

## From the Publisher

When a child is diagnosed with leukemia, this is the book for the child and family to read. Known as 'the red book' in the leukemia community, *You and Leukemia* is written for children, but is often used by adults with leukemia, as well. The new second edition continues to make a challenging disease easier to understand for both children and adults. Extensively illustrated and written in a conversational style, it reflects the relatively recent developments that have made survival a much greater probability than in the past.

- New comprehensive resource list in the back of the book featuring publications, organizations, and websites.
- Completely rewritten cranial radiation section that reflects recent developments in this area.
- New section on surviving leukemia.
- New coverage of pain management during procedures.
- Expanded section on What Causes Leukemia includes more on toxic chemicals and EMFS.

## Doddy Review Services

**Reviewer:** Gloria L. Plascak, R.N., C.P.N., M.S.N. (Indiana State University)

**Description:** This book serves as a handbook for children and families about the most common forms of childhood leukemia. It is a revision of an edition published in 1978.

**Purpose:** The author's purpose is to "prepare most children and families for life with leukemia: and after." There is a real need for printed material written at an appropriate level to educate families. This disease can be devastating and the more knowledge the child and family have, the better they can cope with their situation. With the current changes in the healthcare system, it is becoming more difficult for professionals to devote the necessary time to the critical role of teaching. This book can assist in that endeavor.

**Audience:** The foreword suggests that the book can be read by children over 8 or 9 years old: it is written at approximately a fourth-grade reading level. School-age children are in the cognitive stage of concrete operations, which allows them to see relationships between objects, situations, and events. Because they have acquired this ability, they can understand basic functions of major body organs and the impact of illness on these functions as the information is presented by the author.

**Features:** The book provides a basic anatomy and physiology lesson and content on the disease process of leukemia. The author compares the body to a city, and the function of the cells and organ systems to people with various jobs working together to run the city. The disease process is related to what happens to the functioning of the city when a worker doesn't do his job. Illustrations provide a concrete way for the child to grasp the material. Since the fourth grader is a conceptual thinker, this unique method of presentation makes the lesson clear. Diagnostic techniques, treatments, complications, and a glossary are also presented at the same reading level. Additional resources for families which may not be easily found without this guidance are included.

**Assessment:** This book is a must for the library shelves in pediatric oncology facilities for use by children and families affected by leukemia. Children often perceive illness as punishment; the author frequently reinforces to the child that they are not the cause of the disease. The author serves as patient advocate by providing step-by-step suggestions for coping with painful procedures and anxiety producing situations. This book is not only informative, but provides an element of emotional support. The new edition reflects current trends in treatment and outcomes.

