

汉英常用中医药词汇⁽²⁾

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阴阳消长 the relative waxing and waning of Yin and Yang, the two opposites of a single entity, increase or excess of the one means decrease or deficiency of the other, which is usually used in explaining pathological changes.

阴阳转化 the transformation of Yin and Yang into each other under certain conditions, e. g., an illness of heat nature in the extreme may show symptoms and signs of cold nature.

阴平阳秘 Yin is even and well while Yang is firm, hence a relative equilibrium is maintained and health is guaranteed.

阴阳自和 restoration of relative equilibrium of Yin and Yang, indicating recovery of a person from illness.

阳生于阴 Yang exists with Yin as its prerequisite, e. g., vital function (a Yang factor) relies on vital essence (a Yin factor) as its material basis.

阴损及阳 Impairment of Yin would impede the generation of Yang, e. g., deficiency of vital essence is often complicated by lowered vital function in advanced cases.

相生 the interpromoting relation of the Five Evolutive Phases or Elements in the following sequence—wood, fire, earth, metal and water—in which each Evolutive Phase or Element is conceived to promote or produce the subsequent one, namely, wood produces fire, fire produces earth, earth produces metal, etc.

相克 the interacting (conquest or checking) relation of the Five Evolutive Phases or Elements in the following sequence—water, fire, metal, wood and earth—in which each Evolutive Phase or Element is considered to check the subsequent one, namely, water checks fire, fire checks metal, metal checks wood, etc.

制化 the promoting (producing) and counteracting (checking) relations of the Five Elements taken as a whole, which forms a self-limiting balanced process, e. g., wood checks earth which produces metal that will check wood in turn.

运气 (1) the circulation of the Qi (vital energy); (2) abbreviation of “五运六气”, the circular movement of the Five Elements (Evolutive Phases) and the Six Atmospheric Influences.

木喜条达 Wood or tree likes to spread out freely—a figure of speech to explain the physiological properties of the liver (which corresponds to wood), since the main function of the liver is to smooth the flow of vital energy and blood, if it being depressed, symptoms of stagnancy would occur.

木克土 Earth is checked by wood, which denotes: (1) the physiological relationship between the liver (represented by wood) and the spleen and stomach (represented by earth); (2) the pathological condition of the spleen or stomach caused by dysfunction of the liver.

火不生土 Fire fails to support earth; by which it is meant that the Yang (functional activities) of the kidney or fire of the Vital Gate fails to warm the spleen and stomach (represented by earth) and brings on symptoms of indigestion, diarrhea, edema, intolerance of cold, etc.,

土不制水 Earth fails to control water, which figuratively denotes failure of the spleen (represented by earth) in guaranteeing normal water metabolism, as a result, loose stool, edema, and profuse frothy sputum may occur.

金水相生 The lung and the kidney (corresponding to metal and water), promote one another. If one is diseased, the other is liable to be affected.

水不涵木 Water fails to provide wood with proper nourishment, by which it is meant that due to deficiency of Yin (vital essence), the kidney (represented by water) fails to nourish the liver (represented by wood), as a result, symptoms of internal wind may occur.

脏腑 internal organs; viscera and bowels; functional orbs (in traditional Chinese medicine emphasis is laid on various physiological functions of an organ rather than on its anatomical structure).

肝 the liver; the hepatic orb, which stores blood, smooths the flow of vital energy, and controls functions of sinews, with its outward manifestation reflected in the eyes and nails.

肺 the lung; the pulmonic orb, which is mainly in charge of vital energy, performs the function of respiration, disseminates the vital energy and keeps it flowing downwards, helps maintain normal water metabolism, and controls the functions of the skin.

肾 the kidney; the renal orb, which installs vital essence and takes charge of growth, development, reproduction, and urinary functions. It also has direct effect on the condition of the bone and marrow, activities of the brain, hearing of the ears, inspiratory function of the respiratory system, etc.