

Dentistry in a Nutshell Review

Any seasoned academic will be familiar with Dentistry in a Nutshell. A copy of this book resides in the bag of many a dental student and has become a staple go to textbook, in a very short timeframe since its release. Many an academic and clinical supervisor will also be cognisant with the feeling of wanting the book removed from clinics. A reaction which is likely born out of misunderstanding and misinformation from students boldly declaring it as the only textbook they will ever need to learn about dentistry. Any clinician who has had the opportunity to read this textbook would recognise it as an excellent resource for students and trainees; and if they were being honest, a good refresher for even a seasoned professional who needed a quick revision of issues they may not see in their regular practice.

It should be noted that the authors do not advertise this textbook as a replacement for further reading and they make it very clear from the beginning that, 'this book is not here to teach you dentistry.' This awareness from the outset is reassuring for teachers and trainers, setting realistic expectations to readers regarding the intentions of the text. It is intended to offer step-by-step guides to common procedures, with summaries on topics.

The book is A4 size and less than 300 pages so easy to carry around or place on your bookshelf, but not quite pocket size. It is made up into 15 chapters based on dental topic areas. There is a logical flow to the chapters too, starting with History and Examinations, Emergencies and follows the restorative cycle all the way up to Oral Surgery. The structure within the chapters is what gives this textbook its unique selling point. This is not your regular textbook written in prose and it gets straight to the heart of what it is about. Page after page is made up of flow charts and diagrams taking the reader through processes needed for clinical application of treatments. It is interspersed with informative tables, photographs, and clear illustrations making it an engaging read.

Fair to say, this book is devoid of any filler, everything contained within it has a purpose for the reader. The closest comparator in terms of books you would be familiar with is the Oxford Clinical Handbook. Irrespective of which medical or dental field you are in, you will own a copy from the series and have used it at some point. Dentistry in a Nutshell offers a succinct overview of topics, like the Oxford Clinical Handbook, but takes it that one step further with greater depth. However, it also aims to tell you the How to do something, but not the Why. For the Why, you'll still need to read further. The authors fulfil their aims to provide a concise guide on common dental topics for those who already understand the basics. Dentistry in a Nutshell will without a doubt be a welcome addition to your dental library. It is an invaluable resource and one of significant value for senior dental students, dental trainees, and general practitioners for the purposes of revision and building upon the foundations of what they have already been taught.