# ORAL PATHOLOGY

THIRDEDITION

DONALD A. KERR/MAJOR M. ASH. JR.

## ORAL PATHOLOGY

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#### Preface

As in prior editions this book is intended as an introduction to general and oral pathology for the dental hygienist. The material covered is based on the recognized special needs of the hygienist in relation to her part in total patient care. The title and nature of the contents of the book indicate the significant body of information required for the scope of responsibility enjoyed by the dental hygienist. With the ever-increasing demands for dental care it is obvious that this responsibility is becoming increasingly important and that the science of pathology is becoming one of the most essential prerequisites to clinical practice.

Although the general format of this book remains the same, new and pertinent material has been added to keep abreast of changes in the concepts of disease. In light of an almost explosive increase in knowledge in that part of biology called cell theory, owing to the use of the electron microscope and the work of biochemists, the cellular basis for disease has been expanded. Also, because of recent contributions to genetic theory and disease, a more detailed account of hereditary disease will be found in this edition than in the former editions.

In keeping with the principle that a good illustration can always be improved, many illustrations have been replaced and many new ones added. All references have been reviewed in the light of their contribution to present-day concepts; none have been deleted or added for the sake of having the latest copyright date. Considerable emphasis has been placed on providing at least one or two references in each chapter for the reader who has had little or no training in the basic sciences.

We are greatly indebted to many individuals for assistance in preparation of the third edition. We wish to thank Miss Betty Sundbeck, our secretary, for her assistance; Miss Sally Holden for her suggestions and planning of the revision; Dr. J. Philip Sapp for his suggestions and provision of the ultrastructure photographs; and Mr. Edward Crandell, senior photographer at the School of Dentistry, for preparation of photographs.

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### Preface to the Second Edition

THE guiding principles for writing the first edition of this book have also served in the preparation of the second edition. These principles include providing an account of the processes of disease, and the essential background for the recognition and prevention of disease within the scope of responsibility and practice of the dental

hygienist.

To facilitate the use of this book in the classroom, some revision of the sequence of the material presented has been undertaken. Although the coverage in the first edition proved to be adequate in most respects, it has become apparent that additional topics should be included for those hygienists and students and teachers of dental hygiene who desired more information on specific disease states than was present in the first edition. For these reasons additional chapters on endocrine diseases and blood dyscrasias have been included in the present edition. These chapters have been placed at the end of the text so that they need not be read for a basic concept of disease. This arrangement does not detract from the orderly arrangement of the subject matter since there are references to these chapters in the course of the book and the material may be smoothly incorporated into the basic approach to disease found earlier in the book if desired. The objectives of the second edition have also been emphasized in the additional chapters in that the significance of endocrine and blood diseases has been related to oral disease, especially periodontal disease.

Many areas of the first edition have been revised and expanded to account for recent research and interest. However, the reader and teacher of the first edition will be on familiar ground since the new inclusions have been incorporated largely within the organization of each chapter of the first edition. Because of the importance and emphasis placed on nutrition, the section on malnutrition has been expanded and established as a chapter on Nutritional Disturbances. Although the general manifestations of nutritional deficiencies have been included, the emphasis on oral manifestations has been maintained in light of presently acceptable evidence.

We are greatly indebted to many individuals for assistance in the preparation of the second edition. We wish to thank Miss Betty Sundbeck, our secretary, for secretarial assistance; Mrs. Ellen Hall, librarian of the School of Dentistry, for library services; and Edward Crandell, senior photographer at the School of Dentistry, for the preparation of the photographs.

