
Clinical Oral Medicine and Pathology

Jean M. Bruch • Nathaniel S. Treister

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Jean M. Bruch
Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary
Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA, USA

Nathaniel S. Treister
Brigham & Women's Hospital
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Boston, MA, USA

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Preface to the Second Edition

What is *oral medicine*? Broadly speaking, it is the field of medicine that encompasses the diagnosis and management of diseases affecting the oral cavity. Many conditions produce oral signs and symptoms, and yet the oral cavity is an unfamiliar zone for many clinicians. Physicians generally receive little formal training in dental and oral medicine and tend to view the oral cavity as a place reserved for their “dental” colleagues. Likewise, dentists are experts in the diagnosis and management of diseases related to the teeth and periodontium; however, the proportion of dental education dedicated to the “non-dental” part of the oral cavity often falls short. For these reasons, it is not at all uncommon for a patient to visit 5–10 doctors before receiving a correct diagnosis and appropriate treatment plan, often months to years following the onset of symptoms. It was from this landscape that this book was designed and written.

Given the wide range of clinical presentations, patients with oral complaints may seek out or be referred to a variety of health-care providers, including primary care physicians, dentists, otolaryngologists, oral surgeons, dermatologists, neurologists, psychiatrists, and rheumatologists. Many of these oral conditions can be recognized and managed without the need for additional specialty referral. In this thoroughly revised and updated second edition, we have attempted to provide a rational, concise, and yet comprehensive approach to the practice of oral medicine for all clinicians who are likely to encounter diseases of the oral cavity in their daily practice. In addition to including a new chapter entitled “Oral Sequelae of Cancer and Cancer Therapy,” the summary boxes throughout the book have been updated and improved for fast and effective clinical reference. We have included specific guidelines on diagnosis, management, and follow-up for all included oral medicine conditions. Our intent was to create a clinically relevant and accessible resource for health-care professionals, truly bridging the worlds of dentistry and medicine.

Jean M. Bruch
Nathaniel S. Treister

Boston, MA, USA

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Jean M. Bruch
Nathaniel S. Treister

Boston, MA, USA

About the Authors

Jean M. Bruch, D.M.D., M.D. Dr. Bruch earned her D.M.D. from Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 1989 and M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1991. She subsequently completed surgical residency training programs in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital and otolaryngology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary as well as a fellowship in laryngology. She currently practices otolaryngology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary with special interest in laryngology, salivary gland disorders, and oral diseases. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology at Harvard Medical School and spends time teaching medical students and otolaryngology residents.

Nathaniel S. Treister, D.M.D., D.M.Sc. Dr. Treister earned his D.M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in 2000. He subsequently completed his oral medicine residency and oral biology training at Harvard School of Dental Medicine. He is board certified in oral medicine and practices at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute with special interest in oral mucosal diseases, salivary gland diseases, and oral complications in cancer patients. He is the Chief of the Division of Oral Medicine and Dentistry at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and an Associate Professor of Oral Medicine in the Department of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity at Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

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