



Yoga for Cancer: A Guide to Managing Side Effects, Boosting Immunity, and Improving Recovery for Cancer Survivors

By Tari Prinster

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Using yoga to manage the challenges of cancer and its treatment:

- * Explains how to create a safe home yoga practice that addresses the specific physical needs, risks, and emotions of cancer patients and survivors
- * Includes 53 yoga poses and 20 practice sequences that use movement and breathing to reduce and manage treatment side effects
- * Reveals how current research supports the physical and psychological benefits of yoga to aid recovery and reduce risk of recurrence
- * Written by a cancer survivor and certified yoga teacher

For those faced with a cancer diagnosis and the journey of doctor-led surgery and treatments, yoga offers a way to regain control of your body and take an active part in your recovery and long-term health. In this easy-to-follow illustrated guide, yoga teacher and cancer survivor Tari Prinster presents 53 traditional yoga poses that are adapted for all levels of ability and cancer challenges. She then applies the movements and breathwork of these poses to address 10 common side effects and offers 9 practice sequences for varying stages of treatment and recovery.

Sharing her own story as well as those of cancer survivors and yoga teachers with whom she has worked, Prinster explores how yoga can be used to strengthen the immune system, rebuild bone density, avoid and manage lymphedema, decrease anxiety, detoxify the body, reduce pain, and help the body repair damage caused by the cancer and conventional treatments. She reveals the research that supports the physical and psychological benefits of yoga as an aid to recovery and in reducing the risk of recurrence. Explaining how yoga must be tailored to each survivor, Prinster gives you the tools to create a safe home yoga practice, one that addresses your abilities, energy level, and overall health goals.

Through personal stories, well-illustrated poses, and sample practices for beginners as well as experienced yoga practitioners, Prinster empowers survivors to create their own wellness plan in order to regain their independence and their physical and emotional well-being.

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Editorial Review

Review

Yoga for Cancer is a look into Tari Prinster's simple yet groundbreaking work with survivors, in which she vibrantly encourages her students to participate in their own healing. Tari's practical guide helps cancer survivors create a safe, inspiring home yoga practice, as an anchor to their own personal Wellness Plan. Yoga For Cancer an instrumental aspect of healing, surviving and thriving after treatment. (*Elena Brower, Yoga Leader & Author, Art of Attention*)

Yoga is an excellent tool for accessing the body's amazing capacity to heal itself. In, Yoga for Cancer, Prinster, a yoga instructor and cancer survivor herself, gives clear evidence as to the benefits of yoga for cancer patients and survivors, and presents a rationale approach to a safe and well balanced asana practice. A 'must read' for those contemplating yoga as a means to take charge of their lives after a diagnosis of cancer. (*Julie A. Rosenberg, MD, Pediatric Oncologist, Yoga Instructor*)

This book is a terrific guide for survivors to do a daily practice. It explains the benefits of yoga that directly address treatment side effects - short and long term. It's goal is to bring this method of yoga for cancer as a beacon to every survivor in the form of a book. Tari did a wonderful job creating this step-by-step method and survivors everywhere will benefit. (*Dr. Paulette Sherman, psychologist & author*)

"This book is a terrific guide for survivors to do a daily practice. Its goal is to make this method of yoga for cancer a beacon for every survivor in the form of a book. Tari did a wonderful job creating this step-by-step method, and survivors everywhere will benefit." (*Paulette Sherman, Psy.D., psychologist and author of The Cancer Path*)

"As a cancer survivor myself, I found Tari's information on how to detoxify our body to be invaluable to my recovery. *Yoga for Cancer* is a useful tool for helping cancer survivors to reclaim their lives." (*Kathleen McBeth, clinical psychologist at the Cancer Patient Support Program*)

"An important addition to the growing collection of helpful resources for cancer survivors and yoga teachers is cancer survivor and yoga teacher Tari Prinster's recently released book, *Yoga for Cancer: A Guide to Managing Side Effects, Boosting Immunity, and Improving Recovery for Cancer Survivors*." (*Baxter Bell, M.D., RYT*)

"Yoga for Cancer aids the recovering cancer patient and survivor with experience, warmth, and good sense." (*Loren M. Fishman, M.D., Manhattan Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*)

