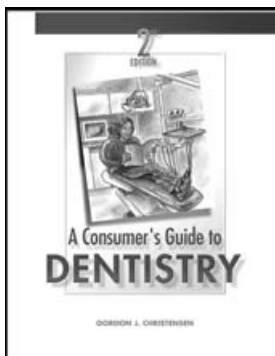


Book Reviews



A Consumer's Guide to Dentistry, 2nd Edition

Gordon J. Christensen. Mosby, St. Louis, 2002: ISBN 0-323-01483-6 (214 pages; price \$51.95; hardcover)

Dr. Gordon J. Christensen, an internationally recognized educator, has written this text for dental patients, giving them adequate information about dentistry, dental health, and treatment options. This book is also useful for dentists and dental auxiliaries who need to communicate with patients using easy-to-understand written information that can be of great help in patient education, solutions to different dental health problems, and maintaining good dental health.

This book contains 20 well-written chapters. The first chapter, "How to Use this Book," helps the reader understand the book's format. Using a table of contents, it aids readers in finding the answers to nearly every question they might have.

Chapter 2, "In Dentistry," provides the reader with a well-written, easy-to-understand explanation of different dental specialties. It will help the reader learn more about the various types of dentists and the scope of the services they provide. Reading this chapter will be of great help for understanding the following chapters.

The third chapter, "Finding the Right Dentist," gives the reader reliable ways to find a clinician who will be suitable for a particular patient, and warns the reader of wrong reasons that might play a major factor in selecting the patient's dental health provider.

Chapter 4, "Managed Care Programs in Dentistry," provides an honest view of the types of dental care plans available in the United States. The chapter discusses fee for service dentistry, dental health maintenance programs, preferred provider organizations, indemnity dental insurance plans, and direct reimbursement. At the end of this chapter, Dr. Christensen gives an overview of all dental benefits. It appears that he prefers fee for service payment plans, direct reimbursement, and direct assignment, because, he says, these three types of payment provide the most freedom for patients to select the type of therapy they desire.

Chapter 5, "Controlling Pain in Dentistry," informs the reader about various methods dentists use to control pain; the author emphasizes that most of today's dentistry should be nearly painless.

Chapter 6 is "Infection Control in the Dental Office," an explanation of methods used in the dental office to prevent the spread of infection. Dr. Christensen assures the patient/reader that the chance of contracting disease from another patient while in the dentist's office is highly unlikely.

In Chapter 7, "Root Canals, Dead Teeth Inside of Teeth," the author describes the procedure of root canal treatment in layman's terms. He emphasizes the importance of root canal treatment in retaining natural teeth and, although the cost of this therapy is relatively high, the result is a natural dentition that functions as if the teeth were completely normal.

Chapter 8 is "Cosmetic Dentistry and Improving Your Smile." Dr. Christensen discusses different dental conditions and what the dentist can do to correct these problems to give the patient a more attractive facial appearance and smile, thus improving self-esteem and confidence.

Chapter 9, titled "Oral Challenges for the Mature Person," addresses the most significant challenges that occur in the mouth of elderly patients, along with preventive and therapeutic measures.

Chapter 10, "Implant Dentistry: Substitutes for Tooth Roots Placed into Your Jaw," discusses implants as an alternative for people with many missing teeth and as an advantageous option for edentulous patients. Dr. Christensen explains that implants can provide both retention and support for the prosthesis. Implants, when placed properly, allow tooth and gum replacements that appear natural and function almost as effectively as natural teeth.

Chapter 11, "Temporomandibular Joints, Temporomandibular Dysfunction," discusses different occlusal problems and management procedures for temporomandibular disorders (TMDs). The author recommends that TMD patients obtain a second opinion before starting any TMD treatment.

Chapter 12 deals with diseases and surgery related to the oral and facial areas. The author discusses different oral diseases and their management along with some common, and not so common, surgical procedures in a very easy-to-read and well-explained manner.

Chapter 13, "Straightening Teeth," discusses malocclusion in general and, then in more detail, discusses conditions, signs, and symptoms related to orthodontic treatment. In the final segment the author discusses what the orthodontic, pediatric dentist, or general dentist can do to manage these conditions.

Chapter 14, "Dentistry for Children," discusses conditions, signs, and symptoms related to pediatric dentistry, and what the pediatric dentist or general dentist can do to treat these conditions.

Chapter 15 deals with gums and bone surrounding the teeth. It discusses conditions, signs, and symptoms related to periodontics and what the periodontist, general dentist, or dental hygienist can do to manage these conditions. Dr. Christensen emphasizes the importance of having and maintaining a sound foundation of bone and gum tissue in order to maintain good, healthy teeth.

Chapter 16, "Crowns or Bridges Cemented onto Teeth," discusses different conditions related to fixed prosthodontics. Topics include a single missing tooth, several missing teeth, broken, or decayed teeth, and what the prosthodontist or general dentist can do to treat and manage these conditions. The author discusses different treatment modalities and the advantages, disadvantages, alternatives, and risks related to this type of treatment. This chapter provides comprehensive

information about fixed prosthodontics and is well organized and easy-to-read.

