Antimicrobial Prescribing for General Dental Practitioners - book review

The book reviewed is Antimicrobial Prescribing for General Dental Practitioners, published by the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners United Kingdom Edition. The book is designed to provide guidance on antimicrobial prescribing for dental practitioners, with a focus on evidence-based practice and clear recommendations. The book is divided into three sections: Preparing to Prescribe, Prescribing, and Antimicrobial Prescribing in Specific Clinical Situations.

The first section, Preparing to Prescribe, provides a clear overview of the basic principles of prescribing, covering specialised subject areas concerning antimicrobials. It aims to develop a distinctive portal where they can advise dentists on the importance of antimicrobials and how they can be a valuable tool in the treatment of infections.

In the first section, Preparing to Prescribe, the authors discuss simple guidelines regarding how to fill out a prescription; from general advice on which pens to use, right through to more specific legal issues, affirming it is not appropriate antimicrobial prescribing in which any error can result in a hazy subsection. included in this edition of the book, the authors touch on the subject of dosage recommendations for children, which is a helpful addition for all paediatric practitioners. At the end of the chapter there is a straightforward summary of the information given, which is a particularly useful tool, ensuring that this vital information is not ignored.

In Chapter 2 and 5 the authors demonstrate how to identify and treat various infections. Chapter 5 includes an effective flow diagram to quickly and effectively convey the management of the viruses. The authors state the choices of antimicrobials that practitioners should be aware of, through a first, second and third choice system, thus vastly simplifying the decision-making process. The chapter explains where the use of an antimicrobial prescribing would be unwise, which is a practical addition.

The authors then follow up on this section and go on to describe the contents issues of administering antimicrobials to prevent infection. In this section Antimicrobial Prescribing for General Dental Practitioners highlights the difficult ethical and medicolegal issues, affirming it is not always easy to identify over usage. It might have been a stute to have added a specific separate text boxes to give a clear and concise picture.

Vastly simplifying the process of antimicrobial prescribing in a clear and succinct set of guidelines, Antimicrobial Prescribing for General Dental Practitioners should be prescribed (no pun intended) to anyone looking to refresh their understanding about antimicrobial prescribing.

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) launched Antimicrobial Prescribing for General Dental Practitioners, at the British Dental Conference and Exhibition in April.

Speaking at the launch, Dean of the FGDP(UK) Russ Ladwa said: “This is a very timely book. I was at a talk this morning on the non-surgical treatment of periodontal disease, where the speaker talked about the over-prescription and misuse of antimicrobials. As a profession we need to ensure that antimicrobials are only prescribed when necessary and in the right dosage.”

As well as being an essential reference tool, Mr Ladwa also said that the book provided practitioners with a useful opportunity to review how they work: “As a practitioner for over 50 years I found through reading this book at least three changes I need to make when prescribing.”

The authors have reviewed all of the available data and guidance, and consulted widely with professional bodies and specialist groups to provide a consensus on best clinical practice. The guidance gives clear, simple and practical advice on how to prescribe, what to prescribe, for how long and in what dose.

Editor Nikolaus Palmer said: “This book was produced to complement the BNF and provide general dental practitioners with an ‘in surgery’ easy to read evidence based guide on the management of dental infections. The authors hope that the advice provided in the document will promote appropriate antimicrobial prescribing in primary care and improve the standards of patient care.”

Reviewed by Georgia Posner

- Antimicrobial Prescribing for General Dental Practitioners
  - Edetal by Nikolaus o Palmer, BDS MFGDP(UK) PhD FDS RCSEng FFGDP(UK), Published by Faculty of General Dental Practice UK, ISBN:10: 0-9543451-7-7
  - The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) is based at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. We provide services to help those in general dental practice to raise standards of patient care. We do this through standards setting, providing education courses and assessments, CPD, policy development, research, and publications. Membership of the FGDP(UK) is open to dentists and other registered dental professionals.

‘Although the book is comprehensive, it manages to provide a clear overview of the basic principles of prescribing, whilst covering specialised subject areas concerning antimicrobials’

Dean of the FGDP(UK) Russ Ladwa

- The retail price of Antimicrobial Prescribing for General Dental Practitioners is £20 for FGDP(UK) members and Foundation Dentists, and £25 for non-members of the FGDP(UK). ISBN – 10: 0-9543451-7-7
  - ISBN – 13: 978-0-9543451-7-4

- The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) is based at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. We provide services to help those in general dental practice to raise standards of patient care. We do this through standards setting, providing education courses and assessments, CPD, policy development, research, and publications. Membership of the FGDP(UK) is open to dentists and other registered dental professionals.

Waterpik® clinical studies are available to view at www.waterpik.co.uk - clinically proven results!