

# WORD BANK

Terms are grouped alphabetically. Select the letter you need from the list below. Terms will include the definition and phonetic spelling.

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z

**Tip:** Once you select a letter, you can hit CTRL+F on your keyboard to search for the exact term you want.

# A

**abdominal (ab-DOM-ĭ-năĭ)**

Pertaining to the abdomen.

**abdominocentesis (ab-dom-i-nō-sen-TĒ-sis):**

Surgical puncture to aspirate fluid from the abdomen.

**abdominoplasty (ab-DOM-i-nō-plas-tē):**

Surgical repair of the abdomen.

**ablation (a-BLĀ-shŏn):**

Destruction of abnormal or excessive tissue by eroding, vaporizing or melting; Using extreme heat or extreme cold to destroy cells in part of the heart which were causing abnormal rhythms.

**abortion (ă-BOR-shŏn):**

Termination of a pregnancy before the fetus is viable.

**abrasion (ă-BRĀ-zhŏn):**

Scrape (by injury or mechanical process).

**abruptio placentae (ă-BRŪP-shĕ-ō plă-SENT-ă):**

Pre-mature separation of the placenta from the uterine wall.

**abscess (AB-ses):**

Localized collection of pus.

**acanthosis nigricans (ak-an-THŌ-sis NĪ-grĭ-kăns):**

A disorder that causes darkening and thickening of the skin on the neck, groin, underarms or skin folds.

**acapnia (ă-KAP-nĕ-ă):**

Condition of absence (less than normal level) of carbon dioxide (in the blood).

**acne (AK-nĕ):**

Clogging of pores, which can lead to infection and inflammation.

**acoustic neuroma (ă-KOOS-tĭk noor-Ō-mă):**

A benign tumor in the internal auditory canal.

**acrochordons (ak-rŏ-KOR-don):**

Skin tags, teardrop-sized pieces of skin that can be as large as raisins and are typically found in the armpits or neck area.

**acromegaly (ak-rŏ-MEG-ă-lĕ):**

Enlargement of the extremities.

**acronym:**

Term derived from the first letters of a phrase and are spoken as if they are a word on their own.

**acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (ă-KWĪRD im-yŭ-nŏ-dĕ-FISH-ĕn-sĕ SĪN-drŏm):**

Advanced, chronic immune system suppression caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). infection.

**active immunity (AK-tiv im-Ū-nīt-ē):**

Immunity developed from an individual's own immune system.

**acute inflammation (ā-KŪT in-flā-MĀ-shōn):**

Inflammation occurring for a limited time period; rapidly developing.

**adaptive immune response (ad-ap-TĪV i-MŪN ri-SPONS):**

Relatively slow but very specific and effective immune response controlled by lymphocytes.

**adenectomy (ad-ĕn-EK-tō-mē):**

Excision of a gland.

**adenitis (ad-ĕ-NĪT-is):**

Inflammation of the gland.

**adenoidectomy (ad-ĕ-noy-DEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the adenoids.

**adenoiditis (ad-ĕ-noyd-ĪT-is):**

Inflammation of the adenoids.

**adenomegaly (ā-dĕn-ō-MEG-ā-lē):**

Enlarged gland.

**adenotome (AD-ĕ-nō-tōm):**

Instrument used to cut the adenoids.

**adhesion (ad-HĒ-zhōn):**

Band of scar tissue that binds anatomic surfaces to each other.

**adipocytes (AD-ĭ-pō-sīts):**

Fat cells.

**adipose (AD-ĭ-pōs):**

Fat tissue.

**adrenalectomy (ā-drē-nā-LEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the adrenal glands.

**adrenalitis (ā-drē-nā-LĪT-is):**

Inflammation of adrenal glands.

**adrenocorticohyperplasia (ā-drē-nō-kor-tī-kō-hī-pĕr-PLĀ-zh(ē)-ā):**

Excessive development of the adrenal cortex.

**adrenomegaly (ā-drĕn-ō-MEG-ā-lē):**

enlargement of one or both adrenal glands.

**adrenopathy (ā-drĕn-ŌP-ā-thē):**

Disease of the adrenal gland(s).

**adventitial (ad-ven-TĪSH-al):**

The outermost layer of the wall of a blood vessel.

**afferent lymphatic vessels (AF-ĕ-rĕnt lim-FAT-ik VES-ĕls):**

Lead into a lymph node.

**afferent nerves (AF-ĕ-rĕnt nĕrvs):**

Nerves that carry sensory signals (nerve impulses) toward the CNS from the periphery.

**albinism (AL-bĭ-nizm):**

Genetic disorder that affects the coloring of skin, hair, and eyes.

**albuminuria (al-bŭ-mĭ-NOO-rĕ-ă):**

Albumin in the urine.

**allergens (AL-ĕr-jĕns):**

Antigens that evoke type 1 hypersensitivity (allergy) responses.

**Allergist (AL-ĕr-jĭst):**

Specialist who studies and treats allergies.

**allergy (AL-ĕr-jĕ):**

Inflammatory response due to a hypersensitivity to a substance.

**alpha-fetoprotein test (AFP) (AL-fă fĕt-ō-PRŌ-tĕn):**

A maternal blood test to detect potential fetal abnormalities such as neural tube defects or multiple pregnancies;

The AFP is taken between 14 and 19 weeks gestation.

**alveolar (ăl-VĒ-ŏ-lăr):**

Pertaining to the alveolus.

**alveolar duc (ăl-VĒ-ŏ-lăr dŭkt):**

A tube composed of smooth muscle and connective tissue.

**alveolitis (al-vĕ-ŏ-LĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the alveoli.

**amblyopia (am-blĕ-Ō-pĕ-ă):**

Reduced vision in one eye. Associated with strabismus (lazy eye).

**amenorrhea (ă-men-ŏ-RĒ-ă):**

Absences of the flow of menses, no period; one of the first signs of pregnancy or menopause.

**amniocentesis (am-nĕ-ŏ-sen-TĒ-sĭs):**

Surgical puncture to remove a small amount of amniotic fluid through a needle via the abdomen. The fluid is tested for any potential fetal abnormalities.

**amniochorial (am-nĕ-ŏ-KŌ-rĕ-ăl):**

Pertaining to the amnion and chorion.

**amnionitis (am-nĕ-ŏ-NĪ-tis):**

Inflammation of the amnion.

**amniorrhoea (am-nĕ-ŏ-RĒ-ă):**

Discharge (escape) of amniotic fluid.

**amniorrhexis (am-nē-ō-REK-sis):**

Rupture of the amnion.

**amniotomy (am-nē-OT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the amnion to induce labor.

**amphiarthrosis (am-fē-ar-THRŌ-sīs):**

Joints with some movement.

**ampulla (am-PU-lă):**

A sac-like enlargement of a canal or duct.

**anal (ĀN-ăl):**

Pertaining to the anus.

**anaphylactic shock (an-ă-fi-LAK-tik shok):**

Also called anaphylaxis. An inhaled, ingested or injected (bee sting) allergen causes a significant drop in blood pressure along with contractions of smooth muscles of the airways.

**anaphylaxis (an-ă-fi-LAK-sīs):**

Exaggerated reaction to a previously encountered antigen may start out as mild reaction but can quickly become severe resulting in anaphylactic shock.

**anatomical position (ăn-ă-TOM-ik pŏ-ZISH-ŏn):**

That of the body standing upright, with the feet at shoulder width and parallel, toes forward. The upper limbs are held out to each side, and the palms of the hands face forward.

**androgens (AN-drŏ-jĕns):**

Hormones that affect growth and reproduction. Typically referred to as “male hormones,” however the female body produces small amounts of androgens as well.

**anemia (ă-NĒ-mē-ă):**

Reduction in number of erythrocytes.

**anesthesia (an-ĕs-THĒ-zhă):**

Without (loss of) feeling or sensation.

**aneurysm (AN-yŭ-rizm):**

Weakening of the wall of a blood vessel, causing it to thin and balloon out, and possibly eventually burst, resulting in internal bleeding.

**angina pectoris (an-JĪ-nă):**

Chest pain.

**angiogram (AN-jĕ-ŏ-gram):**

An x-ray of the coronary blood vessels using a special catheter and an injection of dye.

**angiography (an-jĕ-OG-ră-fĕ):**

Radiographic imaging of blood vessels.

**angioma (an-jĕ-Ō-mă):**

Tumor composed of blood vessels.

**angioplasty (AN-jē-ō-plas-tē):**

A balloon-tip catheter is fed through a blood vessel up to the site of the narrowing, the balloon is inflated to re-open the artery. A stent is sometimes placed at the site to reinforce the arterial wall and to prevent re-occlusion.

**angioscope (AN-jē-ō-skōp):**

Instrument used for visual examination of blood vessels.

**angiосcopy (an-jē-OS-kō-pē):**

Visual examination of blood vessels.

**angiostenosis (an-jē-ō-stē-NŌ-sīs):**

Narrowing of a blood vessel.

**anisocoria (an-ī-sō-KŌR-ē-ā):**

Condition of absence of equal pupil (size).

**ankylosis (ang-kī-LŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of stiffness.

**anoplasty (Ā-nō-plas-tē):**

Surgical repair of the anus.

**anorchism (ă-NOR-kī-dizm):**

State of absence of testis.

**anosmia (a-NOZ-mē-ă):**

Without smell/inability to smell.

**anoxia (ă-NOK-sē-ă):**

Condition of absence (deficiency) of oxygen.

**antagonistic (an-TAG-ō-nīs-tic):**

In opposition to each other.

**antepartum (ăn-tē-PĀR-túm):**

Before childbirth referencing the mother.

**anterior (or ventral) (an-TĒR-ē-ōr):**

Describes the front or direction toward the front of the body.

**anteriorly (an-TĒR-ē-ōr-lē):**

Pertaining to front.

**anti-B antibodies (ANT-i-bod-ēs):**

Proteins that will mount an immune response against B antigens.

**anti-virals (ant-i-VI-rāl):**

Treatments that work effectively against a virus.

**antiandrogens (ant-ē-AN-drō-jěns):**

A group of medications that counteract the effects of male hormones.

**antibiotics (ant-i-bī-OT-iks):**

Medications that stop bacterial infections.

**antibodies (ANT-i-bod-ēs):**

Proteins produced by B lymphocytes in response to a non-self antigen.

**antibody (ANT-i-bod-ē):**

Antigen-specific protein secreted by plasma cells, immunoglobulin.

**antigen (ANT-i-jěn):**

Molecule recognized by the receptors of b and t lymphocytes.

**antigens (ANT-i-jěns):**

A substance that provokes an immune response. This happens because the immune system sees the antigen as foreign, or 'non-self' (does not belong in that body).

**antihypertensives (ant-i-hī-pěr-TEN-siv):**

Class of medications used to treat high blood pressure.

**antiretrovirals (ant-i-re-trō-VĪ-rāls):**

Treatment that works against the virus replication.

**antrectomy (an-TREK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the antrum (of the stomach).

**anuria (ă-NOOR-ē-ă):**

Absence of urine.

**aortic stenosis (ā-OR-tĭk stě-NŌ-sĭs):**

Narrowing, pertaining to the aorta.

**aortogram (ā-OR-tō-grām):**

Radiographic image of the aorta.

**Apgar score (AP-gar skōr):**

Evaluation of a newborn's physical condition within one to five minutes after birth.

**aphakia (ă-FĀ-kē-ă):**

Condition of no lens.

**aphasia (ă-FĀ-zh(ē-ă):**

Loss of language function.

**aphonia (ā-FŌ-nē-ă):**

Condition of absence of voice.

**apical (AP-ĭ-kāl):**

Relating to or denoting an apex.

**apnea (ap-NĒ-ă):**

Absence of breathing.

**apocrine sweat gland (AP-ō-krěn swet gland):**

A type of gland that is found in the skin, breast, eyelid, and ear.

**apoptosis (ap-ōp-TŌ-sĭs):**

Programmed cell death.

**appendectomy (ap-ĕn-DEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the appendix.

**appendicitis (ă-pen-dī-SĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the appendix.

**appendicular skeleton (ap-ĕn-DIK-yŭ-lār SKEL-ĕt-ŏn):**

Consists of all the bones in the upper and lower limbs.

**arachnoid mater (ă-RAK-noyd MĀT-ĕr):**

Middle layer of the meninges named for the spider-web-like trabeculae that extend between it and the pia mater.

**arrhythmias (ă-RITH-mē-ă):**

Absence of a regular heart rhythm.

**arterial blood gas (ar-TĒR-ĕ-ăl blŭd gas):**

This test measures blood pH, oxygen and CO<sub>2</sub> levels in a sample of arterial blood, usually taken from the wrist.

**arteries (ART-ĕ-rĕs):**

Blood vessels that transport blood away from the heart.

**arteriogram (ar-TĒR-ĕ-ŏ-gram):**

Radiographic image of an artery.

**arterioles (ar-TĒR-ĕ-ŏl-es):**

A very small artery that leads to a capillary.

**arteriosclerosis (ar-tĕr-ĕ-ŏ-sklĕ-RŌ-sĭs):**

Hardening of arteries.

**arthralgia (ar-THRAL-j(ĕ-)ă):**

Joint pain.

**arthritis (ar-THRĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the joints.

**arthrocentesis (ar-thrŏ-sen-TĒ-sĭs):**

Surgical puncture to aspirate fluid from a joint.

**arthroclasia (ar-thrŏ-KLĀ-zh(ĕ-)ă):**

Surgical breaking of a joint.

**arthrodesis (ar-THROD-ĕ-sĭs):**

Surgical fixation of a joint.

**arthrography (ar-THROG-ră-fĕ):**

Process of recording a joint.

**arthroplasty (AR-thrŏ-plas-tĕ):**

Surgical repair of a joint.

**arthroscopy (ar-THROS-kŏ-pĕ):**

Process of viewing a joint.



**articulations (ar-tik-yŭ-LĀ-shŏn):**

also known as joints, where bones meet bones or where bones meet cartilage

**artificial insemination (art-ĭ-FISH-Āl in-sem-ĭ-NĀ-shŏn):**

The medical procedure of injecting concentrated sperm into the vagina or uterus.

**ascites (ă-SĪT-ēz):**

Abnormal intraperitoneal accumulation of fluid with large amount of proteins and electrolytes.

**aspermia (ā-SPĚR-mē-ă):**

Condition of without sperm.

**asphyxia (ăs-FIK-sē-ă):**

Deprivation of oxygen to tissues, suffocation.

**aspirate (AS-pĭ-rāt):**

Suction of fluid, inhalation of fluid.

**asthma (AZ-mă):**

Chronic condition characterized by inflammation, edema of the airway, and bronchospasms which can inhibit air from entering the lungs.

**astigmatism (Ast) (ă-STIG-mă-tizm):**

Blurry vision due to irregular curvature of the cornea or lens.

**astrocyte (AS-trŏ-sĭt):**

Glial cell type of the CNS that provides support for neurons and maintains the blood-brain barrier.

**asymptomatic (ă-simp-tŏ-MAT-ik):**

Pertaining to without symptoms.

**atelectasis (at-ĕl-EK-tă-sĭs):**

Incomplete expansion.

**atherectomy (ath-ĕr-EK-tŏ-mē):**

Excision of fatty plaque.

**atherosclerosis (ath-ĕ-rŏ-sklĕ-RŌ-sĭs):**

A hardening of the arteries that involves the accumulation of plaque.

**atom (AT-ŏm):**

Smallest unit of pure substances (elements); made up of subatomic particles such as the proton, electron, and neutron.

**atrioventricular (AV) (ă-trĕ-ŏ-ven-TRIK-yŭ-lăr):**

The area of the heart where the atria and ventricles meet.

**atrioventricular valves (ă-trĕ-ŏ-ven-TRIK-yŭ-lăr valv):**

Mitral (bicuspid) valve allows blood to flow from left atrium to left ventricle, tricuspid valve allows blood to flow from right atrium to right ventricle.

**audiogram (OD-ĕ-ŏ-gram):**

Graphic record (radiographic image) of hearing.

**audiologist (od-ē-OL-ō-jīst):**

Specialist who studies and treats the hearing.

**audiology (od-ē-OL-ō-jē):**

Study of the hearing.

**audiometer (od-ē-OM-ēt-ēr):**

Instrument used to measure hearing.

**audiometry (od-ē-OM-ē-trē):**

Measuring hearing.

**aural (OR-āl):**

Pertaining to the ear.

**auscultation (os-kŭl-TĀ-shŏn):**

Listening to the heart using a stethoscope.

**autocrine (OT-ō-krin):**

Chemical signal that elicits a response in the same cell that secreted it.

**autoimmune disease (OT-ō-im-yŭn diz-ĒZ):**

A disease caused by the inability for the body to distinguish its own (self) cells from foreign substances, producing antibodies that attacks its own tissues.

**autoinoculation (ot-ō-in-ok-yŭ-LĀ-shŏn):**

Self inoculation.

**autonomic (ot-ō-NOM-ik):**

Unconsciously regulates.

**autonomic nervous system (ANS) (ot-ō-NOM-ik NĒR-vŭs SIS-tēm):**

Functional division of the nervous system that is responsible for homeostatic reflexes that coordinate control of cardiac and smooth muscle, as well as glandular tissue.

**avascular (ă-VĀS-kŭ-lār):**

Without blood vessels.

**axial skeleton (AK-sē-āl SKEL-ēt-ŏn):**

Forms the vertical, central axis of the body and includes all bones of the head, neck, chest, and back.

**axilla (ak-SIL-ă):**

The armpit.

**axon (AK-son):**

Single process of the neuron that carries an electrical signal (action potential) away from the cell body toward a target cell.

**axon hillock (AK-son HĪL-ŏk):**

Tapering of the neuron cell body that gives rise to the axon.

**axon segment (AK-son Seg-mēnt):**

Single stretch of the axon insulated by myelin and bounded by nodes of Ranvier at either end (except for the first, which is after the initial segment, and the last, which is followed by the axon terminal).

**axon terminal (AK-son TĚR-mĭ-nāl):**

End of the axon, where there are usually several branches extending toward the target cell.

**axoplasm (AK-sō-plazm):**

Cytoplasm of an axon, which is different in composition than the cytoplasm of the neuronal cell body.

**azoospermia (ā-zō-ō-SPĚR-mĕ-ă):**

Absence of viable sperm in the semen.

**azotemia (ā-zō-TĚ-mĕ-ă):**

Urea in the blood.

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# B

**B cells (B sels):**

Lymphocytes that act by differentiating into an antibody-secreting plasma cell.

**Babinski sign (bă-BIN-skē sīn):**

Dorsiflexion of the foot with extension and splaying of the toes in response to the plantar reflex, normally suppressed by corticospinal input.

**bacteria, bacterium (bak-TĒR-ē-ŭm):**

Single-celled microorganism that reproduces by cell division and may cause infection by invading body tissue.

**balanitis (bal-ă-NĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the glans penis.

**balanoplasty (BAL-ă-nō-plaās-tē):**

Surgical repair of the glans penis.

**balanorrhoea (BAL-ă-nō-RĒ-ă):**

Discharge from the glans penis.

**barrier defenses (BAR-ē-ēr dė-FEN-s):**

Antipathogen defenses deriving from a barrier that physically prevents pathogens from entering the body to establish an infection.

**Bartholin's glands (BAR-tō-līns glāns):**

Responsible to secrete mucus to keep the vestibular area moist.

**basal cell carcinoma (BĀ-sāl sel kar-sīn-Ō-ma):**

Form of cancer that affects the mitotically active stem cells in the stratum basale of the epidermis.

**benign (bē-NĪN):**

Noncancerous, harmless.

**benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) (bē-NĪN prōs-TĀT-īk hī-pēr-PLĀ-zh(ē-ă):**

Excessive development pertaining to the prostate gland.

**bicarbonate (bī-KĀR-bō-nāt):**

A by-product of the body's metabolism.

**bilateral (bī-LAT-ē-rāl):**

Pertaining to both sides.

**binocular (bīn-ŌK-ŭ-lār):**

Pertaining to both eyes.

**biopsy (BĪ-op-sē):**

View of life (removal of living tissue to be viewed under a microscope).

**bipolar (bī-PŌL-ār):**

Shape of a neuron with two processes extending from the neuron cell body—the axon and one dendrite.

**blepharitis (blĕf-ār-Ī-tīs):**

Inflammation of eyelids.

**blepharoplasty (BLĕF-ă-rō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair of the eyelid.

**blepharoptosis (BLĕF-ă-rōp-TŌ-sīs):**

Drooping of the eyelid.

**blood-brain barrier (BBB) (blūd- brān BAR-ē-ēr):**

Physiological barrier between the circulatory system and the central nervous system that establishes a privileged blood supply, restricting the flow of substances into the CNS.

**bone marrow (bōn MAR-ō):**

Tissue found inside bones, the site of all blood cell differentiation and maturation of b lymphocytes.

**brachial artery (BRĀ-kĕ-āl ART-ĕ-rē):**

Large artery in the upper arm near the biceps muscle.

**bradycardia (brād-i-KARD-ē-ă):**

Pertaining to a slow heart (rate).

**bradykinesia (brād-ē-kĭ-NĒ-sē-ă):**

Condition of slow movement.

**brain (brān):**

The large organ of the central nervous system composed of white and gray matter, contained within the cranium and continuous with the spinal cord.

**brain stem (brān stem):**

Region of the adult brain that includes the midbrain, pons, and medulla oblongata and develops from the mesencephalon, metencephalon, and myelencephalon of the embryonic brain.

**breast cancer (KAN-sēr):**

Malignant tumor of the breast.

**breech (brĕch):**

The position of the fetus is feet first. Ideally, the position of the fetus should be headfirst for a safer delivery.

**Broca's area (brō-KAS AR-ē-ă):**

Region of the frontal lobe associated with the motor commands necessary for speech production and located only in the cerebral hemisphere responsible for language production, which is the left side in approximately 95 percent of the population.

**Brodmann's areas (BRŌD-mans AR-ē-ă):**

Mapping of regions of the cerebral cortex based on microscopic anatomy that relates specific areas to functional differences, as described by Brodmann in the early 1900s.

