

INTRODUCTION

The *Gale Encyclopedia of Surgery and Medical Tests, 2nd Edition* is a unique and invaluable source of information. This collection of 535 entries provides in-depth coverage of various issues related to surgery, medical tests, diseases and conditions, hospitalization, and general health care. These entries generally follow a standard format, including a definition, purpose, demographics, description, diagnosis/preparation, aftercare, precautions, risks, side effects, interactions, morbidity and mortality rates, alternatives, normal results, questions to ask your doctor, and information about who performs the procedures and where they are performed. Topics of a more general nature related to surgical hospitalization and medical testing round out the set. Examples of this coverage include entries on Adult day care, Ambulatory surgery centers, Death and dying, Discharge from the hospital, Do not resuscitate (DNR) order, Exercise, Finding a surgeon, Hospice, Hospital services, Informed consent, Living will, Long-term care insurance, Managed care plans, Medicaid, Medicare, Patient rights, Planning a hospital stay, Power of attorney, Private insurance plans, Second opinion, Talking to the doctor, and others.

Scope

The *Gale Encyclopedia of Surgery and Medical Tests, 2nd Edition* covers a wide variety of topics relevant to the user. Entries follow a standardized format that provides information at a glance. Rubrics include the following (not every entry will make use of all of them):

- Definition
- Description
- Purpose
- Demographics
- Diagnosis/preparation
- Aftercare

- Precautions
- Risks
- Side effects
- Interactions
- Morbidity and mortality rates
- Alternatives
- Normal results
- “Questions to ask the doctor”
- “Who performs the procedure and where is it performed?”
- Resources
- Key Terms

Inclusion criteria

A preliminary list of topics was compiled from a wide variety of sources, including health reference books, general medical encyclopedias, and consumer health guides. The advisory board evaluated the topics and made suggestions for inclusion. Final selection of topics to include was made by the advisory board in conjunction with the editor.

About the contributors

The essays were compiled by experienced medical writers, including medical doctors, pharmacists, and registered nurses. The advisers reviewed the completed essays to ensure that they are appropriate, up-to-date, and accurate.

How to use this book

The *Gale Encyclopedia of Surgery and Medical Tests, 2nd Edition* 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 and related topics to entries.
- A list of **Key terms** is provided where appropriate to define terms or concepts that may be unfamiliar to the user. A **glossary** of key terms in the back of the fourth volume contains a concise list of terms arranged alphabetically.
- The **Resources** section directs readers to additional sources of information on a topic.
- Valuable **contact information** for health organizations is included with most entries. An Appendix of **organizations** in the back of the fourth volume contains an extensive list of organizations arranged alphabetically.
- A comprehensive **general index** guides readers to significant topics mentioned in the text.

Graphics

The *Gale Encyclopedia of Surgery and Medical Tests, 2nd Edition* is also enhanced by color photographs, illustrations, and tables.

Acknowledgements

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