

MEDIA REVIEWS

Nancy Phelan Walsh, RN, MSN
Associate Editor

B O O K S

Childhood Cancer: A Parent's Guide to Solid Tumor Cancers (2nd edition). Honna Janes-Hodder, Nancy Keene. Sepastopol, CA: O'Reilly and Associates, Inc., 2002, 537 pages, \$29.95.

🕒 √ 🧑🧑🧑 Softcover



When parents learn that their child has cancer, they go through the initial shock of “why my child?” Then, questions about the disease and its treatment, cost, and impact on the family begin. These families, often overwhelmed, need an easy-to-read, accurate, and comprehensive reference to obtain this information so they can make informed decisions about their child's care. *Childhood Cancer: A Parent's Guide to Solid Tumor Cancers* is one of a group of patient-centered texts written to provide parents with information and practical advice about caring for an ill child. Other books in this series discuss childhood leukemia, brain and spinal cord tumors, and care of hospitalized children.

Childhood Cancer, divided into 27 chapters, covers topics ranging from diagnosis to death and bereavement. The authors arranged the book using a timeline approach. The opening chapters address issues pertinent to the family with a newly diagnosed child such as diagnosis, venous catheters, clinical trials, choosing a hospital, and different classes of solid tumors. Later chapters include discussions about therapies, siblings, returning to school, financial issues, end of treatment, relapse, and death and bereavement. Each chapter is fairly short but very thorough. Interspersed throughout the chapters are comments from more than 100 parents of children with cancer. This gives the book a more personal feel by talking to, not at, the parents who are reading it. Parents who are just starting this journey hopefully will derive some comfort from the fact that they are not alone

and that others have had the same concerns and questions. However, the comments are not one-sided; both positive and negative experiences are included. Although the authors caution readers that all families do not go through every experience described in the book, the personal comments may be overwhelming initially to parents with a newly diagnosed child.

The book's appendices are quite useful. Other books, videos, resource organizations, online sites, interpretation of blood results, and a dictionary are included. A removable treatment record for cancer survivors also is provided. With more children surviving cancer every day, long-term follow-up of their health issues has become vitally important. The treatment record places a history of the disease, treatment, and complications at the fingertips of the cancer survivor and future healthcare providers.

One weakness of the book is its lack of information for single parents who often have to deal with the added stress of coping alone. Single parents need practical advice about caring for a child with many needs using minimal support. They also need the support of other parents going through the same experiences. The addition of this topic will enhance this valuable resource.

When the authors, who describe themselves as having “been in the trenches,” wrote *Childhood Cancer: A Parent's Guide to Solid Tumor Cancers*, they were speaking to the many parents who have a child diagnosed with cancer. However, although they may not have realized it, they also have provided an invaluable text to healthcare providers. In the busy world of health care, thinking about what these families might be going through on a daily basis can be difficult. This book offers a glimpse into their world, which, in turn, will help healthcare providers better understand how to provide family-centered care to these very special patients and their families.

Kristin Hanak, RN, MS, CPNP, CPON®
Nursing Faculty
Front Range Community College
Westminster, CO

The Washington Manual of Oncology. Ramaswamy Govindan, editor. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 2002, 588 pages, \$42.95.

🕒 √ √ 🧑🧑🧑 Softcover



The Washington Manual of Medical Therapeutics, now in its 30th edition, is considered by many to be “the bible” of internal medicine. Joining this premier series is *The Washington Manual of Oncology*, which has been designed as “a very practical manual that is useful to medical residents, fellows in training, nurse practitioners, and other practitioners of clinical oncology” (pp. xi).

The manual has a fairly straightforward layout. Chapters are dedicated to principles of cancer therapy, specific disease states, and supportive care. Most chapters are highly readable, although some sections may be too technical for average readers. For example, a chapter about patient management in radiation oncology contains a high level of technical data. Specific information about radiobiologic principles, the linear-quadratic equation, and detailed descriptions of collimators for intensity-modulated radiation therapy may be too technical for some oncology nurses, but they certainly are useful to radiation oncology specialists.

Disease-specific chapters focus on common malignancies, including presenting symptoms, diagnostic approach, staging, stage-directed treatment, current research, and epidemiology. Not-so-common diseases also are represented; for example, a comprehensive chapter is dedicated to thymoma and mesothelioma. This chapter was particularly useful to me because I had a patient diagnosed with this disease at the time. I was interested to learn that thymoma often is associated with myasthenia gravis (MG) and that a great deal of controversy regarding the use of biopsy and staging of the disease exists. I was able to use this information to inform my patient about possible future treatment and to arrange for neurology evaluation for suspected MG.

The manual concludes with several chapters about nursing issues, hospice care, blood transfusions, hematopoietic growth factors, and smoking cessation, which is particularly helpful. Another chapter that may be very useful for oncology nurse practitioners (ONPs) discusses oncologic imaging. The

Ease of Reference and Usability	Content Level	Book Size
🕒 Quick, on-the-spot resource	√ Basic	🧑🧑🧑 Pocket size
🕒🕒 Moderate time requirement	√ √ Intermediate	🧑🧑🧑 Intermediate
🕒🕒🕒 In-depth study	√ √ √ Advanced and complex, prerequisite reading required	🧑🧑🧑🧑 Desk reference

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/04.ONF.137-138

author reviews different imaging techniques and clarifies why and when a specific imaging test should be ordered.