**bronchitis (brong-KĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the bronchus.

**bronchoalveolar (brong-kō-al-VĒ-ō-lār):**

Pertaining to the bronchi and alveoli.

**bronchodilators (BRONG-kō-dī-LĀT-ōrs):**

Substance that dilates the bronchi and bronchioles.

**bronchogenic carcinoma (brōng-kō-JĔN-ĭk kar-sĭn-Ō-mă):**

Cancerous tumor originating in a bronchus.

**bronchopneumonia (brong-kō-noo-MŌ-nē-ă):**

Diseased state of bronchi and lungs.

**bronchoscope (BRŌNG-kō-skōp):**

Instrument used for visual examination of the bronchi.

**bronchoscopy (bron-KOS-kō-pē):**

Visual examination of the bronchi.

**bronchospasm (BRŌNG-kō-spāzm):**

Spasmodic contraction of the bronchi.

**bronchus-associated lymphoid tissue (balt) (BRONG-kūs ä-sō-s(h)ĕ-ĀTE LIM-foyd TISH-oo):**

Lymphoid nodule associated with the respiratory tract.

**bruit (brwē):**

Abnormal blowing, swishing heart sound heard on auscultation.

**bulbourethral glands:**

Glands that secrete a lubricating mucus that cleans and lubricates the urethra prior to and during ejaculation.

**bursectomy (bŭr-SĔK-tō-mē):**

Excision of bursa.

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# C

**Caesarian section (C/S, c-section) (si-ZAR-ē-ān SEK-shōn):**

Delivery of the fetus through an abdominal incision.

**calyces (KĀ-lī-sēz):**

A cuplike cavity or structure.

**cancer (KAN-sēr):**

A process where abnormal cells in the body divide uncontrollably.

**capillary (KAP-ī-ler-ē):**

A microscopic channel that supplies blood to the tissues through perfusion.

**capnometer (kăp-NŌM-ē-tēr):**

Instrument used to measure carbon dioxide.

**carbohydrates (kār-bō-HĪ-drāts):**

The sugars, starches and fibers found in fruits, grains, vegetables and milk products.

**carcinogenic (KARS-īn-ō-JEN):**

Causing cancer.

**cardiac (KĀR-dē-āk):**

Pertaining to the heart.

**cardiac muscle (KĀR-dē-āk MŪS-ēl):**

The heart muscle also known as the myocardium. Its appearance is similar to skeletal muscle. It pumps blood and gives the heart beat.

**cardiac notch (KĀR-dē-āk noch):**

The cardiac notch is an indentation on the surface of the left lung.

**cardiac output (KĀR-dē-āk OWT-put):**

Cardiac output is the measurement of blood flow from the heart through the ventricles, and is usually measured in liters per minute. Any factor that causes cardiac output to increase, by elevating heart rate or stroke volume or both, will elevate blood pressure and promote blood flow.

**cardiac tamponade (KĀR-dē-āk tam-pō-NĀD):**

The pericardial sac surrounding the heart has filled with blood or other fluid and the resulting pressure is preventing the heart from beating effectively.

**cardiac troponin (KĀR-dē-āk TRŌ-pō-nīn):**

The regulatory protein for muscle contraction.

**cardiogenic (kār-dē-ō-JĒN-īk):**

Originating in the heart.

**Cardiologist (kār-dē-ŌL-ō-jīst):**

A physician who studies and treats diseases of the heart.

**cardiology (kār-dē-ōl'ō-jē):**

Study of the heart.

**cardiomegaly (kār-dē-ō-MĚG-ā-lē):**

Enlarged heart.

**cardiomyopathy (kard-ē-ō-mī-OP-ā-thē):**

Disease of the heart muscle.

**carina (kā-RĪ-nā):**

The carina is a ridge of cartilage that separates the two main bronchi.

**carotid artery (kā-ROT-īd ART-ē-rē):**

A large artery in the neck.

**carpal (KĀR-pāl):**

Pertaining to carpal (wrist).

**carpectomy (kār-PĚK-tō-mē):**

Excision of a carpal (wrist).

**cataract (KAT-ā-rakt):**

Abnormal progressive disease of lens characterized by lack of transparency or cloudiness.

**cauda equina (KOWD-ā ek-WĚ-nā):**

Bundle of spinal nerve roots that descend from the lower spinal cord below the first lumbar vertebra and lie within the vertebral cavity; has the appearance of a horse's tail.

**caudate (KAW-dāt):**

Nucleus deep in the cerebrum that is part of the basal nuclei; along with the putamen, it is part of the striatum.

**cauterize (KAW-tēr-īz):**

To burn tissues by various means with the intent to destroy damaged tissues, prevent infections or coagulate blood vessels.

**CD4 T cells:**

CD4 is the receptor that HIV uses to get inside T cells and reproduce. CD4+ helper T cells play an important role in T cell immune responses and antibody responses.

**celiac disease (SĚ-lē-āk diz-ĚZ'):**

Inflammation of the intestines caused by exposure to gluten.

**celiotomy (sē-lē-ŌT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the abdominal cavity.

**cell (sel):**

Smallest independently functioning unit of a living organism.

**cellulitis (sel-yŭ-LĪT-īs):**

Bacterial infection of the skin and subcutaneous tissue, characterized by redness, pain, heat, and swelling.

**central nervous system (CNS) (SĚN-trāl NĚR-vŭs SIS-tēm):**

Anatomical division of the nervous system located within the cranial and vertebral cavities, namely the brain and spinal cord.



**central sulcus (SĚN-trāl SŮL-kús):**

Surface landmark of the cerebral cortex that marks the boundary between the frontal and parietal lobes.

**centrifuged (sěn-TRĪF-ŭ-ged):**

A centrifuge is a common piece of laboratory equipment used to spin test tubes at a high speed in order to separate components in a liquid by weight.

**cephalgia (sěf-ĀL-jĕ-ă):**

Pain in the head (headache).

**cephalic presentation (sě-FAL-ĭk prĕ-zen-TĀ-shŏn):**

Birth position in which any part of the head emerges first.

**cephalic version (sě-FAL-ĭk VĚR-zhŏn):**

Pertaining to turning the head; this procedure is done on the fetus when they are in the head-down position.

**cephalopelvic disproportion (sěf-ă-lŏ-PĚL-vĭk dis-prŏ-POR-shŏn):**

A condition where the infant's head is larger than the pelvic outlet and therefore will require a c-section.

**cerclage (ser-KLAZH):**

A suture inserted into the cervix to prevent dilation and prevention miscarriage. The suture is removed when the fetus is full-term and allows the vaginal delivery to proceed.

**cerebellitis (sĕr-ĕ-bĕl-Ī-tĭs):**

Inflammation of the cerebellum.

**cerebellum (sĕr-ĕ-BĚL-ŭm):**

Region of the adult brain connected primarily to the pons that developed from the metencephalon (along with the pons) and is largely responsible for comparing information from the cerebrum with sensory feedback from the periphery through the spinal cord.

**cerebral (SĚR-ă-brĭl, să-RĚ):**

Pertaining to the brain.

**cerebral angiography (SĚR-ă-brĭl, să-RĚ an-jĕ-OG-ră-fĕ):**

Process of recording (blood) vessel pertaining to the cerebrum.

**cerebral cortex (SĚR-ă-brĭl, să-RĚ KOR-teks):**

Outer gray matter covering the forebrain, marked by wrinkles and folds known as gyri and sulci.

**cerebral hemisphere (SĚR-ă-brĭl, să-RĚ HEM-ĭ-sfĕr):**

One half of the bilaterally symmetrical cerebrum.

**cerebral thrombosis (SĚR-ă-brĭl, să-RĚ throm-bŏ'sis):**

Abnormal condition of blood clot pertaining to the cerebrum (blood clot in a blood vessel in the brain).

**cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) (sĕr-ĕ-brŏ-SPI-nāl FLOO-ĭd):**

Circulatory medium within the CNS that is produced by ependymal cells in the choroid plexus filtering the blood.

**cerebrum (SĚR-ĕ-brŭm):**

Region of the adult brain that develops from the telencephalon and is responsible for higher neurological functions such as memory, emotion, and consciousness.

**cervical cancer (KAN-sēr):**

Malignant tumor of the cervix, which progresses from cervical dysplasia to carcinoma. Its cause is linked to human papillomavirus (HPV) infection.

**cervicitis (sēr-vī-SĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the cervix.

**cervix (SĒR-viks):**

Narrow lower portion of the uterus.

**cessation (ses-SĀ-shŭn):**

Stop or stopping.

**cheilorrhaphy (kī-LOR-ă-fē):**

Suturing of the lip.

**chemokine (kēm-ō-KĪN):**

Soluble, long-range, cell-to-cell communication molecule.

**chemoreceptors (kē-mō-rē-SEP-tór):**

Cells that sense changes in chemical levels.

**chemotaxis (kē-mō-TĀK-sīs):**

Movement in response to chemicals; a phenomenon in which injured or infected cells and nearby leukocytes emit the equivalent of a chemical “911” call, attracting more leukocytes to the site.

**chlamydia (klă-MID-ē-ă):**

Sexually transmitted disease caused by a very small parasitic bacterium.

**cholangiogram (kō-lăn-jē-Ō-gram):**

Radiographic image of the bile duct.

**cholangiography (kō-lăn-jē-OG-ră-fē):**

Radiographic imaging of the bile duct.

**cholangioma (kō-lăn-jē-Ō-mă):**

Tumor of the bile duct.

**cholecystectomy (kō-lě-sis-TEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the gallbladder to remove stones.

**cholecystitis (kō-lě-sis-TĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the gallbladder.

**choledocholithiasis (kō-LED-ō-kō-lī-THĪ-ă-sīs):**

Condition of stones in the common bile duct.

**choledocholithotomy (kō-LED-ō-kō-lī-THŌT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the common bile duct to remove stones.

**cholelithiasis (kō-li-lith-Ī-ă-sīs):**

Condition of gallstones.

**chondrectomy (kŏn-DRĚK-tŏ-mĕ):**

Excision of cartilage.

**chondromalacia (kon-drŏ-mă-LĀ-sh(ĕ-)ă):**

Softening of cartilage.

**chondroplasty (KŌN-drŏ-plăs-tĕ):**

Surgical repair of cartilage.

**chorioamnionitis (kŏr-ĕ-ŏ-am-nĕ-ŏ-NĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the chorion and amnion.

**choriocarcinoma (kŏr-ĕ-ŏ-kar-sĭn-Ō-mă):**

Cancerous tumor of the chorion.

**choroid plexus (KŌ-royd PLEKS-ŭs):**

Specialized structure containing ependymal cells that line blood capillaries and filter blood to produce CSF in the four ventricles of the brain.

**chorionic villus sampling (KŌrĕ-onic VĪL-ŭs SAM-plĭng):**

A small piece of placenta is taken and tested to determine potential for birth defects.

**chronic (KRON-ĭk):**

A condition that lasts over a long time with periods of exacerbation and periods of remission.

**chronic inflammation (KRON-ĭk in-flă-MĀ-shŏn):**

Inflammation occurring for long periods of time.

**chronic obstructive pulmonary disease:**

Term used to represent a number of respiratory diseases including chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

**chyle (kĭl):**

Lipid-rich lymph inside the lymphatic capillaries of the small intestine.

**cilia (SIL-ĕ-ă):**

Tiny hairline processes.

**circumcision (sĭr-kŭm-SIZH-ŏn):**

Surgical removal of the prepuce (foreskin).

**cirrhosis (sĭ-RŌ-sĭs):**

Chronic degenerative disease of the liver.

**cisterna chyli (sis-TĚR-nă kĭ-lĭ):**

Bag-like vessel that forms the beginning of the thoracic duct.

**clavicular (klă-VĪK-ŭ-lăr):**

Pertaining to the clavicle.

**clubbing of the fingers and toes:**

Broadening of the nails and exaggerated curvature of the nails.

**cochlear (KOK-lĕ-ăr):**

Pertaining to the cochlea.

**cochlear implant (KOK-lē-ă IM-plant):**

Pertaining to the cochlear implant.

**coitus (KŌ-ĭ-tūs):**

Sexual intercourse between male and female.

**colectomy (kō-LEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the colon.

**colitis (kō-LĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the colon.

**colonoscope (kō-LŌN-ō-skōp):**

Instrument used to view the colon.

**colonoscopy (kō-lō-NOS-kō-pē):**

Process of viewing the colon.

**colorectal (kō-lō-REK-tāl):**

Pertaining to the colon and rectum.

**colostomy (kō-LOS-tō-mē):**

Creation of an artificial opening in the colon.

**colostrum (kō-LOS-trūm):**

Thin, milky fluid secreted by the breast during pregnancy and the first few days after delivery.

**colpocleisis (kol-pō-KLĪ-sĭs):**

Surgical closure of the vagina.

**colpoperineorrhaphy (kol-pō-per-ĭ-nē-OR-ă-fē):**

Suturing of the vagina and the perineum.

**colpoplasty (KŌL-pō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair of the vagina.

**colporrhaphy (kol-POR-ă-fē):**

Suturing of (a tear in) the vagina.

**colposcope (KŌL-pō-skōp):**

Instrument used to view the vulva.

**colposcopy (kōl-PŌS-kō-pē):**

Process of viewing the vagina.

**combining form:**

A word root with a combining form vowel.

**combining form vowel:**

Vowel that is used to join word parts and to ease pronunciation. The most common combining form vowel is an “o” but sometimes it is an “i” or an “e”.

**complement (KOM-plē-mēnt):**

Enzymatic cascade of constitutive blood proteins that have antipathogen effects, including the direct killing of

bacteria.

**compliance (kǒm-PLĪ-ǎns):**

The ability of the blood vessels to dilate and constrict as needed.

**computerized tomography (CT) (tō-MOG-rǎ-fē):**

A special 3-dimensional x-ray.

**condom (KON-dǒm):**

Sheath (cover) for penis worn during coitus to prevent conception and spread of sexually transmitted infection.

**conducting zone (KŌN-dŭk-TĪNG zōn):**

The major functions of the conducting zone are to provide a route for incoming and outgoing air, remove debris and pathogens from the incoming air, and warm and humidify the incoming air. Several structures within the conducting zone perform other functions as well. The epithelium of the nasal passages, for example, is essential to sensing odors, and the bronchial epithelium that lines the lungs can metabolize some airborne carcinogens.

**congenital (kǒn-JĒN-ĭ-tǎl):**

Present at birth.

**congenital anomaly (kǒn-JĒN-ĭ-tǎl ǎ-NOM-ǎ-lē):**

Abnormality present at birth.

**conjunctivitis (kǒn-jŭnk-tĭ-VĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the conjunctiva.

**connective tissue membrane (kǒ-NEK-tiv TISH-oo MEM-brān):**

Tissue membrane formed solely from connective tissue; encapsulates organs and lines movable joints.

**contraception (kon-trǎ-SEP-shōn): Intentional prevention of conception (pregnancy).**

**contusion (kǒn-TOO-zhǒn):**

Bruise.

**convex (KŌN-vĕks):**

Curved outwards.

**corneal (KOR-nē-ǎ):**

Pertaining to the cornea.

**coronary artery bypass graft (KOR-ō-ner-ē ART-ē-rē bĭ-pās graft):**

In a coronary bypass procedure, a non-vital superficial vessel from another part of the body (often the great saphenous vein) or a synthetic vessel is inserted to create a path around the blocked area of a coronary artery.

**coronary heart disease (KOR-ō-ner-ē hart diz-ĒZ):**

The blood vessels that supply blood to the myocardium become hardened and narrowed, impairing the delivery of oxygen to the heart muscle.

**corpus callosum (KOR-pŭs kǎ-LŌ-sŭm):**

Large white matter structure that connects the right and left cerebral hemispheres.

**corpus cavernosum (KOR-pŭs kǎ-vĕr-nō-SŌM):**

Either of two columns of erectile tissue in the penis that fill with blood during an erection.

**corpus spongiosum (KOR-pūs spūn"jē-ō-SŌM):**

(Plural = corpora cavernosa) column of erectile tissue in the penis that fills with blood during an erection and surrounds the penile urethra on the ventral portion of the penis.

**cortical (KOR-tī-kāl):**

Pertaining to the cortex.

**corticoid (KOR-tī-koyd):**

Resembling the cortex.

**costectomy (kōs-TĚK-tō-mē):**

Excision of rib(s).

**costochondral (kōs-tō-KŌN-drāl):**

Pertaining to ribs and cartilage.

**cranial (KRĀ-nē-āl):**

Pertaining to the cranium.

**cranial cavity (KRĀ-nē-āl kah-vi-tē):**

The space formed inside the skull that the brain occupies.

**craniocerebral (krā-nē-ō-sēr-Ē-brāl):**

Pertaining to the cranium and cerebrum.

**cranioplasty (KRĀ-nē-ō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair of the cranium.

**cranioschisis (krā-nē-ŌS-kī-sīs):**

Fissure of the cranium.

**craniotomy (krā-nē-ŌT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the cranium.

**creatine kinase MB (KRĒ-ā-tīn KĪN-ās):**

An enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of creatine to phosphocreatine, consuming ATP.

**Crohn's disease (krōnz diz-ĒZ'):**

A type of inflammatory bowel disease.

**cryoretinopexy:**

Surgical fixation of the retina using extreme cold.

**cryptorchidism (krip-TOR-kīd):**

State of hidden testis.

**crypts (kripts):**

A depression, or pit in an otherwise fairly flat surface.

**CT colonography (CT kō-lo-NO-grā-fē):**

Radiographic imaging of the colon using computed tomography.

**CT myelography (CT mī-ē-LŌG-rā-fē):**

Process of recording the spinal cord with computed tomography.

**cutaneous membrane (kū-TĀ-nē-ūs MEM-brān):**

Epithelial membrane; skin.

**cyanosis (sī-ā-NŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of blue (bluish color, lips and nail beds). Typically caused by low oxygenation.

**cyanotic (sī-ān-ŌT-īk):**

Pertaining to abnormal color of blue (bluish color, lips and nail beds) caused by deoxygenation.

**cyst (sist):**

Closed sac containing fluid or semisolid material.

**cystectomy (sīs-TĒK-tō-mē): Excision of the bladder.**

**cystitis (sis-TĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the bladder.

**cystocele (SIS-tō-sēl):**

Protrusion of the bladder.

**cystogram (SĪS-tō-grām):**

Radiographic image of the bladder.

**cystography (sīs-TŌG-rā-fē):**

Radiographic imaging of the bladder.

**cystolith (SĪS-tō-līth):**

Stone(s) in the bladder.

**cystolithotomy (sīs-tō-lī-THŌ-tō-mē):**

Incision into the bladder to remove stone(s).

**cystorrhaphy (sist-OR-ā-fē):**

Suturing the bladder.

**cystoscope (SIST-ō-skōp):**

Instrument used for visual examination of the bladder.

**cystostomy (sis-TOT-ō-mē):**

Creation of an artificial opening into the bladder.

**cystotomy (sis-TOT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the bladder.

**cytokine (SĪT-ō-kin):**

Soluble, short-range, cell-to-cell communication molecule.

## Attribution

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# D

**dacrocystitis (dak-rē-ō-sis-TĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the tear (lacrimal) sac.

**dacryocystorhinostomy (dak-rē-ō-sis-tō-rī-NOS-tō-mē):**

**creation of an artificial opening between the lacrimal sac and the nose (to restore drainage)**

**deamination (dē-am-ī-NĀ-shōn):**

The removal of an amino group from a molecule.

**debride, debridement (di-BRĒD, di-BRĒD-mēnt):**

Remove damaged tissues and cell debris from a wound or burn to prevent infection and promote healing.

**deep (DĒP):**

Describes a position farther from the surface of the body.

**deep lymphatic vessels (dēp lim-FAT-ik VES-ěls):**

Lymphatic vessels of the organs.

**defensins (dē-FĔN-sĭns):**

The lysozyme enzyme and proteins which have antibacterial properties.

**dehydration (dē-hī-DRĀ-shōn):**

Loss of fluids/water is greater than what is taken in.

**dendrite (DEN-drĭt):**

One of many branchlike processes that extends from the neuron cell body and functions as a contact for incoming signals (synapses) from other neurons or sensory cells.

**dendritic cells (den-DRIT-ik):**

Pertaining to dendrites.

**dermabrasion (DĔRM-ă-brā-zhōn):**

Procedure to remove superficial scars using sandpaper or revolving wire brushes.

**dermatitis (dĕr-mă-TĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the skin.

**dermatoautoplasty (dĕr-mă-tō-AW-tō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair using one's own skin.

**dermatocoinosis (dĕr-mă-tō-kō-nē-Ō-sĭs):**

Abnormal condition of the skin caused by dust.

**dermatofibroma (dĕr-mă-tō-fi-BRŌ-mă):**

Fibrous tumor of the skin.

**dermatoheteroplasty (dĕr-mă-tō-HĔT-ĕr-ō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair using skin from others.

**dermatologic (dĕr-mă-TŌL-ō-jĭk):**

Pertaining to dermatology.

**dermatologist (dĕr-mă-TŌL-ō-jĭst):**

Physician who specializes in treating diseases and disorders of the skin.

**dermatology (dĕr-mă-TŌL-ō-jĕ):**

Study of the skin.

**dermatome (DĔR-mă-tŏm):**

Instrument used to cut skin.

**dermatopathology (dĕr-măt-ō-pă-THOL-ō-jĕ):**

Study of diseases of the skin.

**dermatoplasty (DĔR-măt-ō-plas-tĕ):**

Plastic surgery of the skin.

**dermis (DĔR-mĭs):**

The layer of skin that is made of dense, irregular connective tissue that houses blood vessels, hair follicles, sweat glands, and other structures.

**descending tract (dĕ-SEN-dĭng trakt):**

Central nervous system fibers carrying motor commands from the brain to the spinal cord or periphery.

**detrusor (dĕ-TRŪ-zŏr):**

A muscle which forms a layer of the wall of the bladder.

