

PLEASE READ—IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The *Gale Encyclopedia of Mental Disorders* is a medical reference product designed to inform and educate readers about a wide variety of mental disorders, diagnostic techniques and tests, therapies, and psychiatric medications. The Gale Group believes the product to be comprehensive, but not necessarily definitive. It is intended to supplement, not replace, consultation with a physician or other health care practitioner. While the Gale Group has made substantial efforts to provide information that is accurate, comprehensive, and up-to-date, the Gale Group makes no representations or warranties of any

kind, including without limitation, warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, nor does it guarantee the accuracy, comprehensiveness, or timeliness of the information contained in this product. Readers should be aware that the universe of medical knowledge is constantly growing and changing, and that differences of medical opinion exist among authorities. Readers are also advised to seek professional diagnosis and treatment of any medical condition, and to discuss information obtained from this book with their health care provider.

INTRODUCTION

The *Gale Encyclopedia of Mental Disorders* is a valuable source of information for anyone who wants to learn more about mental disorders and their treatments. This collection of approximately 400 entries provides in-depth coverage of specific disorders recognized by the American Psychiatric Association (as well as some disorders not formally recognized as distinct disorders), diagnostic procedures and techniques, therapies, and psychiatric medications. In addition, entries have been included to facilitate understanding of related topics, such as Advance directives, Crisis housing, and Neurotransmitters.

This encyclopedia minimizes medical jargon and uses language that laypersons can understand, while still providing thorough coverage that will benefit health science students as well.

Entries follow a standardized format that provides information at a glance. Rubrics include:

Disorders	Medications
Definition	Definition
Description	Purpose
Causes and symptoms	Description
Demographics	Recommended dosage
Diagnosis	Precautions
Treatments	Side effects
Prognosis	Interactions
Prevention	Resources
Resources	

INCLUSION CRITERIA

A preliminary list of mental disorders and related topics was compiled from a wide variety of sources, including professional medical guides and textbooks, as well as consumer guides and encyclopedias. The advisory board, made up of professionals from a variety of health care fields including psychology, psychiatry, pharmacy, and social work, evaluated the topics and made suggestions for inclusion. Final selection of topics to include

was made by the advisory board in conjunction with the Gale editor.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

The essays were compiled by experienced medical writers, including physicians, pharmacists, and psychologists. The advisors reviewed the completed essays to ensure that they are appropriate, up-to-date, and accurate.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The *Gale Encyclopedia of Mental Disorders* has been designed with ready reference in mind.

- Straight **alphabetical arrangement** of topics allows users to locate information quickly.
- **Bold-faced terms** within entries direct the reader to related articles.
- **Cross-references** placed throughout the encyclopedia direct readers from alternate names, drug brand names, and related topics to entries.
- A list of **key terms** is provided where appropriate to define unfamiliar terms or concepts. A **glossary** of key terms is also included at the back of Volume II.
- The **Resources** sections direct readers to additional sources of information on a topic.
- Valuable **contact information** for organizations and support groups is included with many of the disorder entries.
- A leaf graphic (✻) inserted next to the entry title denotes entries about herbals (such as Ginkgo biloba) or dietary supplements (such as SAME). These entries have the same rubrics as the medication entries; however, the graphic is to draw attention to the fact that these entries are not about prescription medications.
- A **Symptoms list** at the back of Volume II has been included *not* for diagnosis but to reveal patterns in

symptoms and disorders and to provide a starting point for research or discussion with a health care provider.

- A comprehensive **general index** guides readers to all topics mentioned in the text.

GRAPHICS

The *Gale Encyclopedia of Mental Disorders* contains 100 illustrations, photos, and tables. A color insert in each volume has been included to enhance certain photos shown in the text in black and white.