

Fourth Edition

HUMAN DISEASES

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Chapter 1

Introduction to Human Diseases

The Basics:

OBJECTIVES/RATIONALE

Pathology is a result of disease and changes in homeostasis. The student will understand the mechanisms of pathology.

Concept

- Homeostasis
 - State of normalcy
 - The process of maintaining normal balance within the body
 - When homeostasis is not maintained, **disease** ensues.
 - Normal range or limits

Key Terms

- Pathology

- Study of disease

- Pathologist

- One who studies disease

Two common specialties are:

1. anatomic pathology – pathologists who perform autopsies to determine cause of death

2. clinical pathology – pathologists who review lab specimens to determine evidence of abnormal tissue, presence of chemicals

Some specifics about pathologists

- Experimental → research
- Academic → teaching
- Anatomic → clinic examinations
- Surgical → biopsies during surgery
- Clinical → laboratory study
- Hematology → blood
- Immunology → antigen & antibodies
- Microbiology → microorganisms (**pathogens**)

How to become a pathologist?

1. Doctor

Bachelors degree, MCAT, Med school ; residency ; fellowships

2. Clinical Scientist

Graduate student with higher degrees/certifications and most likely PhD's often in microbiology

3 Key Terms

- **Disease**
 - Change from normal; symptoms occur with a pathologic state present; due to alterations of homeostasis
- **Disorder**
 - Abnormality of function
- **Syndrome**
 - Symptoms caused by specific disease

Lets ID these terms:

- Vitamin D deficiency
- Leukemia
- AIDS
- Pneumonia
- Down
- Arthritis

- Disease?
- Disorder?
- Syndrome?

- Which of the terms can be synonymously used?

Key Terms

- Pathogens
 - Microorganisms or agents that cause disease
 - What are some?
- Pathologic
 - Caused by disease process
- Pathogenesis
 - Description of how a particular disease progresses
 - Acute: Short-term with sudden onset
 - Chronic: Long-term or slow healing process

Pathogenesis

Example: common cold

1. Cause = exposure & inoculation of cold virus
2. Incubation time = virus multiplies
3. Manifestation = host begins to have signs and symptoms (sore throat, itchy eyes, runny nose, etc.)
4. Recovery = return to previous state of health

Sort Examples

ACUTE



CHRONIC



middle ear infection

diabetes mellitus

hypertension

laceration

asthma

UTI (urinary tract infection)

hematoma

broken clavical

cyclic fibrosis

gasroenteritis

Etiology

- Cause of disease
- Idiopathic
 - Cause unknown
- Iatrogenic
 - Problem related to treatment
 - EX: anemia in chemotherapy patients
- Nosocomial
 - Disease acquired from hospital environment
 - EX: MRSA infection from hospital procedure/exposure

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS—pg 6

1. Hand Washing – antimicrobial soaps; elbow greetings
2. Respiratory Etiquette – cover mouth; 3 ft distance
3. Gloves –change between patients & contact
4. Masks & Face Shields –protects patient & caregiver
5. Gowns- should not be worn out of hospital
6. Equipment-clean properly
7. Disinfecting & Sterilizing Environment
8. Linens- change frequently
9. Blood – Borne Pathogens – Sharps container

Predisposing Factors

- Age
- Sex
- Environment
- Lifestyle
- Heredity
- Stress
- Pre existing illness

Diagnosis

- Identification or naming of disease
- Medical history
- Physical examination
- Diagnostic tests

Diagnosis

- Symptoms or Manifestations
 - Problems reported by patient- pain, upset stomach
- Signs
 - Examples: temperature, blood pressure, respiratory rate, abnormal heart sounds, mass, enlarged organs, **edema** (swelling)
 - What physician sees or measures
- Skills used by physician:
 - Auscultation
 - Palpation
 - Percussion

Diagnosis

- Diagnostic tools – page 8
 - Urinalysis
 - CBC (complete blood count)
 - Chest X-ray
 - EKG or ECG

Prognosis

- **Prognosis**
 - Expected outcome including length of time
- **Acute**
 - Sudden onset with short duration
- **Chronic**
 - Insidious and long-lasting

Prognosis

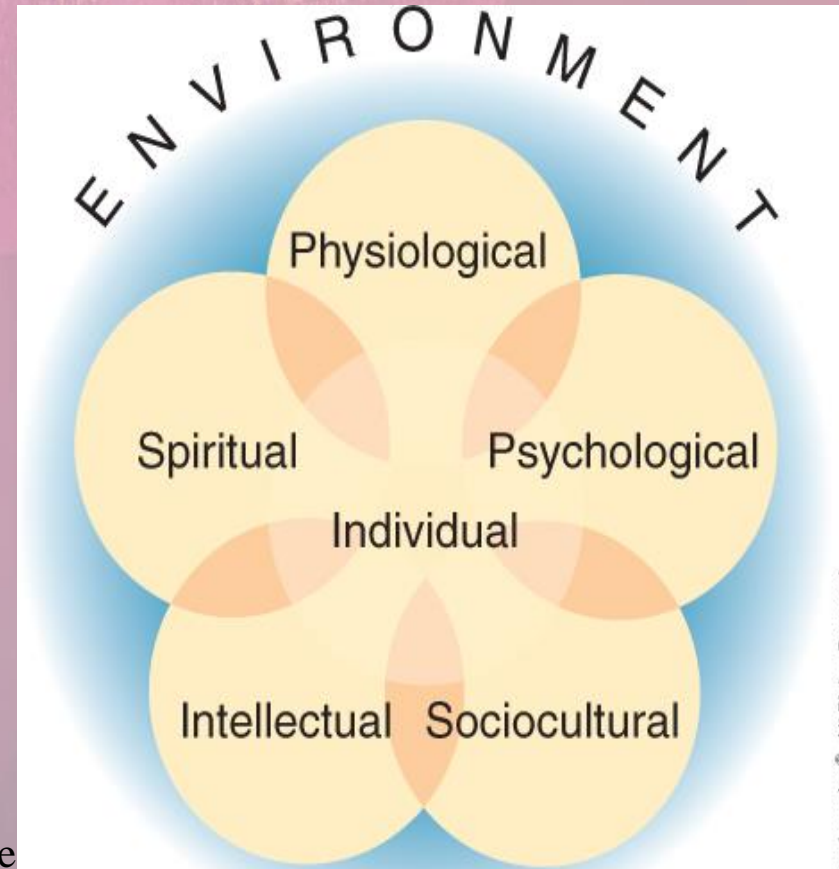
- **Remission**
 - Disappearance of symptoms
 - EX:
- **Exacerbation**
 - Flare-up of symptoms
 - EX:
- **Complication**
 - Onset of second disease or disorder
 - EX:

Prognosis

- **Survival Rate**
 - Prognosis for the % of people still living after diagnosis
- **Mortality Rate**
 - Mortal or subject to death
- **Fatal/lethal**
 - Deadly

Treatment – Holistic Medicine

- **Holistic medicine**
 - Consideration of whole person
 - Rather than just physical symptoms
 - Interaction between spiritual, cognitive, social, physical, and emotional areas
 - Areas work interdependently



Treatment

- Interventions:
 - Medication
 - Surgery
 - Exercise
 - Nutrition
 - Physical therapy
 - Education

Treatment

- Preventive
 - Care given to prevent disease- best choice
- Palliative
 - Care given to prevent discomfort, but not cure
 - End of life treatments often using hospices

Medical Ethics – page 10

- Complicated by technological advances
- Difficult as touch core of our humanity
- Role of ethics committee
- Economic concerns