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#### Preface to the First Edition

To most hygienists and students and teachers of dental hygiene previously published textbooks of oral and general pathology have represented a formidable coverage of disease unlikely to be encountered as a responsibility of the hygienist in clinical practice. This book has been written especially for the practicing hygienist and the student of dental hygiene to provide a simple and understandable account of the processes of disease and to provide the essential background for the recognition and prevention of diseases within the scope of responsibility and practice of the dental hygienist. An attempt has been made to establish a proper balance between the principles of pathology and the coverage of specific diseases in order to bridge the gap between general pathology and applied oral pathology. Such a balance is possible because the hygienist does not have the responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of oral disease, and therefore much of the details of diagnosis and treatment of specific diseases found in standard texts of general and oral pathology can be omitted. The omission of such details should not minimize the role of the hygienist in the prevention of disease. The hygienist performs various services in the presence of systemic and oral diseases. These services will be of greater value and more ably carried out if the hygienist understands the principles of pathology. Furthermore the responsibility of the hygienist in the prevention of periodontal disease will be more adequately appreciated, if the hygienist has an understanding of the disease which she is trying to prevent. For example, the hygienist is responsible for the removal of stains, plaque, and calculus from the teeth and as such is as important as any other part of dental practice, since accretions on the teeth are the most important etiologic factors in periodontal disease. In this respect the hygienist is practicing preventive periodontics. Thus a basic understanding of the pathogenesis of accretions is essential for their prevention and removal as well as an understanding of the pathogenesis of periodontal disease.

It is important that the hygienist understand some of the aspects of general pathology; not only as the foundation for its application to the mouth, but as a basis for recognizing those departures of the patient from good health which may have an important bearing on what is done for the patient. For example, scaling procedures may result in a transient bacteremia leading to subacute bacterial endocarditis. An understanding of the relationship between scaling procedures and endocarditis provides the hygienist with an interesting lesson and an enlightened interest in the cause and prevention of disease.

It is hoped that this book will stimulate an interest in pathology and provide an adequate foundation for its appreciation in clinical practice. An appreciation for the processes and prevention of disease by the hygienist is becoming an increasingly important consideration with our rapidly expanding population and failure to keep abreast of the expanding needs of detecting disease. Thus one of the objectives of this book is to provide the foundation for the expanding role of the hygienist in assisting the dentist in the detection and prevention of disease.

We wish to thank those who contributed greatly to the preparation of this text: Mr. Edward Crandell, photographer at the School of Dentistry, for the preparation of the photographs; Miss Rose Grace Faucher, librarian at the School of Dentistry for library services; and Miss Betty Sundbeck, secretary, who contributed

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## Contents

Chapter 1											
INTRODUCTION		ē									1
Definition of Pathology . Cellular Basis of Life and											1
Cellular Basis of Life and	Dise	ease					·				2
Summary											10
,											
Chapter 2											
CAUSES AND MECHANIS	MS	OF	DI	SE	ASE	Z .		•			13
Intrinsic Factors Genetic Principles . Inborn Errors of Metab Chromosomes and Abn Inheritance of Traits . Radiation and Heredity Extrinsic Factors											13
Genetic Principles	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	15
Inhorn Errors of Metab	Misn	n.	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	16
Chromosomes and Ahn	orma	aliti	es es	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	16
Inheritance of Traits				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	17
Radiation and Heredity	, ,					·	·	Ċ	•	•	19
Extrinsic Factors											20
Oxygen											20
Heat											22
Water											23
Food Mechanical Injury Chemical Injury Irradiation Microorganisms											23
Mechanical Injury .											24
Chemical Injury											24
Irradiation											25
Microorganisms											28
Psychologic Causes .											29
Developmental Factors .											29
Summary	٠	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	31
Chapter 3											
DEVELOPMENTAL DIST	URB.	AN	CE	S			•				33
Embryology of the Face											33
Disturbances of the Uppe	er Fa	ace				•	•	•	•	•	35
Clefts	`							•			35
Fissural Defects											37

xii	C	DRAL	PAT	HOL	OGY							
Disturbances of	the Te	ongu	ie .									41
Disturbances of												45
Embryology of	the Tee	eth										46
Disturbances of	the Te	eth					•					51
Chapter 4												
REACTION TO IN	NJURY											67
Inflammation .												67
Healing: Repair	and Re	egen	erati	ion								76
Repair												77
Regeneration												79
Infection												80
Viruses												82
Cocci												83
Bacilli												84
Spirochetes . Fungi		•										85
Fungi												86
Progressive Tissu	ıe Char	nges				•						87
Progressive Tissu Hyperplasia												87
пуренторну												90
Hyperkeratosis												90
Metaplasia .												93
Blastomatoid Pro	ocesses					•						94
Chapter 5												
NEOPLASIA .												111
Definition												111
Epidemiology								•	Ċ	•	•	111
								Ċ		·	Ċ	112
Hereditary Fa	ctors					i.					Ċ	113
Extrinsic Fact												113
Developmental	Facto	rs										116
General Characte												116
Benign Neopla	ısms											116
Malignant Neo												117
~* . ~	-											119
Classification . Neoplasms of 1	Epithel	ial (	)rigi	in .								120
Neoplasms of 1	Mesenc	hym	al C	)rigi	n.	•						125

