

*Knowledge is the key that unlocks the door  
to better health and understanding*

# MEDICAL SCIENCE DICTIONARY

**A reference for medical  
students, practitioners, and  
non-practitioners**



**Steven Smith, Ph.D.**

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Steven Smith

**Wisdom Publishers**

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*To all the passionate seekers of medical knowledge,  
This book is dedicated to you. It is dedicated to medical students, practitioners, and curious  
minds who tirelessly strive to understand the intricate world of medical science. It is  
dedicated to those who believe in the power of knowledge to transform lives and make a  
difference in the field of healthcare.*

*May this book serve as a guiding light in your journey, illuminating the path with clarity and  
precision. May it provide you with a comprehensive reference that empowers you to unravel  
the complexities of medical terminology and deepen your understanding of the human body,  
diseases, treatments, and diagnostics.*

*This dedication is an acknowledgement of your unwavering commitment to excellence and  
your relentless pursuit of learning. It recognizes the countless hours of study, the sleepless  
nights, and the unyielding determination you have poured into your pursuit of medical  
expertise.*

*As you delve into the pages of this book, remember to approach it with an open mind and a  
thirst for knowledge. Allow the words and definitions to ignite your curiosity, spark new  
insights, and inspire your future endeavors.*

*Finally, let it be known that this book is a companion, a trusted resource, and a gateway to  
the vast realm of medical science. However, it is crucial to exercise caution and understand  
that it is not a substitute for professional medical advice or treatment. Always consult  
qualified healthcare professionals for accurate diagnosis, treatment options, and  
personalized care.*

*With heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering dedication,  
[Steven Smith]*

*In the field of medical science, knowledge is the key that unlocks the door to better health and understanding*

STEVEN SMITH

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# INTRODUCTION

In the vast and ever-evolving world of medical science, knowledge is the foundation that empowers us to understand, diagnose, and treat ailments that affect the human body. Whether you are a medical student embarking on an exciting journey of discovery, a seasoned healthcare practitioner navigating complex medical terms, or simply a curious individual seeking to grasp the intricacies of the medical field, this comprehensive dictionary is your trusted companion.

The book is a meticulously crafted resource designed to bridge the gap between specialized medical language and accessible understanding. Within the pages of this book, you will find an extensive collection of terms, concepts, and explanations that cater to both medical professionals and non-practitioners alike.

Our primary aim is to demystify the often-intimidating language of medicine, enabling you to navigate complex terminology with confidence and clarity. Each entry has been thoughtfully curated and expertly defined, presenting medical concepts in a layman's language that promotes understanding without compromising accuracy.

As you embark on this journey through the book, you will uncover a wealth of knowledge that transcends the boundaries of medical expertise. Explore the intricacies of anatomy, unravel the mysteries of disease processes, delve into the world of pharmaceuticals, and unravel the complexities of medical procedures.

I understand that the field of medicine can be overwhelming, and I firmly believe that knowledge is the key to empowerment. Whether you are studying to become a healthcare professional, seeking to enhance your existing medical knowledge, or simply looking to expand your intellectual horizons, this dictionary is your invaluable companion on the path to enlightenment.

The book is not just a collection of words; it is a gateway to unlocking the wonders of the human body, the intricacies of medical research, and the art and science of healing. I invite you to delve into its pages, immerse yourself in its wealth of information, and discover the power of medical knowledge. Embark on this extraordinary journey with us, and let the book be your guiding light in the vast realm of medical science.

While this resource aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of medical terminology, it is important to note that this book is not intended to substitute professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

The information contained within these pages is meant to educate and inform, shedding light on the intricacies of medical science and fostering a deeper appreciation for the field. It is not a substitute for consulting with qualified healthcare professionals or seeking appropriate medical care for personal health concerns.

It is crucial to exercise caution and recognize the limitations of self-diagnosis and self-treatment. Every individual is unique, and medical conditions can vary significantly. Therefore, it is always recommended to consult with a healthcare professional for personalized guidance and care.

# CHAPTER ONE: A TERMS

**Abdominal aortic aneurysm:** A bulging or weakening in the main blood vessel that carries blood away from the heart and passes through the abdomen. It can be a potentially dangerous condition.

**Abdominal paracentesis:** A procedure in which a needle is used to remove excess fluid that has accumulated in the abdominal cavity, often due to conditions like liver disease or cancer.

**Aberrant conduction:** Irregular or abnormal transmission of electrical impulses in the heart, which can affect its normal rhythm and function.

**Abetalipoproteinemia:** A rare genetic disorder that impairs the body's ability to absorb dietary fats, leading to various health problems.

**Abetalipoproteinemic neuropathy:** Nerve damage that occurs as a result of abetalipoproteinemia, causing symptoms such as muscle weakness, numbness, and problems with coordination.

**Abfraction:** The wearing away of tooth enamel at the gum line, often caused by excessive or incorrect tooth brushing techniques.

**Ablation therapy:** A medical procedure that uses heat, cold, or other techniques to destroy or remove abnormal tissue, such as tumors or abnormal heart tissue causing arrhythmias.

**Abscess drainage:** The process of removing pus or fluid buildup from an abscess, which is a localized infection or collection of pus in the body.

**Absence seizure:** A type of seizure characterized by a brief loss of awareness or consciousness, often accompanied by staring or repetitive movements.

**Absorbable suture:** A type of suture material used in surgeries or wound closures that gradually dissolves over time, eliminating the need for suture removal.

**Absorptiometry:** A medical technique used to measure the density of bones or tissues, often used to assess bone health or diagnose conditions like osteoporosis.

**Abstinence syndrome:** The set of physical and psychological symptoms that occur when a person abruptly stops using an addictive substance after prolonged use.

**Abulia:** A condition characterized by a lack of motivation, initiative, or ability to make decisions, often associated with certain neurological or psychiatric disorders.

**Abyssinia:** An older term for Ethiopia, a country in East Africa.

**Accelerated phase:** A term used to describe an intermediate stage of certain diseases, such as chronic myeloid leukemia, in which the disease progresses more rapidly than in the chronic phase.

**Accessory pathway:** An abnormal electrical connection between the atria and ventricles of the heart, which can cause abnormal heart rhythms.

**Accessory spleen:** An additional small spleen-like structure found outside the main spleen, usually without causing any health issues.



**Accidental hypothermia:** A condition that occurs when the body loses heat faster than it can produce, often due to exposure to cold temperatures or immersion in cold water.

**Accidental poisoning:** The unintended ingestion, inhalation, or exposure to toxic substances, resulting in illness or injury.

**Accidental trauma:** Physical injury caused by an unplanned or unexpected event, such as falls, car accidents, or sports injuries.

**Acetabular fracture:** A type of fracture that occurs in the socket of the hip joint, often caused by high-energy trauma or significant impact to the hip area.

**Acetabular labrum tear:** A tear or injury to the cartilage ring that surrounds the socket of the hip joint, often causing pain and limited hip movement.

**Acetaminophen overdose:** Taking too much acetaminophen, a common pain reliever and fever reducer, which can lead to liver damage or other serious health complications.

**Acetazolamide:** A medication used to treat various conditions such as glaucoma, altitude sickness, and certain types of seizures.

**Acetone body:** A substance produced by the breakdown of fatty acids in the body, often seen in conditions like uncontrolled diabetes or prolonged fasting.

**Acetylcholine receptor antibodies:** Antibodies that target and disrupt the function of acetylcholine receptors, which play a role in transmitting signals between nerve cells and muscles. These antibodies are associated with autoimmune conditions like myasthenia gravis.

**Acetylcysteine:** A medication used to treat acetaminophen overdose, as well as to thin and loosen mucus in conditions like chronic bronchitis or cystic fibrosis.

**Achalasia cardia:** A disorder in which the muscles of the lower esophagus fail to relax properly, leading to difficulty swallowing and other symptoms.

**Achondrogenesis:** A rare genetic disorder characterized by abnormal bone development, resulting in severe skeletal abnormalities and short stature.

**Achondroplasia:** A genetic disorder that affects bone growth, causing disproportionate short stature and other skeletal abnormalities.

**Achondroplastic dwarfism:** A type of dwarfism caused by achondroplasia, resulting in short stature and characteristic skeletal features.

**Acid-base balance:** The delicate balance of acids and bases in the body, essential for proper functioning of organs and systems. Imbalances can lead to acidosis or alkalosis.

**Acid-fast bacilli:** Bacteria, such as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, that retain a special stain even after exposure to acid, allowing them to be identified under a microscope.

**Acid-fast stain:** A laboratory technique used to detect acid-fast bacteria by applying a special stain that adheres to their unique cell wall structure.

**Acidophilic bodies:** Structures or substances in cells that have an affinity for acidic dyes, often indicating

certain cellular abnormalities or conditions.

**Acidosis:** A condition characterized by excessive acidity in the blood and tissues, which can disrupt normal bodily functions and cause various health problems.

**Acinar cell carcinoma:** A rare type of cancer that originates in the cells of certain organs, such as the pancreas, salivary glands, or lungs.

**Acitretin:** A medication used in the treatment of severe psoriasis, a chronic skin condition characterized by red, scaly patches.

**Aclidinium:** A bronchodilator medication used to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) by helping to open up the airways.

**Acne conglobata:** A severe form of acne characterized by large, interconnected nodules and abscesses that can cause scarring.

**Acne fulminans:** A rare and severe form of acne that leads to sudden onset inflammation, ulceration, and systemic symptoms such as fever and joint pain.

**Acne inversa:** Also known as hidradenitis suppurativa, it is a chronic skin condition characterized by painful nodules, abscesses, and scarring in areas such as the armpits, groin, or buttocks.

**Acne rosacea:** A chronic skin condition characterized by redness, flushing, and the presence of small bumps or pustules, typically affecting the face.

**Acne vulgaris:** The most common form of acne, characterized by the presence of blackheads, whiteheads, pimples, and cysts on the skin.

**Acoustic neuroma:** A noncancerous tumor that develops on the nerve responsible for balance and hearing, usually causing symptoms like hearing loss and dizziness.

**Acquired angioedema:** A condition characterized by sudden episodes of swelling, often affecting the face, lips, tongue, or throat, due to abnormal immune system activity.

**Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS):** A late stage of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), in which the immune system is significantly compromised, leading to increased vulnerability to infections and certain cancers.

**Acquired myasthenia gravis:** An autoimmune disorder in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the receptors that transmit signals between nerves and muscles, resulting in muscle weakness and fatigue.

**Acral lentiginous melanoma:** A type of melanoma skin cancer that typically occurs on the palms of the hands, soles of the feet, or under the nails.

**Acromegaly:** A hormonal disorder characterized by the excessive production of growth hormone, leading to enlargement of the hands, feet, and facial features.

**Actinic cheilitis:** A condition in which the lips become dry, cracked, and potentially scaly due to long-term sun exposure.

**Actinic keratosis:** Small, rough patches of skin that develop from sun-damaged skin, often considered precancerous and requiring medical attention.

**Actinobacillosis:** An infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Actinobacillus*, commonly affecting livestock and characterized by abscess formation.

**Actinomycosis:** A rare bacterial infection caused by *Actinomyces* bacteria, typically affecting the face and neck regions and causing the formation of abscesses or draining sinuses.

**Active euthanasia:** The deliberate act of ending a person's life with their consent, usually in cases of terminal illness or severe suffering.

**Active immunization:** The process of stimulating the immune system to produce an immune response by administering a vaccine or immunization.

**Active transport:** The process by which cells move molecules across their membranes against a concentration gradient, requiring energy expenditure.

**Acupuncture therapy:** A traditional Chinese medical practice that involves the insertion of thin needles into specific points on the body to alleviate pain, promote healing, or restore balance.

**Acute abdomen:** Sudden, severe abdominal pain that requires immediate medical attention, often indicating a potentially serious underlying condition.

**Acute adrenal crisis:** A life-threatening condition that occurs when the adrenal glands do not produce enough cortisol, leading to low blood pressure, electrolyte imbalances, and other symptoms.

**Acute appendicitis:** Inflammation of the appendix, a small pouch-like structure in the lower right abdomen, typically requiring surgical removal.

**Acute arterial occlusion:** Sudden blockage of an artery, leading to decreased blood flow to the affected organ or tissue, often requiring urgent medical intervention.

**Acute bacterial prostatitis:** Infection and inflammation of the prostate gland, usually caused by bacteria and resulting in symptoms such as urinary problems and pelvic pain.

**Acute bronchiolitis:** An infection that primarily affects the small airways in the lungs, commonly seen in young children and causing symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, and difficulty breathing.

**Acute bronchitis:** Inflammation of the bronchial tubes in the lungs, usually caused by a viral infection and resulting in coughing, chest congestion, and throat discomfort.

**Acute cholecystitis:** Inflammation of the gallbladder, often caused by gallstones, leading to abdominal pain, fever, and digestive disturbances.

**Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM):** A rare inflammatory disease affecting the central nervous system, usually occurring after a viral infection or vaccination and causing symptoms such as headache, confusion, and difficulty walking.

**Acute exacerbation:** A sudden worsening of symptoms or a disease flare-up, often requiring immediate medical intervention or treatment adjustment.

**Acute febrile illness:** A sudden onset of fever along with other symptoms, often indicating an infectious or inflammatory condition.

**Acute glaucoma:** A sudden increase in eye pressure due to fluid buildup, causing severe eye pain, vision disturbances, and possible vision loss if not treated promptly.

**Acute graft-versus-host disease (aGVHD):** A complication that can occur after a stem cell or organ transplant, where the transplanted cells attack the recipient's tissues, resulting in various symptoms and organ damage.

**Acute hepatic encephalopathy:** Impaired brain function that occurs as a result of severe liver disease or liver failure, leading to confusion, altered consciousness, and other neurological symptoms.

**Acute intermittent porphyria:** A rare genetic disorder that affects the production of heme, a component of hemoglobin, causing intermittent episodes of abdominal pain, neurological symptoms, and potentially life-threatening complications.

**Acute kidney injury (AKI):** A sudden loss of kidney function, often caused by underlying conditions or certain medications, resulting in a buildup of waste products in the blood and disturbances in fluid and electrolyte balance.

**Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL):** A type of cancer that affects the white blood cells, specifically the lymphocytes, leading to an overproduction of immature cells and impairing the body's ability to fight infections.

**Acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL):** Another term for acute lymphoblastic leukemia, referring to the same type of cancer affecting the lymphocytes.

**Acute lymphoid leukemia:** A type of cancer that affects the white blood cells, specifically the lymphocytes, and progresses rapidly, leading to an overproduction of immature cells and impairing the body's ability to fight infections.

**Acute lymphoblastic leukemia:** Another term for acute lymphoid leukemia, referring to the same type of cancer affecting the lymphocytes.

**Acute myeloblastic leukemia (AML):** A type of cancer that affects the myeloid cells, which are responsible for producing red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. It is characterized by the rapid growth of abnormal myeloid cells.

**Acute myelocytic leukemia (AML):** Another term for acute myeloblastic leukemia, referring to the same type of cancer affecting the myeloid cells.

**Acute myeloid leukemia (AML):** Another term for acute myeloblastic leukemia, referring to the same type of cancer affecting the myeloid cells.

**Acute myocardial infarction (AMI):** Commonly known as a heart attack, it occurs when there is a sudden blockage of blood flow to a part of the heart muscle, resulting in damage or death of the heart tissue.

**Acute otitis media:** An infection of the middle ear, often characterized by pain, fluid buildup, and sometimes fever, commonly occurring in children.

**Acute pancreatitis:** Inflammation of the pancreas, which can cause severe abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and digestive problems.

**Acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL):** A subtype of acute myeloid leukemia characterized by an abnormal proliferation of promyelocytes, a type of immature white blood cell.

**Acute pulmonary edema:** A condition in which fluid accumulates in the lungs, leading to difficulty

breathing, coughing, and a feeling of suffocation.

**Acute pyelonephritis:** A bacterial infection of the kidneys, usually resulting from the ascent of bacteria from the urinary tract, causing fever, back pain, and urinary symptoms.

**Acute radiation syndrome:** A collection of symptoms that occur after exposure to high levels of radiation, including nausea, vomiting, skin burns, and potentially life-threatening complications.

**Acute renal failure:** Sudden loss of kidney function, characterized by the inability of the kidneys to filter waste products from the blood and maintain proper fluid and electrolyte balance.

**Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS):** A severe lung condition characterized by difficulty breathing, low blood oxygen levels, and lung inflammation, often occurring as a complication of other underlying illnesses or injuries.

**Acute rheumatic fever:** An inflammatory condition that can develop after an untreated or inadequately treated streptococcal infection, causing joint pain, fever, and potential damage to the heart valves.

**Acute sinusitis:** Inflammation of the sinus cavities, usually caused by a viral or bacterial infection, leading to symptoms such as facial pain, nasal congestion, and headache.

**Acute stress reaction:** A psychological response to an overwhelming and traumatic event, resulting in symptoms such as anxiety, confusion, and emotional distress.

**Acute stroke:** A sudden interruption of blood flow to the brain, either due to a blockage (ischemic stroke) or bleeding (hemorrhagic stroke), causing brain damage and potentially resulting in neurological deficits.

**Acute tubular necrosis:** Damage to the tubular cells of the kidneys, leading to impaired kidney function and potentially acute renal failure.

**Acute viral hepatitis:** Inflammation of the liver caused by a viral infection, typically transmitted through contaminated food, water, or close contact with an infected person.

**Acute visual loss:** Sudden and significant loss of vision in one or both eyes, often indicating a serious underlying condition that requires immediate medical attention.

**Adaptation syndrome:** The body's physiological response to stress, involving three stages: alarm, resistance, and exhaustion.

**Adderall:** A prescription medication containing amphetamine and dextroamphetamine, commonly used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy. It helps improve focus and reduce hyperactivity.

**Addison's disease:** A hormonal disorder that occurs when the adrenal glands do not produce enough cortisol and often also lack aldosterone, leading to symptoms such as fatigue, weight loss, and low blood pressure.

**Adenine arabinoside:** A medication used in the treatment of viral infections, particularly certain types of herpes viruses.

**Adenocarcinoma:** A type of cancer that originates in the glandular tissues of the body, such as the breast, lung, prostate, or colon.

**Adenoid hypertrophy:** Enlargement of the adenoid glands, located in the back of the nasal cavity, often leading to nasal congestion, snoring, and recurrent ear infections.

**Adenoidectomy:** Surgical removal of the adenoid glands, often performed to relieve symptoms of adenoid hypertrophy or recurrent infections.

**Adenolymphoma:** A benign tumor that develops in the salivary glands or lymph nodes.

**Adenoma:** A non-cancerous tumor that arises from glandular tissues, commonly found in organs such as the colon, thyroid, or pituitary gland.

**Adenosine:** A naturally occurring chemical in the body that regulates various processes, including heart rate and blood vessel dilation.

**Adenosine deaminase (ADA) deficiency:** A rare genetic disorder characterized by the lack of an enzyme called adenosine deaminase, leading to immune system abnormalities and severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID).

**Adenosine triphosphate (ATP):** A molecule that serves as a source of energy for cellular processes in the body.

**Adenovirus infection:** An infection caused by adenoviruses, which can lead to respiratory illness, conjunctivitis (pink eye), or gastrointestinal symptoms.

**Adhesion barrier:** A medical device or material used to prevent abnormal adhesions, which are bands of scar tissue that can form between internal organs or tissues after surgery.

**Adhesive capsulitis:** Also known as frozen shoulder, it is a condition characterized by stiffness and pain in the shoulder joint, often limiting its range of motion.

**Adhesive otitis media:** A condition in which the middle ear becomes filled with thick fluid or glue-like substance, leading to hearing loss and ear discomfort.

**Adiponectin:** A hormone produced by fat cells that plays a role in regulating glucose metabolism and insulin sensitivity.

**Adjuvant chemotherapy:** Chemotherapy given after the primary treatment, such as surgery or radiation, to kill any remaining cancer cells and reduce the risk of recurrence.

**Adjuvant radiation therapy:** Radiation therapy given after the primary treatment, such as surgery, to target any remaining cancer cells and reduce the risk of local recurrence.

**Adnexal mass:** An abnormal growth or lump in the tissues or structures adjacent to the uterus, such as the ovaries, fallopian tubes, or supporting ligaments.

**Adolescent depression:** A mental health disorder characterized by persistent feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and loss of interest or pleasure in activities, affecting teenagers.

**Adrenal adenoma:** A benign tumor that develops in the adrenal gland, often causing hormonal imbalances and symptoms related to excess or insufficient hormone production.

**Adrenal carcinoma:** A cancerous tumor that originates in the adrenal gland, which can produce excess hormones or cause abdominal pain and other symptoms.

**Adrenal crisis:** A life-threatening condition that occurs when the adrenal glands suddenly stop producing cortisol, requiring immediate medical intervention to restore hormone levels.

**Adrenal gland:** A pair of small glands located on top of the kidneys that produce hormones involved in regulating metabolism, stress response, and salt and water balance.

**Adrenal hemorrhage:** Bleeding into the adrenal glands, often associated with trauma, certain medical conditions, or use of anticoagulant medications.

**Adrenal hyperplasia:** An enlargement of the adrenal glands, typically due to excessive stimulation or abnormal growth of the glandular tissue.

**Adrenal insufficiency:** A condition in which the adrenal glands do not produce enough cortisol and sometimes aldosterone, resulting in fatigue, weakness, and other symptoms.

**Adrenal mass:** An abnormal growth or tumor in the adrenal glands, which can be either benign or malignant.

**Adrenal medulla:** The inner part of the adrenal gland that produces adrenaline and noradrenaline, hormones involved in the body's stress response.

**Adrenal metastasis:** The spread of cancer from another part of the body to the adrenal glands.

**Adrenal tumor:** A general term referring to any abnormal growth or tumor in the adrenal glands, which can be benign or malignant.

**Adrenalectomy:** Surgical removal of one or both adrenal glands, often performed to treat adrenal tumors or certain hormonal disorders.

**Adriamycin:** A chemotherapy medication used to treat various types of cancer, including breast cancer, lymphomas, and leukemia.

**Adult-onset diabetes:** A term used to describe type 2 diabetes, a chronic condition characterized by high blood sugar levels due to insulin resistance or insufficient insulin production.

**Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS):** A set of medical interventions and procedures performed in emergency situations to treat cardiac arrest and other life-threatening cardiac conditions.

**Advanced maternal age (AMA):** Refers to pregnancy occurring in women who are 35 years old or older, carrying certain associated risks.

**Aerobic exercise:** Physical activity that increases the heart rate and breathing, such as running, swimming, or cycling, which promotes cardiovascular fitness and endurance.

**Aeromonas infection:** An infection caused by bacteria of the *Aeromonas* genus, commonly found in water sources, and can lead to gastrointestinal symptoms or skin infections.

**Affective disorder:** A category of mental health disorders characterized by disturbances in mood, including depression, bipolar disorder, and seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

**Afferent arteriole:** A blood vessel that carries blood from the renal artery into the glomerulus of the kidney, playing a crucial role in blood pressure regulation and kidney function.

**Afferent loop syndrome:** A condition in which a blockage or narrowing occurs in the part of the small

intestine that carries bile and pancreatic secretions, leading to symptoms such as abdominal pain and vomiting.

**African sleeping sickness:** A parasitic disease transmitted by the tsetse fly in certain regions of Africa, causing symptoms such as fever, fatigue, and neurological disturbances.

**Agammaglobulinemia:** A rare genetic disorder characterized by the absence or severely reduced levels of immunoglobulins (antibodies), leading to an increased susceptibility to infections.

**Age-related macular degeneration (AMD):** A progressive eye condition that affects the macula, the central part of the retina, leading to gradual loss of central vision and potentially vision impairment.

**Aggressive lymphoma:** A term used to describe fast-growing lymphomas, which are cancers of the lymphatic system, characterized by rapid progression and more aggressive behavior.

**Agitated depression:** A form of depression characterized by restlessness, irritability, and increased physical and mental agitation.

**Agnogenic myeloid metaplasia:** A rare bone marrow disorder characterized by the abnormal production of blood cells, leading to anemia, enlarged spleen, and other complications.

**Agnosia:** A neurological condition in which a person has difficulty recognizing or interpreting sensory information, such as objects, faces, or sounds, despite intact senses.

**Agonist muscle:** The muscle responsible for producing a specific movement or action when it contracts.

**Agranulocytosis:** A condition characterized by a severe decrease in the number of white blood cells called granulocytes, which are important for fighting infections.

**AIDS-related complex (ARC):** A condition characterized by various symptoms and complications that can occur in individuals with HIV infection before they develop full-blown AIDS.

**Ainhum:** A rare condition in which a tight band of tissue forms around the base of a toe or finger, causing progressive constriction and potential loss of the affected digit.

**Air embolism:** The presence of air bubbles in the bloodstream, which can obstruct blood flow and potentially lead to serious complications, such as stroke or heart attack.

**Air enema:** A medical procedure in which air is introduced into the rectum to help visualize the colon during diagnostic imaging or to relieve intestinal blockages.

**Air trapping:** A condition in which air becomes trapped in the lungs during exhalation, leading to difficulty in completely emptying the lungs and causing symptoms such as shortness of breath.

**Akinesia:** A condition characterized by a loss or impairment of voluntary muscle movement, often associated with Parkinson's disease or certain neurological disorders.

**Akinetic mutism:** A state of reduced or absent voluntary movement and speech despite being awake and aware of the surroundings, typically seen in certain brain injuries or psychiatric conditions.

