

GLOSSARY OF LAY TERMS FOR USE IN PREPARING CONSENT FORMS FOR HUMAN SUBJECTS

(Acknowledgement to Stanford University for lay term information)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) <#>

Select the first letter of the word from the list above to jump to appropriate section of the glossary. If the term you are looking for starts with a digit or symbol, choose the '#' link.

- A -

Abdomen belly

Abdominal having to do with the belly; pertaining to the body cavity below the diaphragm which contains stomach, intestines, liver, and other organs

Abdominal cavity space in the belly where the stomach, intestines, kidney, liver, gall bladder, pancreas, spleen, and ureters are found

Abdominocentesis use of needle or tube to drain fluid from the belly

Abdominoperineal resection surgery to remove the middle and end of the large intestine

Abdominoplasty surgery to fix the stomach

Abduction movement away from the middle of the body

Abortion the premature end of a pregnancy

Abrasion area where skin or other tissue is scraped away

Abruptio placentae premature separation of the placenta from the mother

Abscess swelling filled with pus

Absorb take up fluids, take in

Absorption the way a drug or other substance enters the body

Acapnia decreased carbon dioxide in the blood

Acetabulum pocket in the hip bone that holds the top of the upper leg bone

Acidosis increase of acid in the blood

Acne pimples

Acoumeter tool used to measure hearing

Acoustic neuroma growth in the ear canal

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) contagious illness that results in decreased ability of the body to protect itself from other illnesses

Acromegaly a disease of adults in which the body makes too much growth hormone

Actinic keratosis skin disease (bumps) caused by extreme overexposure to the sun

Activated partial thromboplastin time a test of blood clotting time used to measure the ability of the blood to clot

Acuity clearness, keenness, esp of vision - airways.

Acute lasting a short time but often causing a serious problem; new, recent, sudden

Addison's disease serious disorder in which there is decreased cortisol and aldosterone in the body, resulting in weakness, low blood pressure, and other serious problems

Adduction movement toward the middle of the body

Adenohypophysis gland in the brain that makes many hormones that control body functions

Adenoidectomy surgery to take out the adenoids

Adenoiditis inflammation of the adenoids

Adenoids infection-fighting glands in the back of the throat

Adenomyosis a growth of muscle in the uterus

Adenopathy swollen lymph nodes (glands)

Adenotome tool used to remove adenoids

Adhesion tissue stuck together

Adipose having to do with fat

Adjuvant helpful, assisting, aiding

Adjuvant treatment added treatment

Administer give

Adrenal gland a gland found over each kidney

Adrenalectomy surgery to remove an adrenal gland

Adrenaline hormone made by the adrenal glands that speeds up body organs and helps the body deal with stress

Adrenalitis inflammation of one or both adrenal glands

Adrenocortical hormone any of the hormones made by the outer layer of the adrenal glands

Adrenocorticohyperplasia increased growth of one or both adrenal glands

Adrenocorticotropic hormone hormone made by the brain that activates the adrenal glands

Adrenomegaly increase in size of one or both adrenal glands

Adrenopathy disease of one or both adrenal glands

Adverse harmful, bad

Aerosol drug or substance made as a mist to be breathed in

Afferent going toward the center area

Afterbirth material that provides nutrition for the unborn baby and comes out after the baby is born (placenta)

Airway tube through which air passes to enter and leave the lungs

Alanine aminotransferase (ALT) substance in blood that is measured to check for liver disease

Albino white; lacking pigment (lacking color)

Albuminuria protein in the urine

Alcohol drug found in whisky, wine, and beer that slows down the central nervous system

Aldosterone hormone made by the adrenal glands that controls the amount of mineral salts in the body

Allergic reaction rash, trouble breathing

Allergy oversensitivity to a substance

Alopecia baldness

Alpha-fetoprotein substance in blood that is measured to check for liver cancer, testicular cancer, and spina bifida

ALS see amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); see also Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS)

Alzheimer's disease disorder that causes mental confusion

Ambulate ability to walk

Amenorrhea when a woman has no menstrual period

Amniocentesis removal of some of the waters from around an unborn baby for laboratory testing

Amniochorial having to do with the tissues that surround the unborn baby

Amniography x-ray of the uterus (womb) and unborn baby taken after putting a dye into the bag of waters

Amnion tissue that covers the unborn baby

Amnionitis inflammation of the amnion

Amniorrhoea leaking of waters from around the unborn baby

Amniorrhexis breaking of the amnion

Amnioscope tool inserted through the cervix to look at the amniotic fluid and the unborn baby

Amniotic fluid waters around the unborn baby

Amniotic sac bag of tissue that surrounds the unborn baby

Amniotomy rupture of the membranes (breaking of the tissues around the unborn baby)- done to start labor

Amphetamines drugs that speed up metabolism and decrease appetite ("speed")

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) a disease of the nerves that causes weakness

Anal having to do with the anus

Analgesic drug used to control pain

Anaphylactic shock serious allergic reaction to a substance (e.g., food, drug)

Androgen male sex hormone

Anemia decreased number of red blood cells

Anesthesia loss of sensation or feeling

Anesthetic drug that is used to produce loss of pain sensation

Anesthetic (general) a drug or agent used to decrease the feeling of pain or eliminate the feeling of pain by putting you to sleep.

Anesthetic (local) a drug or agent used to decrease the feeling of pain or by numbing an area of your body, without putting you to sleep.

Aneurysm area where an artery is swollen like a sack because the wall of the artery is weak

Aneurysmectomy surgery to take out an aneurysm

Angina pectoris chest pain due to decreased oxygen being supplied to the heart

Angiocarditis inflammation of the heart and the blood vessels entering the heart

Angioma growth made up of blood vessels or lymph vessels

Angioplasty surgery to open up a narrow blood vessel

Angiorrhaphy stitching a blood vessel

Angioplasm cramp in the blood vessels

Angiostenosis narrowing of the inside of a blood vessel

Angled bent, not straight

Ankylosing spondylitis inflammation of the spine causing pain and stiffness

Ankylosis joint stiffness

Anoplasty surgery to fix the anus

Anorexia no appetite for food

Anorexia nervosa mental disorder in which fear of getting fat results in starvation and weight loss

Anoxia no oxygen

Antacid drug used to decrease acid in the stomach (e.g., Tums, Rolaids)

Antecubital in front of the elbow

Antepartum before childbirth

Anterior having to do with the front of the body

Anterior and posterior colporrhaphy surgery to fix weak muscles in the pelvic area

Anterior lobe front part of an organ

Anterior lobe of the pituitary part of the pituitary gland that discharges many hormones

Antianginal drug used to relieve chest pain

Antiarrhythmic drug used to resete the natural rhythm of the heart

Antibiotic drug used to stop or slow down the growth of bacteria and other germs

Antibody type of protein that helps protect the body against foreign matter, such as bacteria and viruses

Anticoagulant drug used to stop blood from clotting

Anticonvulsant drug used to stop seizures

Antidiarrheal drug used to stop diarrhea

Antidiuretic hormone hormone made by the pituitary gland that helps the kidneys keep water in the body by decreasing urine formation

Antidote substance used to treat allergic reactions

Antiemetic drug used to stop vomiting

Antihistamine drug used to treat allergic reaction

Antilipidemic a drug that decreases the level of fat(s) in the blood.

Antimicrobial regarding a drug that kills bacteria and other germs

Antinauseant drug used to stop nausea and vomiting

Antipruritic drug used to stop itching

Antiretroviral drug that inhibits certain viruses

Antiseptic substance used to stop or slow down the growth of germs

Antitussive a drug used to relieve coughing

Antrectomy surgery to remove the lower part of the stomach

Antrum lower part of the stomach

Anuria no urine being made

Anus ring of muscle that keeps the opening at the end of the digestive tract closed

Aorta biggest artery in the body

Aortic stenosis narrowing of the aorta where it comes out of the heart

Aortogram x-ray of the aorta
Apepsia without digestion
Aphagia not able to swallow
Aphasia not able to speak or write and not able to understand spoken or written words
Apnea stopping of breathing
Aponeurorrhaphy stitching of an aponeurosis
Aponeurosis strong tissue that joins muscle to bone
Appendectomy surgery to remove the appendix
Appendicitis inflammation of the appendix
Appendix nearly, about
Approximately nearly, about
Aqueous humor liquid found in the front of the cavity of the eye
Arachnoid middle layer of the meninges
Areola dark-colored skin around the breast nipple
Arrhythmia uneven heart beat
Arteriogram x-ray using a dye to outline an artery
Arterioles small branches of arteries
Arteriorrhesis breaking of an artery
Arteriosclerosis hardening of the artery
Artery the type of blood vessel that carries blood and oxygen from the heart to the rest of the body
Arthralgia pain in a joint
Arthritis inflammation of one or more joints
Arthrocentesis use of a needle to remove fluid from a joint
Arthroclasia surgery to free up a joint that it is stiff so it cannot move
Arthrodesia surgery to fasten a joint so it cannot move
Arthrogram x-ray of a joint
Arthroplasty surgery to fix a joint
Arthrosclerosis stiffening of the joints
Arthroscope tool used to look into a joint
Arthrotomy surgery to cut into a joint
Articular cartilage smooth tissue that covers the bones inside a joint
Artificial insemination use of a tool to put sperm into the vagina for the purpose of beginning pregnancy
Ascites fluid in the belly
Aspartate aminotransferase (AST) substance in blood that is measured to detect liver disease
Aspermia no sperm
Asphyxia suffocation
Aspirate removing a substance using suction
Aspiration fluid entering lungs
Assay lab test
Assess to learn about
Asthma breathing disorder in which there is a wheezing and difficulty breathing
Astigmatism flaw in the curve of the eye
Asymptomatic without symptoms
Ataxia uncontrolled muscle movement; incoordination
Atelectasis collapse of a lung
Atherosclerosis hardening of the arteries
Atraumatic not damaging to tissue
Atrioventricular defect hole in the heart present at birth
Atrophy wasting away, or decrease in size, of a body organ
Audiogram report of a hearing test
Audiologist doctor who studies hearing
Audiology the study of hearing
Audiometer tool used to measure hearing
Audiometry measurement of hearing

Aural having to do with the ear

Auricle outside flap of the ear

Auscultation use of a stethoscope to listen to sounds inside the body

Autoimmune disease disorder in which a person's immune system attacks parts of his or her own body

Axilla armpit

[Back to Top](#)

- B -

Bacteria type of germs

Bacterial having to do with bacteria

Bacterial analysis test used to detect and identify bacteria

Bacterial endocarditis bacterial infection of the inner lining of the heart

Bag of waters sack containing liquid that surrounds the unborn baby

Balanitis inflammation of the end of the penis

Balanorrhagia balanitis with discharge of pus from the end of the penis

Balanorrhea discharge of fluid from the penis

Barbiturates group of drugs that are used for different reasons, including general anesthesia, sedation, and stopping seizures

Bartholin's adenitis inflammation of the mucus-producing glands in the vagina

Bartholin's glands mucus-producing glands in the vagina

Basal cell carcinoma tumor of the skin (type of skin cancer)

Bayonet tool that is sharp like a knife

Benign not cancerous; not malignant, usually without serious consequences, but with some exceptions, eg. benign brain tumor may have, serious consequences

Benign prostatic hypertrophy increase in size of the prostate gland

Beta blocker drug used to slow down the heart

Beta-HCG (human chorionic gonadotropin) substance in blood that is measured to detect cancer of the testicles

Bicuspid valve a valve in the heart that controls the flow of blood by opening and closing with each heart beat

Bilateral having to do with both sides of the body

Bile brown-yellow-green liquid made in the liver and stored in the gallbladder that helps with digestion

Bile duct tube that carries bile

Bilirubin a substance found in bile- a high level of bilirubin in the blood causes jaundice

Binding/Bound carried by, to make stick together, transported

Binocular having to do with both eyes

Bioavailability the extent to which a drug or other substance becomes available to the body

Biopsy removal of tissue so it can be looked at under a microscope

Bleeding time test to measure how long it takes for a small cut to stop bleeding

Blepharitis inflammation of the eyelid

Blepharoplasty surgery to fix the eyelid

Blepharoptosis drooping of the upper eyelid

Blood red liquid pumped by the heart

Blood pressure (BP) the pressure of blood flowing through blood vessels

Blood profile series of blood tests

Blood urea nitrogen (BUN) substance in blood that is measured to check kidney function

