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## Book Review

**Oral Pathology** 4th edition. By JV Soames and JC Southam. Oxford Medical Publications, Oxford University Press, 2004 (£39.95p/b). ISBN 0-19-852794-2.

Since the first edition was published 20 years ago, *Oral Pathology* by Soames and Southam has become an essential reference book for undergraduate and postgraduate dental students, as well as general and hospital dental practitioners. A wide range of oral diseases is covered and subsequent editions have incorporated advances in knowledge while emphasizing the core of basic information and retaining the readable, concise style. The aetiology, risk factors, clinical features and pathology of oral diseases are discussed and, where appropriate, progress of disease and prognosis, with correlations between histopathology and prognosis. The depth of coverage is appropriate for postgraduate studies but the clear layout of the fourth edition makes it easy for undergraduate students to understand the essential basic information. Much greater use is made of colour-coded information boxes containing tables, classifications, summaries and key points on the topics covered in each chapter.

These stand out well from the

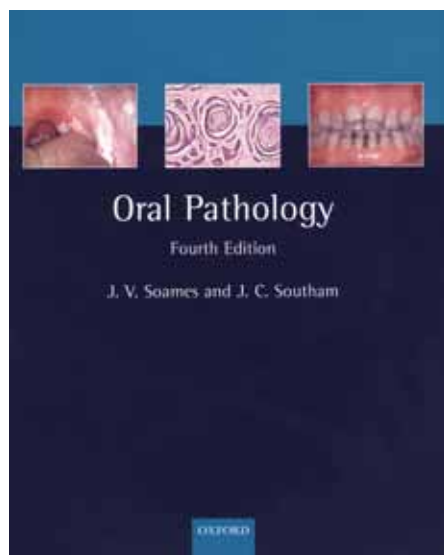
rest of the text and provide useful quick references and aides to revision. Each chapter begins with a list of the conditions that are discussed, for ease of reference, and concludes with suggestions for further reading.

The fourth edition includes many advances in areas such as developmental control genes, DNA content in leukoplakia and genetic abnormalities in oral cancer. Changes in classification, such as the classification of periodontal disease

and the new European criteria for diagnosis of Sjogren's syndrome, have been included. The text is very generously illustrated with full-colour clinical and histological photographs.

This new edition of an old favourite will appeal to a wide readership including specialists, general practitioners, undergraduate and postgraduate students. It is a valuable addition to any dental library.

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### CPD Answers

6. C	6. A, B, D
7. C, D	7. A, B
8. A, C	8. A, B, C
9. D	9. B, C
10. A, B	10. A, B, C