**Alagille syndrome:** A genetic disorder characterized by abnormalities in the liver, heart, and other organs, leading to symptoms such as jaundice, heart murmurs, and facial features.

**Albinism:** A genetic condition characterized by a lack of pigmentation (color) in the hair, skin, and eyes,



resulting in pale skin, white or light-colored hair, and vision problems.

**Alcoholic cardiomyopathy:** A type of heart disease caused by long-term excessive alcohol consumption, leading to weakened heart muscle and impaired heart function.

**Alcoholic cirrhosis:** Scarring and damage to the liver caused by chronic alcohol abuse, which can result in liver dysfunction and complications.

**Alcoholic hepatitis:** Inflammation of the liver due to excessive alcohol consumption, which can cause liver damage and lead to symptoms such as jaundice and abdominal pain.

**Alcoholic liver disease:** A collective term encompassing liver damage and conditions caused by alcohol abuse, including fatty liver, alcoholic hepatitis, and cirrhosis.

**Alcoholism:** A chronic and progressive disorder characterized by an inability to control or stop drinking alcohol despite negative consequences on physical health, mental well-being, and social relationships.

**Alendronate:** A medication belonging to the class of bisphosphonates, used in the treatment of osteoporosis to increase bone density and reduce the risk of fractures.

**Alexander disease:** A rare genetic disorder that affects the central nervous system, leading to the destruction of white matter in the brain and causing neurological symptoms.

**Alkaptonuria:** A rare metabolic disorder characterized by the inability to break down certain amino acids, resulting in the accumulation of a substance called homogentisic acid, which can lead to darkening of urine and other health problems.

**Alkylating agent:** A type of chemotherapy medication that works by interfering with the DNA of cancer cells, preventing their replication and growth.

**Allogeneic bone marrow transplantation:** A medical procedure in which healthy bone marrow from a donor is transplanted into a recipient with certain blood cancers or disorders, aiming to replace abnormal or damaged bone marrow cells.

**Allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation:** A procedure in which healthy stem cells from a donor, usually obtained from bone marrow or peripheral blood, are transplanted into a recipient with blood disorders or certain cancers to restore normal blood cell production.

**Allograft:** A surgical transplantation of an organ or tissue from a donor of the same species but with a different genetic makeup than the recipient.

**Allodynia:** A condition in which normally non-painful stimuli, such as light touch or temperature changes, cause pain and discomfort.

**Alloimmunization:** The development of an immune response in an individual to antigens (substances capable of triggering an immune response) from another individual, often occurring during blood transfusions or pregnancy.

**Alloimmune hemolytic anemia:** A type of anemia characterized by the destruction of red blood cells due to an immune response against antigens on the surface of the red blood cells, often seen in newborns with Rh incompatibility.

**Allopathic medicine:** The conventional form of medicine practiced by medical doctors, involving the use

of drugs, surgery, and other treatments to alleviate symptoms or cure diseases.

**Allosteric modulation:** A process by which a molecule binds to a site on a protein other than the active site, altering the protein's shape and activity.

**Alopecia areata:** An autoimmune condition that causes hair loss in patches on the scalp or other areas of the body.

**Alopecia totalis:** A more advanced form of alopecia areata, characterized by complete loss of scalp hair.

**Alopecia universalis:** The most severe form of alopecia areata, resulting in the complete loss of hair on the scalp and body.

**Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP):** A protein produced by the developing fetus, commonly measured during pregnancy as a screening test for certain birth defects or chromosomal abnormalities.

**Alpha-glucosidase inhibitor:** A type of medication used to treat type 2 diabetes by slowing down the absorption of carbohydrates from the digestive system, helping to control blood sugar levels.

**Alpha-lipoic acid:** An antioxidant compound naturally produced in the body and found in certain foods, often used as a dietary supplement to support overall health and as an adjunct therapy for certain conditions.

**Alpha-melanocyte-stimulating hormone ( $\alpha$ -MSH):** A hormone produced by the pituitary gland involved in regulating skin pigmentation and other physiological processes.

**Alpha-thalassemia:** A genetic blood disorder characterized by a deficiency in the production of alpha-globin chains, resulting in abnormal red blood cells and varying degrees of anemia.

**Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency:** A genetic disorder that affects the production of a protein called alpha-1 antitrypsin, leading to a higher risk of developing lung and liver diseases.

**Alpha-1 blockers:** Medications that block the action of alpha-1 adrenergic receptors, which can help relax certain muscles and improve symptoms related to conditions like high blood pressure or urinary problems.

**Alpha-1 receptors:** Specific receptors found in various parts of the body that respond to certain chemicals, affecting functions such as blood vessel constriction, smooth muscle contraction, and hormone release.

**Alpha-2 agonist:** A medication that stimulates alpha-2 adrenergic receptors, leading to effects such as decreased blood pressure, reduced anxiety, and improved attention and focus.

**Alpha-2 blockers:** Medications that block the action of alpha-2 adrenergic receptors, which can have various effects depending on the specific receptor involved and the location in the body.

**Alpha-2 receptors:** Receptors found in the central and peripheral nervous systems that play a role in regulating various processes, including blood pressure, heart rate, and neurotransmitter release.

**Alpha-2-adrenergic agonist:** A medication that selectively activates alpha-2 adrenergic receptors, resulting in effects such as reduced blood pressure, sedation, and pain relief.

**Alpha-adrenergic antagonist:** A medication that blocks the action of alpha-adrenergic receptors, which

can have various effects depending on the specific receptor subtype and location in the body.

**Alpha-adrenergic blockers:** Medications that block the activity of alpha-adrenergic receptors, leading to effects such as relaxation of blood vessels, improved urine flow, and reduced blood pressure.

**Alpha-adrenergic receptors:** Receptors found on the surface of cells that respond to neurotransmitters like norepinephrine, playing a role in regulating blood vessel constriction, smooth muscle contraction, and other physiological processes.

**Alpha-hydroxy acids:** A group of chemical compounds commonly used in skincare products for their exfoliating and skin-rejuvenating properties, helping to improve the texture and appearance of the skin.

**Alpha-interferon:** A type of protein that helps regulate the body's immune response, often used as a treatment for certain viral infections, such as hepatitis B and C or certain cancers.

**Alpha-ketoglutarate:** An organic compound involved in several metabolic processes in the body, including the production of energy and the synthesis of amino acids.

**Alpha-synuclein:** A protein found primarily in the brain that is believed to play a role in the development of certain neurodegenerative disorders, such as Parkinson's disease.

**Alpha-thalassemia trait:** A genetic condition characterized by the inheritance of one abnormal alpha-globin gene, which can lead to mild anemia but typically doesn't cause significant health problems.

**Alport syndrome:** A genetic disorder that affects the kidneys, ears, and eyes, causing progressive kidney damage, hearing loss, and vision abnormalities.

**Alprazolam:** A medication belonging to the class of benzodiazepines, often prescribed for the short-term management of anxiety disorders and panic attacks.

**ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis):** A progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, leading to muscle weakness, paralysis, and difficulties with speech, swallowing, and breathing.

**Alström syndrome:** A rare genetic disorder that affects multiple organ systems, causing features such as obesity, vision and hearing problems, heart disease, and endocrine abnormalities.

**Altitude sickness:** A condition that can occur when ascending to high altitudes too quickly, resulting in symptoms like headache, nausea, dizziness, and shortness of breath due to decreased oxygen levels.

**Aluminum hydroxide:** An antacid medication commonly used to reduce stomach acid and alleviate symptoms of heartburn, indigestion, and gastric ulcers.

**Alzheimer's disease:** A progressive brain disorder that affects memory, thinking, and behavior, eventually leading to severe cognitive decline and the inability to carry out daily tasks.

**Amantadine:** A medication used to treat certain viral infections, such as influenza A, and to alleviate symptoms of Parkinson's disease and drug-induced movement disorders.

**Ambien:** A brand name for the medication zolpidem, which is commonly prescribed as a sleep aid to help people with insomnia fall asleep faster and improve sleep quality.

**Ambiguous genitalia:** A term used to describe atypical or unclear genital anatomy at birth, making it

difficult to determine the biological sex of a newborn.

**Amblyopia:** Also known as "lazy eye," a condition characterized by reduced vision in one eye, usually due to abnormal visual development during childhood.

**Ameloblastoma:** A rare type of benign tumor that originates from cells that form the enamel of the teeth, typically occurring in the jawbone and requiring surgical removal.

**Amelogenesis imperfecta:** A genetic disorder that affects tooth development, leading to abnormal enamel formation and resulting in teeth that are discolored, weak, and prone to damage.

**Amenorrhea:** The absence of menstrual periods in women of reproductive age, which can be caused by various factors, including hormonal imbalances, pregnancy, stress, or certain medical conditions.

**Amikacin:** An antibiotic medication belonging to the class of aminoglycosides, commonly used to treat serious bacterial infections, particularly those caused by multidrug-resistant bacteria.

**Aminoglycoside antibiotics:** A group of antibiotics that are effective against a wide range of bacterial infections but can have potential side effects on the kidneys and hearing.

**Aminophylline:** A medication used to treat and prevent wheezing, shortness of breath, and other symptoms associated with conditions such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema.

**Aminosalicylates:** Medications that contain a substance called 5-aminosalicylic acid, commonly used in the treatment of inflammatory bowel diseases, such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

**Amiodarone:** An antiarrhythmic medication used to treat certain types of abnormal heart rhythms, including ventricular arrhythmias and atrial fibrillation.

**Amitriptyline:** A medication belonging to the class of tricyclic antidepressants, commonly used to treat depression, neuropathic pain, and certain anxiety disorders.

**Ammonia detoxification:** The process by which the body removes excess ammonia, a waste product of protein metabolism, through conversion to urea in the liver and excretion in the urine.

**Amniocentesis:** A prenatal diagnostic procedure in which a small amount of amniotic fluid is withdrawn from the uterus using a needle, allowing for genetic and chromosomal analysis of the fetus.

**Amnionitis:** An infection of the amniotic fluid and membranes surrounding the fetus during pregnancy, often caused by bacteria entering the uterus from the vagina.

**Amniotic fluid:** The fluid that surrounds and protects the developing fetus in the uterus, providing cushioning, maintaining a stable temperature, and allowing for movement.

**Amoebiasis:** An infection caused by the parasite called amoeba, often resulting in diarrhea, abdominal pain, and fever.

**Amoebic dysentery:** A form of dysentery caused by the amoeba parasite, characterized by severe diarrhea with blood and mucus.

**Amphetamines:** Stimulant drugs that can increase alertness and concentration, commonly used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy.

**Amphiphilic:** Referring to molecules that have both hydrophilic (water-attracting) and hydrophobic

(water-repelling) properties.

**Amphoterin:** A protein involved in various biological processes, including inflammation, cell migration, and tissue repair.

**Ampicillin:** An antibiotic medication belonging to the penicillin group, used to treat bacterial infections such as respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections, and certain types of meningitis.

**Ampulla:** A dilated portion of a tube-like structure, such as a blood vessel or duct, where fluid accumulates or flows.

**Ampullary carcinoma:** Cancer that develops in the ampulla of Vater, a small opening where the bile duct and pancreatic duct join and empty into the small intestine.

**Ampullary tumor:** A tumor that forms in the ampulla of Vater, which can be either benign or malignant.

**Amygdala:** A small almond-shaped structure in the brain involved in processing emotions, memory formation, and the "fight or flight" response.

**Amylase:** An enzyme produced by the pancreas and salivary glands that helps break down complex carbohydrates into simpler sugars during digestion.

**Amyloidosis:** A group of diseases characterized by the abnormal accumulation of amyloid proteins in various organs and tissues, affecting their structure and function.

**Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS):** Also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, leading to muscle weakness, paralysis, and eventually respiratory failure.

**Anabolic steroids:** Synthetic substances similar to the male sex hormone testosterone, often used illicitly to enhance muscle growth and athletic performance.

**Anacusis:** Total loss of hearing in both ears.

**Anaerobic bacteria:** Bacteria that can survive and thrive in environments with little or no oxygen, often causing infections such as dental infections, gangrene, and certain types of pneumonia.

**Anaerobic exercise:** Physical activity that involves short bursts of intense, energy-demanding movements, typically performed without the need for oxygen, such as weightlifting or sprinting.

**Anaerobic metabolism:** Metabolic processes that occur in the absence of oxygen, resulting in the breakdown of glucose to produce energy and lactic acid.

**Anagen phase:** The active growth phase of hair follicles, during which hair strands are actively produced.

**Anal abscess:** A painful collection of pus near the anus, often caused by a bacterial infection.

**Anal fissure:** A small tear or ulcer in the lining of the anus, usually caused by passing hard or large stools.

**Anal fistula:** An abnormal connection or tunnel that forms between the anal canal or rectum and the surrounding skin, often resulting from an untreated anal abscess.

**Analgesia:** The relief or absence of pain, usually achieved through the use of pain-relieving medications or techniques.

**Analgesic:** Medications or treatments that relieve pain, such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or opioids.

**Anaphase:** The stage of cell division (mitosis or meiosis) during which replicated chromosomes separate and move towards opposite ends of the dividing cell.

**Anaplasia:** A loss of normal cellular structure and function in cancer cells, often associated with their malignant behavior and rapid growth.

**Anaplastic astrocytoma:** A malignant brain tumor that arises from astrocytes, a type of brain cell, and is characterized by the presence of highly abnormal and rapidly dividing cells.

**Anaplastic thyroid cancer:** A rare and aggressive form of thyroid cancer that consists of undifferentiated and rapidly growing cancer cells.

**Anasarca:** Generalized edema or swelling throughout the body, often resulting from fluid retention and poor circulation.

**Anastrozole:** An aromatase inhibitor medication used in the treatment of hormone receptor-positive breast cancer, inhibiting the production of estrogen.

**Androgen deprivation therapy:** A treatment approach used in prostate cancer to lower levels of male hormones (androgens) in order to slow down the growth of cancer cells.

**Androgen insensitivity syndrome (AIS):** A condition in which individuals with male chromosomes (XY) have reduced or absent response to male sex hormones, leading to varying degrees of feminization of the external genitalia.

**Androgen receptor:** A protein receptor located in cells that binds to and responds to male sex hormones, such as testosterone and dihydrotestosterone.

**Andrology:** The medical specialty focused on the study and management of male reproductive health, including fertility issues and disorders of the male reproductive system.

**Andropause:** Also known as male menopause, a term used to describe age-related changes in hormone levels and sexual function that occur in men as they get older.

**Anemia of chronic disease:** A type of anemia that occurs as a result of underlying chronic conditions, such as inflammatory diseases, infections, or cancer.

**Anemia of inflammation:** Another term for anemia of chronic disease, referring to the decrease in red blood cell count and hemoglobin levels associated with chronic inflammatory conditions.

**Anemia of renal disease:** Anemia that develops as a result of chronic kidney disease, often due to decreased production of erythropoietin, a hormone involved in red blood cell production.

**Anemic hypoxia:** A type of hypoxia (low oxygen levels in tissues) that occurs when there is a decrease in the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood, such as in cases of severe anemia.

**Anencephaly:** A severe birth defect in which a baby is born without parts of the brain and skull, leading

to a limited lifespan.

**Aneurysm clipping:** A surgical procedure in which a small metal clip is placed around the neck of an aneurysm (a weakened and bulging blood vessel) to prevent rupture.

**Aneurysm coiling:** A minimally invasive procedure in which tiny coils are inserted into an aneurysm to promote blood clotting and prevent rupture.

**Angiectasia:** The presence of small, dilated blood vessels (angiectasias) in the gastrointestinal tract, often leading to bleeding.

**Angioedema:** A condition characterized by sudden and temporary swelling in the deep layers of the skin or mucous membranes, often affecting the face, lips, throat, or genitals.

**Angiogenesis:** The formation of new blood vessels from pre-existing ones, typically occurring during tissue growth, wound healing, and the development of tumors.

**Angiogenesis inhibitors:** Substances or medications that suppress or inhibit the formation of new blood vessels, often used in the treatment of cancer to prevent tumor growth and metastasis.

**Angiography:** A medical imaging technique that uses a contrast agent and X-rays to visualize the blood vessels and identify abnormalities or blockages.

**Angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma:** A rare form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma characterized by enlarged lymph nodes, fever, skin rash, and immune system dysfunction.

**Angioplasty:** A minimally invasive procedure that involves the insertion of a catheter with a balloon at the tip into a blocked or narrowed blood vessel, followed by inflating the balloon to widen the vessel and improve blood flow.

**Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE):** An enzyme involved in the regulation of blood pressure and fluid balance by converting angiotensin I to angiotensin II.

**Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE inhibitors):** Medications that inhibit the activity of the angiotensin-converting enzyme, leading to relaxation of blood vessels and reduced blood pressure.

**Anhidrosis:** The inability to sweat or produce sweat, often resulting in decreased ability to regulate body temperature.

**Aniline dyes:** Synthetic dyes that are derived from aniline, commonly used in various industries, including textile, leather, and printing.

**Animal bite:** Injury caused by the teeth of an animal, often leading to puncture wounds, lacerations, and risk of infection.

**Anion gap:** The difference between the concentrations of positively charged ions (cations) and negatively charged ions (anions) in the blood, used as a diagnostic measure for certain metabolic disorders.

**Ankle arthrodesis:** A surgical procedure that fuses the bones of the ankle joint together, typically performed to relieve severe pain and stabilize the joint in cases of arthritis or joint deformity.

**Ankle arthroscopy:** A minimally invasive procedure that uses a small camera (arthroscope) and specialized instruments to visualize and treat conditions affecting the ankle joint.

**Ankle dislocation:** Displacement or separation of the bones that form the ankle joint, often resulting from a severe injury or trauma.

**Ankle fusion:** See Ankle arthrodesis.

**Ankylosing spondylitis:** A chronic inflammatory disease primarily affecting the spine, causing pain, stiffness, and progressive fusion of the vertebrae.

**Ankylosis:** Abnormal stiffening and immobility of a joint due to fusion of the bones.

**Ankyrin-B syndrome:** A rare genetic disorder characterized by abnormalities in the heart's electrical system, leading to an increased risk of arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death.

**Annular pancreas:** A congenital condition in which a band of pancreatic tissue surrounds and constricts a portion of the duodenum (the first part of the small intestine).

**Annuloplasty:** A surgical procedure that repairs or reconstructs the ring-shaped fibrous structure (annulus) that surrounds and supports a heart valve.

**Annulus fibrosus:** The outer ring of fibrous tissue that surrounds the intervertebral discs in the spine, providing support and stability.

**Anodal stimulation:** The application of a positive electrical charge to a specific area of the body for therapeutic purposes, such as pain management or nerve stimulation.

**Anogenital warts:** Also known as condylomata acuminata, these are warts that appear in the genital and anal areas, usually caused by certain strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV).

**Anomia:** A condition characterized by difficulty in finding or recalling words, often associated with brain disorders, such as stroke or Alzheimer's disease.

**Anomie:** A social condition characterized by a breakdown of social norms and values, leading to a sense of disorientation, detachment, and a lack of purpose or meaning in individuals or communities.

**Anomocytic:** Referring to a specific type of plant cell in which the stomata (pores) are surrounded by cells that do not differ significantly in size or shape.

**Anophthalmia:** Congenital absence or severe underdevelopment of one or both eyes.

**Anorectal abscess:** A collection of pus in the anal or rectal area, usually caused by a bacterial infection.

**Anorectal fistula:** An abnormal tunnel-like connection between the anal or rectal canal and the surrounding tissues, often resulting from an unresolved abscess or infection.

**Anorexia nervosa:** An eating disorder characterized by an intense fear of gaining weight, distorted body image, self-imposed starvation, and significant weight loss.

**Anosmia:** The loss or impairment of the sense of smell.

**Anovulation:** The absence or lack of ovulation (release of an egg) during the menstrual cycle, often associated with hormonal imbalances and fertility issues.

**Anoxia:** Severe deprivation of oxygen supply to the body or specific tissues, leading to cellular damage or death.



**Antacids:** Medications or substances that neutralize stomach acid, often used to relieve symptoms of heartburn, indigestion, or stomach ulcers.

**Antalgic gait:** A limp or altered walking pattern adopted to avoid pain, often characterized by shortened stance phase on the affected side.

**Ante-mortem:** Pertaining to events, conditions, or injuries occurring before death.

**Antecubital vein:** A superficial vein located in the bend of the elbow, commonly used for blood sampling or intravenous access.

**Antegrade pyelography:** A diagnostic imaging procedure that involves the injection of contrast dye into the urinary system to visualize the kidneys, ureters, and bladder.

**Antegrade ureteric stent:** A thin tube inserted into the ureter to bypass a blockage or facilitate the flow of urine from the kidneys to the bladder.

**Antenatal care:** Medical care provided to pregnant women before childbirth, including regular check-ups, screenings, and guidance for a healthy pregnancy.

**Antenatal screening:** Medical tests or examinations performed during pregnancy to assess the health and development of the fetus, identify potential risks or abnormalities, and provide appropriate care and interventions.

**Antepartum hemorrhage:** Bleeding from the birth canal occurring after 20 weeks of gestation but before the birth of the baby.

**Anterograde amnesia:** A condition characterized by the inability to form new memories or retain new information after a specific event or injury, while previous memories remain intact.

**Anterograde pyelography:** A diagnostic imaging technique in which contrast dye is injected into the urinary system to visualize the kidneys and urinary tract, with the images obtained in a forward direction as the dye is excreted.

**Anterograde ureteric stent:** A thin tube inserted into the ureter to bypass a blockage or facilitate the flow of urine from the kidney to the bladder, with the stent placed in a forward direction.

**Anterolateral:** Referring to a position or direction situated towards the front and side of the body or a structure.

**Anterolateral column:** A bundle of nerve fibers located in the spinal cord that carries sensory information related to pain and temperature from the body's periphery towards the brain.

**Anterolateral system:** A neural pathway in the spinal cord and brainstem that transmits sensory information related to pain and temperature from the body's periphery to the brain.

**Anteromedial:** Referring to a position or direction situated towards the front and middle of the body or a structure.

**Anteromedial column:** A bundle of nerve fibers located in the spinal cord that carries sensory information related to touch, pressure, and vibration from the body's periphery towards the brain.

**Anteromedial system:** A neural pathway in the spinal cord and brainstem that transmits sensory

information related to touch, pressure, and vibration from the body's periphery to the brain.

**Anterior chamber:** The front portion of the eye's interior, located between the cornea (clear outer covering of the eye) and the iris (colored part of the eye).

**Anterior cord syndrome:** A spinal cord injury characterized by damage to the front (anterior) portion of the spinal cord, leading to loss of motor function, pain, and temperature sensation below the level of the injury, while preserving touch and proprioception.

**Anterior cruciate ligament (ACL):** A major ligament in the knee joint that helps stabilize the knee and prevent excessive forward movement of the tibia (shinbone) in relation to the femur (thighbone).

**Anterior drawer test:** A physical examination maneuver performed to assess the integrity of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in the knee joint. It involves the examiner pulling or pushing the tibia forward relative to the femur while the knee is flexed.

**Anterior horn cells:** Motor neurons located in the anterior gray horns of the spinal cord that transmit signals from the brain to the muscles, controlling voluntary movement.

**Anterior hypothalamus:** A region of the brain's hypothalamus that plays a role in the regulation of body temperature, sexual behavior, and sleep-wake cycles.

**Anterior ischemic optic neuropathy (AION):** A condition characterized by decreased blood flow to the optic nerve, resulting in sudden vision loss or impairment, typically in one eye.

**Anterior pituitary:** Also known as the adenohypophysis, it is the front portion of the pituitary gland, responsible for producing and releasing various hormones that regulate growth, metabolism, reproduction, and other bodily functions.

**Anterior pituitary hormones:** Hormones secreted by the anterior pituitary gland, including growth hormone, adrenocorticotrophic hormone, thyroid-stimulating hormone, follicle-stimulating hormone, luteinizing hormone, prolactin, and melanocyte-stimulating hormone.

**Anterior rectus sheath:** A layer of connective tissue and muscle in the abdominal wall that covers and provides support to the rectus abdominis muscles.

**Anterior spinothalamic tract:** A neural pathway in the spinal cord that carries sensory information related to light touch and pressure from the body's periphery to the brain.

**Anterior talofibular ligament:** One of the main ligaments in the ankle joint, connecting the talus bone (ankle bone) to the fibula (one of the lower leg bones). It helps stabilize the ankle and prevents excessive inward (inversion) movement.

**Anterior tibial artery:** A major artery in the lower leg that supplies blood to the anterior compartment of the leg and foot.

**Anterior tibial vein:** A vein in the lower leg that drains blood from the anterior compartment and returns it to the larger veins in the leg.

**Anteroposterior (AP):** A direction or positioning that goes from the front (anterior) to the back (posterior) of the body or a structure.

**Anteroposterior diameter:** The measurement or dimension taken from the front to the back of a structure

or body part.

**Anteroposterior projection:** A radiographic imaging technique in which X-rays are directed from the front (anterior) to the back (posterior) of the body, capturing an image of structures or organs in that plane.

**Anteroseptal infarction:** A type of myocardial infarction (heart attack) that affects the front (anterior) and upper (septal) regions of the left ventricle of the heart.

**Anteroseptal myocardial infarction:** See "Anteroseptal infarction."

**Anthrax:** An infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. It can affect humans and animals and can present as skin infection, respiratory illness, or gastrointestinal disease.

