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RECENT REVIEWS

Salem Health: Cancer

“One of the most common medical reference interactions involves patrons seeking information about cancer. Since medical research progresses rapidly, it is vital that librarians have current information. The second edition of this set offers an update of the 2009 edition, covering both the clinical and the biomedical research fields.

The four consecutively pagged volumes group signed entries alphabetically within broad subject areas, such as biology, carcinogens and suspected carcinogens, chemotherapy and other drugs, complementary and alternative therapies, symptoms and conditions, lifestyle and prevention, and procedures. Entries cover a wide range of topics (*Benign tumors, Invasive cancer, Advance directives, BRCA1 and BRCA2*) and range in length from one to five pages. Most include a list of resources for further reading. The reading level is high, with many technical terms. The editors and contributors are health-care professionals and medical writers. A complete list of articles appears at the beginning of each volume, and a detailed index at the end helps users find related information. A series of appendixes in volume 4 contains a list of drugs by class and trade name, a list of associations and agencies, cancer centers and hospitals, carcinogens, a glossary, and a bibliography.

This is a useful resource for public, college, and consumer-health libraries.”

-Booklist

“Previously published in 2009, this work, now in its second edition, edited by Buratovich and Jackson-Grusby, includes updated bibliographies, statistics, research, and medical practices. The detailed index identifies main articles in bold font, picks up passing references in other essays (e.g., “Tamoxifen”), and contains “see-also” references. Featured are 796 brief, accurate entries with informative and reassuring presentations that most nonmedical readers will follow easily. Alphabetically arranged subjects generally appear only once within one of the ten sections, making it best to use the index for simple and thorough access. Sections particularly helpful to patients, caregivers, family, and friends are “Diseases, Symptoms & Conditions,” “Procedures,” “Complementary & Alternative Therapies,” “Medical Specialties,” “Social and Personal Issues,” and “Lifestyle & Prevention.” “Cancer Biology,” “Carcinogens & Suspected Carcinogens,” and “Chemotherapy & Other Drugs” will be of particular interest to biology, biochemistry, and premed students. This set is more compact and approachable for non-specialists in need of wide-ranging cancer specific material.

VERDICT this excellent book will be of interest to cancer patients and their caregivers, family members, and loved ones; nonprofessionals with a general interest in health; and biology, biochemistry, and premed students.”

- Library Journal

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