		COI	NTEN	ITS								xiii
Chapter 6												
RETROGRESSIVE CHA METABOLIC DISTURE				D								133
Types of Retrogressive	, C	han	<b>d</b> oc									
Types of Retrogressive Atrophy					•	•	٠	٠	٠	•	٠	133
Atrophy Degenerations	•	•	•	•	•		•	٠	٠	•	٠	136 138
Infiltrations										•	•	141
Necrosis						•				•	•	141
Metabolic Disturbances				٠			٠			•	•	142
Mineral Metabolism											•	144
Pigment Metabolism										•	•	$144 \\ 148$
riginent Metaponsin		•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	148
Chapter 7						•						
NUTRITIONAL DISTU	RBA	NC	CES									153
Deficiencies of Basic Fo	oods	:										153
Carbohydrates										٠	•	153
Fats									٠	•	•	154 $154$
Proteins								•	•	•	٠	154 $155$
Deficiencies of Vitamin							•	•	•	•	•	156
Vitamin A							•	•	•	•	•	150
Vitamin B Complex	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	157
Vitamin C	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	161
Vitamin D						•	•	•	•	•	•	162
Vitamin K	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	163
Nutrition and Periodo	otal	Di	seas	ec	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	163
radition and remodol	itai	101.	scas	C3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	103
Chapter 8												
DENTAL CARIES												167
Epidemiology												167
Etiology												168
Acids and Plaque .												169
Microorganisms . Carbohydrates												170
Carbohydrates												170
Modifying Factors												170
Clinical Aspect												172
Pathology												175
Treatment												178
Sequelae												179
Prevention												179

Chapter 9											
DENTAL PULP DISEASE		•		٠					•		183
Etiology											183
Pulpitis											184
Sequelae											188
Chapter 10											
STAINS AND ACCRETIC	NS										193
	_	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Physiology of Oral Hygie	ne	•	٠	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	194
Stains	٠	•	•	•	•	٠	٠	٠		٠	196
Exogenous Stains	•	٠	٠	٠	٠	٠	•	٠	•	٠	196
Endogenous Stains .	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		199
Soft Accretions	•	•		•	•	•	•			•	200
Calculus		•	•			•	•			•	202
Formation of Calculus		٠	٠	•	•			٠		•	205
Chapter 11  PERIODONTAL DISEASE											209
Periodontium											209
Epidemiology											217
Etiology			·		·			•			218
Initiating Factors			·			·		•	·	•	219
Modifying (Contributor	v)	Fac	tors	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	222
Classification	) /		-015	·	•	•	•	•		•	226
Gingivitis	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	227
Simple Cingivitis	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	227
Classification	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	231
Hyperplastic Gingivitis	3271†	h. N	Indi	fwir	nor	Fac	tore	•	•	•	233
Hormonal Gingivitis .	** 10	11 17	ıou.	1,11	"5	1 40	1013	•	•	•	235
Atrophic Cingivitis	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	236
Atrophic Gingivitis . Periodontitis	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	007
Teriodolitius	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	201
Chapter 12											
STOMATITIS											245
Traumatic Stomatitis .				•			٠		٠	٠	245 245