"This is straight talk from someone who knows. In *Yoga for Cancer*, Ms. Prinster effectively demonstrates why and how to use yoga to cope with cancer and cancer treatments, to lessen treatment side effects, and to enrich patients' lives as they regain and maintain their health. Yoga for Cancer sets out to help people live longer, healthier and happier lives. Writing it is a loving act of kindness by Ms. Prinster. This book is highly recommended for cancer patients and survivors, caregivers, and yoga instructors." (*New York Journal of Books, Birgit Patty, December 2014*)

"Tari Prinster's *Yoga for Cancer* is written as a guide for cancer patients and survivors, but the book is a wonderful introduction to the healing powers of yoga for anyone. ...A road map for creating a home yoga

practice to support physical and emotional well-being.” (*Her Magazine*, January 2015)

“Prinster’s text hits the mark. A deep knowledge of cancer’s effects (and side effects) allows her to present the roles of both patient and practitioner with confidence. Prinster’s own words and the testimonials of survivors/students weave together personal narratives and proven principles of medicine. *Yoga for Cancer* is a fully integrative book that works on every level to both motivate and soothe. It deserves to be in the hands of cancer patients everywhere. What are you waiting for? Go and tell a friend!” (*Alive Magazine*, Helene Meurer, April 2015)

“*Yoga for Cancer* is a must read for all those living with cancer, providing the essential yoga tools with which you can construct your own wellness plan. If you are living with cancer and have tried yoga before or need an invitation to start, please read this book.” (*Kate McIntyre Clere*, filmmaker for *Yogawoman*)

“Prinster, a breast cancer survivor and certified yoga teacher, presents an innovative plan to help readers diagnosed with cancer reap the benefits of yoga practice, from diagnosis through recovery. Admitting she was initially skeptical of yoga’s “healing powers,” Prinster takes readers through the scientific research, concluding that yoga can function as the “organ muscle” of the lymphatic system: helping with lymphatic drainage, venous return, bone building, relaxation, and immune function. Prinster also persuasively demonstrates how yoga can cleanse and strengthen the body, increase range of motion and flexibility, strengthen the spine, alleviate weight gain, and help patients deal with pain, fear, and anxiety. To meet the particular needs of cancer patients, the book presents 53 different poses, appropriate for different diagnoses or stages of treatment. Although Prinster notes the advantages of taking a group yoga class, this text will help readers build their own home practice (particularly useful for those who can’t locate a survivor class or would like to supplement one). In clear, compassionate language, Prinster explains her methodology and eloquently argues for yoga as a “prescription for reclaiming life and as a wellness plan for moving on to long-term health.” (*Publishers Weekly*, November 2014)

“A ‘must read’ for those contemplating yoga as a means to take charge of their lives after a diagnosis of cancer.” (*JULIE A. ROSENBERG, M.D., RYT, pediatric oncologist and yoga instructor*)

“*Yoga for Cancer* is a look into Tari’s simple yet groundbreaking work with survivors. Her practical guide helps cancer survivors create a safe and inspiring home yoga practice. Tari’s gentle approach is complemented perfectly by her easy-to-follow guidance, making *Yoga for Cancer* an instrumental aspect of healing, surviving, and thriving after treatment.” (*Elena Brower, coauthor of Art of Attention*)

“As a general oncologist, I wholeheartedly support *Yoga for Cancer*. Tari has successfully blended the ancient art of yoga with the contemporary art of oncology in a beautifully mindful but scientifically based manner.” (*Julie J. Olin, M.D., Medical Oncology, Fletcher Allen Health Care, Vermont*)

“*Yoga for Cancer* is a yoga prescription for those touched by cancer. Tari offers support born of experience and tough love liberally sprinkled with compassion. As a writer and yoga teacher, I can say this book makes an important contribution to our collective knowledge of the healing powers of yoga.” (*Linda Sparrowe, author of Yoga--A Yoga Journal Book*)

“*Yoga for Cancer* is a wonderful read and full of essential information for those living with breast cancer.” (*Linda and Bob Carey, founders of The Tutu Project*)

