

A

Practical Guide to the Management of Impacted Teeth

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*This book is dedicated to
the loving memory my parents
and my esteemed teachers
who have made me what I am today,
to my students who gave me the impetus for learning
and to my colleagues who provided me with support
with
Love and Respect*

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Foreword

I am delighted to write the foreword for this wonderful book written by Dr George Varghese. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery has progressed to a multi-faceted specialty with scope of work ranging from minor oral surgery to major facial ablative and reconstructive procedures. What is frequently overlooked is the fact that dento-alveolar surgery constitutes the bulk of the work for practitioners the world over. In the light of this fact, this book certainly fills a void that many recent publications have failed to do and provides marvelous attention to detail to an area of our profession that many of us take for granted.

The first five chapters of the book devote attention to not just the etiology and indications but provide a wonderful description of the development and applied anatomy of the third molar in truly descriptive yet delightful way! The routine and sometimes seemingly mundane details of instrumentation and surgical procedures have been dealt with "clinical" precision with the added sections on drug therapy and complications make it extremely comprehensive. The concluding chapter in Section 1 on recent advances provides a thought provoking conclusion to the saga of the impacted tooth which will certainly prove stimulating to the reader who will then certainly want to think beyond the book.

The second section of the book delves into the intricacies of the impacted canine in every way possible. It makes a wonderful case and distinction between the modalities of management rather than focus of just description of surgical removals. That is what makes a refreshing change in approach in this textbook. The concluding chapters on autotransplantation, surgical repositioning and supernumerary teeth make the textbook an absolutely all-inclusive one.

Who should be reading this book? Almost certainly all students of dentistry both post and undergraduate, will benefit immensely from the text. It will also serve as a great refresher to all practitioners in the field of dentistry and oral surgery who will want to read this in order to provide a broad update to this important part of their practices.

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Preface

The steady growth of various dental specialties witnessed in the last century is continuing unabated in this century also. This is evidenced by the development of newer subspecialties in dentistry like cosmetic dentistry and implantology. However, oral surgery and dentoalveolar surgery that is considered as one of the oldest branches of dentistry has not lost its relevance today. Rather it still remains the core of general dental practice.

Impacted teeth and their management is one of the difficulties that general dental practitioners face in the practice of oral surgery. Though one covers the theoretical aspects on the management of impacted teeth during the undergraduate studies, the applied part very often comes only in the actual clinical practice. Naturally doubts may arise regarding the management of different problems. This book is intended as the name suggests to be a practical guide on the management of different problems related to impacted tooth that the practitioner faces in the day today practice.

Our first book titled *A Handbook on the Management of Impacted Teeth* published in 2002 was well received by the dental fraternity so much so that now the book is out of print. Since then there has been numerous requests from our colleagues, students and general dental practitioners for a more detailed one highlighting the practical aspects of the topic. Hope this book will reach up to your expectations.

This book has been divided into two sections. The first section illustrates the management of impacted third molar and the second section deals with the management of impacted canine. In addition section two has chapters on the management of impacted premolars and supernumerary teeth. Special emphasis has been given for the localization of impacted teeth and its relationship to adjoining structures using modern imaging modalities. Similarly instruments required for the surgical removal is also included as a separate chapter.

Though this book is intended for the general dental practitioners and the undergraduate students this will be a handy guide for the postgraduates too.

There may be errors of omission and commission. Any comments and suggestions for improvement are welcome.
Praying for your blessings, wholehearted support and cooperation.

K George Varghese

Acknowledgments

At the outset we thank the God Almighty, Who has made our dream of writing this book a reality. Nothing is possible without His blessings.

I acknowledge with great respect my postgraduate teacher Dr PI John, former Professor and Head of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Government Dental College, Thiruvananthapuram for teaching the basics of maxillofacial surgery and who inducted me into the specialty.

I am indebted to Dr VK Kuriakose (late) whom I consider as my mentor. Under his guidance I started my career as a maxillofacial surgeon.

My deep appreciation to the contributors viz. Dr LS Sreela, Dr George Philip and Dr Elbe Peter whose untiring efforts have made this possible.

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My special thanks to my wife Alice, my daughter Rose and my son Mathew for their constant support and encouragement to accomplish this endeavor.

I am also grateful to M/s Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd, New Delhi, who encouraged me to write this book and for publishing it. I am extremely thankful to Shri Jitendar P Vij (CMD), Mr Tarun Duneja (Director-Publishing) for taking the initiative to publish the book well in time. I owe a great deal to Shri Jose Sebastian, Branch Manager and Shri Jagadeesh S, Marketing Manager, Kochi for the excellent liaison between the publisher and myself as well as for their help and friendship.

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