**Anthropometry:** The scientific study and measurement of the physical dimensions, proportions, and characteristics of the human body.

**Anti-D antibodies:** Antibodies that target the Rh antigen, a protein found on the surface of red blood cells. Anti-D antibodies are of particular significance in Rh-negative individuals who may develop a reaction if exposed to Rh-positive blood.

**Anti-inflammatory drugs:** Medications that reduce inflammation and alleviate pain by suppressing the immune response and reducing the production of inflammatory substances.

**Antibiogram:** A profile or pattern that shows the susceptibility of bacteria to different antibiotics. It helps guide healthcare professionals in selecting appropriate antibiotics for treating bacterial infections.

**Antibiotic resistance:** The ability of bacteria or other microorganisms to resist the effects of antibiotics, making infections caused by these organisms more difficult to treat.

**Antibiotic sensitivity testing:** A laboratory technique used to determine the susceptibility of bacteria to specific antibiotics. It helps guide healthcare professionals in choosing the most effective antibiotic for treating an infection.

**Antibodies:** Proteins produced by the immune system in response to the presence of foreign substances (antigens) such as bacteria, viruses, or other pathogens. Antibodies help neutralize or eliminate these foreign substances from the body.

**Antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC):** A process in which antibodies bind to the surface of target cells, such as infected or cancerous cells, and activate immune cells, such as natural killer cells, to destroy the target cells.

**Antibody-mediated immunity:** Immunity that is mediated by antibodies produced by B cells in response to an antigen. Antibodies help neutralize or eliminate pathogens and promote their clearance from the body.

**Anticholinergic drugs:** Medications that block the effects of acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter involved in various physiological processes. These drugs are used to treat conditions such as overactive bladder, asthma, gastrointestinal disorders, and certain types of poisoning.

**Anticoagulant:** A medication or substance that prevents blood from clotting. Anticoagulants are used to treat and prevent blood clots in conditions such as deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, atrial fibrillation, and certain heart valve conditions.

**Anticodon:** A sequence of three nucleotides on transfer RNA (tRNA) molecules that recognizes and binds to the complementary codon on messenger RNA (mRNA) during protein synthesis. It helps ensure the correct placement of amino acids in the growing polypeptide chain.

**Antidepressant:** A medication used to treat depression and other mood disorders. Antidepressants work by altering the balance of certain chemicals (neurotransmitters) in the brain to improve mood and relieve symptoms of depression.

**Antidiabetic drugs:** Medications used to manage and control blood sugar levels in individuals with diabetes. They may work by increasing insulin production, improving insulin sensitivity, or reducing glucose production in the liver.

**Antidiuretic hormone (ADH):** Also known as vasopressin, it is a hormone produced by the hypothalamus and released by the pituitary gland. ADH regulates water balance in the body by promoting water reabsorption in the kidneys, reducing urine output, and preventing excessive water loss.

**Antiepileptic drugs:** Medications used to prevent or control seizures in individuals with epilepsy. These drugs work by stabilizing abnormal electrical activity in the brain and reducing the occurrence of seizures.

**Antifungal drugs:** Medications used to treat fungal infections. They work by inhibiting the growth or killing the fungi responsible for the infection.

**Antigen-presenting cells:** Cells of the immune system, such as macrophages, dendritic cells, and B cells, that capture, process, and present antigens to other immune cells. They play a critical role in initiating and coordinating immune responses.

**Antiglobulin test:** A laboratory test used to detect antibodies or complement proteins that have attached to red blood cells or other cells. It is used in the diagnosis of autoimmune disorders, blood transfusion reactions, and certain types of hemolytic anemia.

**Antihemophilic factor:** Also known as factor VIII, it is a protein involved in blood clotting. Antihemophilic factor is used as a treatment for individuals with hemophilia A, a genetic disorder characterized by impaired blood clotting.

**Antihistamines:** Medications used to relieve allergy symptoms, such as itching, sneezing, runny nose, and hives. They work by blocking the effects of histamine, a substance released during allergic reactions.

**Antihypertensive drugs:** Medications used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension). They work by relaxing blood vessels, reducing blood volume, or suppressing certain mechanisms that increase blood pressure.

**Antihypertensive therapy:** Treatment strategies and interventions aimed at managing and reducing high blood pressure to prevent complications such as heart disease, stroke, and kidney problems.

**Antimalarial drugs:** Medications used to prevent or treat malaria, a parasitic infection transmitted by mosquitoes. Antimalarial drugs work by killing or inhibiting the growth of the malaria parasite in the body.

**Antimetabolite drugs:** Medications that interfere with the normal metabolic processes of cells, particularly cancer cells. They disrupt the synthesis of DNA, RNA, or proteins, inhibiting cell division and causing cell death.

**Antimitotic drugs:** Medications that inhibit or prevent cell division (mitosis) by interfering with the formation or functioning of the mitotic spindle. They are commonly used in cancer chemotherapy to target rapidly dividing cancer cells.

**Antineoplastic drugs:** Medications used to treat cancer by suppressing the growth and spread of cancer cells. They can interfere with various stages of the cancer cell's life cycle, including cell division, DNA replication, and protein synthesis.

**Antinuclear antibodies (ANAs):** Antibodies that target components within the cell nucleus. The presence of ANAs is associated with certain autoimmune diseases, such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

**Antioxidants:** Substances that help protect cells from damage caused by free radicals, which are highly reactive molecules generated during normal cell metabolism and in response to factors such as oxidative stress and inflammation.

**Antiparasitic drugs:** Medications used to treat infections caused by parasites, including protozoa (e.g., malaria) and helminths (e.g., intestinal worms). They work by killing or inhibiting the growth of the parasites.

**Antiphospholipid antibody syndrome:** An autoimmune disorder characterized by the presence of antiphospholipid antibodies, which can lead to abnormal blood clotting and complications such as deep vein thrombosis, stroke, and pregnancy complications.

**Antiphospholipid antibodies:** Antibodies that target phospholipids, a type of lipid found in cell membranes. The presence of these antibodies is associated with antiphospholipid antibody syndrome and can increase the risk of abnormal blood clotting.

**Antipsychotic drugs:** Medications used to manage symptoms of psychosis, such as hallucinations, delusions, and disorganized thinking. They work by blocking or modulating certain neurotransmitters in the brain.

**Antipyretic:** A medication that reduces fever by lowering body temperature. Common antipyretics include acetaminophen (paracetamol) and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

**Antiretroviral therapy (ART):** Treatment for HIV infection that involves the use of medications to suppress the replication of the HIV virus and slow the progression of the disease. ART typically involves a combination of different antiretroviral drugs.

**Antisense RNA:** A type of RNA molecule that is complementary to a specific messenger RNA (mRNA) sequence. Antisense RNA can bind to mRNA and inhibit its translation into protein, providing a mechanism to regulate gene expression.

**Antisepsis:** The process of using antiseptic agents to inhibit the growth and kill microorganisms on living tissues, such as skin, to prevent infection.

**Antisocial personality disorder:** A mental health condition characterized by a pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others. Individuals with antisocial personality disorder often engage in impulsive and irresponsible behavior and have difficulty forming meaningful relationships.

**Antispasmodic drugs:** Medications that help relieve or prevent muscle spasms or cramps. They work by relaxing smooth muscles in the body, such as those in the digestive tract or urinary system.

**Antithrombin:** A protein in the blood that inhibits the formation of blood clots. It plays a role in regulating the coagulation process and maintaining proper blood flow.

**Antithrombin III deficiency:** A genetic disorder characterized by a deficiency or dysfunction of antithrombin III, leading to an increased risk of blood clot formation and thromboembolic events.

**Antithyroid drugs:** Medications used to treat hyperthyroidism by inhibiting the production or release of thyroid hormones. They help normalize thyroid function and reduce symptoms associated with an overactive thyroid gland.

**Antitoxin:** An antibody or a substance that neutralizes the effects of toxins produced by bacteria, viruses, or other pathogens. It helps protect the body from the harmful effects of toxins.

**Antituberculosis drugs:** Medications used to treat tuberculosis, a bacterial infection that primarily affects the lungs but can also affect other parts of the body. Antituberculosis drugs help kill or inhibit the growth of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium responsible for tuberculosis.

**Antiulcer drugs:** Medications that help treat or prevent ulcers, which are open sores that develop on the lining of the stomach, small intestine, or esophagus. Antiulcer drugs work by reducing the production of stomach acid or by protecting the lining of the gastrointestinal tract.

**Anti-VEGF therapy:** Treatment that targets vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), a protein that promotes the growth of new blood vessels. Anti-VEGF therapy is used in various medical conditions, such as certain types of cancer and eye diseases, to inhibit angiogenesis (formation of new blood vessels) and control disease progression.

**Antiviral drugs:** Medications used to treat viral infections by inhibiting the replication of viruses or preventing their entry into host cells. Antiviral drugs can help reduce the severity and duration of viral illnesses.

**Anxiety disorder:** A group of mental health disorders characterized by excessive and persistent feelings of fear, worry, or anxiety. Common anxiety disorders include generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, social anxiety disorder, and specific phobias.

**Aorta:** The largest artery in the body that carries oxygenated blood from the heart to various parts of the body. The aorta originates from the left ventricle of the heart and branches out into smaller arteries throughout the body.

**Aortic aneurysm:** A bulge or enlargement in the aorta, the main blood vessel that supplies blood to the abdomen, pelvis, and legs. It can be potentially life-threatening if it ruptures.

**Aortic arch:** The curved portion of the aorta that gives rise to various arteries supplying blood to the head, neck, and upper extremities.

**Aortic dissection:** A medical emergency characterized by a tear or separation in the layers of the aorta, causing blood to flow between the layers and potentially leading to aortic rupture. It requires immediate medical attention.

**Aortic regurgitation:** Also known as aortic insufficiency, it is a heart valve disorder where the aortic valve does not close properly, leading to the backward flow of blood from the aorta into the left ventricle during diastole (relaxation phase of the heart).

**Aortic stenosis:** A condition characterized by the narrowing of the aortic valve, impeding the flow of blood from the left ventricle to the aorta. It can strain the heart and lead to symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath, and fatigue.

**Aortitis:** Inflammation of the aorta, which can be caused by various autoimmune diseases, infections, or other underlying conditions. Aortitis can weaken the arterial wall and potentially lead to complications.

**Apgar score:** A scoring system used to assess the physical condition of a newborn baby immediately after birth. The Apgar score evaluates the baby's heart rate, respiratory effort, muscle tone, reflex irritability, and color, providing an indication of their overall well-being and need for medical intervention.

**Aphakia:** The absence or removal of the natural lens of the eye, typically through surgical procedures. Aphakia results in the loss of accommodation (ability to focus on near objects) and requires the use of special corrective lenses.

**Aphasia:** A communication disorder that affects a person's ability to understand, produce, or use language. It is often caused by damage to the brain's language centers, such as stroke or brain injury.

**Apheiotropic:** Referring to the growth or movement of a plant towards or away from sunlight.

**Aphthous ulcers:** Painful, shallow sores or lesions that develop on the mucous membranes of the mouth, tongue, or inner lips. They are commonly known as canker sores.

**Aplasia:** Failure of an organ or tissue to develop or function properly, often due to the absence or underdevelopment of specific cells or structures.

**Aplastic anemia:** A condition characterized by the insufficient production of red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets in the bone marrow. It can result in fatigue, increased susceptibility to infections, and abnormal bleeding.

**Apnea:** The temporary cessation or absence of breathing.

**Apnea of prematurity:** A condition in premature infants where they experience pauses in breathing for more than 20 seconds during sleep. It is often due to immature respiratory control centers in the brain and usually resolves with time.

**Apocrine gland:** A type of sweat gland found in certain areas of the body, such as the armpits and groin. Apocrine glands produce a thicker sweat that can be associated with body odor when bacteria on the skin break down the sweat.

**Apocrine sweat gland:** See "Apocrine gland."

**Apolipoprotein:** A type of protein that plays a crucial role in lipid metabolism and transportation. Apolipoproteins are integral components of lipoproteins, which transport cholesterol and triglycerides in the bloodstream.

**Apoptosis:** Programmed cell death, also known as cellular suicide. It is a natural process that eliminates damaged, unnecessary, or aged cells to maintain tissue homeostasis and remove potentially harmful cells.

**Appendectomy:** Surgical removal of the appendix, typically performed in cases of appendicitis (inflammation of the appendix).

**Appendicitis:** Inflammation of the appendix, a small finger-shaped pouch attached to the large intestine. It

is a common condition that often requires surgical removal of the appendix to prevent complications such as rupture and infection.

**Appendix:** A small, tubular organ attached to the cecum, the first part of the large intestine. While its exact function remains uncertain, the appendix is believed to play a role in the immune system.

**Appositional growth:** A type of growth in which new layers of bone or other tissues are added to the outer surface, allowing bones to increase in diameter or tissues to thicken.

**Apraxia:** A neurological condition characterized by the inability to perform purposeful movements or use objects correctly, despite having intact muscles and motor function.

**Aqueduct of Sylvius:** A narrow canal in the brain that connects the third ventricle to the fourth ventricle, allowing cerebrospinal fluid to flow between them.

**Arachnoid cyst:** A fluid-filled sac that develops within the arachnoid membrane, one of the three membranes that surround and protect the brain and spinal cord.

**Arachnoid mater:** The middle layer of the meninges, the protective membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

**Arachnoid villi:** Small, finger-like projections of the arachnoid mater that protrude into the dural sinuses, facilitating the reabsorption of cerebrospinal fluid into the bloodstream.

**Arboviral encephalitis:** Inflammation of the brain caused by arthropod-borne viruses (arboviruses), such as West Nile virus, Eastern equine encephalitis virus, or Japanese encephalitis virus. These viruses are transmitted to humans through the bites of infected mosquitoes or ticks.

**Arcuate artery:** A curved artery that runs along the boundary between two tissue layers, often referring to the arcuate arteries of the kidney.

**Arcuate fasciculus:** A bundle of nerve fibers connecting Wernicke's area, involved in language comprehension, and Broca's area, involved in language production, in the brain. Damage to the arcuate fasciculus can result in a language disorder known as conduction aphasia.

**Arcuate line:** A curved line on the abdominal wall that marks the transition between the posterior rectus sheath and the transversalis fascia.

**Arcuate nucleus:** A group of neurons located in the hypothalamus of the brain involved in regulating appetite, energy balance, and reproductive function.

**Arcuate veins:** Veins that form an arch-like pattern and drain blood from specific regions of the body, such as the foot or the base of the brain.

**Areola:** The pigmented area surrounding the nipple of the breast.

**Arginine:** An amino acid that plays a crucial role in protein synthesis and various metabolic pathways. Arginine is involved in immune function, hormone secretion, and the production of nitric oxide, a compound that helps dilate blood vessels.

**Arginine vasopressin:** Also known as antidiuretic hormone (ADH), arginine vasopressin is a hormone released by the posterior pituitary gland that helps regulate water balance in the body and constricts blood vessels.



**Argon laser:** A type of laser that emits blue or green light and is commonly used in various medical procedures, including eye surgery and dermatology treatments.

**Argyll Robertson pupil:** A condition characterized by small, irregularly shaped pupils that do not constrict in response to light but constrict normally when focusing on a nearby object. It is often associated with neurosyphilis and certain other neurological conditions.

**Aricept:** A brand name for the medication donepezil, which is commonly used in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease to improve cognitive function and memory.

**Aripiprazole:** A medication belonging to the class of atypical antipsychotic drugs, used to treat various mental health conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression.

**Arista:** A long, bristle-like structure found on the antennae of certain insects.

**Aristolochic acid:** A toxic compound found in plants of the *Aristolochia* genus. Consumption of Aristolochic acid-containing plants has been associated with kidney damage and an increased risk of certain cancers.

**Armamentarium:** Referring to the collection or range of tools, equipment, or resources available for a particular purpose, often used in the context of medical procedures or interventions.

**Arnold-Chiari malformation:** A congenital condition characterized by structural defects in the cerebellum and brainstem, causing them to protrude into the spinal canal. This can lead to a variety of neurological symptoms, such as headaches, dizziness, and coordination difficulties.

**Arrhythmia:** Abnormalities in the rhythm or rate of the heartbeat, which can manifest as irregular heartbeats (too fast, too slow, or erratic). Arrhythmias can be benign or potentially life-threatening, depending on their type and severity.

**Arterial blood gases (ABGs):** A blood test that measures the levels of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and pH in the arterial blood. ABG analysis provides information about a person's respiratory and metabolic status.

**Arterial blood pressure:** The pressure exerted by the blood against the walls of the arteries. It is typically measured using a sphygmomanometer and expressed as systolic pressure over diastolic pressure (e.g., 120/80 mmHg).

**Arterial embolism:** A condition characterized by the blockage of an artery by an embolus, which is a detached blood clot, fat globule, or other foreign material carried through the bloodstream.

**Arterial insufficiency:** Inadequate blood flow through the arteries, often resulting from arterial narrowing or obstruction. It can lead to tissue ischemia (lack of oxygen) and various symptoms, such as pain, ulcers, and impaired wound healing.

**Arterial line:** A thin catheter inserted into an artery, typically in the wrist or groin, to directly monitor blood pressure and obtain frequent blood samples for analysis.

**Arterial occlusion:** The complete or partial blockage of an artery, preventing the normal flow of blood to a specific area or organ.

**Arterial pulse:** The rhythmic expansion and contraction of the arterial walls caused by the ejection of blood from the heart during each heartbeat. It can be felt and measured at various pulse points throughout the body.

**Arteriography:** A diagnostic imaging technique that uses contrast material and X-rays to visualize the arteries and detect any abnormalities or blockages.

**Arteriohepatic dysplasia:** Also known as Alagille syndrome, it is a genetic disorder characterized by abnormalities in the liver, heart, skeleton, and other organs. Symptoms may include jaundice, liver and heart problems, and facial abnormalities.

**Arteriolar resistance:** The resistance or opposition to blood flow offered by the small arteries, known as arterioles. Arteriolar resistance plays a crucial role in regulating blood pressure and blood flow distribution.

**Arteriovenous fistula (AVF):** An abnormal connection or passageway between an artery and a vein. In medicine, AVFs are often surgically created for dialysis access or for specific therapeutic interventions.

**Arteriovenous graft (AVG):** A surgically created connection between an artery and a vein using a synthetic tube or graft. AVGs are commonly used for dialysis access when a person's own blood vessels are not suitable for an arteriovenous fistula.

**Arteriovenous malformation (AVM):** An abnormal tangle of blood vessels in which arteries and veins are directly connected without the usual intervening capillaries. AVMs can occur in various parts of the body and may cause symptoms depending on their location and size.

**Arteritis:** Inflammation of the arteries, which can affect different-sized arteries and lead to symptoms such as pain, swelling, and compromised blood flow.

**Artery:** Blood vessels that carry oxygenated blood away from the heart to various parts of the body. Arteries have thick, muscular walls that help maintain blood pressure and regulate blood flow.

**Arthralgia:** Pain in one or more joints, often associated with joint inflammation or injury.

**Arthroectomy:** Surgical removal of a joint or a part of a joint, often performed to treat severe joint disease or damage.

**Arthrogram:** A diagnostic imaging procedure in which a contrast agent is injected into a joint to enhance the visibility of the joint structures during X-ray, MRI, or CT scan.

**Arthritis:** Inflammation of one or more joints, resulting in pain, swelling, stiffness, and reduced range of motion. There are different types of arthritis, including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and gout.

**Arthrocentesis:** A procedure in which a needle is inserted into a joint space to aspirate or inject fluid for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes. It is commonly done to relieve joint pain or to obtain synovial fluid for analysis.

**Arthrodesis:** A surgical procedure that fuses two or more bones within a joint, immobilizing the joint to relieve pain or correct deformity.

**Arthrography:** A diagnostic imaging technique that uses contrast material and X-rays, MRI, or CT scan to visualize the structures within a joint, such as ligaments, cartilage, and synovial membrane.

**Arthrogryposis:** A congenital condition characterized by multiple joint contractures (stiffness) and limited range of motion, often resulting from abnormal development of muscles, tendons, and connective tissues.

**Arthrosis:** Also known as osteoarthritis, it is a degenerative joint disease characterized by the breakdown of cartilage and the formation of bone spurs. It commonly affects weight-bearing joints, such as the knees, hips, and spine.

**Arthropathy:** Any disease or disorder affecting the joints.

**Artificial insemination:** A reproductive technique in which sperm is introduced into a woman's reproductive tract to facilitate fertilization and pregnancy. It can be done using donor sperm or the partner's sperm.

**Artificial pacemaker:** A small electronic device implanted in the chest or abdomen to regulate the heart's rhythm and electrical impulses. It helps maintain a normal heart rate in individuals with irregular heartbeats or bradycardia (slow heartbeat).

**Artificial respiration:** The process of providing mechanical assistance or support to a person's breathing, typically through the use of a ventilator or manual techniques. It is done when a person is unable to breathe adequately on their own.

**Asbestosis:** A lung disease caused by the inhalation of asbestos fibers, resulting in lung scarring and fibrosis. It is typically associated with occupational exposure to asbestos.

**Ascending aorta:** The portion of the aorta that emerges from the left ventricle of the heart and ascends upward before curving to form the aortic arch. It carries oxygenated blood to the rest of the body.

**Ascending colon:** The first segment of the colon or large intestine, located on the right side of the abdomen. It receives digested food from the small intestine and absorbs water and electrolytes.

**Ascending limb of the loop of Henle:** A segment of the nephron in the kidney that extends from the loop of Henle's descending limb. It plays a crucial role in reabsorbing sodium and chloride ions from the urine back into the bloodstream.

**Ascites:** Abnormal accumulation of fluid in the abdominal cavity, often due to liver disease, heart failure, or certain cancers. It can cause abdominal swelling and discomfort.

**Ascorbic acid:** Also known as vitamin C, ascorbic acid is a water-soluble vitamin essential for various bodily functions, including collagen synthesis, antioxidant protection, and immune system support.

**Asparaginase:** An enzyme used as a medication in the treatment of certain types of leukemia. It works by depleting the levels of asparagine, an amino acid necessary for cancer cell growth.

**Aspartate aminotransferase (AST):** An enzyme primarily found in the liver, heart, and other organs. Elevated levels of AST in the blood may indicate liver or heart damage.

**Aspartic acid:** An amino acid that serves as a building block for proteins in the body. It is involved in various physiological processes, including neurotransmitter synthesis and energy metabolism.

**Asperger syndrome:** A developmental disorder characterized by difficulties in social interaction, repetitive behaviors, and restricted interests. It is part of the autism spectrum disorders.

**Aspergillosis:** A fungal infection caused by *Aspergillus* species, which can affect the lungs, sinuses, and other organs. It can range from mild allergic reactions to invasive and potentially life-threatening infections.

**Aspirate:** To draw or remove fluid or tissue using suction or a syringe. It can refer to the process of obtaining a sample of cells or fluid for diagnostic purposes or removing excess fluid from a body cavity.

**Aspiration:** The inhalation of foreign substances, such as food, liquids, or vomit, into the airways. It can lead to aspiration pneumonia or other respiratory complications.

**Aspiration pneumonia:** A type of pneumonia that occurs when foreign substances, such as food, drink, or stomach contents, are inhaled into the lungs, causing infection and inflammation.

**Asplenia:** Absence or abnormal functioning of the spleen. It can be a congenital condition or result from surgical removal of the spleen (splenectomy).

**Asporogenous:** Referring to microorganisms or bacteria that do not produce spores.

**Assaultive behavior:** Aggressive or violent behavior toward others, often causing harm or the threat of harm. It can be associated with various psychiatric disorders or neurological conditions.

**Assessment:** The process of evaluating or measuring a person's physical, psychological, or cognitive status to gather information for diagnosis, treatment planning, or monitoring.

**Asymmetric septal hypertrophy:** Also known as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, it is a condition characterized by abnormal thickening of the heart's septum, which separates the chambers of the heart. It can interfere with blood flow and lead to symptoms like chest pain, shortness of breath, and arrhythmias.

**Asymmetrical septal hypertrophy:** Another term for asymmetric septal hypertrophy, referring to the uneven thickening of the septum in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

**Asymmetrical tonic neck reflex (ATNR):** A reflex observed in infants in which the head's turning causes a corresponding extension of the arm and leg on the same side and flexion of the opposite arm and leg.

**Asymptomatic:** Having no noticeable symptoms or signs of disease. Individuals who are asymptomatic may still carry or transmit certain diseases.

**Asymptomatic carrier:** A person who is infected with a pathogen but does not show any symptoms of the disease. However, they can still transmit the pathogen to others.

**Asynchronous:** Not occurring at the same time or pace. In the context of medical procedures or events, asynchronous refers to activities that are not synchronized or coordinated.

**Ataxia:** A neurological disorder characterized by a lack of muscle coordination, affecting movements, balance, and speech. It can result from various causes, including genetic disorders, brain injury, or certain medications.

**Atelectasis:** The partial or complete collapse of a lung or a portion of a lung. It can occur due to airway obstruction, lung compression, or other factors.

**Atherectomy:** A minimally invasive procedure used to remove plaque or fatty deposits from blood vessels, particularly in the treatment of atherosclerosis.

**Atherosclerosis:** A chronic condition characterized by the buildup of plaque or fatty deposits in the arteries, leading to narrowing and hardening of the blood vessels. It can restrict blood flow and increase the risk of heart disease and stroke.

**Athetosis:** A condition characterized by involuntary, slow, and writhing movements of the limbs, face, or other body parts. It is often associated with certain neurological disorders, such as cerebral palsy.

