
Book-Review

PATHWAYS OF THE PULP 8th EDITION

Stephen Cohen and Richard. C. Burns

Harcourt (India) Private Limited

**Vinayak V and **Shah N*

The eight edition of this most widely read text of Endodontics "Pathways of the Pulp" was brought out in 2000 and its Indian Edition was printed in 2002 by Harcourt (India) Private Limited. It is very laudable that the Indian Edition is made available which make it affordable for all the Indian professionals and students of Endodontics, who need to not only study in -dpth but also need to keep referring to it frequently for some or the other endodontic problems. It is the most current, printed textbook in a digital world, where scientific, medical, dental and technological advances occur on an almost daily basis. The book reframes that fundamental and universal shaping and a meticulous obturation - into an evidence based, will illustrated (more than 2000 illustrations) textbook that represented the highly evolved field of endodontics at the beginning of the 21 century. While the text has been kept simple, precise and easy to understand, the clear and descriptive illustrations demonstrate the day to day clinical problems and their effective troubleshooting faced by the clinicians.

The new edition has 1031 pages compared to the previous edition, which had 892 pages. Obviously the text has been expanded, giving the latest developments in the field similarly, number of contributors have also increased in this edition. The old edition had 39 contributors, of which few are replaced

and some new ones have been included in the new edition, making a total of 44 contributors.

The book has a very well written introduction by Prof. James L. Gutamann, paying tributes to pioneers in the field, who made their contributions to bring Endodontic specialty to the present day standard.

The basic format of the textbook remains the same, dividing the text under three board section-the Art of Endodontics, the Sciences of Endodontics and the Related Clinical topics, which covers all the important aspects of Endodontics beginning with diagnosis, root canal morphology, access opening. cleaning and shaping, obturation and surgical endodontics, incorporating the latest information in each.

An interesting addition in this edition in the Chapter Outline given at the beginning of each chapter, which provide the reader and quick reference to the total content of the chapter.

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To reflect the ongoing and continuous changes in the endodontic field, as compared to the previous editions, this eighth has many substantial revisions in every chapter and some aspects have been completely rewritten, such as Chapter 12 entitled "Pathobiology of Periapex" replaces the chapter on "Periapical Pathology" . Its treatment of endodontics microflora and human defense mechanism is very exhaustive with 336 references and very

* Sr. Resident
* Professor
Deptt. of Dental Surgery
All India Institute of Medical Sciences.
New Delhi - 110029

clear, coloured photomicrographs of periapex during acute and chronic inflammation, showing bacterial plaque and foreign body reaction.

Chapter 13 on "Endodontic Micro-biology and Treatment of infections" in the new edition replaces the chapter "Microbiology and Immunology". It details the spread on endodontic infections into various facial spaces and antibiotic treatment, as well as prophylaxis for medically compromised patients. In addition, it addresses the controversial issue of "Focal infection" and association of "Oral and Systemic diseases" which is thought provoking and a must-read for everyone interested in resolving these issues.

Chapter on "Surgical Endodontics" in the 7 the edition been replaced by "Endodontic Microsurgery". The need for microsurgery has been emphasized and treatment of isthamus, hemostasis and retropreparation with ultrasonics has been details.

Chapter 21 on "Tooth whitening modalities for pulpless and discoloured teeth" replaces the chapter on "Bleaching non-vital and vital discoloured teeth" in the older edition. The chapter discusses the chemistry of bleaching and various causes of discolourations of vital and non-vital teeth. The newer light sources for "power bleaching" such as Tungstenhalogen

curing light, argon laser, xenon plasma are light and diode laser with their advantages and drawbacks gives latest information in technological advances in the field of bleaching.

The chapter of "Re-treatment" in the old edition has been replaced with "Non surgical endodontic re-treatment" emphasizing the fact the non-surgical treatment is possible for most of the failed endodontic cases and should be the first line of treatment. Newer methods and devices for posts and broken instruments and different aspects of perforation defects has been dealt with in great details in this chapter.

Lastly, a new chapter on "Digital Technologies in Endodontic Practice" has been added keeping in view the need for keeping abreast with emerging technologies and their application in Endodontic practice. It details office automation and technologies in clinical use of LAN and WAN. New Fields such as digital, microscopic, fiber-optic, and radiographic imaging scanning and storage of dental radiographs and security, as well as use of software of patients' education, referral and recall etc are very useful information for modernizing clinical practice of Endodontics.

In conclusion, in can safely be said that the Art and Science of Endodontics cannot be mastered without going through "Pathways of the Pulp".