Book Reviews

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All papers presented at this symposium focus on orofacial function and dysfunction from a neuroscience viewpoint and can be divided into seven subsections: (1) histochemistry and contractile properties of the muscle fibres of the masticatory muscles; (2) periodontal sensation and its contribution to the control of the masticatory muscles; (3) central connections of muscle spindle afferents and the reflex control of masticatory force; (4) central rhythm generator of jaw and tongue movements; (5) physiological and pharmacological properties of the synapse between premotor neurons and the trigeminal motorneurons; (6) the cerebral mechanism of jaw and tongue movements; and (7) abnormal rhythmic oral movements and clinical evaluation of craniofacial motor dysfunctions.

This book is especially recommended for those performing basic research in the physiological mechanisms of jaw movements and provides insight into the control of the human masticatory muscles and jaw movements. For instance, the role of the human periodontal mechanoreceptors, electromyogram-force relationships, and right-left asymmetries in masticatory muscle activity are discussed.

For clinicians relevant papers can be found in the section dealing with temporomandibular joint and craniofacial disorder that focus on patients with chronic orofacial pain, and the section about posture and electromyography that partly deals with sleep apnoea syndrome. The contributions about the relationships between facial morphology and jaw muscle function and oral sensation and bite force may also be of interest to orthodontists.

P. H. van Spronsen

Orofacial Pain: Guidelines for Assessment, Diagnosis, and Management (1996)
Jeffrey P. Okeson (Ed.)
Publisher: Quintessence Publishing Co., Inc., Chicago, USA
Price: £22.00
ISBN: 0-86715-312-1

This book is the result of the continuing efforts of the American Academy of Orofacial Pain to promote excellence in education, research, and patient care in the field of orofacial pain and associated disorders. Originally a position paper describing the state of the art in the diagnosis and management of TMD (temporomandibular disorders), it has evolved in the subsequent 15 years to its newest form, a document reflecting the literature in the broader area of orofacial pain. For the current edition, the Academy decided to include sections on other pain disorders of the head and neck that are important to the orofacial pain clinician.

The book begins with an introduction to orofacial pain, including a very brief section on
epidemiology, and a brief description of the
anatomical relationships, i.e. the neuroanatomy
and neurophysiology of orofacial pain. There
follows a description of the biopsychosocial
model of disease (versus the biomedical model),
and an introduction to the classification of pain
into a two-level or two-axis system description:
one axis depicting the physical factors and the
second the psychological factors that influence
the pain experience.

The second chapter deals with the assessment
of orofacial pain disorder. It includes a review of
the history and examination procedures,
including diagnostic tests. It is emphasized that
the primary source of information for an
accurate diagnosis comes from the history,
examination and psychological assessment.
Diagnostic tests, as sources of supplementary
information, are also reviewed. The emphasis in
this chapter is on evaluating the supporting
research data for the most common procedures.
The chapter contains a description of those
procedures/diagnostic tests which can be
considered reasonably reliable, as well as
indicating those procedures which have not been
adequately tested but which hold promise.

The third chapter presents the classification
of orofacial pain disorders which has been
developed following collaboration with the Inter-
national Headache Society and the American
Academy of Orofacial Pain. This classification
scheme has two primary advantages. Firstly, it
integrates a TMD classification system into
an existing medical diagnostic system which
supports communication among health profes-
sionals within the field of orofacial pain; and
secondly, it provides a diagnostic framework for
research in the area of TMD.

Chapters 4–7 and 9 provide an overview of
sources of facial pain other than TMD. These
include intraoral pain disorders, headache,
intracranial disorders, pain of neurogenic origin
and pain from associated structures of the head
and neck (ears, eyes, nose, paranasal sinuses etc.).

These chapters serve to emphasize that the
dental orofacial pain clinician must consider a
variety of sources for orofacial pain and where
appropriate should refer patients to the relevant
health professional.

In chapter 8, the diagnosis and management
of TMD—the focus of the book—is presented.
It contains a more extensive presentation of the
epidemiology of TMD. This is followed by a
discussion of the aetiology and a classification
of TMD, including diagnostic criteria. Also
included is an extended review of the manage-
ment of TMD.

The final chapter is a brief discussion of the
diagnosis and management of mental disorders.
The emphasis is on a description of the essential
features of the disorders, not on differential
diagnosis. The management of the conditions is
presented in only brief, generalized terms.

The book fulfils its stated goals. It provides the
clinician with a view of TMD within the more
generalized field of orofacial pain. Furthermore,
the heart of the book—a review of the efficacy of
procedures, diagnostic tests and therapies for the
diagnosis and management of TMD—is clearly
presented. The supporting literature is extensive
and current. The citations are complete, although
the style is not consistent throughout. The book
is, however, not a textbook presenting instructions
for the clinical application of the procedures, tests
and therapies. The inclusion of more illustrations
would certainly have improved the usefulness of
the text.

In conclusion, the book is well suited for the
interested clinician who is looking for a critical
overview of the field of diagnosis and
management of TMD. The classification system
for TMD and the diagnostic criteria make the
book especially important for researchers in the
field. The quality of the discussion and the
presentation of the broader field of orofacial
pain certainly recommends the book for
inclusion in graduate level courses on TMD.

Allen R. Firestone