**diabetes mellitus (DM) (dĭ-ă-BĒT-ĕz):**

An endocrine system disorder in which the pancreas does not produce insulin or the cells of the body do not respond to insulin. This results in high levels of glucose in the blood.

**diapedesis (dĭ-ă-pĕ-DĒ-sĭs):**

The passage of blood cells through the intact walls of the capillaries, typically accompanying inflammation.

**diaphoresis (dĭ-ă-fŏ-RĒ-sĭs):**

Profuse, excessive sweating.

**diaphragm (dĭ-ă-FRAM):**

A flat, dome shaped muscle located at the base of the lungs and thoracic cavity.

**diaphragmatic (dĭ-ă-frăg-MAT-ĭk):**

Pertaining to the diaphragm.

**diaphragmatocele (dĭ-ă-frăg-MAT-ŏ-sĕl):**

Hernia of the diaphragm.

**diarthrosis (dĭ-ar-THRŌ-sĭs):**

Freely moveable joints.

**diastole (dĭ-AS-tŏ-lĕ):**

Phase in the cardiac cycle where heart muscles relax allowing the chambers to fill with blood.

**diastolic pressure (dī-AS-tō-lic):**

The diastolic pressure is the lower value (usually about 80 mm Hg) and represents the arterial pressure of blood during ventricular relaxation, or diastole.

**diencephalon (dī-ĕn-SEF-ă-lōn):**

Region of the adult brain that retains its name from embryonic development and includes the thalamus and hypothalamus.

**dilation and curettage (D&C) (dī-LĀ-shōn and kū-rĕ-TĀZH):**

A procedure where the cervix is dilated (widened) and a curette (a sharp instrument) is used to remove the lining of the uterus. This procedure is conducted when there is abnormal bleeding from the uterus and also to remove any products of conception, for example following an incomplete miscarriage or abortion.

**diplopia (dip-LŌ-pĕ-ă):**

Double vision.

**direct pathway:**

Connections within the basal nuclei from the striatum to the globus pallidus internal segment and substantia nigra pars reticulata that disinhibit the thalamus to increase cortical control of movement.

**discectomy (dis-KEK-tō-mĕ):**

Excision of the intervertebral disk.

**diskitis (dis(k)-ĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the intervertebral disk.

**distal (DIS-tāl):**

Describes a position in a limb that is farther from the point of attachment or the trunk of the body.

**distended (dis-TEN-ded):**

Stretch out.

**diuresis (dī-yŭ-RE-sĭs):**

Condition of urine passing through.

**diverticulectomy (dī-vĕr-tĭk-ŭ-LĔK-tō-mĕ):**

Excision of the diverticula.

**diverticulitis (dī-vĕr-tĭk-yŭ-LĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the diverticulum.

**diverticulosis (dī-vĕr-tĭk-yŭ-LŌ-sĭs):**

Abnormal condition of having diverticula.

**dorsal (posterior) nerve root (DOR-sāl (pōs-TĔ-rĕ-or) nĕrv root):**

Axons entering the posterior horn of the spinal cord.

**douching (doosh-ing):**

Washing the vagina with fluid.

**ductus arteriosus (DŪK-tŭs ār-tĕ-rĕ-Ō-sŭs):**

Connection between pulmonary trunk and aorta in the fetal heart.

**ductus deferens (DŮK-tūs DEF-ě-rěnz):**

Duct that transports sperm from the epididymis through the spermatic cord and into the ejaculatory duct.

**duodenal (doo-ō-DĚN-āl):**

Pertaining to the duodenum.

**dura mater (DOOR-ă MĀT-ěr):**

Tough, fibrous, outer layer of the meninges that is attached to the inner surface of the cranium and vertebral column and surrounds the entire CNS.

**duritis (dū-RĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the dura mater.

**dysentery (DIS-ěn-ter-ē):**

Inflammation of the intestine presenting with abdominal pain and bloody diarrhea.

**dyskinesia (dis-kī-NĚ-zh(ē-ā):**

Condition of difficult movement.

**dysmenorrhea (dis-men-ō-RĚ-ă):**

Painful periods.

**dyspareunia (dis-pă-ROO-nē-ă):**

Painful intercourse.

**dyspepsia (dis-PEP-shă, sē-ă):**

Difficult digestion.

**dysphagia (dis-FĀ-j(ē-ā):**

Difficulty swallowing.

**dysphasia (dis-FĀ-zh(ē-ā):**

Condition of difficulty speaking.

**dysphonia (dis-FŌ-nē-ă):**

Condition of difficult speaking (voice).

**dyspnea (dis(p)-NĚ-ă):**

Difficulty breathing.

**dystocia (dis-TŌ-sh(ē-ā):**

Labor that is difficult.

**dystrophy (DIS-trŏ-fē):**

Abnormal development.

**dysuria (dis-ŪR-ē-ă):**

Difficult or painful urine.

## Attribution

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# E

**eccrine sweat gland (ĚK-rĭn swet gland):**

Type of gland that produces a hypotonic sweat for thermoregulation.

**echocardiogram (ěk-ō-KĀR-dē-ō-grām):**

A record (using) sound of the heart.

**echocardiography (ek-ō-kard-ē-OG-ră-fē):**

Process of using sound to record the heart.

**eclampsia (e-KLAMP-sē-ă):**

A very serious condition in pregnancy with hypertension; patients are at high risk of coma, convulsions, and even death.

**ectopic pregnancy (ek-TOP-ik PREG-năn-sē):**

The embryo implants any other place but the inner endo-uterine lining.

**eczema (eg-ZĚ-mă):**

Noninfectious, inflammatory disease presents as redness, blisters, scabs, and itching.

**edema (ě-DE-mă):**

Puffy swollen tissue due to accumulation of fluid.

**efferent lymphatic vessels (EF-ě-rĕnt lim-FAT-ik VES-ĕls):**

Lead out of a lymph node.

**efferent nerves (EF-ě-rĕnt nĕrvs):**

Nerve tissue that carries impulses away from the CNS towards the peripheral that result in motor response (movement).

**ejaculation (i-jak-yŭ-LĀ-shŏn):**

The action of ejecting semen from the body.

**ejaculatory duct (ĕ-JĀK-ŭ-lă-tŏr-ĕ dŭkt):**

Duct that connects the ampulla of the ductus deferens with the duct of the seminal vesicle at the prostatic urethra.

**electrocardiogram (ECG, EKG) (ĕ-lĕk-trŏ-KĀR-dē-ō-grām):**

A recording of the electrical impulses in the heart.

**electrocardiograph (ĕ-lĕk-trŏ-KĀR-dē-ō-grăf):**

Instrument used to record electrical activity within the heart.

**electrocardiography (ĕ-lĕk-trŏ-KĀR-dē-ŎG-ră-fē):**

Process of recording the electrical (activity) of the heart.

**electrocochleography (ĕ-lek-trŏ-kok-lĕ-OG-ră-fē):**

Process of recording the electrical activity in the cochlea.

**electroencephalogram (ĕ-lek-trŏ-ĕn-SEF-ă-lŏ-gram):**

The record of electrical activity of the brain.

**electroencephalograph (ē-lĕk-trō-ĕn-SĔF-ă-lō-grăf):**

Instrument used to record electrical activity of the brain.

**electroencephalography (ĕ-lek-trō-ĕn-sef-ă-LOG-ră-fĕ):**

Process of recording the electrical activity of the brain.

**electromyography (ē-lĕk-trō-mī-ŌG-ră-fĕ):**

Measures muscle response or electrical activity in response to a nerve's stimulation of the muscle.

**elements (EL-ĕ-mĕnts):**

Unique pure substances.

**embolus (EM-bŏ-lŭs):**

Obstruction in a blood vessel such as a blood clot, fatty mass, air bubble, or other foreign matter that interrupts the flow of blood to an organ or some part of the body.

**embryogenic (ĕm-brĕ-ŏ-JĔN-ĭk):**

Producing an embryo.

**embryoid (EM-brĕ-ŏyd):**

Resembling an embryo.

**emesis (ĔM-ĕ-sĭs):**

Vomiting.

**emulsification (ĕ-mŭl-sĭ-fĭ-KĀ-shŭn):**

The process of breaking down the fat into smaller blood cells which makes it easy for enzymes to function and digest food.

**encephalitis (en-sef-ă-LĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the brain.

**encephalomalacia (en-sef-ă-lō-mă-LĀ-sh(ĕ-ă):**

Softening of the brain.

**encephalomyeloradiculitis (ĕn-sĕf-ă-lō-mĭ-ĕ-lō-ră-dĭk-ŭ-LĪ-tĭs):**

Inflammation of brain, spinal cord and nerve roots.

**encephalosclerosis (ĕn-SĔF-ă-lō-sklă-RŌ-sĭs):**

Hardening of the brain.

**endarterectomy (ĕnd-ăr-tĕr-ĔK-tŏ-mĕ):**

Excision within the artery.

**endocarditis (en-dŏ-kar-DĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the inner (lining) of the heart.

**endocervical (en-dŏ-SĔR-vĭ-kăl):**

Pertaining to within the cervix.

**endocrine gland (En-dŏ-krĭn gland):**

Tissue or organ that secretes hormones into the blood and lymph without ducts such that they may be transported to organs distant from the site of secretion.

**endocrine system (En-dō-krīn SIS-tēm):**

Cells, tissues, and organs that secrete hormones as a primary or secondary function and play an integral role in normal bodily processes.

**endocrinologist (ĕn-dō-krī-NŌL-ŏ-jīst):**

Specialist who studies and treats diseases of the endocrine system.

**endocrinology (ĕn-dō-krīn-ŌL-ŏ-jē):**

The study of the endocrine glands and hormones.

**endocrinopathy (ĕn-dō-krīn-ŌP-ă-thē):**

Disease of the endocrine system.

**endometrial cancer (en-dō-MĒ-trē-ăl KAN-sēr):**

Malignant tumor of the endometrium (also called uterine cancer).

**endometriosis (en-dō-mē-trē-Ō-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of the endometrium.

**endometritis (e-dō-mē-TRĪT-is):**

Inflammation of the endometrium.

**endometrium (en-dō-MĒ-trē-ŭm):**

The innermost layer containing a connective tissue lining covered by epithelial tissue that lines the lumen. Provides the site of implantation for a fertilized egg. Sheds during menstruation if no egg is fertilized.

**endophthalmitis (ĕn-dŏf-thāl-MĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation within the eye.

**endoscope (EN-dŏ-skŏp):**

Instrument used to view within (hollow organs).

**endoscopic (en-dŏ-SKŌPik):**

Pertaining to view within.

**endoscopy (en-DOS-kŏ-pē):**

Visual examination within.

**endothelium (en-dŏ-THĒ-lē-ŭm):**

The lining of the lumen of a blood vessel.

**endotracheal (ĕn-dŏ-TRĀ-kē-ăl):**

Pertaining to within the trachea.

**enteric nervous system (ENS) (en-TER-ik NĒR-vŭs SIS-tēm):**

Neural tissue associated with the digestive system that is responsible for nervous control through autonomic connections.

**enteropathy (ent-ĕ-ROP-ă-thē):**

Disease of the intestines.

**enterorrhaphy (ĕn-tēr-OR-ă-fē):**

Suturing of the intestine.



**enucleation (ē-nū-klē-Ā-shūn):**

Excision of a whole organ or mass without cutting into it.

**enuresis (en-ū-RĒ-sīs):**

Involuntary urination.

**ependymal cell (ep-EN-dī-māl sel):**

Glial cell type in the CNS responsible for producing cerebrospinal fluid.

**epidermal (ĕp-ī-DĚR-mal):**

Pertaining to upon/on the skin.

**epidermis (ep-i-DĚR-mīs):**

Outer layer of skin, made of closely packed epithelial cells.

**epididymectomy (ĕp-ī-did-ī-MĚK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the epididymis.

**epididymis (ep-i-DID-ī-mīs):**

(plural = epididymides) Coiled tubular structure in which sperm start to mature and are stored until ejaculation.

**epididymitis (ep-ī-did-ī-MĪT-īs):**

Inflammation/swelling of the epididymis.

**epiglottis (EP-i-GLOT-īs):**

The epiglottis, attached to the thyroid cartilage, is a very flexible piece of elastic cartilage that covers the opening of the trachea.

**epinephrine (ep-ī-NEF-rin):**

Also known as adrenaline, is a hormone and neurotransmitter and produced by the adrenal glands.

**epiphyses (ĕ-PĪF-ī-sīs):**

The ends of long bones, singular is epiphysis.

**episioperineoplasty (ī-piz-ē-ō-per-ī-NĒ-ō-plas-tē):**

Surgical repair of the vulva and the perineum.

**episiorrhaphy (epē-sē-OR-ā-fē):**

Suturing of the vulva.

**episiotomy (ī-piz-ē-OT-ō-mē):**

A procedure where an incision is made to widen the vaginal opening to prevent ripping or tearing of the perineum during delivery.

**epistaxis (ĕp-ī-STĀK-sīs):**

Nose bleed (rhinorrhagia).

**epithalamus (ep-i-THAL-ā-mūs):**

Region of the diencephalon containing the pineal gland.

**epithelial membrane (ep-i-THĒ-lē-āl MEM-brān):**

Membrane composed of epithelium attached to a layer of connective tissue.

**eponym (ĚP-ō-nīm):**

Terms that are named after a place or person.

**erectile dysfunction (ě-RĚK-tīl dis-FŪNGK-shōn):**

The inability of a male to attain or maintain an erection sufficient to perform sexual intercourse.

**erythroblastosis fetalis (ě-rīth-rō-blās-TŌ-sīs fě-TAL-īs):**

Disease of rh factor-positive newborns in rh-negative mothers with multiple rh-positive children; resulting from the action of maternal antibodies against fetal blood.

**erythrocytes (ě-RITH-rō-sīts):**

Red blood cells.

**erythrocytopenia (ě-rīth-rō-sī-tō-PĚ-nē-ā):**

Abnormal reduction of red (blood) cells.

**erythroderma (ě-rith-rō-DĚR-mā):**

Red skin.

**erythropoietin (ě-rīth-rō-POY-ě-tīn):**

Hormone produced by the kidneys that plays an important role in the homeostasis of red blood cells levels in the body.

**esophageal (ě-sof-ā-JĚ-āl):**

Pertaining to the esophagus.

**esophagitis (ě-sof-ā-JĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the esophagus.

**esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) (ě-sof-ā-gō-gas-trō-doo-ō-dē-NOS-kō-pē):**

Process of viewing the esophagus, stomach and duodenum.

**esophagogastroplasty (ě-SŎF-ā-gō-GĀS-trō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair of the esophagus and stomach.

**esophagogram (ě-SOF-ā-gō-gram):**

Radiographic image of the esophagus.

**esophagoscopy (ě-sof-ā-GOS-kō-pē):**

Process of viewing the esophagus.

**euglycemia (ū-glī-SĚ-mē-ā):**

Normal (level) of blood sugar in the blood.

**eupnea (ūp-NĚ-ā):**

Normal breathing.

**euthyroid (ū-THĪ-royd):**

Resembling a normal thyroid gland.

**excise, excision (ěk-SĪZ, ek-SIZH-ōn):**

Remove by cutting out.

**excretion (ĕks-KRĒ-shŭn):**

Waste is eliminated from an organism. In vertebrates this is primarily carried out by the lungs, kidneys and skin.

**exocrine (ĔKS-ō-krĭn):**

To secrete externally, directly or through a duct.

**exocrine system (ĔKS-ō-krĭn SIS-tĕm):**

Cells, tissues, and organs that secrete substances directly to target tissues via glandular ducts.

**exocytosis (ĕks-ō-sĭ-TŌ-sĭs):**

Active transport of molecules out of the cell.

**expiration (ĕks-pĭ-RĀ-shŭn):**

Exhalation or the process of causing air to leave the lungs.

**external nose (IK-stĕrnl nŏz):**

The external nose consists of the surface and skeletal structures that result in the outward appearance of the nose and contribute to its numerous functions.

**extramedullary hemopoiesis (eks-tră-MED-ŭl-er-rĕ hĕ-mŏ-poy-Ĕ-sĭs):**

Hemopoiesis outside the medullary cavity of adult bones.

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# F

**fallopian tubes (uterine tubes) (fă-lō'pē-ăn toobs (ŪT-ĕ-rīn toobs):**

Pair of tubes attached to the uterus providing a passageway for the ovum to move from the ovary to the uterus.

**fascia (FASH-ĕ-ă):**

Fibrous tissue.

**fauces (FO-sēz):**

The fauces is the opening at the connection between the oral cavity and the oropharynx.

**feces (FĒ-sēz):**

Stool, fecal matter.

**femoral (FEM-ō-rāl):**

Pertaining to the femur.

**fetal (FĒT-ăl):**

Pertaining to the fetus.

**fibrocystic breast changes (FCC) (fī-brō-SĪS-tĭk):**

Fibrosis, benign cysts, and pain or tenderness in one or both breasts (also called fibrocystic breasts).

**fibroelastic membrane (fī-brō-ĕ-LĀS-tĭk MEM-brān):**

A fibroelastic membrane is a flexible membrane that closes the posterior surface of the trachea, connecting the C-shaped cartilages.

**fibromyalgia (fī-brō-mī-AL-j(ĕ-)ă):**

Pain in the fibrous tissues of muscles.

**fissures (FISH-ŭ-res):**

A groove, natural division or elongated cleft, furrow or tear; naturally occurring in the brain, they are also known as sulcus/sulci.

**fistula (FIS-chŭ-lă):**

Abnormal passageway between two organs or an internal organ and the body surface.

**flatus (FLĀ-tŭs):**

Gas in the GI tract.

**foramen magnum (fō-RĀ-mĕn MAG-nŭm):**

Large opening in the occipital bone of the skull through which the spinal cord emerges and the vertebral arteries enter the cranium.

**foramen ovale (fō-RĀ-mĕn Ō-văl):**

Opening between right and left atria, which is normal in the fetal heart.

**fornix (FOR-niks):**

Superior portion of the vagina.

**frontal lobe (FRŌN-tal lōb):**

Region of the cerebral cortex directly beneath the frontal bone of the cranium.

**frontal plane:**

Plane that divides the body or an organ into an anterior (front) portion and a posterior (rear) portion.

**frostbite (FROST-bit):**

Conservation of core body heat results in the skin actually freezing.

**fundus (FŪN-dŭs):**

A part of a hollow organ.

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# G

**gamete (GAM-ēt):**

Haploid reproductive cell that contributes genetic material to form an offspring.

**gangliitis (gang-glē-Ī-tīs):**

Inflammation of the ganglion.

**ganglion (GANG-glē-ōn):**

Localized collection of neuron cell bodies in the peripheral nervous system.

**ganglionectomy (gang-lē-ō-NĒK-tō-mē):**

Excision of a ganglion.

**gangrene (GANG-grēn):**

Death of tissue due to blood supply loss.

**gastrectomy (ga-STREK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the stomach.

**gastric (GAS-trik):**

Pertaining to the stomach.

**gastritis (gas-TRĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the stomach.

**gastroenteritis (gas-trō-ent-ē-RĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the stomach and intestines.

**gastroenterocolitis (gās-trō-ēn-tēr-ō-kōl-Ī-tīs):**

Inflammation of the stomach, intestines, and colon.

**gastroenterology (gās-trō-ēn-tēr-ŌL-ā-jē):**

Study of the stomach and intestines.

**gastrojejunostomy (gās-trō-jē-jū-NŌS-tō-mē):**

Creation of an artificial opening between the stomach and the jejunum.

**gastroplasty (GĀS-trō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair of the stomach.

**gastroscope (GAS-trō-skōp):**

Instrument used to view the stomach.

**gastroscopy (gas-TROS-kō-pē):**

Process of viewing the stomach.

**gastrostomy (gās-TRŌS-tō-mē):**

Creation of an artificial opening in the stomach.

**genetic recombination (jĕn-ĒT-ĭk rē-kom-bĭ-NĀ-shōn):**

The combining of gene segments from two different pathogens.

**genital herpes (EN-ĭt-āl HĔRP-ēz):**

A sexually transmitted disease characterized by blisters in the genital area, caused by the herpes simplex virus type 2.

**gestation (jes-TĀ-shŏn):**

The process of being pregnant.

**gestational diabetes (jes-TĀ-shŏn-al dī-ă-BĔT-ēz):**

The condition of developing diabetes during pregnancy. The newborn tend to be large at delivery and the mother is monitored closely for weight gain and glucose testing. The goal is to balance the sugars so the fetus is not too large for a vaginal delivery.

**gestational hypertension (jes-TĀ-shŏn hī-pĕr-TEN-shŏn):**

A condition where there is an increase in blood pressure during pregnancy. Blood pressure is monitoring closely during pregnancy for the safety of the mother and infant.

**gingivectomy (jĭn-jĭ-VĔK-tŏ-mĕ):**

Excision of the gums.

**gingivitis (jin-jĭ-VĪT-is):**

Inflammation of the gums.

**glans penis (glanz PĔ-nĕz):**

Bulbous end of the penis that contains a large number of nerve endings.

**glial cell (GLĪ-ăl sel):**

One of the various types of neural tissue cells responsible for maintenance of the tissue, and largely responsible for supporting neurons.

**glioblastoma (glī-ŏ-blās-TŌ-mă):**

Tumor composed of developing glial tissue.

**gliocyte (GLĪ-ŏ-sĭt):**

Glial cell.

**glioma (glī-Ō-mă):**

Tumor composed of the glial tissue.

**glomerulonephritis (glŏ-mer-yŭ-lŏ-nĕ-FRĪT-is):**

Inflammation of the gomeruli of the kidney.

**glossitis (glo-SĪT-is):**

Inflammation of the tongue.

**glossopharyngeal (glos-ŏ-fă-RIN-j(ĕ-)ăl):**

Pertaining to tongue and throat.

**glossorrhaphy (glŏ-SOR-ă-fĕ):**

Suturing of the tongue.

**glottis (GLOT-is):**

The glottis is composed of the vestibular folds, the true vocal cords, and the space between these folds.

**glycemia (glī-SĒ-mē-ă):**

Sugar in the blood.