“Tari’s empathy and knowledge of how the body works is a tremendous benefit to all who read *Yoga for Cancer*.” (*Mio Fredland, M.D., psychiatrist, New York Presbyterian University Hospital*)

“A wonderful aid for beginners like me.” (*Susan Gubar, writer of the Living with Cancer blog for the New York Times*)

“Tari’s passion to assist cancer survivors is outstanding. Her practice is easy to follow and helps us get over the past and move more powerfully in the future. She provides mind and body empowerment.” (*Donna Wilson, RN, MSN, RRT, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*)

“Tari Prinster was my Yoda-in-a-tank-top. I began taking her yoga classes simply to get back the range of motion in my arm and chest muscles, but her class taught me much more. I left stronger, inside and out. She expresses the lessons of her classes now in this book, and I’m thrilled she’ll get to touch so many more people.” (*Shelley Lewis, cancer survivor and author of Five Lessons I Didn’t Learn from Breast Cancer*)

“*Yoga for Cancer* is a fact-based guide to healing. Tari explains in clear language what to do and why to unlock the healing potential of yoga.” (*Stephanie M. Shorter, Ph.D., RYT, neuroscientist and founder of Mind-Body Collective*)

“While I was going through cancer treatments a few years ago, Tari’s classes really helped me focus on something else besides being sick. The techniques and wisdom in *Yoga for Cancer* are almost as good as having Tari right there with you.” (*Jake Burton, founder and chairman of Burton Snowboards*)

About the Author

Tari Prinster is a yoga teacher, founder of yoga4cancer and the Retreat Project (501c3) and a breast cancer survivor. She has worked with thousands of survivors and yoga teachers nationally and internationally. Her work has been featured in the documentary *YogaWoman*, *Yoga Journal*, *CBS News*, *DNAinfo New York*, *Yoganonymous* and many others. She has presented at conferences held by *Yoga Journal*, *Yoga Service Council*, and *International Alliance of Yoga Therapists* and has published articles in many yoga & wellness publications. She lives in New York City and Vermont. y4c.com

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Chapter 6

Creating Your Yoga Practice and Learning the Poses

Yoga poses for cancer patients and survivors are not much different from those for everyone else: we all need to strengthen our immune systems and get our muscles moving and fluids flowing! Yoga for Cancer poses, however, are selected for their specific benefits to target survivors’ needs. Survivors can use many, but not all, yoga poses. Some popular poses should be avoided, or used only with great caution.

In this chapter fifty-three unique poses are provided that are tailored to the specific needs of cancer patients and survivors. Each pose is detailed with an illustration and description along with any benefits and modifications. My recommendation is that you fully review all these poses to better understand what options you have. In chapters 7 and 8 I have sequenced these poses to provide sample practices of thirty, sixty, and ninety minutes based on where you are in your treatment or recovery and the side effects you are hoping to address (such as lymphedema, bone loss, weight gain, anxiety, etc.).

Getting Warmed Up

- Starting to Move with Your Breath
- Arm Vinyasas
- Seated Hip and Spine Warm-Ups

Starting to Move with Your Breath

Pelvic Tilt

Sit upright with hands on your hips. Use your hands to bring awareness to the movement of the hips in this sequence.

INHALE: Rock to the front of your sitz bones, moving the front of your hips toward your thighs to arch your spine. Lift your chest and draw your elbows behind you.

EXHALE: Rock to the back of your sitz bones, rounding your spine. Let your head fall forward as you pull your belly back. Elbows move out to the sides. Repeat sequence five times.

Benefits: Breath awareness, coordinating movement with breath, spine mobility, hip flexibility, chest opening, releases neck tension, releases tension in upper and lower back.

Neck Stretch

Begin in your upright seat with your head balanced on top of your spine, chin parallel with the floor.

INHALE: Lengthen your spine, sitting tall.

EXHALE: Slowly lean your left ear toward your left shoulder. Relax the muscles on the right side of your neck.

INHALE: Reach your right hand actively toward the floor beside your right hip, turning your right hand so the palm faces forward and then away from you.

EXHALE: Lean your head a little bit farther to the left to increase the stretch.

INHALE: Bring your head back upright

EXHALE: Lean your head to the left, into the stretch.

