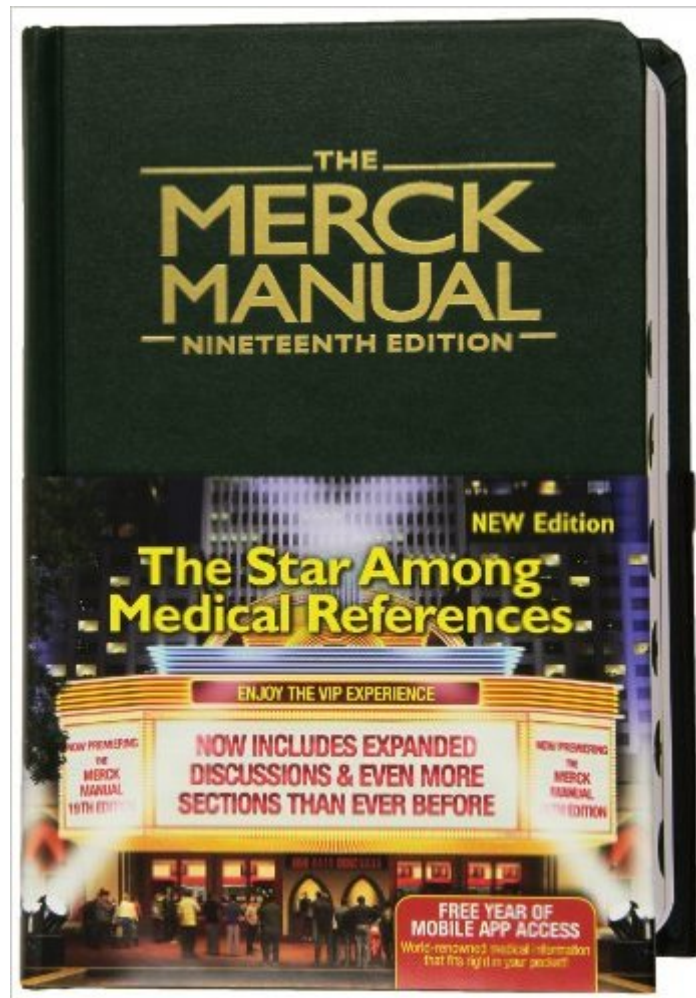


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# The Merck Manual



## Synopsis

The world's most widely used medical reference is now better than ever! For its 19th Edition, the Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy has been thoroughly updated and thoughtfully expanded, with more than 850 additional pages, 15 new chapters, over 300 new tables, and 56 new figures. Packed with essential information on diagnosing and treating medical disorders, this handy, compact guide was written by a team of clinicians for everyday use by medical professionals for delivery of the best care to their patients. Designed for maximum clinical utility, the new Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy 19th edition makes it easy to find the right information, right when it is needed. It is a must-have for medical students, residents, practicing physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals.

**Ten Interesting Facts from New Content in The Merck Manual, 19th Edition**

Pneumonia in elderly patients may be indicated by malaise, anorexia, or confusion. On average, elderly patients have 6 diagnosable disorders, and the primary care physician is often unaware of some of them. A disorder in one organ system can weaken another system, exacerbating the deterioration of both and leading to disability, dependence, and, without intervention, death. Annually, 30 to 40% of elderly people living in the community fall; 50% of nursing home residents fall. The color (eg, yellow, green) and thickness of sputum do not help differentiate bacterial causes of cough from other causes. The severity of dyspnea is not always proportional to the severity of the cause (eg, pulmonary embolism in a fit, healthy person may cause only mild dyspnea). Although angina can be felt anywhere between the ear and the umbilicus (and often not in the chest), it is typically consistently related to physical or emotional stress, ie, patients do not experience angina from climbing one flight of stairs one day and tolerate 3 flights the next day. Palpitations are not a reliable indicator of a significant arrhythmia, but palpitations in a patient with structural heart disease or an abnormal ECG may be a sign of a serious problem and warrant investigation. Syncope precipitated by unpleasant physical or emotional stimuli (eg, pain, fright), occurring in the upright position and often preceded by nausea, weakness, yawning, apprehension, blurred vision, or diaphoresis suggests vasovagal syncope. A history of oil droplets in stool, particularly if associated with weight loss, suggests malabsorption. If the difference in pupil size is greater in the dark, the smaller pupil is abnormal; if the difference in pupil size is greater in light, the larger pupil is abnormal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've been getting and using the Merck Manual for over 30 years to answer questions about disease for family and friends (pediatrics through geriatrics) as well as preparing to ask germane questions of physicians responsible for care of family and friends. It is comprehensive in its coverage of the etiology, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of diseases of the human body and contains the latest research results on the treatment options. It's really not that difficult for the layman to understand the medical terminology and the result is factual understanding of the major aspects of disease which you will NOT get from the standard home health care books from Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Mayo Clinic, the AMA or even the Merck Home Health handbook. And, unlike the Merck Manual, these books directed to the laity do not contain the diagnostic information upon which physicians decide precisely what disease they are presented with. Yes, there will be much superfluous information which you may never use, but, when you want and need the information about a specific disease, here's where you should start your education.

