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Orofacial Pain: problem based learning

By Dr E. Russell Vickers

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75% of the population suffer from tooth or facial pain in their lifetime. Daily stress can result in teeth clenching during sleep, causing headaches and leading to chronic pain. Pain relief is recognised as a basic human right by the World Health Organisation, and has led to the formation of pain management clinics within hospitals in Australia and overseas.

This book is a teaching manual for dental students and dentists to help them diagnose and treat patients suffering from orofacial pain. It would also be of benefit to other health professionals such as doctors, nurses and physiotherapists wanting to understand more about analysis and management of pain.

There is information on:

- Neuropathic trigeminal pain (including phantom tooth pain)
- Persistent temporomandibular disorder
- Burning mouth syndrome
- Trigeminal neuralgia
- Oral ulceration

Several patient questionnaires are used as teaching cases to deconstruct pain with reference to pathophysiology and psychological changes. There are also colour plates, figures and tables to support the research, which is approached from a biopsychosocial model of pain.

About the Author

Russell Vickers is an oral / maxillofacial surgeon and pain management specialist. He practises in Sydney and is involved in basic science and clinical research at the Pain Management Research Institute, University of Sydney. He has many years experience in analytical chemistry using liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry for investigating hormones involved in pain mechanisms. He also has a strong interest in complementary therapies and is a qualified herbalist and homeopathic practitioner.

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