

permanent incisors has yet to be determined and further research is required.

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BOOK REVIEW

Advances in Operative Dentistry: Contemporary Clinical Practice

Volume 1. Jean-Francois Roulet, Nairn Wilson and Mazzimo Fuzzi, eds. Quintessence Publishing Co., New Malden, 2001 (263pp., £84.00). ISBN 0-86715-402-0

Historically, textbooks on operative dentistry have been directed towards dental students. As such, these books have been narrow in their approach to instruction, with a 'correct' rather than critical way of carrying out procedures being presented. This book changes all that! Its subtitle is *Contemporary Clinical Practice*. To address this subject, the editors have recruited from the crème of dentistry in Europe. The text is not an introduction to operative dentistry, but is directed at the practising clinician, with the information being backed up by references for the research literature.

The book opens with chapters by Carlo Prati, Serge Bouillaguet and Bernard Ciiucchi on protection of dentine and pulp. Marginal leakage – often a neglected subject – is discussed, as too is the protection of the pulp-dentine complex with adhesive resins. Chapters follow on moisture isolation, with Chapter 4 being devoted to a clear, well-illustrated description of rubber dam placement. The principal

editor doesn't mention his oft-quoted statement that dentists in Germany use, on average, 20 cm of rubber dam per year!

Chapter 5 addresses the use of resin composite for aesthetic anterior restorations. The illustrations demonstrate the excellent results which may be obtained using resin composite in treatment of diastema closure – this is truly a conservative technique for which some may have considered the more invasive placement of porcelain veneers. Chapter 6 discusses the use of resin composite in direct posterior restorations. The use of caries detector dye is illustrated, as too is the innovative use of an occlusal silicone index formed prior to cavity preparation to aid the accurate reproduction of a tooth's pre-operative occlusal morphology – this seems like an excellent idea which I shall try at the next opportunity! In Chapter 7, the use of flowable composite to fill the apical two-thirds of a cavity is described.

Chapters 8 to 14 deal with various aspects of indirect restorative techniques, including an excellent chapter subtitled 'space – the eternal problem' by *Dental Update* Editorial Board member Richard Ibbetson, which includes the concept of relative axial tooth movement first described by Dahl. Chapter 12 presents the latest

in CAD-CAM technology – the Cerec 3, and Chapter 13 gives a well-illustrated step-by-step description of indirect ceramic restoration placement.

The book's concluding chapters address the problems of the older dentition and looks at future teaching of conservative dentistry as part of the dental curriculum.

In summary, this is a clinician's textbook, with patients being central to its approach. It is not just a tooth-cutting cook book, but addresses patient factors such as disease risk, patient demographics and economics by way of a series of case reports. There is a wealth of information which may whet the reader's appetite to search for more in-depth texts on the various treatment modalities which have mostly been presented, because of the breadth of the subject matter, in review form. The editors have done an excellent job in making the text easy to read, and most chapters contain a wealth of excellent clinical illustrations. This book is not intended to be an undergraduate text of operative dentistry. However, undergraduates and postgraduates, alike, will find a wealth of material in it, which will stimulate all to learn the techniques described and apply them to their clinical practice.

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