



This handbook is disappointing because it promises to address, in a practical manner, an area of vital importance to those who participate in the care of seniors. Unfortunately, it does not live up to this promise, and indeed may lead to labelling and irreparable damage being done to family units.

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### **Making Choices: Treatment of Stage IV (Metastatic) Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. A Decision Aid for Patients**

(Cassette tape and workbook). W.K. Evans, A.M. O'Connor, V. Fiset, J. Logan, C. DeGrasse. 1997. Price not stated. Available from Ottawa Civic Hospital Loeb Research Institute; 888 240-7002.

<b>Overall rating:</b>	Excellent
<b>Strengths:</b>	Fills a need of patients with lung cancer as well as their physicians and other allied health professionals, in individualizing treatment for stage IV non-small cell lung cancer.
<b>Weaknesses:</b>	None
<b>Audience:</b>	Patients suffering from lung cancer, family physicians, oncologists, nurses working with cancer patients

**S**tage IV non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is very common and historically has a poor prognosis. This cassette tape and workbook were produced to enable patients with advanced lung cancer to choose the most appropriate form of therapy for their situation. The booklet will guide patients in the choice between supportive care with radiation therapy

or supportive care with both radiation therapy and chemotherapy. This is one of the most important decisions a patient faces at a time of great stress. The booklet's clear language and use of icons and diagrams is helpful. The descriptions of cancer, radiation therapy and chemotherapy are easy to understand.

The Ontario Cancer Treatment Practice Guideline Initiative recently published a clinical practice guideline for chemotherapy in stage IV NSCLC.<sup>1</sup> The guideline states that there is evidence of a small survival benefit of cisplatin-based chemotherapy over best supportive care in patients with NSCLC (absolute benefit is 10% at 1 yr). Quality of life can also be improved with chemotherapy, but as yet there is only evidence from non-randomized trials. Therefore, there is a need for patients to be informed when they face the decision of the best treatment in their individual situation. Because the survival benefit is modest this booklet and cassette tape are a valuable tool. They could also be a model for other disease sites where the benefits of therapy are similar.

The instructions are clear; it would take 35 to 40 minutes to complete the tape while following along in the booklet. As a further aid, examples at the end illustrate 3 possible outcomes.

As newer chemotherapeutic agents, e.g., paclitaxel, are introduced, responses and median survivals are improving, but for now, this booklet is an invaluable aid for patients and their physicians.

#### **Reference**

1. Lopez GL, Stewart DJ, Newman TE, et al. Chemotherapy in stage IV (metastatic) non small cell lung cancer. *Cancer Prev Control* 1997;1:18-27.

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### **Healthy Eating for 2: Mother and Baby**

Booklet. Edited by Alana LaPerle Consulting. 48 pp. Illust. Capital Health, Community Care and Public Health, Edmonton. 1996. Price not stated. Culturally adapted and translated into 6 other languages.

<b>Overall rating:</b>	Excellent
<b>Strengths:</b>	Comprehensive and informative, written in plain language
<b>Weaknesses:</b>	Some inaccuracies in the Mandarin and Cantonese translations; major problems with Vietnamese version; Spanish, Punjabi and Polish versions were not reviewed
<b>Audience:</b>	Pregnant women and new mothers

**G**enerally, this is an excellent resource, written in plain language and geared toward pregnant women and new mothers. The 3 topics are "Healthy eating for mother and baby," "Breastfeeding" and "Food for your infant."

The content is in keeping with Canada's Food Guides and with the soon-to-be-released (June '98) Perinatal Nutrition Guidelines from Health Canada. The content is general and solid. It should not be considered a reference for clinicians but rather for clients (patients).

The format is attractive; there are helpful illustrations, information in bullet points and a question-and-answer section. The booklet includes practical tips and refers the reader to health professionals for further advice or assistance.

The Chinese and Mandarin versions have been adapted in a very culturally sensitive way. The information has been translated accurately, with a few minor exceptions.

In contrast, the Vietnamese version has major inaccuracies in both content, printing and cultural appropriateness. It should not be recommended for this group of newcomers.

Unfortunately, I cannot comment on the Punjabi, Polish or Spanish versions.



As a general, solidly based resource book for new moms, it is highly recommended. Sophisticated patients may find it too basic, but the principles are solid.

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## ***Books and other media received***

### ***Livres et autres documents reçus***

#### **Books for patients**

**In Control: Making the Most of the Genetic Test for Breast Cancer.** N. Sharpe. 228 pp. Prentice Hall. 1997. \$19.95. ISBN 0-13-897968-5

**The Merck Manual of Medical Information: Home Edition.** Edited by R. Berkow, M.H. Beers, A.J. Fletcher. 1509 pp. Illust. Harcourt Brace. 1997. \$42.95. ISBN 0911910-87-5

#### **Economics**

**Methods for the Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programmes.** 2nd ed. Edited by M.F. Drummond, B.J. O'Brien, G.L. Stoddart, G.W. Torrance. 305 pp. Illust. Oxford U Pr. 1997. \$53.95. ISBN 0-19-262773-2

