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BookReview

Fundamentals of Operative Dentistry – A Contemporary Approach 3rd edn. Edited by James B Summitt, J William Robbins, Thomas J Hilton, Richard S Schwartz. Chicago: Quintessence Publishing Co Inc, 2006. ISBN 0-86715-452-7.

Operative Dentistry continues to undergo rapid change. An improving understanding of dental caries, increasingly effective prevention and the ever-broadening range of restorative materials and techniques make writing an operative dentistry textbook a challenge. There is a risk that a book is well out-of-date by the time that it is published, or else it is thought to be too traditional or so modern that it lacks practical application. This new edition of *Fundamentals of Operative Dentistry* steers a measured course between these obstacles and, in the opinion of the reviewer, is the best text on Operative Dentistry currently available.

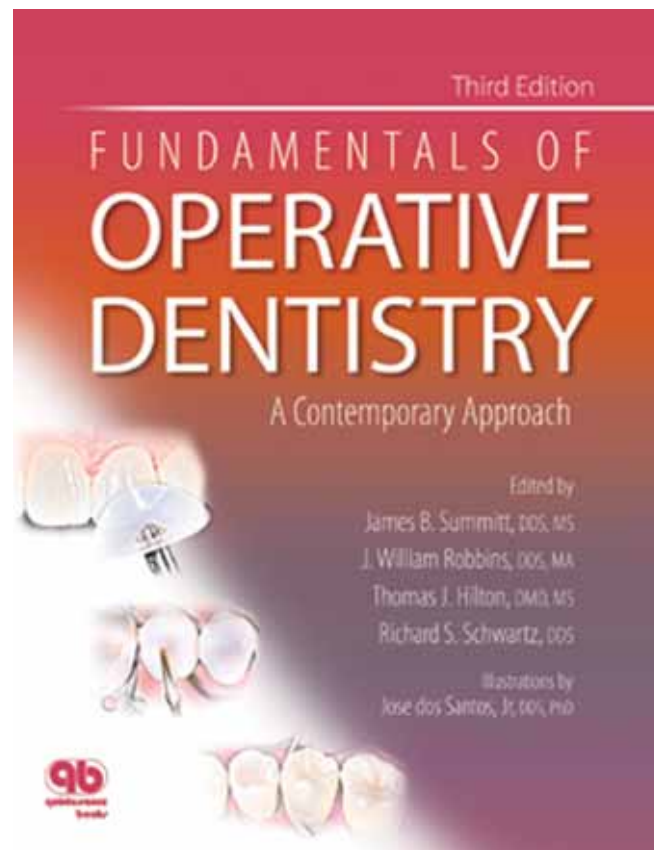
It is a multi-authored text but nevertheless reads in a coherent manner. There are 20 chapters with an impressive list of contributing authors. The book is attractive and easy to read, both in terms of style and presentation.

It is perhaps a mistake to comment on specifics in the book as adverse statements may carry weight that is out of proportion to their importance. This is a fundamentally good book and contains a wealth of excellent practical information supported by the available evidence.

The opening chapter on 'Biologic Considerations' contains some clearly explained dental anatomy and histology but relates these to clinical practice. The text then follows a logical progression through diagnosis and treatment planning,

aesthetics and the management of dental caries. The chapter on the management of the dental pulp is up-to-date and is one of the first to provide an in-depth analysis of dentine adhesives and traditional lining and base materials. The use of rubber dam is described excellently by authors who clearly use it routinely: it is full of helpful practical hints. Adhesion is well covered, whilst the chapter on direct posterior composite restorations is recommended and that on natural tooth bleaching by Haywood and Berry is clear and informative.

Unfortunately, there were disappointments with the text. The chapter describing complex amalgam restorations contains descriptions of the use of dentine pins which are historical. The final restorations are excellent but the premise on which these are based is flawed. In a subsequent chapter on root caries, the use of four pins to retain a silver amalgam restoration in a buccal Class V cavity is described: an approach that has little to commend it. On the other hand, this chapter shows beautiful pictures of isolation of the operating field. After that, the book deteriorates, with the last five chapters



becoming increasingly ordinary. These deal with veneers, crowns and posts. Better accounts are available elsewhere.

However, this is an excellent, well-illustrated book and a pleasure to read. It provides a wealth of well-referenced knowledge, embracing the prevention of dental disease and shows an excellence in operative dentistry that should inform, encourage and challenge. It is suitable for all dentists and therapists.

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