**glycosuria (glī-kō-SHOOR-ē-ă):**

Sugar (glucose) in the urine.

**gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) (gō-nad-ō-TRŌ-pīn ri-LĒS-ing HOR-mōn):**

Hormone released by the hypothalamus that regulates the production of follicle-stimulating hormone and luteinizing hormone from the pituitary gland.

**gonads (GŌ-nads):**

Reproductive organs (testes in men and ovaries in women) that produce gametes and reproductive hormones.

**gonorrhea (gon-ō-RĒ-ă):**

A sexually transmitted disease involving inflammatory discharge from the urethra or vagina.

**graft-versus-host disease:**

In bone marrow transplants, occurs when the transplanted cells mount an immune response against the recipient.

**gravida (GRĀV-ī-dă):**

Pregnant (woman) Note, that this is referring to a woman who is or has been pregnant regardless of outcome.

**gray matter (gray MAT-ēr):**

Regions of the nervous system containing cell bodies of neurons with few or no myelinated axons; actually may be more pink or tan in color, but called gray in contrast to white matter.

**great vessels (grāt VES-ĕls):**

The great vessels include the superior vena cava, inferior vena cava, aorta and pulmonary trunk.

**gynecologist (gīn-ĕ-KOL-ō-jīst):**

Specialist in the study and treatment of the female reproductive system.

**gynecology (gī-nĕ-KOL-ō-jĕ):**

The study of the female reproductive system.

**gynopathic (gī-nō-PATH-ĭk):**

Pertaining to the women.

**gyrus/gyri (JĪ-rūs/JĪ-rī):**

Ridge formed by convolutions on the surface of the cerebrum or cerebellum.

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# H

**hard palate (hard PAL-ăt):**

The hard palate is located at the anterior region of the nasal cavity and is composed of bone.

**heart murmur (hart MŪR-mŭr):**

An abnormal heart sound.

**heart rate (hart rāt):**

The number of times the heart contracts in one minute.

**hematocrit (hē-MAT-ō-krīt):**

A lab test which measures the percentage red blood cells in a sample of whole blood. It represents how much of the person's blood is made up of red blood cells, by volume.

**hematologist (hēm-ă-TŌL-ō-jīst):**

Physician who specializes and treats blood disorders.

**hematology (hēm-ă-TŌL-ō-jē):**

Study of blood.

**hematoma (hēm-ă-TŌ-mă):**

Tumor composed of blood.

**hematopoiesis (hē-mat-ō-poy-Ē-sīs):**

The process in which the body produces blood.

**hematosalpinx (hē-măt-ō-SAL-pingks):**

Blood in the uterine/fallopian tube.

**hematuria (hē-mă-TOOR-ē-ă):**

Blood in the urine.

**hemicolectomy (hēm-ē-kō-LĚK-tō-mē):**

Excision of half of the colon.

**hemiparesis (hēm-ē-PĀR-ē-sīs):**

Slight paralysis of half (right or left) side of the body.

**hemiplegia (hēm-ē-PLĚ-jē-ă):**

Paralysis that effects one side of the body.

**hemodialysis (HD) (hē-mō-dī-ĀL-ī-sīs):**

Procedure for removing impurities from the blood due to an inability of the kidney to function.

**hemolysis (hemolysis):**

Breaking apart of the erythrocyte cell membrane, allowing its contents to leak out.

**hemopoiesis (hē-mō-poy-Ē-sīs):**

The production of blood cells and platelets, which occurs in the bone marrow.

**hemopoietic growth factors:**

Chemical messengers which promote the proliferation and differentiation of formed elements and include erythropoietin, thrombopoietin, colony-stimulating factors, and interleukins.

**hemorrhage (HEM-(ō-)rāj):**

Excessive or uncontrolled bleeding from the blood vessels.

**hemorrhagic stroke (HEM-(ō-)rāj-ik strōk):**

Disruption of blood flow to the brain caused by bleeding within the cranial vault.

**hemorrhoids (HEM-ō-royds):**

Distended and swollen veins in the rectum and anus.

**hemostasis (hē-MŌ-STĀ-sīs):**

The process by which the body seals a ruptured blood vessel to prevent further blood loss. Biological process that results in stable equilibrium.

**hemothrax (hē-mō-THŌR-aks):**

Blood in the chest cavity.

**hepatitis (hep-ă-TĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the liver.

**hepatoma (hēp-ă-TŌ-mă):**

Tumor of the liver.

**hepatomegaly (hep-ăt-ō-MEG-ă-lē):**

Enlarged liver.

**herniorrhaphy (hēr-nē-OR-ă-fē):**

Suturing of a hernia.

**hiatal:**

Location where the diaphragm has a small opening (hiatus) through which the esophagus passes before connecting.

**hidradenitis (hi-dra-ĕn-ĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of a sweat gland.

**high-density lipoprotein (HDL) (hi DEN-sit-ē lip-ō-PRŌ-tēn):**

High-density lipoprotein, often referred to as 'good' cholesterol.

**hilum (HĪ-lūm):**

The hilum is a ridge of cartilage that separates the two main bronchi. A concave region where blood vessels, lymphatic vessels, and nerves also enter the lungs.

**hirsutism (HŪR-sŭ-tī-zm):**

Excess hair all over the body.

**histamine (HIS-tă-mēn):**

Vasoactive mediator in granules of mast cells and is the primary cause of allergies and anaphylactic shock. Involved in the inflammatory response and typically causes itching.

**homeostasis (hō-mē-ō-STĀ-sīs):**

Biological process that results in stable equilibrium.

**hormonal replacement therapy (HRT):**

Replacement of hormones, estrogen, and progesterone, typically to treat symptoms associated with menopause.

**hormone (HOR-mōn):**

Secretion of an endocrine organ that travels via the bloodstream or lymphatics to induce a response in target cells or tissues in another part of the body.

**human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (hu-man im-yŭ-nō-dě-FISH-ĕn-sē VĪ-rŭs):**

A retrovirus that attacks the T-helper cells of the immune system. If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

**human papillomavirus (HPV) (PAP-ĭ-LŌ-mă-VĪ-rŭs):**

A sexually transmitted disease with over 40 subtypes that cause diseases in humans ranging from common warts to cervical cancer.

**humeral (HŪ-mēr-ăl):**

Pertaining to the humerus.

**hydrocele (HĪ-drō-sēl):**

fluid-filled sac around the testicle.

**hydrocelectomy (hĭ-drō-sē-LĔK-tō-mē):**

Surgical removal of a fluid-filled sac around the testicle causing scrotal swelling (hydrocele).

**hydrocephalus (hĭ-drō-SEF-ă-lŭs):**

An abnormal buildup of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in the ventricles of the brain.

**hydronephrosis (hĭ-drō-nĕf-RŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of water in the kidney.

**hydrosalpinx (hĭ-drō-SĀL-pĭnks):**

Water in the uterin/fallopian tube.

**hydrostatic (hĭ-drō-STAT-ik):**

Relating to the equilibrium of liquids and the pressure exerted by liquid at rest.

**hymen (HĪ-mĕn):**

The fold of membrane found near the opening of the vagina.

**hymenectomy (hĭ-mĕn-ĔK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the hymen.

**hymenotomy (hĭ-mĕ-NOT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the hymen.

**hypercalcemia (hĭ-pĕr-kal-SĔ-mē-ă):**

Excessive calcium in the blood.

**hypercapnia (hĭ-pĕr-KAP-nĕ-ă):**

Condition of excessive (greater than normal levels) carbon dioxide (in the blood).

**hypercholesterolemia (hī-pĕr-kō-lĕs-tĕr-ōl-Ē-mē-ă):**

Higher than normal levels of cholesterol in the blood.

**hyperemesis (hī-pĕr-EM-ĕ-sīs):**

Excessive vomiting during pregnancy.

**hyperemesis gravida (hī-pĕr-EM-ĕ-sīs GRĀV-ī-dă):**

Excessive vomiting during pregnancy.

**hyperemesis gravidarum (hī-pĕr-EM-ĕ-sīs GRĀV-ī-dŭm):**

Hyperemesis can occur with any pregnant women, even a woman who miscarries. Often these women may require hospitalization for fluid and electrolyte intake.

**hyperesthesia (hī-pĕr-es-THĒ-zh(ĕ-)ă):**

Excessive sensitivity to stimuli.

**hyperglycemia (hī-pĕr-glī-SĒ-mē-ă):**

Excessive sugar in the blood.

**hyperkalemia (hī-pĕr-kā-LĒ-mē-ă):**

Excessive potassium in the blood.

**hyperkinesia (hī-pĕr-kī-NĒ-zh(ĕ-)ă):**

Condition of excessive movement.

**hyperlipidemia (hī-pĕr-līp-ī-DĒ-mē-ă):**

Excessive fat in the blood.

**hyperopia (hī-pĕr-Ō-pĕ-ă):**

Farsightedness; near objects look blurred but distant objects are more clearly visible.

**hyperpnea (hī-pĕr-p-NĒ-ă):**

Forced breathing or breathing that is excessive.

**hypersensitivities (hī-pĕr-sĕn-sī-TĪV-ī-tĕs):**

Reacting to something that would not normally evoke a reaction.

**hypertension (HTN) (hī-pĕr-TEN-shŏn):**

High blood pressure.

**hyperthyroidism (hī-pĕr-THĪ-royd-īzm):**

State of excessive thyroid gland activity.

**hypertrophy (hī-PĔR-trŏ-fĕ):**

Excessive development.

**hypocalcemia (hī-pŏ-kal-SĒ-mē-ă):**

Deficient calcium in the blood.

**hypocapnia (hī-pŏ-KAP-nĕ-ă):**

Condition of deficient (low levels) of carbon dioxide (in the blood).

**hypodermic (hī-pŏ-DĔR-mĭk):**

Pertaining to below the skin.

**hypodermis (hī-pō-DĚR-mīs):**

Literally means below the dermis. The layer of skin below the dermis that is composed mainly of loose connective and fatty tissues.

**hypoglycemia (hī-pō-gli-SĒ-mē-ă):**

Deficient sugar in the blood.

**hypokalemia (hī-pō-kā-LĒ-mē-ă):**

Deficient potassium in the blood.

**hyponatremia (hī-pō-nā-TRĒ-mē-ă):**

Deficient sodium in the blood.

**hypopituitarism (hī-pō-pī-TŪ-īt-ă-rizm):**

State of deficient pituitary gland activity.

**hypopnea (hī-pōp-NĒ-ă):**

Deficient breathing.

**hypothalamus (hī-pō-THAL-ă-mūs):**

Major region of the diencephalon that is responsible for coordinating autonomic and endocrine control of homeostasis.

**hypothalamic:**

A region of the forebrain below the thalamus.

**hypothermia (hī-pō-THĚR-mē-ă):**

Condition of (body) temperature that is below (normal).

**hypothyroidism (hī-pō-THĪ-royd-izm):**

Underactive thyroid gland, insufficient production of thyroid hormones (T3 and T4).

**hypovolemic (hī-pō-vō-LĒ-mĕk):**

State of abnormally low extracellular fluid in the body.

**hypoxemia (hip-ok-SĒ-mē-ă):**

Condition of deficient oxygen.

**hypoxia (hī-POKS-ĕ-ă):**

Literally: 'lower than normal amount of oxygen to tissues'. Hypoxia means that a tissue is not getting enough oxygen to survive and cell death is likely.

**hysterectomy (his-tĕ-REK-tō-mĕ):**

Surgical removal of the uterus.

**hysteropexy (his-tĕ-RŌ-pĕks-ĕ):**

Surgical fixation of the uterus.

**hysterorrhexis (his-tĕ-rō-REK-sīs):**

Rupture of the uterus.

**hysterosalpingo-oophorectomy (hist-ĕ-rō-sal-ping-gō-ō-ō-fō-REK-tō-mĕ):**

Excision of the uterus, uterine tubes, and ovaries.

**hysterosalpingogram (HSG) (his-tě-rō-sal-PING-ō-gram):**

Radiographic image of the uterus and uterine tubes.

**hysteroscope (HIS-tě-rō-skōp):**

Instrument used for visual examination of the uterus.

**hysteroscopy (his-tě-ROS-kō-pē):**

Visual examination of the uterus.

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# I

**ileocecal (il-ē-ō-SĒ-kāl):**

Pertaining to the ileum and cecum.

**ileostomy (IL-ē-OS-tō-mē):**

Creation of an artificial opening in the ileum.

**iliofemoral (il-ē-ō-FEM-ō-rāl):**

Pertaining to the ilium and femur.

**immune (i-MŪN):**

Resistant to specific pathogens.

**immune system (i-MŪN SIS-tēm):**

Series of barriers, cells, and soluble mediators that combine to respond to infections of the body with pathogenic organisms.

**immunity (im-Ū-nīt-ē):**

After an infection, memory cells remain in the body for a long time and can very quickly mount an immune response against the same pathogen if it tries to re-infect. This protects us from getting diseases from the same pathogen over again.

**immunodeficiency (im-yŭ-nō-dě-FISH-ĕn-sē):**

Deficient immune response caused by immune system dysfunction brought on by disease or immune suppressive drugs.

**immunological memory (im-yŭ-NOL-ō-jē- kāl MEM-ō-rē):**

Ability of the adaptive immune response to mount a stronger and faster immune response upon re-exposure to a pathogen.

**Immunologist (im-ū-NŌL-ō-jĭst):**

Specialist who studies and treats immune system disorders.

**immunology (im-yŭ-NOL-ō-jē):**

Study of disorders of the immune system.

**implantable cardioverter defibrillator (im-plan" TĀ-shŏn KĀR-dē-ō-vēr-tēr dē-FIB-rĭ-lāt-ŏr):**

An electronic implant that provides an automatic shock to convert a dangerous heart rhythm to a normal heart rhythm.

**incise, incision (in-SĪZ, in-SIZH-ŏn):**

Surgical cut into or wound produced by a sharp instrument.

**incision and drainage (in-SIZH-ŏn & DRĀN-ĕj):**

Surgical cut made to allow the free flow of fluids from a lesion, wound, or cavity.

**incontinence (in-KONT-in-ĕns):**

Inability to control the bladder and/or bowels.

**induction (in-DŪK-shōn):**

The process of bringing on or starting labour. This may be done with a membrane sweep or through the use of IV oxytocin.

**induration (ĪN-dū-rā-shun):**

A firm, raised reddened patch of skin.

**infection (in-FEK-shōn):**

Invasion by disease-causing organisms.

**inferior (or caudal) (in-FĒR-ē-ōr):**

Describes a position below or lower than another part of the body proper; near or toward the tail (in humans, the coccyx, or lowest part of the spinal column).

**inferior vena cava (in-FĒR-ē-ōr VĒ-nā KĀ-vā):**

One of the two largest veins in the body. It carries deoxygenated blood from the torso and legs back to the heart.

**infertility (in-fĕr-TIL-ĭt-ē):**

Inability to achieve pregnancy.

**inflammation (in-flā-MĀ-shōn):**

Basic innate immune response characterized by heat, redness, pain, and swelling.

**influenza (flu) (in-floo-EN-zā):**

Highly contagious viral infection effecting the respiratory tract.

**inguinal canal (ING-gwī-nāl kā-NAL):**

Opening in abdominal wall that connects the testes to the abdominal cavity.

**initial segment (ĭn-ĪSH-āl SEG-mĕnt):**

First part of the axon as it emerges from the axon hillock, where the electrical signals known as action potentials are generated.

**innate immune response (ĭn-NĀT i-MŪN ri-SPONS):**

Rapid but relatively nonspecific immune response.

**inspiration (ĭn-spĭr-Ā-shŭn):**

Inhalation or process of breathing air into the lungs.

**integration (int-ĕ-GRĀ-shōn):**

Nervous system function that combines sensory perceptions and higher cognitive functions (memories, learning, emotion, etc.) to produce a response.

**interatrial septum (nt-ĕr-RĀ-trĕ-āl SEP-tŭm):**

The wall separating the right and left atria.

**intercellular (ĭn-tĕr-SĒL-ŭ-lār):**

Between cells.

**intercostal (int-ĕr-KOS-tāl):**

Pertaining to between the ribs.

**interferons (int-ĕr-FĒR-on):**

Early induced proteins made in virally infected cells that cause nearby cells to make antiviral proteins.



**interictal (in-tēr-ĪK-tāl):**

Occurs between seizures or attacks.

**interstitial (in-tēr-STISH-āl):**

Between cells of the tissues, often used interchangeably with 'intercellular'.

**interstitial fluid (in-tēr-STISH-āl FLOO-īd):**

Fluid that has leaked out of blood capillaries into the tissue spaces.

**interstitial space (in-tēr-STISH-āl spās):**

Spaces between individual cells in the tissues.

**interventricular septum (int-ēr-ven-TRIK-yŭ-lār SEP-tŭm):**

The wall of myocardium that separates the right and left ventricles.

**intervertebral (in-tēr-VĚRT-ě-brĕl):**

Pertaining to between the vertebrae.

**intracellular (in-trā-SĚL-ŭ-lār):**

Inside the cell membrane or within the cell.

**intracerebral (in-trā-SER-ě-brāl):**

Pertaining to within the cerebrum.

**intracranial (in-trā-KRĀ-nĕ-āl):**

Pertaining to within the cranium.

**intra dermal (in-trā-DĚR-māl):**

Pertaining to within the skin.

**intramuscular (in-trā-MŪS-kyŭ-lār):**

Pertaining to within the muscle.

**intraocular (in-trā-OK-yŭ-lār):**

Pertaining to within the eye.

**intrapartum (in-trā-PART-ŭm):**

Within (during) labour and delivery.

**intravenous (in-trā-VĚ-nŭs):**

Pertaining to within the vein.

**in vitro fertilization (IVF) (in VĚ-trō fĕrt-il-ĭ-ZĀ-shŏn):**

A process where the ova is fertilized outside the body and then implanted into the uterus.

**iridectomy (ir-ĭ-DEK-tŏ-mĕ):**

Excision of (part of) the iris.

**iridoplegia (ir-ĭ-dŏ-PLĚ-j(ĕ-)ă, ĭr):**

Paralysis of the iris.

**iridotomy (ir-ĭ-DŌT-ŏ-mĕ):**

Incision into the iris.

**iritis (ī-RĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the iris.

**ischemia (is-KĒ-mē-ă):**

Insufficient blood and oxygen to cells of an organ. These cells are starving for oxygen, but they are still alive.

**ischemic (is-KĒ-mē-ă):**

Ischemia is a condition in which cells receive insufficient amounts of blood and oxygen.

**ischemic stroke (is-KĒ-mē-ă strōk):**

Disruption of blood flow to the brain because blood cannot flow through blood vessels as a result of a blockage or narrowing of the vessel.

**ischiofibular (is-kē-ō-FIB-yŭ-lār):**

Pertaining to the ischium and fibula.

**isocoria (ī-sō-KŌ-rē-ă):**

Condition of equal pupils.

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# J

**jaundice (JON-dīs):**

Yellow-coloring of the mucous membrane and sclera.

**jaundiced (JON-dīsd):**

Yellow-colored.

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# K

**keloid (KĒ-loyd):**

Formation of a raised or hypertrophic scar.

**keratin (KER-ăt-ĭn):**

Intracellular fibrous protein that gives hair, nails, and skin their hardness and water-resistant properties.

**keratinocyte (kĕ-RĀT-ĭ-nō-sīt):**

Cell that manufactures and stores the protein keratin.

**keratitis (ker-ă-TĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the cornea.

**keratogenic (kĕr-ă-TŌJ-ĕ-nŭk):**

Agent that causes growth of horny tissue.

**keratomalacia (kĕr-ă-tō-mă-LĀ-shĕ-ă):**

Softening of the cornea.

**keratometer (kĕr-ă-TŌM-ĕ-ter):**

Instrument used to measure (the curvature) of the eye.

**keratoplasty (KER-ăt-ō-plas-tĕ): Surgical repair of the cornea.****keratosis (ker-ă-TŌ-sĭs):**

Abnormal condition of growth of horny tissue.

**kinesthesia (kin-ĕs-THĒ-zh(ĕ-)ă):**

Body movement.

**kyphosis (kĭ-FŌ-sĭs):**

Abnormal condition of convexity of the spine.

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# L

**labia (LĀ-bē-ă):**

Lips of the mouth.

**labyrinthectomy (lab-ĭ-rin-THEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the inner ear (labyrinth).

**labyrinthitis (lab-ĭ-rin-THĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the inner ear (labyrinth).

**laceration (las-ĕ-RĀ-shŏn):**

Torn, ragged-edged wound.

**lacrimal (LAK-rĭ-māl):**

Pertaining to the tear duct.

**lactation (lak-TĀ-shŏn):**

Secretion of milk.

**lacteals (LAK-tē-āls):**

The lymphatic vessels of the small intestine which absorb digested fats.

**lactic (LAK-tik):**

Pertaining to milk.

**lactogenic (lak-tō-JĔN-ĭk):**

Producing milk.

**lactorrhea (lak-tō-RĔ-ă):**

Discharge of milk.

**lamina propria:**

Connective tissue of the mucous membrane which helps support epithelial layer.

**laminectomy (lām-ĭ-NĔK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the lamina.

**laparoscope (LAP-ă-rŏ-skŏp):**

Instrument used to view the abdominal cavity.

**laparoscopy (lap-ă-ROS-kŏ-pē):**

Process of viewing internal organs in the abdomen.

**laparotomy (lap-ă-ROT-ŏ-mē):**

Incision into the abdominal cavity.

**laryngeal (lar-ĭn-JĔ-āl):**

Pertaining to the larynx.

**laryngitis (lar-ĭn-JĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the larynx.

**laryngopharynx (lār-ĭn-gō-FĀR-ĭnks):**

The laryngopharynx borders the oropharynx, trachea, and esophagus.

**laryngoplasty (lār-ĭN-gō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair of the larynx.

**laryngoscope (lā-RING-gō-skōp):**

Instrument used for visual examination of the larynx.

**laryngoscopy (lār-ĭn-GŌS-kō-pē):**

Process of viewing the larynx.