Blood vessels tubes that carry blood through the body

Bolus an amount given all at once

Bone marrow soft tissue inside bones that makes blood cells

Bone marrow biopsy use of a needle to remove bone marrow so that it can be looked at under a microscope

Bone marrow transplant putting normal bone marrow from one person into another person
Bone mass the amount of [calcium in a give amount of] bone
Bowel the intestine
Bradycardia slow irregular heart beat
Bradycardia slow heart beat
Bradykinesia moving slow
Bradypepsia slow digestion
Brain main part of the central nervous system
Brain stem joins the brain to the spinal column
Brand name commercial name for a drug
Breasts milk-producing glands of women
Breech birth when feet, buttocks, or knees come out before head at birth
Bronchi more than one bronchus
Bronchitis inflammation of the bronchi
Brochoconstrictor drug used to make the bronchi tighten up and become narrower
Bronchodilator drug used to make the bronchi open up and become bigger
Bronchogenic beginning in the bronchus
Bronchogram x-ray of the bronchi
Bronchoplasty surgery to fix the bronchi
Bronchopneumonia inflammation of the bronchi and lungs
Bronchoscope tool used to look into the bronchi
Bronchospasm sudden, uncontrolled narrowing of airways in lungs
Bronchus tube that carries air from the bronchi
Bulimia an eating disorder in which a person cannot stop eating and often vomits to make room for more food
Bunion bone growth inside the base of the big toe
Bursa small sack filled with liquid that cushions moving parts, such as two bones in a joint
Bursitis inflammation of the bursa
Bursolith stone in a bursa
Bursotomy surgery to cut into a bursa
Bypass an artificial passageway from one blood vessel to another to get around a blood clot

[Back to Top](#)

- C -

Caffeine drug found in coffee and colas that speeds up the central nervous system, heart rate, and blood pressure

Calcaneus heel bone
Calcipenia low in calcium
Cancellous bone a type of bone that looks like a sponge
Cancer abnormal tissue that grows and spreads in the body until it kills
Cancer chemotherapy treatment of cancer using drugs
Cancer radiotherapy treatment of cancer using x-rays
Cancerous having to do with cancer
Capillary tiny blood vessel that connects arterioles to venules
Carbohydrates type of fuel for the body that includes sugars and starches
Carbuncle group of boils on the skin
Carcinoembryonic antigen substance in blood that is measured to detect tumors of stomach or intestines
Carcinogenic causing cancer
Carcinoma type of cancer
Cardiac having to do with the heart

- Cardiac arrest** stopping of the heart
- Cardiac catheterization** putting a catheter into the heart to test for or treat a heart problem
- Cardiac pacemaker** battery-powered tool put under the skin to control the heart rate
- Cardiac scan** ultrasonographic test to view the structure of the heart
- Cardiac tamponade** squeezing of the heart caused by fluid or blood build-up in the sac around the heart
- Cardiodynia** pain in the heart
- Cardiogenic** beginning in the heart
- Cardiologist** doctor who treats disorders of the heart
- Cardiology** study of the heart
- Cardiomegaly** disorder of the heart muscle
- Cardiomyopathy** disorder of the heart muscle
- Cardiopulmonary bypass** artificial passageway through which blood goes around the heart during open-heart surgery
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)** giving artificial respiration and heart massage to try to save a person whose breathing or heart has stopped
- Cardiotonic** drug used to strengthen the pumping action of the heart
- Cardiovalvulitis** inflammation of the heart valves
- Cardioversion** use of electric shock to make the heart beat with normal rhythm
- Carpal** having to do with the wrist
- Carpal bones** wrist bones
- Carpal tunnel syndrome** painful disorder caused by a pinch nerve in the wrist
- Carpectomy** surgery to remove a wrist bone
- Carpoptosis** drooping wrist
- Cartilage** a rubbery type of tissue that pads the joints and keeps the shape of the nose and outside ear flaps
- Cataract** clouding of the lens of the eye
- Cathartic** drug used to stop constipation
- Catheter** flexible, tube-like tool used to take fluids out or put fluids into the body
- Catheter (indwelling epidural)** a tube placed near the spinal cord used for anesthesia during an operation
- Caudal** toward the lower side of an organ or structure
- Cecum** the first part of the large intestine, which is shaped like a pouch
- Celiotomy** surgery to cut into the abdominal cavity
- Cell** the basic building block of all living things
- Cell membrane** layer that surrounds a cell
- Cellulites** inflammation of connective tissue
- Central nervous system (CNS)** the brain and spinal cord
- Central nervous system drugs** drugs that speed up or slow down the central nervous system
- Cephalgia** headache
- Cephalic** related to the head or the head end of the body
- Cephalosporin** type of antibiotic
- Cerebellitis** inflammation of the cerebellum
- Cerebellum** the part of the brain that controls the movement of the muscles and helps maintain balance
- Cerebral** having to do with the cerebrum
- Cerebral aneurysm** aneurysm in the brain
- Cerebral angiography** x-ray of the blood vessels in the brain
- Cerebral palsy (CP)** birth disorder of the brain that results in difficulty moving
- Cerebral thrombosis** blood clot in the brain
- Cerebral trauma** damage to the brain
- Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)** the liquid around and in the brain and spinal cord
- Cerebrovascular accident (CVA)** stroke
- Cerebrum** largest part of the brain, divided into right and left side
- Cerumen** ear wax
- Ceruminoma** growth inside the gland that discharges ear wax
- Cervical vertebrae** bones of the neck
- Cervicectomy** surgery to remove the cervix

Cervicitis inflammation of the cervix

Cessation stopping

Chalazion pimple on the eyelid caused by an inflamed gland

Cheilorrhaphy surgery to stitch a lip

Chemical name chemical formula for a drug (generic)

Chemotherapeutic agent anticancer drug

Chemotherapy treatment of disease using drugs

Chest cavity space where the heart, lungs, esophagus, trachea, bronchi, and thymus are located

Chiropodist doctor who treats disorders of the feet

Chiropractor doctor who treats disorders of the spine and nerves

Chisel wedge-like tool with a blade that is used for cutting or chipping

Chlamydia type of germ that usually infects the eyes, lungs, or sex organs

Chloasma a tumor arising from the skin and other organs

Cholangiogram x-ray of the gallbladder and bile ducts

Cholangioma cancer of a bile duct

Cholecystectomy surgery to remove the gallbladder

Cholecystitis inflammation of the gallbladder

Choledocholithiasis gallstones in a bile duct

Choledocholithotripsy surgery to crush gallstones in a bile duct

Cholelithiasis gallstones

Cholinergic type of nerve or a drug used to change its action

Chondrectomy surgery to remove cartilage

Chondromalacia softening of joint cartilage, usually inside the knee

Chorioamnionitis inflammation of the tissue that covers the unborn baby

Chorion outside layer of the tissue that covers the unborn baby

Choroids middle layer of the eyeball

Chromosomes structures that hold the genes

Chronic lasting a long time

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) lung disorder in which the flow of air to the lungs is blocked (e.g., emphysema)

Cicatrix scar

Circumcision surgery to remove the foreskin

Cirrhosis serious liver disorder in which connective tissue replaces normal liver tissue, and liver failure often occurs

Cisplatin a drug used to kill cancer cells.

Clavicle collarbone

Cleft lip and palate birth defect in which there is a split in the lip and the roof of the mouth

Clinical pertaining to medical care.

Clinical trial research study

Clinically Significant of major importance for treating or evaluating patients

Clip metal fastener used to join or close the edges of a wound

Clitoris sensitive female sex tissue located above the opening for urination

Coagulation time measure of how long it takes for blood to clot in a test tube

Coarctation of the aorta birth disorder in which an area of the aorta is very narrow

Coccyx tailbone

Cochlea the organ of hearing inside the ear

Coitus sexual intercourse between a man and a woman

Colectomy surgery to remove part or all of the colon

Colonoscope tool used to look into the colon

Colostomy an opening, or the surgery to make an opening, between the colon and the outside of the body

Colpitis inflammation of the vagina

Colporrhaphy stitching of the vagina

Colposcope tool with magnifying glass used to look into the vagina and at the cervix

Coma varying degrees of unconsciousness from which a person may not awaken

Compact bone hard layers of the bone

Compensation payment, money

Complete response total disappearance of disease

Complications difficulties, problems

Computerized tomography (CT) x-ray machine that uses a computer to make pictures of the organs of the body; computerized series of x-rays

Computerized axial tomography (CAT) x-ray machine that uses a computer to make pictures of the body; computerized series of x-rays

Conception the beginning of pregnancy when the fertilized egg implants in the uterus

Concomitant given at the same time

Concussion unconsciousness resulting from a blow to the head affecting the brain

Condom cover worn over the penis during sexual intercourse to prevent infection or pregnancy

Congenital occurring prior to birth, due to parent's genetic input

Congenital anomaly birth defect

Congenital heart disease (CHD) heart disease present at birth

Congestive Heart failure (CHF) failure of the heart resulting in fluid build-up in the lungs, other body tissues, or both

Conjunctiva tissue that lines the eyelids and covers part of the eye inside its sockets

Conjunctivitis inflammation of the conjunctiva; irritation and redness of the thin membrane covering the eye

Connective tissue type of tissue that connects, supports, touches, and surrounds various body parts

Conscious awake and aware

Consequences outcomes, results

Consolidation phase treatment phase intended to make a remission permanent, follows induction

Constipation decreased number of or difficulty making bowel movements

Contraindications medical reasons that prevent a person from using a certain drug or treatment

Controlled trial study in which the experimental treatment or procedure is compared to a standard (control) treatment or procedure.

Contusion bruise

Convulsion seizure

Coombs' test blood test to detect antibodies against red blood cells that is used in analyzing blood problems and crossmatching blood for transfusions

Cooperative group association of multiple institutions to perform clinical trials

Cor pulmonale heart disease or heart failure caused by a disorder of the lungs

Cornea clear tissue covering the front part of the eye

Corneal keratitis inflammation of the cornea and iris

Coronary pertains to the blood vessels that supply the heart

Coronary artery artery that supplies blood to the heart

Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery to make a new passageway for blood to the heart

Coronary ischemia not enough blood going to the heart

Coronary thrombosis blood clot in a coronary artery

Corpus main portion of a body part or organ

Cortex outer layer of an organ or other structure in the body

Cortical having to do with a cortex

Corticotropin hormone made by the brain that activates the adrenal glands

Cortisol important hormone made by the adrenal gland that affects metabolism and mineral balance

Costectomy surgery to remove a rib

Cough sudden, loud flow of air from the lungs

CPR see cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

Cranial related to the head or top of the body

Cranial cavity space inside the skull that holds the brain

Cranioplasty surgery to fix the skull

Craniotomy surgery on the skull or to make an opening in the skull

Cranium bifidum birth defect in which there is a crack in the skull

Creatinine clearance test blood test used to see if the kidneys can effectively remove creatinine from the blood

Cretinism a birth defect in which lack of thyroid hormone results in stopping of physical and mental development

Crohn's disease serious inflammation of any part of the gastrointestinal tract

Crossmatch blood test to check if it is safe to give blood transfusion to a person

Croup children's breathing disorder resulting in coughing and harsh breathing

Cryoextraction of the lens surgery using low temperatures to remove a cataract

Cryoretinopexy surgery of the innermost layer of the eye

Culdocentesis removal of fluid from the pouch between the vagina and the rectum

Culdoscope tool used to look into the pouch between the vagina and the rectum

Cumulation increased action of a drug when given over a period of time

Cumulative total sum (of individual events, experiences, treatments)

Curt (curette) spoon shaped tool used for scraping or cutting

Curved having a curved handle or a curved blade

Cushing's syndrome disorder caused by too much of the adrenal hormones or long-time use of cortisone-type drugs in which there are many symptoms, including a fat, round face and weakness

Cutaneous relating to the skin

Cyanosis blue color of tissues such as the skin or gums caused by too little oxygen

Cyesiology the study of pregnancy

Cyesis pregnancy

Cyst any closed sac in the body, especially one that contains fluid or semisolid material

Cystectomy surgery to remove the urinary bladder or gallbladder, also, removal of a cyst

