

Maggot Therapy

A Handbook of Maggot-Assisted Wound Healing

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Preface

This volume and the German edition that preceded it are landmarks in maggot therapy history. Together, they represent a milestone in the 21st century revival of maggot therapy. Seventy years ago, no one ever imagined that there would be the volume of information or the popular demand to warrant an entire book on the topic of maggot therapy. Just 10 years ago, almost no one believed that the world would again see the widespread use of maggot therapy or the need for an entire book on this topic. But this book is now surely warranted, given our expanding knowledge of this awesome medical practice, and the growing interest and use of biodebridement to aid in the care and healing of wounds unresponsive to more conventional medical and surgical therapies.

Drs. Fleischmann and Grassberger brought their wealth of knowledge and experience to the original German edition, which explored the history, biology, pathology, mechanics—the science, philosophy, and art—of maggot therapy. Now, 2 years later, this volume expands on that work with the results of new research, more chapters, and additional references, and brings the entire body of work to the English-speaking world. Case histories illustrate the varied uses of maggot therapy. Technical problems and their solutions are discussed.

The clinical photographs are not for the weak-hearted, nor for those with weak stomachs. They are included because they accurately illustrate the wounds that often require maggot therapy: gangrenous, life- or limb-threatening wounds that have progressed for weeks, months, or even years despite the best of modern medicine and surgery. No matter how much the reader may be disgusted by maggots, after reading the case reports the reader will come to agree with maggot therapy patients and practitioners: the smelly, draining, gangrenous wounds are much more disgusting than the maggots.

Whether a student of biology, a prospective patient, or a medical professional considering the use of maggot therapy in your own practice, this book will inform, amaze, and entertain you. You will be engrossed. Enjoy it.

Autumn 2003 *Ronald Sherman*

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