

GLOSSARY

Some common, frequently used terms and words are defined here in hopes of making the course easier for someone unacquainted with the subject. They are not intended to serve as a substitute for a medical dictionary. The definitions give briefly the most common meanings of the words or terms.

A- or AN-	Prefix meaning without, or lack of, (e.g., aplasia, lack of growth)
ABSCESS	Localized collection of pus in a cavity in tissue
ACHALASIA	Failure of relaxation of smooth muscle fibers
ACHLORHYDRIA	Absence of hydrochloric acid secretion by stomach
ACUTE	Relatively serious and severe; having a brief course
ACUTE GLOMERULONEPHRITIS	an acute nonsuppurative inflammatory disease of all glomeruli of both kidneys
ADENOCARCINOMA	malignant tumor arising in glandular epithelium
ADENOMA	benign tumor arising in glandular epithelium
ADHESION	ability to remain together; also, scar tissue joining two parts usually separate
AGENESIS	failure of formation of a body part
ALLERGY	altered capacity to react, especially in regard to foreign protein
AMYLOIDOSIS	a disease characterized by extracellular deposition in connective tissue of a carbohydrate-protein material, amyloid
ANAPHYLAXIS	exaggerated or unusual reaction of the organism to foreign protein
ANASARCA	accumulation of fluid in cellular tissues of body; diffuse edema
ANEMIA	reduction or deficiency of blood either in quantity or in quality

ANEURYSM	sac full of blood formed by dilation of the walls of an artery or vein
ANGINA	choking or suffocating sensation or pain
ANGIOMA	tumor of blood vessels
ANTHRACOSIS	pneumoconiosis or lung-dust disease due to inhalation of coal pigment; coal pigmentation
ANTIBODY	new protein produced by organism in response to foreign protein or other material combining with protein, i.e., antigen
ANTIGEN	foreign protein or material capable of combining with protein which causes body to form a new protein, the antibody
ANURIA	absence of urine production
ARGYRIA	pigmentation due to silver salt
ARTERIOSCLEROSIS	group of arterial diseases characterized by thickening of the vessels, frequently with hardening and/or calcification
ARTHRITIS	inflammation of a joint
ASCHOFF BODY	characteristic myocardial connective tissue change in rheumatic fever, cellular collection of mononuclear and giant cells around focus of fibrinoid necrosis
ASCITES	accumulation of fluid in peritoneal cavity
ASPHYXIA	suffocation; anoxia with increase of carbon dioxide
ATELECTASIS	incomplete expansion, especially of the lungs
ATHEROMA	lesion produced in intima of arteries with focal accumulation of lipids, complex carbohydrates, proteins, blood and blood products, fibrous tissue and calcium deposits and associated with changes in media
ATRESIA	absence or closure of a normal body opening

ATROPHY	decrease in size of cell, tissue, organ, part of or the whole body
AUTO	prefix relating to self or to same individuals; e.g., autograph, transplantation of tissue from one part to another of the same animal
AUTOLYSIS	literally self-lysis, a series of changes following death of an organism
BACTEREMIA	presence of bacteria in the blood
BENIGN	not harmful, not malignant
BRONCHIECTASIS	chronic dilatation of bronchi
BRONCHITIS	inflammation of the bronchi
CACHEXIA	body-wasting plus anemia
CALCIFICATION	deposition of calcium from blood and other body fluids
CALCULUS	concretion occurring within organism, made up in whole or in part of mineral salts
CAPUT MEDUSA	distention of superficial veins of abdomen centering on umbilicus as collateral circulation in portal vein obstruction
CARBUNCLE	compound necrotizing inflammation of skin and subcutaneous tissues, usually due to staphylococcal infection
CARCINOGEN	cancer-producing substance or force
CARCINOID	argentaffin tumor, usually of intestinal tract
CARCINOMA	malignant epithelial tumor
CARCINOMA IN SITU	malignant epithelial cells within normal confines or limits in the body; preinvasive carcinoma
CASEATION	type of necrosis in which involved tissue resembles cheese grossly
CEROID	wax-like material found as crystals in disease states

CHARCOT JOINT	damage to joint following nerve injury, as in tabes dorsalis
CHEMOTAXIS	cellular phenomenon of moving toward or away from a certain material
CHONDRO-	prefix referring to cartilage
CHOREA	convulsive nervous movements, both involuntary and irregular
CHRONIC	tending to long course; opposite of acute
CIRRHOSIS	hardening, usually of liver
CLONE	strain of cells deriving from single cell
COAGULATION	process of changing into or being changed into a clot
COMA	depressed consciousness with absence of response to stimuli
COMMUNICATION	transfer of information
COMPATIBLE	capable of coexistence without injury
CONTINUITY	quality of duration, existence over a serial period of time
CONTROL	that which directs, checks or restrains
COR PULMONALE	pulmonary heart disease; disease of heart secondary to disease of lungs or their vessels
CRESCENT	epithelial proliferation in space of Bowman's capsule in subacute and chronic glomerulonephritis
CRETIN	one whose physical and mental development has been retarded or arrested due to thyroid deficiency
CYANOSIS	blueness of the skin, or other part of body, due to insufficient oxygen
CYST	sac containing usually a fluid or semisolid material
CYSTITIS	inflammation of the urinary bladder
DE-	prefix meaning away from

