Introduction to Complementary and Alternative Treatments for Cancer

The term “alternative medicine” refers to a variety of therapeutic and preventative health care practices which do not follow conventional medical methods. Alternative medicine includes but is not limited to homeopathy, acupuncture, naturopathy, and osteopathy. These practices can complement conventional cancer treatment, especially when dealing with pain or side effects from standard medical treatments. This guide is intended as a starting point for individuals such as cancer patients or the family members of cancer patients who are interested in alternative treatment. Remember to always consult your doctor when considering methods of treatment.

Hawaii State Library
478 S. King St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
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Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm
Sunday: Closed

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Websites


Where to Look

You will find relevant materials on the second floor of the library in the Business, Science, and Technology collection. To search the online catalog, choose Subject Keyword search, and use the term: CANCER-ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT.

Browse call numbers 615.503 (Pharmacology and Therapeutics) and 616.994 (Cancers). Don’t forget to check the Reference section on the opposite side.

General Reference and Books


Searching Periodicals Databases

Searching medical and health databases can be daunting, but it also provides access to the latest information. Here is an example of a step-by-step search to get you started.

1. From the main Hawaii State Library web page, choose: Electronic Databases

2. Scroll down the list of databases until you find an appropriate one for this topic. Alt Health Watch, Health and Wellness Resource Center, and Health Source are good choices.

3. Click on the database you’re interested in and in the search box that appears enter the search term “cancer alternative treatment” and select SU Subject terms.

4. If information about a particular type of therapy is desired, the search can be limited by adding a second line. For example: Cancer alternative treatment in SU Subject terms, Naturopathy in Select a Field (optional)

Sample Articles from Alt Health Watch:
