

Advanced prostate cancer

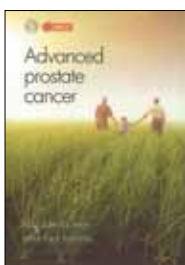
Australia: Cancer Council of Australia, 2009

ISBN 978 0980 742 107
www.andrologyaustralia.org

Advanced Prostate Cancer is designed to be a guide for both men and their families.

As a practising cancer specialist with a special interest in prostate cancer, I will be ordering many copies to loan out to patients and their families. I have no doubt that many general practitioners, urologists and oncologists around Australia will want to do the same.

Under the heading 'Advanced prostate cancer' the authors include the potentially curable conditions 'locally advanced' (but nonmetastatic) presentations, and 'prostate bed recurrence' after radical prostatectomy as well as incurable



growth of the primary cancer and/or metastatic disease (which is the usual meaning for the term 'advanced'). Because the curable/incurable distinction influences the acceptability of risk-benefit of therapeutic trade offs, the text can be a little confusing in places. However, the different conditions are described well and the discussion of the treatment options available and their side effects is very good indeed. The section on patient and family member reactions to the diagnosis, illness variations and treatment is very helpful, as is the section on palliative care. The glossaries, appendices, and resource sections were both generous and extremely useful. In short, this book is a mine of information.

The language used was generally excellent. Most explanations would be readily understood by patients and their families. Some, however, might be a little complicated and may need clarification for nonmedical readers.

Some points in this book were somewhat anomalous. For instance, there were quite large sections dealing with theories of mechanisms of androgen independent cancer growth, yet no mention whatsoever in the otherwise excellent trials section of Australia and New Zealand's two largest trials for any type of cancer (96.01 and RADAR), which happen to be for men with locally advanced prostate cancer!

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Primary Care Mental Health

Linda Gask, Helen Lester, Tony Kendrick, Robert Peveler

London: The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 2009

ISBN: 978 1904 671 770
\$58.32



Reviews are meant to be fair and impartial, so I think it only right to confess that its somewhat bloodless language and liberal use of the World Health Organization and the World Organisation of Family Doctors definitions rather prejudiced me against 'Primary Care Mental Health' from the beginning.

Edited by three psychiatrists and a GP, and enlisting the help of numerous contributors from a range of disciplines, its 478 pages are divided into four sections: conceptual basis and overarching themes; clinical issues; policy and

practice; and reflective practice. The first section explores the nature of primary care mental health, and in doing so accounts for the change of title – this book's forerunner was known as 'Psychiatry in General Practice'.

The nature, context and treatment of mental health problems encountered in general practice are different from specialist practice, though perhaps not so drastically as this book purports. I concur with its wish to avoid having GP mental health care providers being seen as simply 'ersatz psychiatrists, always playing catch up' and recognised as occupying a unique and valuable position in their own right. However, the rather long winded and pompous elaboration of the theoretical concepts behind this shiny new title turned an interesting topic into very dull reading and offered little help to GPs becoming what they would like to be – excellent clinicians. The section on clinical issues is not, by and large, detailed enough to be a useful reference

for the diagnosis and management of frequently encountered problems.

In short, this book may be of more interest to nonmedical academics and health bureaucrats than practising clinicians.

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