DEFINITION	statement of the precise nature of a thing or meaning of a word
DEGENERATION	retrogressive changes of cells short of necrosis
DEVELOPMENT	series of changes characteristic of organism, including existence over serial period of time, growth and acquisition of new properties
DIABETES	literally "passing through"; increased urine output: diabetes mellitus and insipidus
DIAGNOSIS	determination of the nature of a condition or disease or a hypothetical concept concerning this
DIAPEDESIS	passage of cells through capillary wall
DIFFERENTIATION	process in development during which final properties are acquired
DISEASE	literally lack of comfort; anything that limits life in its powers, duration or enjoyment
DIVERTICULUM	pouch or pocket leading off from a main cavity or tube
DUST CELLS	phagocytic cells of lung containing inhaled particles
DYSENTERY	inflammation of intestines, with blood and mucus in frequent bowel movements
DYSPNEA	difficult breathing
DYSTROPHIC	caused by faulty or deficient metabolism
ECLAMPSIA	convulsions occurring in last three months of pregnancy associated with placental, renal and hepatic lesions
EDEMA	accumulation of fluid in body or body part beyond normal amounts
EMBOLUS	formed material circulating in the blood stream during life and coming to rest, blocking a vessel
EMPHYSEMA	air in tissues causing swelling
EMPHYEMA	pus in a tissue space, e.g., pleural cavity
ENCEPHALITIS	inflammation of brain

EOSINOPHIL	having an affinity for eosin; staining pink in H & E stain; e.g., eosinophil leukocyte
EPIDEMIC	disease affecting more than usual number of people in a community at one time
EPITHELIOID CELL	cell resembling epithelium usually deriving from macrophage or histiocyte
EPIZOOTIC	disease affecting more than usual number of animals in a group at one time
ERYSIPELAS	reddening and inflammation of skin, usually due to streptococci, associated with constitutional symptoms
ETIOLOGY	study of the cause of disease, or the cause of disease
EXOPHTHALMOS	unusual protrusion of the eyeball
FAT NECROSIS	death of fatty tissue, usually result of spill of pancreatic lipase, trauma, etc
FECALITH	intestinal concentration formed around or from feces
FEEDBACK	activity which contains within itself cessation or stoppage
FEVER	body temperature above normal, or (old) disease so characterized
FIBRINOID	tissue material resembling fibrin found especially in collagen disease
FIBROID	term for uterine fibroleiomyoma
FISTULA	deep ulcer often communicating with an internal organ
FOAM CELLS	cells with vacuolated cytoplasm, usually containing fat droplets in vacuoles
FRACTURE	break in a bone; occasionally of some other structure, e.g., liver or spleen
FURUNCLE	nodular staphylococcal inflammation of skin, often in relation to a hair follicle or sweat gland; the common boil
GANGRENE	massive death of tissue, e.g., of an extremity

GIANT CELL	multinucleated large cells; found frequently in inflammation in late stages around foreign materials as Langhans' giant cell
GLYCOGEN	complex neutral polysaccharide, the storage carbohydrate of animals
GLYCOSURIA	sugar in urine
GOITER	enlargement of thyroid gland
GOUT	disturbance of purine metabolism causing urate deposits in joints and cartilages and arthritis symptoms
GRAFT	a transplanted piece of tissue
GRANULOMA	nodules of inflammatory cells, principally
GUMMA	local lesion of tertiary syphilis with soft tumor-like formations, histiocytes
HAMARTOMA	tumor-like collection of excess tissue or abnormally situated tissue formed during development
HEALING	see Repair
HEART-FAILURE CELLS	hemosiderin-containing macrophages in lung or sputum, resulting from escape of blood into alveoli
HEMATIN	brown to black pigment in tissue resulting from hemoglobin breakdown but not giving Prussian blue reaction of hemosiderin
HEMOCHROMATOSIS	disorder of iron metabolism with excessive iron absorption; deposited iron produces cirrhosis of liver and pancreatic damage with diabetes mellitus
HEMOFUSCIN	brown pigment not containing iron found in liver with hemosiderin in hemochromatosis
HEMOPHILIA	familial disease appearing in males, transmitted by females, characterized by absence of specific globulin in blood and imperfect coagulation
HEMORRHAGE	loss of blood from a vessel; a bleeding
HEMOSIDERIN	iron-containing crystalline ferritin complex