CONTENT	S
---------	---

χV

Thermal Injury	rga Di De	inis sea: rma	ms se atol	ogi	c D	isea	ases		•			248 249 254 258 259 261
Chapter 13												
ENDOCRINE DISEASES											•	263
Pituitary Dysfunction												264
Hypopituitarism .	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	265
Hyperpituitarism .	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	266
Adrenal Dysfunction												267
Hypoadrenalism (Hyp	•	ortí	ഹൂി	· icm	).	•	•	•	•	•	•	268
Hyperadrenalism (Hy)	ner	odr odr	ena	Jeo.	/ rtic	icm	١.	•	•	•	•	269
Stress and Disease	per	aui	CHa	100.	LIC.	19111	/	•	•	•	•	269
Three J. Dusfunction	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	270
Thyroid Dysfunction Hypothyroidism Hyperthyroidism Parathyroidism Dysfunct	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	270
Ti-mouth moidism	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	271
Providence State Description of	.:	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	272
Paratnyroidism Dysiunci	1011	!	•	٠	٠	٠	•	•	•	•	٠	272
Hypoparatnyroidisin		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	273
Hyperparathyroidism	٠,	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	
Pancreatic Hormone Dy												274
Gonadal Dysfunction	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	275
Hypogonadism .	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	276
Hypergonadism .	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	٠	•	•	277
Chapter 14												
BLOOD DYSCRASIAS	•			•								279
Components of Blood												279
Plasma Alterations .	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	281
Blood Cell Alterations	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	282
	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	٠	•	•	•	282
Red Blood Cells . White Blood Cells	•	•	•	٠	•	٠	٠	٠	•	٠	•	286
	•				•		٠			٠	•	289
Platelets	•	•	•				٠	•	•	•	•	
Blood Coagulation Factor	ors	•	•	•	•	•	٠	٠	•	•	٠	291
INDEV												205

# Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

#### DEFINITION OF PATHOLOGY

Pathology is the phase of biology dealing with the causes and mechanisms of disease of all living things. Living things are composed of units called cells that are united in various arrangements to carry out the functions of harmonious and coordinated activity which allow the organism to adapt to its environment and to react to it in a manner suitable for the survival of the species. Cellular activity and reaction to environment are the essence of life. When changes in environment alter the normal response or function of the cells or the organism as a whole the alteration is termed disease. Thus, any change in form or function of the living organism or of its unit parts, so that life exists outside the range of normal, is considered disease. Pathology, then, should be considered the study of life and the attempt to understand life as it exists under abnormal conditions. The aim of pathology is an integrated knowledge of altered form and function. Understanding the interrelationship between altered form and function provides the cornerstone for the study of all the health sciences.

An alteration in form or function of one part of the body may affect the existence of the entire organism or only the part that is altered. This broad scope of pathology requires the investigation and understanding of the interrelationship between the types of alterations in all body areas. On this basis there are many approaches to the study of pathology: it may be *morphologic*, in which alterations in form are emphasized (gross and microscopic pathology); it may be *physiologic*, in which the alterations of function are considered (physiologic pathology); it may be *experimental*, in which attempts are made to investigate the cause of specific alterations, to produce changes previously observed or to find means to prevent or correct tissue alterations (experimental pathology).

Pathology is the study of life outside the range of normal—from death of a few cells to death of the whole body. Disease is always antagonistic to the survival of the organism, and the complete in-

ability of the organism to adapt to an unfavorable environment results in its death. A study of pathology is necessary in order to understand the significant alterations in form and function which are considered to be disease and to learn how such alterations may be changed to establish health.

#### CELLULAR BASIS OF LIFE AND DISEASE

The body is composed of small units called cells. Each cell has a boundary (cell membrane) enclosing a semisolid-like material called the cytoplasm, which contains various organelles, and a more solid body called the nucleus. Although all cells are basically alike, they vary in shape, size, and consistency in various parts of the body, de-

pending on the function they are to perform.

