Pain is said to be one of the most feared and distressing symptoms in chronic disease and one that disrupts all aspects of life. Cancer pain has a significant impact on the overall quality of a cancer patient's life by influencing physical, psychological, and social aspects. When cancer pain persists and worsens, it can serve as a sign of the progression of disease and can create a sense of hopelessness because patients fear that their lives are not worth continuing or patients lose the meaning of living if they must live in pain. The present text will focus on the management of pain in patients with advanced cancer and their quality of life covering a wide range of topics. It has been published by Nova Science Publishers and is part of a series entitled Health and Human Development with publications from a multidisciplinary group of researchers, practitioners and clinicians for an international professional forum interested in the broad spectrum of health and human development. An interesting part of this book is the presentation of four case studies indicating the combination of theory with practice. The chapters cover a diverse set of topics, which are examined in a sequence suggested by the broad section headings below.

### Section one: pain management


### Section two: palliative radiotherapy


### Section three: advanced cancer


### Section four: quality of life


### Section five: some case reports


### Section six: acknowledgements

The chapters presented earlier report empirical findings using figures and charts. In this way, it is easier for the readers to compare different outcome measures and tools.

### Brief review

This book is also intended to provide a comprehensive review and evaluation of the state of advanced cancer, with an eye to new developments on the horizon that will strengthen the capacity to measure, evaluate and improve pain management in the context of cancer care. The present book’s material is accessible to a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds. The readers of this book mainly include health professionals who are engaged with the care of cancer patients e.g. physicians, nurses, psychologists etc. as well as students in the fields of medicine, nursing, psychology or social work. The contents can be also useful for health economists and health policy makers. It is essential to remember that health outcomes – specifically health – related quality of life – are a very important tool for the evaluation of health policies.

### Reference


Paraskevi Theofilou, 
Sotiria Hospital for Thoracic Diseases 
Athens, Greece