Cystic fibrosis (CF) genetic disorder of glands resulting in lung and digestive problems

Cystitis inflammation of the urinary bladder

Cystocele type of hernia in which the urinary bladder bulges into the vagina

Cystogram x-ray of the urinary bladder

Cystolith stone in the urinary bladder

Cystolithotomy surgery to remove a stone from the urinary bladder

Cystoscope tool used to look into the urinary bladder

Cystostomy surgery to make an opening into the urinary bladder

Cystotrachelotomy surgical cut into the neck of the urinary bladder

Cystoureterogram x-ray of the urinary bladder and ureters

Cytogenic making cells

Cytoid like a cell

Cytology the study of cells

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) type of herpes virus

Cytoplasm material inside a cell

[Back to Top](#)

- D -

Dacryocystitis inflammation of the tear sac

Dacryocystorhinostomy surgery to make an opening between the tear sac and the nose

Debridement surgery to clean foreign material and dead tissue out of a wound

Decubital ulcer bedsore

Decubitus ulcer bedsore

Deep inside the body

Deep vein thrombosis blood clot in a deep vein

Defecation making a bowel movement

Defibrillation use of electric shock to make the heart start beating, or to correct an abnormal heart rate or rhythm

Dementia mental decline

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) material that makes up the genes

- Depressant** drug that slows down the action of the central nervous system
- Dermabrasion** method used to remove scars from the skin
- Dermatitis** skin inflammation
- Dermatoautoplasty** skin grafting using skin from another area of the patient's body
- Dermatofibroma** type of benign skin growth
- Dermatoheteroplasty** skin grafting using skin from another person
- Dermatologic** pertaining to the skin
- Dermatologist** doctor who treats disorders of the skin
- Dermatome** tool used to cut thin slices of the skin to use as skin grafts
- Dermatoplasty** surgery to repair the skin
- Dermis** inner layer of the skin
- Detached retina** separation of the retina from the middle layer of the eye
- Determine** find out, see if
- Deviated septum** when the inner wall separating the two sides of the nose is off to one side
- Diabetes insipidus** excessive discharge of urine from the body caused by a deficiency in the quantity of antidiuretic hormone being produced in the body
- Diabetes mellitus** disorder in which there is decreased insulin in the body or the body's insulin is not effective, resulting in high blood sugar, increased thirst and urine, and many other side effects
- Diagnosis** determination of the cause of a medical problem
- Diaphoresis** heavy sweating
- Diaphragm** thin flat muscle that helps with breathing and separates the chest cavity from the abdominal cavity
- Diaphragmatocele** bulging of the abdominal organs into the chest area through a hole in the diaphragm
- Diaphysis** the long part of arm and leg bones
- Diarrhea** frequent, loose bowel movement
- Diastole** the time when the heart rests between contractions and fills with blood
- Diastolic** lower number in blood pressure reading; pertaining to resting or relaxation phase of heart beat
- Digital rectal exam** exam using a finger inside the rectum to feel internal organs such as the prostate gland and uterus
- Dilation and curettage (D&C)** surgery to remove the contents and inner lining of the uterus after a miscarriage or abortion; procedure is also used to treat abnormal bleeding
- Dilator** tool used for stretching or enlarging an opening or tube
- Diplopia** seeing double
- Diskectomy** surgery to remove one of the rings between the bones that make up the spine
- Dissector** tool used to separate or cut apart tissue
- Disseminate** scatter or spread
- Distal** away from the center of the body; distant
- Distended** stretched out or swollen, such as a full bladder
- Diuresis** increased discharge of urine
- Diuretic** drug used to get excess water out of the body and increase urine; "water pill"
- Diverticulectomy** surgery to remove abnormal pooming off to the colon
- Diverticulitis** inflammation of abnormal pouches coming off of the colon
- Diverticulosis** abnormal pouches coming off the colon
- Doppler** sound waves
- Doppler flow studies** use of ultrasonography to see blood flow inside blood vessels
- Dorsal** having to do with the back of the body
- Double-blind trial** test or experiment in which neither the person giving the treatment nor the patient knows which treatment the patient is receiving
- Down's syndrome** birth disorder in which there is one extra chromosome, mental retardation, and changed appearance of the head, hands, and feet
- Duct** tube that carries a body fluid
- Ductus deferens** tube that carries sperm out of the testicle
- Dull** not sharp
- Duodenal ulcer** sore in the duodenum
- Duodenum** first part of the small intestine
- Dura mater** outer layer of the meninges (membranes that surround brain and spinal cord)
- Duritis** inflammation of the dura mater
- Dyscrasia** disorder, usually of the blood cells
- Dysentery** inflammation of the intestine, usually the colon, resulting in pain and in blood and mucus in bowel movements
- Dysfunction** state of improper function
- Dysmenorrhea** painful menstruation
- Dyspepsia** trouble digesting food with discomfort after meals

Dysphagia trouble swallowing
Dysphasia difficulty speaking and putting words together
Dysphonia trouble with the voice and speaking
Dysplasia abnormal development or cell growth
Dyspnea trouble breathing
Dystocia difficult childbirth
Dysuria pain when urinating

[Back to Top](#)

- E -

Ecchymosis black and blue mark; bruise
Echocardiogram picture of the heart in motion made using ultrasonography
Echoencephalography use of ultrasonography to record the shape of the brain
Eclampsia convulsions in a pregnant woman caused by high blood pressure and other medical problems
Ectopic pregnancy pregnancy growing outside the uterus, often in fallopian tubes
Eczema type of itchy skin rash
Edema swelling caused by fluid held in the tissues
Efferent going away from the center of the body
Efficacy effectiveness
Ejaculation discharge of semen from the penis during the climax of sexual intercourse
Electrocardiogram (ECG) picture of the electrical action of the heart
Electrocardiograph machine that records the electrical action of the heart
Electroencephalogram (EEG) picture of brain wave activity
Electroencephalograph machine that records brain wave activity
Electrolyte imbalance imbalance of salts or chemicals in the blood
Elevator tool used for lifting tissue
Embolectomy surgery to remove a blood clot
Embolus blood clot
Embryo unborn baby from 2 to 8 weeks after it is formed
Embryoid looking like an embryo
Embryology the study of the development of the unborn baby
Emesis vomiting
Emetic drug used to make a person vomit; useful in treating poisoning
Emmetropia normal condition of the eye when light focuses correctly on the retina
Emollient substance that softens the skin
Emphysema disorder in which too much air collects deep in the lungs
Empiric based on experience
Encephalitis inflammation of the brain
Encephalomyeloradiculitis inflammation of the brain, the spinal cord, and the spinal nerve roots
Encephalosclerosis hardening of the brain
Endocervicitis inflammation of the inner lining of the cervix
Endocrinologist doctor who treats disorders of the glands that make hormones
Endocrinopathy disease of the glands that make hormones; hormonal imbalance
Endometriosis growths outside of the uterus made up of the tissues that lines the uterus
Endometritis inflammation of the inner lining of the uterus
Endometrium inner lining of the uterus
Endophthalmitis inflammation of the contents of the eye
Endorphin substance made by the body to stop pain
Endoscope tool used to look into body structures and hollow organs, such as the stomach
Endoscopic examination examination of an internal part of the body with a lighted tube; looking at a part of the body with a lighted tube.
Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) x-ray of the bile and pancreatic ducts made using an endoscope

- Endosteum** tissue that lines the inside of bone
- Endotracheal** inside the windpipe
- Enema** liquid that is injected into the rectum to promote bowel movement
- Enteral** by way of the intestines
- Enterorrhaphy** surgery to stitch the intestine
- Enucleation** surgery to remove the eye
- Epidermal** having to do with the outer layer of the skin
- Epidermis** outer layer of skin
- Epididymis** tubes that stores and carries sperm
- Epidural** outside the spinal cord
- Epigastric region** area above the navel
- Epiglottis** flap of skin that keeps food from going down the windpipe
- Epiglottitis** inflammation of the epiglottis
- Epilepsy** seizure disorder
- Epinephrine** hormone made by the adrenal glands that speeds up body organs and helps the body deal with stress
- Epiphysis** growth area of a long bone
- Episioperineoplasty** surgery to fix the vulva and perineum
- Episiorrhaphy** stitching a tear in the vulva
- Episiotomy** surgical cut in the vagina to keep it from tearing when a baby is being born
- Epistaxis** nosebleed
- Epithelial** having to do with the epithelium
- Epithelioma** benign or malignant growth made up of epithelial tissue
- Epithelium** type of tissue that covers the outside of the body and makes up the lining and outer layers of most body organs and parts
- Equivalent** equal, same
- Eradicating** getting rid of (such as a disease)
- Erythema** redness
- Erythrocyte count** the number of erythrocytes in the blood
- Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)** blood test that measures how long it takes for erythrocytes to sink to the bottom of a tube- used to check for inflammation in the body
- Erythrocytes** cells in blood that carry oxygen; red blood cells
- Erythrocytosis** increase in number of red blood cells
- Erythroderma** red skin
- Esophagogastroduodenoscopy** use of an endoscope to look into the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum
- Esophagoscope** tool used to look into the esophagus
- Estrogen** female sex hormone
- Estrogen receptor assay** blood test used to detect tumor cells in patients with breast cancer
- Etiology** the cause or causes of an illness
- Eupnea** normal breathing
- Eustachian tube** tube that connects the middle ear and the throat
- Evaluated** assessed; examined for medical condition
- Eversion** turning inside out
- Excretion** the way that substances leave the body
- Exophthalmic** has a bulging eyeball or eyeballs
- Exophthalmos** bulging of one or both eyeballs
- Exostosis** bony growth on the surface of a bone
- Expedited review** rapid review of a protocol by human subjects committee chair without full committee approval, permitted with certain low-risk research
- Extension** the straight position of an arm or leg
- External** outside the body
- External auditory meatus** opening or passageway between the outside of the ear and the eardrum
- External ear** outside part of the ear
- External genitalia** sex organs on the outside of the body: penis, scrotum, and urethra in men; vulva, clitoris, and urethra in women
- Extracorporeal** outside of the body
- Extravasation** escape of blood from blood vessels and into tissue

[Back to Top](#)

- F -

- Fallopian tube** tube attached to the uterus down which the egg travels from the ovary to the uterus
- Fasting blood sugar** blood test used to measure the amount of sugar in the blood after not eating or drinking for a set amount of time
- Feces** material excreted during bowel movement
- Femoral** having to do with the thigh area
- Femoropopliteal bypass** surgery to make a passageway from one artery to another in the leg
- Femur** thigh bone
- Fetus** unborn baby from 9 weeks after it is formed until it is born
- Fibrillation** fast uncontrolled heart beat; irregular beat of the heart or other muscle
- Fibroid tumor** growth made up of fibrous tissue
- Fibrous** having many fibers, such as scar tissue
- Fibula** the lower leg bone behind the shin
- Fimbria** tissue that looks like a fringe on the end of the uterine tubes
- Fine** having thin jaws or tips, such as a tool used for delicate or small procedures
- Fissure** crack or groove in tissue
- Flatus** passing gas
- Flexion** bent position of the arm or leg
- Fluorescent treponemal antibody absorption (FTA-ABS)** test blood test used to detect syphilis
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** government agency that regulates foods and drugs
- Forceps** tool with two blades and a handle used for handling tissue or dressings
- Foreskin** fold of skin that covers the penis and is removed in circumcision
- Fracture** broken bone
- Fulguration** use of electric sparks to remove tissue such as tumors
- Fundus** top of the uterus; or back of the eye
- Fungal** having to do with fungi
- Fungal test** test used to detect and identify a fungus
- Fungi** more than one fungus
- Fungus** type of living organisms, such as yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, some of which cause infection and some of which look like plants
- Furuncle** painful skin boil

[Back to Top](#)

- G -

- Gait** the way a person walks
- Galactorrhea** too much discharge of milk from the breast
- Gallbladder** small sack under the liver that holds bile
- Gamma globulin** type of protein that helps the body fight infection
- Ganglion** group of nerve cells found outside the central nervous system; or a benign tumor on muscle connective tissue or on a tendon
- Ganglionectomy** surgery to remove a ganglion
- Ganglionitis** inflammation of a ganglion
- Gangrene** death of tissue caused by loss of blood flow and usually followed by infection
- Gastrectomy** surgery to remove all or part of the stomach
- Gastric lavage** washing the stomach out
- Gastric ulcer** sore in the stomach
- Gastritis** inflammation of the stomach
- Gastriodynia** pain in the stomach
- Gastroenteritis** inflammation of the stomach and intestines

