt Ford and F. McDonald. Heinemann, Oxford, 2000 (104pp., £13.99). ISBN 0-72361063-0.

This is the second pocket-sized paperback from Paul Robinson this year and really serves to update two previous older texts on a subject central to the practice of dentistry, local anaesthesia. Its 11 chapters cover all you would expect on such a subject, from the fundamental physiology and pharmacology, through techniques of administration, to complications and problem areas. The format of the text lends itself to easy reading and is complemented by numerous line drawings, black and white photographs and tables.

Current practices are emphasized, particularly the use of aspirating syringes which, if used more widely, might prevent a large number of the 'adverse reactions' to adrenaline. On that subject, it was pleasing to see an explanation of direct challenge testing for allergy to local anaesthetics. The use of lignocaine and adrenaline is recommended for most patients and the rarely contemplated risks and side-effects of using alternative formulations, such as prilocaine, are also highlighted. Surprisingly, re-sheathing of needles was advocated, not a procedure we endorse in our establishment.

A sign of the times perhaps, but the final chapter deals with the medico-legal considerations of local anaesthetic use and, although not common, is food for thought for all of us.

The text is obviously aimed at undergraduate dental students and is the sort of text unlikely to be referred to

often. However, practising dentists would learn from reading this book, particularly for the few 'unconventional' patients that come their way. One suggested improvement would be a table outlining the specific injections required for particular teeth and procedures, something dental students and some dentists have difficulty grasping. Despite this, the book is to be highly recommended.

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ABSTRACTS

HOW BONDED IS A BONDED CROWN?

In Vitro Leakage of Resin-bonded All-porcelain Crowns. M. Ferrari, F. Mannocci, P. N. Mason, G. Kugel. *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry* 1999; **1**: 233-242.

The demand for all-ceramic restorations has resulted in the development of high-translucency and low viscosity cements to permit proper seating of the restorations. It is suggested that these cements have a low solubility in the oral environment, and may allow seating of the restoration to within 20 microns.

This study evaluated the sealing ability of single all-porcelain crowns with margins placed on cementum-dentine, comparing two different luting systems. Twenty extracted molars were prepared in a standardized manner, and crowns fabricated. Following cementation, the specimens were subjected to thermal cycling, and then stained for marginal leakage at the cervical margin. Finally, an evaluation was made of the cement

thickness, and the formation of a hybrid layer between the cement and dental substrate.

The results showed that up to 80% of the specimens exhibited leakage which extended up to the axial wall of the preparation. The average cement thickness was 82 microns. There was no significant difference between the two cement systems.

DO YOU TRUST QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY REPORTS?

Validity of a Questionnaire Survey: The Role of Non-response and Incorrect Answers. O. Sjöström, D. Holst, S. O. Lind. *Acta Odontol Scand* 1999; **57**: 242-246.

Questionnaire surveys are often used in health research. However, this interesting paper must cause the reader to have doubts about the validity of many of the reports in the dental literature based upon such postal questionnaire type surveys. The authors sent a questionnaire to 9,283 Swedish citizens, for whom the answers to the questions could be checked and verified. They received a 43% response, which creates a bias in its own right. Whilst it would be almost impossible to achieve a 100% response rate, it is known that the further removed from this figure the greater the potential bias, and the less credible the results.

What the authors found, however, was that of the 3,949 responders, 14% gave an untrue answer to one or more of the questions. Whilst this may not be deliberate, the reader may be more cautious in interpreting the results of such surveys in the future!

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