

and expensive surgical procedures.

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**BOOK REVIEW**

**A Clinical Guide to Orthodontics.** By D. Roberts-Harry and J. Sandy. BDJ Books, 2003 (96pp., £34.95p/b; £49.95h/b). ISBN 0-904588-78-5; 0-904588-81-5.

This book is produced from a series of publications by the authors, which previously appeared in the British Dental Journal. It is divided into 12 chapters on what they regard as key subjects in orthodontics. Each chapter is headed with an 'in brief' summary of the issues covered, and I found this a useful tool for quick reference. They are also supported by references for further reading. Excellent clinical photographs and illustrations accompany the text throughout the book to explain the topics discussed.

The book opens with the question –

Who needs orthodontics? Two chapters then follow, covering the examination of the patient, which supplies the practitioner with enough information to reach a list of treatment aims. Treatment planning is written in a clear and concise manner accompanied by illustrations, which give the reader an insight into the tooth movements to be expected in each scenario. Appliance choice is covered well, and the illustrations here, yet again, provide a clear picture of what one would expect to achieve with each appliance type. I particularly liked the chapter on 'fact and fantasy in orthodontics' which summarized some of the controversial subjects within orthodontics that have been a source of much discussion over recent years.

Extractions are discussed with reference to specific tooth types, which I thought

particularly helpful. Anchorage control, and impacted teeth are well documented, as well as a chapter on the histological nature of tooth movement – a subject of importance, but a little out of place in what is overall a 'clinical' textbook (root resorption is already discussed in brief in the section on 'risks').

The book closes with an overview of combined treatment, which describes some cases requiring a multi-disciplinary approach. This provides the reader with an idea of what may be involved in the treatment of more complex cases.

This book is easy to read, and an excellent source of information for the undergraduate and the general dental practitioner with a special interest in orthodontics.

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**ABSTRACT**

**HOW DIAGNOSTIC ARE YOUR RADIOGRAPHS?**

Reliability of Digital Radiography of Interproximal Dental Caries. E. Sanden, A. Koob, S. Hassfield, H.J. Staehle and P. Eickholz. *American Journal of Dentistry* 2003; **16**: 170-176.

Although the technique of diagnosing interproximal caries by bitewing radiographs is well-established,

monitoring the progress of such lesions can be difficult due to variations in the radiographic procedure. Furthermore, radiographs may not always show the true extent of the lesion, nor indicate the need for clinical intervention. This study investigated the reproducibility and variability that could be achieved by the digitization of such images in relation to the type of film, tissue scatter and time of exposure.

The authors found that, in general, the use of filters to reduce scatter had a small but insignificant effect on the

diagnostic quality of the image. However, careful digital manipulation of the radiographic image resulted in a statistically significant improvement of the validity of the image.

This paper is particularly relevant as more and more practitioners make the move to digital radiography. If the images are more consistent, as this paper would suggest, digital manipulation must result in improved diagnosis.

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