If I were to only be able to have one medical book available to me, without doubt this is the one I would choose. It is the most comprehensive, most informative, best written of any out there, and it covers every medical issue one can think of and many one can't. Some physicians I know keep a copy in their offices, and will dash over to do a quick check of something in it, especially when what they're checking on is not within their specialty. Additionally, a quick read is like a refresher course in whatever issue is at hand. Don't get me wrong, this book, although written for doctors and nurses, can be easily used by folks who have some knowledge of medicine, or even the complete layman, by purchasing along with it a decent medical dictionary such as Dorland's( has the latest edition of

Dorland's for sale as I write this). I keep several Medical books in my house, but the one I go to most often, and the one whose information I trust most is the Merck Manual. The newest Revised Edition is currently available, and now is the time to buy it. There isn't a medical website that can offer you the kind of information, in detail, that you can find in the Merck.

I think the Merck Manual is a monumental work that gets better all the time. The 16th and 17th edition which I have in my library are approximately of equal size. I missed out on the 18th edition. The 19th edition is quite expanded and the photographs at the back are excellent and very helpful. This is a must have publication for any clinical practitioner regardless of speciality. The coverage of each topic is concise yet adequate enough to be relevant. Usually at the end of one year usage the pages are well worn due to frequent consultation and review. Highly recommended!

In the case of The Merck Manual, the answer is a resounding yes. I would encourage those who keep Harrison's/Cecil's in one location (eg: office) to have The Merck Manual in another (eg: home). The editors have done a wonderful job in re-formatting the entries so that you can get a concise (< 50 word) review of a topic, & then proceed into a longer discussion. Signed, A very satisfied customer.

I first learned of The Merck Manual as a Navy Corpsman, attached to the Marines. I think it was the 13th Ed., but I often heard, "Doc, what are you doing with a textbook in the field? Is that a Bible? You could say that..." I never went out the door, hatch, compartment, or over the side, without it. It was the gap-filler in my clinical education and while we were sitting off the coast of ugly shores, I would read that book a lot. It inspired me to continue my clinical education to this day. I may not go to it as I used to, but I have one on my shelf to remember those times when it didn't let me down. It was a lesson I learned from a wise and seasoned Hm1 (FMF). (Thanks, Harv!) I plan on getting the 19th Edition soon and it goes to my daughter who plans on her own career in medicine. Semper fi, Marines! May God bless, America!

Just received this a few days ago. I have no intention or hope of reading it cover to cover. I've owned several earlier editions and my impressions of this current edition is that it maintains the high standards set in the past. If you're unfamiliar with the Merck Manual: it's a concise, well organized encyclopedic textbook of all (and I mean ALL) areas of medicine. In very short articles that one can quickly read (like between patients), it outlines the most important facts in an overview, followed by

specific information for diagnosis and treatment of most everything from the very rare and esoteric to the everyday, common maladies seen in clinical practice. One might ask, "Is this necessary in the internet/Google age?" IMO, yes. It's a terrific complement to the net and often, the fastest "go to" source when you just need a trusted source of well organized information in a hurry. The current (2011) edition gives the most up to date treatment recommendations with the drugs that are currently available. (as compared with my last 1990s edition).

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