Gastroscope tool used to look into the stomach

Gastrostomy surgery to make an opening from the outside of the body into the stomach

Gavage feeding a person through a tube that goes into the stomach

General anesthesia physical state of unconsciousness and loss of pain sensation caused by anesthetic drugs

Generic name chemical name for a drug

Genes material passed from parent to child that determines the make-up of the body and mind

Genetic having to do with the genes

Genital having to do with the sex organs

Genital herpes disease caused by a herpesvirus in which there are blisters on the genitalia

Genitalia male and female sex organs

Gestational pertaining to pregnancy

Gingival the gums

Gingivectomy surgery to remove gum tissue

Gingivitis inflammation of the gums

Gland tissue that produces a material, such as the saliva or a hormone

Glans penis end of the penis

Glaucoma increased pressure inside the eye that causes visual problems

Globulins proteins in the blood

Glomerulonephritis inflammation of the kidney

Glomerulus place in the kidney where urine is formed

Glossitis inflammation of the tongue

Glossopathy disease of the tongue

Glossorrhaphy surgery to stitch the tongue

Glucocorticoids drugs or natural substances made by the adrenal glands that have many effects on body metabolism, raise sugar level in the blood, and reduce inflammation

Glucose type of sugar found in the blood

Glucose tolerance test test that measures blood sugar levels over a certain amount of time in a patient after he drinks a beverage that contains a measured amount of sugar

Glycosuria sugar in urine

Gonad sex gland: female ovary or male testicle

Gonorrhea type of bacterial infection in the sex organs and sometimes in the skin and joints

Gout disorder in which crystals of uric acid deposit in and around joints, causing pain and arthritis

Granulocytopenia drop in white blood cell count

Growth hormone (GH) hormone made by the pituitary gland that controls the growth of the body

Guaiac test test for blood in stool

Gynecologist doctor who treat disorders of the sex organs of women

Gynecology the study of the reproductive system of women

[Back to Top](#)

- H -

Hair thin strands of protein that grow up from the hair follicles

Heart muscle that moves or pumps blood through the body

Heart failure when the heart inadequately pumps blood through the body

Heart murmur swishing sound, heard when listening to the heart through a stethoscope, caused by abnormal flow of blood through the heart

Hematemesis blood in vomit

Hematocrit the percentage of blood made up of red blood cells

Hematocytopenia not enough blood cells

Hematologist doctor who treats blood disorders

Hematology the study of blood

Hematoma pocket of blood caused by bleeding from a broken blood vessel; a bruise; appears "black and blue"

Hematopoiesis the making of blood cells

Hematosalpinx blood in the uterine tube

Hematuria blood in the urine

Hemiparesis muscle weakness or partial paralysis, usually with loss of feeling, on half of the body

Hemiplegia total loss of muscle movement, usually with loss of feeling, on half of the body

Hemodialysis method used to remove waste material from the blood

Hemodynamic related to blood flow

Hemoglobin (Hgb) substance that carries oxygen and gives blood its red color

Hemolysis bursting open of red blood cells

Hemophilia genetic defect in which blood clots too slowly

Hemorrhage bleeding, escape of blood from blood vessels

Hemorrhoidectomy surgery to remove hemorrhoids

Hemorrhoids twisted and bulging veins in the rectal area

Hemostasis the stopping of bleeding

Hemothorax blood in the chest cavity

Heparin lock needle placed in the arm with blood thinner to keep the blood from clotting inside the needle or tubing

Hepatitis inflammation of the liver

Hepatoma growth on the liver

Heritable disease a disease which can be transmitted to one's offspring resulting in damage to future children

Hernia bulging of an organ through an abnormal opening in a muscle wall

Herniated disk breaking of a ring-shaped pad in the spine, which often pinches a nerve; slipped disk

Herniorrhaphy surgery to fix a hernia

Herpes groups of tiny blisters found on the skin caused by infection with a herpesvirus

Heterosexual person who is attracted to the opposite sex

Hiccup sudden, uncontrolled spasm of the diaphragm

Hidradenitis inflammation of a sweat gland

Hip bone bone at the lower part of the body trunk

Hirsutism abnormal hairiness (in women, an adult male pattern of hair distribution)

Histology the study of tissue under the microscope

Histopathologic pertaining to the disease status of body tissues or cells

Hodgkin's disease a cancer of white blood cells

Holter monitor a portable machine for recording heart beats

Homosexual person who is attracted to the same sex

Hordeolum infection of the oil glands of the eyelids; stye

Hormone substance made by a gland in the body that regulates another part of the body

Hospital formulary list of drugs and their proper doses maintained by each hospital

Humeral having to do with the upper arm bone

Humerus upper arm bone

Hydrocephalus increase in fluid in usually causing pressure on the brain; water on the brain

Hydronephrosis abnormal collection of urine in the kidney causing a swollen kidney

Hydrosalpinx fluid in the uterine tube

Hymen fold of tissue at the opening of the vagina

Hymenectomy surgery to remove the hymen

Hypercalcemia too much calcium in the blood

Hypercapnia too much carbon dioxide in the blood

Hyperesthesia very sensitive to touch

Hyperglycemia too much sugar in the blood

Hyperkalemia too much potassium in the blood

Hyperkinesis overactive movements

Hypernatremia high blood sodium level

Hyperopia farsightedness

Hyperplasia abnormal increase in the number of normal cells

Hypertension high blood pressure

Hypertensive heart disease heart problems caused by high blood pressure

Hyperthyroidism overactive thyroid gland

Hyperventilation breathing that is too fast

Hypnotic drug used to make a person sleep

Hypocalcemia not enough calcium in the blood

Hypocapnia not enough carbon dioxide on the blood

Hypochondriac region area to the right or left above the naval

Hypodermic under the skin

Hypodermic injection injection of a substance under the skin

Hypoesthesia state of having less than normal sensitivity to stimulation
Hypogastric region area below the naval
Hypoglycemia not enough sugar in the blood
Hypokalemia not enough potassium in the blood
Hyponatrenia low blood sodium level
Hyponea weak, slow breathing
Hypospadias birth defect in which the urethra opens under the penis instead of the tip of the penis
Hypotension low blood pressure
Hypothermia low body temperature
Hypothyroidism underactive thyroid gland
Hypotonia decreased muscle tone
Hypoventilation too little air entering the lungs
Hypoxemia not enough oxygen in the blood
Hypoxia not enough oxygen in the tissues
Hysteratresia birth defect in which the uterus does not open to the outside of the body
Hysterectomy surgery to remove the uterus
Hysteropexy surgery to fasten down the uterus in its normal position
Hysterosalpingo-oophorectomy surgery to remove all of the internal female reproductive organs
Hysterosalpingography taking an x-ray of the uterus and the uterine tubes using a dye to outline them
Hysteroscope tool used to look into the uterus

[Back to Top](#)

- | -

Iatrolgy the science of medicine
Iatrogenic caused by a physician or by treatment
Icterus too much bile in the blood causing a yellow color to the skin, gums, eye, and other tissues
Idiopathic of unknown cause
Idiosyncrasy rare side effect of a drug; unusual reaction of a person to a drug
Ileocecal having to do with the ileum and the cecum
Ileum third and last part of the small intestine
Ileus blockage of the intestines
Iliac regions areas to the right and left below the naval
Iliofemoral having to do with the hip and thigh bones
Ilium wing-shaped upper part of the hip bone
Immune globulins proteins that help protect the body from infection and foreign matter
Immune system the cells and substances that protect the body from infection and foreign matter
Immunity protection against infection
Immunodeficiency weakness of the immune system
Immunosuppressive drug which suppresses the body's immune response used in transplantation and diseases caused by disordered immunity
Immunotherapy giving of drugs to help the body's immune (protective) system; usually used to destroy cancer cells
Impaired function abnormal function
Impedance plethysmography test used to find blood clots
Impetigo skin infection
Implanted placed in the body
Impotent not able to have or to keep an erection during sexual intercourse
Incontinence not able to control bladder or bowel actions
Induction phase beginning phase or stage of a treatment
Induration hard spot; hardening

Indwelling remaining in a given location, such as a catheter

Infarct death of tissue because of lack of blood supply

Infectious disease disease which is transmitted from one person to next

Inferior toward the lower part of the body

Inflammation swelling, redness, and pain in tissues caused by injury or damage

Influenza the flu

Infusion placing a liquid substance into a vein by letting it flow in with gravity

Ingestion eating; taking by mouth

Inhalant substance given through the nose or mouth to reach the lungs

Insulin the hormone that controls blood sugar levels

Interferon agent which acts against viruses; antiviral agent

Interictal happening between seizures

Intermittent occurring (regularly or irregularly) between two time points; alternately ceasing and beginning

Intermittent claudication pain and weakness in the legs when walking is impossible and then goes away after a rest

Internal within the body

Interior inside of the body

Intervertebral disks pads found between each ring (bone) in the spine

Intracavity injection injection of a substance into a body cavity

Intracoronary thrombolytic therapy injection of medicine to dissolve a blood clot in an artery of the heart

Intracranial inside the skull

Intradermally given into the skin

Intradermal injection injection of a substance into the skin

Intradermal tests allergy tests performed by injecting allergy-causing substances underneath the skin to see if they cause a reaction

Intramuscular into the muscle; within the muscle

Intramuscular injection (IM) injection of a substance into a muscle (e.g., upper arm or backside)

Intraocular within the eye

Intraperitoneal into the abdominal cavity

Intrathecal injection injection of a substance into the space surrounding the spinal cord (i.e., spinal canal)

Intravenous (IV) injection injection of a substance into a vein

Intravenous pyelogram x-ray of the kidneys and ureters using dye that is injected into the blood

Intravesical in the bladder

Intubate the placement of a tube into the airway

Intussusception telescoping of the intestine into itself

Invasive procedure puncture, opening or cutting of the skin

Inversion turning inward

Investigation study

Investigational device exemption (IDE) the license to test an unapproved new medical device

Investigational method a treatment method which has not been proven to be beneficial or has not been accepted as standard care

Investigational new drug (IND) the license to test an unapproved new drug

Iritis inflammation of the iris

Irritable bowel syndrome bowel disorder in which there is pain and diarrhea or constipation

Ischemia localized tissue anemia due to obstruction of the inflow of arterial blood **Ischium** lower part of the pelvic bone, part you sit on

Islets of Langerhans tissue in the pancreas that makes and discharges insulin and other hormones

Isthmus thin strip of tissue that joins two parts of the body

[Back to Top](#)

- J -

Jaundice too much bile in the blood causing a yellow color to the skin, gums, eye, and other tissues
Jejunum second and longest part of the small intestine

[Back to Top](#)

- K -

Kaposi's sarcoma purple or brown cancerous pimples on the skin, often associated with AIDS
Karyocyte cell with a center
Karyoplasms material inside the center of a cell
Keloid type of scar tissue that keeps growing inside
Keratin protein that is found in the hair, nails, and skin
Keratoplasty surgery to fix the cornea
Ketone bodies substances that increase in the blood and urine when too much body fat and too many carbohydrates are being broken down, usually because of starvation or serious, untreated diabetes mellitus
Kidney one of two organs in the lower back that filter blood and make urine
Knife tool with a sharp blade used for cutting tissue
Kyphosis hunchback

[Back to Top](#)

- L -

Labyrinth structure in the inner ear
Labyrinthectomy surgery to remove the inner ear
Labyrinthitis inflammation of the inner ear
Laceration torn, ragged cut
Lacrimal having to do with the tears
Lacrimal duct passageway in the eyelids that drains tears; a type of tear duct
Lactating making milk
Lactic dehydrogenase (LDH) substance measured in a blood test to assess damage to heart and other organs
Lactogenic causing the making of breast milk
Lactorrhea too much discharge of milk from the breast
Laminectomy surgery to remove the top of vertebra
Laparoscope tool used to look into the abdominal cavity
Laparotomy surgery to make an opening into the wall of the belly to look inside with a laparoscope
Large intestine the bowel between the small intestine and the anus, including the cecum, colon, and rectum
Laryngeal having to do with the voice box
Laryngectomy surgery to remove the voice box
Laryngitis inflammation of the voice box
Laryngocentesis surgery to puncture the voice box
Laryngoplasty surgery to fix the voice box
Laryngoscope tool used to look into the voice box
Laryngospasm sudden, uncontrolled cramp in the voice box
Laryngostomy surgery to make an opening into the voice box
Laryngotracheobronchitis inflammation of the larynx, windpipe, and bronchi; croup
Larynx voice box

