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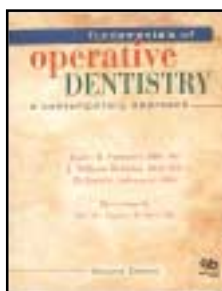
BOOK REVIEW

**Fundamentals of Operative Dentistry: A Contemporary Approach.** 2nd edition.

By James B. Summitt, J. William Robbins, Richard S. Schwartz and Jose dos Santos, Jr. Quintessence Books, New Malden, 2001 (576pp., £50). ISBN 0-86715-382-2

The second edition of this textbook appears just five years after the publication of the first. However, a number of important changes have been made to what was a well regarded original. From 16 chapters and 424 pages, it now consists of 21 chapters and 576 pages. The new chapters cover the topics of aesthetic considerations, root caries, fluoride-releasing materials, and tooth bleaching. Illustrations are plentiful and many are now in colour which has greatly improved their clarity. The book has an obvious American perspective; Tofflemire matrices are described as the most commonly used matrix system in the United States and no others, e.g. Siqveland, common in the UK, receive mention. Since the majority of the contributing authors are based in the US, this is not surprising. There are however, as in the first edition, several internationally known European contributors to the sections on Adhesion and Caries which maintains the international relevance of this book. Despite the number of contributors, there is a uniformity of style which allows easy reading.

All the chapters contain expanded information and updated references. Of the new topics, Aesthetic Considerations is a valuable addition



but perhaps root caries could have been included within the existing Caries chapter and some repetition avoided. Similarly, do the few pages on fluoride-releasing materials, although important, warrant removal from the chapters on Direct Anterior or Class V Restorations? In the second edition, there are only two paragraphs on metal ceramic crowns, which constitute the bulk of the indirect restorations placed in the UK. In addition, there is now no separate chapter on impressions and temporization, these topics being mentioned briefly amongst other chapters. As the importance, particularly of temporization, is frequently not recognized by clinicians, it is disappointing to see this chapter removed. The penultimate chapter showcases the undoubted clinical skills of Dr R. Tucker who is an advocate of indirect gold restorations for posterior teeth. However, its inclusion in this text is unusual as the preparation of teeth and rationale for treatment is at variance in some respects with the contents of the preceding chapter on cast-gold restorations. This is confusing to the reader.

Overall, the authors are to be congratulated on significantly improving, in a short space of time, a book which was already a

comprehensive procedural manual and authoritative reference text which will be relevant to students and practicing dentists alike.

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ABSTRACT

**WHAT IS THE BEST WAY OF CLEANING MY NEW DENTURES?**

Assessment of Plaque Prevention on Dentures using an Experimental Cleanser. S.R. Sheen and A. Harrison. *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry* 2000; **84**: 594–601.

Plaque, stain and calculus form on the surface of dentures in a similar manner to natural teeth. However, it has been suggested that chemical cleansing is superior to brushing alone for denture plaque control, and the prevention of candida-associated, denture-induced stomatitis.

There are five different cleansing systems, depending on their chemical constituents and mechanisms of action, including alkaline peroxides, alkaline hypochlorites, acids, disinfectants and enzymes. This work compared all five with a new material containing a silicone polymer (Fixodent, Proctor and Gamble Technical Centres Ltd. Egham, UK). Two methods of assessing plaque removal were used, a visual scoring system and an innovative digital imaging system.

Compared with soaking and brushing with water, soaking dentures in the new cleanser before brushing with water resulted in a 52% lower plaque build up after two days, and 42% after 14 days.

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