The *cytoplasm* is important in the multiplication of cells, the elimination of waste products, the assimilation and storage of food, and the secretion of enzymes. Within the cytoplasm of most cells is a complicated system of structures called *organelles* (Fig. 1). These internal components of the cell are the plasma membrane, endoplasmic reticulum, ribosomes, mitochondria, Golgi apparatus, lysosomes, centrosome, and centrioles. In addition, inclusions, such as fat, glycogen, proteins, starches, and secretory products, are found in the cytoplasm. The *nucleus* of the cell is concerned primarily with the growth and development of the cell, the metabolic processes inside the cell, the control of reproduction, and the transfer of hereditary

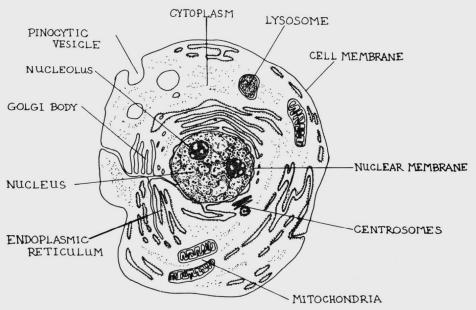


Figure 1. Schematic representation of a cell showing organelles.

characteristics. The plasma membrane defines the boundary of the cell and is a dynamic structure of lipoprotein having a highly selective permeability. It is functionally sensitive to the molecular size and biochemical nature of substances as well as to electrical charges. The functional activity of the plasma membrane is important in maintaining the cell as a functional unit and is an essential part of the internal structure of the cell. It is not difficult to appreciate the complexity of the functions of the components of the cell or that disease may be the result of dysfunction of any of the components even at the molecular level. Although Rudolf Virchow, in 1858, changed the concepts of disease by proposing that the cell was not only the unit of life but was also the indivisible unit of disease, it would have been impossible for him to have foreseen the current extension of his concept to cellular subunits.

Of particular interest in periodontal pathology is the nature of the attachment mechanisms among gingival epithelial cells and between the gingival epithelium and the tooth surfaces. Although it is apparent that the attachment apparatus among epithelial cells is in part the desmisome (Fig. 2) and that there is a hemidesmisome-basement lamina complex between the epithelium and the subadjacent connective tissues, the role of the hemidesmisome in the attachment of the gingiva to the tooth is still obscure. The mode of attachment is important in relation to disturbances in the attachment associated with injury to the gingiva (gingivitis) owing to the presence of bacteria, plaque, and calculus on the teeth.

Disturbances in the formation and maintenance of the connective tissue of the periodontal membrane are also of interest in periodontal pathology. The cells that produce the fibers and ground substance of the periodontal membrane are the fibroblasts, which are descended from primitive mesenchymal cells (Fig. 3). The connective tissue, the primary constituent of the periodontal membrane, chiefly is composed of a protein called collagen. The formation of collagen involves the nucleus and ribosomes, which are in contact with and adjacent to the endoplasmic reticulum of the fibroblast. The nucleus initiates the process of collagen formation, but the process is transferred to the ribosomes in the cytoplasm of the cell for continuation. DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), localized in the nucleus, presides over the synthesis of RNA (ribonucleic acid), which is responsible for the transfer of processing information to the ribosomes. The messenger RNA acts as a template and arranges the proper amino acids into chains, an intermediate process in the formation of collagen. The completion of mature collagen and its formation into functional fibers in the periodontal membrane are completed outside of the cell. A disturbance in the process can result in disease; for example,

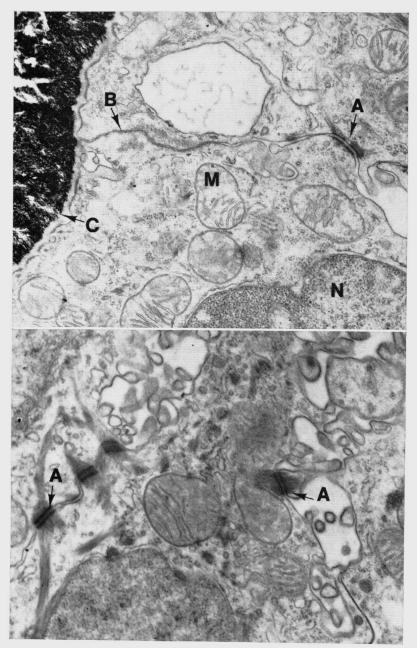


Figure 2. Upper, Ultrastructure of an odontogenic cell. Desmisome (A), cell membranes of adjacent cells (B), outer surface of tooth (C), mitochondria (M), nucleus of cell (N). Lower, There are four desmisomes (A) present in the part of the cell represented. Two of the four desmisomes are indicated.