BOOK REVIEWS

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Child Protection and the Dental Team

JENNY HARRIS, PETER SIDEBOTHAM, RICHARD WELBURY

EXTENT P/H	58 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£21.95 0955225701
PUBLISHER	COPDEND (London), 2006
REVIEWER	Vidya Srinivasan
STAR RATING	***

This educational handbook has been commissioned and funded by the UK Department of Health. Together with an accompanying website (<www.cpd.org.uk>), it provides a comprehensive educational resource for dental teams working in primary care throughout the UK. The policy and procedures, however, are stated as for England and the authors draw attention to the fact that individuals working in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland should be aware of the existing differences and advise that the resource be used in conjunction with locally available guidance.

The style of the handbook and the website targets the busy general dental practitioner by providing relevant information in a succinct manner. The handbook consists of five sections, with the first section highlighting that child protection is a shared responsibility, with a brief explanation of recent changes in current practice in this field.

The second section provides vital information on categories of child abuse and draws attention to the difference between abuse and neglect. The data on children and young people on child protection registers (Fig. 2.2, p.2.2) drive home the general dental practitioner's share in the responsibility for protecting children from neglect. The reader is guided in greater detail to recognise abuse and neglect by using outline diagrams (Figs 2.4 and 2.5) along with the clinical images in this section.

The response expected from a dentist on recognition of neglect and/or abuse features in section three, with a flow chart for referral (Fig. 3.2) and a suggested action plan as guidance (Fig. 3.5). Information sharing and issues of confidentiality along with the forensic aspects of child protection practice are also highlighted in this section. Administrators and clinicians of any dental team will find section four useful as it explains the need for mandatory training in child protection for all staff during induction into any dental team.

Section five includes the glossary, references, information about the relevant local contacts and providers of training for child protection. Sample documents with approval for photocopying are provided in section five. These encourage recording of general continuing professional development after reading the handbook and also reflective practice on significant events with respect to child protection.

A PDF version of the handbook can be downloaded from the accompanying website, although the hard copy does more

justice to the authors' endeavours. The website, however, provides the authors with the opportunity to provide timely updates with respect to child protection. The sample documents in section five can also be downloaded from the website and the section links to other websites of interest. It also facilitates navigation to help one to respond when there are concerns about a child. The authors should be commended for their work as their endeavour highlights the widely acknowledged contribution the dental profession as a whole can make towards the process of ensuring children's safety.

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery (3rd edn)

AIRES BARROS D'SA, ANTHONY CHANT

EXTENT P/H	435 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£67.00 0702027340
PUBLISHER	Elsevier (Amsterdam), 2006
REVIEWER	Nick Hickey
STAR RATING	****

The *Companion to Specialist Surgical Practice* series was first published in 1997. There was a core textbook and another seven, one for each of the general surgical subspecialties. They rapidly established themselves as the 'must-have' textbooks for those in higher surgical training in the UK and the unofficial revision guides for the intercollegiate examination. Second editions arrived in 1997 and the third editions in 2006.

The latest vascular text is slightly shorter than before (410 pages) and some authors have been changed. The 19 chapters are mostly written by vascular surgeons and radiologists. Each chapter is intended as a summary of current thinking and evidence-based practice is highlighted and referenced. The editors state that the book is intended for trainees but also for established consultant surgeons to update themselves.

This is the first medical book that I have read from cover to cover for over 15 years. I enjoyed it a lot and learned more than a little. Most chapters are well written and superbly referenced. The 'scalpel code' of evidence was invariably appropriate with prejudice creeping in only occasionally. It is as up-to-date as possible but even now some studies eagerly awaited in the literature have already been published. I noticed only one spelling mistake and one amusing error in the colour plates (can you spot it?).

I learned most from the non-surgical chapters on epidemiology, angioplasty, the diabetic foot and vasospastic/vasculitic disorders. Of the others, the chapter on carotid disease is outstanding. As an exercise in trawling the evidence, expertly processing its relevance, then condensing it into a digestible form (so that the reader may perhaps use it to help make a

judgement on an individual patient), it is flawless. It made me think about my own practice and encouraged further reading. All authors asked to contribute to this sort of text should read it. If you are a vascular surgeon who hasn't read a book for years, I can recommend it and you might as well read this one. I have vowed to read the next edition. The current edition is now the perfect source to look up references.

