



The Encyclopedia of Men's Health (Facts on File Library of Health & Living)

By Deborah S. Romaine, Glenn S. Rothfeld

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Many of the major health risks that men face can be prevented and treated if they are diagnosed early. This book offers a complete overview of the medical, scientific, social, and lifestyle issues associated with this topic, in encyclopedia format.

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Editorial Review

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Numerous texts provide information on men's health, among them *The Harvard Medical School Guide to Men's Health* (Free Press, 2002) and *The American Medical Association Complete Guide to Men's Health* (Wiley, 2001). Together with these titles, this offering from Facts On File would provide a reasonable coverage of men's health in easy-to-understand language. Standing on its own, it is not enough for reference collections.

The authors succeed in providing brief, readable entries on any number of men's health topics. *See and see also* references direct readers to the appropriate main entries or related entries. Several appendixes provide information on vitamins and minerals necessary for men, preventative health-care recommendations, a glossary of health-care specialties, and a listing of health organizations and agencies. A selected bibliography provides a few other sources of information, and a relatively straightforward index directs readers to specific articles.

One missing component is any article discussing the health issues of minority men--there are no articles on African American, Hispanic, or Native American men. Nor are there articles on the health issues of gay men. The only discussions of men of African, Native, Asian, or Hispanic descent are in articles on *Hypertension* and *Kidney disease*. Brief mentions in the *Sexual orientation* and *HIV/AIDS* entries constitute the only discussion of health issues of gay men.

One area of increasing concern in men's health is the rising incidence of anal cancer found in all men. African American men in particular have a high incidence and low survival rate with this form of malignancy. The number of men diagnosed annually with this particularly virulent cancer is four times the rate of diagnosis of penile cancer, which received nearly a full-page entry in the book. In contrast, a small reference to anal cancer is found under the entry for *Human papillomavirus* (HPV), which is the known cause of anal cancers, but anal cancer is not listed in the index.

Although the text is easily understandable and will be useful for some patrons, it is not recommended unless the library already owns or can afford other materials to fill the vacuum of information in certain areas. *Steve Stratton*

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About the Author

Romaine has an M.A. in English/Creative Writing from the University of Washington, where her focus was fiction. A former corporate trainer, she also teaches creative and business writing.

Glenn S. Rothfeld, M.D., M.Ac., (Arlington, MA) is a medical doctor who holds a master's degree in acupuncture, a clinical assistant professor at Tufts University School of Medicine, and the medical director of WholeHealth New England, Inc., in Arlington, MA.

Suzanne LeVert (New Orleans, LA) is the author or coauthor of more than 25 health and medical books for general audiences.

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Carlos Lauzon:

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