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BOOK REVIEW

Larheim TA, Westesson P-L. *Maxillofacial Imaging*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 2006. 440 pages, approximately 1,450 illustrations.

Drs. Larheim and Westesson, in the Preface to their new book, *Maxillofacial Imaging*, comment on the gap between the traditional dentoalveolar projections of dental radiography and the modalities used in medical imaging. Their book admirably bridges the gap by applying sophisticated techniques, mainly CT and MRI, to depict a wide range of abnormalities of the head and neck. Although less than 500 pages in length, the book is largely devoted to illustrations at the expense of text, in the format of an atlas. Thus, while not as lengthy as such volumes as Som and Curtin's *Head and Neck Imaging*, it serves as a great resource for examples of many common and unusual diseases.

The first chapter provides a very helpful review of normal anatomic landmarks on 2D- and 3D CT, MRI, and cone-beam CT. The radiographs are nicely supplemented with diagrams and autopsy pictures in many places. This is followed by chapters on cysts of the jaws, benign jaw tumors and tumor-like conditions, malignancies of the jaws, and jaw infections, all well illustrated with radiographs combined in some cases with clinical photographs.

The chapter on the TMJ is especially valuable for oral radiologists who see patients with disorders of the joint. The authors have again included autopsy photographs along with photomicrographs to support the radiographs of the TMJ. They also include many modalities from panoramic and transcranial up through contrast enhanced MRI to illustrate the spectrum of alterations in the TMJ.

The authors have written a chapter on dentoalveolar structures and implants that is illustrated with many cone-beam images as well as conventional CT radiographs reformatted with DentaScan. It is interesting to compare the two techniques in terms of spatial resolution and contrast. Cases are presented depicting the proximity of mandibular 3rd molars to the neurovascular bundle and the usual sampling of cross-sectional radiographs for implant site assessment.

The next chapters of the book, covering facial trauma, facial growth disturbances, paranasal sinuses, maxillofacial soft tissue diseases, and salivary glands, are of great interest to oral and maxillofacial radiologists. The illustrations are excellent and represent many of the common as well as rare but important diseases. The multitude of MR images of soft tissue and salivary abnormalities are especially notable for their high quality.

The authors have included a chapter on radiographic evaluation of structures adjacent to the maxillofacial region, including cervical spine, base of the skull, the neck, and the orbits. As they admit in the Preface, diagnosis of diseases in these structures is not the primary responsibility of oral radiologists, but familiarity with their abnormalities is certainly advisable, and their inclusion is a worthwhile addition. The book concludes with a short chapter on interventional radiology, featuring techniques that are commonly found in radiology texts (arthrography, sialography) and more unusual procedures (embolization of vascular lesions).

While this book would not serve as the primary text for a course in oral and maxillofacial radiology, it is exceptionally well illustrated, and the legends are very informative. *Maxillofacial Imaging* should be included in the library of every oral radiologist.