**laryngospasm (lār-ĭN-gō-spāzm):**

Spasmodic contraction of the larynx.

**laryngostomy (lār-ĭn-GŌS-tō-mē):**

Creation of an artificial opening in to the larynx.

**laryngotracheobronchitis (LTB) (lā-rĭng-gō-trā-kē-ō-brōng-KĪ-tĭs):**

Inflammation of the larynx, trachea, and bronchi.

**laryngotracheotomy (lār-ĭn-gō-trā-kē-ŌT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the larynx and trachea.

**larynx (LAR-ingks):**

The larynx is a cartilaginous structure inferior to the laryngopharynx that connects the pharynx to the trachea and helps regulate the volume of air that enters and leaves the lungs.

**laser surgery (LĀ-zēr SŪRJ-ĕ-rē):**

A surgical procedure using a powerful beam of light to cut or burn tissue.

**lateral (LĀT-ĕr- āl):**

Describes the side or direction toward the side of the body.

**leiodermia (lĭ-ō-DĒR-mē-ā):**

Condition of smooth skin.

**lesion (LĒ-zhōn):**

Visible change in tissue resulting from injury or disease.

**lethargy (LĒTH-ār-jē):**

Periods of weakness.

**leukemia (loo-KĒ-mē-ā):**

A cancer involving an abundance of leukocytes. It may involve only one specific type of leukocyte from either the myeloid line (myelocytic leukemia) or the lymphoid line (lymphocytic leukemia). In chronic leukemia, mature leukocytes accumulate and fail to die. In acute leukemia, there is an overproduction of young, immature leukocytes. In both conditions the cells do not function properly.

**leukocoria (loo-kō-KŌR-ē-ā):**

Condition of white pupil.

**leukocytes (loo-kō-SĪT-ĭs):**

White blood cells.

**leukocytopenia (loo-kō-sī-tō-PĒ-nē-ă):**

Abnormal reduction of white (blood) cells.

**leukoderma (loo-kō-PLĀ-kē-ă):**

White patches caused by depigmentation.

**leukoplakia (loo-kō-DĚR-mă):**

White, thickened patches on mucus membrane tissue of the tongue or cheek.

**leukorrhea (loo-kō-RĚ-ă):**

White discharge.

**Leydig cells (LĪ-dig sels):**

Cells between the seminiferous tubules of the testes that produce testosterone; a type of interstitial cell.

**lingual (LĪNG-gwăl):**

Pertaining to the tongue.

**lingual tonsils (LĪNG-gwăl TON-sĭls):**

A collection of lymphatic tissue located in the lamina propria of the root of the tongue.

**literally (LIT-ĕ-răl-li):**

Follows the rules exactly.

**lithotripsy (LITH-ŏ-trip-sĕ):**

Surgical crushing of stone(s).

**lobar pneumonia (LŌ-băr noo-MŌN-yă):**

Disease state of the lung pertaining to the lobe(s).

**lobectomy (lŏ-BĚK-tŏ-mĕ):**

Excision of the lobe(s).

**lochia (LŌ-kē-ă):**

Vaginal discharge after birth.

**lordosis (lor-DŌ-sĭs):**

Abnormal condition of increased concavity of the spine (bent forward).

**low-density lipoprotein (lŏ DEN-sit-ĕ lip-ŏ-PRŌ-tĕn):**

Low-density lipoprotein, often referred to as 'bad' cholesterol (LDL).

**lumbago (lŭm-BĀ-gŏ):**

Lower back pain.

**lumbar (LŬM-băr):**

Pertaining to the lumbar region of the spine.

**lumbar puncture (LŬM-băr PŬNGK-chŭr):**

Procedure used to withdraw CSF from the lower lumbar region of the vertebral column that avoids the risk of damaging CNS tissue because the spinal cord ends at the upper lumbar vertebrae.

**lumbocostal (lŭm-bŏ-KOS-tăl):**

Pertaining to the lumbar region of the spine and ribs.

**lumbosacral (lŭm-bō-SĀ-krāl):**

Pertaining to the lumbar region of the spine and sacrum.

**lupus (LOO-pūs):**

An autoimmune disease in which the body mounts an immune response against its own tissues, causing chronic inflammation and tissue damage.

**lymph (limf):**

Fluid contained within the lymphatic system.

**lymph node (limf nōd):**

One of the bean-shaped organs found associated with the lymphatic vessels.

**lymphadenitis (lim-fad-ĕn-ĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of lymph nodes.

**lymphadenopathy (lim-fad-ĕ-NOP-ă-thĕ):**

Disease of lymph nodes.

**lymphatic capillaries (lim-FAT-ik KAP-ĭ-ler-ĕ):**

Smallest of the lymphatic vessels and the origin of lymph flow.

**lymphatic system (lim-FAT-ik SIS-tĕm):**

Network of lymphatic vessels, lymph nodes, and ducts that carries lymph from the tissues and back to the bloodstream.

**lymphatic trunks (lim-FAT-ik trŭnk):**

Large lymphatics that collect lymph from smaller lymphatic vessels and empties into the blood via lymphatic ducts.

**lymphocytes (LIM-fō-sit):**

White blood cells characterized by a large nucleus and small rim of cytoplasm.

**lymphoid (LIM-foyd):**

Resembling lymph or lymphatic tissues.

**lymphoid nodules (LIM-foyd NOJ-ool):**

Unencapsulated patches of lymphoid tissue found throughout the body.

**lymphoma (lim-FŌ-mă):**

A form of cancer in which masses of malignant T and/or B lymphocytes collect in lymph nodes, the spleen, the liver, and other tissues. These leukocytes do not function properly, and the patient is vulnerable to infection.

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# M

**macrophages (MAK-rō-fāj):**

A type of leukocyte (usually a monocyte) that has the ability to ingest and destroy other cells or pathogens.

**macule (MAK-ūl):**

Flat, colored spot on the skin.

**magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) (MAG-ně-tik RĚZ-ō-nāns IM-ă-jing):**

Radio frequency waves and a strong magnetic field provide clear and detailed pictures of internal organs and tissues.

**mainstream smoke (MĀN-strēm smōk):**

Smoke inhaled by the smoker.

**Major Histocompatibility Complex (hīs-tō-kōm-păt-ī-BĪL-ī-tē KOM-pleks):**

Major Histocompatibility Complex molecules, also called Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) are protein structures found on the outside of cells that help the immune system recognize non-self antigens.

**malabsorption (mal-ăb-SORP-shōn):**

A disorder that occurs when people are unable to absorb nutrients from their diets.

**maldigestion (māl-dī-JĚS-chŭn):**

Poor breakdown of food.

**malignant (mă-LIG-nānt):**

Cancerous.

**mammogram (MĀM-ō-grām):**

Radiographic image of the breast.

**mammography (ma-MOG-ră-fē):**

Radiographic imaging of the breast.

**mammoplasty (MAM-ă-plas-tē):**

Surgical repair of the breast particularly after a mastectomy.

**mast cell:**

Cell found in the skin and the lining of body cells that contains cytoplasmic granules with vasoactive mediators such as histamine.

**mastalgia (mas-TAL-jă):**

Pain in the breast.

**mastectomy (mas-TEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of breast(s) and or breast tissue.

**mastitis (mas-TĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the breast.

**mastoidectomy (mās-tōy-d-ĚK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the mastoid bone.

**mastoiditis (mas-toyd-ĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the mastoid bone.

**mastoidotomy (mās-toyd-ÖT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the mastoid bone.

**mastopexy (MAS-tō-pek-sē):**

Surgical fixation of the breast.

**maxillectomy (mäks-ĭl-EK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the maxilla.

**maxillitis (mäks-ĭl-Ī-tīs):**

Inflammation of the maxilla.

**meatal (mē-ĀT-äl):**

Pertaining to the meatus.

**meatotomy (mē-ă-TOT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the meatus.

**mechanoreceptors (mek-ă-nō-rē-SEP-tōr):**

A sensory neuron that responds to mechanical pressure.

**meconium (mē-KŌ-nē-ŭm):**

First stool of the newborn.

**meconium staining (mē-KŌ-nē-ŭm STĀN-ĭng):**

When the fetus defecates while in utero; the first defecation is called meconium, it is black and sticky. If the infant inhales the meconium upon delivery or through the birth canal, the meconium can be aspirated into the lungs and stick to the lung tissue. The newborn will have problems breathing and go into distress. The newborn's umbilical cord will be stained a brownish color.

**medial (MĒD-ē-äl):**

Describes the middle or direction toward the middle of the body.

**medulla oblongata (mē-DŪL-ă ob-long-GOT-ă):**

A part of the brain stem responsible for control of heart rate and breathing. The continuation of the spinal cord within the skull, forming the lowest part of the brainstem, contains the control centers for heart and lung nerve function.

**Meissner corpuscle (MĪS-nēr KOR-pūs-ĕl):**

Tactile corpuscle that responds to light and touch, touch receptor.

**melanocyte (MĒL-ăn-ō-sīt):**

Specialized cells that produce melanin which is a dark pigment responsible for colouration of skin and hair.

**melanoma (mel-ă-NŌ-mă):**

Cancer characterized by uncontrolled growth of melanocytes.

**melena (mē-LĒ-nă):**

Black tarry stool that contains blood from the GI tract.

**memory t cells (MEM-ō-rē t sels):**

Long-lived immune cell reserved for future exposure to an pathogen.

**menarche (mĕn-ĀR-kĕ):**

Beginning of menstruation.

**meninges (mĕ-NIN-jĕz):**

Protective outer coverings of the CNS composed of connective tissue.

**meningioma (mĕn-ĭn-jĕ-Ō-mă):**

Tumor of the meninges.

**meningitis (men-ĕn-JĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the meninges.

**meningocele (mĕn-ĪN-gō-sĕl):**

Protrusion of the meninges.

**meningomyelocele (mĕ-nĭng-gō-MĪ-ĕ-lō-sĕl):**

Protrusion of the meninges and spinal cord.

**meniscectomy (mĕn-ĭ-SĔK-tō-mĕ):**

Excision of the meniscus.

**meniscitis (men-ĭ-SĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the meniscus.

**menometrorrhagia (mĕn-ō-mĕt-rō-RĀ-jĕ-ă):**

Excessive bleeding from the uterus at menstruation.

**menopause (MEN-ō-poz):**

Cessation of menstruation.

**menorrhagia (mĕn-ō-RĀ-jĕ-ă):**

Excessive bleeding at menstruation.

**mental (men-TAL):**

Pertaining to the brain.

**metastasize (mĕ-TĀS-tă-sĭz):**

Production of cells that can mobilize and establish tumors in other organs of the body.

**metrorrhagia (mĕ-trō-RĀ-jă):**

Excessive bleeding from the uterus.

**microcephalus (mĭ-krō-SĔF-ă-lŭs):**

Small head.

**microglia (mĭ-KROG-lĕ-ă):**

Glial cell type in the CNS that serves as the resident component of the immune system.

**micturate (MĪK-tŭ-răt):**

To pass urine.

**midbrain (MID-brān):**

A portion of the brainstem, positioned above the pons, also called mesencephalon, assist in motor reflexes associated with visual and auditory stimuli.

**midwife (MĪD-wīf):**

Individual who practices midwifery.

**midwifery (mĭd-WĪF-ēr-ē):**

Practice of assisting in childbirth.

**mitochondria (mīt-ō-KŌN-drē-ōn):**

An organelle found in large numbers in most cells.

**mitral valve (MĪ-trāl valv):**

Also known as the bicuspid valve.

**modern-day language term:**

Terms from the English language.

**molecule (MOL-ē-kūl):**

Chemical building block of all body structures.

**monocyte (MON-ō-sīt):**

Precursor to macrophages and dendritic cells seen in the blood.

**mononeuropathy (mon-ō-noo-ROP-ă-thē):**

Disease affecting a single nerve.

**monoparesis (mon-ō-pă-RĒ-sis):**

Slight paralysis of one (limb).

**monoplegia (mōn-ō-PLĒ-jē-ă):**

Paralysis of one (limb).

**morcellation (mor-sē-LĀ-shōn):**

Cutting or grinding solid tissue into smaller pieces for removal.

**motor nerves:**

Peripheral, efferent, myelinated nerve tissue that stimulates muscle contraction.

**MRI ultrasound fusion biopsy (FŪ-zhōn BĪ-op-sē):**

Combination of magnetic resonance imaging with transrectal ultrasound (TRUS) to obtain a tissue from a prostate lesion. The combined MRI-TRUS image is used to direct the biopsy needle into the area of the prostate that looked suspicious on MRI.

**mucoïd (MŪ-koyd):**

Resembling mucus.

**mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (malt) (mū-KŌ-să ă-sō-s(h)ē-ĀTE LIM-foyd TISH-oo):**

Lymphoid nodule associated with the mucosa.

**mucosal (mū-KŌ-sāl):**

Mucous membranes line body cavities that open to the outside world, including the respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, urinary tract and reproductive tracts.

**mucous (MŪ-kūs):**

Pertaining to mucus.

**mucous membrane (MŪ-kūs MEM-brān):**

Composite of connective and epithelial tissues which lines the body cavities and hollow passageways that open to the external environment.

**mucus (MŪ-kūs):**

Slimy liquid secreted by mucous membranes.

**multigravida (mŭl-tī-GRĀV-ī-dā):**

Many pregnancies A woman who has been pregnant two or more times regardless of outcome.

**multipara (mŭl-TĪP-ā-rā):**

Many births.

**multiple myeloma (MŪL-tī-pl mī-ĕ-LŌ-mā):**

Tumors of the bone marrow.

**multipolar (mŭl-tī-PŌL-ār):**

Shape of a neuron that has multiple processes—the axon and two or more dendrites.

**myalgia (mī-AL-j(ĕ-)ā):**

Muscle pain.

**myasthenia (mī-ās-THĒ-nē-ā):**

Weakness of muscles, muscle weakness.

**myasthenia gravis (mī-ās-THĒ-nē-ā grāv-īs):**

Grave or serious muscle weakness.

**myelin (MĪ-ĕ-līn):**

Lipid-rich insulating substance surrounding the axons of many neurons, allowing for faster transmission of electrical signals.

**myelin sheath (MĪ-ĕ-līn shēth):**

Lipid-rich layer of insulation that surrounds an axon, formed by oligodendrocytes in the CNS and Schwann cells in the PNS; facilitates the transmission of electrical signals.

**myeloma (mī-ĕ-LŌ-mā):**

Tumor in the spinal cord.

**myelomalacia (mī-ĕ-lō-mā-LĀ-shē-ā):**

Softening of the spinal cord.

**myelopoiesis (mī-ĕ-lō-poy-Ē-sīs):**

Formation of bone marrow.

**myocardial infarction (MI) (mī-ō-kar'dē-āl in-FARK-shŏn):**

heart attack, caused by lack of blood flow and oxygen to the heart.

**myocarditis (mī-ō-kar-DĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the muscle of the heart.

**myometritis (mī-ō-mē-TRĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the uterine muscle.

**myopia (mī-Ō-pē-ă):**

Nearsightedness; near objects are clear and seen but far objects are not.

**myorrhaphy (mī-OR-ă-fē):**

Suturing of a muscle.

**myringitis (mĭr-ĭn-JĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the tympanic membrane.

**myringoplasty (mĭr-ĪN-gō-plăst-ē):**

Surgical repair of the tympanic membrane.

**myringotomy (mĭr-ĭn-GŎT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the tympanic membrane.

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# N

**naïve lymphocyte (nī-ĒV LIM-fō-sīts):**

Mature B or T cell that has not yet encountered antigen for the first time.

**nasal cavity (NĀ-zāl KAV-īt-ē):**

The inside of your nose.

**nasogastric (nā-zō-GĀS-trīk):**

Pertaining to the nose and stomach.

**nasolacrimal (nā-zō-LAK-rī-māl):**

Pertaining to the nose and the tear duct.

**nasopharyngeal (nā-zō-FAR-in-JĒ-āl):**

Pertaining to the nose and pharynx.

**nasopharyngitis (nā-zō-fār-īn-JĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the nose and pharynx.

**nasopharynx (nā-zō-FAR-ingks):**

The nasopharynx serves as an airway and is continuous with the nasal cavity.

**natal (NĀT-āl):**

Pertaining to born.

**natural killer cell (nk):**

Cytotoxic lymphocyte of innate immune response.

**nausea (NAW-sē-ă, naw-zē-ă):**

Urge to vomit.

**nebulizer (NEB-yü-lī-zēr):**

Device that creates a mist for giving respiratory treatment or medication.

**necrosis (ně-KRŌ-sīs):**

Condition of death.

**neonatal (nē-ō-NĀT-āl):**

Pertaining to the newborn. For example neonatal record, neonatal unit.

**neonate (NĒ-ō-nāt):**

New born (infant from birth to four weeks of age).

**neonatologist (nē-ō-nā-TŌL-ō-jīst):**

Physician who studies and treats disorders of the new born.

**neonatology (nē-ō-nā-TŌL-ō-jē):**

Study of the newborn.

**nephrectomy (ně-FREK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the kidney.

**nephritis (ně-FRĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the kidney.

**nephrography (ně-FRÖG-rā-fē):**

Radiographic imaging of the kidney.

**nephrolithiasis (nef-rō-li-THĪ-ā-sīs):**

Condition of stone(s) in the kidney.

**nephrolithotripsy (něf-rō-LITH-ō-trip-sē):**

Surgical crushing of stone(s) in the kidney.

**nephrolitotomy (něf-rō-lith-ŌT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the kidney to remove stone(s).

**nephrologist (ně-FRÖ-lō-jīst):**

Specialist who studies and treats disease and disorders of the kidney.

**nephrology (ně-FRÖL-ā-jē):**

Study of the kidney.

**nephrolysis (ně-fröl-ī-sīs):**

Separating the kidney (from body structures).

**nephroma (ně-FRŌ-mā):**

Tumor of kidney.

**nephromegaly (něf-rō-MĚG-ā-lē):**

Enlarged kidney.

**nephropexy (NĚF-rō-pěks-ē):**

Surgical fixation of the kidney.

**nephroscopy (NĚF-rā-skō-pē):**

Process of viewing the kidney.

**nephrosonography (ně-FRŌ-sō-NOG-rā-fē):**

Process of recording the kidney using sound.

**nephrostomy (ně-FRŌS-tō-mē):**

Creation of an artificial opening into the kidney.

**nerve (něrv):**

Cord-like bundle of axons located in the peripheral nervous system that transmits sensory input and response output to and from the central nervous system.

**neurectomy (nū-RĚK-tō-mē):**

Excision of nerves.

**neuritis (noo-RĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the nerves.

**neuroarthropathy (noo-rō-ar-THROP-ā-thē, nū):**

Disease of the nerves and joints.



**neuroglia (noo-ROG-lē-ă):**

Supportive tissue of the nervous system, including the network of branched cells in the central nervous system (astrocytes, microglia, and oligodendrocytes) and the supporting cells of the peripheral nervous system (Schwann cells and satellite cells), also called glia.

**neuroid (noo-rōyd):**

Resembling a nerve.

**neurologist (nū-RŌL-ō-jīst):**

Specialist who studies and treats the nervous system.

**neurology (noo-ROL-ō-jē):**

Study of nerves.

**neurolysis (noo-ro-LĪ-sīs):**

Dissolution of nerve (for pain management).

**neuroma (noor-Ō-mă):**

Tumor made up of nerve (cells).

**neuron (NOOR-on):**

Neural tissue cell that is primarily responsible for generating and propagating electrical signals into, within, and out of the nervous system.

**neuroplasty (NŪ-rō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair of a nerve.

**neuropathy (noo-ROP-ă-thē):**

Disease of (peripheral) nerves.

**neurorrhaphy (nū-ROR-ă-fē):**

Suturing of a nerve.

**neurosensory (nū-rō-SĔN-sō-rē):**

Relating to afferent nerves.

**neurotomy (nū-RŌT-ō-mē):**

Incision into a nerve.

**neurotransmitter (noor-ō-trans-MIT-ēr):**

Chemical that is released from a nerve cell, transmits an impulse from a nerve cell to another nerve, muscle, organ, or other tissue.

**neutrophil (nū-trō-FĪL-īk):**

Phagocytic white blood cell recruited from the bloodstream to the site of infection via the bloodstream.

**nevus (NĔ-vūs):**

A pigmented skin blemish.

**nociceptors (nō-sē-SEP-tōrs):**

Sensory neurons that respond to pain.

**nocturia (nŏk-TŪ-rē-ă):**

Night urination.

**node of Ranvier (nōd of ron-vē-Ā):**

Gap between two myelinated regions of an axon, allowing for strengthening of the electrical signal as it propagates down the axon.

**nodule (NOJ-ool):**

A small node-like structure.

**non-stress test (nŭn stres test):**

Test conducted on the pregnant woman to assess the fetal heart rate (FHR).

**norepinephrine (nor-ep-ĭ-NEF-rĭn):**

A natural chemical in the body that acts as both a stress hormone and neurotransmitter (a substance that sends signals between nerve cells). It's released into the blood as a stress hormone when the brain perceives stress.

**nosocomial infection (nos-ŏ-KŌ-mē-āl in-FEK-shŏn):**

Infection acquired in hospital.

**nucleus (NOO-klē-ŭs):**

In the nervous system, a localized collection of neuron cell bodies that are functionally related; a “center” of neural function.

**nulligravida (nŭl-ĭ-GRĀV-ĭ-dā):**

A woman who has never been pregnant.

**nullipara (nŭl-ĪP-ā-rā):**

No pregnancies a woman who has never been pregnant.

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# O

**obesity (ō-BĒ-sīt-ē):**

Abnormal increase in the proportion of fat cells resulting in excess body weight for height.

**obstetrician (ob-stĕ-TRISH-ăn):**

The person who specializes in the study of obstetrics and gynecology and are referred to as OB/GYN Obstetrics and Gynecology.

**Obstetrics (ōb-STE-triks):**

Medical specialty dealing with pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium.

**occipital lobe (ok-SIP-īt-ăl lōb):**

Region of the cerebral cortex directly beneath the occipital bone of the cranium.