HEPATIC CIRRHOSIS	liver disease characterized by degeneration and regeneration of liver cells and (replacement) fibrosis
HERNIA	protrusion of tissue through an opening
HETEROGRAFT	piece of tissue transplanted from one species to another
HOMEOSTASIS	quality of tending to uniformity or stability
HOMOGRAFT	piece of tissue transplanted from one animal to another of the same species
HYALINE	literally glassy; used to describe homogenous amorphous deposits and materials
HYDRO-	prefix denoting water, in excess
HYDRONEPHROSIS	dilatation of kidney by urine accumulation
HYPER-	prefix meaning excessive, above or beyond
HYPERPLASIA	increase in size of a part due to increase of number of units
HYPERTROPHY	increase in size of a part due to increase in cell size
HYPO-	prefix meaning below, inferior, lacking
ICTERUS	jaundice
IMMUNITY	condition of being immune, i.e., security against a particular disease or poison
INCLUSION BODY	characteristic intracellular (nuclear or cytoplasmic) body found especially in cells affected by viruses
INDIVIDUALITY	specificity; quality of possessing separate identity
INDUCED	brought about by some means; not natural
INFARCTION	necrosis of tissue due to ischemia
INFECTION	presence of pathogenic organisms in body and their effects; entrance of pathogenic organisms into body
INFILTRATION	material in tissue not normally present
INFLAMMATION	local cellular and vascular reaction to injury

INFORMATION	set of facts concerning the state of a source
INJURY	harm or damage; produced disturbance of structure and/or function
INTERSTITIAL	in spaces of a tissue; relating to such spaces
INTUSSUSCEPTION	passage of one portion of intestine into a adjacent portion
INVASION	entrance of material into abnormal situation
ISCHEMIA	decreased blood supply to cells or tissues
ISO-GRAFT	piece of tissue transplanted from one animal to another genetically related animal
-IT IS	suffix meaning inflammation
JAUNDICE	yellow appearance of skin, mucosa and conjunctives, and all organs, due to excess bilirubin in serum or organs
KAPPA PARTICLES	rickettsia-like bodies in strain of paramecia injuring other paramecia of same strain which do not possess kappa particles
KARYO-	prefix relating to the nucleus
KARYOLYSIS	nuclear solution
KARYORRHEXIS	nuclear breakdown with residual granules
KELOID	skin tumor or mass specifically following wounding or injury
KYPHOSIS	hunchback; dorsal curvature of spine
LANGHANS GIANT CELL	multinucleated large cell formed in relation to foreign material or bodies
LESION	characteristic change in organism produced by disease
LEUKEMIA	malignant proliferation of white blood cells
LEUKEMOID	reaction resembling leukemia; extreme leukocytosis of normal cells

LEUKOPENIA	reduction in number of circulating leukocytes
LOBAR PNEUMONIA	pneumococcal infection of one or more lobes of one or both lungs
LOBULAR	describing involvement of lobule, e.g., lobular pneumonia, not involving the whole lobe
LUPUS	literally wolf; specific disease of skin with tissue destruction and sometimes systemic lesions of collagen
LYMPHADENITIS	inflammation of lymph nodes
LYMPHEDEMA	edema due to lymphatic obstruction
MALACIA	softening of tissue in disease, as encephalomalacia, osteomalacia
MALIGNANT	dangerous, acting viciously, a threat to life
MELANIN	pigment granules, usually black, derived from indole and present in animals
METAPLASIA	replacement of one type of cell in tissue by another
METASTASIS	transfer of disease from one organ to another not directly connected to it
MILIARY	resembling a millet seed; marked by multiple small lesions barely visible to the naked eye
MIXED TUMOR	tumor or neoplasm made up of one or more than one cell or tissue type
MUCOCELE	accumulation of mucus with cyst formation, as in appendix
MYXEDEMA	disease due to thyroid deficiency characterized by deposition of excess ground substance in subcutaneous tissue and viscera
NATURAL	occurring spontaneously; not made, brought about or induced
NECROSIS	death of cells
NEOPLASIA	process of new growth or tumor formation

NEURONOPHAGIA	destruction of nerve cells by phagocytic action, as in acute anterior poliomyelitis, etc
NEVUS	new growth of skin, usually containing nerve elements; also congenital dilation of blood vessels in part of skin
OBSOLESCENCE	process of passing out of existence or of becoming obsolete
OBSTRUCTION	something that impedes or blocks a flow
OLIGURIA	decrease of urine volume
-OMA	suffix meaning tumor of
ORGANIZATION	quality of being made up of connected interdependent parts
-OSIS	suffix meaning process or condition
PAPILLARY	projecting from a surface
PAPILLOMA	epithelial tumor projecting from a surface
PARA-	prefix meaning behind, e.g., para-appendiceal
PARALYSIS	loss or decrease of ability to move
PARASITE	an organism that lives on or within another without itself contributing
PARESIS	slight or partial paralysis
PATHOGEN	disease-producing agent
PATHOGENESIS	development of a morbid condition or disease
PATHOLOGY	the biological discipline which studies disease (or studies life in its abnormal forms and activities)
PELLAGRA	literally rough skin; clinical syndrome due to deficiency of niacin (nicotinic acid) characterized by diarrhea, dermatitis and dementia
PEPTIC	related to digestion
PERFORATION	a piercing or making a hole, as in a viscus

