

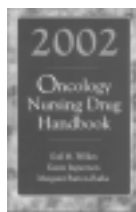
# REVIEWS

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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.

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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

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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.

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*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

**Lung Cancer: A Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment.** Walter J. Scott. Omaha, NE: Addicus Books, 2000, 155 pages, \$14.95.



Softcover



*Lung Cancer: A Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment* provides up-to-date, comprehensive, and easy-to-understand information for newly diagnosed patients and their families. This guide

succeeds in empowering patients at a challenging time. The author stresses that despite the fact that many medical advances are being made in lung cancer treatment, survival rates remain unchanged. His message to his readers is clear: "Ask questions, and seek the best possible treatment."

The book begins by providing readers with basic facts about pulmonary physiology, cellular changes, risk factors, and pathophysiology of lung cancer. In chapters two and three, the symptoms of lung cancer are presented for local and metastatic disease. Risks, benefits, and diagnostic testing, including various biopsy techniques (i.e., bronchoscopy, cervical mediastinoscopy, endoscopic lymph node biopsy, and exploratory thoractomy), are presented clearly. The text briefly discusses the use of low-dose spiral computerized tomography scanning as an early detection device. Lung cancer staging along with corresponding survival rates are reviewed in chapter four. Chapters five through eight address treatment for both non-small and small cell cancers with special attention to common concerns of patients and their family members. Treatment options (e.g., surgery, chemotherapy, radiation) are discussed thoroughly. Expected side effects for each modality are organized clearly with tips for self-care. The myths of pain management are discussed; in particular, the book details a common concern of becoming addicted to pain medication and the fear of not being a "good patient" if one asks for medication to adequately control pain. Sexual problems associated with chemotherapy are presented in the hopes that each patient and his or her partner will feel comfortable discussing this topic, which often is overlooked by healthcare providers.

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.

An entire chapter is dedicated to multimodality therapy. The author notes that it is the "most promising advance in lung cancer treatment" and concludes with an honest discussion of why it is underutilized.

Chapter 10 answers the question, "Should I participate in a clinical trial?" The book removes the guesswork and explains how clinical trials work, including the incorporation of accurate information about their various phases, advantages, and disadvantages. The text also highlights the psychosocial aspects of lung cancer. A well-rounded chapter about emotional coping blends a wide variety of topics, such as smoker's guilt, stress management, and the importance of sleep, nutrition, exercise, touch, and expressing emotions.

Chapter 12 answers many of the questions patients have about alternative and complementary medicine. This chapter reviews a variety of complementary approaches, such as the psychological approach (e.g., progressive muscle relaxation, imagery), spiritual and religious beliefs, and the physical approach (e.g., exercise, yoga, massage), along with alternative methods (e.g., traditional Chinese medicine, acupuncture).

The book's final chapter is a brief discussion on end-of-life care. Essential information on advance directives and hospice care are presented. Such information is valuable in helping patients to make educated decisions at this time in their disease process and encourages them to stay involved in their care.

Several educational resources appear at the end of the book. The appendices are well developed and include charts depicting the TNM staging system, Internet resources, and a patient-friendly glossary.

The strengths of this guidebook are many. Each topic is well developed yet written in short, easy-to-read chapters so as not to overwhelm readers. The medical terminology is well defined, and illustrations and photographs are interspersed throughout the book and enhance the text. Anecdotal thoughts and vignettes from survivors, family members, and healthcare providers are included in each chapter. This breaks up the text, adds appeal, and increases readability.

*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.

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## Other Books

**Love, Honor and Value: A Family Caregiver Speaks Out About the Choices and Challenges of Caregiving.** Suzanne Geffin Mintz. Sterling, VA: Capital Books, 192 pages, \$14.95.

An estimated 25 million Americans are caregivers. The author, the president and co-founder of the National Family Caregivers Association, uses her second book to recognize and honor the work provided by family caregivers. This text discusses the challenges and sacrifices made by caregivers. Especially helpful are the appendices, which are designed as "tip sheets" to provide information about personal, legal, and financial topics. Also included is the author's Congressional testimony on caregiving.

## W E B S I T E



**Name of site:** It's Time to Focus on Lung Cancer

**URL:** [www.lungcancer.org](http://www.lungcancer.org)

**Authorship:** Groups: Oncology Nursing Society; Cancer Care, Inc.; The Chest Foundation

**Privacy statement:** present, comprehensive, and easy to find

**Disclosure statement:** clearly states funding by an unrestricted educational grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology

**Content highlights:** This is the Web site of Lung Cancer Awareness Week, which is always in November. The site is divided into three sections: information for patients, resources for professionals, and information for the media. One of the site features is "Ask the Expert," where patients can post a confidential message to an oncology nurse. To date, this team of nurse experts has answered more than 2,000 messages.

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