Vascular trainees will buy this book anyway. They should trawl through it its contents thoroughly and repeatedly before taking the examination and should use it to extend their reading to the most important references. Not all aspects of vascular surgical practice are covered but I cannot think that there is a better book to act as a basis for study. Do not, however, assume that your examiner will agree with everything stated in it. Not all the opinions are evidence-based and some have stimulated lively (and I stress healthy) debate on my unit. The chapters that deal with our bread and butter – the assessment and treatment of chronic lower-limb ischaemia – stimulated most. I would also hope that general surgical trainees would read this book **before** they pass through a vascular unit on their rotation. The knowledge imparted would certainly enable them to get more out of their placement.

This book is the vascular trainees' bible. It has the power to influence a whole generation of vascular specialists and is, therefore, very important. On the whole, it is an excellent effort that achieves what it sets out to do. It is the right size, the right price and aimed at the right level.

Fundamentals of Surgical Practice (2nd edn)

ANDREW KINGSNORTH, ALJAFRI MAJID

EXTENT P/H	545 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£55.00 0521677068
PUBLISHER	Cambridge University Press (Cambridge), 2006
REVIEWER	Conor Marron
STAR RATING	***

The prospect of reviewing a text aimed at addressing the MRCS syllabus and examination has brought back many nightmares of the time I spent preparing to sit the examination myself. However, I have recently been asked by F2 and junior SHOs to recommend a text that they can use to prepare for the MRCS but have struggled to find one that addresses all of the issues in a relevant manner while providing enough depth. There are many texts available in the marketplace that are aimed at being study aids or texts to provide in-depth information of surgical practice, pathology, or anatomy. Few of these, though, truly focus on providing enough detailed information on all of the relevant topics for examination success.

This book represents the new and expanded edition of a text addressing the first stages of the intercollegiate MRCS

examination. It aims to mirror the examination syllabus and present trainees with a clear understanding of the core information required for success. It is edited by Professor Andrew Kingsnorth and Professor Aljafri A Majid, who are representatives of the Court of Examiners of The Royal College of Surgeons of England and panel of examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, respectively. Together they bring a wealth of publishing and examining experience in order to co-ordinate the contributions from many well-respected and extremely experienced chapter authors in a formal manner.

The structure of the book takes the trainee through a variety of chapters covering all of the core issues required for the intercollegiate MRCS examination, with the emphasis being on addressing issues on a system-by-system basis with clearly defined goals for each chapter. Each chapter contains a wealth of information relating to relevant anatomy and individual clinical conditions. The information presented on clinical conditions covers essential epidemiology, clinical pathology, and clinical management.

The delivery of the information is in the vast majority of chapters through large swathes of text. While it is appreciated that in certain circumstances this is unavoidable, the lack of use of tables or schematics makes the information difficult to digest. Certain chapters such as that on hernia management and vascular surgery make good use of illustrations, images and bulleted text to accentuate the written information. However, this is balanced by many chapters that are difficult to read due to the volume of text within them. The information presented in the chapters is detailed and accurate, covering a huge amount of ground but the style in which the information is presented often makes it difficult to extract. The provision of further and online reading resources at the end of each chapter is a useful pointer as to where to search for further information when more depth is required.

The aim of this book to cover the core topics for the MRCS is achieved; however, I feel that the information could be aided in its delivery by reducing the amount of text within the chapters. Furthermore, we must also decide whether this is a book to aid in the preparation for the MCQ components of the examination or the viva and clinical components. The detail in the chapters may not provide enough information for this book to be used as a sole text for the MCQ components of the MRCS but I feel it is a valuable addition to the available texts as it provides a substantial proportion of the information required and acts as an accurate guide to the topics to be covered in exam preparation.

I would have no hesitation in recommending this book to trainees at an early stage of their training in order to guide them effectively to the core syllabus topics and since it provides a substantial portion of the detail required for the MRCS. I would, however, advise that the trainee may require further detailed reading prior to sitting the MCQ components.