**Ativan:** A brand name for the medication lorazepam, which belongs to the class of drugs known as benzodiazepines. It is commonly used to treat anxiety disorders, insomnia, and seizures.

**Atopic dermatitis:** A chronic inflammatory skin condition characterized by itchy, red, and dry patches of skin. It is commonly associated with allergies and often begins in infancy or childhood.

**Atopic eczema:** Another term for atopic dermatitis, referring to the chronic inflammatory skin condition characterized by eczematous patches.

**Atopy:** A genetic predisposition to develop allergic reactions, such as hay fever, asthma, or atopic dermatitis, in response to specific allergens.

**Atrial fibrillation:** A common type of arrhythmia characterized by rapid and irregular electrical activity in the atria, the upper chambers of the heart. It can lead to inefficient blood pumping, increased risk of blood clots, and other complications.

**Atrial flutter:** A type of abnormal heart rhythm characterized by rapid and regular electrical activity in the atria, causing a distinctive sawtooth pattern on an electrocardiogram (ECG).

**Atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP):** A hormone produced by the heart's atrial cells in response to increased blood volume or pressure. It helps regulate blood pressure, fluid balance, and electrolyte levels.

**Atrial septal defect (ASD):** A congenital heart defect characterized by an abnormal opening or hole in the septum separating the heart's atria. It can cause abnormal blood flow between the atria and lead to symptoms or complications.

**Atrioventricular (AV) block:** A disruption or delay in the electrical conduction between the atria and ventricles of the heart, affecting the heart's rhythm and coordination.

**Atrioventricular node (AV node):** A specialized cluster of cells located in the heart's septum, near the atrioventricular valve. It acts as a relay station for electrical signals, slowing down the conduction between the atria and ventricles.

**Atrophic gastritis:** Inflammation and thinning of the stomach lining, often resulting from chronic infection with *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria or autoimmune conditions. It can lead to reduced stomach acid production and impaired absorption of nutrients.

**Atrophic rhinitis:** A condition characterized by thinning and degeneration of the nasal mucosa, leading to nasal dryness, crusting, and foul-smelling discharge.

**Atropine:** A medication derived from the belladonna plant, used to dilate the pupils, reduce salivation and secretions, and treat certain cardiac conditions or poisoning. It has anticholinergic properties.

**Atrophy:** The wasting or shrinkage of tissue or organs due to a decrease in cell size or number. It can occur as a result of disuse, aging, nerve damage, or certain medical conditions.

**Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD):** A neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by persistent patterns of inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity that can interfere with daily functioning and academic performance.

**Atypical antipsychotics:** A class of medications used primarily in the treatment of mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. They differ from typical antipsychotics by having a different side effect profile and mechanism of action.

**Atypical cells:** Cells that appear abnormal or different from the surrounding normal cells when examined under a microscope. They may indicate the presence of an underlying disease or condition, such as cancer.

**Atypical ductal hyperplasia (ADH):** A benign breast condition characterized by an overgrowth of cells in the milk ducts, which may appear abnormal but are not cancerous. However, it is associated with an increased risk of developing breast cancer.

**Atypical pneumonia:** A type of pneumonia that differs from typical bacterial pneumonia in terms of the causative agents and clinical presentation. It is often caused by atypical bacteria or viral infections.

**Auditory brainstem response (ABR):** A diagnostic test that measures the electrical activity generated by the auditory nerve and brainstem in response to sound stimuli. It is used to assess hearing function, particularly in newborns and individuals with hearing loss.

**Auditory canal:** The tube-like structure that leads from the outer ear to the middle ear, allowing sound waves to reach the eardrum.

**Auditory cortex:** The region of the brain responsible for processing auditory information received from the ears. It plays a crucial role in hearing and sound perception.

**Auditory evoked potentials:** Electrical responses recorded from the brain in response to auditory stimuli, providing information about the functioning of the auditory pathways and brain's response to sound.

**Auditory hallucination:** A perception of sound or voices that are not actually present. It can occur in various psychiatric disorders, such as schizophrenia, or as a result of certain medical conditions or medication use.

**Auditory nerve:** The cranial nerve (VIII) responsible for transmitting auditory information from the inner ear to the brain.

**Auditory ossicles:** The three tiny bones (malleus, incus, and stapes) located in the middle ear that transmit sound vibrations from the eardrum to the inner ear.

**Auditory pathway:** The neural pathway that carries auditory information from the ears to the brain, including the auditory nerve, brainstem, and auditory cortex.

**Auditory processing disorder:** A condition characterized by difficulties in processing and interpreting auditory information, leading to challenges in understanding speech, distinguishing sounds, or following directions, despite normal hearing sensitivity.

**Auditory system:** The complex system involved in the perception, processing, and interpretation of sound. It encompasses the ear structures, auditory nerves, and brain regions responsible for hearing.

**Autoantibodies:** Antibodies produced by the immune system that mistakenly target and attack the body's own cells or tissues, leading to autoimmune diseases.

**Autoimmune disease:** A condition in which the immune system mistakenly attacks and damages the

body's own cells, tissues, or organs. Examples include rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and multiple sclerosis.

**Autoimmune hepatitis:** A chronic liver disease characterized by inflammation and damage to liver cells due to an autoimmune response. It can lead to liver fibrosis, cirrhosis, and impaired liver function.

**Autoimmune response:** The immune system's response against the body's own cells or tissues, resulting in inflammation, tissue damage, and the production of autoantibodies.

**Autoimmune thyroiditis:** Also known as Hashimoto's thyroiditis, it is an autoimmune disorder in which the immune system attacks the thyroid gland, leading to chronic inflammation, reduced thyroid function, and the development of hypothyroidism.

**Autoimmunity:** The state of having an immune response directed against the body's own cells or tissues. It is a key feature of autoimmune diseases.

**Autologous:** Referring to something derived from the same individual, such as autologous blood transfusion (using one's own blood) or autologous stem cell transplantation (using one's own stem cells).

**Autologous bone marrow transplant:** A procedure in which a person's own bone marrow is collected, treated, and then reinfused to replace damaged or destroyed bone marrow, typically following high-dose chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

**Autologous chondrocyte implantation (ACI):** A surgical procedure used to repair damaged cartilage in joints, such as the knee. It involves taking a sample of the patient's own healthy cartilage cells, growing them in a laboratory, and then implanting them back into the damaged area.

**Autologous stem cell transplantation:** A procedure in which a person's own stem cells, typically derived from bone marrow or peripheral blood, are collected, stored, and then reinfused after high-dose chemotherapy or radiation therapy. It is used in the treatment of various cancers and certain autoimmune diseases.

**Autolysis:** The process of self-digestion or decomposition of cells or tissues by their own enzymes. It occurs naturally after cell death or can be induced in laboratory settings.

**Automated external defibrillator (AED):** A portable device that automatically analyzes a person's heart rhythm and delivers an electric shock to restore a normal heartbeat in cases of sudden cardiac arrest.

**Autonomic dysreflexia:** A potentially life-threatening condition characterized by abnormal responses of the autonomic nervous system to stimuli, typically occurring in individuals with spinal cord injuries above the level of T6. It can cause severe hypertension and other symptoms.

**Autonomic nervous system:** The part of the peripheral nervous system responsible for controlling involuntary bodily functions, such as heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, and breathing. It consists of the sympathetic and parasympathetic divisions.

**Autophagy:** A cellular process in which cells break down and recycle their own components, including proteins and organelles, to maintain cellular homeostasis and provide nutrients during times of stress or starvation.

**Autopsy:** An autopsy is a medical examination performed after death to determine the cause of death and gather information about the person's health. It involves examining the body, organs, and fluids to uncover

the circumstances surrounding their death.

**Autosomal dominant:** A pattern of inheritance in which a trait or disorder is caused by a mutation in a gene located on an autosomal chromosome (non-sex chromosome) and only one copy of the mutated gene is needed to express the trait or disorder.

**Autosomal recessive:** A pattern of inheritance in which a trait or disorder is caused by a mutation in a gene located on an autosomal chromosome (non-sex chromosome) and two copies of the mutated gene, one from each parent, are needed to express the trait or disorder.

**Autotransfusion:** The process of collecting and reinfusing a person's own blood during a surgical procedure or after blood loss, reducing the need for transfusion of donor blood.

**Autotrophic:** Referring to organisms that can synthesize their own organic compounds using inorganic substances as a source of energy, such as plants that perform photosynthesis.

**Auxiliary labels:** Labels attached to medication packaging that provide additional instructions, warnings, or information to assist patients and healthcare professionals in the safe and appropriate use of the medication.

**AV nodal reentrant tachycardia:** A type of abnormal heart rhythm characterized by a reentry circuit involving the atrioventricular (AV) node, leading to rapid heart rates. It can cause palpitations, dizziness, and shortness of breath.

**Avitaminosis:** A condition resulting from a deficiency of one or more essential vitamins in the body, leading to specific symptoms or disorders associated with that vitamin deficiency.

**Avulsion fracture:** A type of bone fracture in which a fragment of bone is torn away from the main bone due to the forceful pulling or tearing of a tendon or ligament attached to it.

**Avulsion injury:** A type of injury in which a body structure, such as a tendon or ligament, is forcibly torn away or detached from its normal attachment site.

**Axillary artery:** The major artery that supplies blood to the upper limb, running through the armpit (axilla) and giving rise to various branches.

**Axillary lymph nodes:** Lymph nodes located in the armpit (axilla) region, responsible for filtering lymph fluid and containing immune cells that help fight infections and cancer.

**Axillary vein:** The vein that accompanies the axillary artery in the armpit (axilla) and carries deoxygenated blood from the upper limb back to the heart.

**Axon:** A long, slender extension of a nerve cell (neuron) that conducts electrical impulses away from the cell body to other neurons, muscles, or glands.

**Axonal injury:** Damage or disruption to the axons of nerve cells, often caused by trauma, leading to functional impairment or loss of communication between neurons.

**Axonopathy:** A disorder characterized by damage or dysfunction of nerve axons, which can result from various causes such as metabolic disorders, toxins, or hereditary conditions.

**Azathioprine:** A medication classified as an immunosuppressant, commonly used in the treatment of autoimmune diseases and to prevent organ rejection in transplant recipients.



**Azithromycin:** An antibiotic medication belonging to the macrolide class, commonly used to treat bacterial infections such as respiratory tract infections, skin infections, and sexually transmitted diseases.

**Azotemia:** An abnormal increase in the levels of nitrogenous waste products, such as urea and creatinine, in the blood, indicating impaired kidney function.

**Azuophilic granules:** Specialized granules found in certain types of white blood cells, particularly neutrophils, containing various enzymes and antimicrobial substances involved in the immune response.

**Azygos vein:** A major vein in the body that drains blood from the thoracic and abdominal walls, connecting the superior and inferior vena cavae.

**Azymotic:** Referring to a substance or condition that is free from fermentation or yeast activity.

# CHAPTER TWO: B TERMS

**Babesiosis:** A disease caused by tiny parasites called Babesia that infect red blood cells and are transmitted through tick bites. It can lead to flu-like symptoms such as fever, fatigue, and muscle aches.

**Babinski reflex:** A reflex in which the big toe extends upward and the other toes spread out when the sole of the foot is firmly stroked. It is used to assess the functioning of the nervous system, particularly in infants.

**Bacteremia:** The presence of bacteria in the bloodstream, which can occur due to an infection. It can lead to symptoms such as fever, chills, and general illness.

**Bacterial meningitis:** An infection that causes inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. It is usually caused by bacteria and can result in symptoms like severe headache, neck stiffness, and fever.

**Bacterial vaginosis:** An imbalance of bacteria in the vagina, leading to symptoms such as abnormal vaginal discharge, itching, and a fishy odor.

**Bactericidal:** Referring to substances or treatments that can kill bacteria.

**Bacteriostatic:** Referring to substances or treatments that can inhibit the growth or reproduction of bacteria without necessarily killing them.

**Barbiturate overdose:** An excessive intake of barbiturate medications, which are central nervous system depressants. Overdose can cause severe drowsiness, confusion, difficulty breathing, and can be life-threatening.

**Barbiturates:** A class of medications that act as sedatives and hypnotics, often used to treat anxiety, insomnia, and seizures.

**Barium enema:** A medical procedure in which a liquid containing barium is used to coat the colon during an X-ray examination. It helps visualize the colon and detect abnormalities.

**Basal cell carcinoma:** The most common type of skin cancer that develops in the basal cells of the skin. It often appears as a small, shiny bump or a flesh-colored patch and is usually caused by excessive sun exposure.

**Basal ganglia:** A group of structures located deep within the brain that play a role in coordinating movement and regulating certain aspects of cognition and behavior.

**Basal ganglia disorders:** Conditions that affect the normal functioning of the basal ganglia, leading to movement problems, such as tremors, stiffness, and difficulties with coordination and control.

**Basal metabolic rate (BMR):** The amount of energy or calories that your body needs to maintain basic functions while at rest, such as breathing and cell production.

**Basal metabolic rate (BMR) test:** A measurement or calculation used to estimate an individual's basal metabolic rate, often determined by factors such as age, gender, weight, and height.

**Base deficit:** A measurement that indicates an imbalance in the body's acid-base balance, specifically a

lower than normal level of bicarbonate ions, which can occur in conditions like metabolic acidosis.

**Base excess:** A measurement that indicates an imbalance in the body's acid-base balance, specifically a higher than normal level of bicarbonate ions, which can occur in conditions like metabolic alkalosis.

**Base pair:** Two nucleotides (adenine, thymine, cytosine, or guanine) that are complementary and bind together to form the rungs of the DNA ladder.

**Baseline:** A reference point or starting measurement used for comparison or evaluation. In medical contexts, it often refers to the initial measurement taken before treatment or intervention.

**Basilar artery:** An important blood vessel located at the base of the brain that supplies oxygenated blood to various structures in the brainstem and posterior cerebral circulation.

**Basophil:** A type of white blood cell involved in the body's immune response. Basophils release substances such as histamine, which play a role in allergic reactions.

**Batesian mimicry:** A form of biological mimicry in which a harmless species evolves to resemble a harmful or toxic species in order to gain protection from predators.

**Bed rest:** A prescribed period of rest and confinement to a bed, often recommended for medical reasons to aid in healing or managing certain conditions.

**Behavioral health:** The branch of healthcare that focuses on the relationship between behaviors, emotions, and overall well-being, with an emphasis on mental health and substance abuse.

**Behavioral medicine:** A field that combines principles of psychology, behavior, and medicine to understand how behavior and lifestyle factors impact physical and mental health.

**Behavioral pediatrics:** A specialized branch of medicine that focuses on the evaluation, diagnosis, and management of behavioral and developmental issues in children.

**Behavioral psychology:** A branch of psychology that examines how behaviors are learned, influenced, and modified through environmental factors and reinforcement.

**Behavioral therapy:** A type of therapy that aims to modify and change problematic behaviors by using various techniques such as positive reinforcement, cognitive restructuring, and behavior modification strategies.

**Behavioral therapy for ADHD:** A specific type of therapy that focuses on managing and improving symptoms of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) through behavior management techniques, skill-building, and parent/teacher involvement.

**Behavioral therapy for autism:** A therapeutic approach that focuses on addressing the core symptoms of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) by targeting specific behaviors, social skills, communication, and adaptive functioning.

**Bell's palsy:** A condition characterized by sudden weakness or paralysis of the muscles on one side of the face, usually caused by inflammation or compression of the facial nerve.

**Bell's palsy rehabilitation:** The process of restoring and improving facial muscle function and coordination through various exercises, therapies, and techniques aimed at promoting recovery and reducing the long-term effects of Bell's palsy.

**Benign:** Referring to a medical condition or growth that is not cancerous and does not pose a significant threat to health or life. Benign conditions are generally considered non-dangerous and have a low potential for spreading or causing harm.

**Benign brain tumors:** Abnormal growths or masses in the brain that are non-cancerous and usually do not invade surrounding tissues. Although they are not cancerous, they can still cause symptoms and require medical attention.

**Benign essential tremor:** A neurological condition characterized by involuntary shaking or trembling, typically affecting the hands, arms, or other parts of the body during certain activities or at rest. It is not associated with any underlying disease and is generally not a serious health concern.

**Benign fibrous histiocytoma:** A non-cancerous tumor that arises from fibroblast cells, which are responsible for producing connective tissues in the body. It usually presents as a painless lump in the skin or soft tissues and is generally harmless.

**Benign hyperplasia of the prostate:** An enlargement of the prostate gland that is non-cancerous and typically occurs with age. It can cause urinary symptoms such as frequent urination, difficulty starting and stopping urination, and weak urine flow.

**Benign melanocytic nevi:** Commonly known as moles, these are non-cancerous growths on the skin that develop from melanocytes (cells responsible for skin pigmentation). They are usually harmless but may need monitoring for any changes that could indicate skin cancer.

**Benign neoplasm of adrenal gland:** A non-cancerous growth or tumor that develops in the adrenal gland, which is responsible for producing hormones. These growths typically do not cause symptoms but may require medical attention if they become large or affect hormone production.

**Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV):** A common inner ear disorder that causes brief episodes of dizziness or spinning sensations triggered by certain head movements. It is typically not serious but can significantly affect balance and quality of life.

**Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH):** An enlargement of the prostate gland that is non-cancerous and commonly occurs in older men. BPH can cause urinary symptoms, such as frequent urination, urgency, weak urine flow, and incomplete emptying of the bladder.

**Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) surgery:** Surgical procedures performed to treat symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) by removing or reducing the excess prostate tissue that is causing urinary obstruction.

**Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) therapy:** Various treatment approaches aimed at managing the symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) without surgical intervention. These therapies may include medication, lifestyle modifications, and minimally invasive procedures.

**Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) treatment:** The overall management and interventions used to address the symptoms and complications associated with benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), including both surgical and non-surgical approaches.

**Benign prostatic hypertrophy:** A term commonly used to refer to benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), which is the non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate gland.

**Benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH) treatment:** The medical interventions and strategies employed to

alleviate the symptoms and complications associated with benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH), such as medication, lifestyle changes, and surgical procedures.

**Benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH) surgery:** Surgical procedures performed to treat the symptoms and complications of benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH) by removing or reducing the excess prostate tissue that is causing urinary obstruction.

**Benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH) therapy:** Various therapeutic approaches used to manage the symptoms and complications of benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH) without resorting to surgical intervention. These therapies may include medication, lifestyle modifications, and minimally invasive procedures.

**Benign tumor:** A non-cancerous growth or mass formed by the abnormal proliferation of cells. Unlike cancerous tumors, benign tumors do not invade nearby tissues or spread to other parts of the body.

**Benign tumor of the liver:** A non-cancerous growth or mass that develops within the liver. These tumors do not invade nearby tissues and are usually not life-threatening, although they may require medical attention if they cause symptoms or affect liver function.

**Beta blockers:** Medications that block the effects of adrenaline and other stress hormones on beta receptors in the body. They are commonly used to treat conditions such as high blood pressure, heart rhythm disorders, and certain heart diseases.

**Beta cell:** A type of cell in the pancreas that produces and releases insulin, a hormone involved in regulating blood sugar levels. Beta cells play a crucial role in the development and management of diabetes.

**Beta cell transplant:** A procedure in which healthy beta cells are transplanted into the pancreas of a person with diabetes, typically in cases of type 1 diabetes. The transplanted beta cells can produce insulin and help regulate blood sugar levels.

**Beta hemolytic streptococcus:** A group of bacteria called streptococci that can cause infections, including strep throat and skin infections. "Beta hemolytic" refers to the pattern of red blood cell destruction that these bacteria can produce.

**Beta hydroxy acid (BHA):** An ingredient commonly found in skincare products, such as cleansers and exfoliants. BHA helps to exfoliate the skin, unclog pores, and promote cell turnover, leading to smoother and clearer skin.

**Beta secretase inhibitors:** Pharmaceutical compounds or drugs that inhibit the action of beta secretase, an enzyme involved in the production of amyloid beta peptides. Beta secretase inhibitors are being investigated as a potential treatment for Alzheimer's disease.

**Beta thalassemia minor:** A genetic condition in which an individual inherits one abnormal gene for beta thalassemia, resulting in reduced production of hemoglobin. People with beta thalassemia minor usually have mild symptoms or are asymptomatic.

**Beta thalassemia trait:** Another term for beta thalassemia minor, which refers to the carrier state of the beta thalassemia gene without significant symptoms or complications.

**Beta-carotene:** A pigment found in fruits and vegetables that the body can convert into vitamin A. It acts as an antioxidant and is important for maintaining healthy skin, vision, and immune function.

**Beta-2 agonists:** Medications that stimulate the beta-2 adrenergic receptors, leading to relaxation of the airway muscles and dilation of the bronchial tubes. They are commonly used as bronchodilators in the treatment of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

**Beta-adrenergic blocking agents:** Medications, also known as beta-blockers, that block the effects of adrenaline on beta receptors. They are used to treat conditions such as high blood pressure, heart rhythm disorders, angina, and heart failure.

**Beta-lactam antibiotics:** A class of antibiotics that includes penicillins and cephalosporins, which are effective against a wide range of bacterial infections. They work by inhibiting the synthesis of bacterial cell walls.

**Beta-endorphins:** Naturally occurring chemicals in the body that act as neurotransmitters and have pain-relieving properties. They are often released during physical activity, stress, or emotional experiences and contribute to feelings of well-being.

**Beta-thalassemia:** A genetic blood disorder characterized by reduced or absent production of beta-globin chains, leading to abnormal formation of hemoglobin. It can result in anemia and other complications.

**Beta-thalassemia major:** The more severe form of beta-thalassemia in which there is a complete absence or severe reduction in the production of beta-globin chains. It requires regular blood transfusions and ongoing medical care.

**Bicarbonate:** A chemical compound that acts as a buffer in the body, helping to maintain the balance of acid and alkaline substances in the blood and other bodily fluids.

**Bicompartmental knee replacement:** A surgical procedure in which only two compartments of the knee joint are replaced with prosthetic components, usually the medial and patellofemoral compartments. It is an alternative to total knee replacement for select patients with specific knee conditions.

**Bicornuate uterus:** A type of uterine malformation in which the uterus is divided into two separate cavities, each with its own separate cervix. It can affect fertility and increase the risk of certain pregnancy complications.

**Bicuspid aortic valve:** A congenital heart defect in which the aortic valve, which controls blood flow from the heart to the aorta, has two instead of the usual three leaflets. It can lead to valve dysfunction and other cardiovascular problems.

**Bicuspid valve:** Another term for bicuspid aortic valve, referring to a two-leaflet valve in the heart instead of the normal three-leaflet valve.

**Bicuspid valve disease:** A condition characterized by abnormalities or dysfunction of the bicuspid valve, which may include valve stenosis (narrowing) or regurgitation (leakage). It can affect blood flow and put strain on the heart.

**Bilateral:** Pertaining to both sides or affecting both sides of the body or a pair of organs.

**Bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy:** A surgical procedure involving the removal of both fallopian tubes and ovaries. It may be performed for various reasons, including the treatment or prevention of gynecological conditions such as ovarian cancer or severe endometriosis.

**Bile duct:** A tube that carries bile, a digestive fluid produced by the liver, from the liver and gallbladder to the small intestine. It plays a crucial role in the digestion and absorption of fats.

**Bile salts:** Substances produced by the liver that aid in the digestion and absorption of fats. Bile salts help emulsify fats, making them more accessible to digestive enzymes.

**Bilharzia:** Also known as schistosomiasis, it is a parasitic infection caused by a type of flatworm called Schistosoma. It is commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions and can cause various symptoms and complications, primarily affecting the urinary and gastrointestinal systems.

**Biliary:** Relating to the bile or the bile ducts.

**Biliary atresia:** A rare pediatric liver disease in which the bile ducts inside or outside the liver are abnormally narrow, blocked, or absent. It can lead to liver damage and the accumulation of bile in the liver, causing jaundice and other symptoms.

**Biliary atresia screening:** A series of tests performed on newborns to detect the presence of biliary atresia or other liver abnormalities early on. The screening may involve blood tests, imaging studies, and a physical examination.

**Biliary calculus:** Also known as a gallstone, it is a solid deposit that forms in the gallbladder or bile ducts due to the crystallization of substances in bile. Gallstones can cause pain, inflammation, and other complications.

**Biliary cirrhosis:** A chronic liver disease characterized by inflammation and scarring of the bile ducts within the liver. It can lead to impaired liver function and other complications.

**Biliary cirrhosis treatment:** Medical interventions and lifestyle changes aimed at managing the symptoms and slowing the progression of biliary cirrhosis. Treatment may involve medications, dietary modifications, and liver transplant evaluation in advanced cases.

**Biliary colic:** Severe pain caused by the intermittent obstruction of the bile ducts, usually by gallstones. It typically occurs after a meal and is characterized by intense abdominal pain, often in the upper right quadrant.

**Biliary colic diet:** Dietary recommendations to manage biliary colic and reduce symptoms. The diet may involve avoiding certain foods, such as fatty or fried foods, and emphasizing a balanced and low-fat diet.

**Biliary colic treatment:** Various approaches to alleviate pain and manage biliary colic attacks. Treatment may involve pain medications, antispasmodic drugs, and interventions to remove gallstones.

**Biliary dyskinesia:** A condition characterized by abnormal or impaired movement of the gallbladder or bile ducts, leading to difficulties in bile flow and digestion. It may result in symptoms similar to biliary colic.