Laser angioplast using a laser light to open blocked arteries

Lateral toward or having to do with the side of the body

Latex agglutination test blood test used to detect antibodies

Laxative drug used to stop constipation

LE (lupus erythematosus)-cell test blood test used to detect the presence of a certain type of white blood cell seen in people with lupus erythematosus and similar disorders

Legionnaires' disease serious disorder caused by bacterial infection in which there is high fever, stomach pain, headache, and pneumonia

Leiodermia disorder in which the skin is too smooth and shiny

Leiomyoma smooth muscle growth

Leiomyosarcoma cancer of smooth muscle

Lens structure in the eye that is normally clear and helps to focus light coming into the eye

Lesion abnormal area of tissue, such as a wound, sore, rash, or boil

Lethargy sleepiness

Leukemia cancer of white blood cells

Leukocoria white pupil

Leukocyte one of the infection-fighting cells in the blood and body tissues; white blood cells

Leukocyte count number of white blood cells in the blood

Leukocytosis increase in number of white blood cells in the blood

Leukoderma white skin

Leukokoria white pupil

Leukopenia low white blood cell count

Libido sexual desire

Ligament elastic tissue that connects bone or cartilage

Lipid fat

Lipid tests blood tests that measure how much fat is in the blood

Lipoid fatty

Lipoma growth made up of fat cells

Lipoprotein electrophoresis blood test that measures the amounts of fat and protein in the blood

Lithotripsy surgery or other method to crush a stone

Liver large organ that helps in many body functions, including digestion, metabolism, and storage of substances

Lobar pneumonia bacterial infection of one or more sections of the lung

Lobectomy surgery to remove a section of the lung

Local anesthesia creation of insensitivity to pain in a small local area of the body

Localized restricted to one area; limited to one area (of the body)

Lochia normal discharge from the vagina for 1 to 2 weeks after childbirth

Long bone bone that is long and slender, such as a leg or arm bone

Lordosis forward curving of the spine, causing saddle back or swayback

Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) muscle disorder

Lower GI (gastrointestinal) series x-ray using a dye given as an enema to outline the large intestine

Lumbar puncture spinal tap using a needle to remove spinal fluid for testing from the lowerback

Lumbar region lower back of the body

Lumbar vertebrae bones of the spine in the lower back

Lumen the space inside a tube-like body structure, such as a blood vessel

Lung lobe one of five sections of the two lungs

Lungs the two main organs for breathing

Lupus erythematosus (LE) chronic disorders of connective tissue in which there can be skin rash, arthritis, kidney problems, and anemia, among other problems

Lymph clear liquid tissue

Lymph node tissue that filters disease germs from the blood; also called a lymph gland

Lymphadenitis inflammation of the lymph nodes

Lymphadenography x-ray of the lymph nodes

Lymphangiography an x-ray of the lymph nodes or tissues after injection of dye in lymph vessels (e g in feet)

Lymphocyte type of white blood cell important in the body's defense against infection

Lymphoid tissue tissue that contains lymphocytes

Lymphoma cancerous growth made up of lymphoid tissue, particularly lymphocytes

[Back to Top](#)

- M -

Macro- describes something that is large or long

Macule flat, colored spot on the skin

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) the use of magnetic waves to look at soft tissues of the body

Malaise a vague feeling of bodily discomfort, feeling bad

Malfunction condition in which something is not functioning properly

Malignant cancerous

Mallet hammer-like tool used for striking objects

Mammary glands milk-producing tissue in the breasts

Mammary papilla breast nipple

Mammogram x-ray of the breast

Mammaplasty surgery to reconstruct the breast

Mandible lower jaw bone

Mantoux test skin test used to check for tuberculosis

Mastalgia pain in the breast

Mastectomy surgery to remove a breast

Mastitis inflammation of the mammary gland or of the breast

Mastoid cells air spaces inside the mastoid process

Mastoid process protruding part of a bone located in the skull behind the ear

Mastoidectomy surgery to remove the mastoid process or mastoid cells

Mastoiditis inflammation of the air spaces in the mastoid process that communicate with the middle ear

Mastoidotomy surgery to cut into the mastoid process

Mastoptosis drooping breasts

Maxilla upper jaw bone

Maxillectomy surgery to remove the upper jaw bone

Maxillitis inflammation of the upper jaw bone

Meconium first stool of the newborn

Medial toward or having to do with the middle of the body

Medications medicines, drugs

Mediastinum tissue and organs in the middle of the chest between the two lungs

Medulla oblongata part of the brain that controls breathing, blood pressure, and other important body functions; brain stem

Medulloblastoma type of brain tumor

Meibomian cyst pimple on the eyelid caused by an inflamed gland (stye)

Melanin material that makes the color of the skin and hair

Melanoma cancerous black growth on the skin

Melasma a blotchy brown stain on the skin, usually over the cheeks, forehead, or neck; often associated with pregnancy, menopause, or the use of oral contraceptives

Menarche time in life when a girl starts having a menstrual period

Meniere's disease disorder of the inner ear in which there is dizziness, ringing in the ears, and loss of hearing

Meninges three-layered tissue that covers the brain and spinal cord

Meningitis inflammation of the meninges

Meningocele bulging of the meninges through a hole in bone

Meningomyelodisgenesis inflammation of the meninges and roots of the spinal nerves

Meniscectomy surgery to remove a meniscus

Meniscitis inflammation of the meninges and roots of the spinal nerves

Meniscus one of two crescent-shaped pads inside the knee joint

Menometrorrhagia too much bleeding from the uterus during menstruation and at other times

Menopause time in life when a woman stops having a menstrual period

Menses discharge of blood and tissue from the uterus that happens about every 4 weeks in women who are not

pregnant

Menstrual having to do with menstruation

Menstrual period the time of menstruation

Menstruation discharge of blood and tissue from the uterus that happens about every 4 weeks in women who are not pregnant

Metabolism total of all the important actions in the body that keep it alive

Metabolize process of breaking down substances in the cells

Metacarpal bones bones of the hand between the wrist and fingers

Metastasis spread of disease from one place in the body to another place in the body that is not nearby

Metatarsal bones foot bones

Metronidazole a drug used to treat infections caused by parasites or other causes of anaerobic infections

Metrorrhea discharge from the uterus

Micro- describes something that is small or delicate

Microcephalus person with a very small head

Micturate urinate

Middle ear the space between the eardrum and the inner ear

Migraine type of severe headache that occurs periodically and is often associated with nausea, vomiting, and constipation or diarrhea

Minimal slight

Minimize reduce

Miotic substance that makes the pupil of the eye smaller (e.g., narcotic)

Miscarriage loss of an unborn baby from the uterus before it is able to survive outside the mother's body

Mitral commissurotomy surgery to repair the mitral valve to enlarge the opening between the two parts of the left side of the heart

Mitral valve valve between two chambers on the left side of the heart

Mobility ease of movement; ability to move around

Molecular pharmacology the study of the action between two parts of the left side of the heart

Monitor check on; keep track of; watch carefully

Monoparesis weak muscle movement and loss of feeling in one arm or one leg

Monoplegia loss of movement and loss of feeling in one arm or one leg

Morbidity undesired result or complication; serious disease

Mortality death or death rate

Motility ability to move

Mouth opening through which food passes into the body to be digested

Mucopurulent slimy and with pus in it

Mucosa, mucous membrane moist lining of digestive, respiratory, reproductive, and urinary tracts

Mucus slimy fluid

Multigravida women who has been pregnant two or more times

Multipara woman who has given birth two or more times

Multiple sclerosis (MS) slowly worsening disorder of the central nervous system that causes weakness, incoordination, numbness, and probh talking and seeing

Muscle type of tissue that causes movement

Muscular dystrophy (MD) genetic problem resulting in muscle weakness and atrophy

Myalgia muscles aches

Myasthenia muscle weakness

Myasthenia gravis disorder that causes muscles to get tired quickly

Mydriatic substance that makes the pupil of the eye bigger

Myelogram x-ray of the spinal cord using dye that is injected into the spinal area

Myeloma cancer of the types of cells normally found in bone marrow

Myelomalacia softening of the spinal cord

Myocardial pertaining to the (muscle of the) heart

Myocardial infarction (MI) heart attack; death of heart muscle

Myocardial ischemia not enough blood going to the heart

Myocarditis inflammation of the heart muscle

Myocardium muscle of the heart

Myoma growth made up of muscle tissue

Myomectomy surgery to remove a myoma or a piece of muscle

Myometritis inflammation of the muscle of the uterus

Myometrium muscle of the uterus

Myopathy muscle disorder

Myopia nearsightedness

Myoplasty surgery to fix a muscle

Myorrhaphy surgery to stitch a muscle

Myringitis inflammation of the eardrum

Myringoplasty surgery to fix a ruptured eardrum

Myxedema disorder caused by lack of thyroid hormone in which areas of the skin are swollen

[Back to Top](#)

- N -

Nail tough plate of tissue covering the top of the end of each finger and toe

Narcotic strong habit-forming drug that stops pain and depresses the central nervous system

Nasal having to do with the nose

Nasal septum wall that divides the nose into two sides

Nasogastric tube tube that goes through the nose and into the stomach; used for feeding liquid food to a patient

Nasolacrimal duct tube that drains tears from the eye into the nose; tear duct

Nasopharyngeal having to do with the nasopharynx

Nasopharyngitis inflammation of the nasopharynx

Natal having to do with childbirth

Nausea sick to the stomach

Nebulizer device used to turn liquids into mists for breathing treatments

Necrosis death of tissue or skin

Neonate newborn infant

Neonatology the study of disorders of newborn infants

Neoplasm new growth that is not normal; tumor

Nephrectomy surgery to remove a kidney

Nephritis kidney inflammation

Nephroblastoma type of malignant kidney tumor

Nephrogram x-ray of the kidney

Nephrohypertrophy overgrowth of the kidney

Nephrolithiasis stones in the kidney

Nephroma growth in the kidney

Nephromegaly overgrowth of the kidney

Nephropexy surgery to tie down a kidney

Nephroptosis sagging kidney

Nephrosonography use of ultrasonography

Nerve string-like tissue that carries messages to and away from the brain and spinal cord and tells muscles to move

Nervous tissue type of tissue that makes up the central nervous system and nerves

Neuralgia nerve pain

Neurectomy surgery to remove part of a nerve

Neuritis inflammation of a nerve

Neuroarthropathy disorder of the joints and the central nervous system or nerves

Neuroblast cell that will develop into a nerve

Neuroblastoma a cancer of nerve tissue

Neurohypophysis part of the brain that discharges hormones including oxytocin and vasopressin

Neuroid like a nerve

Neurological pertaining to the nervous system

Neurologist doctor who treats disorders of the central nervous system and nerves

Neurolysis surgery to open the covering of a nerve to destroy a nerve

Neuroma growth made up of nerve tissue

Neuropathy a disturbance in the function of the brain or spinal cord that may affect the nerves and muscles of the body

Neuropharmacologic drug drug that acts on the nervous system

Neuroplasty surgery to fix a nerve

Neurorrhaphy stitching a cut nerve

Neurosis mental and emotional disorder

Neurotomy surgery to make a break in a nerve

Neutropenia decrease in the main part of the white blood cells

Nevus mole; birthmark

Nocturia too much urination at night

Non-Invasive not breaking, cutting or entering the skin

Norepinephrine hormone discharged from nerves, the brain, and the adrenal glands that helps the body deal with stress and low blood pressure

Nosocomial pneumonia pneumonia acquired in the hospital

Nucleus center of a cell

Nulligravida woman that has never given birth

Nullipara woman that has never given birth to an infant that lived

Nyctalopia difficulty seeing at night

[Back to Top](#)

- O -

Obstetrician doctor who takes care of pregnant women and delivers babies

Obstetrics the study of pregnant women and childbirth

Obstructive sleep apnea breathing problems while sleeping because the airways collapse or get closed off

