This timely edited collection explores the use of complementary, alternative, and traditional medicine for women’s reproductive health. Bringing together a multidisciplinary team of contributors from around the world, Torri and Hornosty introduce students to topics such as fertility, menopause, pregnancy, childbirth practices, post-natal care, breastfeeding, and breast cancer. Providing insights into the wide spectrum of practices and beliefs that define complementary and alternative medicine, the contributors situate women’s health issues within the local socio-cultural, geographic, economic, historical, and political contexts in which they exist. The thought-provoking research and discussions explore some of the perceived differences and complementarities between traditional medicine and biomedicine in reproductive health. Featuring learning objectives, critical thinking questions, and a glossary, this pedagogically rich volume is well suited to courses in medical anthropology, sociology of health and medicine, women’s health, public health, and health policy.

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Reviews

"Complementary, Alternative, and Traditional Medicine is a must-read for those looking for a global perspective on the current use of complementary and traditional therapies in the treatment of infertility and other prominent women’s health issues. Using an assortment of case studies from around the world, it provides a comprehensive perspective on a patient’s choice and decision-making process when selecting a particular CAM therapy. Moreover, its pedagogical value to any practitioner or teacher attempting to help others make a critical and informed decision about their health-care choices cannot be overlooked."—Dr. Alistair Dias, Associate Professor, Teaching Stream, Human Biology Program, University of Toronto.

"This collection strongly supports the need for midwifery and complementary medicine, and it demonstrates through the research how valuable and important this health service is for women. The cases studied were ideal for showing how midwifery promotes women’s health and gives them a strong nurturing element during the miraculous but painful time of delivering a child."—Dr. Nancy-Angel Doetzel, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Mount Royal University.

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