**Biliary obstruction:** The blockage or narrowing of the bile ducts, which can occur due to various causes, such as gallstones, tumors, or inflammation. Biliary obstruction can lead to the accumulation of bile in the liver and cause jaundice and other complications.

**Biliary obstruction surgery:** Surgical procedures aimed at removing or bypassing the obstruction in the bile ducts. The specific surgical approach depends on the cause and location of the obstruction.

**Biliary obstruction treatment:** Medical interventions and procedures to manage or eliminate the

obstruction in the bile ducts. Treatment options may include surgery, endoscopic procedures, or other techniques to restore bile flow.

**Biliary system:** The collective term for the organs, ducts, and structures involved in the production, transportation, and storage of bile, including the liver, gallbladder, and bile ducts.

**Biliary system diseases:** Various medical conditions that affect the organs and structures of the biliary system, such as the liver, gallbladder, and bile ducts. These diseases can include biliary colic, biliary cirrhosis, biliary obstruction, and biliary tract infections, among others.

**Biliary system function:** The role and activities performed by the organs and structures of the biliary system in the body. This includes the production, storage, and transportation of bile, which aids in the digestion and absorption of fats.

**Biliary system surgery:** Surgical procedures performed on the organs and structures of the biliary system to treat diseases or conditions. This can include surgeries such as gallbladder removal (cholecystectomy), bile duct repair, or liver transplantation.

**Biliary tract cancer:** A type of cancer that affects the bile ducts, gallbladder, or other structures of the biliary system. It can cause symptoms such as jaundice, abdominal pain, and weight loss.

**Biliary tree:** The branching network of bile ducts that carries bile from the liver to the gallbladder and small intestine. It includes the intrahepatic ducts within the liver and the extrahepatic ducts outside the liver.

**Bilirubin:** A yellowish pigment produced during the breakdown of red blood cells. It is processed by the liver and excreted in bile. Elevated levels of bilirubin in the blood can lead to jaundice.

**Binge eating disorder:** A psychiatric disorder characterized by recurrent episodes of consuming large amounts of food in a short period, accompanied by a loss of control and distress. It is different from occasional overeating and is associated with emotional and psychological factors.

**Binge eating treatment:** Therapeutic approaches and interventions used to address and manage binge eating disorder. Treatment may involve psychotherapy, counseling, nutritional guidance, and sometimes medication.

**Biocompatibility:** The ability of a material or substance to coexist with living tissues or biological systems without causing harmful or adverse reactions. It is an important consideration in medical device design and implantation.

**Bioethics:** The study of ethical issues and principles arising from advances in biology, medicine, and healthcare. It involves examining moral dilemmas related to topics such as genetic testing, human experimentation, end-of-life care, and healthcare resource allocation.

**Biofeedback:** A technique that uses electronic instruments to measure and provide feedback on physiological processes, such as heart rate, blood pressure, or muscle tension. It aims to help individuals learn self-regulation and control of these processes.

**Biofeedback therapy:** The use of biofeedback techniques as a therapeutic approach to treat various health conditions, including chronic pain, anxiety disorders, hypertension, and certain musculoskeletal disorders.



**Biogenesis:** The process by which living organisms produce new living organisms of the same kind. It refers to the origin and development of life from preexisting living matter.

**Biogenic amines:** Naturally occurring organic compounds that act as neurotransmitters or signaling molecules in the body. Examples include dopamine, serotonin, and norepinephrine.

**Biological clock:** The internal mechanism or system that regulates various biological processes and behaviors, such as sleep-wake cycles, hormone secretion, and metabolism. It helps maintain the body's internal rhythm in response to external cues like light and darkness.

**Biological half-life:** The time it takes for the concentration or activity of a substance in the body to decrease by half through natural processes, such as metabolism or elimination.

**Biological variation:** The natural variation or fluctuations that occur in biological processes or parameters within an individual or a population. It accounts for the normal range of values observed in different individuals.

**Biologic response modifier:** Substances or drugs that modify the body's immune response to diseases, such as cancer or autoimmune disorders. They can enhance or suppress the immune system's activity to achieve therapeutic effects.

**Biologic therapy:** A type of medical treatment that uses biological substances, such as antibodies, vaccines, or cytokines, to target specific disease processes or stimulate the body's immune response.

**Biologic therapy for cancer:** Treatment approaches that involve the use of biologic agents, such as monoclonal antibodies, immune checkpoint inhibitors, or targeted therapies, to specifically target and inhibit cancer cells or enhance the body's immune response against cancer.

**Biological warfare:** The use of living organisms, toxins, or biological agents as weapons in acts of war or terrorism. These agents can cause widespread illness, death, or disruption to society.

**Biomedical engineering:** The application of engineering principles and techniques to develop and improve medical devices, equipment, and technologies used in healthcare. It involves the design, development, and testing of devices like prosthetics, imaging systems, and diagnostic tools.

**Biomedical research:** Scientific investigations and studies conducted to advance knowledge in the field of biology and medicine. It involves studying various aspects of human health, diseases, treatments, and medical technologies.

**Biopsy:** A medical procedure in which a small sample of tissue or cells is removed from the body for examination under a microscope. It helps in diagnosing diseases, identifying abnormalities, or assessing the nature of a lesion or tumor.

**Biopsy of lung:** A procedure to obtain a sample of lung tissue for analysis. It is often done to diagnose lung diseases, evaluate lung nodules or masses, or assess the extent of lung cancer.

**Biopsy of prostate:** The removal of a small tissue sample from the prostate gland for examination. It is commonly performed to diagnose prostate cancer or determine the cause of prostate-related symptoms.

**Biopsy of skin:** The removal of a small section of skin for laboratory analysis. It helps in diagnosing skin conditions, such as skin cancer, rashes, infections, or autoimmune disorders.

**Biopsy of thyroid:** The removal of a small sample of thyroid tissue for microscopic examination. It is

used to diagnose thyroid disorders, evaluate thyroid nodules, or detect thyroid cancer.

**Biopsy report:** A document that provides the results and findings of a biopsy. It includes information about the analyzed tissue or cells, any abnormalities or diseases detected, and recommendations for further management or treatment.

**Biopsy results:** The outcomes or findings obtained from the analysis of a biopsy sample. The results may indicate the presence or absence of disease, the nature of a tumor or lesion, or provide insights into the condition being investigated.

**Bipap machine:** A medical device used to deliver non-invasive positive pressure ventilation to individuals with respiratory conditions, such as sleep apnea or respiratory failure. It assists in breathing by providing alternating positive and expiratory pressure.

**Biparietal diameter:** A measurement of the fetal head's width between the two parietal bones during pregnancy. It is used to estimate the gestational age and monitor fetal growth.

**Bipolar disorder:** A mental health condition characterized by extreme mood swings that include episodes of mania (elevated mood and energy) and depression (low mood and loss of interest). It affects a person's emotions, behavior, and ability to function.

**Bipolar I disorder:** A subtype of bipolar disorder characterized by the presence of at least one manic episode. Depressive episodes may also occur, but they are not necessary for the diagnosis.

**Bipolar II disorder:** A subtype of bipolar disorder characterized by recurrent episodes of major depression and hypomania (less severe than full mania). It does not involve full-blown manic episodes.

**Birth control implant:** A small, flexible rod inserted under the skin of the upper arm to provide long-term contraception. It releases hormones that prevent pregnancy and can be effective for several years.

**Birth control methods:** Various techniques, devices, or medications used to prevent pregnancy. These include hormonal methods (pills, patches, injections), barrier methods (condoms, diaphragms), intrauterine devices (IUDs), sterilization, and natural family planning.

**Birth control patch:** A transdermal patch worn on the skin to prevent pregnancy. It releases hormones that are absorbed through the skin and provide contraception for a week at a time.

**Birth control pill:** An oral contraceptive medication taken daily to prevent pregnancy. It contains hormones that inhibit ovulation, thicken cervical mucus, and alter the uterine lining to prevent fertilization and implantation.

**Birth control:** Methods or measures used to intentionally prevent pregnancy and regulate family planning.

**Birth control ring:** A small, flexible ring inserted into the vagina to prevent pregnancy. It releases hormones similar to those in birth control pills and provides contraception for a month at a time.

**Birth control shot:** An injectable form of contraception administered every few months to prevent pregnancy. It contains hormones that inhibit ovulation and provide contraceptive protection.

**Birth control sponge:** A soft, disposable sponge inserted into the vagina before sexual intercourse to prevent pregnancy. It contains spermicide and acts as a barrier to sperm.

**Birth defects:** Structural or functional abnormalities present at birth that can affect a baby's physical or

mental development. These abnormalities may be caused by genetic factors, environmental exposures, or a combination of both.

**Birthmark:** A colored spot or mark on the skin that is present at birth or appears shortly after. Birthmarks can be flat or raised, vary in size and color, and are usually harmless.

**Black death:** A devastating pandemic of the bubonic plague that occurred in Europe during the 14th century. It caused widespread death and is estimated to have killed millions of people.

**Blackheads:** Small, dark-colored bumps that appear on the skin, usually on the face, due to clogged hair follicles. They are a form of acne and are caused by the buildup of oil, dead skin cells, and bacteria.

**Bladder:** A hollow organ located in the pelvis that stores urine produced by the kidneys. It has muscular walls that contract during urination to expel urine from the body.

**Bladder cancer:** A type of cancer that develops in the tissues of the bladder. It can cause symptoms such as blood in the urine, frequent urination, pain during urination, or pelvic discomfort.

**Bladder control:** The ability to regulate the storage and release of urine from the bladder voluntarily. Impaired bladder control can result in urinary incontinence or difficulties with urination.

**Bladder infection:** An infection of the urinary tract that specifically affects the bladder. It can cause symptoms such as frequent urination, pain or burning during urination, and a strong urge to urinate.

**Bladder prolapse:** A condition in which the bladder descends or bulges into the vaginal canal. It occurs when the muscles and tissues that support the bladder weaken, often due to childbirth, aging, or other factors.

**Bladder stones:** Hard mineral deposits that form in the bladder. They can cause urinary symptoms such as pain, frequent urination, and blood in the urine.

**Blastocyst:** An early stage of embryo development, typically occurring five to six days after fertilization. It is a hollow structure consisting of a cluster of cells and is formed before implantation in the uterus.

**Bleeding disorder:** A condition characterized by abnormalities in blood clotting, leading to excessive or prolonged bleeding. Examples include hemophilia and von Willebrand disease.

**Bleeding gums:** A common symptom of gum disease (periodontitis) in which the gums become swollen, tender, and bleed easily, especially during brushing or flossing.

**Blepharitis:** Inflammation of the eyelids, often caused by bacteria or problems with the oil glands in the eyelids. It can result in redness, itching, and crusting of the eyelid margins.

**Blepharoplasty:** A surgical procedure to modify the appearance of the eyelids, typically involving the removal of excess skin, fat, or muscle to rejuvenate the eyelid contour.

**Blepharospasm:** Involuntary, repetitive contractions or spasms of the muscles around the eyelids. It can cause uncontrollable blinking, eye twitching, and discomfort.

**Blindness:** Complete or severe loss of vision, resulting in the inability to see. It can be caused by various factors, including eye diseases, injuries, or neurological conditions.

**Blister:** A raised, fluid-filled pocket that forms on the skin as a protective response to friction, heat, or

other irritants. It serves to cushion the underlying tissue and promote healing.

**Blocked tear duct:** A condition in which the tear ducts, which normally drain tears from the eyes into the nose, are partially or completely obstructed. It can lead to excessive tearing and recurrent eye infections.

**Blood:** A vital fluid in the body that circulates through blood vessels, carrying oxygen, nutrients, hormones, and waste products. It plays a crucial role in transporting substances, regulating body temperature, and maintaining homeostasis.

**Blood alcohol concentration:** The concentration of alcohol in the bloodstream, typically measured as a percentage. It is used to assess the level of alcohol intoxication or impairment.

**Blood bank:** A facility that collects, tests, and stores donated blood for transfusion to individuals in need. It ensures a safe and adequate supply of blood for medical treatments and emergencies.

**Blood cancer:** A type of cancer that affects the production and function of blood cells. Examples include leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma.

**Blood cell:** A cell found in the blood, including red blood cells (erythrocytes), white blood cells (leukocytes), and platelets (thrombocytes). Each type of blood cell has specific functions in the body.

**Blood clot:** A gel-like mass formed by platelets and coagulation factors in response to blood vessel injury. It helps stop bleeding and promotes wound healing but can also lead to harmful blockages if formed inappropriately.

**Blood clotting disorders:** Conditions that affect the normal clotting process, leading to an increased risk of excessive bleeding or abnormal blood clot formation. Examples include hemophilia and thrombophilia.

**Blood culture:** A laboratory test that involves collecting a sample of blood to detect the presence of bacteria, viruses, or fungi in the bloodstream. It helps diagnose and monitor systemic infections.

**Blood donation:** The act of voluntarily giving blood for transfusion or medical research purposes. Donated blood is screened, processed, and stored before being used to help patients in need.

**Blood gas test:** A diagnostic test that measures the levels of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and pH in the blood. It provides valuable information about respiratory and metabolic function.

**Blood glucose monitoring:** The regular measurement of blood sugar levels to monitor and manage diabetes. It involves using a blood glucose meter to obtain a small sample of blood for analysis.

**Blood in urine:** The presence of red blood cells in the urine, which can indicate various underlying conditions, such as urinary tract infections, kidney stones, or bladder cancer.

**Blood pressure:** The force exerted by circulating blood against the walls of blood vessels. It is measured as two values: systolic pressure (during heart contraction) and diastolic pressure (during heart relaxation).

**Blood pressure measurement:** The process of assessing blood pressure using a sphygmomanometer or electronic device. It provides numerical values (in millimeters of mercury, mmHg) for systolic and diastolic pressures.

**Blood pressure monitor:** A device used to measure and monitor blood pressure at home or in a healthcare setting. It can be manual (with a cuff and stethoscope) or automatic (digital).

**Blood pressure reading:** The numerical values obtained from a blood pressure measurement, indicating the level of pressure exerted on the arterial walls during systole and diastole.

**Blood pressure regulation:** The physiological mechanisms that maintain blood pressure within a normal range to ensure adequate organ perfusion and overall cardiovascular health.

**Blood pressure test:** A procedure performed to assess an individual's blood pressure and detect any abnormalities or changes over time. It is often part of routine medical examinations or specific evaluations.

**Blood products:** Components derived from donated blood, such as red blood cells, platelets, plasma, and clotting factors. These products are used for transfusions or to manufacture medications.

**Blood transfusion:** The process of transferring blood or blood components from a donor to a recipient. It is done to replace blood loss, improve oxygen delivery, or treat certain medical conditions.

**Blood type:** A classification system that categorizes human blood based on the presence or absence of specific antigens on red blood cells. The main blood types are A, B, AB, and O, each with positive or negative Rh factors.

**Blood urea nitrogen (BUN):** A blood test that measures the level of urea nitrogen, a waste product of protein metabolism, in the blood. It is used to assess kidney function and hydration status.

**Blood vessel:** A tubular structure that carries blood throughout the body. Blood vessels include arteries, veins, and capillaries, each with specific functions in the circulatory system.

**Blood vessel disorders:** Conditions that affect the structure or function of blood vessels, leading to abnormalities in blood flow. Examples include atherosclerosis, varicose veins, and aneurysms.

**Blood-brain barrier:** A protective barrier formed by specialized cells in the blood vessels of the brain. It selectively allows certain substances to pass into the brain while blocking others, maintaining the brain's stable environment.

**Body composition:** The proportion of different tissues (fat, muscle, bone, etc.) that make up the body. It is often assessed to evaluate overall health, fitness, and body weight management.

**Body dysmorphic disorder:** A mental health disorder characterized by excessive preoccupation with perceived flaws or defects in one's physical appearance. It can cause significant distress and impact daily functioning.

**Body fat:** The adipose tissue stored in the body, primarily serving as an energy reserve and insulation. Excess body fat can contribute to various health conditions, including obesity.

**Body image:** An individual's perception and subjective evaluation of their own body's appearance, including size, shape, and attractiveness. It can influence self-esteem and mental well-being.

**Body mass index (BMI):** A measurement that assesses body weight in relation to height. It provides an estimation of body fat and helps classify individuals into categories such as underweight, normal weight, overweight, or obese.

**Body odor:** The characteristic scent produced by the body, primarily influenced by sweat and bacterial activity. It can be influenced by various factors, including hygiene, diet, and medical conditions.

**Body temperature:** The measure of the internal heat of the body, usually expressed in degrees Fahrenheit (°F) or Celsius (°C). It is regulated by the hypothalamus and plays a crucial role in physiological functions.

**Body weight:** The numerical value that represents an individual's total mass, including muscle, fat, bone, and other tissues. It is often used as an indicator of health and is influenced by various factors, including genetics and lifestyle.

**Boil:** A painful, pus-filled lump that forms within a hair follicle or oil gland. It is usually caused by a bacterial infection and can occur anywhere on the body.

**Bone:** A dense and rigid connective tissue that forms the structural framework of the body and provides support, protection, and mobility. It is composed of cells, collagen fibers, and minerals such as calcium.

**Bone cancer:** A type of cancer that originates in bone tissue. It can be primary (originating in the bone) or secondary (resulting from the spread of cancer from another site).

**Bone density:** The measure of mineral content and density in bone tissue. It is often assessed to evaluate bone health and screen for conditions such as osteoporosis.

**Bone graft:** A surgical procedure in which healthy bone tissue is transplanted to replace or repair damaged or missing bone. It promotes healing, provides structural support, or enhances bone growth.

**Bone loss:** A condition characterized by the weakening or reduction in bone mass and density. It can lead to conditions such as osteoporosis and increased fracture risk.

**Bone marrow:** The soft, spongy tissue found inside certain bones (e.g., hips, ribs, and sternum) that produces blood cells, including red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets.

**Bone marrow transplant:** A medical procedure that involves replacing diseased or damaged bone marrow with healthy stem cells. It is used to treat various blood disorders, cancers, and immune system conditions.

**Bone mineral density (BMD):** A measurement of bone density used to assess bone health and diagnose conditions such as osteoporosis. It is often obtained through a dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scan.

**Bone scan:** A nuclear imaging test that uses a small amount of radioactive material to evaluate bone health and detect abnormalities, such as fractures, infections, or bone tumors.

**Bone spur:** Also known as osteophyte, a bony projection that forms on the surface of a bone. It is often a response to stress, injury, or conditions such as osteoarthritis.

**Bone tumor:** An abnormal growth or mass of cells within bone tissue. It can be benign (noncancerous) or malignant (cancerous) and may require medical intervention depending on the type and location.

**Botulism:** A rare but serious illness caused by the toxin produced by *Clostridium botulinum* bacteria. It can lead to muscle weakness, paralysis, and potentially life-threatening complications.

**Bowel:** The part of the digestive system responsible for absorbing water, electrolytes, and nutrients from ingested food and eliminating waste products. It consists of the small intestine, large intestine (colon), and rectum.

**Bowel cancer:** Another term for colorectal cancer, which refers to cancer that develops in the colon or rectum. It is one of the most common types of cancer worldwide.

**Bowel control:** The ability to voluntarily control the passage of stool from the bowels. It involves maintaining regular bowel movements and being able to hold or release stool at appropriate times.

**Bowel incontinence:** Also known as fecal incontinence, it refers to the inability to control bowel movements, resulting in unintentional passage of stool. It can be caused by various factors, such as muscle or nerve damage.

**Bowel movements:** The elimination of waste material from the body through the rectum and anus. Bowel movements, also known as stools or feces, are the result of the digestive process and vary in frequency and consistency.

**Bowel obstruction:** A blockage that prevents the normal flow of stool through the intestines. It can be caused by factors such as tumors, strictures, or adhesions and often requires medical intervention.

**Bowel perforation:** A hole or tear in the wall of the bowel, allowing the contents of the intestines to leak into the abdominal cavity. It is a serious condition that may require surgical repair.

**Bowel preparation:** The process of emptying and cleansing the bowels before certain medical procedures or surgeries, such as colonoscopy. It typically involves dietary restrictions and the use of laxatives or enemas.

**Bowel resection:** A surgical procedure in which a portion of the intestine is removed and the remaining sections are joined together. It is performed to treat conditions such as bowel cancer or bowel obstruction.

**Bowel sounds:** The noises produced by the movement of gas and fluids in the intestines. Bowel sounds can be normal, indicating healthy digestion, or abnormal, suggesting underlying digestive issues.

**Bowel transit time:** The duration it takes for food to travel through the digestive system, from ingestion to elimination. It can vary among individuals and may be influenced by factors such as diet, hydration, and gut health.

**Brachial plexus:** A network of nerves located in the shoulder region that controls movement and sensation in the upper limbs. It is formed by the merging of spinal nerves from the neck.

**Brachytherapy:** A type of radiation therapy in which a radioactive source is placed directly into or near the tumor site. It is commonly used to treat cancers, such as prostate cancer or cervical cancer.

**Bradycardia:** A heart rhythm disorder characterized by an abnormally slow heart rate, typically less than 60 beats per minute. It can be caused by various factors, including certain medications or heart conditions.

**Brain:** The complex organ located in the head that serves as the center of the nervous system. It controls and coordinates bodily functions, including thinking, memory, emotions, and voluntary movements.

**Brain aneurysm:** A bulging or ballooning of a blood vessel in the brain, which can potentially rupture and cause a life-threatening condition called subarachnoid hemorrhage.

**Brain damage:** Refers to injury or impairment to the brain tissue, resulting in functional or cognitive deficits. Brain damage can occur due to various factors, such as trauma, stroke, or neurological diseases.

**Brain death:** A state of irreversible cessation of brain function, including brainstem activity. It is considered a legal and medical definition of death.

**Brain fog:** A term used to describe a subjective feeling of mental cloudiness or difficulty with concentration, memory, or cognitive function. It can be associated with various factors, including fatigue, stress, or certain medical conditions.

**Brain hemorrhage:** Bleeding that occurs within the brain, usually due to a ruptured blood vessel. It is a severe medical emergency that requires immediate medical attention.

**Brain injury:** Damage or trauma to the brain, which can result in temporary or permanent impairment of neurological function. Brain injuries can range from mild, such as concussions, to severe, such as traumatic brain injuries (TBIs).

**Brain mapping:** A technique used to identify and understand the functions and structures of different areas of the brain. It helps researchers and healthcare professionals study brain function and diagnose certain conditions.

**Brain metastases:** Cancerous tumors that have spread to the brain from primary cancer sites in other parts of the body. Brain metastases are a common complication of advanced cancers.

**Brain tumor:** An abnormal growth or mass of cells in the brain. Brain tumors can be benign or malignant and can cause various symptoms depending on their location and size.

**Brain-computer interface:** A technology that allows direct communication or interaction between the brain and an external device, such as a computer or prosthetic limb. It can be used for medical purposes or assistive technologies.

**Braxton Hicks contractions:** Also known as "practice contractions," they are intermittent, usually painless contractions of the uterus during pregnancy. They help prepare the uterus for labor but are not true labor contractions.

**Breast:** The mammary gland located on the front of the chest, typically in females. It produces milk for breastfeeding and is involved in sexual characteristics and body image.

**Breast augmentation:** A surgical procedure to increase the size or enhance the shape of the breasts using implants or fat transfer. It is performed for cosmetic purposes.

**Breast cancer:** A type of cancer that develops in the breast tissue, usually originating from the milk ducts or lobules. Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers affecting women but can also occur in men.

**Breast cyst:** A fluid-filled sac or lump that may develop in the breast tissue. Most breast cysts are benign and do not require treatment unless they cause discomfort.

**Breast density:** A measure of the proportion of glandular and fibrous tissue compared to fatty tissue in the breasts. Dense breasts have a higher proportion of glandular and fibrous tissue, which can affect breast cancer detection on mammograms.

**Breastfeeding:** The process of feeding an infant with breast milk produced by the mother's breasts. Breastfeeding provides essential nutrients and antibodies to support the baby's growth and immune system.

**Breast implant:** A medical device inserted into the breast tissue or chest muscle to enhance breast size or



shape. Breast implants can be filled with saline solution or silicone gel.

**Breast lump:** An abnormal mass or swelling in the breast tissue. Breast lumps can have various causes, including benign cysts or tumors, but should be evaluated by a healthcare professional.

**Breast milk:** The natural milk produced by the breasts of a lactating woman. It is the primary source of nutrition for newborns and infants.

**Breast pain:** Discomfort or tenderness in the breasts. Breast pain can have various causes, such as hormonal changes, injury, or underlying breast conditions.

**Breast reconstruction:** Surgical procedures to rebuild the shape and appearance of the breast after mastectomy or breast-conserving surgery. It can involve the use of implants or tissue flap techniques.

**Breast reduction:** A surgical procedure to reduce the size and reshape the breasts. It is performed to alleviate physical discomfort or to achieve a more proportionate breast size.

**Breast self-exam:** A technique for individuals to examine their own breasts to detect any changes or abnormalities. It can be done regularly as part of breast health awareness.

**Breast ultrasound:** An imaging technique that uses sound waves to produce images of the breast tissue. It can help evaluate breast lumps, abnormalities, or assist in guiding needle biopsies.

**Breath:** The process of inhaling and exhaling air from the lungs. It allows the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the body.

**Breath holding spell:** A condition commonly seen in young children characterized by a sudden, brief pause in breathing, often in response to pain, fear, or frustration. It is usually harmless and resolves spontaneously.

