CLINICAL ORAL MEDICINE AND PATHOLOGY

By Jean Bruch and Nathaniel Triester, Humana Press, New York, NY, 2009, 164 pp, $189.00

Clinical Oral Medicine and Pathology is a first-edition text written to provide its readers a comprehensive yet succinct guide to oral medicine and pathology texts. Although other similar texts are more detailed and serve as a complete reference, Clinical Oral Medicine and Pathology is aimed at providing a thorough and handy clinical guide to the diagnosis and treatment of oral conditions.

The strengths of the text include its organization and concise presentation. The first chapters review normal anatomy and common benign conditions that may be found on physical exam but that do not require treatment or follow-up. Subsequent chapters review oral cavity diseases based on findings of physical examination or underlying etiology. For example, there are chapters on white lesions, pigmented lesions, oral infections, and immune-mediated and allergic conditions. Each stomatologic condition discussed in these chapters is reviewed with an appropriate depth that gives the reader a basic review focusing on the clinical presentation and appropriate management. Another strength of the text is the high-quality color photographs that give the reader a visual reference for the majority of diseases covered. At the conclusion of each subsection, a summary box reviewing required diagnostic tests, whether a biopsy should be performed, treatment options, and need for clinical follow-up is included for each oral condition. Adding to its utility as a quick, clinical reference guide are chapters that review laboratory diagnostic tests for oral cavity diseases and prescribing guidelines for commonly used medications.

The authors have succeeded in their goal of publishing a “clinically relevant and accessible resource” and in doing so have broadened the potential market for their book outside the fields of dentistry and otolaryngology. Any healthcare provider who addresses oral pathology may find this text helpful. Primary care physicians may gain the most utility from this text because many of the conditions reviewed in the text are treated medically or aid in the diagnosis of systemic disease. The text is also ideal for an otolaryngology resident clinic where patients with oral pathology are often referred for specialty care but are evaluated and treated by resident physicians who may be unfamiliar with certain stomatologic conditions.

Although the text is intended for any healthcare provider who may need to perform an examination of the oral cavity, its utility is limited for subspecialists. Oral and head and neck surgeons will be familiar with the diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of most conditions reviewed in this text and may prefer a more detailed and rigorous reference text. Contradicting this observation, I found the chapter on oral manifestations of systemic disease helpful and have used this text in my head and neck practice to assist in patient care.

In summary, Clinical Oral Medicine and Pathology is a useful clinical practice reference guide. It would be a welcome addition to any dental or otolaryngology resident library, serving as an introductory text to oral medicine, and would certainly find use in the office of a general otolaryngologist. The text covers each topic with a basic review and does not offer any new information or advances in oral medicine, making it less appealing to oral and head and neck surgeons. Its organization and brevity are efficient and facilitate its review in a clinical setting, making it a valuable resource to any healthcare provider treating patients with oral pathology.

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