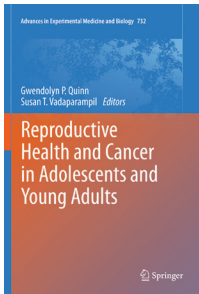


BOOKS

**Reproductive Health and Cancer in Adolescents and Young Adults.** Gwendolyn P. Quinn and Susan T. Vadaparampil (Eds.). Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer Science and Business Media, 2012, hardcover, 220 pages, \$209.



As more children are diagnosed with cancer and achieving higher survival rates, a growing need exists for more information about reproductive health in that segment of the survivor population.

*Reproductive Health and Cancer in Adolescents and Young Adults* fills that need. The quality-of-life issue is laid out in an easy-to-follow-and-read format with provider recommendations at the end of each chapter. The 16 chapters in this text discuss topics such as the principles of cancer treatments and their impact on reproduction, fertility preservation in men and women, the impact of cancer on family planning and parenting, ethical and legal concerns surrounding fertility preservation, and reproductive technologies.

Increasing availability of fertility preservation options are outlined comprehensively by Quinn and Vadaparampil as they relate to adolescents and young adults with cancer diagnoses. The editors address populations of childhood cancer survivors and young adults with a diagnosis of cancer.

This review of the impact of cancer care on reproductive health is an excellent resource for the general practitioner who is looking for a baseline knowledge and reference text. A very comprehensive summary of sexual health, reproductive health, and organ biology is included in the text. Psychological impact of a cancer diagnosis and the need to consider fertility options are explored throughout the book and nicely taught through the patient testimonials at the beginning of each chapter. Each one is a poignant reminder that, although

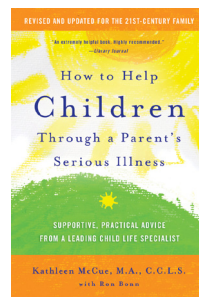
the editors are talking about biology, a person and a family are attached to the other side of each situation encountered.

The graphics, diagrams, and charts used throughout the book present a learning summary for the points made in the chapters. Each section is well referenced and outlined. Some duplication of basic facts occurs throughout the chapters; however, that is hardly an issue when referencing the subject matter in each individual chapter and not reading the book straight through. The repetition can serve as a learning approach.

Overall, this is a well-thought-out and laid out text with distinct baseline information about reproductive and sexual health as it pertains to the adolescent and young adult diagnosed with cancer. It progresses through the more complicated issues of the reproductive system in a nonthreatening, easy-to-understand manner. It is a well-organized, comprehensive text for the general practitioner or the oncology specialist who has a desire to understand the reproductive and sexual health concerns of young adults with cancer.

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**How to Help Children Through a Parent's Serious Illness: Supportive, Practical Advice From a Leading Child Life Specialist.** Kathleen McCue and Ron Bonn. New York, NY: St. Martin's Griffin, 2011, softcover, 368 pages, \$16.99.



For many people, a diagnosis of cancer can put them into "information-seeking mode." A diagnosis combines fear of the unknown with difficult information; however, for parents of children, the added burden and worry about what to say to their children is included. As a parent of two young children who had a scare after the birth of my daughter two years ago, I know from experience that my first concern was not me, but what will happen to

the children. I found the information in this text practical and informative. It is a comprehensive step-by-step guide for the support of children through a parent's illness. Not specifically for patients with cancer, other serious illnesses also are covered; however, much of the information still is applicable to patients with cancer.

The authors are informative, knowledgeable, and sometimes humorous writers who share years of training with a combination of patients' and families' life experiences. This allows the reader to assimilate to, associate with, and accompany a variety of journeys while learning from the authors' successes and failures.

Practical, credible advice from specialists provides evidence-based guidance when available. Written instruction and strategies (communication, sharing emotions, music, imagery, laughter, and relaxation) are tailored to a child's age and development stage. A summary at the end of each chapter provides quick, easy information, which may be helpful particularly for parents and caregivers with severe time constraints who are often distressed or exhausted and want quick, practical advice.

The book provides advice for all illnesses with information and advice that is fairly transferable. However, a chapter with issues particular to cancer would have been beneficial. I also would have liked more information on self-care and self-help and spiritual, emotional, and psychological preparation for death and dying—without becoming morbid or sad. The conclusion provides practical advice on the emotional healing that needs to take place after treatment or illness.

This book is intended for a wide audience and not specific to cancer, but the information and advice are applicable to a cancer diagnosis. It is quite a large book with some repetition. The bullet point formatting in the age-specific groups is easy to read and helpful.

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