


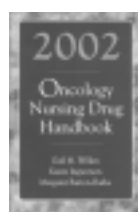
REVIEWS

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B O O K S

2002 Oncology Nursing Drug Handbook.
Gail M. Wilkes*, Karen Ingwersen*, Margaret Barton-Burke. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2002, 1,039 pages, \$53.95.

✓ ✓  Softcover



The purpose of the 2002 *Oncology Nursing Drug Handbook* is to provide nurses with the information necessary to safely deliver antineoplastics and other pharmacologic agents used in the management of patients with cancer. By using the nursing process as the format for structuring the content, the book accomplishes its intended goal of being a comprehensive resource for oncology nurses. Although primarily an oncology nursing text, other members of the healthcare team (e.g., physician assistants, medical students and residents) and generalist nurses caring for patients with cancer (e.g., homecare nurses) will find valuable information contained in its pages.

The book consists of 14 chapters divided into four sections plus three appendices. The first section has five chapters and covers chemotherapeutic agents, biologic response modifiers and adjunctive agents, cytoprotectives, and targeted therapies. This section alone comprises almost half of the text's content. Each drug is discussed using the nursing process in a standard format (i.e., class, action, metabolism, dosage ranges, preparation, administration, interactions, laboratory work alterations, and special considerations). This information is followed by a list of appropriate nursing diagnoses, defining characteristics, and nursing implications specific for each agent. Nursing issues related to the agents are discussed in detail. All commercially available

drugs except BCG are listed along with selected investigational agents. Tables are included appropriately and typically present dose modifications for drug-related toxicities. An introduction to the chemotherapy section provides an update on newer agent classifications, such as the topoisomerase inhibitors, and includes the older classifications in a tabular format. Nurses new to oncology may need to obtain additional information on the older antineoplastic classes from other resources. A useful table lists nursing assessments that are to be completed prior to administering chemotherapy. An introduction to targeted therapies is thorough enough that additional resources would be needed only if readers desire specific, in-depth information. The second section includes medications used in symptom management (e.g., analgesics, antiemetics). The third section contains chapters related to the management of therapy-related complications such as antidiarrheals. The final section discusses polypharmacology. The appendices include safe-handling and exposure control information, National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria, and a list of common cancer treatment regimens. Updated on an annual basis, this text contains timely information for nurses administering antineoplastics in all practice settings.

The 2002 *Oncology Nursing Drug Handbook* is a highly useful and inclusive oncology nursing text and should be available on each nursing unit, homecare agency, infusion room, and anywhere else antineoplastic therapy is administered. No other text is as inclusive of oncology nursing information specific to antineoplastic therapy (e.g., common to rare side effects). Nurses will use this book on a regular basis for patient education, side effect and toxicity management, safe drug administration, and other issues related to the management of patients receiving chemotherapy.

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Contemporary Issues in Lung Cancer: A Nursing Perspective. Marilyn Haas*, editor. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2002, 322 pages, \$52.95.

✓ ✓  Hardcover









Contemporary Issues in Lung Cancer: A Nursing Perspective is a unique tome dedicated to a comprehensive discussion of the number one cause of cancer death in the United States. This hardcover textbook covers the lung cancer trajectory from diagnosis and treatment to symptom management and terminal care. The book provides a review of the biology of lung cancer, including genetic implications, as well as strategies for prevention and screening recommendations. Unlike most medically oriented texts devoted to lung cancer, this book also describes issues particularly important to oncology nurses, such as the psychosocial ramifications of lung cancer, resources for patients with lung cancer, and strategies for improving the visibility of lung cancer. A section on quality-of-life measurement tools for lung cancer is useful for oncology nurses who may be interested in conducting nursing research.

The major limitation to *Contemporary Issues in Lung Cancer* is that because it is a textbook, some of the literature already is outdated. Consequently, oncology nurses looking to enhance their knowledge of the most up-to-date treatment options may wish to supplement their reading with recent reviews of periodical literature. This book could be improved by incorporating more visually stimulating graphics into the text to enhance reader interest and comprehension, as well as condense the material into a more portable format.

Contemporary Issues in Lung Cancer would be a useful addition to the libraries of oncology nurses with a special interest in lung cancer; however, its cost of \$52.95 may be prohibitive for many oncology nurses.

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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

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 Softcover

A chapter in which general treatment options for both types of lung cancer are broken down and presented in reference to a patient's stage is very helpful. This chapter can be used to reinforce the information patients have received from their physicians and assist in more effective decision making.

Lung Cancer: A Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment is a thorough and comprehensive book. This is an invaluable resource tool for patients and their families.

W E B S I T E



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