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

(Acknowledgement to Stanford University for lay term information)

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 placenta 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
Amniorrhea 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

**Angiocardiitis** 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 resote 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
Arteriorrhexis 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

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- 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
Bicupsid 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
Bradyarrhythmia  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

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-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
Cardiotoxic  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
Cathartie  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
Celiacotomy  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, traches, bronchi, and thymus are located
Chiroprapist 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
Cholecystolithiasis gallstones in a bile duct
Cholecystolithotripsy 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
Colonoscopy 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 culture test for infection or organisms that could cause infection
Computerized axial tomography (CAT) x-ray machine that uses a computer to make pictures of the body; computerized series of x-rays culture test for infection or organisms that could cause infection
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
Cornealitis 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 byss 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
Cysisiology the study of pregnancy
Cysis 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
Cystotracelotomy 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

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Depressant drug that slows down the action of the central nervous system
Dermabrasion method used to remove scars from the skin
Dermatitis skin inflammation
Dermatoplasty 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
Diaphragmatocoele 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 pouching off to the colon
Diverticulitis inflammation of abnormal pouches coming off 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
**Dysphonha** trouble with the voice and speaking
**Dysplasia** abnormal development or cell growth
**Dyspnea** trouble breathing
**Dystocia** difficult childbirth
**Dysuria** pain when urinating

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**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
Epidermidis tubes that stores and carries sperm
Epidermal 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
Esophagastroduodenoscopy use of an endoscope to look into the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum
Esophagoscopy 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

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- 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

**Fulgaration** 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

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- 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

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- 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
Hematosalphinx 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
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
Hereditary 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
Hiccups: sudden, uncontrolled spasms of the diaphragm
Hidradenitis: inflammation of a sweat gland
Hip: 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
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
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Hypercalcemia: too much calcium in the blood
Hypercapnia: too much carbon dioxide in the blood
Hyperemia: 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
Hyponatremia 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

Iatrology 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 pr 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
- 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

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- K -

**Kaposi's sarcoma** purple or brown cancerous pimples on the skin, often associated with AIDS

**Karyocyte** cell with a center

**Karyoplasts** 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

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- 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

**Lacrimals 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 angioblast 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

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Macro- describes something that is large or long
Macule flat, colored spot on the skin
Magnetic resonance imagining (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
Mammoplasty 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
Meningomyeloradiculitis 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
Matatarsal bones foot bones
Metronidazole a drug used to treat infections caused by parasites or other causes of anaerobic infections
Metrorrhagia 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)
Misscarriage 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 problems 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

- 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

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
Oculomycosis 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 deceased 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
Ophthalmia pain in the eye
Ophthalmic having to do with the eye
Opthalmologist doctor who treats eye disorders
Opthalmology the study of eye disorders
Opthalmopathy disorder of the eye
Opthalmorrhagia 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 stuff
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

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
Pepitic 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
Phlebectomy  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
Photoretinitis 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
Pleurropexy 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
Pneumonecctomy 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
Polycystis too much thirst
Polymyositis inflammation of more than one muscle
Polynueuritis 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
Prostatorrhea 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

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

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- 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 photoagulation 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

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
Scapula 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
Semiautomatic 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 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
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
Syncpe  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

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
Tenotomy  surgery to cut tendon of an eye muscle to fix strabismus
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 tool used to crush tissue
Treadmill stress test 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
Tympanometry tool used to fix the ear drum
Tympanoplasty surgery to fix the eardrum and bones of the middle ear
Ulcer  sore
Ulcerative colitis  sores in the colon
Ulna  one of the two lower arm bones
Ultrasoundography  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
**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

**Vulvectomry** surgery to remove the vulva

**Vulvovaginal** having to do with the vagina and vulva

**Vulvovaginitis** inflammation of the vagina and vulva
- 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

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- X -

Xanthochromic  having a yellow color
Xanthoderma  yellow color to the skin
Xanthism  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

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- Y -

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- Z -

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

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