Study guide

The Renal System at a Glance contains a state of the art coverage of renal science, renal medicine, and the key areas of internal, general or family medicine which involve the kidneys, hypertension, and fluid and electrolyte balance.

Although the kidney is often thought of as a specialized organ, of interest to only a small number of hospital doctors and nurses, this is far from the truth. In reality, understanding the kidney is important for much of the clinical work done by non-renal doctors and nurses in hospital or in family or general practice in primary care. The same is true for pharmacists and other health care workers. The kidney plays a key role in some of the most important conditions in clinical practice such as hypertension, heart failure, edema, and urinary tract infection. The most frequent blood tests performed in hospital are those which indicate renal disease or malfunction such as blood electrolytes and creatinine, urea or BUN (blood urea nitrogen). Even in high dependency or intensive care units, renal medicine is central to the care of most patients.

Despite the central role that the kidney and renal medicine and science play in modern health care there is often a poor understanding of the subject which sadly can contribute to poor patient care. This book aims to present the subject in a way which has not been done before using explanatory diagrams and clear explanations to demystify the subject and allow all who need to understand it to do so.

The book itself is divided into sections which cover the basic science and clinical aspects of each topic and the website also follows the pattern of the book. The key points revision guide and self-assessment exercises on the website are designed to help the reader study and understand the material presented. The parts and chapters are listed below.

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