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BOOK REVIEWS

Read what people affected by cancer think about...



Ruby's stem cell harvest and transplant. A children's guide to stem cell harvesting and transplant using their own stem cells (autologous transplant) (2017)

Leicester: Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group, October 2017.

18pp.

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This is a great book with clear explanations and an attempt to involve the child in the “story”. It is best read at diagnosis but could be used at any time for information. It is very easy to understand but aimed at an adult to read to a child. I don't like the illustrations, but they do the job.

This is a gem of a book. I feel it is probably one read to a child at the beginning of their treatment, especially as there is a space for them to write their details at the front. The information is concise, with explanations of processes and words that a child may not understand.

There are attempts to involve the child in the “story” by asking them to look at the character's drinks and food, but it is the text that wins the day. I learnt an awful lot from this book, so thank you. (This process may well have to happen to me one day).

Living with cancer (myelodysplastic syndrome) and former teacher of 3-16-year-olds with SEN (46-55) (January 2018)

This is an excellent resource for any child going through stem cell harvest and transplant. It will also be very useful for family members or to have in a school. It is best read as soon as the child knows this is going to happen and can be used all through and after treatment.

It is written in a friendly manner. I really like how the story is told and all in a logical order; you can easily find the information you need. It is easy to understand for young children. I would like to see GCSF injection explained in the text, what does it stand for? Young children are capable of knowing these big words and it's well explained.

The cover and illustrations are good. They are bold and simple, yet they explain the treatment well. The child can personalise the book by writing in the spaces provided, making it a very useful resource.

I like the simple way it has been written. It is matter of fact, giving lots of information and addressing many concerns that a child might have. I like that the child can personalise it. I do hope it can be given to every child undergoing this treatment.

Breast cancer patient with six grandchildren (46-55) (December 2017)



This is a very useful book at any stage to help explain what is involved with stem cell harvesting and could be useful to anyone really but of course particularly to a child and family affected by the disease.

As always with CCLG books, the text is clear and helpful and the pictures appealing. Ruby is sweet and appealing to young children. I like the fact that the cover is bold enough to show her without hair. This is important. There is no real explanation as to why Ruby needs this intervention. There is no background to her and how her illness is affecting her life, which is unusual for CCLG books for children. Otherwise the treatment and its effects are explained logically. There is no glossary but the "in-text" explanations are quite sufficient.

Ruby and her family should have had more background coverage. Illustrations showing the child constantly being supported by family are very important. However, that would not stop me from seeing the value of the book. My only reservation is the lack of explanation about why Ruby needs the treatment.

Cancer patient and primary head teacher (66-75) (February 2016)

Further information

Why does Macmillan Cancer Support review books?

We use reviews to help us compile a list of suggested cancer books, the [Macmillan Core Book List](#). Cancer information centres and public libraries can use this list to select appropriate and relevant books for people affected by cancer.

We add reviews to the [Directory of information materials for people affected by cancer](#) so that people affected by cancer can see what others in a similar situation think about a book. You can also see details of all the books reviewed in the [Book reviews listing](#), which also has links to all the reviews.

We recruit most of our reviewers through the [Volunteering Village](#) and the [Cancer Voices Network](#), people affected by cancer who have signed up to help Macmillan Cancer Support in a number of ways. Volunteers are a vital part of our book review process; since 2007, over 1,500 Macmillan volunteers have written more than 6,000 reviews of over 500 different books.

If you are a health professional who would like to review books for us, please [email Sue Hawkins](#), Information Materials Researcher, Macmillan Cancer Support.

Information and support for people affected by cancer

If you are looking for support to help you live life with cancer, you may wish to contact one of [Macmillan's cancer information and support services](#). Or you can call the Macmillan Support Line free on **0808 808 00 00** (Mon-Fri 9am–8pm). We have an interpreting service in over 200 languages. Just state, in English, the language you wish to use. If you are deaf or hard of hearing you can use textphone no 0808 808 0121 or Text Relay.

You can also email us using the [website enquiry form](#). Alternatively, [visit our website](#).

Feedback

If you have any comments, please [email Sue Hawkins](#), Information Materials Researcher, Macmillan Cancer Support.

We're here to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can, providing physical, financial and emotional support. So whatever cancer throws your way, we're right there with you.

For information, support or just someone to talk to, call 0808 808 00 00 or visit macmillan.org.uk

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