

BOOK REVIEWS

Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine by Crispian Scully. ISBN 0-7236-1074-6. Elsevier Science. Paperback. 566 pages, 2004.

In the preface of this textbook the author says that it addresses 'senior dental students, practitioners in oral medicine, surgery, pathology and all areas of dentistry'. I would like to add to this list: dermatologists, oto-rhino-laryngologists, specialists in internal medicine, paediatricians and anyone who has a special interest in oral medicine.

As a dermatologist I find this book extremely useful and the subdivision of the content very practical, starting with 'Fundamental principles of patient management', followed by 'Common complaints' and 'Common and important oral conditions'. This is then followed by 'Eponymous and other conditions' and lastly by 'Relevant other systemic disorders'.

By and large it is easy to find your way through the book and you get many good suggestions for further reading. Tables, algorithms and figures are of good quality and sufficient in number.

From a dermatological point of view, I only disagree when the author discusses the aetiology of erythema multiforme, which is supposed to be triggered by food additives, perfumes and terpenes. These substances are mentioned before drugs and infections as aetiological factors, which I think is inappropriate and should hopefully be corrected in the next edition.

It would also be valuable to get more information about oral conditions in association with graft-versus-host disease, which is an increasing problem in modern medicine. These are only minor suggestions!

In short, I really want to congratulate the author on his excellent book that is highly recommended to all doctors and dentists seeing patients with oral problems.

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50 Cases in Dermatological Medicine by Creamer D, du Vivier A. ISBN 1-84184-143-9. Price: £60.00. Hardcover. 224 pages, 2004. Martin Dunitz, London, UK.

This attractive publication comprises 212 pages and presents 50 unusual clinical cases seen primarily at King's College Hospital, London, by two well experienced consultants in dermatology. Each patient/diagnosis is presented on 3-4 text pages, including a concise case history, clinical pictures, histopathology and other investigations, and at the end, a correct diagnosis and interesting comments about the disease. The diagnoses

that are discussed range from rare genetic disorders, such as xeroderma pigmentosum and Ehler-Danlos syndrome, to important skin signs in internal medicine and unusual skin infections such as actinomycosis and phaeophymycosis. The cases are well presented with excellent colour pictures and one pertinent reference to the literature for each diagnosis. Essential learning points (3-5 per case) are summarized in a pedagogic fashion in text boxes. The cases/diagnoses are presented in no particular order, which may be stimulating when reading the book from cover to cover, but a more textbook-like structure of the content might be preferred in other situations. However, at the end of the book there is a good subject index which will help the reader to find relevant cases anyway. The book is certainly a nice addition to any dermatological library and is also challenging to read for those who like a quiz.

*Anders Vahlquist
Editor-in-Chief*

Side Effects in Dermatology by Mulder WMC, Meinardi MMHM, Bruynzeel DP. ISBN 90-8523-034-9. Paperback, 126 pages, 2004. Intermed Medical Publishers.

This booklet (125 small-sized pages and a soft cover) is perfect to have in your pocket when seeing patients with skin symptoms possibly related to systemic drug therapy. It has a long and very successful history, first published in 1973 and for a number of years edited by Dr Wybo Bruinsma, who has now retired. The new editors have succeeded in keeping up a very good tradition in this 8th edition, focusing on practical approaches on how to identify probable culprits causing drug rashes. The first part of the book describes the characteristics of various cutaneous drug reactions one by one, highlighting the most common causes. In this context I miss erythema multiforme as a separate entity but obviously this hypersensitivity reaction is more and more regarded as primarily due to infections. The severe multiforme reactions (EM major) are however discussed in relation to Steven-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis. The second part of the book lists in alphabetical order numerous drugs which have been reported to cause cutaneous adverse reactions, focusing on urticaria and exanthema (maculopapular?). More than 1400 references are given in this context! By and large, this booklet retains its position as one of the most valuable publications in this field, especially for an office-based dermatologist who may be lacking time for a proper computer-based literature search.

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