Repeat the last two steps for five breaths. Then switch to the second side, leaning right ear toward right shoulder while reaching the left hand toward the floor.

Modifications: This sequence can also be done standing.

Benefits: Breath awareness; coordinating movement with breath; releases neck, shoulder, and upper back tension.

Arm Vinyasas

Cactus Clap

Sit upright with palms on your thighs.

INHALE: Lift your arms to shoulder height, bend your elbows to make a cactus shape, palms facing forward.

EXHALE: Bring your palms and forearms together in front of your face.

INHALE: Re-open your arms to cactus.

Repeat the last two steps for three breaths. Move slowly, following your breath. Then lower your arms and rest palms on your thighs.

Modifications: Forearms and palms may not come all the way together. Bring them as close as is comfortable.

Benefits: Range of motion in shoulders and arms, chest and upper back stretch, lymphatic drainage in arms.

Cactus Twist

Sit upright with palms on your thighs.

INHALE: Lift arms to cactus.

EXHALE: Holding your right cactus arm steady, bring your left cactus arm across to your right, twisting your spine to the right. Your forearms may or may not touch.

INHALE: Re-open your arms to cactus.

EXHALE: Repeat on second side, holding your left cactus arm steady and twisting left to bring your right forearm toward your left.

INHALE: Re-open to cactus.

Repeat the entire sequence three times.

Benefits: Range of motion in shoulders and arms, upper spine flexibility, chest and upper back stretch/strengthening, lymphatic drainage in upper body.

Seated Hip and Spine Warm-Ups

Seated Cat /Cow

Sit in a chair, cross-legged, or on your knees. Cup your hands around your knees or thighs, extending your arms as much as possible.

INHALE: Arch your spine, reaching your chest up through your upper arms, belly moving toward thighs. Pull on your knees with your hands.

EXHALE: Round your spine, belly away from thighs, head bowing forward, as if wrapping your torso over a beach ball. Press your hands against your knees.

Repeat sequence at least five times. If you are sitting cross-legged, switch which leg is in front and repeat the entire sequence an equal number of times.

Benefits: Full spine flexibility, chest and upper back stretch/strengthening, stimulates lymph system in hips and torso.

Chapter 7

Sample Practices for Varying Stages of Your Treatment and Recovery

30-, 60-, and 90-Minute Practices

This chapter offers sample practices based on various challenge levels and durations of time so that you can have the flexibility to choose different practices based on how you are feeling. They are designed to be effective for both new and experienced yoga practitioners. The individual poses you learned in the previous pages are carefully sequenced into complete practices. If you are a cancer survivor in treatment, in recovery, maintaining your new normal, or gaining new strength, these samplers are a way to structure your home practice. Or if you are a yoga teacher for cancer patients or survivors, you can use these sample sequences as a basic outline to help plan your classes.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michelle Sanders:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them household or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent all day long to reading a publication. The book *Yoga for Cancer: A Guide to Managing Side Effects, Boosting Immunity, and Improving Recovery for Cancer Survivors* it is quite good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book possesses high quality.

Jose Bell:

As we know that book is essential thing to add our expertise for everything. By a publication we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated or perhaps blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This publication *Yoga for Cancer: A Guide to Managing Side Effects, Boosting Immunity, and Improving Recovery for Cancer Survivors* was filled regarding science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your research competence. Some people has different feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big benefit from a book, you can experience enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like today, many ways to get book you wanted.

David Eaton:

Book is one of source of information. We can add our expertise from it. Not only for students but in addition native or citizen have to have book to know the up-date information of year for you to year. As we know those guides have many advantages. Beside we add our knowledge, also can bring us to around the world. With the book *Yoga for Cancer: A Guide to Managing Side Effects, Boosting Immunity, and Improving Recovery for Cancer Survivors* we can take more advantage. Don't that you be creative people? To become creative person must love to read a book. Just simply choose the best book that suited with your aim. Don't become doubt to change your life at this time book *Yoga for Cancer: A Guide to Managing Side Effects, Boosting Immunity, and Improving Recovery for Cancer Survivors*. You can more inviting than now.

Robin Adams:

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