**occlude (ō-KLOOD):**

Block or close tightly.

**oculomycosis (ōk-ū-lō-mī-KŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of the eye caused by a fungus.

**olfaction (ōl-FĀK-shŭn):**

Special sense responsible for smell, which has a unique, direct connection to the cerebrum.

**oligodendrocyte (ol-ī-gō-DEN-drō-sīt):**

Glial cell type in the CNS that provides the myelin insulation for axons in tracts.

**oligohydramnios (ōl-īg-ō-hī-DRĀM-nē-ōs):**

A condition where there is minimal amniotic fluid within the placental sac. Too little fluid can restrict the fetus from movement and growth.

**oligomenorrhea (ōl-ī-gō-mĕn-ō-RĒ-ă):**

Infrequent or irregular periods.

**oligoovulation (ol-i-gō-ov-yŭ-LĀ-shŏn):**

Infrequent ovulation.

**oligospermia (ōl-ī-gō-SPĒR-mĕ-ă):**

Condition of scanty sperm.

**oliguria (ōl-īg-Ū-rĕ-ă):**

Scanty urine (output).

**omentum (ō-MENT-ŭm):**

Fatty tissue that stretches over the abdomen, plays a role in immune response and the growth of certain cancers.

**omphalitis (ōm-fāl-Ī-tīs):**

Inflammation of the umbilicus.

**omphalocele (ōm-FĀL-ō-sĕl):**

Herniation of the umbilicus.

**onychocryptosis (ŏn-ĭ-kō-krip-TŌ-sis):**

Abnormal condition of a hidden nail.

**onychomalacia (ŏn-ĭ-kō-mā-LĀ-shā):**

Softening of the nails.

**onychomycosis (on-i-kō-mī-KŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of a fungus in the nails.

**onychophagia (ŏn-ĭ-KŎF-ă-jē):**

Eating the nails (nail biting).

**oocyte (Ō-ŏ-sīt):**

Female gamete.

**oophorectomy (ō-ŏ-fō-REK-tŏ-mē):**

Surgical removal of the fallopian/uterine tubes.

**oophoritis (ō-ŏf-ō-RĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the ovary.

**ophthalmalgia (ŏf-thāl-MĀL-jē-ă):**

Pain in the eye.

**ophthalmia neonatorum (of-THAL-mē-ă nē-ŏ-NĀ-tŏr-ăm):**

Conjunctivitis in newborns (severe).

**ophthalmic (of-THAL-mik):**

Pertaining to the eye.

**ophthalmologist (ŏf-thāl-MŎL-ŏ-jĭst):**

Specialist of the eye.

**ophthalmology (Ophth) (ŏf-thāl-MŎL-ŏ-jē):**

Study of the eye.

**ophthalmopathy (ŏf-thāl-MŎP-ă-thē):**

Disease of the eye.

**ophthalmoplegia (of-thal-mō-PLĒ-j(ē)-ă):**

Paralysis of the eye.

**ophthalmoscope (of-THAL-mŏ-skŏp):**

Instrument used to view the eye.

**ophthalmoscopy (of-thal-MOS-kŏ-pē):**

Process of viewing the eye.

**opsonization (ŏp-să-nĭ-ZĀ-shŭn):**

An antibody or an antimicrobial protein binds to a pathogen, thereby marking it as a target for phagocytes.

**optic (OP-tik):**

Pertaining to vision.

**Optician (ōp-TĪSH-ăn):**

Specialist who fills prescriptions for lenses but cannot prescribe.

**Optometrist (ōp-TŌM-ĕ-trĭst):**

Specialist who diagnoses, treats and manages diseases and disorders of the eye (Doctor of Optometry).

**optometry (op-TOM-ĕ-trĕ):**

Measuring vision.

**oral (ŌR-ăl):**

Pertaining to the mouth.

**orchialgia (or-kĕ-ĀL-jĕ-ă):**

Pain in the testis.

**orchiditis (or-kĭ-DĪ-tĭs):**

Inflammation of the testis.

**orchiectomy (or-kĕ-EK-tŏ-mĕ):**

Excision of the testis.

**orchiepididymitis (or-kĕ-ĕp-ĭ-dĭd-ĭ-MĪ-tĭs):**

Inflammation of the testis and epididymis.

**orchiopexy (or-kĕ-ŏ-PĔK-sĕ):**

Surgical fixation of the testicle.

**orchioplasty (OR-kĕ-ŏ-plās-tĕ):**

Surgical repair of the testis.

**orchiotomy (or-kĕ-ŌT-ŏ-mĕ):**

Incision into the testis.

**orchitis (or-KĪ-tĭs):**

Inflammation of the testis.

**organ (OR-găn):**

Anatomically distinct structure of the body composed of two or more tissue types.

**organ system (OR-găn SIS-tĕm):**

Group of organs that work together to perform major functions or meet the physiological needs of the body.

**organelle (OR-gă-nel):**

Tiny functioning units inside of a cell.

**organism (OR-găn-ĭzm):**

Living being that has a cellular structure and can independently perform all physiological functions necessary for life.

**orgasm (OR-gazm):**

A climax of sexual stimulation.

**oropharynx (or-ŏ-FAR-ingks):**

The oropharynx is a passageway for both air and food and borders the nasopharynx and the oral cavity.

**orthopnea (or-THŌP-nē-ă):**

Breathing is easier in a straight position.

**osmosis (oz-MŌ-sīs):**

A process by which molecules of a solvent tend to pass through a membrane from a less concentrated solution into a more concentrated one.

**ostectomy (ŏs-TĒK-tō-mē):**

Excision of bone.

**osteoarthritis (ă-stē-ō-ăr- 'thrī-təs):**

Inflammation of bone and joint.

**osteoblast (OS-tē-ō-blast):**

Developing bone cell.

**osteochondritis (os-tē-ō-kon-DRĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of bone and cartilage.

**osteoclast (ŏs-tē-ō-KLĀ-sis):**

Surgical breaking of a bone.

**osteocyte (OS-tē-ŏ-sīt):**

Bone cell.

**osteomalacia (os-tē-ō-mă-LĀ-sh-ē-ă):**

Softening of the bones.

**osteomyelitis (os-tē-ō-mī-ĕ-LĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of bone and bone marrow.

**osteonecrosis (os-tē-ō-nĕ-KRŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of bone death (lack of blood supply).

**osteopenia (os-tē-ō-PĒ-nē-ă):**

Abnormal reduction of bone mass.

**osteopetrosis (ŏs-tē-ō-pĕ-TRŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of stone-like bones.

**osteosarcoma (ŏs-tē-ō-săr-KŌ-mă):**

Malignant tumor of bone.

**otalgia (ŏ-TĀL-jĕ-ă):**

Pain in the ear.

**otologist (ŏ-TŌL-ŏ-jĭst):**

Specialist who studies and treats disorders and diseases of the ear.

**otology (ŏ-TŌL-ŏ-jĕ):**

Study of the ear.

**otomastoiditis (ŏ-tō-mas-toyd-ĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the ear and mastoid bone.

**otomycosis (ō-tō-mī-KŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of fungus in the ear.

**otopyorrhea (ō-tō-pī-ō-RĒ-ă):**

Discharge of pus from the ear.

**otorhinolaryngologist (ō-tō-RĪ-nō-lār-ĭn-GŎL-ō-jĭst):**

Specialist or physician who studies and treats disease and disorder of the ears, nose and throat.

**otorrhea (ō-tō-RĒ-ă):**

Discharge from the ear.

**otosclerosis (ō-tō-skĕ-RŎ-sīs):**

Hardening of the ear.

**otoscope (Ŏ-tō-skōp):**

Instrument used to view the ear.

**otoscopy (ō-TŎS-kō-pē):**

Process of viewing the ear.

**ovarian cancer (ō-VAR-ē-ăn KAN-sēr):**

Malignant tumor of the ovary.

**ovaries (Ŏ-vă-rēs):**

Two almond shaped organs (female gonads) located at the entrance to the fallopian tubes; responsible for storing of egg cells (ova) and production of estrogen and progesterone hormones.

**ovulation (ov-yŭ-LĀ-shŏn):**

Release of ovum from a mature graafian follicle.

**ovum (ova) (Ŏ-vŭm):**

Female egg cells.

**oximeter (ok-SIM-ēt-ēr):**

Instrument used to measure oxygen.

**oxytocia (ok-si-TŎ-sia):**

A rapid birth.

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# P

**pacemaker (PĀS-māk-ēr):**

An electronic implant that initiates a heart beat.

**pachyderma (pak-ē-DĒR-mă):**

Thickening of the skin.

**Pacinian corpuscle (pă-SIN-ē-ăn KOR-pūs-ěl):**

Lamellated corpuscle that responds to vibration.

**palatine tonsils (PAL-ă-tĭn TON-sĭls):**

A pair of soft tissue masses located at the rear of the throat (pharynx).

**palatitis (pal-ă-TĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the palate.

**palatoplasty (PĀL-ăt-ō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair of the palate.

**pallor (PĀL-or):**

Paleness.

**palpate (PAL-pāt):**

Physical examination technique:

The examiner feels for texture, size, consistency and location of body parts with hands.

**palpitations (pāl-pĭ-Tā-shŭn):**

A feeling in the chest that may be caused by an irregular heart rhythm.

**pancreatic (pan-krē-AT-ĭk):**

Pertaining to the pancreas.

**pancreatitis (pan-krē-a-TĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the pancreas.

**pancytopenia (pan-sĭt-ō-PĒ-nē-ă):**

Abnormal reduction of (all) blood cells.

**panhypopituitarism (pan-hĭ-pō-pĭ-TOO-ĭt-ă-rĭzm, -TŪ):**

State of total deficient pituitary gland activity.

**panplegia (păn-PLĒ-jē-ă):**

Total paralysis.

**papanicolaou smear (păp-ă-NĒ-kă-low smēr):**

PAP test A smear method for examining cells, that is used to detect cancers of the cervix.

**para (PĀR-ă):**

A woman who has given birth to an offspring after 20 weeks, live or stillborn.



**paracrine (par-ă-krin):**

Chemical signal that elicits a response in neighboring cells; also called paracrine factor.

**paraplegia (par-ă-PLĒ-j(ē-)ă):**

Paralysis that affects both legs and lower part of the body.

**parathyroidectomy (păr-ă-thī-royd-ĚK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the parathyroid glands.

**parathyroidoma (păr-ă-thī-royd-ō-MĀ):**

Tumor of the parathyroid glands.

**paresis (pă-RĒ-sīs):**

Partial paralysis wherein there is still some control of the muscles.

**paresthesia (par-es-THĒ-zh(ē-)ă):**

Abnormal sensation in the extremities.

**parietal lobe (pă-RĪ-ēt-ăl lōb):**

Region of the cerebral cortex directly beneath the parietal bone of the cranium.

**paronychia (păr-ō-NĪK-ē-ă):**

Diseased state around the nail.

**parturition (păr-tū-RĪSH-ŭn):**

Act of giving birth.

**passive immunity (PĀS-iv im-Ū-nīt-ē):**

Transfer of immunity to a pathogen to an individual that lacks immunity to this pathogen usually by the injection of antibodies.

**patellectomy (păt-ē-LĚK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the knee cap.

**pathogens (path-Ō-jĕns):**

Disease-causing agents.

**pelvic (PEL-vik):**

Pertaining to pelvis, pelvic bone.

**pelvic inflammatory disease (PID):**

Inflammation of some or all of the female pelvic organs.

**pelvic sonography (PEL-vik sō-NOG-ră-fē):**

Process of recording sound pertaining to the pelvis.

**pelvisacral (PEL-vīs-SĀ-krăl):**

Pertaining to the pelvis and sacrum.

**pelviscopic (pĕl-VĪS-kŭ-pĭk):**

Pertaining to visual examination of the pelvic cavity.

**pelviscopy (pĕl-VĪS-kŭ-pĕ):**

Visual examination of the pelvic cavity.

**penis (PĒ-nēz):**

Male organ of copulation.

**percutaneous (pĕr-kū-TĀ-nē-ūs):**

Pertaining to through the skin.

**perfusion (pĕr-FŪ-zhōn):**

The delivery of blood to an area/tissue/organ.

**pericardial fluid (per-ī-KAR-dē-āk FLOO-īd):**

Pericardial fluid is a serous fluid which allow the 2 layers of serous pericardium to slide smoothly against each other as the heart beats.

**pericardiocentesis (per-i-kard-ē-ō-sen-TĒ-sīs):**

Surgical puncture to aspirate fluid from the (sac) surrounding the heart.

**pericarditis (per-ī-kar-DĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the (sac) surrounding the heart.

**pericardium (per-ī-KARD-ē-ŭm):**

Serous membrane surrounding the heart in the pericardial cavity and reduces friction between the heart and the wall of the pericardium.

**perimetritis (per-ī-mē-TRĪT-īs):**

Inflammation surrounding the uterus.

**perimetrium (per-i-MĒ-trē-ŭm):**

The most superficial and serous layer of the uterus.

**perineorrhaphy (pĕr-ī-nē-OR-ā-fē):**

Suturing of (a tear in) the perineum.

**peripheral arterial disease (pĕ-RIF-(ĕ-)rāl ar-TĒR-ē-āl diz-ĒZ’):**

The obstruction of vessels in peripheral regions of the body.

**peripheral nervous system (PNS) (pĕ-RIF-(ĕ-)rāl NĒR-vŭs SIS-tĕm):**

Anatomical division of the nervous system that is largely outside the cranial and vertebral cavities, namely all parts except the brain and spinal cord.

**peritoneal (per-īt-ō-NĒ-āl):**

Pertaining to the peritoneum.

**peritoneum (per-it-ō-NĒ-ŭm):**

Serous membrane surrounding several organs in the abdominopelvic cavity. This reduces friction between the abdominal and pelvic organs and the body wall.

**peritonitis (per-īt-ō-NĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the peritoneum.

**permeability (pĕr-mē-ā-BIL-īt-ē):**

Membrane that causes it to allow liquids or gases to pass through it.

**pH (P H):**

pH is a measure of how acidic or alkaline a substance is, as determined by the number of free hydrogen ions in the

substance.

**phacomalacia (fāk-ō-mă-LĀ-shē-ă):**

Softening of the lens.

**phagocytes (făg-ō-SĪTS):**

Cells that engulf and absorb bacteria and cell particles.

**phagocytized (FĀG-ō-sit-iz):**

This is the process by which certain cells are able to 'eat' other cells or substances by engulfing them.

**phagocytosis (făg-ō-si-TŌ-sīs):**

Movement of material from the outside to the inside of the cells via vesicles made from invaginations of the plasma membrane.

**phalangectomy (făl-ăn-JĔK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the phalanges.

**pharyngeal (far-în-JĔ-ăl):**

Pertaining to the pharynx.

**pharyngeal tonsils (far-în-JĔ-ăl TON-sil):**

A pharyngeal tonsil, also called an adenoid, is an aggregate of lymphoid reticular tissue similar to a lymph node that lies at the superior portion of the nasopharynx.

**pharyngitis (far-în-JĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the pharynx.

**pharyngotonsillitis (fă-ring-gō-ton-si-LĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the pharynx and tonsils.

**pharynx (FAR-ingks):**

The pharynx is a tube formed by skeletal muscle and lined by mucous membrane that is continuous with that of the nasal cavities.

**phimosis (fi-MŌ-sīs):**

A tightness of the prepuce (foreskin of the penis) that prevents its retraction over the glans penis. It may be congenital or the result of balanitis. Circumcision is the usual treatment.

**phlebectomy (fleb-EK-tō-mē):**

Excision of a vein.

**phlebitis (flĕ-BĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of a vein.

**phlebotomist (flĕ-BŎT-ō-mīst):**

A specially trained person who draws blood or injects IV fluids.

**phlebotomy (flĕ-BOT-ō-mē):**

Incision into a vein.

**photophobia (fō-tō-FŎ-bē-ă):**

Sensitivity to light.

**phrenospasm (FRĒN-ō-spāzm):**

Spasm of the diaphragm.

**pia mater (PĪ-ă MĀT-ēr):**

Thin, innermost membrane of the meninges that directly covers the surface of the CNS.

**placenta (plă-SENT-ă):**

The organ of gas and nutrient exchange between the baby and the mother.

**placenta abruptio or abruptio placenta (plă-SENT-ă ă-BRŪP-shē-ō):**

Occurs when the placenta prematurely becomes detached from the uterine wall. This is a medical emergency and requires an immediate c-section to save both the woman and infant's lives. The infant will not be getting oxygen from the mother and the mother may hemorrhage.

**placenta previa (plă-SENT-ă PRĒ-vē-ă):**

Occurs when the placenta partially or completely covers the cervical os (opening).

**plaque (plak):**

A fatty material including cholesterol, connective tissue, white blood cells, and some smooth muscle cells.

**plasma cells (PLAZ-mă sels):**

A type of B lymphocyte that produces antibodies which bind to specific foreign or abnormal antigens, in order to destroy them.

**plasmapheresis (plăz-mă-fēr-Ē-sīs):**

Removal of plasma.

**pleura (PLOOR-ă):**

Serous membrane which surrounds the lungs in the pleural cavity and reduces friction between the lungs and the body wall.

**pleural effusion (PLOOR-ăl ě-FŪ-zhŭn):**

Fluid in the pleural space (caused by disease or trauma).

**pleuritic (ploo-RĪT-ĭk):**

Pertaining to the pleura.

**pleuritis (ploo-RĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the pleura.

**pneumatocele (nŭ-MĀT-ō-sĕl):**

Hernia of the lung.

**pneumoconiosis (noo-mō-kō-nĕ-Ō-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of dust in the lungs.

**pneumonectomy (noo-mō-NEK-tō-mĕ):**

Excision of the lung.

**pneumonia (noo-MŌN-yă):**

Diseased state of lung.

**pneumonitis (noo-mō-NĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the lung.

**pneumothorax (noo-mō-THŌR-aks):**

An excessive amount of air is present in the thoracic cavity, outside of the lungs, putting pressure on the lungs and interfering with venous return, pulmonary function, and delivery of oxygen to the tissues.

**poliomyelitis (pō-lē-ō-mī-ēl-ĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of gray matter of the spinal cord.

**polyarteritis (pol-ē-art-ē-RĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of many (sites in the) arteries.

**polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) (pōl-ē-SĪS-tĭk Ō-vā-rē SĪN-drōm):**

Condition typically characterized by hormonal imbalances, ovulatory dysfunction, and multiple ovarian cysts.

**polycythemia (POL-ē-sī-THĒ-mē-ā):**

A disorder in which too many red blood cells are produced.

**polycythemia vera (pol-ē-sī-THĒ-mē-ā vēr-ā):**

A type of bone marrow disease that causes an excessive production of immature erythrocytes.

**polydipsia (pol-ē-DIP-sē-ā):**

Condition of excessive thirst.

**polyhydramnios (pōl-ē-hī-DRĀM-nē-ōs):**

A condition where there is excessive amniotic fluid in the placenta. The delivery will be a c-section to prevent bleeding during delivery of the fetus.

**polymenorrhea (pōl-ē-mēn-ō-RĒ-ā):**

Excessive bleeding during one's period.

**polymyositis (pol-ē-mī-ō-SĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of many muscles.

**polyneuritis (pol-ē-noo-RĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of many nerves.

**polyneuropathy (pol-ē-noo-ROP-ā-thē):**

Disease of many nerves.

**polyp (POL-ĭp):**

Small tumor like growth that extend from the surface of a mucous membrane.

**polypectomy (pōl-ĭ-PĚK-tō-mē):**

Excision of polyps.

**polyposis (pōl-ē-PŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of (multiple) polyps.

**polysomnography (PSG) (pol-ē-som-NOG-rā-fē):**

Process of recording many (test) during sleep.

**polyuria (pol-ē-ŪR-ē-ā):**

Excessive urine.

**pons (ponz):**

Latin word meaning bridge, essential part of the brain located above the medulla, action in regulation and controls of vital functions primarily sleep, respiration, swallowing, bladder control, hearing, balance (equilibrium), taste, ocular movement, facial expression and sensation.

**posterior (or dorsal) (pōs-TĒ-rē-or):**

Describes the back or direction toward the back of the body.

**posteriorly (pōs-TĒ-rē-or-lē):**

Pertaining to behind.

**postictal (post-ĪK-tāl):**

Occurs after a seizure or attack.

**postnatal (post-NĀT-āl):**

Pertaining to after birth (reference to the newborn).

**postpartum (pōst-PART-ūm):**

After childbirth referring to the mother.

**preeclampsia (prē-ĕ-KLAMP-sē-ă):**

The abnormal condition in pregnancy where the patient experiences hypertension, edema and proteinuria.

**prefix:**

Word part at the beginning of a medical term that changes the meaning of the word root.

**premature infant (prē-mă-CHŪR IN-fănt):**

Infant born before completing 37 weeks of gestation (also called preterm infant).

**premenstrual syndrome (prē-MĚN-stroo-ăl SĪN-drōm):**

Syndrome involving physical and emotional symptoms occurring up to 10 days before menstruation. Symptoms include nervous tension, irritability, mastalgia, edema, and headache.

**prenatal (prē-NĀT-āl):**

Pertaining to before birth.

**prepuce (PRĒ-pūs):**

Flap of skin that forms a collar around, and thus protects and lubricates, the glans penis.

**presbycusis (prez-bĭ-KŪ-sĭs):**

Hearing impairment occurring with age

**priapism (PRĪ-ă-pizm):**

Persistent, abnormal erection of the penis accompanied by pain and tenderness.

**primary adaptive response (PRĪ-mă-rē ad-ap-TĪV ri-SPONS):**

Immune system's response to the first exposure to a pathogen.

**primary lymphoid organ (PRĪ-mă-rē LIM-foyd OR-găn):**

Site where lymphocytes mature and proliferate, red bone marrow and thymus gland.

**primigravida (prĭ-mĭ-GRAV-ĭd-ă):**

First pregnancy.

**primipara (prĭ-MĪP-ă-ră):**

First birth.