**Breath sound:** The sounds produced by the movement of air during breathing. Abnormal breath sounds may indicate underlying respiratory conditions.

**Breathing difficulty:** A sensation of discomfort or struggle to breathe. It can be caused by various factors, including lung or heart conditions, anxiety, or respiratory infections.

**Breathing exercises:** Techniques or activities that focus on controlling and improving breathing patterns. Breathing exercises can help manage stress, improve lung function, and promote relaxation.

**Breathing rate:** The number of breaths taken per minute. It can vary depending on factors such as physical activity, emotional state, or health condition.

**Breathing treatment:** A medical intervention that aims to improve or support respiratory function. It can involve medications, inhalers, oxygen therapy, or respiratory therapies.

**Bronchial asthma:** A chronic respiratory condition characterized by recurrent episodes of wheezing, shortness of breath, coughing, and chest tightness. It is caused by inflammation and constriction of the airways.

**Bronchiectasis:** A chronic condition characterized by irreversible dilation and damage to the bronchial tubes, resulting in recurrent respiratory infections and production of excess mucus.

**Bronchitis:** Inflammation of the bronchial tubes, which carry air to and from the lungs. It can be acute or

chronic and is often associated with coughing, mucus production, and chest discomfort.

**Bronchoscopy:** A procedure that involves the insertion of a flexible tube with a camera into the airways to examine the lungs and air passages. It can aid in the diagnosis and treatment of respiratory conditions.

**Bruise:** Also known as a contusion, it is a visible mark or discoloration on the skin caused by damaged blood vessels beneath the skin's surface. Bruises typically result from trauma or injury.

**Bruxism:** The involuntary grinding or clenching of teeth, usually during sleep. It can lead to dental problems, jaw pain, and headaches.

**Buccal cavity:** The area inside the mouth, including the cheeks, gums, tongue, and other oral structures.

**Budd-Chiari syndrome:** A rare condition characterized by the blockage or obstruction of the hepatic veins, which carry blood from the liver. It can result in liver dysfunction and fluid accumulation in the abdomen.

**Bulging disc:** A spinal disc that protrudes or bulges out of its normal position, often causing pressure on nearby nerves. It can result in pain, numbness, or weakness in the affected area.

**Bulimia:** An eating disorder characterized by recurrent episodes of binge eating followed by compensatory behaviors, such as self-induced vomiting or excessive exercise.

**Bundle branch block:** A heart conduction disorder that affects the electrical signals responsible for coordinating the heartbeat. It can cause delays or blocks in the transmission of signals to different parts of the heart.

**Bunion:** A bony bump that forms at the base of the big toe. It is often associated with misalignment of the joint and can cause pain or discomfort.

**Burkitt lymphoma:** A fast-growing type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma that primarily affects the lymph nodes. It is associated with abnormal B-cells and can occur in various parts of the body.

**Burn:** Damage to the skin or other tissues caused by heat, chemicals, electricity, radiation, or friction. Burns can vary in severity from minor to life-threatening.

**Burns:** The plural form of "burn," referring to injuries resulting from exposure to heat, chemicals, electricity, radiation, or friction.

**Bursa:** A small sac filled with fluid located near joints, acting as a cushion and reducing friction between tissues. Bursae can become inflamed or irritated, causing bursitis.

**Bursitis:** Inflammation of the bursae, which can occur in various joints throughout the body. It is often caused by repetitive motions or joint overuse.

**Buttock augmentation:** A cosmetic surgical procedure to enhance the size or shape of the buttocks. It can involve the use of implants or fat transfer.

**Buttock lift:** A surgical procedure to lift and tighten the buttocks, often performed as part of a body contouring or cosmetic procedure.

**Bypass surgery:** A surgical procedure in which a new pathway is created to divert blood flow around a blocked or damaged blood vessel or organ. It is commonly used to treat coronary artery disease or bypass

blocked arteries.

**Bypass graft:** A surgical procedure in which a blood vessel or synthetic tube is used to create a new pathway for blood to flow around a blocked or damaged blood vessel.

**Bypass valve:** A mechanical valve used in cardiovascular surgery to redirect blood flow. It is often used in procedures such as heart bypass surgery.

**Bypass vessel:** A blood vessel used as a graft to bypass a blocked or damaged blood vessel, restoring blood flow to the affected area.

**Bystander effect:** A social psychological phenomenon in which individuals are less likely to offer help or intervene in an emergency situation when others are present. It is based on the assumption that someone else will take action.

**Byssinosis:** A respiratory condition caused by the inhalation of dust or fibers, often associated with certain occupational exposures. It is commonly seen in workers in textile or cotton industries.

**BZD (Benzodiazepine):** An abbreviation for benzodiazepine, a class of medications that have sedative, hypnotic, anxiolytic, muscle relaxant, and anticonvulsant properties. They are commonly prescribed for anxiety, insomnia, and certain medical conditions.

**BZRA (Benzodiazepine receptor agonist):** An abbreviation for benzodiazepine receptor agonist, which refers to a class of medications that bind to benzodiazepine receptors in the brain, producing similar effects to benzodiazepines. They are often used as sleep aids or sedatives.

# CHAPTER THREE: C TERMS

**CA-125 (Cancer Antigen 125):** A protein that can be found in the blood and is sometimes used as a marker to detect certain types of cancer, particularly ovarian cancer.

**Cachexia:** A condition characterized by severe weight loss and muscle wasting that can occur in people with chronic illnesses, such as cancer or advanced heart failure.

**Calcaneus:** The large bone located in the heel of the foot.

**Calculus:** A hard deposit or stone that can form in different parts of the body, such as the kidneys (kidney stones) or teeth (dental calculus).

**Calf:** The back part of the lower leg, between the knee and the ankle.

**Callosity:** A thickened and hardened area of the skin that develops as a result of friction or pressure, often seen on the feet or hands.

**Caloric intake:** The total amount of calories consumed through food and beverages.

**Caloric restriction:** A dietary practice that involves reducing the number of calories consumed in order to promote weight loss or improve health.

**Calorie:** A unit of measurement used to quantify the energy content of food and beverages.

**Calorie counting:** The practice of keeping track of the number of calories consumed in order to manage weight or achieve specific dietary goals.

**CAM (Complementary and Alternative Medicine):** A term used to describe a wide range of healthcare approaches that fall outside of conventional medicine.

**CAM therapy:** Refers to the use of complementary and alternative medical practices or treatments, such as acupuncture, herbal medicine, or yoga, to promote health and well-being.

**Cancer:** A disease characterized by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells in the body. Cancer can occur in various organs and tissues and has the potential to invade surrounding structures or spread to other parts of the body.

**Cancer diagnosis:** The process of determining the presence and type of cancer in an individual through various medical tests and examinations.

**Cancer screening:** The use of specific tests or procedures to detect cancer in individuals who may not have any symptoms. Screening aims to identify cancer at an early stage when it is more treatable.

**Candida:** A type of yeast that can naturally exist in the human body. Overgrowth of Candida, particularly in the mouth or genital area, can lead to infections such as thrush or yeast infections.

**Candidiasis:** An infection caused by the overgrowth of Candida yeast. It commonly affects the mouth (oral thrush) or genital area (vaginal yeast infection) but can also occur in other parts of the body.

**Cannula:** A thin, flexible tube that is inserted into a vein, artery, or body cavity to deliver medications, fluids, or to remove fluids or gases.

**Capillary:** The smallest blood vessel in the body, which allows for the exchange of oxygen, nutrients, and waste products between the bloodstream and surrounding tissues.

**Carbohydrate:** A macronutrient found in foods such as grains, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. Carbohydrates are a primary source of energy for the body.

**Carbohydrate counting:** A method used by individuals with diabetes to manage their blood sugar levels. It involves keeping track of the number of carbohydrates consumed in meals and adjusting insulin or medication doses accordingly.

**Carbohydrate metabolism:** The process by which the body breaks down carbohydrates into glucose (sugar) to be used as a source of energy.

**Carbohydrate-rich foods:** Foods that contain a significant amount of carbohydrates, such as bread, rice, pasta, potatoes, and sugary foods.

**Carcinogen:** Any substance or agent that has the potential to cause cancer by damaging the DNA or genetic material in cells.

**Carcinogenesis:** The process by which normal cells undergo genetic changes and transform into cancer cells, leading to the development of cancer.

**Carcinoid tumor:** A slow-growing tumor that typically originates in the cells of the gastrointestinal tract or lungs and can produce hormones.

**Cardiac:** Pertaining to the heart.

**Cardiac arrest:** Sudden cessation of the heart's pumping action, leading to loss of consciousness and absence of a pulse. Immediate medical intervention, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), is required to restore heart function.

**Cardiac catheterization:** A medical procedure that involves the insertion of a catheter into a blood vessel, typically in the groin or arm, to access the heart and perform diagnostic tests or treatments.

**Cardiac cycle:** The sequence of events that occur during one complete heartbeat, including contraction (systole) and relaxation (diastole) of the heart chambers.

**Cardiac output:** The amount of blood pumped by the heart per minute. It is determined by the heart rate and stroke volume (the amount of blood pumped with each heartbeat).

**Cardiologist:** A medical doctor who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and conditions of the heart and blood vessels.

**Cardiology:** The branch of medicine that focuses on the study and management of heart-related diseases and conditions.

**Cardiomegaly:** Enlargement of the heart, often due to underlying conditions such as high blood pressure, heart valve disease, or heart failure.

**Cardiomyopathy:** A group of diseases that affect the structure and function of the heart muscle, leading to abnormalities in heart contractions and impairing its ability to pump blood effectively.

**Cardiovascular:** Relating to the heart and blood vessels.

**Cardiovascular disease:** A broad term that encompasses various conditions affecting the heart and blood vessels, such as coronary artery disease, heart failure, arrhythmias, and stroke.

**Cardiovascular system:** The organ system responsible for circulating blood throughout the body, consisting of the heart and blood vessels.

**Carotid artery:** Major blood vessels located in the neck that supply oxygenated blood to the brain and head.

**Carpal tunnel:** A narrow passageway in the wrist formed by bones and ligaments through which the median nerve and tendons pass.

**Carpal tunnel syndrome:** A condition characterized by compression of the median nerve in the wrist, leading to symptoms such as pain, numbness, and tingling in the hand and fingers.

**Carrier:** An individual who carries a genetic mutation for a particular condition but does not show symptoms of the disease.

**Carrier screening:** A genetic test performed on individuals to identify if they carry certain genetic mutations that can be passed on to their offspring.

**Cartilage:** A tough, flexible connective tissue found in various parts of the body, such as the joints, nose, and ears. It provides support and cushioning.

**Catabolism:** The metabolic process by which complex molecules are broken down into simpler substances, releasing energy in the process.

**Catalepsy:** A condition characterized by a trance-like state in which a person becomes immobile, unresponsive, and holds rigid body positions for extended periods.

**Cataplexy:** A sudden loss of muscle tone and voluntary muscle control, often triggered by strong emotions such as laughter or excitement. It is a characteristic symptom of narcolepsy.

**Cataract:** A clouding of the natural lens in the eye, resulting in blurred vision and decreased visual clarity.

**Cataract surgery:** A surgical procedure to remove the cloudy lens of the eye and replace it with an artificial intraocular lens to restore clear vision.

**Catheter:** A thin, flexible tube that is inserted into a body cavity, duct, or blood vessel to administer fluids, collect samples, or drain fluids.

**Causality:** The relationship between cause and effect, particularly in understanding the factors that contribute to the development of a disease or condition.

**Celiac disease:** An autoimmune disorder in which the consumption of gluten triggers an immune response that damages the small intestine, leading to digestive problems and nutrient absorption issues.

**Cell:** The basic structural and functional unit of all living organisms.

**Cell adhesion:** The process by which cells bind to each other or to extracellular structures, enabling them to form tissues and maintain proper cellular organization.

**Cell biology:** The branch of biology that studies the structure, function, and behavior of cells.

**Cell cycle:** The series of events that a cell undergoes as it grows, replicates its DNA, and divides into two daughter cells.

**Cell division:** The process by which a cell replicates its genetic material and divides into two or more daughter cells.

**Cell membrane:** A thin, semi-permeable barrier that surrounds the cell, separating its internal components from the external environment and regulating the passage of substances in and out of the cell.

**Cell nucleus:** The central organelle within a cell that contains the genetic material (DNA) and controls cellular activities.

**Cell signaling:** The process by which cells communicate with each other through the release and reception of chemical signals, coordinating various cellular activities and responses.

**Cell therapy:** The use of living cells, often derived from a patient or a donor, to treat or potentially cure diseases or injuries.

**Cell transplantation:** The transfer of cells from one individual to another, often for therapeutic purposes, such as replacing damaged or diseased cells.

**Cellular immunity:** The branch of the immune response that involves specialized cells, such as T cells and natural killer cells, in recognizing and destroying infected or abnormal cells.

**Cellular respiration:** The metabolic process by which cells convert nutrients (such as glucose) into energy in the form of ATP (adenosine triphosphate).

**Central nervous system:** The part of the nervous system that includes the brain and spinal cord, responsible for processing and coordinating sensory information and controlling bodily functions.

**Central sleep apnea:** A sleep disorder characterized by the temporary cessation of breathing during sleep due to the brain's failure to send proper signals to the respiratory muscles.

**Centrifuge:** A laboratory instrument that spins samples at high speeds to separate components based on their density, such as separating blood cells from plasma.

**Cephalalgia:** Another term for a headache or head pain.

**Cerebellar ataxia:** A neurological disorder characterized by a lack of coordination and balance due to damage or dysfunction in the cerebellum, a part of the brain responsible for coordinating voluntary movements.

**Cerebellum:** A region of the brain located at the back of the skull that plays a crucial role in motor control, coordination, and balance.

**Cerebral:** Relating to the brain or cerebrum, the largest part of the brain responsible for higher cognitive functions.

**Cerebral cortex:** The outermost layer of the cerebrum, involved in various complex functions, including sensory perception, voluntary movement, language, and memory.

**Cerebral hemorrhage:** Bleeding that occurs within the brain as a result of ruptured blood vessels, often leading to neurological symptoms and potential damage.

**Cerebral palsy:** A group of movement disorders caused by abnormal brain development or damage before or during birth, resulting in difficulties with muscle control and coordination.

**Cerebral vasculitis:** Inflammation of the blood vessels in the brain, which can lead to restricted blood flow, tissue damage, and various neurological symptoms.

**Cerebrospinal fluid:** A clear, colorless fluid that surrounds the brain and spinal cord, providing cushioning, nutrients, and waste removal for these vital structures.

**Cervical:** Referring to the neck region or the cervix (the lower part of the uterus).

**Cervical cancer:** Cancer that develops in the cells of the cervix, usually caused by persistent infection with certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV).

**Cervical disc herniation:** A condition in which one of the discs in the neck region (cervical spine) protrudes or ruptures, potentially causing pain, numbness, or weakness in the neck, shoulder, or arm.

**Cervical lymph nodes:** Small, bean-shaped glands in the neck that play a role in filtering and trapping harmful substances and pathogens.

**Cervical spondylosis:** Degenerative changes, such as osteoarthritis and disc degeneration, that occur in the cervical spine (neck region) over time, leading to neck pain and stiffness.

**Cervix:** The lower, narrow end of the uterus that connects to the vagina.

**Cesarean section:** A surgical procedure in which a baby is delivered through an incision made in the mother's abdomen and uterus, usually done when vaginal delivery is not possible or safe.

**CFTR (Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator):** A protein involved in regulating the flow of chloride ions across cell membranes, mutations in which can cause cystic fibrosis, a genetic disorder affecting the lungs, digestive system, and other organs.

**Chalazion:** A non-infectious, painless lump or cyst that forms within an eyelid due to the blockage of an oil gland.

**Chamber:** In medical terms, a hollow space or compartment within a structure, such as a heart chamber or a chamber in a medical device.

**Chemical dependency:** The physical or psychological reliance on a substance, such as drugs or alcohol, leading to compulsive use and withdrawal symptoms when the substance is discontinued.

**Chemical imbalance:** An abnormality in the levels of certain chemicals or neurotransmitters in the body, which can affect mood, behavior, and overall health.

**Chemical peel:** A cosmetic procedure in which a chemical solution is applied to the skin to exfoliate and improve its appearance by removing dead skin cells and stimulating new cell growth.

**Chemokine:** A type of signaling protein involved in immune responses and inflammation, attracting immune cells to specific sites in the body.

**Chemoprevention:** The use of certain drugs or substances to reduce the risk of developing cancer or to prevent its recurrence.

**Chemotherapy:** The use of powerful drugs to treat cancer by targeting and killing rapidly dividing cells



in the body, including cancer cells.

**Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV):** Nausea and vomiting that occur as side effects of chemotherapy treatment, which can be managed with medications and supportive care.

**Chest X-ray:** A diagnostic imaging test that uses low-dose radiation to create images of the chest area, including the lungs, heart, ribs, and diaphragm.

**Chiari malformation:** A structural defect in the base of the skull and cerebellum, in which brain tissue extends into the spinal canal, potentially causing neurological symptoms and impairments.

**Chickenpox:** A highly contagious viral infection characterized by itchy, fluid-filled blisters on the skin, caused by the varicella-zoster virus.

**Chlamydia:** A common sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*, often asymptomatic but can lead to complications if left untreated.

**Chlamydia pneumoniae:** A type of bacteria that can cause respiratory infections, particularly pneumonia.

**Chlamydia trachomatis:** A bacterium responsible for various sexually transmitted infections, including genital chlamydia, which can affect the reproductive organs and cause complications if untreated.

**Cholecystectomy:** Surgical removal of the gallbladder, typically performed to treat gallbladder diseases such as gallstones or inflammation.

**Cholecystitis:** Inflammation of the gallbladder, usually due to gallstones blocking the bile ducts.

**Cholecystokinin:** A hormone released by cells in the small intestine that stimulates the release of bile from the gallbladder and pancreatic enzymes to aid in digestion.

**Cholelithiasis:** The formation of gallstones, which are hard deposits that develop in the gallbladder or bile ducts.

**Cholera:** A severe diarrheal disease caused by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*, typically transmitted through contaminated water or food, leading to dehydration and potentially life-threatening complications.

**Cholestasis:** Impaired or blocked flow of bile from the liver, causing a buildup of bile acids and other substances in the blood, leading to symptoms such as jaundice and itching.

**Cholesterol:** A waxy, fat-like substance found in the body and certain foods, playing essential roles in cell membrane structure, hormone production, and other physiological processes.

**Cholesterol-lowering medication:** Medications prescribed to reduce high levels of cholesterol in the blood, aiming to lower the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

**Cholinergic:** Referring to the effects or actions of acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter involved in various bodily functions, including muscle movement, memory, and autonomic nervous system regulation.

**Cholinesterase inhibitor:** A type of medication that inhibits the activity of cholinesterase, an enzyme responsible for breaking down acetylcholine, used in the treatment of conditions like Alzheimer's disease to improve cognitive function.

**Chondrocyte:** A specialized cell found in cartilage tissue that produces and maintains the extracellular matrix, contributing to the structure and function of cartilage.

**Chondroitin sulfate:** A compound found in cartilage and connective tissues, often used as a dietary supplement to support joint health and reduce symptoms of osteoarthritis.

**Chondrosarcoma:** A type of cancer that originates in cartilage cells, usually affecting the bones and joints.

**Chorea:** A neurological disorder characterized by involuntary, jerky movements that can affect various parts of the body, often associated with conditions like Huntington's disease.

**Chromatin:** The complex of DNA, proteins, and RNA molecules that make up the chromosomes within the nucleus of a cell.

**Chromosome:** A thread-like structure made up of DNA and proteins that carries genetic information and is passed from parents to offspring during reproduction.

**Chronic:** Referring to a long-lasting or persistent condition that continues for an extended period of time, typically lasting for three months or more.

**Chronic bronchitis:** A type of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) characterized by inflammation and irritation of the bronchial tubes, leading to persistent cough and excessive mucus production.

**Chronic fatigue syndrome:** A complex disorder characterized by extreme fatigue or tiredness that lasts for at least six months, often accompanied by other symptoms like cognitive difficulties and unrefreshing sleep.

**Chronic inflammation:** Prolonged or persistent inflammation in the body, which can contribute to various chronic diseases and conditions.

**Chronic kidney disease:** A progressive and long-term condition in which the kidneys gradually lose their function over time, leading to a buildup of waste and fluids in the body.

**Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD):** A group of progressive lung diseases, including chronic bronchitis and emphysema, characterized by airflow limitation and breathing difficulties.

**Chronic pain:** Persistent pain that lasts beyond the expected healing time and continues for months or even years, often resulting from an underlying condition or injury.

**Chronic pancreatitis:** Inflammation of the pancreas that persists over a long period, causing persistent abdominal pain, digestive problems, and impaired pancreatic function.

**Chronic pelvic pain:** Recurrent or persistent pain in the pelvic region, lasting for six months or longer, often associated with conditions like endometriosis or pelvic inflammatory disease.

**Chronic sinusitis:** Long-term inflammation of the sinuses, which can cause symptoms such as facial pain, nasal congestion, and post-nasal drip.

**Chronic urticaria:** A skin condition characterized by the recurring appearance of itchy hives or welts that last for six weeks or more.

**Chyle:** A milky fluid containing fat droplets that is formed in the intestines during digestion and is absorbed into the lymphatic system before entering the bloodstream.

**Chyme:** The semi-fluid mass of partly digested food and digestive secretions that moves from the stomach to the small intestine during digestion.

**Cilia:** Small, hair-like structures found on the surface of certain cells in the body, such as the respiratory tract, that move in coordinated patterns to facilitate the movement of mucus, particles, or fluids.

**Ciliary body:** A part of the eye located behind the iris that produces aqueous humor and helps regulate the shape of the lens, contributing to vision.

**Circadian rhythm:** The natural internal process that regulates the sleep-wake cycle and other physiological functions, following a roughly 24-hour pattern.

**Circulation:** The continuous movement of blood throughout the body, facilitated by the heart and blood vessels, delivering oxygen, nutrients, and removing waste products.

**Cirrhosis:** A late stage of scarring (fibrosis) of the liver, often caused by chronic liver diseases such as hepatitis or alcohol abuse, leading to impaired liver function.

**CIS (Carcinoma in situ):** A term used to describe abnormal cells that are confined to the layer of cells where they first developed, without invading surrounding tissues, often considered a pre-cancerous condition.

**CKD (Chronic Kidney Disease):** An abbreviation for chronic kidney disease, a progressive and long-term condition in which the kidneys gradually lose their function over time.

**Clavicle:** Also known as the collarbone, it is a long, slender bone located between the shoulder blade (scapula) and the breastbone (sternum), providing support and mobility to the upper limbs.

**Clean-catch urine sample:** A method of collecting a urine sample for testing or analysis, involving cleaning the genital area and collecting the urine midstream to minimize contamination.

**Clearance:** In medicine, clearance refers to the rate at which a substance is eliminated from the body, such as the clearance of drugs or toxins by the kidneys or liver.

**Cleft lip:** A congenital birth defect characterized by a split or opening in the upper lip, often extending to the nose, which occurs during fetal development.

**Cleft palate:** A congenital condition characterized by a split or opening in the roof of the mouth, caused by incomplete fusion of the palate during fetal development.

**Clitoris:** A small, sensitive erectile organ located at the front junction of the labia minora in females, involved in sexual arousal and pleasure.

**Clonal:** Referring to cells or organisms derived from a single common ancestor cell, having identical or very similar genetic information.

**Cloning:** The process of creating an identical or genetically similar copy of a biological entity, such as a cell, organism, or DNA fragment.

**Clotting factors:** Proteins in the blood that are involved in the clotting process, helping to stop bleeding by forming blood clots at the site of injury.

**Clostridium difficile infection:** An infection caused by the bacterium *Clostridium difficile*, often

occurring after antibiotic use and leading to symptoms like diarrhea, abdominal pain, and inflammation of the colon.

**Clozapine:** A medication used to treat certain mental disorders, such as schizophrenia, by affecting the balance of neurotransmitters in the brain.

**Clubfoot:** A congenital deformity of the foot and ankle, in which the foot is twisted inward and downward, requiring medical intervention and treatment to correct.

**Cluster headache:** A type of headache characterized by severe, intense pain that usually occurs on one side of the head and is accompanied by additional symptoms like eye redness or tearing.

**CNS (Central Nervous System):** An abbreviation for the central nervous system, which includes the brain and spinal cord, responsible for coordinating and controlling bodily functions and processes.

**CO2 (Carbon Dioxide):** An abbreviation for carbon dioxide, a colorless gas produced by cellular respiration and other metabolic processes, and a key component in the exchange of gases in the body.

**CO2 laser:** A type of laser that uses carbon dioxide gas as the active medium to produce a concentrated beam of light for various medical and surgical applications, such as skin resurfacing, tumor removal, and cutting or cauterizing tissues.

**Coccyx:** The coccyx, also known as the tailbone, is a small triangular bone at the bottom of the spine. It consists of fused vertebrae and serves as an attachment site for various muscles and ligaments.

**Cochlea:** The cochlea is a spiral-shaped, snail-like structure in the inner ear that is responsible for converting sound vibrations into electrical signals. It plays a crucial role in hearing and is essential for processing and transmitting auditory information to the brain.

**Cochlear implant:** A cochlear implant is a surgically implanted electronic device that helps provide a sense of sound to individuals with severe or profound hearing loss. It bypasses the damaged parts of the inner ear and directly stimulates the auditory nerve, allowing the person to perceive sound.