Occlude close off

Oculmycosis fungus infection in the eye

Oculus dexter (OD) right eye

Oculus sinister (OS) left eye

Oculus uterque (OU) each eye

Oligomenorrhea occasional and irregular menstruation that occurs every 35 days to 6 months

Oligospermia decreased amount of sperm in semen

Oliguria decreased amount of urine

Omphalitis inflammation of the belly button

Omphalocele a birth defect in which there is bulging of the intestine through the body wall in the belly button region

Oncogenic causing tumors to form

Oncologist doctor who treats cancer

Oncology the study of tumors or cancer

Onychectomy surgery to remove a nail

Onychocryptosis ingrown nail

Onychomalacia softening of the nails

Onychomycosis fungal infection of the nail

Onychophagia nail biting

Oophorectomy surgery to remove the uterus and ovaries

Oophoritis inflammation of the ovary

Oophorohysterectomy surgery to remove the uterus and ovaries

Opportunity chance

Ophthalmagia pain in the eye

Ophthalmic having to do with the eye

Ophthalmologist doctor who treats eye disorders
Ophthalmology the study of eye disorders
Ophthalmopathy disorder of the eye
Ophthalmorrhagia bleeding from the eye
Optic having to do with the eye
Optic nerve nerve that carries visual messages from the retina to the brain
Optician person who makes glasses
Optimal best, most favorable or desirable
Optometer tool used in eye examinations
Optometry the study of the eye and vision
Oral having to do with the mouth
Oral administration giving a drug by mouth
Orchidopexy surgery to tie down a testicle in the scrotum
Orchiectomy surgery to remove one or both testicles
Orchiepididymitis inflammation of a testicle and epididymis
Orchiopexy surgery to tie down a testicle in the scrotum
Orchioplasty surgery to fix a testicle
Orchitis inflammation of a testicle
Organ two or more kinds of tissues that work together to make up a part of the body with a unique function
Orgasm the climax of sexual excitement
Orthodontist dentist who treats teeth and jaw disorders
Orthopedics the study of the bones and joints
Orthopedist doctor who treats bone and joint disorders
Orthopnea difficult breathing except when sitting up
Orthotist person who puts on and teaches the use braces and splints
Ossicles bones of the middle ear that carry sound
Osteoarthritis (OA) disorder, which is seen mostly in older persons, in which the joints become painful and stiff
Osteoblasts cell that makes bone
Osteocarcinoma bone cancer growth
Osteochondritis inflammation of bone and cartilage
Osteoclasis surgery to break a bone
Osteocyte bone cell
Osteofibroma benign tumor of bone and connective tissue
Osteogenesis imperfecta genetic disorder in which the bones are delicate and break easily
Osteomalacia soft bones
Osteomyelitis infection and inflammation of bone
Osteonecrosis death of bone tissue
Osteopetrosis rare bone disorder characterized by dense bone
Osteoplasty surgery to fix a bone
Osteoporosis loss of calcium from bone tissue resulting in bones that break easily; prevalent in postmenopausal women
Osteosarcoma cancer of bone
Osteotome chisel-like tool used for cutting or marking bone
Otalgia earache
Otitis inflammation of the ear
Otitis externa inflammation of the outer ear canal
Otitis interna inflammation of the inner ear
Otitis media inflammation of the middle ear
Otologist doctor who treats disorders of the ear
Otology the study of the ear
Otomastoiditis inflammation of the ear together with mastoiditis
Otomycosis fungus infection in the outer ear canal
Otopyorrhea discharge of pus from the ear

Otorhinolaryngologist doctor who treats disorders of the ear, nose, and throat

Otosclerosis bone deposits in the inner ear

Otoscope tool used to look into the ear

Ovaries female sex glands; female organs which release eggs

Ovulation discharge of an egg from the ovary

Ovum the female sex cell that joins with the male sperm to make a zygote and eventually a baby; egg

Oximeter tool used to measure the amount of oxygen in the blood

Oxytocin hormone made by the brain that makes the uterus cramp and milk come out of the breasts

[Back to Top](#)

- P -

Pachyderma thickening of the skin

Palate roof of the mouth

Palatitis inflammation of the roof of the mouth

Palatoplasty surgery to fix the roof of the mouth

Pallor pale color of the skin

Palmar having to do with the palm of the hand

Pancreas organ that makes hormones, including insulin, and digestive juices

Pancreatic having to do with the pancreas

Pancreatitis inflammation of the pancreas

Panplegia total loss of muscle control and feeling

Pansinusitis inflammation of the all the sinuses on one side of the body

Pap test microscope test used to detect virus infection of the cervix or cancer of the vagina, cervix, or lining of the uterus

Papule pimple

Para woman who has given birth

Paralysis loss of ability to move muscles with loss of feeling also

Paranasal sinuses air cavities inside the bones of the face around the nose

Paraplegia complete loss of muscle control and total loss of feeling from the waist downward

Parasympatholytic drug that blocks a kind of nerve

Parasympathomimetic drug that imitates the action of a kind of nerve

Parathyroid gland gland that makes and discharges a hormone that helps control the amount of calcium in the blood

Parathyroidectomy surgery to remove the parathyroid gland

Parathyroidoma growth or cancer on the parathyroid gland

Parenteral administration giving a substance by injection rather than by mouth

Paresis muscle weakness; partial paralysis

Parietal layer layer of tissue in the wall of a cavity

Parietal layer of the pericardium layer of tissue in the sack around the heart

Parkinson's disease disorder of the central nervous system, seen usually in older persons, in which there is muscle weakness, trembling, sweating

Paronychia inflammation around the nail

Paroxysm sudden worsening of an illness; or a spasm or seizure

Partial thromboplastin time (PTT) a test of blood clotting time used to measure substances that help the blood to clot

Participate take part

Parturition childbirth

Patch test allergy test performed by putting an allergy-causing material on the skin to see if it causes a reaction

Patella kneecap

Patellectomy surgery to remove the kneecap

Patency condition of being open

Patent open

Pathogenic causing disease

Pathogenesis the initial cause of a disease

Pathologist doctor who studies the changes in the body and its tissues caused by disease

Pathology the study of the changes in the body and body tissue caused by disease

Pediculosis infection with lice, which are tiny bugs

Pelvic bone hip bone

Pelvic cavity space where the urinary bladder, certain reproductive organs, part of the large intestine, and the rectum are found

Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) infection of any of the female reproductive organs inside the pelvic space, including the uterus, uterine tubes, and ovaries

Pelvimetry x-ray of the pelvis of the mother to make sure her pelvis is large enough for the body to come through during birth

Pelvis of the kidney place where urine leaves the kidney

Penicillin type of antibiotic

Penile implant artificial device put into the penis to help a man get an erection

Penis outer male sex organ

Peptic ulcer sore in the stomach or in the lining of the stomach

Percussion tapping of a body surface with the fingers to check the organs under the skin by the sound that is made

Percutaneous through the skin

Percutaneous perforation through the skin puncture, tear or hole

Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) procedure in which a small balloon is blown up inside the blood vessel to open up a blood vessel

Pericardiotomy surgery to make an opening into the pericardium

Pericarditis inflammation of the pericardium

Pericardium two-layer sack of tissue around the heart

Perimetritis inflammation of the perimetrium

Perimetrium outer layer of tissue around the uterus

Perineorrhaphy stitching a tear in the perineum

Perineum area between the vulva and rectum in women and between the scrotum and rectum in men

Periosteum layer of tissue that covers bone

Peripheral not central

Pertussis whooping cough

Petechia tiny red or purple spot on skin or other tissue caused by bleeding

Phacoemulsification method of removing a cataract by using sound waves to break it up

Phalanges finger and toe bones

Pharmacist person licensed to prepare and dispense drugs and fill prescriptions

Pharmacodynamics the study of how drugs act on the body

Pharmacokinetics the study of the way a drug enters and leaves the blood and tissues over time; study of the way the body absorbs, distributes and gets rid of a drug

Pharyngitis sore throat

Pharynx area between the mouth and esophagus that performs the swallowing action; throat

Phase I initial study of a new drug in humans to determine limits of tolerance

Phase II second phase of study of a new drug intended to obtain initial information

Phase III large scale trial to confirm and expand information on safety and usefulness of a new drug

Phenothiazines group of drugs used for the control of mental illness

Phenylketonuria (PKU) dangerous build-up of toxic materials in the body resulting from a genetic defect that affects metabolism

Phlebitis irritation or inflammation of a vein

Phlectomy surgery to remove part or all of a vein

Phlebography x-ray of a vein or veins using a dye to outline them

- Phlebotomy** nicking or putting a needle into a vein to remove blood
- Phonocardiogram** detailed record of heart sounds
- Photophobia** irritation of the eye caused by light
- Photoreinitis** inflammation of the back of the eye caused by strong light
- Phrenic** having to do with the mind; or having to do with a diaphragm
- Phrenopathy** mental disorder
- Pia mater** inner layer of the meninges
- Pinna** outer flap of the ear
- Pituitary gland** gland that sits under the brain and makes many hormones, including some that control other glands
- Placebo** a pretend treatment (with no drug in it) that is compared in a clinical trial with a drug to test if the drug has a real effect
- Placebo effect** symptom or change of condition seen when a placebo is given; not attributable to an active drug agent
- Placenta** tissues that provide food for the unborn baby
- Plantar** having to do with the sole of the foot
- Plasma** liquid part of blood where cells float
- Plasmapheresis** removing plasma from blood that has been drawn from a person
- Platelet count** the number of platelets in the blood
- Platelets** small structures in blood that help it to clot
- Pleura** thin tissue that covers the lungs and inner walls of the chest
- Pleural effusion** fluid in the chest cavity
- Pleurisy** inflammation of the pleura with discharge in the chest cavity, making breathing painful
- Pleuropexy** surgery to fix the film that covers the lungs
- Pneumatocele** bulging of the lungs through an abnormal opening
- Pneumobronchotomy** incision into the lungs
- Pneumoconiosis** dust in the lungs
- Pneumocystis carinii** type of parasite or fungus that causes pneumonia in infants and weakened patients, such as those with AIDS
- Pneumonectomy** surgery to remove a lung
- Pneumonia** inflammation of the lungs in which the lungs become heavy
- Pneumonitis** inflammation of the lungs
- Pneumothorax** free air in the chest cavity
- Podiatrist** foot doctor
- Poliomyelitis** infection with a virus in which there can be fever, headache, and stiff neck followed by paralysis and wasting away of muscles
- Polyarteritis** inflammation of many arteries
- Polycystic kidney** kidney with many cysts in it
- Polydipsia** too much thirst
- Polymyositis** inflammation of more than one muscle
- Polyneuritis** inflammation of several nerves
- Polyp** type of growth that sticks up out of tissue
- Polypectomy** surgery to remove a polyp
- Polyuria** too much urine being made
- Pons** part of the brain through which the two sides and different areas of the brain communicate
- Porphyria** disturbance of metabolism that can be seen as disorders of the skin or other organs
- Posterior** having to do with the back of the body
- Posterior lobe of the pituitary** part of the pituitary gland that discharges oxytocin, vasopressin, and some proteins
- Postictal** happening after a seizure
- Postpartum** after childbirth
- Potential** possible
- Potentiation** increase in drug action from using two drugs together instead of using each drug alone
- Potentiator** an agent that helps another agent work better

Preeclampsia serious problem of pregnancy in which there is high blood pressure and excess fluid in the tissues of the mother

Pregnancy carrying an unborn baby

Preictal happening before a seizure

Premature infant infant born before it has fully developed; weight less than 5.5 lbs

Prenatal before birth

Prepuce fold of skin (foreskin) that covers the penis and is removed in circumcision

Presbycusis loss of hearing because of old age

Presbyopia problems with vision because of old age

Primigravida woman going through her first pregnancy

Primipara woman who has had one pregnancy that lasted at least 20 weeks

Proctologist doctor who treats disorders of the rectum and anus

Proctology the study of the disorders of the rectum and anus

Proctoptosis fallen anus protruding from the body

Proctoscope tool used to look into the rectum

Progestins type of female hormones that prepare the uterus for pregnancy

Prognosis forecast of the probable outcome of a disease

Prolapsed uterus fallen uterus protruding from the body

Prone lying face down

Prophylaxis a drug given to prevent disease or infection

Prospective study study following patients forward in time

Prostate gland gland that makes fluid that aids movement of sperm

Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) substance in blood that is measured to check for prostatic cancer

