

*Better Health for Life from
Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network*



Defying Cancer Through Humor and Poetry

Cancer is not a disease to take lightly, but Leslie Greenberg, 59, of Macungie finds that writing humorous verse about her experiences with cancer helps her cope. "It lets me put a different spin on things instead of feeling sorry for myself," she says.

Diagnosed with colon cancer in 2000, Greenberg currently is undergoing treatments for her cancer's third recurrence. About a year after being diagnosed, she began putting some of her thoughts about living with cancer into short poems. Lying awake at night, she found wacky rhymes about chemotherapy, drugs and nausea popping into her head. They made her laugh, so she started writing them down.

At the time of this interview (November 2006), Greenberg had another round of treatment—gene-targeted chemotherapy this time—scheduled for December. She intends to keep writing her verses through that, too. "Right now, I find writing easier than talking to people about my disease," she says.



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