**process (PROS-es):**

In cells, an extension of a cell body; in the case of neurons, this includes the axon and dendrites.

**proctologist (prok-TOL-ō-jīst):**

Specialist who studies and treats diseases of the rectum.

**proctology (prōk-TŌL-ō-jē):**

Study of disease and disorders of the rectum.

**proctoptosis (prōk-tōp-TŌ-sīs):**

Prolapse of the rectum.

**proctoscope (PRŌK-tă-skōp):**

Instrument used to view the rectum.

**proctoscopy (prōk-TŌS-kō-pē):**

Process of viewing the rectum.

**prolapse (PRŌ-laps):**

Displacement of an organ or anatomic structure from its normal position.

**proliferate (prō-LIF-ē-rāt):**

Reproduce rapidly.

**proliferation (prō-lif-ē-RĀ-shōn):**

Rapid increase in numbers.

**proprioception (prō-prē-ō-SĒP-shŭn):**

Awareness of the position of the body in space

**prostaglandins (prōs-tă-GLĀN-dĭn):**

Any of a group of compounds with varying hormone-like effects.

**prostate cancer (PROS-tăt KAN-sēr):**

Cancer of the prostate gland.

**prostate gland (PROS-tăt gland):**

Doughnut-shaped gland at the base of the bladder surrounding the urethra and contributing fluid to semen during ejaculation.

**prostatitis (pros-tă-TĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the prostate gland.

**prostatocystitis (pros-tă-tō-sīs-TĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the prostate gland and urinary bladder.

**prostatolith (prōs-TĀT-ō-lĭth):**

Stone(s) in the prostate gland.

**prostatolithotomy (prōs-tăt-ō-lĭ-THŌT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the prostate gland to remove stones.

**prostatorrhoea (pros-tă-tō-RĒ-ă):**

Discharge from the prostate gland.

**prostatovesiculitis (pros-tă-tō-vē-sīk-ū-LĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the prostate gland and seminal vesicles.

**proximal (PROK-sī-māl):**

Describes a position in a limb that is nearer to the point of attachment or the trunk of the body.

**pruritus (proo-RĪT-ūs):**

Itching.

**pseudocyesis (soo-dō-sī-Ē-sīs):**

False pregnancy.

**pseudophakia (SOOD-ō-FĀ-kē-a):**

Condition of fake lens.

**pseudostratified (soo-dō-STRĀT-ī-fīd):**

Consisting of closely packed cells which appear to be arranged in layers.

**psoriasis (sō-RĪ-ă-sīs):**

Chronic autoimmune disorder that results in patches of thick red skin with the appearance of silvery scales.

**psychiatrist (sī-KĪ-ă-trīst):**

Physician who studies and treats disorders of the mind.

**psychiatry (sī-KĪ-ă-trē):**

Specialist of the mind.

**psychogenic (sī-kō-JEN-ik):**

Originating in the mind.

**psychologist (sī-KŌL-ō-jīst):**

Specialist of the mind.

**psychology (sī-KOL-ō-jē):**

Study of the mind.

**psychopathy (sī-KŌP-ă-thē):**

Disease of the mind.

**psychosis (sī-KŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of the mind.

**psychosomatic (sī-kō-sō-MĀT-īk):**

Pertaining to the mind and body.

**puberty (PŪ-bērt-ē):**

The period during which adolescents develop secondary sex characteristics and become capable of reproduction.

**pubic (PŪ-bīk):**

Pertaining to pubis.



**pubofemoral (pū-bō-FĚM-or-āl):**

Pertaining to pubic bone and femur.

**puerpera (pū-ĚR-pě-rā):**

Childbirth.

**puerperal (pū-ĚR-pě-rāl):**

Pertaining to immediately after childbirth.

**puerperium (pū-ěr-PĚ-rē-ŭm):**

Period from delivery until the reproductive organs return to normal (approximately six weeks).

**pulmonary (PŮL-mō-ně-rē):**

Pertaining to the lung(s).

**pulmonary artery (PŮL-mō-ně-rē ART-ě-rē):**

The pulmonary artery is the artery that arises from the pulmonary trunk.

**pulmonary edema (PŮL-mō-ně-rē ě-DE-mā):**

Fluid accumulation in alveoli and bronchioles (related to heart failure).

**pulmonary embolism (PE) (PŮL-mō-ně-rē EM-bó-liizm):**

A piece of a blood clot or other substance has broken free from its original location and traveled through the bloodstream to lodge in a smaller vessel in the lungs. This causes an obstruction in that vessel and hypoxia to the tissues supplied by that vessel.

**pulmonary trunk (PŮL-mō-ně-rē trŭnk):**

Very large artery referred to as a trunk, a term indicating that the vessel gives rise to several smaller arteries.

**pupillary (PŮ-pī-lěr-ě):**

Pertaining to pupil.

**pupillometer (pū-pīl-ŎM-ě-těr):**

Instrument used to measure the pupil.

**pupilloscope (pū-pīl-ŎS-kōp):**

Instrument used to view the pupil.

**pustule (PŮS-tŭl):**

Small elevation of the skin containing fluid.

**pyelitis (pī-ě-LĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the renal pelvis.

**pyelolithotomy (pī-ě-lō-lith-ŎT-ō-mě):**

Incision into the renal pelvis.

**pyelonephritis (pī-ě-lō-ně-FRĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the renal pelvis and the kidney.

**pyeloplasty (PĪ-ě-lō-plās-tě):**

Surgical repair of the renal pelvis.

**pyloric sphincter (pī-LOR-ĭk SFINGK-těr):**

A band of smooth muscle at the junction between the pylorus of the stomach and the duodenum of the small intestine.

**pyloric stenosis (pī-LOR-ĭk stĕ-NŌ-sĭs):**

Narrowing of the pylorus or pyloric sphincter.

**pyloromyotomy (pī-lor-ō-mī-OT-ŏ-mĕ):**

Incision into the pyloric muscle (used to correct pyloric stenosis).

**pyloroplasty (pī-LŌR-ŏ-plas-tĕ):**

Surgical repair of the pylorus.

**pyosalpinx (pī-ŏ-SĀL-pĭnks):**

Pus in the uterine/fallopian tube.

**pyothorax (pī-ŏ-THŌ-rĕks):**

Pus in the chest cavity.

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# Q

**quadrate (KWŌD-rāt):**

A square or rectangular shape.

**quadriplegia (kwŏd-rī-PLĒ-jē-ă):**

Paralysis of four (limbs). Affects both arms, both legs and sometimes from the neck down.

**quickening (KWĪK-ĕn-ing):**

First feeling of movement of the fetus in utero by the pregnant woman.

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# R

**rachiotomy (rā-kī-ŌT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the vertebral column.

**rachischisis (rā-KĪS-kī-sīs):**

Fissure of vertebral column.

**radial (RĀD-ē-āl):**

Pertaining to radius.

**radicotomy (rād-ī-KŌT-ō-mē):**

Incision into a nerve root.

**radiculitis (rā-dīk-ū-LĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the nerve roots.

**radiculopathy (rā-dīk-ū-LŌP-ā-thē):**

Disease of the nerve roots.

**radiography (rā-dē-OG-rā-fē):**

Process of recording x-rays.

**radiologist (rā-dē-ŌL-ō-jīst):**

Physician who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of disease using medical imaging.

**radiology (rā-dē-ŌL-ō-jē):**

Study of the use of radiant energy in diagnosing disease.

**rebel:**

Word part that does not fit within the language rules.

**rectal (RĒK-tāl):**

Pertaining to the rectum.

**rectocele (REK-tō-sēl):**

Protrusion of the rectum.

**reflux (RĒ-flūks):**

Abnormal backward flow.

**renogram (RĒ-nō-gram):**

Radiographic record of the kidney.

**respiratory zone (rēs-PĪR-ā-tō-rē zōn):**

The respiratory zone includes structures that are directly involved in gas exchange.

**respirologist (res-pī-ROL-ō-jīst):**

Specialist who studies and treats disease and disorders related to breathing.

**respirology (rēs-pīr-ŌL-ō-jē):**

The study of breathing disorders and disease.

**response (ri-SPONS):**

Nervous system function that causes a target tissue (muscle or gland) to produce an event as a consequence to stimuli.

**reticulated (rĕ-TIK-yŭ-lăt-ĕd):**

Net like.

**retinal (RĚT-ĭ-năl):**

Pertaining to the retina.

**retinoblastoma (ret-ĭn-ō-blas-TŌ-mă):**

Tumor arising from a developing retinal cell.

**retinopathy (ret-ĭn-OP-ă-thĕ):**

Disease of the retina.

**retinoscopy (ret-ĭn-OS-kŏ-pĕ):**

Process of viewing the retina.

**retrograde urogram (RE-trŏ-grăd Ū-rŏ-grăm):**

Radiographic image of the urinary tract.

**rhabdomyolysis (rab-dŏ-mĭ-OL-ĭ-sĭs):**

Dissolution of a striated muscle.

**rheumatoid arthritis (ROO-mă-toyd ar-THRĪT-ĭs):**

An autoimmune disorder in which the body mounts an immune response against its own joint tissues, causing inflammation and damage to the joints.

**rhinitis (rĭ-NĪ-tĭs):**

Inflammation of the nasal cavity which can lead to rhinorrhea.

**rhinomycosis (rĭ-nŏ-mĭ-KŌ-sĭs):**

Abnormal condition of fungus in the nose.

**rhinoplasty (RĪ-nŏ-plăs-tĕ):**

Surgical repair of the nose.

**rhinorrhagia (rĭ-nŏ-RĀ-jĕ-ă):**

Rapid flow of blood from the nose.

**rhinorrhea (rĭ-nŏ-RE-ă):**

Excessive flow or discharge from the nasal cavity (runny nose).

**rhizomeningomyelitis (rĭ-zŏ-mĕ-nĭn-gŏ-mĭ-ĕ-LĪ-tĭs):**

Inflammation of the nerve root, meninges and spinal cord.

**rhizotomy (rĭ-ZŌT-ŏ-mĕ):**

Incision into a nerve root.

**rhytidectomy (rit-ĭ-DEK-tŏ-mĕ):**

Excision of the wrinkles.

**rhytidoplasty (RĪT-ī-dō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair of wrinkles.

**rickets (RIK-ěts):**

A painful condition in children where bones are misshapen due to a lack of calcium, causing bow leggedness.

**right lymphatic duct (rīt lim-FAT-ik dūkt):**

Drains lymph fluid from the upper right side of body into the right subclavian vein.

**robotic surgery (rō-BŎ- tīk SŪRJ-ě-rē):**

Use of small surgical instruments attached to a computer and operated by the surgeon from a console several feet from the operating table.

**roots of the great vessels:**

The part of each great vessel (aorta, pulmonary trunk, inferior vena cava, superior vena cava) that connects to the base of the heart.

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# S

**sacral (SAK-räl, SĀ-kräl):**

Pertaining to the sacrum.

**sagittal plane (SĀJ-ī-täl plān):**

Plane that divides the body or an organ vertically into left and right sides.

**salpingectomy (sal-pīn-JEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the uterine/fallopian tube.

**salpingitis (sāl-pīn-JĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of a fallopian/uterine tube.

**salpingo-oophorectomy (sāl-pīng-gō-ō-ōf-ō-RĒK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the uterine tube and ovary.

**salpingostomy (sāl-pīng-ŌS-tō-mē):**

Creation of an artificial opening in the uterine tube.

**sarcopenia (sār-kō-PĒN-ē-ā):**

Abnormal reduction of connective tissue.

**satellite cell (SĀT-l-īt sel):**

Glial cell type in the PNS that provides support for neurons in the ganglia.

**scar (skār):**

Collagen-rich skin formed after the process of wound healing that differs from normal skin. Also known as a cicatrix.

**Schwann cell (shvon sel):**

Glial cell type in the PNS that provides the myelin insulation for axons in nerves.

**sclerokeratitis (sklēr-ō-kēr-ā-TĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the sclera and cornea.

**scleromalacia (sklēr-rō-mā-LĀ-sē-ā):**

Softening of the sclera.

**sclerotomy (sklēr-ROT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the sclera.

**scoliosis (skō-lē-Ō-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of (lateral) curved spine.

**scrotum (SKRŌ-tŭm):**

External pouch of skin and muscle that houses the testes.

**sebaceous gland (sē-BĀ-shŭs gland):**

Type of oil gland that is found all over the body and helps to lubricate and waterproof the skin and hair.

**seborrhea (sēb-or-Ē-ā):**

Discharge (excessive) of sebum.

**secondary adaptive response (SĚK-ōn-dār-ē ad-ap-TĪV ri-SPONS):**

Immune response observed upon re-exposure to a pathogen, which is stronger and faster than a primary response.

**secondary lymphoid organs (SĚK-ōn-dār-ē LIM-foyd OR-gǎn):**

Sites where lymphocytes mount adaptive immune responses, examples include lymph nodes and spleen.

**semen (SĒ-mĕn):**

Ejaculatory fluid composed of sperm and secretions from the seminal vesicles, prostate, and bulbourethral glands.

**seminal vesicle (SĚM-ĭ-nāl VES-ĭ-kĕl):**

Gland that produces seminal fluid, which contributes to semen.

**seminiferous tubules (sĕm-ĭn-ĪF-ĕr-ūs TŪ-bŭls):**

Tube structures within the testes where spermatogenesis occurs.

**sensation (sen-SĀ-shŏn):**

Nervous system function that receives information from the environment and translates it into the electrical signals of nervous tissue.

**sepsis (SEP-sĭs):**

Toxic condition due to spread of bacteria or their toxins from an infection.

**septal cartilage (SEP-tŭm KART-ĭ-lāj):**

The flexible portion you can touch with your fingers.

**septoplasty (sĕp-tō-PLĀS-tĕ):**

Surgical repair of the septum.

**septotomy (sĕp-TŌT-ō-mĕ):**

Incision into the (nasal) septum.

**seroconversion:**

The reciprocal relationship between virus levels in the blood and antibody levels. As the antibody levels rise, the virus levels decline, and this is a sign that the immune response is being at least partially effective (partially, because in many diseases, seroconversion does not necessarily mean a patient is getting well).

**serous (SĒR-ŭs):**

You may recall that serous membranes throughout the body are folded back on themselves, which results in a double-layered membrane separated by serous fluid. The serous membrane surrounding the lungs is called pleura. The serous membrane surrounding the abdominopelvic organs is called peritoneum.

**serous membrane (serosa) (SĒR-ŭs MEM-brān):**

Epithelial membrane composed of mesodermally derived epithelium (mesothelium) that is supported by connective tissue.

**serous space (SĒR-ŭs spās):**

Thin, fluid-filled space between the parietal and visceral layers of the serous membrane.



**Sertoli cells (SERT-ō-lē sels):**

Cells that support germ cells through the process of spermatogenesis; a type of sustentacular cell.

**severe combined immunodeficiency disease (scid):**

Genetic mutation that affects both t cell and b cell arms of the immune response.

**sexually transmitted disease (STD) (SEKS-ū-ă-lē trāns-MĪT-ed dīz-ĒZ):**

Infection spread through sexual contact.

**sialolith (sī-AL-ō-lith):**

Stone in the salivary gland.

**sickle cell disease:**

A genetic disorder involving the production of an abnormal type of hemoglobin which delivers less oxygen to tissues and causes erythrocytes to assume a sickle (or crescent) shape.

**sidestream smoke (SĪD-strēm smōk):**

Smoke that is given off by the burning cigarette.

**sigmoidoscopy (sig-moy-DOS-kō-pē):**

Process of viewing the sigmoid colon.

**silent mis:**

A myocardial infarction without symptoms. The patient may not know that they are having an MI

**sinus rhythm (SĪ-nūs Rith-īm):**

This is the rhythm set by the heart's pacemaker, the sinoatrial node and is usually approximately 60-90 beats per minute in a resting adult

**sinusitis (sī-nūs-Ī-tīs):**

Inflammation of a sinus.

**skeletal muscle (SKEL-ēt-ōn MŪS-ěl):**

Skeletal muscles are responsible for voluntary muscle movement.

**sleep apnea (slēp ap-NĒ-ă):**

Chronic condition characterized by the cessation of breathing during sleep.

**smooth muscle (MŪS-ěl):**

Smooth muscle is mainly associated with the walls of internal organs. Smooth muscles are responsible for involuntary muscle movement.

**soft palate (soft PAL-ăt):**

The soft palate is located at the posterior portion of the nasal cavity and consists of muscle tissue.

**solutes (SOL-ūt):**

The minor component in a solution.

**soma (SŌ-mă):**

In neurons, that portion of the cell that contains the nucleus; the cell body, as opposed to the cell processes (axons and dendrites).

**somatic nervous system (SNS) (sō-MAT-ik NĒR-vūs SIS-tēm):**

Functional division of the nervous system that is concerned with conscious perception, voluntary movement, and

skeletal muscle reflexes.

**sonogram (SON-ō-gram):**

The record of sound.

**sonography (sō-NOG-ră-fē):**

Process of recording sound.

**sonohysterography (SHG) (sō-nō-his-tē-ROG-ră-fē):**

Process of recording the uterus by use of sound.

**speculum (SPEK-yŭ-lŭm):**

Instrument for opening a body cavity to allow visual inspection.

**sperm (pl; spermatozoa) (spĕrm (pl; spĕr-măt-ō-ZŌ-ă):**

Male gamete.

**spermatic cord (spĕr-MĀT-ĭk kord):**

Bundle of nerves and blood vessels that supplies the testes; contains ductus deferens.

**spermatid (SPĚR-mă-tĭd):**

Immature sperm cells produced by meiosis II of secondary spermatocytes.

**spermatocoele (spĕr-MĀT-ō-sĕl):**

Distention of the epididymis containing an abnormal cyst-like collection of fluid and sperm cells.

**spermatocyte (spĕr-MĀT-ō-sĭt):**

Cell that results from the division of spermatogonium and undergoes meiosis I and meiosis II to form spermatids.

**spermatogenesis (spĕr-măt-ō-JĚN-ĕ-sĭs):**

Formation of new sperm, occurs in the seminiferous tubules of the testes.

**spermatogonia (spĕr-măt-ō-GŌ-nĕa):**

Diploid precursor cells that become sperm (singular = spermatogonium).

**spermatolysis (spĕr-măt-ŎL-ĭ-sĭs):**

Dissolution (destruction) of sperm.

**spermiogenesis (spĕr-mĕ-ō-JĚN-ĕ-sĭs):**

Transformation of spermatids to spermatozoa during spermatogenesis.

**sphincter (SFĪNK-tĕr):**

A circular muscle constricting an orifice.

**spinal cord (SPĪ-nāl kord):**

Organ of the central nervous system found within the vertebral cavity and connected with the periphery through spinal nerves; mediates reflex behaviors.

**spleen (splĕn):**

Secondary lymphoid organ that filters pathogens from the blood (white pulp) and removes degenerating or damaged blood cells (red pulp).

**splenectomy (splĕ-NEK-tŏ-mĕ):**

Excision of the spleen,

**splenomegaly (splē-nō-mē-GĀ-lē):**

Enlarged spleen.

**splenopexy (SPLĒ-nō-pĕk-sē):**

Surgical fixation of the spleen.

**sphygmomanometer (sfīg-mō-mān-ŌM-ēt-ēr):**

Instrument used to measure blood pressure.

**spirometer (spī-Rōm-ēt-ēr):**

Instrument used to measure breathing (lung volume).

**spirometry (spī-RŌM-ĕ-trē):**

Measuring breathing (air flow).

**spondylarthritis (spon-dil-ar-THRĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the vertebra and joint.

**spondylosis (spōn-dī-LŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of the vertebrae.

**sprain (sprān):**

Injury to a joint whereby a ligament is stretched or torn.

**sputum (SPŪT-ŭm):**

Mucous secretion from lungs, bronchi, and trachea that is expelled through the mouth.

**squamous cell carcinoma (SKWĀ-mŭs sel kar-sĭn-Ō-mă):**

Cancer that affects the deratinocytes of the stratum spinosum and presents as lesions commonly found on the scalp, ears, and hands.

**stapedectomy (stā-pĕ-DEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the stapes.

**staphylococcus (staf-ĭ-lō-KOK-ŭs):**

Berry-shaped bacterium in grapelike clusters.

**Staphylococcus aureus (staf-ĭ-lō-KOK-ŭs):**

Staphylococcus aureus is a bacterium that is commonly found in minor skin infections, as well as in the nose of some healthy people.

**steatohepatitis (stē-ăt-ō-hep-ă-TĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the liver associated with fat.

**steatorrhea (stē-ă-tō-RĒ-ă):**

Discharge of fat.

**steatosis (stē-ă-TŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of fat.

**sterility (stĕ-RIL-ĭt-ē):**

A condition of being unable to conceive or reproduce the species.

**sterilization (ster-ĭ-lĭ-ZĀ-shōn):**

Procedure that prevents pregnancy, either a female's ability to conceive or a male's ability to induce conception.

**sternoclavicular (stĕr-nō-klā-VĪK-ū-lār):**

Pertaining to the sternum and clavicle.

**sternoid (STĔR-noyd):**

Resembling the sternum.

**stethoscope (STETH-ō-skōp):**

Instrument used to hear internal body sounds.

**stillborn (STIL-bōrn):**

An infant that is born dead.

**stimulus (STĪM-ū-lūs):**

An event in the external or internal environment that registers as activity in a sensory neuron.

**stoma (STŌ-mā):**

Surgical opening between an organ and the surface of the body.

**stomatitis (stō-mā-TĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the mouth.

**stomatogastric (stō-mā-tō-GĀS-trĭk):**

Pertaining to the mouth and stomach.

**strain (strān):**

Injury to a muscle whereby a tendon is stretched or torn.

**stratified squamous epithelium (STRĀT-ĭ-fid SKWĀ-mūs ep-i-TĔĒ-lē-ŭm):**

Cells arranged in layers upon a basal membrane.

**stratum basale (STRĀ-tŭm BĀS-al):**

Deepest layer of the epidermal.