Prostatectomy surgery to remove all or part of the prostate gland

Prostatic cancer cancer of the prostate gland

Prostatitis inflammation of the prostate gland

Prostatocystitis inflammation of the neck of the bladder and the bladder

Prostatolith stone in the prostate gland

Prostatorrhoea discharge of liquid from the prostate

Prosthesis artificial body part

Prothrombin time (PT) a test of blood clotting time used to measure substances that help the blood to clot

Protocol plan of study

Proximal nearest; closer to the center of the body, away from the end

Pruritus itchiness

Pseudocyesis false pregnancy

Psoriasis scaly skin rash

Psychiatry the study of mental disorders

Psychogenic caused by the mind (rather than the body)

Psychologist doctor who treats disorders of the mind, thoughts, and behavior

Psychology the study of mental action and behavior

Psychopathy any disorder of the mind

Psychosis severe mental disorder; craziness

Psychosomatic having a connection between the mind and physical symptoms

Pterygium unusual fold of film on the eye

Puberty years when the sex organs mature

Puerperal a woman who has just given birth to an infant

Puerperal right after childbirth

Puerperium the first 3 to 6 weeks after childbirth

Pulmonary having to do with the lungs

Pulmonary edema fluid in the lungs

Pulmonary embolism blood clot in the lungs

Pulmonary neoplasm lung tumor

Pupil black spot in the middle of the eye, which is the opening in the center of the iris

Pupillometer tool that measures how wide the pupil is

Purgative drug used to cause the bowels to empty

Purified protein derivative (PPD) substance used in tuberculosis skin test

Purpura small purple-red marks in skin or other tissue caused by bleeding

Pustule pimple filled with pus

Pyelitis inflammation of the kidney and its pelvis

Pyelogram x-ray of the kidney and ureters

Pyelolithotomy surgery to remove a kidney stone

Pyelonephritis inflammation of the kidney and its pelvis

Pyeloplasty surgery to fix the pelvis of the kidney

Pyelostomy surgery to make an opening into the pelvis of the kidney

Pyloric sphincter ring of muscles between the stomach and the small intestine

Pyloromyotomy surgery to cut muscles of a pyloric sphincter that is too narrow

Pyloroplasty surgery to fix the pyloric sphincter

Pylorus the opening of the stomach into the small intestine

Pyosalpinx pus in the uterine tubes

Pyuria pus in the urine

[Back to Top](#)

- Q -

Quadriplegia loss of muscle movement and loss of feeling in both arms and legs

[Back to Top](#)

- R -

Rachiotomy surgery to cut into a bone or bones of the spine

Rachischisis birth defect in which there is a groove in the spine

Radial keratotomy surgery to fix nearsightedness

Radiation therapy x-ray or cobalt treatment

Radiculitis inflammation of a spinal nerve root

Radioimmunoassay (RIA) laboratory method to measure a substance, such as a hormone

Radius one of the two lower arm bones

Random by chance

Randomization assignment of treatment group by chance, similar to tossing a coin (when there are two treatment choices)

Recombinant formation of new combinations of genes

Reconstitution putting back together the original parts or elements

Rectal administration giving a substance by putting it into the rectum

Rectocele bulging of the rectum into the vagina

Rectouterine pouch pouch in the area between the uterus and the rectum

Recur happen again

Red blood cell (RBC) a cell in blood that carries oxygen

Red blood cell count the number of red blood cells in the blood

Red blood cell morphology the size and shape of individual red blood cells as seen under a microscope

Refractory not responding to treatment

Regeneration regrowth of a structure or of lost tissue

Regimen pattern of administering treatment

Relapse the return or reappearance of a disease.

Remission condition that occurs when signs of an illness are decreased or gone

Renal having to do with the kidney

Renal biopsy removing a piece of kidney tissue to look at it under a microscope

Renal calculi kidney stones

Renal pelvis place where urine leaves the kidney

Renal transplant kidney transplant

Renogram x-ray to check kidney function by measuring how fast a dye passes through the kidneys and to the urinary bladder

Replicable capable of being duplicated

Reproduction making babies

Reproductive having to do with reproduction

Resect remove or cut out (surgically)

Resectoscope tool used to remove or biopsy tissue from the urinary bladder, prostate, or urethra

Retina innermost layer of the eye

Retinal having to do with the retina

Retinal photocoagulation use of a laser light to treat disorders of the retina or tumors in the eye

Retinitis pigmentosa eye disorder in which the retina atrophies and vision gradually worsens

Retinoblastoma cancer in the eye growing off of the retina

Retractor tool used for holding back tissue

Retrograde pyelogram x-ray of the kidney and ureter made by injecting dye backward into the ureter

Retrospective study study looking back over past experience

Reye's syndrome serious disorder of children, which often occurs after a viral infection, affecting the brain, liver, and other body organs

Rhabdomyoma benign tumor of a muscle

Rhabdomyosarcoma cancer of a muscle

Rheumatic fever bacterial disease in which there is fever and inflammation of the heart, blood vessels, and joints

Rheumatic heart disease damage to the heart caused by rheumatic fever, especially deformed heart valves

Rheumatoid factor substance in blood that is measured to check for rheumatoid arthritis

Rhinitis inflammation of the nose

Rhinomycosis fungus infection in the nose

Rhinoplasty surgery to fix the nose

Rhinorrhagia nosebleed

Rhinorrhea runny nose

Rhizotomy surgery to cut apart a nerve root

Rhytidectomy surgery to remove wrinkles

Rhytidoplasty surgery to remove wrinkles from the face

Rongeur tool used for cutting hard tissue, such as bone

[Back to Top](#)

- S -

Sacrum large triangle-shaped bone at the bottom of the spine just above the tailbone

Sagittal plane divides the body into a right and left side

Saliva liquid in the mouth that helps with swallowing food; spit

Salivary glands glands that make saliva

Salpingectomy surgery to remove the uterine tube

Salpingitis inflammation of the uterine tubes

Salpingo-oophorectomy surgery to remove an ovary and uterine tube

Salpingocele uterine tube bulging out of an abnormal opening

Salpingocyesis pregnancy growing in the uterine tube

Salpingostomy surgery to make an opening into or to open a blockage of a uterine tube

Salpinx tube down which the egg travels from the ovary to the uterus

Sarcoma cancer of connective tissue cells

Saw tool with a notched blade used for cutting

- Scabies** itchy skin infection by a microscopic bug called a mite; mange
- Scapule** shoulder blade
- Schick test** skin test used to detect diphtheria
- Sciatica** pain running down from the lower back to the buttocks to the back or side of the leg
- Scissors** tool with two sharp blades used for cutting tissue
- Sclera** outer protective layer of the eye; "whites of the eyes"
- Scleral buckling** surgery to fix a detached retina
- Scleroderma** hardening and thickening of the skin
- Sclerokeratitis** inflammation of the sclera and the cornea
- Scleromalacia** softening of the sclera seen in patients with rheumatoid arthritis
- Sclerotomy** surgery to cut into the sclera
- Scoliosis** S-shaped (side-to-side) curve of the spine
- Scratch test** allergy test performed by putting a small amount of allergy-causing material on small skin patches to see if it causes a reaction
- Scrotum** pouch that holds the testicles
- Sebaceous gland** gland that discharges oil into the skin
- Seborrhea** very oily skin
- Sedation** calmness
- Sedative** drug used to relax a person without making the person sleepy
- Seizure** sudden, uncontrolled muscle spasms and loss of consciousness resulting from abnormal brain function
- Self-retaining** stays in place without being held
- Semen** fluid containing, sperm, which is discharged from the penis during the climax of sexual intercourse
- Semen analysis** test used to count and examine the sperm cells
- Semicircular canals** channels in the labyrinth of the ear
- Semilunar valves** valves that control the flow of blood out of the heart by opening and closing with each heart beat
- Seminoma** a type of testes cancer
- Septoplasty** surgery to fix the wall inside the nose
- Septotomy** incision into the wall inside the nose
- Sequentially** in a row
- Serrations** small grooves in the edges or tips of tools that help to hold tissue
- Serum** clear liquid part of blood
- Serum bilirubin** blood test used to detect liver disorder
- Serum calcium** blood test used to find out how much calcium is in the blood
- Serum creatine kinase** blood test used to measure creatine
- Serum enzyme test** blood test used to detect the presence of certain chemicals discharges into the blood from dying heart muscle
- Serum phosphorus** blood test used to measure the amount of phosphorus present
- Serum test** blood test used to measure the amount of endocrine material in the blood
- Sexually transmitted disease (STD)** disorder spread by sexual contact
- Sharp** with an edge or tip that cuts
- Shingles** painful, fluid-filled blisters caused by herpesvirus infection
- Shunt** artificial or natural channel running between two other channels
- Sialolith** stone in a salivary gland or duct
- Sickle cell anemia** genetic defect of hemoglobin causing red blood cells to change shape; symptoms include pain in the joints and belly, and ulcers on the legs
- Side effect** an effect of a drug that is not related to the reason the drug is used
- Sigmoid colon** the lower part of the colon just before the rectum
- Sigmoidoscope** tool used to look into the sigmoid colon
- Single-blind trial** test or experiment in which the person giving treatment, but not the patient, knows which treatment the patient is receiving
- Sinusotomy** incision into the sinus
- Sleep apnea** breathing problems while sleeping
- Slipped disk** bulging out of a pad between bones of the spine, which often causes pinched nerve roots
- Small intestine** the bowel between the stomach and the large intestine, including the duodenum, jejunum, and ileum
- Smooth** without teeth or grooves; not rough
- Snare** tool with a wire loop used for removing tissue growth
- Software** computer program
- Somatic** having to do with the body
- Somatogenic** caused by the body (rather than the mind)
- Somatopathy** disorder of the body as opposed to the mind

Somnolence sleepiness

Spasm a muscle contraction that produces pain and interferes with use of the muscle

Specific gravity test used to measure the amount of solid material and minerals in a liquid, such as the urine

Speculum tools used to stretch and hold open an opening into a body channel, such as the nose or vagina

Sperm the male sex cell that joins with a female egg to make a zygote and eventually a baby

Sphygmocardiograph tool used to record arterial blood pressure

Sphygmomanometer tool for measuring blood pressure

Spina bifida birth defect in which the spine does not develop fully and close up

Spinal cavity space inside the spinal column where the spinal cord is found

Spinal cord the cord of nerve cells and nerve fibers running down the spine that helps guide messages to and from the brain

Spirometer tool used to measure the amount of air going into and out of the lungs during breathing

Spleen largest lymph organ in the body

Splenectomy surgery to remove the spleen

Splenomegaly enlarged spleen

Splenopexy surgery to tie down the spleen

Spondylosyndesis fusion of the spine

Sputum fluid and material brought up from the lungs and windpipe and spit out through the mouth

Squamous cell carcinoma cancer that usually occurs on the skin or in the lungs

Staging a determination of the extent of the disease

Standard of Care treatment plan which the majority of the medical community would accept as appropriate

Staphylococcus type of bacteria

Stenosis narrowing of a channel

Stereotactic breast biopsy biopsy of breast tissue taken by using a three-dimensional body map to locate the tissue

Sterilization the killing of all living germs; or a process to make a man or woman not able to have children

Sternoclavicular having to do with the breastbone and the collarbone

Steroid like the breastbone

Sternum breastbone

Stethoscope tool used to listen to the sounds made by the heart, lungs, intestines, and other organs

Stimulant drug used to speed up the central nervous system

Stomach the first part of the intestines that holds food for digestion after it is swallowed

Stomatitis inflammation inside the mouth that sometimes occurs as an allergic reaction; can also result from infection or virus

Stomatogastric the mouth and stomach

Stool bowel movement; feces

Stool culture test for bacteria in stool

Strabismus abnormal position of the eye, as in wall eye or crossed eyes

Stratify arrange in groups for analysis of results (e.g., Stratify by age, sex, etc)

Streptococcus type of bacteria

Streptomycin type of antibiotic

Stricture area where a tube in the body is too narrow

Stupor stunned state in which it is difficult to get a response or the attention of the subject

