Pathology for Nurses
Pathology is a medical science that deals with the scientific study of disease with special reference to the causative factors, development of the disease process, morphological alterations in the organs and clinical implications as a result of the disease.

The study of Pathology provides an insight into the disease processes and their effects. Pathology is a very essential link between the basic medical sciences and the clinical disciplines. A proper understanding of Pathology is mandatory to have a clear idea about the diseases.

This book is designed to provide a basic knowledge in Pathology for the paramedical nursing students, who will be handling sick patients in the hospital wards.

For a logical understanding, this book is divided into seven sections. Section 1 deals with General Pathology which provides a deep knowledge about the basic concepts of cellular pathology. Sections 2 to 5 deal with Systemic Pathology. It gives knowledge about the application of the concepts in General Pathology to specific organ systems.

Sections 6 and 7 deal with Clinical Laboratory Pathology and provide an overview on various methodologies of basic laboratory procedures, observation and interpretation of the laboratory investigations used in the diagnosis of various diseases. This section will be of immense help to the nursing students especially with regard to the bedside investigations.

Have a happy reading!

K Swaminathan
I thank the Almighty for giving me enough courage and strength to take up this project.

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INTRODUCTION

Pathology is the scientific study of diseases. It deals with the structural and functional abnormalities that are expressed as diseases of organ systems. This is grouped into General Pathology which involves the basic reactions of cell and tissues to abnormal stimuli and Systemic Pathology which involves the specific responses in specialized organ systems.

There are four main aspects which constitute the core of pathology. They are:

1. **Etiology** : Cause of the disease
2. **Pathogenesis** : Mechanism of the development of the disease
3. **Morphological changes** : Alterations in the cell/organ
4. **Clinical features** : Functional consequences

An adequate fundamental knowledge in pathology is very much essential for understanding the evolution of the disease process and to correlate the clinical features of the disease to the patient. It serves as a link between the basic sciences and clinical sciences.