Antimicrobial Prescribing for General Dental Practitioners - book review

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Dean of the FGDP (UK) Russ Ladwa

Antimicrobial prescribing can be a hazy subject, but a new book released by the FGDP(UK), Antimicrobial Prescribing for General Dental Practitioners, aims to help de-fog this imprecise topic.

Throughout the book, authors general dental practitioner Dr Palmer, senior clinical lecturer Dr Longman, senior medicines information pharmacist Ms Randall, and Dr Punkhurst, a specialist in oral microbiology, all aim to improve the standards of patient care by providing a clear and systematic evidence-based set of guidelines. The purpose of the book is undeniably to provide GDPs with clear advice on antimicrobials to prevent infection. In this section Antimicrobial Prescribing for General Dental Practitioners highlights the difficult ethical and medico-legal issues, affirming it is not always easy to identify over usage. It might have been a tute to have added a specific case study at this venture, concerning over prescription, to further illustrate this controversial topic. However, helpfully the book does describe in a straightforward manner where and when to prescribe. The authors have managed right through to more specific examples, such as highlighting the best ways to illustrate quantities, the information is both concise and valuable. Included in this edition of the book for the first time the authors also 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 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 issue of administrating antimicrobials to prevent infection. In this section Antimicrobial Prescribing for General Dental Practitioners highlights the difficult ethical and medico-legal issues, affirming it is not always easy to identify over usage. It might have been a tute 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 when to prescribe, what to prescribe, for how long and in what dose.

"This book was produced in an attempt to explain the 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 authors hope that the advice provided in the document will promote appropriate antimicrobial prescribing in primary care and improve the standards of patient care." Review ed by Georgia Posner

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Editor Nikolaus Palmer said: “This book was produced in an attempt to explain the antimicrobial prescribing in a clear and succinct set of guidelines, 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."

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