PERI-	prefix signifying around, e.g., periarteritis, or inflammation around the artery
PHAGOCYTE	cell of the body that ingests particulate matter
PHTHISIS	a wasting away (or a part or of the body); vernacular for pulmonary tuberculosis
PIGMENT	any dye or paint; any natural or abnormal coloring matter of the body
PNEUMONIA	inflammation of lungs, usually with consolidation and systemic symptoms
PNEUMONITIS	localized inflammation of lungs
POISON	substance capable of interfering with metabolic processes of a cell or part of a cell, of a tissue, organ or organism
POLY-	prefix signifying many or multiple
POLYCYTHEMIA	excess of erythrocytes
POLYP	pedunculated or sessile growth arising from mucosa and extending into a cavity
POLYPOID	like a polyp; projecting from a surface
PROCESS	series of changes
PROGNOSIS	prediction of probable outcome and/or course of a disease
PSEUDO-	prefix signifying false or non-identity
PURPURA	condition with confluent small hemorrhages over body surfaces
PUS	liquid material containing broken-down leukocytes and cells, usually resulting from inflammation
PYELONEPHRITIS	inflammation of pelvis and interstitial tissues of the kidney
PYEMIA	septicemia with pus in blood and secondary sites of suppuration

PYLEPHLEBITIS	inflammation of portal vein
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PYO-	prefix meaning pus
PYREXIA	fever, temperature above normal
PYURIA	pus in urine
RADIATION	(emission of) waves or rays of heat, light, x-ray, or other radioactive materials
REGENERATION	renewal of lost tissue or parts
REPAIR	restoration of continuity after injury
RHEUMATIC	relating to inflammation of joints, or rheumatism
RIGOR	rigidity or stiffness
SARCOMA	malignant tumor of connective tissue, e.g., fibrosarcoma
SCAR	remnants or residuum of the healing process
SCLER-	prefix meaning hard
SEMINOMA	epithelial tumor arising in testis
SESSILE	with broad base of attachment
SHOCK	severe depression of bodily activities caused by infection, hemorrhage, trauma, etc.
SIGN	any objective evidence of disease
SIGNAL	that which affects a receptor; information
SINUS	pathologically, a suppurating channel or fistula
SLUDGE	particles in suspension in viscid fluid; settling out equals sludging
SPASM	sudden violent involuntary constriction of muscles or sudden transitory constriction of a canal, passage or opening
STEATORRHEAL	excess of fat in stools; fatty stools
STENOSIS	narrowing of a duct, canal or channel or a natural passage

SUBACUTE	less than completely acute, between acute and chronic
SYMPTOM	any functional evidence of a disease or of a patient's condition
SYN-	prefix meaning together, e.g., syndrome
SYNDROME	a set of symptoms that occur together
TABES	wasting or atrophy of a part, e.g., tabes dorsalis, or atrophy of dorsal spinal columns in late syphilis
TELEOLOGY	type of thinking emphasizing purpose interpretation of structure and function
TEMPLATE	pattern, mould or gauge determining configuration of structure
TERATO-	prefix signifying relation to abnormal or monstrous growth, e.g., teratoma
THROMBUS	clot formed in blood during life
TOLERANCE	accepted without reaction or without usual reaction
TOPHUS	collection of urates in tissues in gout
TRANSFUSION	exchange of fluid between two organisms; blood transfusion, lymph transfusion
TRANSPLANT	exchange of tissue between two organisms
TRANSPORT	circulation or movement of materials
TRAUMA	injury or wound
TREMOR	involuntary trembling or quivering
TUBERCLE	small nodule, usually related to or caused by M. tuberculosis
TUMOR	literally any swelling of a part; usually a neoplasm
ULCER	lack of continuity of a mucous or cutaneous surface
UREMIA	excess urea in blood; symptom complex of renal failure

VARIX	enlarged and dilated vessel, usually tortuous, usually in vein
VESICLE	small collection of fluid, e.g., sunburn vesicle
VOLVULUS	intestinal obstruction due to twisting of bowel
WOUND HEALING	restoration of continuity after wounding
XANTHOMA	literally yellow tumor; subcutaneous collection of cholesterol and foam cells
XEROPHTHALMIA	literally dry eye, atrophic conjunctivitis from vitamin A deficiency