**Codeine:** Codeine is a medication that belongs to the class of drugs known as opioids. It is commonly used as a pain reliever and cough suppressant. Codeine works by binding to opioid receptors in the brain, blocking pain signals and reducing cough reflex.

**Codon:** A codon is a specific sequence of three nucleotides (building blocks) in DNA or RNA that codes for a particular amino acid or serves as a start or stop signal for protein synthesis. The sequence of codons determines the sequence of amino acids in a protein.

**Coenzyme:** A coenzyme is a non-protein organic molecule that works together with enzymes to facilitate various biochemical reactions in the body. Coenzymes often act as carriers of specific atoms or functional groups during metabolic processes.

**Cognitive:** Cognitive refers to mental processes and activities related to knowledge, thinking, memory, perception, and problem-solving. It encompasses the abilities and processes involved in acquiring, processing, and using information.

**Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT):** Cognitive behavioral therapy is a form of psychotherapy that focuses on identifying and changing negative thoughts, beliefs, and behaviors that contribute to psychological distress. It aims to help individuals develop healthier cognitive patterns and learn effective

coping strategies.

**Cognitive impairment:** Cognitive impairment refers to a decline or disruption in cognitive functioning, including memory, attention, reasoning, and problem-solving. It can be caused by various factors, such as aging, neurological conditions, or certain medications.

**Cognitive therapy:** Cognitive therapy is a type of psychotherapy that aims to identify and modify negative or distorted thinking patterns and beliefs that contribute to emotional difficulties. It helps individuals develop more realistic and adaptive ways of thinking and coping with challenges.

**Colic:** Colic is a term used to describe severe, often fluctuating abdominal pain, typically occurring in infants. It is characterized by excessive crying, fussiness, and discomfort, usually without an identifiable medical cause.

**Colitis:** Colitis refers to inflammation of the colon (large intestine). It can have various causes, including infections, autoimmune disorders, and inflammatory bowel disease. Symptoms may include abdominal pain, diarrhea, and rectal bleeding.

**Collagen:** Collagen is a fibrous protein found in the body's connective tissues, such as skin, tendons, ligaments, and bones. It provides structural support, strength, and elasticity to these tissues.

**Collagenase:** Collagenase is an enzyme that breaks down collagen, the main component of connective tissue. It is sometimes used in medical treatments, such as wound healing or certain surgical procedures, to help break down and remove damaged or excessive collagen.

**Colles' fracture:** Colles' fracture is a specific type of wrist fracture that involves the distal end of the radius bone in the forearm. It typically occurs as a result of a fall on an outstretched hand, causing the wrist to break and the hand to move backward.

**Colon:** The colon, also known as the large intestine, is the final part of the digestive system. It plays a vital role in absorbing water and electrolytes from digested food, forming and storing feces, and eliminating waste from the body.

**Colon cancer:** Colon cancer, also called colorectal cancer, refers to cancer that develops in the colon or rectum. It usually starts as polyps, which are abnormal growths in the lining of the colon or rectum, and can potentially spread to other parts of the body if not detected and treated early.

**Colonoscopy:** Colonoscopy is a procedure that allows a healthcare provider to examine the inner lining of the colon and rectum using a long, flexible tube with a camera called a colonoscope. It is commonly used for screening, diagnosis, and surveillance of colon conditions, including colon cancer.

**Colostrum:** Colostrum is the first form of milk produced by mammals immediately after giving birth. It is rich in nutrients, antibodies, and growth factors that provide essential nourishment and immune protection to newborns.

**Coma:** Coma is a state of prolonged unconsciousness where a person is unresponsive and unable to wake up or show voluntary movements. It is usually caused by severe brain injury, stroke, or metabolic disorders and requires immediate medical attention.

**Comedo:** A comedo, commonly known as a blackhead or whitehead, is a type of acne lesion that occurs when a hair follicle becomes clogged with excess sebum (oil) and dead skin cells. It appears as a small, raised bump on the skin's surface.

**Comminuted fracture:** A comminuted fracture is a type of bone fracture in which the bone is broken into multiple fragments or pieces. It often requires surgical intervention for proper realignment and stabilization.

**Common bile duct:** The common bile duct is a tube that carries bile, a digestive fluid produced by the liver, from the liver and gallbladder to the small intestine. It plays a crucial role in the digestion and absorption of fats.

**Communicable:** Communicable refers to a disease or infection that can be transmitted from one person to another through direct or indirect contact, such as through respiratory droplets, bodily fluids, or contaminated objects.

**Communication disorder:** A communication disorder refers to a condition that affects an individual's ability to understand, produce, or use language effectively. It can manifest as difficulties in speech, language comprehension, or social communication.

**Comorbidity:** Comorbidity refers to the presence of two or more medical conditions or disorders occurring in the same person at the same time. These conditions can interact and influence each other, affecting overall health and treatment outcomes.

**Complementary therapy:** Complementary therapy refers to non-conventional treatment approaches used alongside conventional medical care to promote health, alleviate symptoms, or enhance well-being. Examples include acupuncture, herbal medicine, and mind-body practices.

**Complete blood count (CBC):** A complete blood count is a common blood test that provides information about various components of blood, including red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. It helps evaluate overall health, detect infections, anemia, and other blood disorders.

**Complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS):** Complex regional pain syndrome, also known as reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD), is a chronic pain condition characterized by severe and prolonged pain, often accompanied by changes in skin color, temperature, and swelling in the affected area.

**Compliance:** Compliance refers to a patient's adherence and cooperation with prescribed medical treatments, medications, or lifestyle modifications recommended by healthcare professionals. It plays an essential role in the effectiveness of treatments and overall health outcomes.

**Compound fracture:** A compound fracture, also known as an open fracture, is a type of bone fracture in which the broken bone penetrates the skin, leading to an external wound. It requires immediate medical attention to prevent infection and promote proper healing.

**Compression fracture:** A compression fracture is a type of bone fracture that occurs when a bone, usually in the spine, collapses or becomes compressed under pressure. It is commonly seen in conditions such as osteoporosis or traumatic injuries.

**Computerized tomography (CT):** Computerized tomography, also known as CT scan or CAT scan, is a diagnostic imaging technique that uses a combination of X-rays and computer technology to produce detailed cross-sectional images of the body. It provides valuable information about internal structures, organs, and abnormalities.

**Concussion:** A concussion is a mild traumatic brain injury that occurs as a result of a sudden blow or jolt to the head. It can cause temporary disruption of brain function, leading to symptoms such as headache,

confusion, dizziness, and memory problems.

**Condyle:** A condyle is a rounded prominence at the end of a bone that forms a joint with another bone. It allows smooth movement and articulation between bones, such as the condyles of the femur (thigh bone) and tibia (shin bone) forming the knee joint.

**Congenital:** Congenital refers to a condition or trait that is present at birth or develops during fetal development. It can be inherited or result from factors occurring during pregnancy.

**Congenital heart defect:** Congenital heart defect is a structural abnormality of the heart that is present at birth. It involves malformations or disruptions in the heart's walls, valves, or blood vessels, affecting its normal function.

**Congestive heart failure:** Congestive heart failure, also known as heart failure, is a condition where the heart cannot pump enough blood to meet the body's demands. It leads to symptoms such as fatigue.

**Conjunctiva:** The conjunctiva is a thin, transparent membrane that covers the front surface of the eye and lines the inner surface of the eyelids. It helps protect the eye and produces mucus to keep the eye moist.

**Conjunctivitis:** Conjunctivitis, also known as pink eye, is an inflammation of the conjunctiva. It can be caused by viruses, bacteria, allergies, or irritants, and results in redness, itching, discharge, and sometimes blurred vision.

**Connective tissue:** Connective tissue is a type of tissue that supports, connects, and separates different organs and structures in the body. It includes various types of fibers and cells embedded in a matrix, providing strength, elasticity, and structural support.

**Consciousness:** Consciousness refers to the state of awareness and being awake, allowing individuals to perceive their surroundings, experience sensations, thoughts, and emotions. It is an essential aspect of human cognition and experience.

**Consent:** Consent refers to the voluntary and informed agreement given by an individual to participate in a medical procedure, treatment, or research study. It ensures that individuals have the right to make decisions about their own healthcare.

**Conservative treatment:** Conservative treatment, also known as non-surgical or non-invasive treatment, refers to therapeutic approaches that do not involve surgery. It may include medication, physical therapy, lifestyle modifications, or other interventions aimed at managing or alleviating symptoms.

**Constipation:** Constipation is a condition characterized by infrequent bowel movements and difficulty passing stool. It can be caused by various factors, including inadequate fiber intake, dehydration, lack of physical activity, or certain medical conditions.

**Constriction:** Constriction refers to the narrowing or tightening of a blood vessel or other tubular structure. It can occur due to muscle contraction, inflammation, or external pressure, potentially affecting blood flow or the function of the affected area.

**Contact dermatitis:** Contact dermatitis is a skin condition characterized by redness, itching, and inflammation of the skin resulting from exposure to irritants or allergens. It commonly occurs when the skin comes into direct contact with substances such as soaps, cosmetics, or metals.

**Contact lens:** A contact lens is a thin, curved lens placed directly on the surface of the eye to correct

vision or for cosmetic purposes. It provides an alternative to eyeglasses and requires proper cleaning and maintenance to prevent complications.

**Contagious:** Contagious refers to a condition or disease that can be easily transmitted from one person to another through direct or indirect contact. It means that the infectious agent, such as a virus or bacteria, can spread from an infected individual to a susceptible person, leading to the development of the same condition.

**Contaminant:** A contaminant refers to any substance or agent that is present in a material or environment where it is not desired or expected. In the context of health and safety, a contaminant can refer to pollutants, toxins, or foreign substances that can potentially cause harm to individuals or compromise the integrity of a particular system or process.

**Contraception:** Contraception, also known as birth control or family planning, refers to methods or techniques used to prevent pregnancy. These methods can include the use of contraceptive devices, medications, or behavioral practices to prevent the fertilization of an egg by sperm or the implantation of a fertilized egg in the uterus.

**Contracture:** Contracture is a condition characterized by the permanent shortening or tightening of muscles, tendons, or other soft tissues. It often results in the limitation of joint movement and can lead to deformity or functional impairment. Contractures can be caused by various factors, including muscle imbalance, prolonged immobilization, or certain medical conditions.

**Controlled substance:** A controlled substance is a drug or chemical substance whose manufacture, distribution, possession, and use are regulated by law. These substances have the potential for abuse or dependence and are categorized into different schedules based on their medical use and potential for harm. Controlled substances are often prescribed and dispensed under strict regulations to ensure their appropriate use.

**Convalescence:** Convalescence refers to the period of time during which a person recovers and restores their health and strength after an illness, injury, or surgery. It is a phase of recovery characterized by gradual improvement and the restoration of normal body functions. During convalescence, individuals may still need to take precautions or engage in specific activities to support their recovery process.

**Convulsion:** A convulsion is a sudden and involuntary contraction or spasm of muscles in the body, resulting in uncontrollable movements. Convulsions are often associated with seizures, which can be caused by various factors such as epilepsy, fever, brain injury, or certain medical conditions. Seizures and convulsions can vary in intensity and duration.

**COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease):** COPD is a chronic respiratory disease that obstructs airflow in the lungs, making it difficult to breathe. It is typically caused by long-term exposure to irritants such as cigarette smoke, air pollution, or occupational hazards. COPD includes conditions such as chronic bronchitis and emphysema, and it is characterized by symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and chest tightness.

**Copper IUD (Intrauterine Device):** A copper IUD is a small T-shaped device that is inserted into the uterus for long-term contraception. It is made of plastic and has copper wire wrapped around its stem. The copper IUD works by releasing copper ions, which are toxic to sperm and prevent fertilization. It is a highly effective form of reversible contraception and can provide protection for several years.

**Cornea:** The cornea is the clear, dome-shaped front surface of the eye that covers the iris, pupil, and



anterior chamber. It plays a crucial role in focusing incoming light onto the retina, contributing to clear vision. The cornea is composed of transparent tissue and is responsible for approximately two-thirds of the eye's focusing power.

**Corneal transplant:** A corneal transplant, also known as corneal grafting or keratoplasty, is a surgical procedure that involves replacing a damaged or diseased cornea with a healthy cornea from a donor. It is performed to restore vision and alleviate corneal conditions such as corneal scarring, corneal dystrophy, or corneal ulcers that cannot be treated by other means.

**Coronary artery:** Coronary arteries are blood vessels that supply oxygenated blood to the muscles of the heart. They branch off from the aorta and encircle the heart, delivering essential nutrients and oxygen for proper heart function. The coronary arteries play a critical role in maintaining the heart's blood supply and are susceptible to blockages or narrowing, which can lead to coronary artery disease or a heart attack.

**Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery:** Coronary artery bypass graft surgery, commonly known as CABG surgery or bypass surgery, is a surgical procedure used to treat severe coronary artery disease. It involves creating alternative routes for blood flow to bypass blocked or narrowed coronary arteries. During the procedure, healthy blood vessels from other parts of the body, such as the leg or chest, are used to create grafts and reroute blood around the blocked arteries, restoring adequate blood supply to the heart muscle.

**Coronary heart disease:** Coronary heart disease, also referred to as coronary artery disease (CAD), is a condition characterized by the narrowing or blockage of the coronary arteries, which supply oxygen-rich blood to the heart muscle. This can lead to reduced blood flow to the heart, resulting in symptoms such as chest pain (angina), shortness of breath, and an increased risk of heart attack. Coronary heart disease is often caused by atherosclerosis, the buildup of plaque within the arteries.

**Coronary stent:** A coronary stent is a small, expandable metal mesh tube that is placed within a narrowed or blocked coronary artery during a procedure called angioplasty. The stent helps to prop open the artery and restore blood flow to the heart. It acts as a scaffold, preventing the artery from closing up again and reducing the risk of future blockages.

**Corpus callosum:** The corpus callosum is a broad band of nerve fibers located deep within the brain, connecting the left and right cerebral hemispheres. It enables communication and the exchange of information between the two hemispheres, allowing coordination and integration of various functions. The corpus callosum plays a vital role in cognitive processes, sensory integration, and motor coordination.

**Corticosteroid:** Corticosteroids are a class of hormones that are naturally produced by the adrenal glands or synthetic versions of these hormones. They have potent anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive properties and are commonly used in medicine to reduce inflammation, suppress the immune system, and manage various conditions such as allergies, asthma, autoimmune diseases, and certain cancers.

**Cortisol:** Cortisol, often referred to as the "stress hormone," is a steroid hormone produced by the adrenal glands in response to stress. It plays a crucial role in regulating various body processes, including metabolism, immune response, and stress response. Cortisol levels fluctuate throughout the day, with higher levels in the morning and lower levels in the evening.

**Cortisone:** Cortisone is a synthetic corticosteroid medication that is similar to cortisol, a hormone naturally produced by the body. It is used to reduce inflammation and relieve pain in conditions such as

arthritis, joint inflammation, allergic reactions, and certain skin conditions. Cortisone can be administered orally, topically, or through injections into specific areas of the body.

**Costochondritis:** Costochondritis is a condition characterized by inflammation of the cartilage that connects the ribs to the breastbone (sternum). It often causes chest pain or discomfort, which can be sharp or aching in nature. Costochondritis is typically caused by repetitive strain, injury, or inflammation and can be exacerbated by certain movements or breathing deeply.

**Cough:** A cough is a reflex action that helps clear the throat and airways of irritants, mucus, or foreign substances. It is a protective mechanism that can be triggered by various factors, including respiratory infections, allergies, irritants, or underlying lung conditions. A cough can be productive (producing phlegm or sputum) or non-productive (dry) and may be accompanied by other symptoms depending on its underlying cause.

**Countertransference:** Countertransference refers to the emotional or psychological response of a healthcare professional, particularly a therapist or counselor, to a patient or client. It involves the therapist's unconscious or subconscious feelings, attitudes, or unresolved issues that can influence the therapeutic relationship. Awareness and management of countertransference are important in maintaining objectivity and providing effective care.

**Couvade syndrome:** Couvade syndrome, also known as sympathetic pregnancy or male pregnancy symptoms, is a condition in which expectant fathers experience physical or psychological symptoms similar to those of their pregnant partners. These symptoms can include weight gain, nausea, back pain, mood changes, and sleep disturbances. The exact cause of Couvade syndrome is unclear, but it is believed to be related to psychological and social factors.

**Cox-2 inhibitors:** Cox-2 inhibitors are a class of medications that selectively inhibit the cyclooxygenase-2 enzyme, which is responsible for producing inflammatory substances called prostaglandins. These medications are used to manage pain and inflammation in conditions such as arthritis, but they are generally prescribed with caution due to potential side effects on the cardiovascular system.

**CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure):** CPAP is a treatment method used for sleep apnea, a sleep disorder characterized by interruptions in breathing during sleep. CPAP involves wearing a mask over the nose or nose and mouth while sleeping, which delivers a continuous flow of pressurized air to keep the airways open. This helps prevent the collapse of the airways and ensures regular breathing throughout the night.

**CPEP (Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program):** CPEP is a specialized emergency service designed to provide immediate evaluation and treatment for individuals experiencing acute psychiatric crises or mental health emergencies. It is typically staffed by mental health professionals who assess individuals' mental state, provide crisis intervention, and determine appropriate care, which may include hospitalization or referral to other mental health resources.

**C-reactive protein (CRP):** C-reactive protein is a protein produced by the liver in response to inflammation in the body. It is a marker of systemic inflammation and can be measured through a blood test. Elevated levels of CRP are associated with various conditions, including infections, autoimmune disorders, and cardiovascular diseases. CRP testing is used as a non-specific indicator of inflammation and can aid in the diagnosis and monitoring of certain diseases.

**Creatine kinase (CK):** Creatine kinase, also known as CK or creatine phosphokinase (CPK), is an

enzyme found primarily in muscle tissue and the brain. It plays a crucial role in energy metabolism and is involved in the conversion of creatine to phosphocreatine, which provides a rapid source of energy for muscle contractions. Elevated levels of CK in the blood can indicate muscle damage or injury, such as in heart attacks or muscular disorders.

**Creatinine:** Creatinine is a waste product produced by muscles as a result of normal metabolism. It is filtered out of the blood by the kidneys and excreted in urine. Creatinine levels in the blood can be used as an indicator of kidney function. Elevated levels may suggest impaired kidney function or other underlying medical conditions.

**Cremasteric reflex:** The cremasteric reflex is a reflexive contraction of the cremaster muscle, which elevates the testicle in response to the stroking or tapping of the inner thigh. It is an involuntary reflex that is typically present in males and is associated with the function of the genitofemoral nerve. The cremasteric reflex can be absent or altered in certain conditions affecting the nervous system.

**Crepitus:** Crepitus is a term used to describe a grinding, crackling, or popping sensation or sound that occurs when moving a joint or rubbing two bony surfaces together. It can be felt or heard and is often associated with conditions such as osteoarthritis, cartilage damage, or joint injuries. Crepitus can be accompanied by pain or discomfort in the affected joint.

**CRH (Corticotropin-Releasing Hormone):** CRH is a hormone produced by the hypothalamus in the brain. It plays a central role in the regulation of the body's stress response system and the release of other hormones involved in stress and inflammation. CRH stimulates the production and release of adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) from the pituitary gland, which, in turn, triggers the release of cortisol from the adrenal glands.

**Crohn's disease:** Crohn's disease is a chronic inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) that primarily affects the gastrointestinal tract. It is characterized by inflammation, ulcers, and swelling in the digestive tract, most commonly in the small intestine and/or colon. Crohn's disease can cause symptoms such as abdominal pain, diarrhea, fatigue, weight loss, and nutritional deficiencies. It is a lifelong condition with periods of remission and flare-ups.

**Crossmatch:** Crossmatching is a laboratory test performed prior to organ transplantation, particularly kidney transplantation, to determine the compatibility between the donor and recipient. It involves mixing a sample of the recipient's blood with a sample of the potential donor's blood or tissue to assess if there is a reaction, indicating potential incompatibility or rejection. Crossmatching helps ensure a successful transplant and minimize the risk of complications.

**Cryosurgery:** Cryosurgery, also known as cryotherapy, is a medical procedure that uses extreme cold temperatures to destroy abnormal or diseased tissue. Liquid nitrogen or another freezing agent is applied to the targeted area, leading to the formation of ice crystals within the cells, which causes cell destruction. Cryosurgery is commonly used in dermatology for the treatment of skin lesions, and it may also be utilized in various other medical specialties.

**Cryptorchidism:** Cryptorchidism, also known as undescended testicles, is a condition in which one or both testicles fail to descend into the scrotum during fetal development. In normal development, the testicles descend from the abdomen into the scrotum before birth. Cryptorchidism can increase the risk of complications, such as infertility and testicular cancer, and may require surgical intervention to reposition the undescended testicles.

**CT scan (Computed Tomography Scan):** A CT scan, or computed tomography scan, is a diagnostic imaging technique that combines X-rays and computer technology to create detailed cross-sectional images of the body. It provides more detailed information than conventional X-rays and can visualize structures such as organs, bones, blood vessels, and tumors. CT scans are used for diagnosing and monitoring various conditions across different medical specialties.

**Cubital tunnel syndrome:** Cubital tunnel syndrome is a condition characterized by compression or irritation of the ulnar nerve as it passes through the cubital tunnel, which is located on the inside of the elbow. This can cause pain, numbness, tingling, or weakness in the forearm, hand, or fingers. Cubital tunnel syndrome is often associated with repetitive elbow movements, prolonged pressure on the elbow, or anatomical abnormalities.

**Cumulative trauma disorders:** Cumulative trauma disorders, also known as repetitive strain injuries or overuse injuries, refer to a group of conditions that result from repetitive movements, forceful exertions, or prolonged postures. These conditions can affect various parts of the body, including the hands, wrists, elbows, shoulders, neck, and back. Examples of cumulative trauma disorders include carpal tunnel syndrome, tennis elbow, and rotator cuff tendinitis.

**Cushing's disease:** Cushing's disease is a rare hormonal disorder caused by excessive production of cortisol, a hormone produced by the adrenal glands. It is usually caused by a noncancerous tumor called an adenoma in the pituitary gland, which leads to overstimulation of the adrenal glands. Symptoms of Cushing's disease may include weight gain, central obesity, muscle weakness, high blood pressure, and mood changes.

**Cushing's syndrome:** Cushing's syndrome refers to a group of signs and symptoms that occur due to prolonged exposure to high levels of cortisol in the body. It can be caused by various factors, including the use of corticosteroid medications, adrenal tumors, or pituitary gland disorders. Common symptoms include weight gain, rounding of the face (moon face), thinning skin, easy bruising, and osteoporosis.

**Cutaneous:** Cutaneous refers to anything related to the skin. It can be used to describe conditions, procedures, or medications that specifically involve or affect the skin.

**Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma:** Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) is a type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma that primarily affects the skin. It arises from abnormal T lymphocytes (a type of white blood cell) that infiltrate the skin, leading to the development of skin lesions or tumors. CTCL can present with various symptoms, including skin rashes, itching, redness, and thickened or ulcerated skin patches. Treatment options may include topical medications, phototherapy, or systemic therapies.

**Cyanosis:** Cyanosis is a bluish discoloration of the skin, lips, or nail beds, caused by a lack of oxygenated blood. It can be a sign of underlying medical conditions that affect the lungs, heart, or circulation. Cyanosis is most noticeable in the extremities (fingers, toes) and mucous membranes. Prompt medical evaluation is necessary to determine the cause and provide appropriate treatment.

**Cyclooxygenase:** Cyclooxygenase (COX) is an enzyme involved in the production of prostaglandins, which are important mediators of inflammation, pain, and fever. There are two isoforms of the enzyme, COX-1 and COX-2. COX-1 is constitutively expressed in many tissues and plays a role in normal physiological functions, while COX-2 is induced during inflammation and contributes to the production of pro-inflammatory prostaglandins. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) work by inhibiting the activity of COX enzymes.

**Cyst:** A cyst is a sac-like pocket or abnormal growth within the body that contains fluid, air, or semisolid material. Cysts can develop in various organs or tissues and can be benign or, in some cases, malignant. Common types of cysts include ovarian cysts, sebaceous cysts, and ganglion cysts. Treatment options for cysts depend on their size, location, and underlying cause.

**Cystectomy:** Cystectomy is a surgical procedure to remove all or part of a cyst or cystic structure from the body. It is commonly performed to treat cysts that are causing symptoms, are at risk of complications, or are suspected to be cancerous. The extent of the cystectomy depends on the size, location, and nature of the cyst.

**Cystic duct:** The cystic duct is a small tube that connects the gallbladder to the common bile duct. It serves as a pathway for the flow of bile, a digestive fluid produced by the liver and stored in the gallbladder. During digestion, the contraction of the gallbladder releases bile into the cystic duct, which then joins the common bile duct to transport bile to the small intestine.

**Cystic fibrosis:** Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a genetic disorder that affects the respiratory, digestive, and reproductive systems. It is characterized by the production of thick, sticky mucus that can clog the airways, pancreas, and other organs. CF can lead to respiratory symptoms, digestive problems, malnutrition, and susceptibility to infections. While there is no cure for CF, treatment focuses on managing symptoms, preventing complications, and improving quality of life.

**Cystitis:** Cystitis is an inflammation of the bladder, usually caused by a bacterial infection. It is more common in women and can cause symptoms such as urinary frequency, urgency, pain or burning during urination, and lower abdominal discomfort. Cystitis can be treated with antibiotics and other supportive measures.

