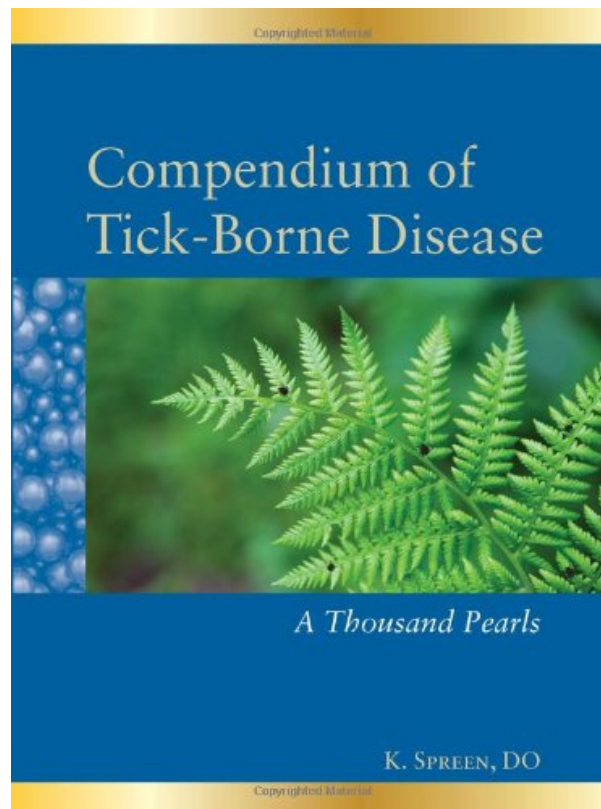


COMPENDIUM OF TICK-BORNE DISEASE A THOUSAND PEARLS BY K. SPREEN



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This Compendium provides a comprehensive overview of tick-borne diseases (Lyme, Babesiosis, Bartonella, etc...) including, descriptions, diagnostic approaches, treatment options, and an array of management plans. The text was designed to educate health care providers, patients, and caretakers about the risks posed by tick-borne illnesses. Previously, the contradictory, confusing, and inflammatory rhetoric available made proper diagnosis and treatment of these cases difficult, if not impossible. Because Dr. Spreen compiled, interpreted, and consolidated expert opinion, medical literature, and hands-on experience into one volume, the reader finally has an accessible resource that will aid in collaborative, practical, and compassionate decision-making. Dr. Spreen focuses on creative strategies that allow the best chance for successful outcomes. She dispels harmful myths and provides a solid scientific foundation for the practical guidance incorporated into this text. You are no longer alone in your attempt to combat these complex and confusing conditions. This book will help you to never lose hope and to NEVER GIVE UP.

- Sales Rank: #907520 in Books
- Published on: 2013
- Binding: Hardcover
- 856 pages

Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

If Lyme or tick borne disease affects your life, this is the book to read.....

By knittin'kate

The comments for Compendium of Tick Borne Disease (TBD) already expressed by others are accurate and beyond. Perhaps this volume will do for the issue of tick borne diseases what William Osler's 'The Principles and Practice of Medicine' did for general medicine. However, this volume is readable for both for physicians and non-physicians alike. Dr. Spreen has done magnificent job of informative writing for a wide audience. Terms and concepts are defined so one doesn't need medical training to comprehend the complex issues with TBDs. Her personal writing style makes what could be dull reading, instead fascinating reading. I'm a physician with Lyme and considered myself literate on the subject, until I began to read this text and now realizing how little I know. This is the book badly needed by both physicians and those (or loved ones) suffering with tick borne diseases. Public libraries, medical school and teaching hospital libraries need this copy on their circulating shelves and in their reference section. Consider petitioning your local acquisitions librarian to obtain a copy(s). This volume can be made available to everyone if public libraries will acquire it. Lyme/TBD in general are so controversial and the disease presentations so variable that my impression is that anyone suspecting they have Lyme should self-educate. The information in this book imparts knowledge and wisdom for a very costly disease and I believe in the long run will not only save money, help understand the illness(es) and guide one in decisions about effective treatment. The author is well qualified to write this well researched text and has inside knowledge from everything from personal experience with TBD in self and family, to research, writing and the current medical milieu in which Lyme is embroiled. Kathy's sacrifice to write this book is no small gift to those who suffer from tick borne diseases. Thank you, Dr. Spreen.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Valuable resource for clinicians who are serious about helping patients

By DM

Dr. Spreen's book "Compendium of Tick-Borne Disease: A Thousand Pearls" is an excellent example of the valuable insights about a disease that can result when a doctor, or someone close, becomes the patient. Dr. Spreen developed a serious case of Lyme disease and her son almost died from a co-infection with Lyme and Babesia, providing the motivation to undertake this Herculean effort, which took advantage of her background in public health and medical research, and her experience as a practicing physician. The book represents a distillation and interpretation of the clinical literature on tick-borne diseases, primarily Lyme and related disease, as well as the opinions and practices of doctors who are dedicated to treating them. The field is a mess, with profound gaps in knowledge about the causative organisms, disease pathophysiology and treatment regimens, and is further complicated by political and economic aspects. The result has been the development of competing camps that have extremely different views, with the biggest source of contention being the existence and treatment of chronic disease. Dr. Spreen makes a strong case for aggressive treatment of both acute and chronic disease, and is particularly critical of a wait-and-see approach, rigid clinical practice guidelines, lab-dependent diagnosis, the requirement for erythema migrans (the supposedly characteristic bulls-eye rash of Lyme disease), inadequate duration of treatment, over-reliance on monotherapy, the failure to consider tick-borne disease besides Lyme, and the failure to consider concomitant tick-borne disease (which has become very common). She repeatedly emphasizes the need to listen to the patient and to make a clinical diagnosis. The book focuses on the needs of clinicians who are serious about treating tick-borne diseases, and provides extensive guidance for their diagnosis and treatment. The "pearls" in the title are side-notes that are interspersed throughout most of the pages and serve to emphasize, clarify, summarize and give examples. The writing style is very personal, and while not typical for a medical textbook, is very effective in delivering the message and engaging the reader. Sometimes things appear to be repetitive, but this is probably because the book is expected to be used as a go-to reference more than to be read cover-to-cover. I think it is going to be very interesting to see how this book is received, and hope it is not ignored because it has so much potential to help improve the treatment of tick-borne diseases--which are significantly under diagnosed and under treated.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Support Group Leader Gives Two Thumbs Way Up!

By Kandice

Dr. Spreen's book is a Godsend to patients, caregivers, and physicians alike. I heard her describe what the book covered while at another event and I purchased it immediately without reserve. As the Founder of the Howard County Lyme Awareness group, I have read many books about Lyme and tick-borne diseases and tried myself to sift through the endless amounts of research and theory without confident success. Kathy Spreen has sifted through all this for us and presents it in such a palatable way. She is a master at taking those hard to comprehend medical terms and ideas, such as in the "Gentle Immunology" chapter and helping the lay person grasp it.

I have recommended this book to the patients and families that attend my support group and events as well as to several physicians, who were incidentally thrilled to find something so comprehensive and have since purchased the book themselves. I have also recommended that people take this book along to their physician and gently encourage them to consider specific courses of action based on the research shown in the text.

As someone with Chronic Lyme herself, caregiver to 2 children with Lyme & Tick-Borne Diseases, and a leader of a local support group, I cannot recommend this book high enough and that is why I give it two thumbs WAY UP!

See all 21 customer reviews...

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