**streptococcus (strep-tō-KOK-ŭs):**

Berry-shaped bacterium in twisted chains.

**stricture (STRIK-chŭr):**

Abnormal narrowing.

**stroke (strōk):**

Loss of neurological function caused by an interruption of blood flow to a region of the central nervous system.

**sty (stī):**

Infection of an oil gland of the eyelid (hordeolum).

**stye (stī):**

Acute infection of eyelash hair follicle.

**subarachnoid space (sŭb-ă-RAK-noyd spās):**

Space between the arachnoid mater and pia mater that contains CSF and the fibrous connections of the arachnoid trabeculae.

**subcostal (sŭb-KOS-tāl):**

Pertaining to below the ribs.

**subcutaneous (sŭb-kŭ-TĀ-nē-ŭs):**

Pertaining to under the skin.

**subdural (sŭb-DŪ-rāl):**

Pertaining to below the dura mater.

**subdural hematoma (sŭb-DŪ-rāl hēm-ă-TŌ-mă):**

Tumor filled with blood pertaining to below the dura mater.

**sublingual (sŭb-LING-gwāl):**

Pertaining to under the tongue.

**submandibular (sŭb-măn-DĪB-ŭ-lār):**

Pertaining to under the mandible.

**submaxillary (sŭb-MĀK-si-lēr-ē):**

Pertaining to under the maxilla.

**subscapular (sŭb-SKĀP-ŭ-lār):**

Pertaining to below the scapula.

**substernal (sŭb-STĒR-nāl):**

Pertaining to below the sternum.

**subungual (sŭb-ŬNG-gwāl):**

Pertaining to under the nail.

**suffix:**

A word part added to the end of a word that changes the meaning of the word root.

**sulcus/sulci (SŬL-kŭs/ SŬL-kī):**

Groove formed by convolutions in the surface of the cerebral cortex; see fissure.

**superficial (SOO-pēr-FISH-āl):**

Describes a position closer to the surface of the body.

**superficial lymphatics (soo-pēr-FĪSH-āl lim-FAT-iks):**

Lymphatic vessels of the subcutaneous tissues of the skin.

**superior (or cranial) (soo-PĒ-rē-or):**

Describes a position above or higher than another part of the body proper.

**superior vena cava (soo-PĒ-rē-or VĒ-nă KĀ-vă):**

One of the two largest veins in the body. It carries deoxygenated blood from the head and upper extremities back to the heart.

**suprapatellar (soo-pră-pă-TĒL-ăr):**

Pertaining to above the knee cap.

**suture (SOO-chŭr):**

To stitch the edges of a wound.

**sympathetic (sĭm-pă-THĚT-ĭk):**

Flight or fight response.

**sympathetic nervous system (sĭm-pă-THĚT-ĭk NĚR-vŭs SIS-tĕm):**

Part of the nervous system that serves to accelerate heart rate, constrict blood vessels and raise blood pressure in response to stress. Responsible for fight or flight responses.

**synapse (SĪN-ăps):**

Narrow junction across which a chemical signal passes from neuron to the next, initiating a new electrical signal in the target cell.

**synaptic end bulb (sĭ-NĂP-tĭk ende būlb):**

Swelling at the end of an axon where neurotransmitter molecules are released onto a target cell across a synapse.

**synarthrosis (sĭn-ăr-THRŌ-sĭs):**

Joints with no movements.

**syncope (SING-kŏ-pĕ):**

Fainting.

**syndrome (SĪN-drŏm):**

Run together (signs and symptoms occur together characterizing of a specific disorder).

**synovectomy (sĭn-ŏ-VĚK-tŏ-mĕ):**

Excision of the synovial membrane.

**synovial membrane (sĭn-Ō-vĕ-ăl MEM-brăn):**

Connective tissue membrane that lines the cavity of a freely movable joint.

**synoviosarcoma (sĭn-ŏ-vĕ-Ō-mă-sar-KŌ-mă):**

Malignant tumor of the synovial membrane.

**synthesis (Sĭn-thĕs-ĭs):**

The production of chemical compounds by reaction from simpler materials.

**syphilis (SIF-ĭ-lĭs):**

A chronic bacterial disease spread primarily through sexual intercourse, but also congenitally by infection of a developing fetus. Rapidly spreads through the body and if left untreated becomes systemic.

**systemic lupus erythematosus (sĭs-tĕm'ĭk loo'pŭs):**

Autoimmune disease in which the immune system recognizes its own cell antigens as being “non-self” and mounts an immune response against them. As a result, many body tissues and vital organs become chronically inflamed and damaged.

**systole (SIS-tŏ-lĕ):**

Phase in cardiac cycle when ventricles contract and eject blood.

**systolic pressure (SIS-tŏ-lik):**

The systolic pressure is the higher value (typically around 120 mm Hg) and reflects the arterial pressure resulting from the ejection of blood during ventricular contraction, or systole.

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# T

**T cell (T sel):**

Lymphocyte that acts by secreting molecules that regulate the immune system or by causing the destruction of foreign cells, viruses, and cancer cells.

**tachycardia (tak-ē-KARD-ē-ā):**

Condition of a fast heart (rate).

**tachypnea (tak-i(p)-NĒ-ā):**

Rapid breathing.

**tarsectomy (tar-SEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the tarsal.

**temporal lobe (TEM-p(ō)-rāl lōb):**

Region of the cerebral cortex directly beneath the temporal bone of the cranium.

**tendinitis (ten-dī-NĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the tendon.

**tenomyoplasty (tĕn-ō-MĪ-ō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair of the tendon and muscle.

**tenorrhaphy (tĕn-OR-ā-fē):**

Suturing of a tendon.

**tenosynovitis (ten-ō-sin-ō-VĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the tendon and synovial membrane.

**teratogen (tĕ-RAT-ō-jĕn):**

Agent producing malformations (in a developing embryo) such as chemicals, viruses and environmental factors.

**teratogenic (tĕ-rat-ō-JĔN-ĭk):**

Producing malformations.

**teratology (tĕr-ā-TŌL-ō-jĕ):**

The study of malformations.

**term built from word parts:**

Term that can be translated literally to find their meaning.

**term NOT built from word parts:**

Term that cannot be translated literally.

**testes (TĔS-tĕs):**

Male gonads (singular = testis).

**testicular cancer (tĕs-TĪK-ŭ-lār KAN-sĕr):**

Cancer of the testicle.



**testicular torsion (tĕs-TĪK-ŭ-lār TOR-shŏn):**

Twisting of the spermatic cord causing decreased blood flow to the testis. Considered a surgical emergency and accompanied by sudden onset of severe scrotal pain.

**thalamus (THĀL-ă-mŭs):**

Major region of the diencephalon that is responsible for relaying information between the cerebrum and the hindbrain, spinal cord, and periphery.

**thalassemia (thal-ă-SĒ-mĕ-ă):**

An inherited condition typically occurring in individuals from the Middle East, the Mediterranean, African, and Southeast Asia, in which maturation of the RBCs does not proceed normally. The most severe form is called Cooley's anemia.

**thermoreceptors (thĕr-mŏ-rĕ-SĔP-tor):**

Specialized neurons that respond to changes in temperature.

**thoracalgia (thŏ-rāk-ĀL-jĕ-ă):**

Pain in the chest.

**thoracentesis (thŏ-ră-sen-TĒ-sĭs):**

Surgical puncture to aspirate fluid from chest cavity.

**thoracic (thŏ-RĀS-ĭk):**

Pertaining to the chest.

**thoracic duct (thŏ-RĀS-ĭk dŭkt):**

Large duct that drains lymph from the lower limbs, left thorax, left upper limb, and the left side of the head.

**thoracocentesis (thŏ-ră -kŏ-sen-TĒ-sĭs):**

Surgical puncture to aspirate fluid (from the chest cavity).

**thoracoscope (thŏ-RĀ-kŏ-skŏp):**

Instrument used to visualize the chest cavity.

**thoracoscopy (thŏ-ră-KŌS-kŏ-pĕ):**

Visual examination of the chest cavity.

**thoracotomy (thŏ-rāk-ŌT-ŏ-mĕ):**

Incision into the chest cavity.

**tract (trakt):**

Bundle of axons in the central nervous system having the same function and point of origin.

**thrombocytes (THRŌM-bŏ-sĭts):**

These are cell fragments that aid in blood clotting.

**thrombocytopenia (throm-bŏ-sĭt-ŏ-PĒ-nĕ-ă):**

Abnormal reduction of (blood) clotting cells.

**thrombocytosis (THRŌM-bŏ-sĭ-tŏ-sĭs):**

A condition in which there are too many platelets.

**thrombolysis (throm-BOL-ĭ-sĭs):**

Dissolution of a (blood) clot.

**thrombophlebitis (throm-bō-flē-BĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of a vein associated with a (blood) clot.

**thrombosis (throm-BŌ-sīs):**

Formation of unwanted blood clots.

**thrombus (THROM-būs):**

(blood) clot (attached to the interior wall of artery or vein).

**thymectomy (thī-MĚK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the thymus gland.

**thymocytes (THĪ-mō-sīt):**

Lymphocytes that develop into T-cells in the thymus gland.

**thymoma (thī-MŌ-mă):**

Tumor of the thymus gland.

**thymus (THĪ-mūs):**

Primary lymphoid organ, where t lymphocytes proliferate and mature.

**thyroidectomy (thī-royd-EK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the thyroid gland.

**thyroiditis (thī-royd-ĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the thyroid gland.

**thyroidotomy (thī-royd-ŌT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the thyroid gland.

**thyroparathyroidectomy (thī-rō-par-ă-thī-royd-EK-tō-mē):**

excision of the thyroid gland and parathyroid glands.

**tibial (TĪB-ē-ăl):**

Pertaining to the tibia.

**tinea (TIN-ē-ă):**

A group of fungal skin diseases, characterized by itching, scaling, and sometimes painful lesions.

**tissue (TISH-oo):**

Group of many similar cells that work together to perform a similar function.

**tissue membrane (TISH-oo MEM-brân):**

Thin layer or sheet of cells that covers the outside of the body, the organs, internal passageways that lead to the exterior of the body, and the lining of the movable joint cavities.

**tissue rejection (TISH-oo rĕ-JEK-shŏn):**

The recipient's immune system recognizes the transplanted tissue, the graft, as non-self and mounts an immune response against it, ultimately destroying it.

**tissue typing (TISH-oo TĪP-ĭng):**

The determination of MHC molecules in the tissue to be transplanted to better match the donor to the recipient.

**tomography (tō-MOG-rā-fē):**

Process of recording slices.

**tonometer (tō-NOM-ēt-ēr):**

Instrument used to measure pressure (within the eye).

**tonometry (tō-NOM-ē-trē):**

Process of measuring pressure (within the eye).

**tonsillectomy (tōn-sil-ĒK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the tonsils.

**tonsillitis (tōn-sil-Ī-tīs):**

Inflammation of the tonsils.

**tonsils (TON-sīls):**

Lymphoid nodules associated with the nasopharynx.

**toxic shock syndrome:**

Severe illness characterized by high fever, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, and myalgia followed by hypotension and, in severe cases, shock and death. Typically occurs in women using tampons and caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus pyogenes*.

**trachea (TRĀ-kē-ā):**

The trachea (windpipe) extends from the larynx toward the lungs.

**tracheitis (trā-kē-Ī-tīs): Inflammation of the trachea.**

**trachelectomy (trak-ĕ-LEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the cervix.

**trachelorrhaphy (trā-kĕl-OR-ă-fē):**

Suturing of the cervix.

**tracheoplasty (TRĀ-kē-ō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair of the trachea.

**tracheostenosis (trā-kē-ō-stĕn-Ō-sīs):**

Narrowing of the trachea.

**tracheostomy (trā-kē-ŌS-tō-mē):**

Creation of an artificial opening into the trachea.

**transdermal (trānz-DĒRM-āl):**

Pertaining to through the skin.

**transient ischemic attack (TIA) (TRAN-zĕ-ĕnt is-KĒ-mē-ă ħ-TAK):**

Temporary disruption of blood flow to the brain in which symptoms occur rapidly but last only a short time.

**transurethral (trans-ū-RĒ-thrāl):**

Pertaining to through the urethra.

**transurethral incision of the prostate gland (TUIP):**

Surgical procedure that widens the urethra by making a few small incisions in the bladder neck and the prostate gland.

**transurethral microwave thermotherapy (TUMT):**

Treatment that eliminates excess tissue present in benign prostatic hyperplasia by using heat generated by microwave.

**transurethral resection of the prostate gland (TURP):**

Surgical removal of pieces of the prostate gland tissue by using an instrument inserted through the urethra.

**transverse plane (trăns-VĚRS plān):**

Plane that divides the body or organ horizontally into upper and lower portions.

**trichomoniasis (trĭk-ō-mō-NĪ-ă-sĭs):**

Sexually transmitted disease caused by the one-cell organism Trichomonas. Chiefly affects the urinary tract, vagina, or digestive system.

**tubal ligation (TOO-bāl li-GĀ-shŏn):**

Surgical closure of the fallopian tubes for sterilization.

**tympanic membrane (tĭm-PĀN-ĭk MEM-brān):**

Ear drum.

**tympanometer (tĭm-pā-NŌM-ĕ-tēr):**

Instrument used to measure the middle ear.

**tympanometry (tĭm-pā-NŌM-ĕ-trē):**

Measurement of the tympanic membrane.

**tympanoplasty (tĭm-pān-ō-PLĀS-tē):**

Surgical repair of the tympanic membrane.

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# U

**ulnoradial (ŭl-nŏ-RĀD-ē-ăl):**

Pertaining to the ulna and nerve root.

**ungual (ŨNG-gwăl):**

Pertaining to the nail.

**unilateral (ŭ-nĭ-LĀT-ĕr-ăl):**

Pertaining to one side.

**unipolar (ŭ-nĭ-PŌ-lār):**

Shape of a neuron which has only one process that includes both the axon and dendrite.

**upper respiratory infection ((ŪP-er RES-pĭr-ă-tŏ-rē ĩn-FEK-shun):**

Infection of the nasal cavity, pharynx and larynx cause by a virus.

**ureterectomy (ŭ-rē-tĕr-ĔK-tŏ-mĕ):**

Excision of the ureter.

**ureteritis (ŭ-rē-tĕr-Ī-tĭs):**

Inflammation of the ureter.

**ureterocele (ŭ-RĔ-tĕr-ŏ-sĕl):**

Protrusion of a ureter.

**ureterolithiasis (ŭ-rē-tĕr-ŏ-lĭth-Ī-ăs-ĭs):**

Condition of stone(s) in the ureter.

**ureteroscopy (ŭ-RĔT-ĕ-rŏ-skŏp):**

Visual examination of the ureter(s).

**ureterostomy (ŭ-rē-tĕr-ŌS-tŏ-mĕ):**

Creation of an artificial opening into the ureter.

**ureterstenosis (ŭ-rē-tĕr-stĕ-NŌ-sĭs):**

Narrowing of the ureter.

**urethritis (ŭr-ĕ-THRĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the urethra.

**urethrocystitis (ŭ-rē-thrŏ-sĭs-TĪ-tĭs):**

Inflammation of the urethra and the bladder.

**urinal (Ū-rĭn-ăl):**

Receptacle for urine.

**urinary (Ū-rĭ-nār-ĕ):**

Pertaining to urine.

**urogram (Ū-rŏ-grām):**

Radiographic image of the urinary tract.

**urologist (ū-RŌL-ō-jīst):**

Physician who studies and treats diseases of the urinary tract.

**uterine fibroid (ŪT-ě-rīn FIB-royd):**

Benign tumor of the uterine muscle.

**uterine prolapse (ŪT-ě-rīn PRŌ-laps):**

Downward displacement of the uterus into the vagina.

**uterus (ŪT-ě-rūs):**

A muscular organ that nourishes and supports the growing embryo; its functions are menstruation, pregnancy, and labor.

**uvula (Ū-vyŭ-lā):**

The uvula is a small bulbous, teardrop-shaped structure located at the apex of the soft palate.

**uvulectomy (ū-vyŭ-LEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the uvula.

**uvulitis (ū-vyŭ-LĪT-īs):**

Inflammation of the uvula.

**uvulopalatopharyngoplasty (UPPP) ((ū-vyŭ-lō-pal-ăt-ō-fă-RING-gō-plās-tē):**

Surgical repair of the uvula, palate, and pharynx.

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# V

**vaccine (vak-SĔN):**

A killed or weakened pathogen or its components that, when administered to a healthy individual, leads to the development of immunological memory (a weakened primary immune response) without causing much in the way of symptoms.

**vagina (vǎ-JĪ-nǎ):**

A muscular canal approximately 10 cm long that is the entrance to the reproductive tract; it also serves as the exit from the uterus during menses and childbirth.

**vaginal (VAJ-ĭn-ǎl):**

Pertaining to the vagina.

**vaginal birth following a c-section:**

Having a vaginal delivery after a previous c-section delivery.

**vaginal fistula (VAJ-ĭn-ǎl FIS-chŭ-lǎ):**

Abnormal opening between the vagina and another organ, such as the urinary bladder, colon, or rectum.

**vaginitis (vaj-ĭ-NĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of the vagina.

**vaginitis (vaj-ĭ-NŌ-sĭs):**

Abnormal condition of the vagina.

**valvulitis (val-vyŭ-LĪT-ĭs):**

Inflammation of a valve.

**valvuloplasty (VAL-vyŭ-lŏ-plas-tē):**

Surgical repair of a valve.

**varicocele (VAR-iŏ-sēl''):** 

Enlarged veins of the spermatic cord.

**vascularized (VAS-kyŭ-lǎ-rĭzd):**

Has numerous blood vessels.

**vasectomy (vǎ-SEK-tŏ-mē):**

Excision of a duct.

**vasoconstrict (vǎ-zŏ-kŏn-STRIK):**

The smooth muscle layer in the blood vessel wall contracts, causing the vessel diameter to narrow. This increases blood pressure in the vessel.

**vasodilate (vǎ-zŏ-dĭ-LĀT):**

The smooth muscle layer in the wall of the blood vessel relaxes, allowing the vessel to widen. This decreases blood pressure in the vessel.

**vasodilation (vǎ-zŏ-dil-ǎ-TĀ-shŏn):**

The smooth muscle layer in the wall of the blood vessel relaxes, allowing the vessel to widen. This decreases blood

pressure in the vessel.

**vasovasostomy (vā-zō-vā-ZOS-tō-mē):**

Creation of an artificial opening between ducts (restores fertility to males who have had a vasectomy).

**vein (vān):**

Blood vessels that carry blood back to the heart.

**venogram (VĒ-nō-gram):**

Radiographic image of a vein.

**ventilator (VENT-ī-lāt-ōr):**

Mechanical device that assist with breathing.

**ventricle (VEN-tri-kēl):**

Central cavity within the brain where CSF is produced and circulates.

**venules (VEN-ūls):**

Extremely small veins.

**verruca (vēr-ROO-kā):**

Also known as a wart. An epidermal growth caused by a virus.

**vertebrocostal (vēr-tē-brō-KŌS-tāl):**

Pertaining to vertebrae and ribs.

**vertebroplasty (VER-tē-brō-plas-tē):**

Surgical repair of the vertebral column.

**vesicotomy (vēs-ī-KŌT-ō-mē):**

Incision into the bladder.

**vesicovaginal (vēs-ī-kō-VĀJ-ī-nāl):**

Pertaining to the bladder and the vagina.

**vesiculectomy (vē-sik-yŭ-LEK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the seminal vesicle.

**vessel compliance (VES-ēl kōm-PLĪ-āns):**

The ability of any compartment to expand to accommodate increased content. The greater the compliance of an artery, the more effectively it is able to expand to accommodate surges in blood flow without increased resistance or blood pressure.

**vestibular (ves-TIB-yŭ-lār):**

Pertaining to the vestibule.

**vestibulocochlear (ves-tī-bŭl-ō-KŌ-klē-ar):**

Pertaining to the vestibule and cochlea.

**virus (VĪ-rŭs):**

Minute microorganism that may cause infection by invading body tissue.

**visceral (VĪS-ēr-āl):**

Pertaining to internal organs.



**visceral layer (VĪS-ēr-āl LĀ-ēr):**

Layer of serous membrane which covers the organs (viscera).

**viscosity (vis-KOS-īt-ē):**

The thickness of fluids that affects their ability to flow.

**visual acuity (VIZH-u-āl ā-KŪ-īt-ē):**

Sharpness of vision.

**void (VOYD):**

Empty or evacuate waste material, urinate.

**voiding (VOYD-ing):**

Excrete (waste matter).

**vulva (VŪL-vā):**

External genitals of the female including the mons pubis, labia majora, labia minora, clitoris, urinary meatus, and vaginal opening.

**vulvectomy (vŭl-VĚK-tō-mē):**

Excision of the vulva.

**vulvovaginal (vŭl-vō-VĀJ-ī-nāl):**

Pertaining to the vulva and vagina.

**vulvovaginitis (vŭl-vō-vāj-ī-NĪ-tīs):**

Inflammation of the vulva and vagina.

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# W

**Wernicke's area (VER-nīk-ě AR-ē-ă):**

Region at the posterior end of the lateral sulcus in which speech comprehension is localized.

**wheal and flare response:**

A soft, pale swelling at the site surrounded by a red zone. (A wheal is also known as a “hive”).

**white matter (hwīt MAT-ěr):**

Regions of the nervous system containing mostly myelinated axons, making the tissue appear white because of the high lipid content of myelin.

**word root:**

The foundational meaning of a word.

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# X

**xeroderma (zer-ō-DĒR-mă):**

Dry skin.

**xerophthalmia (zer-of-THAL-mē-ă):**

Condition of dry eye.

**xerosis (zĕ-RŌ-sīs):**

Abnormal condition of dryness.

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# Z

**zygote (ZĪ-gōt):**

Process of fertilization is complete and results in a single-celled diploid zygote with all the genetic instructions it needs to develop into a human.

**zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT):**

Mixing of the ova and sperm in a laboratory. Fertilization is confirmed to grow into zygotes and then are inserted into the Fallopian tubes.

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