

Preface

Cancer pain management is a broad and vastly rich topic. This book focuses on one narrow, but important, aspect of cancer pain management: cancer breakthrough pain (cBTP). It is assumed that the reader has a passing familiarity with acute and chronic cancer pain and its management, but would like to have a better understanding of cBTP and the new class of drugs – the rapid-onset opioids (ROOs) – developed specifically for the management of cBTP.

The purpose of this book is to provide healthcare professionals with clinically relevant information for understanding and managing cBTP. Early chapters will discuss the history of cBTP treatment and will explain a practical definition of cBTP suitable for caring for the patient with cancer. Subsequent chapters will be devoted to reviewing assessment techniques and widely accepted treatment recommendations for cBTP. Particular emphasis will be placed on current state-of-the-art medications (ie, ROOs) approved for the management of cBTP. The risks associated with ROOs, including abuse, diversion, and addiction, will be explored as well. Lastly, the book will explain the federally mandated Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS), and how REMS plays a role in attenuating some of the risks associated with ROOs.

The author hopes that this concise book will help fill some of the gaps in knowledge that may exist with regards to cBTP and its treatment.



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