



LEADERS IN ACUPUNCTURE BOARD REVIEW

Cross Comparison of Patterns between the Major TCM Diagnostic Theories

With so many different theories in TCM, it is easy to confuse the patterns. Many of them have similar names and different symptoms or different names and similar symptoms. Don't let these confuse you on your board exams. The following charts cover some of the more common patterns from Shang Han Lun, Wen Bing Lun and Three Burners theories. Being able to compare and contrast is what will get you through your board exams.

Shang Han Lun	Wen Bing Lun
Taiyang Level	Wei Level
Aversion to cold, slight sweating, headache, runny nose	
Aversion to wind, slight fever, headache, stiff neck, sneezing, white nasal discharge, breathlessness T: Floating pulse	Fever, headache, yellow nasal discharge, slight thirst, sore throat, red and swollen tonsils T: Red sides or tip of the tongue P: Superficial, rapid

Wen Bing Lun	Shang Han Lun		Three Burners	Wen Bing Lun
Intestines Dry Heat	Yangming Fu (Organ)	Yangming Jing (Channel)	Heat in the Yangming	Stomach Heat
High fever, profuse sweating, red tongue yellow coat				
High fever that is higher in the afternoon, constipation, dry stools, burning in the anus, abdominal fullness and pain, irritability and delirium T: red with thick, yellow, dry coat P: Deep, Full, Rapid	High fever which is worse in the afternoon, profuse sweating, constipation, thirst with a desire to drink cold water, fullness and pain in the abdomen which becomes worse on pressure, restlessness and irritability, in severe cases delirium T: red and dry yellow or burnt yellow coat with thorns P: Deep, Forceful, Excess	High fever, profuse sweating , aversion to heat, thirst a with a desire to drink cold water, red face, restlessness T: Red, yellow coat P: Surging, Rapid	These two patterns are EXACTLY the same. High fever that is worse in the afternoon, no aversion to cold, feeling of heat , intense thirst, profuse sweating T: Red with yellow coat P: Overflowing, Rapid	



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Wen Bing Lun		Three Burners
Wei Level Damp Heat	Spleen and Stomach Damp Heat	Damp Heat in the Spleen
Fever, feeling of heaviness, sticky coating and soggy pulse		
Fever that is worse in the afternoon, body that is hot to touch, aversion to cold, swollen glands, headache, a feeling of heaviness, a feeling of oppression of the epigastrium , sticky taste and thirst with no desire to drink T: sticky , white coat P: Soggy	Continuous fever that decreases after sweating but soon increases again, a feeling of heaviness of the body and head, a feeling of oppression of the chest and epigastrium, nausea , loose stools T: red with sticky yellow coat P: Soggy, Rapid	Fever , epigastric fullness, a feeling of heaviness of the body and head , nausea and vomiting. T: red with sticky yellow coat P: Soggy, Rapid

Wen Bing Lun	Zang Fu Theory
Qi Level Lung Heat	Lung Heat
A feeling of heat, cough, red with yellow coat, rapid	
High fever, no aversion to cold, thirst, with thin yellow sputum, shortness of breath, sweating P: Slippery	Slight breathlessness, chest ache, flaring of nostrils, thirst, red face; P: Overflowing,

Shang Han Lun	Wen Bing Lun
Shaoyang Stage	Qi Level GB Heat
Alternation of chills and fever (Alternating hot and cold feeling with a prevalence of heat), bitter taste, nausea and wiry pulse	
Fullness of the costal and hypochondriac regions, lack of appetite, irritability, dry throat, blurred vision T: White slippery coat on one side only	Thirst, dry throat, hypochondrial pain, and a feeling of fullness in the epigastrium T: Red with unilateral sticky yellow coat P: Rapid



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Shang Han Lun	Wen Bing Lun	Three Burners
Shaoyin Heat	Yin Collapse	Heat in the Kidney
Dry mouth (and throat), red tongue without coat, thready and rapid pulse		
A feeling of heat, irritability, insomnia, dry mouth and throat at night, dark urine, night sweating; T: red without coat; P: Fine, Rapid Fever, irritability, insomnia, dry mouth and throat, night sweats, scanty dark urine; T: red tongue without coat ; P: Thready, Rapid	Low-grade fever, night sweating, mental restlessness, dry mouth with desire to sip liquids, five-palm heat , malar flush and emaciation T: dark red , dry without coat P: Fine, Rapid	Fever in the afternoon and evening, five-palm heat , dry mouth and throat , night sweating, deafness and lassitude T: deep-red without coat P: Floating-Empty, Rapid

Wen Bing Lun	Three Burners	Wen Bing Lun	Three Burners
Liver Empty Wind Agitating in the Interior	Liver Empty Wind	Heat Victorious Stirring Wind	Liver Heat Stirs Wind
Low-grade fever, tremor of limbs, red tongue without coat and fine rapid pulse		High fever, convulsions, clenching of teeth, red tongue without coat and wiry, rapid pulse	
Twitching, loss of weight, malar flush and listlessness T: Dark and dry tongue	Cold limbs, dry and black teeth, dry and cracked lips T: Deep-red P: Deep	Fainting, twitching of limbs, rigidity of neck, opisthotonos and eyeballs turning up T: Dark	High fever at night and coma, T: Deep P: Fine

Shang Han Lun	Wen Bing Lun
Shaoyin Cold	Yang Collapse
Listlessness and cold Limbs	
Chills, aversion to cold, lethargy, diarrhea, no thirst or desire to drink warm fluids, abundant, pale urine T: Pale and wet P: Deep, Thready, Slow	A feeling of cold, bright-white complexion and profuse sweating on the forehead T: Pale, swollen and short P: Hidden, Slow, Scattered