

## Book review

**Oxford Handbook of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, 2nd ed., L. Cascarini, C. Schilling, B. Gurney, P. Brennan, (2018). ISBN: 978-0-19-876781-7**

The second edition of the Oxford Handbook of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is the recently updated, “must have” text for junior maxillofacial trainees (particularly dental core trainees), senior house officers, students, or anyone who is thinking about a career in the specialty.

The book, written by four consultants in OMFS, is a useful guide that trainees can refer to in the clinic, operating theatre, and emergency department. It covers maxillofacial trauma, head and neck oncology, dentoalveolar infections, and orthognathic procedures.

This edition follows the successful format of the first but has many more diagrams and some have been simplified. It also refers to recent research and guidance, such as those from the Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme.

The second and third chapters cover basic knowledge, including the morphology of teeth, the anatomy of the head and neck, and types of imaging. This is useful for medically-qualified trainees who may be beginning their dental training, and for dentally-qualified trainees such as myself. For some, I think it will be a welcome refresher of the basics that may have been forgotten from undergraduate days.

Each section covers trauma, dentoalveolar infections, and salivary diseases, and the authors outline the key considerations in each different environment (clinic, emergency department, ward, and theatre). The chapter “In the emergency department” is a crucial read before setting foot into

what is, for many trainees, an unfamiliar setting. There are hints and tips on the important features to look out for when assessing a patient, when to discuss the situation with a senior, and the vital points to record in the notes.

“In the clinic” takes you through preoperative assessment and investigations, and advises on what should be asked and examined postoperatively. “In the theatre” covers information on the process of consent, including surgical risks, different surgical approaches, and considerations for postoperative care. “On the ward” details the duties of a junior, such as what is expected on a ward round. There are extremely useful summaries on the monitoring of flaps, tracheostomies, including the different types of tracheostomy tubes.

Chapter 8 covers essential skills, such as administering local anaesthetic, suturing, managing the bleeding socket, incision and drainage, and biopsies. Oral medicine has a chapter to itself, which summarises some of the more common oromucosal conditions. Maxillofacial emergencies such as massive bleeding, problems with tracheostomies, compromise of the airway, and retrobulbar haemorrhage are outlined in chapter 10.

In conclusion this is a fantastic resource that should be in the bag, or even pocket, of every junior maxillofacial trainee.

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