The Washington Manual of Oncology is a very comprehensive text that would be an excellent addition to the libraries of ONPs. This reference is particularly useful for diagnostic planning, treatment, and patient follow-up. The intended audience is professionals charged with diagnosis and patient management, but general oncology nurses may find it useful as a comprehensive reference when educating patients about disease and treatment specifics.

Kristine Turner Story, RN, MSN, APRN
Adult Nurse Practitioner
Internal Medicine HealthWest
Omaha, NE

Stem Cells and the Future of Regenerative Medicine. National Research Council. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2002, 112 pages, \$19.95.



Softcover



This text is the work of the Committee on the Biological and Biomedical Applications of Stem Cell Research. *Stem Cells and the Future of Regenerative Medicine* is the summary of the committee's workshop

that was sponsored by the National Academies held in June 2001. Attendees represented diverse fields such as molecular biology, immunology, cell biology, cardiology, hematology, neurosciences, developmental biology, infectious disease, cancer, and bioethics. The committee discussed both the science and ethics regarding stem cell research. Stem cells are cells that have the ability to divide for indefinite lengths of time and give rise to specialized cells. Research is still in its infancy, but many potential medical uses are being explored. The list of disciplines previously noted are some areas that are using stem cells in their research with the hope of applying this research to clinical care.

Stem Cells includes chapters summarizing the project's goals, as well as sections about adult and embryonic stem cells and the differences between them. One chapter focuses on opportunities for and barriers to research using stem cells (e.g., religious, financial, and societal considerations). An interesting section summarizes how several countries manage public policy on stem cell research. The text concludes with the committee's recommendations and a glossary.

The audience for this book is relatively small. This technical publication is not meant for the general population. Professionals who are involved with in vitro fertilization or stem cell transplants may find *Stem Cells* useful because these are areas in which this technology already is employed. Elected officials or policymakers who need to have a basic understanding of the science and ethical considerations to make funding decisions also may find this text useful. A wealth of information about stem cell research is available in the existing literature, but this helpful guide was prepared by a distinguished group of professionals that clearly delineates recommendations for the direction of future research.

Karen S. Brown, RN, MSN, FNP-C, ONP
Nurse Practitioner
Roswell Park Cancer Center Institute
Buffalo, NY

Manual of Clinical Hematology (3rd edition). Joseph J. Mazza, editor. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 2002, 461 pages, \$42.95.



Softcover



The *Manual of Clinical Hematology* is an essential reference for healthcare providers working in hematology, oncology, primary care, and general medicine. This pocket-sized handbook reviews the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of some of the most common hematologic disorders. Its information could be used in specialty or general medicine practice areas in inpatient and outpatient settings.

The purpose of this book is to provide a user-friendly guide for healthcare professionals about topics related to caring for patients with hematologic disorders. The first chapter provides a framework for subsequent chapters, with an initial discussion of hematopoiesis. The review of hematopoiesis is quite thorough and uses a simple-to-complex style of writing, which allows readers of various knowledge levels to choose their learning needs. This style of writing exists throughout the remainder of the book.

Chapters 2-8 review hematologic disorders that are categorized by type of red blood cell, white blood cell, and platelet disorders. These chapters include anemias, primary and secondary erythrocytosis, hemolytic anemia, hereditary hemochromatosis, abnormalities of hemoglobin, disorders of granulocytes, and platelet disorders. In chapters 9-15, myeloproliferative disorders, myelodysplastic syndromes, acute

and chronic leukemias, multiple myeloma, benign lymphocyte disorders, and malignant lymphomas are reviewed. The final chapters review coagulation, transfusion of blood components, HIV, and transplantation procedures.

Throughout the text, figures and tables are used appropriately to provide concise yet detailed information. The appendices are especially useful for those managing hematologic disorders. The depth of discussion about each disorder seems appropriate, direct, and concise. The pathophysiology of the disorders is especially useful and provides detailed information about complex topics in a very understandable style. A discussion of the disorders' diagnosis and management is helpful to expert hematology clinicians and generalists. The information will provide guidance for the care of patients in any setting for the management of the hematologic disorders discussed.

Although books specifically about pediatric populations are available, some reference to pediatric disorders within this manual would be useful. In addition, the title of the book may be more appropriate as the *Manual of Adult Clinical Hematology* to more clearly describe its content. This pocket-sized handbook is intended for use in clinical practice by physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, protocol nurses, and staff nurses and is an initial reference on hematologic disorders. Additional information from other textbooks may be needed to supplement this handbook.

Susan A. Ezzone, MS, RN, CNP
Adult Nurse Practitioner
Blood and Marrow Transplantation
Ohio State University Medical Center
Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital
and Solove Research Institute
Columbus, OH

Other Books

Hothouse Flowers: I Just Want to Be There When You Call My Name. Joan Beesley. Genesee, CO: Winchester Park Press, 2000, 294 pages, softcover, \$14.95.

This book is the triumphant story of cancer survivor Kimberly Beesley, who was diagnosed with a stage IV neuroblastoma at the age of four. *Hothouse Flowers* celebrates her family's long journey from diagnosis to victory over cancer and is a tribute to her physician and healthcare team, who were not only devoted to saving lives but nurturing their young patients' spirits. Written by Kimberly's mother, the pages are filled with lessons learned, personal poems, and journal entries, which may help to comfort other parents faced with a child's cancer.