

Review of The Oral Systemic Connection by Peter J. De Lisi, DDS

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Drs. Brown and Egues have authored this text which is the perfect clinical companion for all Primary Care Providers, seasoned and novice, dental and non dental. Primary Care Providers are often the first clinicians who diagnose and treat tooth pain and manage oral lesions. The importance of the mouth-body connection is highlighted throughout this text. Oral pathology not properly diagnosed and treated often spread systemically, greatly impacting patients' lives. The text provides multiple clinical pictures and radiographs of the most common oral lesions and are presented at different stages of infection. This allows the reader to distinguish the difference between normal anatomy and atypical anatomy in order to help foster correct diagnosis and treatment.

The authors highlight the distinct clinical presentations of oral lesions which encourages readers to make empirical diagnoses based on these distinct presentations. When diagnosed and treated early, these lesions are more effectively treated. Evidence-based treatment recommendations for oral lesions are found throughout the text. The authors recommend that those lesions which do not respond successfully to treatment be referred for specialty care and shared with members of the multidisciplinary care team whenever possible.

Great detail to periodontal disease (gum disease) and the significance of gingival inflammation associated with gum disease is addressed. As Drs. Cohen-Brown and Egues discuss, bleeding gums spread oral bacteria systemically and significantly increases the risk of heart attack and stroke. As highlighted in this text there is also a higher prevalence of other diseases that non dental clinicians often treat such as Alzheimer's Disease, low birth rate, respiratory disease and poor control of blood glucose due to gingival inflammation associated with periodontal disease. Since periodontal disease is a preventable disease, all Primary Care Providers are encouraged to discuss the importance of good oral hygiene and regular visits to dental clinicians with all their patients and its positive impact on overall health. This is a recurring theme in the text and encouraged by the authors.

The text highlights other preventable diseases that affect teeth and the oral tissues of pediatric, adult, and geriatric populations such as dental caries and xerostomia. The text also highlights that the oral lesions that affect patients are not unique to any single population and are found across most populations and ages. The changing paradigm of dentistry evolving from restoration procedures to disease prevention is discussed. Examples are shown to occur throughout history and are discussed in the context of art history and the depictions of oral health over time.

Drs. Gwen Cohen-Brown and Aida Egues have demonstrated that a thorough understanding of oral lesions will help all Primary Care Providers, dental and non dental. This text will allow readers to successfully diagnose and treat their patients, thereby improving the quality of their lives and health.