#### **Emergency medicine**

**Emergency Medicine.** Vols. 1 and 2. Senior editor, J.M. Howell. 1735 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders. 1998. \$293 (set). ISBN 0-7216-5827-X (vol. 1); 0-7216-5828-8 (vol. 2); 0-7216-5825-3 (set)

**Ultrasound in Emergency and Ambulatory Medicine.** Edited by B.C. Simon, E.R. Snoey. 290 pp. Illust. Harcourt Brace. 1997. \$94.95. ISBN 0-8151-8519-7

**Year Book of Emergency Medicine.** Edited by D.K. Wagner, S.J. Davidson,

S.C. Dronen, B.R. King, J.T. Niemann, J.R. Roberts. *The 1997 Year Book Series.* 491 pp. Illust. Harcourt Brace. 1997. \$121. ISBN 0-8151-9622-9

#### **Endocrinology**

**Current Therapy of Diabetes Mellitus.** Edited by R.A. DeFronzo. 273 pp. Illust. *Current Therapy Series.* Mosby-Year Book Inc. 1998. \$89.95. ISBN 0-8151-2757-X

#### **Epidemiology**

**Epidemiology and Health Services.** Edited by H.K. Armenian, S. Shapiro. 270 pp. Illust. Oxford U Pr. 1998. \$55.95. ISBN 0-19-509359-3

**A Life Course Approach to Chronic Disease Epidemiology: Tracing the Origins of Ill-Health From Early to Adult Life.** Edited by D. Kuh, Y. Ben-Shlomo. 317 pp. Illust. Oxford U Pr. 1997. \$121.50. ISBN 0-19-262782-1

**Polio.** Edited by T.M. Daniel, F.C. Robbins. 202 pp. Illust. U of Rochester Pr. 1997. US\$29.95. ISBN 1-878822-90-X

**Risk of Death in Canada: What We Know and How We Know It.** S.P. Thomas, S.E. Hrudey. 272 pp. Illust. U of Alberta Pr. 1997. \$19.95. ISBN 0-88864-299-7

#### **Ethics**

**The Case for Physician Assisted Suicide.** S. McLean, A. Britton. *Pandora Soapbox Series.* 114 pp. HarperCollins Canada. 1997. \$14. ISBN 0-04-440983-4

**Ethics, Computing, and Medicine: Informatics and the Transformation of Health Care.** Edited by K.W. Goodman. 180 pp. Cambridge U Pr. 1998. US\$24.95. ISBN 0-521-46905-8

**The Ethics of the Ordinary in Healthcare: Concepts and Cases.** J.A. Worthing. 332 pp. Illust. Health Administration Pr. 1997. ISBN 1-56793-056-5

**Euthanasia Examined: Ethical, Clinical and Legal Perspectives.** Edited by J. Keown. 340 pp. Cambridge U Pr. 1997. US\$24.95. ISBN 0-521-58613-5

**Health Care Ethics: A Theological Analysis.** 4th ed. B.M. Ashley, K.D.

O'Rourke. 530 pp. Scholarly Book Services; 416 533-5490. 1997. US\$36. ISBN 0-87840-644-1

#### **Forensic medicine**

**University of Iowa The Family Practice Handbook.** 3rd ed. Edited by M.A. Graber, P.P. Toth, R.L. Herting, Jr. 810 pp. Illust. Harcourt Brace. 1997. \$55.95. ISBN 0-8151-2395-7

#### **Hematology**

**Red Cell Transfusion: A Practical Guide.** Edited by M.E. Reid, S.J. Nance. 227 pp. Illust. *Contemporary Hematology series.* 1998. US\$99.50. ISBN 0-89603-412-7

#### **History**

**A Cabinet of Medical Curiosities.** J. Bondeson. 250 pp. Illust. Cornell U Pr. 1997. US\$29.95. ISBN 0-8014-3431-9

#### **Miscellaneous**

**Snowshoes & Stethoscopes: Tales of Medicine and Flying in the Canadian North.** J. Dale. 158 pp. Illust. Daedalus Publishing (jdale@awinc.com). 1997. \$16.95. ISBN 0-9682260-0-0

**Stedman's Electronic Medical Dictionary 3.0 (CD-ROM).** 26th ed. Williams and Wilkins. 1997. US\$79.95. ISBN 0-683-40218-8

#### **Neurology**

**Critical Decisions in Headache Management.** (Includes CD-ROM). R. Giannarino, J. Edmeads, D. Dodick. 192 pp. Illust. B.C. Decker. 1998. ISBN 1-55009-029-1

**Successful Communication With Alzheimer's Disease Patients: An In-Service Training Manual.** M.J. Santo Pietro, E. Ostuni. 288 pp. Butterworth-Heinemann. 1997. US\$37.50. ISBN 0-7506-9564-1

#### **Pediatrics**

**Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics (CD-ROM).** 15th ed. Edited by R.E. Behrman, R.M. Kliegman, A.M. Arvin. Harcourt Brace. 1997. \$327. ISBN 0-7216-6361-3