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Management
PAIN & ANXIETY
by David C. Clark
CLARK & CLARK PUBLISHERS



Synopsis

Treating acute pain requires a foundation of basic and clinical sciences, and *Management of Pain and Anxiety in the Dental Office* presents all the scientific and technical aspects of pain and anxiety control that are useful in dentistry. In this practical resource, leading authorities explain the principles of pharmacology and physiology required to properly assess the patient's medical status and monitor vital physiologic functions during sedation and anesthesia. It identifies the principles of pain and anxiety, examines the pharmacologic considerations of working with patients who are anxious or in acute pain, and discusses the intraoperative management of pain and anxiety, as well as addressing the diagnosis and management of chronic orofacial pain. Separate chapters are devoted to pediatric patients, the developmentally disabled, TMD, and many other timely topics.

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Excellent reference with each chapter written by well known experts. Most likely failed to be

accepted by any dental schools as a text because it stresses the physiological basis of sedation and pharmacology beyond what the typical dental school instructor can comprehend let alone competently lecture on. What makes this text valuable and unique is what likely doomed it. In my opinion this text gives the how and why basis of understanding rather than simply spitting out a cookie cutter method of sedation. Instead, Malamed's sedation text is the most widely used and available text on the subject. It's too bad this is no longer in print. I am lucky to have this as a reference. A big thanks to all of the authors for their efforts.

Anxiety and pain control is a hot topic in dental circles these days. Many dentists have started sedating anxious patients in their practice with oral benzodiazepines. According to the ADA, as many as one out of 4 patients avoid the dentist out of fear, so the needs for sedation dentistry are considerable. I took one of the oral sedation programs and implemented it into my practice with mixed success. I knew some patients needed more sedation. At other times, I wanted more control over the sedation situation. I enrolled in the program in Dayton, and this was the textbook for the program. The program was intense, and we covered most of the book. It has excellent chapters on local anesthesia and pharmacology that are must reads for every practicing dentist. The patient monitoring and medical emergency procedure sections are very good. The authors cover the advantages and disadvantages of sedation options very well, and the reader will have a thorough understanding. Would I recommend implementing oral sedation into your practice after studying this text? No. I would urge you to take a class or two in order to provide it in a SAFE manner. This is an excellent work by the leaders in the field and I consider it an important part of my professional library.

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