

Commentary

A review of: Fundamentals of Orofacial Myology, by Hanson & Barrett, 3rd ed. (1988)

Randi J. Miller

Suggested Citation

Miller, R. J. (1989). A review of: Fundamentals of Orofacial Myology, by Hanson & Barrett, 3rd ed. (1988). *International Journal of Orofacial Myology*, 15(2), 18-19.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.52010/ijom.1989.15.2.7>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

The views expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the International Association of Orofacial Myology (IAOM). Identification of specific products, programs, or equipment does not constitute or imply endorsement by the authors or the IAOM. The journal in which this article appears is hosted on [Digital Commons](https://digitalcommons.com), an Elsevier platform.

FUNDAMENTALS OF OROFACIAL MYOLOGY

by Marvin L. Hanson, Ph.D. and Richard H. Barrett, M.Ed.

Reviewed by Randi Miller, M.A.

FUNDAMENTALS OF OROFACIAL MYOLOGY is the third edition of a text coauthored by Hanson and Barrett addressing the broad spectrum of this growing profession. Since the publication of the second edition of ORAL MYOFUNCTIONAL DISORDERS ten years ago, there has been no comparable contribution to the literature by other authors. This volume updates previous editions by providing current research and clinical information for dental hygienists, speech-language pathologists, orofacial myologists, dentists and orthodontists.

The text successfully achieves the authors' goals: To present theoretical and practical information from related specialties; to give comprehensive information to those in training; and to provide a compendium of research lending credence and validity to the profession of orofacial myology. As noted in the preface, it is a specialty in which dentistry and speech pathology overlap. This work offers fundamental principles from each discipline which are critical to the successful treatment of orofacial myofunctional disorders.

The book's content is well organized. Information can be quickly located; chapters can be read independently. After a detailed analysis of the oral phase of normal and abnormal swallowing and an important historic perspective of pertinent treatment and research, the authors present concepts from the fields of dentistry, speech-language pathology, orthodontics and medicine (anatomy and physiology). Speech development and the relationship between speech and dental anomalies are discussed for those who have trained in dentistry. Conversely, speech-language pathologists are presented with basic dental anatomy, dental development, concepts of normal occlusion, malocclusion and dental procedures. Factors influencing tooth movement, retention and relapse are addressed in conjunction with orthodontic procedures and appliances.

Important chapters are devoted to etiologies (what contributes to and maintains a tongue thrust pattern), diagnostic considerations and prognostic indicators. The authors discuss the relationship between form and function and propose a "multiple causation" theory. They believe that the tongue will rest in a place and manner offering minimal physiological resistance. Swallows initiated from this position will be accomplished with the greatest economy of movement. Habitual low, forward tongue posture will encourage a tongue thrust swallow.

A comprehensive chapter on orofacial myofunctional evaluation contains important guidelines for both the beginning clinician and the experienced practitioner.

Seven questions to be answered during assessment direct step-by-step diagnostic procedures. Informal observations which focus on spontaneous behaviors are highlighted. Answers to two questions determine prognosis: *Is the tongue thrust likely to self-correct over time?* and *What is the probability of success of therapy?* Factors governing treatment outcome are enumerated.

Hanson and Barrett review current treatment approaches. More importantly, they present a sound and comprehensive philosophy of treatment which is substantiated by broadly based clinical research. Hanson's updated treatment procedures are based on this rationale. His highly individualized therapy program emphasizes educating the client. His concise explanations of the purpose behind each exercise assist the client in achieving a tongue-up, lips-together rest posture and nontraumatic, posteriorly directed swallow. Hanson has organized his program into four phases: 1) Development of new muscle patterns; 2) Integration of new patterns into functional behaviors; 3) Habituation of correct patterns; and 4) Retention of learned patterns. For our own adaption, he provides the actual charts and instructions that he uses with his clients. Behavioral programs for the elimination of digit sucking and other habits are covered in detail in a separate chapter.

PROFESSIONAL MATTERS, the book's final chapter, addresses issues related to the efficacy of treatment and opportunities for professional education, contribution and development. Perspective on the tongue thrust controversy of the mid-seventies and the response and growth of The International Association of Orofacial Myology as a professional organization are discussed. Looking ahead, the authors outline clear directions in terms of needed research and professional activism. Effort toward revision of the 1974 Joint Committee on Dentistry and Speech Pathology position statement and the establishment of courses in orofacial myology in university programs are presented as critical steps toward continued growth of orofacial myology as a profession.

It is clear that Hanson and Barrett's new text will replace their former editions as the authoritative work in this emerging specialty. Their combined wealth of clinical experience, Hanson's substantial and significant research and the authors' clear and concise manner of communicating their vast knowledge make FUNDAMENTALS IN OROFACIAL MYOLOGY priority reading.

FUNDAMENTALS OF OROFACIAL MYOLOGY. (1988).
By Marvin L. Hanson, Ph.D. and Richard H. Barrett,
M.Ed. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, 2600 South First
Street, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9265. \$54.65,
372pp.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The professional recognition called for by Hanson and Barrett is currently in process. On May 22, 1989 the Executive Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association approved the draft of a new position statement on The Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist in Assessment and Management of Oral Myofunctional Disorders. This statement strongly supports identification of orofacial myofunctional phenomena and the effectiveness of orofacial myofunctional treatment in modifying disorders of tongue and lip postures and movement. It calls for additional specialized training of the speech-language pathologist and an interdisciplinary approach to evaluation and treatment. The new statement also calls for

research regarding the nature, evaluation and treatment of orofacial myofunctional disorders.

The ASHA Executive Committee has requested some minor revision to the report accompanying the proposed position statement by the Ad Hoc Committee on Labial-Lingual Posture. The revised report will then be distributed for widespread peer review and will be voted upon by the ASHA Legislative Council in November, 1989. Robert Mason, Ph.D., Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Marvin Hanson, Ph.D. and Ralph Shelton, Ph.D. as well as other committee members are to be commended for their efforts toward achievement of this important milestone.