Stye pimple on the eyelid

Subclavian under the collarbone

Subcostal below the ribs

Subcutaneous (SC) under the skin

Subdural below the outer layer of the meninges

Sublingual under the tongue

Sublingual administration giving a substance by placing it under the tongue (not to be swallowed) (e.g., nitroglycerin)

Submandibular below the lower jaw

Submaxillary below the upper jaw

Subscapular below the shoulder blade

Sulfonamide type of antibiotic

Superficial close to the outside of the body

Superior toward the top of the body

Supine lying on the back

Supportive care general medical care aimed at symptoms, not intended to improve or cure underlying disease

Suppository drug that is given by putting it into the rectum, vagina, or urethra

Suprarenal above the kidney; or having to do with the adrenal gland

Suprascapular above the shoulder blade

Sweat glands structures in and under the skin that makes sweat

Swimmer's ear inflammation of the outer ear canal

Sympatholytic drug used to slow down the action of certain types of nerves

Sympathomimetic drug used to speed up heart rate, raise blood pressure, and open up air passages

Symphysis type of joint where two bones meet but there is no movement

Symptomatic having symptoms

Syncope fainting spell

Syndrome a condition characterized by a set of symptoms

Synergism combined action of two drugs used together that is better than using each drug alone

Synoviosarcoma cancer of the joint

Syphilis bacterial infection spread by sexual contact

System having to do with the whole body

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) chronic disorder of connective tissue in which there can be skin rash, arthritis, kidney problems, and anemia, among other problems

Systole the time when the heart contracts to pump blood to the body

Systolic top number in blood pressure; pertaining to contraction phase of heart beat

Back to Top

- T -

T-lymphocytes type of white blood cells involved in immune reactions

Tachypnea fast breathing

Tarsal bones ankle bones

Tarsectomy surgery to remove one or more of the ankle bones

Tendonitis inflammation of tendons

Tendon elastic band that attaches muscle at each end

Tenodynia pain in a tendon

Tenomyoplasty surgery to stitch together a ripped tendon

Tenorrhaphy surgery to fix a tendon and muscle

Tenosynovitis inflammation of covering layer around a tendon

Tenotomy surgery to cut tendon of an eye muscle to fix strabismus

Teratogenic capable of causing malformations in unborn fetuses

Testicle one of two male sex glands that make sperm

Testicular carcinoma cancer of the testicles

Testis one of two male sex glands that make sperm

Tetany muscle cramps caused by a low amount of calcium

Tetracycline type of antibiotic

Tetraplegia total loss of muscle movement and loss of feeling in both arms and legs

Thoracalgia pain in the chest or wall of the chest

Thoracentesis using a needle to remove fluid from the chest cavity

Thoracic cavity space where the heart, lungs, esophagus, tracheas, bronchi, and thymus are found

Thoracic vertebrae bones of the spine in back of the chest

Thoracoscope tool used to look into the chest cavity

Thoracotomy surgery to cut into the chest

Thorax the chest

Throat area between the mouth and esophagus that performs the swallowing action

Thrombosis blood clotting within blood vessels

Thrombus a clotting of blood factors that frequently blocks blood flow

Thymectomy surgery to remove the thymus

Thymoma tumor of the thymus

Thymus lymph organ in the chest, which is most active at puberty, where a type of lymphocyte is made

Thyroid gland gland in the neck that makes the thyroid hormones, which are important in controlling metabolism

Thyroid-stimulating hormone(TSH) hormone that makes the thyroid gland active

Thyroidectomy surgery to remove the thyroid gland

Thyroparathyroidectomy surgery to remove the thyroid and parathyroid glands

Thyrotoxicosis disorder caused by too much thyroid hormone

Tibia the larger of the two lower leg bones; the shin bone

Tinea fungal infection of skin; ringworm

Tinnitus ringing, roaring, buzzing, or clicking noises in the ears

Tissue group of cells that work together

Titration gradual alteration of drug dose to determine desired effect or most beneficial strength of drug

Tolerance decrease in response to a fixed dosage of drug; over time, higher and higher doses of a drug are needed to get desired effect

Tonometer tool that measures pressure inside the eye

Tonsil lymphoid tissue in the back of the mouth

Tonsillectomy surgery to remove a tonsil or tonsils

Topical anesthetic applied to certain area of the skin to reduce pain to specific (limited) area to which applied

Topical application giving a medication by putting it directly on the skin

Toxicity any harmful effect of a drug or poison

Trabeculectomy surgery that makes a place for fluid to drain from the eye, reducing eye pressure in patients with glaucoma

Trachea windpipe

Tracheitis inflammation of the windpipe

Tracheocystitis inflammation of the neck of the urinary bladder

Tracheoplasty surgery to fix the windpipe

Tracheostomy surgery to make a hole through the neck from the windpipe to the outside of the body

Tranquilizer drug used to control anxiety

Transdermal through the skin

Transdermal patch patch containing a drug that is put on the skin so the drug will enter the body through the skin

Transient ischemic attack (TIA) sudden loss of blood flow to the brain that lasts for a few minutes to an hour but has no lasting effect

Transiently temporarily

Transrectal ultrasound ultrasonography of the organs in the belly done using a probe in the rectum

Transverse plane divides the body to make a top and bottom

Trauma injury; wound

Traumatic causing damage, like a toll used to crush tissue

Treadmill stress test used to determine heart function

Trichomoniasis parasite infection that is spread by sexual contact

Trichomycosis fungus infection in the hair

Tricuspid valve a valve in the heart that controls the flow of blood by opening and closing with each heart beat

Tubal ligation surgery to close the uterine tubes to prevent pregnancy

Tuberculin substance used in skin tests to test for tuberculosis

Tuberculosis bacterial infection that usually results in a serious lung disorder

Tympanic membrane eardrum

Tympanitis inflammation of the ear drum

Tympanometer tool used to fix the ear drum

Tympanoplasty surgery to fix the eardrum and bones of the middle ear

[Back to Top](#)

- U -

Ulcer sore

Ulcerative colitis sores in the colon

Ulna one of the two lower arm bones

Ultrasonography making a picture of internal organs by bouncing sound waves off them and recording the echoes

Ultrasound making a picture of internal organs by bouncing sound waves off them and recording the echoes

Umbilical region area around the naval

Umbilicus navel; belly button

Unconscious not awake and not aware; knocked out

Ungula having to do with the nails

Unilateral having to do with only one side of a structure

Upper GI (gastrointestinal) series x-ray using a dye to show the upper part of the digestive system

Upper respiratory infection (URI) a cold or flu

Uptake absorption and incorporation of a substance by living tissue; absorb and incorporate a substance, taking in of a substance by living tissue

Uremia build-up of poisons in the blood, usually because of kidney failure

Ureter tube that carries urine from a kidney to the urinary bladder

Ureterectomy surgery to remove all or part of a ureter

Ureteritis inflammation of the ureter

Ureterocele bulging of a ureter taken after putting a dye in it to outline it

Ureterogram x-ray of a ureter taken after putting a dye in it to outline it

Ureterolithiasis stones in the ureter

Ureterostenosis narrow area in a ureter

Ureterostomy surgery to make an opening into a ureter

Ureterotomy surgery to cut into a ureter

Urethra tube that carries urine from the urinary bladder to the outside of the body

Urethritis inflammation of the urethra

Urethrocystitis inflammation of the urethra

Urethrometer tool used to measure the urethra

Urethropexy surgery to tie down the urethra

Urethroplasty surgery to fix the urethra

Urethrostomy surgery to make an opening from the urethra to the outside of the body

Uric acid test blood test used to measure the amount of uric acid in the blood

Urinal container that holds urine

Urinalysis series of tests done on urine

Urinary having to do with urine

Urinary bladder sack that holds urine before it leaves the body

Urinary catheterization passing a tube into the urinary bladder to remove urine

Urinary retention abnormal holding of urine

Urinary suppression not able to discharge urine

Urinary tract all the structures that make and pass urine, including the kidneys, ureters, urinary bladder, and urethra

Urinary tract infection (UTI) infection of the urinary system

Urination the act of passing urine

Urine pale yellow liquid waste material and sediment

Urine casts and crystals urine test to check mineral levels and sediment in the urine and to check for infection or inflammation in the urinary tract

Urine color normal color for urine is straw yellow

Urine pH urine test to find out the chemical make-up of urine (acidity)

Urine protein urine test used to measure how much protein is in the urine

Urinometer tool used to measure the specific gravity of urine

Urodynamics the force and flow of urine

Urologist doctor who treats disorders of the urinary tract of men and women and the genital tract of men

Urticaria hives

Uterine tube tube down which the egg travels from the ovary to the uterus

Uterus organ where the unborn baby develops and grows

Uvula v-shaped tissue that hangs from the roof of the back of the mouth

Uvulectomy surgery to remove the uvula

Uvulitis inflammation of the uvula

[Back to Top](#)

- V -

Vagina tube that connects the uterus to the outside of the body

Vaginitis inflammation of the vagina

Vaginodynia pain in the vagina

Vaginoperineorrhaphy surgery to fix tears in the vagina and vaginal areas

Vaginoplasty surgery to fix the vagina

Vagotomy surgery to cut the vagus nerve or nerves, usually done to slow down the making of stomach acid

Valvuloplasty plastic repair of a valve, especially of the heart

Varicose veins twisted and bulging veins that are larger than normal

Vas deferens tube that carries sperm out of the testicle

Vasectomy surgery to cut out part or all of the ductus deferens-done to make a man not able produce children

Vasoconstrictor drug used to make blood vessels tighten up and become narrower

Vasodilator drug used to make blood vessels open up and become bigger

Vasospasm narrowing of blood vessels due to spasm of vessel walls

Vasovasostomy surgery to undo a vasectomy by connecting up the ductus deferens again-done to make a man able to produce children again

VDRL test blood test used to detect syphilis

Vector a carrier, usually an insect, that carries and transmits disease-causing microorganisms

Vein the type of blood vessel that carries blood back to the heart from the rest of the body

Vein ligation and stripping surgery to remove twisted (varicose) veins in the legs

Vena cava largest vein in the body

Venipuncture putting a needle into a vein

Venogram x-ray of a vein

Ventilator machine used to help a person breathe

Ventral toward or having to do with the front of the body

Ventricle small space, such as one of several that hold spinal fluid inside the brain and the two lower chambers of the heart

Venule little vein

Verruca wart

Vertebra one of the 33 bones in the spine

Vertebral column the spine

Vertebrocostal having to do with a vertebra and a rib

Vertical transmission spread of disease

Vertigo light-headedness; dizziness

Vesicle blister

Vesicourethral having to do with the urethra and the bladder

Vesicovaginal fistula abnormal opening between the bladder and vagina

Viral having to do with a virus

Virus tiny type of gene

Visceral having to do with the internal organs

Vitreous body jelly-like liquid found in the back chamber of the eye

Void urinate

Volvulus twisting of the intestines causing a blockage

Vomit matter discharged from the stomach out of the mouth

Vulva the tissues around the opening to the vagina

Vulvectomy surgery to remove the vulva

Vulvovaginal having to do with the vagina and vulva

Vulvovaginitis inflammation of the vagina and vulva

[Back to Top](#)

- W -

Wheal hive; welt

White blood cell (WBC) one of several types of infection-fighting cells in the blood and body tissues

White blood cell differential blood test to find out the types and numbers of mature and immature forms of white blood cells that are in the blood

White cell count number of white blood cells in the blood

Whooping cough (pertussis) bacterial infection, usually seen in young children, in which there is a serious, loud, dry cough

Withdraw discontinue; stop taking part

[Back to Top](#)

- X -

Xanthochromic having a yellow color

Xanthoderma yellow color to the skin

Xanthosis yellow color

Xeroderma dry skin

Xeroma abnormally dry membranes of the eye

Xerophthalmia abnormal dryness of membranes of the eye due to vitamin A deficiency; symptoms may begin in the form of night blindness, and they become progressively worse

Xerostomia dryness of the mouth due to dysfunction of the salivary gland

Xiphoid process lower part of the breast bone

[Back to Top](#)

- Y -

[Back to Top](#)

- Z -

Zygote the cell made by joining of the female egg and male sperm at the beginning of pregnancy

[Back to Top](#)



[Back to Top](#)

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