Chapter 17, "Dentures Replacing All or Some Teeth," discusses signs, symptoms, and treatment options available. The author also discusses the advantages, disadvantages, risks, costs, and results of each treatment option.

Chapter 18, "Fillings for Teeth," discusses conditions, signs, and symptoms related to restorative or operative dentistry such as tooth sensitivity, tooth discoloration, defective restorations, and tooth decay. Treatment options are provided in detail.

Chapter 19, "Protecting Against Future Problems," discusses necessary oral hygiene measures. The author emphasizes the importance of practicing preventive measures to avoid dental disease and that patients should take this upon themselves to maintain healthy teeth.

This book is a resource for patients, dentists, and dental office staff. The material is presented in a clear, concise, and easy-to-read manner. This book provides comprehensive patient education material and the author deserves credit for producing a well-written, informative text.

Khaldoun Ajlouni, BDS, MS

*Private Practice,
Southlake, TX*



The Art of the Smile: Integrating Prosthodontics, Orthodontics, Periodontics, Dental Technology, and Plastic Surgery in Esthetic Dental Treatment

Editors: Rafi Romano, Nitzam Bichacho, and Bernard Touati. Quintessence Publishing Co., Inc., Hanover Park, IL, 2005. ISBN: 1-85097-096-3 (446 pages; 1110 color illustrations; price \$258)

This textbook was written to provide comprehensive information on the interdisciplinary care involving prosthodontics, orthodontics, periodontics, dental technology, and plastic surgery. The authors of this book emphasize the importance of the team approach among all specialties as

essential for successful treatment of complicated cases. This book provides useful and necessary information for general dentists, dental specialists, and dental technicians who are interested in esthetic dentistry.

The book is divided into five sections. Section One, "Prosthodontics," is divided into four chapters. The authors discuss different esthetic challenges arising from tooth malalignment and the chosen restorative therapy for each case. This section also discusses the Western concept of dental esthetics and materials used in today's restorative dentistry. In the last chapter of this section Dr. Irfan Ahmad offers case studies and demonstrates the best results possible with contemporary dental procedures. The material in this section is written clearly and comprehensively, incorporating the science of prosthodontics into the contemporary management of interdisciplinary dentistry.

The second section, "Orthodontics," is divided into seven chapters written by world-renowned orthodontists. This section discusses orthodontic solutions to various esthetic challenges. As a fully integrated partner in the interdisciplinary management of the smile, orthodontics can not only straighten teeth, but also eliminate excessive gingival display and obliterate open gingival margins. The authors describe diastema closure, creation of appropriate restorative space for implants and conventional crowns, correction of anterior crown length, correction of dental midline deviation, and many other esthetic compromises. The authors also discuss and revisit the fundamental concepts of art and beauty. They stress the importance of physical diagnosis, the appreciation of the soft tissues that drives treatment planning and limits treatment results. The authors provide scenarios and clinical reports to show how orthodontics can play an integral part in the management and treatment of different cases.

The third section, "Periodontics," discusses how periodontics has evolved from being directed toward maintenance and health of the attachment apparatus to becoming an integral and important component within interdisciplinary esthetic dentistry. This section of four chapters discusses the general aspects of the smile, its significance, and the periodontal role in creating the ideal smile.

The authors stress that dentists on the cutting edge of the esthetic frontier must offer more and more solutions to satisfy their patient's desires. The authors discuss challenges in the esthetic zone and how periodontics, as an integral contributor to the dental team, can help to manage these scenarios. This section of the book is a must-read for those practitioners interested in learning more about tissue management in esthetic dentistry.

The fourth section, "Dental Technology," is divided into three chapters discussing the difficult task of duplicating the human dentition with artificial material and the skills necessary to achieve this goal. The five authors of this section are dedicated experts in dental ceramics and dental technology. They discuss shade communication between the dentist and the lab technician, including common communication problems and solutions. They also emphasize the high potential of the new technology of computerized dental shade matching. The authors discuss interesting real patient cases, the esthetic management of these cases, and the superior results they were able to achieve using advanced dental technology. The authors conclude that no single product or system can solve all problems and that dental professionals must be open minded to new products.

In the fifth and last section, "Plastic Surgery," the authors present their experience in the treatment of the aging face and the perioral region. They discuss the aging process, how it adversely affects the perioral tissues, and the many procedures advocated to correct, or at least diminish, signs of aging, thus adding another dimension to the esthetic management of the smile.

This book is handsomely bound and presented on quality paper stock; all illustrations are of exceptional educational value and quality. The authors deserve credit for producing a well-written, comprehensive, and informative text. This book provides a wealth of information based on the authors' knowledge and experience. It will be of great benefit for those interested in dental esthetics.

Dr. Raed Ajlouni
*Assistant Professor,
Department of General Dentistry,
Baylor College of Dentistry, Dallas, TX*