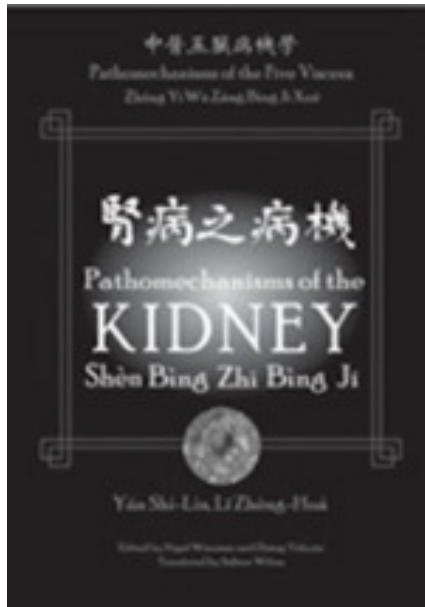


Pathomechanisms of the Kidney



YAN Shi-Lin & LI Zheng-Hua



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Pathomechanisms describe the dynamic process through which disease develops and transforms in the body. While pattern diagnosis provides the practitioner with a snapshot picture of the current state of illness, it is a thorough understanding of pathomechanisms that allows one to predict and prevent the progression of disease. A comprehensive knowledge of the pathomechanisms involved in a given case allows treatment to be more holistic, preventative, and effective. Up to now, relatively little of this material has been transmitted to the West, and consequently many practitioners have failed to go beyond pattern diagnosis to examine the underlying disease process that produces the patterns. Thus, pathomechanisms are often described as a 'missing link' in a Westerner's Chinese medical education. This text attempts to bridge this gap so that practitioners may advance their knowledge and reap the rewards of greater clinical success.

Pathomechanisms of the Kidney describes the repletion conditions of the kidney, including kidney-channel wind-cold, wind-heat, wind-damp, cold-damp, damp-heat, repletion fire, static blood, phlegm turbidity, stones in the kidney channel, and kidney channel qi stagnation. The second section presents vacuity conditions, including vacuity of kidney yang, of kidney qi, and of kidney yin, insufficiency of kidney essence, dual vacuity of kidney yin and kidney yang, and kidney vacuity verging on desertion.

The author offers a review of relevant literature, spanning the entire range of traditional medical literature beginning with the early classics. For each text, he gives the specific quotations and then paraphrases and explains it. This provides the reader a sense of the historical evolution as well as the various clinical perspectives on each pathomechanism. At the conclusion of each section, the author summarizes the information in a useful table that differentiates again by aetiology and then lists specific symptoms in each case. The appendices include a section on modern research, a Chinese-English bibliography in alphabetical order (with both classical texts and journal articles on modern research) and a Chinese bibliography organized by stroke number.

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