
BDJ Clinician's Guides

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Oral Medicine in Primary Dental Care

Fourth Edition

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British Dental Association

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Preface

It is now almost 30 years since we were first asked to write a book on aspects of oral medicine in dental primary care. When preparing the text from this fourth edition, we decided to completely restructure the material to provide the clinician with a guide to oral medicine conditions that was based on presenting clinical signs and symptoms rather than aetiology. We believe that such an approach would help clinicians to achieve a diagnosis more easily and therefore be able to initiate appropriate treatment in primary care. As such, all the chapters from the third edition of *A Clinical Guide to Oral Medicine* have been reformatted, rewritten and updated. Many of the original illustrations have been replaced, where possible, with ones that show the clinical conditions even more clearly than before. In addition, a much wider range of orofacial conditions has been included. Hopefully, the readers will find the information presented in this book helpful in the day-to-day clinical work. One use of the previous book that we have had feedback on is the ability to show patients examples of orofacial conditions, such as geographic tongue or aphthous stomatitis, that may not actually be present when the patient attends the clinic but they can recognise as the abnormality that they have occasionally. Finally, we cannot overemphasise the importance of dental and medical healthcare workers working together to ensure that patients receive optimal care.

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