Contemporary Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, 2nd ed.


Reviewed by:
Bobby M. Collins, D.D.S., Assistant Professor, Oral Medicine and Pathology, University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, 3501 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261; bcollins@pitt.edu

This is a concise, descriptive work designed as a textbook for incorporation into dental school curricular instruction in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. However, it is also an excellent resource for dental specialists and general practitioners, as well as other health care providers with an interest in oral disease.

The second edition of Contemporary Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology serves as a valuable reference for both student dentists and established practitioners. The authors are well-respected oral and maxillofacial pathologists with a wealth of teaching and practice experience. They state that their purpose is to provide a “concise” and “user-friendly” text, while incorporating up-to-date advances in diagnostic methods (immunostaining and imaging), treatment, and therapeutics. The authors have provided not only a textbook, but also a brief integrated atlas, with common clinical presentations and appropriate disease descriptions to enhance recognition.

The subject of oral and maxillofacial pathology is necessarily reliant upon visual recognition, whether clinical, radiographic, or histopathologic. The authors have richly illustrated the text. The two-column format assists in the presentation of material in a concise, easily read text. The reader will find a definition of the disease entity and then descriptive text organized under clinical/radiographic, histopathologic, and treatment subheadings. Clinical photos depicting the most common presentation accompany the lesion description, with brief captions highlighting the diagnostic features. Additionally, anatomic drawings and charts illustrate variable degrees of disease expression and commonly associated conditions. Photomicrographs are paired with anatomic line drawings that diagram key diagnostic features. The authors effectively guide the reader to more salient features necessary for appropriate diagnosis, listing entities with similar appearance for comparison and contrast. There are twelve chapters (Developmental Disturbances; Cysts; Infections of Teeth and Bone; Bone Lesions; Odontogenic Tumors; Epithelial Disorders; Oral Infections; Immune-Mediated Disorders; Connective Tissue Lesions; Salivary Gland Disorders; Physical and Chemical Injuries; and Diseases of Blood), providing ease of reference. The chapter title pages contain outlines highlighting the lesions covered. This outline is a keyword list that will provide the reader a content “roadmap,” allowing them to preview the chapter. For the academic, the outlines are an effective guide and a potential knowledge check or self-test before reading the disease descriptions. Diseases common to the oral cavity or those with common oral manifestations are effectively covered. The authors state that their intent was to create a textbook that follows the topic presentation in most courses in oral and maxillofacial pathology. Any deviation from an established course routine is easily accommodated, as each of the chapters effectively stands alone, without reliance upon a preceding chapter. This allows reading assignments to be varied based on instructor preference.

The book is a good, easy-to-read textbook, but it is not a comprehensive text and additional reading sources may be necessary. A bibliog-
The purpose of this book is to explain potential treatment options to the patient. The atlas is well illustrated with before and after treatment patient photos along with procedural photos where applicable. The cases described are treated by a general dentist who incorporates a multidisciplinary approach including periodontal surgery, oral surgery, and orthodontics.

The atlas is written in lay terms so it is easily understood by those not dentally trained. The treatment outcome photos show realistic results consistent with the degree of complexity of each case. The photos are not “flashy” and would not yield unreasonably high expectations. The photos are of good clarity and size. The atlas is physically capable of being propped on a counter to be a flip chart in a clinical operatory or consultation room. The atlas is well bound with hard covers and has a hardcover sleeve if it needs to be transported or shelved when not in use. There is a table of contents for ease of access to each case. The page heading describes a dental problem followed by the treatment selected. Each page has a problem column that describes the issues for the patient and a solution column that bullet points the phased treatment, briefly describing the procedural steps. The Treatment Index, at the end of the atlas, lists all the treatments discussed in alphabetical order with corresponding page numbers.

The atlas can serve as a guide in patient consultation appointments and treatment planning cases to better explain and visualize the treatment. For dentists who are building a cosmetic practice, this atlas can quickly educate the patients and auxiliary staff on how the treatment will be organized. The photos depict much of the dental terminology used to explain treatment options, thereby clarifying the terms for the patient. This atlas can aid in facilitating treatment for the patient who may be questioning the necessity of additional radiographs required for implant treatment.
The book includes a section on diagnostic radiographs for implant dentistry.

The atlas does have a few shortcomings. First, when reviewing case-based information, the clinician will have to alter treatments to fit the needs of every particular patient. The atlas proposes some treatments for patients for which there could be alternative treatments and results that are not mentioned. The second issue is that there was relatively little stress on maintaining oral hygiene from the standpoint of the patient. Another issue is the case on page 24 illustrating a long span fixed prosthesis that may not have enough abutments for adequate support. Finally, the atlas includes two cases using removable partial dentures, but no cases using esthetic clasps made from resin.

This book is recommended for general dentists who provide a wide spectrum of treatment options for their patients. Although it does not replace collecting accurate diagnostic data and formulating a treatment plan, it can serve as a tool to communicate with patients regarding their treatment. It is a book designed for reading, as well as a reference that can be helpful to dentists and their auxiliary staffs.