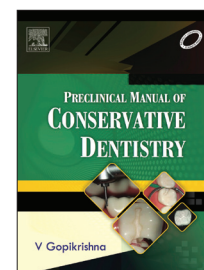


Book Review

Preclinical Manual of Conservative Dentistry

Editor: Dr. V. Gopikrishna
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The first edition of this Preclinical Manual of Conservative Dentistry incorporates almost everything that a student taking up his preclinical conservative dentistry requires to know. Going back a few decades, there were no standard books or manuals available for a second year Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) student to master this subject. However, today this manual brings to the student a systematic, pictorial approach to prepare, practice, and master preclinical conservative dentistry.

The editor has divided the subject into nine different chapters. At present, the second year BDS student studies dental anatomy in the first year; however, the author has included the basics in the first chapter, which includes structure of the teeth and information on the nomenclature and tooth numbering systems. It also provides apt information on dental caries and non-carious lesions of teeth.

The second chapter includes instruments and equipment, where the author's explanation and illustration of every instrument is very descriptive, so that the student can identify every instrument and equipment before he starts using it at the preclinical level and later on at the clinical level.

Most tutors in clinical conservative dentistry, including me, believe that once a student gets trained for all the cavity preparations on plaster models, Typhodonts, and extracted teeth; then the student will have the cognitive knowledge, motor skill, and self-confidence to take up clinical patients. *The highlight of this manual is that all the preclinical exercises have been explained with the aid of photographs in a step-by-step approach.* The student can use this manual as a chairside guide, while performing the preclinical exercises in a laboratory. The author has also covered the basics in the manipulation of restorative materials and bases used routinely in preclinical conservative dentistry.

An important aspect of preclinical conservative dentistry relates to the student getting into the correct position, while working on a phantom head. This can definitely make the student more comfortable when he tries working on his patients, on the clinical side. This has been well-described in the subsequent chapter.

Some of the important attributes of this manual include:

- A step-by-step pictorial representation of all preclinical exercises (plaster and Typhodont). The pictorial

illustrations are quite impressive in every chapter.

- Common viva questions usually asked during the university examination. Spotters are again part of the university examinations, and are included for the benefit of the students.
- Description given on how to go ahead with placing the jaws into the Typhodont and even stepwise pictorial instruction of how to position the bur into the respective handpieces.
- There is a glossary of terms commonly used in conservative dentistry and endodontics.

In my opinion this manual can bring in a sea of change in the way preclinical conservative dentistry is taught to undergraduate students in the country. I would recommend this book to both preclinical and clinical students. This is also a very good manual for reference by postgraduate students in conservative dentistry and endodontics.

The editor of this comprehensive manual is Dr. V. Gopikrishna, who is serving as a Professor, Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, Thai Moogambigai Dental College and Hospital, Chennai, India. He is the Co-Editor of Grossmans Endodontic Practice, Twelfth edition. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Conservative Dentistry. He did his graduation from Annamalai University, postgraduation from Meenakshi Ammal Dental College, and has also been conferred with the Fellowship award of the Indian Society of Dental Research.

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