**Cystoscope:** A cystoscope is a medical instrument used for the visual examination of the interior of the bladder and urethra. It consists of a long, flexible or rigid tube with a light source and a camera at the end. The cystoscope is inserted through the urethra and into the bladder, allowing the healthcare provider to visualize the structures and detect any abnormalities or conditions affecting the urinary system.

**Cystoscopy:** Cystoscopy is a procedure that uses a cystoscope to visually examine the inside of the bladder and urethra. It can be performed for diagnostic purposes to investigate urinary tract disorders, such as bladder infections, urinary incontinence, or bladder stones. Cystoscopy can also be used for therapeutic interventions, such as the removal of bladder tumors or the placement of stents.

**Cytokine:** Cytokines are small proteins produced by various cells in the body, including immune cells, to regulate immune responses and communicate between cells. They play a crucial role in inflammation, cell growth, and differentiation. Examples of cytokines include interleukins, interferons, and tumor necrosis factors. Dysregulation of cytokine production can contribute to the development of various diseases, including autoimmune disorders and inflammatory conditions.

**Cytology:** Cytology is the study of cells, particularly their structure, function, and abnormalities. It involves the microscopic examination of cells obtained from various body fluids or tissues to diagnose and monitor diseases, such as cancer. Cytology can be used for screening, diagnosis, and guiding treatment decisions in various medical specialties, including pathology, oncology, and gynecology.

**Cytomegalovirus (CMV):** Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common virus belonging to the herpesvirus family. It can infect people of all ages, but it usually causes mild or asymptomatic infections in healthy individuals. However, CMV can cause severe complications in individuals with weakened immune

systems, such as newborns, organ transplant recipients, or people living with HIV/AIDS. CMV can affect various organs, including the lungs, liver, and nervous system.

**Cytotoxic:** Cytotoxic refers to substances or agents that are toxic to cells. In medicine, it often refers to medications or treatments that selectively kill or inhibit the growth of cancer cells. Cytotoxic chemotherapy, for example, uses drugs that target rapidly dividing cells, including cancer cells, to prevent their proliferation.

**Cytotoxicity:** Cytotoxicity is the ability of a substance or agent to cause cell death or damage. It can be measured in the laboratory to assess the toxic effects of drugs, chemicals, or other substances on cells. Cytotoxicity assays are commonly used in research, drug development, and toxicology studies to evaluate the safety and efficacy of potential treatments.

**Cytotoxic T cells:** Cytotoxic T cells, also known as cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs) or killer T cells, are a type of immune cell involved in the destruction of infected or abnormal cells in the body. They recognize and bind to specific antigens displayed on the surface of infected or cancerous cells and release toxic substances, such as perforin and granzymes, to induce cell death. Cytotoxic T cells play a critical role in immune surveillance and defense against pathogens and tumor cells.

**Czerny-Lembert suture:** The Czerny-Lembert suture is a type of stitching technique used in gastrointestinal surgeries. It involves using strong absorbable sutures to close incisions or wounds in the stomach or intestines. The sutures are placed in a continuous pattern along the edges of the incision to bring the tissues together and promote healing. This technique helps ensure a secure and watertight closure, reducing the risk of complications like leakage or infection. The Czerny-Lembert suture is commonly used in surgeries such as gastric bypass or bowel resection.

# CHAPTER FOUR: D TERMS

**Dabigatran:** Dabigatran is a medication used as an anticoagulant to prevent blood clots.

**Dactyl:** Dactyl refers to a finger or toe in the human body.

**Dactylitis:** Dactylitis is a condition characterized by inflammation and swelling of an entire finger or toe.

**Dandruff:** Dandruff is a common scalp condition that causes flaking and itching of the skin on the scalp.

**Dark adaptation:** Dark adaptation refers to the ability of the eyes to adjust and see clearly in low-light conditions after being exposed to bright light.

**Darwinian medicine:** Darwinian medicine is an approach to studying human health and disease that incorporates evolutionary principles and theories.

**DASH diet:** The DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet is a dietary plan designed to lower blood pressure and promote heart health by emphasizing fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and low-fat dairy products.

**DASH eating plan:** The DASH eating plan refers to the recommended dietary pattern of the DASH diet that promotes a balanced and healthy eating style.

**Debridement:** Debridement is the process of removing dead, damaged, or infected tissue from a wound to promote healing.

**Decalcification:** Decalcification is the removal of calcium deposits from tissues, such as bones or teeth.

**Deceleration injury:** Deceleration injury refers to trauma or damage caused by a sudden decrease in velocity, often associated with vehicle accidents or falls.

**Decerebrate:** Decerebrate refers to a state of abnormal posture and rigid extension of the limbs caused by damage to the brainstem.

**Deciduous:** Deciduous refers to objects or structures that are temporary or shed at a certain stage, such as deciduous teeth, which are the first set of teeth in children that are later replaced by permanent teeth.

**Deciduous teeth:** Deciduous teeth, also known as baby teeth or primary teeth, are the first set of teeth that erupt in infants and are gradually replaced by permanent teeth.

**Decompression:** Decompression refers to the process of reducing pressure or relieving compression, such as in decompression surgery to alleviate pressure on nerves or decompression dives to reduce the risk of decompression sickness.

**Decompression sickness:** Decompression sickness, also known as "the bends," is a condition that occurs when nitrogen bubbles form in the bloodstream and tissues due to rapid decompression, typically seen in scuba divers who ascend too quickly.

**Decompressive craniectomy:** Decompressive craniectomy is a surgical procedure in which a portion of the skull is removed temporarily to relieve increased pressure on the brain.

**Decongestant:** A decongestant is a medication that helps relieve nasal congestion and sinus pressure by

narrowing blood vessels in the nasal passages.

**Decubitus ulcer:** A decubitus ulcer, also known as a pressure ulcer or bed sore, is a localized area of skin breakdown and tissue damage caused by prolonged pressure on the skin, often occurring in individuals who are immobile or bedridden.

**Decussation:** Decussation refers to the crossing of nerve fibers from one side of the body to the opposite side in the central nervous system, often occurring at specific anatomical points.

**Defect:** A defect refers to an abnormality, flaw, or imperfection in a structure, organ, or system.

**Defective:** Defective refers to something that is faulty, flawed, or not functioning correctly.

**Defecation:** Defecation refers to the process of eliminating waste material from the body through the rectum and anus.

**Defibrillation:** Defibrillation is a medical procedure that delivers an electric shock to the heart to restore its normal rhythm in cases of cardiac arrhythmia or cardiac arrest.

**Deficiency:** Deficiency refers to a lack or shortage of something, often used in the context of inadequate levels of essential nutrients or substances in the body.

**Deficit:** Deficit refers to a deficiency or shortage, often used in the context of a lack of something essential or necessary.

**Defibrillator:** A defibrillator is a medical device that delivers an electric shock to the heart to restore its normal rhythm during cardiac arrest or life-threatening arrhythmias.

**Degenerative:** Degenerative refers to a progressive decline or deterioration of a structure, tissue, organ, or system over time.

**Degenerative arthritis:** Degenerative arthritis, also known as osteoarthritis, is a common form of arthritis characterized by the degeneration and breakdown of joint cartilage, leading to pain, stiffness, and reduced mobility.

**Degenerative disc disease:** Degenerative disc disease is a condition that occurs when the discs between the vertebrae of the spine deteriorate, causing pain, instability, and restricted movement.

**Degenerative joint disease:** Degenerative joint disease, also known as osteoarthritis, is a chronic condition characterized by the degeneration and breakdown of joint cartilage, resulting in pain, swelling, and limited joint function.

**Degenerative myopia:** Degenerative myopia, also known as pathological or progressive myopia, is a severe form of nearsightedness characterized by progressive elongation of the eyeball, leading to vision problems and potential complications.

**Degenerative nerve diseases:** Degenerative nerve diseases refer to a group of conditions that involve the progressive degeneration and dysfunction of nerves, leading to impaired movement, sensation, or cognitive function.

**Deglutition:** Deglutition is the medical term for swallowing, the process by which food and liquids are moved from the mouth to the stomach through the esophagus.



**Dehydration:** Dehydration refers to a state of excessive fluid loss or insufficient fluid intake, leading to a disruption in the body's fluid balance, which can cause symptoms such as thirst, dry mouth, fatigue, and dizziness.

**Dehiscence:** Dehiscence refers to the spontaneous opening or separation of a previously closed wound, typically in the surgical context. It can result in the exposure of underlying tissues and may require medical attention or intervention.

**Delirium:** Delirium is a sudden and severe disturbance in mental function that is characterized by confusion, disorientation, changes in perception, and fluctuations in attention and awareness. It is often caused by underlying medical conditions or medication side effects.

**Delirium tremens:** Delirium tremens, also known as DTs, is a severe and potentially life-threatening form of alcohol withdrawal characterized by agitation, tremors, hallucinations, disorientation, and autonomic instability. It most commonly occurs in individuals with a history of heavy alcohol abuse.

**Delivery:** Delivery refers to the process of giving birth to a baby. It involves the expulsion of the fetus and placenta from the uterus, typically through the vagina, during childbirth.

**Delusion:** A delusion is a strongly held false belief or perception that is not based on reality or evidence. Delusions are typically resistant to contradictory evidence and may be a symptom of certain mental health conditions, such as schizophrenia or delusional disorder.

**Delusional disorder:** Delusional disorder is a mental health condition characterized by persistent, non-bizarre delusions without significant impairment in other cognitive functions. Individuals with delusional disorder may have fixed, false beliefs that are not consistent with cultural or societal norms.

**Dementia:** Dementia is a broad term used to describe a decline in cognitive abilities, memory loss, and impaired thinking and reasoning skills. It is often caused by underlying neurodegenerative conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease, and can significantly impact daily functioning and quality of life.

**Dementia pugilistica:** Dementia pugilistica, also known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), is a neurodegenerative condition that can develop in individuals who have experienced repeated head trauma, such as boxers or football players. It is characterized by cognitive decline, behavioral changes, and movement disorders.

**Dementia, frontotemporal:** Frontotemporal dementia is a type of dementia that primarily affects the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain. It is characterized by changes in personality, behavior, and language abilities, often leading to significant social and emotional impairments.

**Demodex:** Demodex refers to a type of microscopic mite that naturally resides on the skin and hair follicles of humans and animals. While Demodex mites are typically harmless, an overgrowth or infestation can contribute to certain skin conditions, such as rosacea or demodicosis.

**Demographic transition:** Demographic transition refers to the process of a population transitioning from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates, often accompanied by changes in social, economic, and healthcare factors. It is commonly observed as countries undergo development and modernization.

**Demographics:** Demographics refers to statistical data and characteristics about a population, such as age, gender, race, income, education level, and geographic distribution. Demographic information is often used to analyze and understand specific populations and their trends.

**Demulcent:** A demulcent is a substance that has soothing and protective properties, particularly when applied to irritated or inflamed mucous membranes. Demulcents are commonly used in medications or remedies to relieve symptoms associated with conditions such as sore throat or gastrointestinal discomfort.

**Denaturation:** Denaturation refers to the alteration or disruption of the natural structure and properties of a molecule, particularly proteins or nucleic acids, often resulting in a loss of function or activity. Denaturation can be caused by various factors, such as heat, pH changes, or chemical agents.

**Dental:** Dental refers to anything related to the teeth, oral health, or dentistry.

**Dental amalgam:** Dental amalgam is a dental filling material composed of a mixture of metals, including mercury, silver, tin, and copper. It is commonly used to fill cavities in teeth due to its durability and strength.

**Dental calculus:** Dental calculus, also known as tartar, is a hardened deposit that forms on the teeth as a result of mineralized plaque. It can contribute to tooth decay, gum disease, and other oral health issues if not removed through professional dental cleaning.

**Dental care:** Dental care refers to the maintenance of oral health, including regular dental check-ups, teeth cleaning, treatment of dental issues, and practicing good oral hygiene habits, such as brushing and flossing.

**Dental caries:** Dental caries, commonly known as tooth decay or cavities, is a dental condition characterized by the breakdown of tooth enamel due to bacterial activity and acid production. It can lead to tooth pain, sensitivity, and the formation of cavities if left untreated.

**Dental cement:** Dental cement is a type of adhesive material used in dentistry to bond dental restorations, such as crowns, bridges, or veneers, to natural teeth or dental implants.

**Dental crown:** A dental crown, also known as a dental cap, is a custom-made artificial tooth covering that is placed over a damaged or decayed tooth to restore its shape, size, strength, and appearance.

**Dental enamel:** Dental enamel is the hard, outermost layer of the tooth that protects the underlying dentin and pulp. It is the hardest substance in the human body and plays a crucial role in maintaining tooth structure and function.

**Dental extraction:** Dental extraction, also known as tooth extraction or tooth removal, is a dental procedure in which a tooth is removed from its socket in the jawbone. Extractions may be necessary for various reasons, such as severe decay, infection, crowding, or impacted teeth.

**Dental filling:** A dental filling is a material used to restore a tooth that has been damaged by decay or cavities. The filling material is placed in the prepared tooth cavity to restore its shape, function, and strength.

**Dental hygiene:** Dental hygiene refers to the practice of maintaining oral health through regular brushing, flossing, and other preventive measures. It includes habits and behaviors that promote clean teeth, healthy gums, and overall oral well-being.

**Dental implant:** A dental implant is a surgical component that is placed into the jawbone to serve as an artificial tooth root. It provides a stable foundation for a dental prosthetic, such as a crown or bridge, to replace missing teeth.

**Dental plaque:** Dental plaque is a sticky, colorless film that forms on the teeth and contains bacteria. If not removed through regular brushing and flossing, plaque can contribute to tooth decay, gum disease, and other oral health problems.

**Dental pulp:** Dental pulp is the soft, innermost part of a tooth that contains blood vessels, nerves, and connective tissue. It plays a vital role in tooth development and sensation but can become inflamed or infected if exposed to decay or trauma.

**Dental restoration:** Dental restoration refers to the process of repairing or replacing damaged or missing teeth to restore their appearance, function, and integrity. It may involve procedures such as fillings, crowns, bridges, implants, or dentures.

**Dentate:** Dentate refers to having teeth or tooth-like structures. It is commonly used to describe the presence of teeth in animals or specific dental features in humans.

**Dentist:** A dentist is a healthcare professional who specializes in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of conditions related to the teeth, gums, and oral cavity. Dentists provide various dental services, including check-ups, cleanings, fillings, extractions, and oral surgeries.

**Dentistry:** Dentistry is a branch of medicine that focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of conditions affecting the teeth, gums, and oral cavity. Dentists provide oral health care services, including cleaning, filling cavities, performing extractions, and fitting dental prosthetics.

**Dentition:** Dentition refers to the arrangement, development, and number of teeth in an individual or a species. It encompasses the primary (baby) teeth and the permanent teeth.

**Denture:** A denture is a removable dental prosthesis used to replace missing teeth and surrounding tissues. It can be partial, replacing a few missing teeth, or complete, replacing all the teeth in either the upper or lower jaw, or both.

**Deodorant:** Deodorant is a personal care product used to mask or neutralize body odor. It typically comes in the form of a spray, stick, or roll-on and is applied to the underarms or other body areas.

**Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA):** DNA is a molecule found in living organisms that carries genetic information. It contains the instructions for the development, functioning, and reproduction of all known organisms. DNA is composed of nucleotides and has a double-helix structure.

**Depigmentation:** Depigmentation refers to the loss or reduction of pigment in the skin, hair, or other tissues. It can occur naturally, as in conditions like vitiligo, or as a result of injury, disease, or certain treatments.

**Depolarization:** Depolarization is a physiological process that involves the change in the electrical charge across a cell membrane, specifically the shift of the membrane potential towards a more positive state. It is a crucial step in the transmission of nerve impulses and muscle contraction.

**Depression:** Depression is a mental health disorder characterized by persistent feelings of sadness, hopelessness, loss of interest, and a lack of energy. It can affect a person's thoughts, emotions, behavior, and overall well-being.

**Depressor:** A depressor is a muscle, nerve, or instrument that depresses or lowers a body part or reduces its activity. In medical contexts, it can refer to specific muscles or instruments used in medical procedures.

**Deprivation:** Deprivation refers to the state of lacking or being deprived of essential needs, resources, or experiences. It can refer to various aspects, such as social, emotional, nutritional, or sensory deprivation.

**Dermatitis:** Dermatitis is a general term used to describe inflammation of the skin. It can result from various causes, such as allergies, irritants, infections, or autoimmune conditions, and it is often characterized by redness, itching, and rash.

**Dermatographism:** Dermatographism, also known as dermatographic urticaria or skin writing, is a skin condition characterized by the formation of raised, red, and itchy welts in response to pressure or friction on the skin.

**Dermatologic:** Dermatologic refers to anything related to the study, diagnosis, and treatment of skin disorders or diseases.

**Dermatological:** Dermatological is an adjective form of dermatology, referring to anything related to the medical specialty of dermatology or the study and treatment of skin conditions.

**Dermatology:** Dermatology is a branch of medicine that focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of conditions affecting the skin, hair, and nails. Dermatologists specialize in the management of skin disorders and perform procedures related to skin health.

**Dermatoscope:** A dermatoscope is a handheld instrument used by dermatologists to examine the skin more closely. It often has magnification and lighting features that help in the evaluation of skin lesions or abnormalities.

**Dermatoscopy:** Dermatoscopy, also known as dermoscopy or epiluminescence microscopy, is a diagnostic technique used by dermatologists to examine skin lesions using a dermatoscope. It helps in evaluating the patterns, colors, and structures of the skin to aid in diagnosis.

**Descending colon:** The descending colon is a part of the large intestine located on the left side of the abdomen. It follows the transverse colon and connects to the sigmoid colon.

**Descent:** Descent refers to the act of moving downward or a downward movement. In medical terminology, it can refer to the movement of a fetus through the birth canal during childbirth.

**Desensitization:** Desensitization is a therapeutic technique used to reduce or eliminate an exaggerated or inappropriate response to a specific stimulus. It involves gradually exposing an individual to the stimulus in a controlled manner to promote tolerance and reduce sensitivity.

**Desquamation:** Desquamation refers to the shedding or peeling of the outermost layer of the skin. It is a natural process of skin renewal and can occur in response to various factors, such as sunburn, skin conditions, or certain medications.

**Detachment:** Detachment refers to the separation or disconnection of one structure from another. In medical contexts, it can refer to the detachment of the retina in the eye, the detachment of a tendon or ligament, or the emotional detachment in psychological terms.

**Detoxification:** Detoxification, often referred to as detox, is the process of removing toxic substances or waste products from the body. It can be a natural physiological process or a deliberate intervention to aid in the elimination of harmful substances.

**Detrusor muscle:** The detrusor muscle is a smooth muscle in the wall of the urinary bladder. It contracts

to facilitate the expulsion of urine during urination.

**Developmental disorder:** A developmental disorder is a condition that affects the normal growth, development, or functioning of an individual, particularly in areas such as physical, cognitive, or social-emotional development. Examples include autism spectrum disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and intellectual disabilities.

**Diabetes:** Diabetes refers to a group of metabolic disorders characterized by high blood sugar levels over a prolonged period. It occurs when the body either does not produce enough insulin or does not effectively use the insulin it produces.

**Diabetes insipidus:** Diabetes insipidus is a rare disorder characterized by excessive thirst and the excretion of large volumes of diluted urine. It occurs due to a deficiency in the production or action of antidiuretic hormone (ADH), which regulates water balance in the body.

**Diabetes mellitus:** Diabetes mellitus, commonly known as diabetes, is a chronic condition characterized by high blood sugar levels. It occurs when the body either does not produce enough insulin or does not use it effectively.

**Diabetic ketoacidosis:** Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) is a serious complication of diabetes, usually occurring in individuals with uncontrolled high blood sugar levels. It is characterized by the presence of ketones in the blood, leading to acidification of the body and potentially life-threatening symptoms.

**Diabetic nephropathy:** Diabetic nephropathy is a type of kidney disease that occurs as a complication of diabetes. It is characterized by damage to the small blood vessels in the kidneys, leading to impaired kidney function and the leakage of proteins into the urine.

**Diabetic neuropathy:** Diabetic neuropathy is a type of nerve damage that can occur in individuals with diabetes. It often affects the nerves in the legs and feet, causing symptoms such as numbness, tingling, pain, or weakness.

**Diaphragm:** The diaphragm is a dome-shaped muscle located between the chest and the abdomen. It plays a crucial role in the breathing process by contracting and relaxing to facilitate inhalation and exhalation.

**Diarrhea:** Diarrhea is a condition characterized by loose, watery stools occurring more frequently than usual. It is often a result of an infection, food intolerance, medication side effects, or other gastrointestinal disorders.

**Diastolic blood pressure:** Diastolic blood pressure is the measurement of blood pressure when the heart is at rest between contractions. It represents the lower number in a blood pressure reading and reflects the pressure in the arteries during relaxation of the heart.

**Dietitian:** A dietitian is a healthcare professional who specializes in nutrition and dietary management. They assess nutritional needs, develop personalized meal plans, and provide guidance on healthy eating habits to promote overall health and manage various medical conditions.

**Differential diagnosis:** Differential diagnosis is the process of determining the most likely cause or condition from a list of possible alternatives based on the evaluation of signs, symptoms, medical history, and diagnostic tests. It involves differentiating between similar conditions to reach an accurate diagnosis.

**Diffuse axonal injury:** Diffuse axonal injury (DAI) is a type of traumatic brain injury that occurs due to severe shaking or rotational forces applied to the head. It involves widespread damage to the axons

(nerve fibers) in the brain, resulting in neurological impairments.

**Diffusion:** Diffusion is the movement of molecules or particles from an area of higher concentration to an area of lower concentration. It is a natural process that occurs in various biological systems, allowing for the transport of essential substances across cell membranes.

**Digestion:** Digestion is the process of breaking down food into smaller molecules that can be absorbed and utilized by the body. It involves mechanical and chemical processes occurring in the digestive system, including the mouth, stomach, and intestines.

**Digestive system:** The digestive system, also known as the gastrointestinal system, is a group of organs responsible for the digestion and absorption of food. It includes organs such as the mouth, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, and associated glands.

**Digital rectal examination (DRE):** A digital rectal examination (DRE) is a medical procedure in which a healthcare provider inserts a gloved and lubricated finger into the rectum to assess the rectal area, including the prostate gland in men.

**Dilation:** Dilation refers to the expansion or enlargement of a structure or opening. In medical contexts, it can refer to the widening of blood vessels, the opening of the cervix during childbirth, or the dilation of the pupils of the eyes.

**Dilation and curettage (D&C):** Dilation and curettage (D&C) is a surgical procedure in which the cervix is dilated, and the uterine lining is scraped or suctioned out. It is often performed for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes, such as to remove uterine tissue after a miscarriage or to treat abnormal uterine bleeding.

**Dilated cardiomyopathy:** Dilated cardiomyopathy is a condition characterized by the enlargement and weakening of the heart's left ventricle, leading to reduced pumping efficiency and potential heart failure.

**Dilator:** A dilator is a medical instrument or device used to expand or widen an opening or passage in the body. It can be used in various medical procedures, such as dilating blood vessels, dilating the cervix, or dilating a stenosed or blocked area.

**Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO):** Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) is a chemical compound that has both industrial and medical applications. In medicine, it is sometimes used as a topical medication to reduce pain and inflammation or as a vehicle for drug delivery.

**Diphtheria:** Diphtheria is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*. It primarily affects the throat and upper respiratory tract, leading to symptoms such as sore throat, difficulty breathing, and the formation of a characteristic membrane in the throat.

**Diplopia:** Diplopia, also known as double vision, is a condition in which a person sees two images of a single object. It can occur due to various causes, such as misalignment of the eyes, nerve damage, or certain medical conditions.

**Disaccharide:** A disaccharide is a type of carbohydrate composed of two sugar molecules linked together. Examples of disaccharides include sucrose (table sugar), lactose (found in milk), and maltose (found in grains).

**Discoid lupus erythematosus:** Discoid lupus erythematosus is a chronic autoimmune skin condition characterized by the presence of red, scaly, and coin-shaped patches on the skin. It primarily affects the

face, scalp, and ears, and is associated with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in some cases.

**Disinfectant:** A disinfectant is a chemical agent or substance that is used to kill or inhibit the growth of microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi. It is commonly used to sanitize surfaces, instruments, and objects to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

**Dislocation:** Dislocation refers to the displacement or separation of bones at a joint. It occurs when the ends of the bones lose their normal alignment, leading to pain, swelling, and limited range of motion at the affected joint.

**Disorder:** In the medical context, a disorder refers to an abnormal condition or disturbance in the structure or function of the body or mind. It can be used to describe a wide range of conditions, such as genetic disorders, mental disorders, or metabolic disorders.

**Dissecting aneurysm:** A dissecting aneurysm, also known as aortic dissection, is a serious medical condition in which there is a tear in the inner layer of the aorta, the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body. This tear can cause blood to flow between the layers of the aortic wall, potentially leading to life-threatening complications.

**Dissection:** Dissection refers to the careful separation and examination of tissues or structures in the body for anatomical or pathological purposes. It is commonly performed during surgical procedures, post-mortem examinations, or educational activities in medical training.

**Dissociative disorder:** Dissociative disorders are a group of mental health conditions characterized by disruptions or disturbances in memory, identity, consciousness, or perception. Examples of dissociative disorders include dissociative amnesia, dissociative identity disorder (previously known as multiple personality disorder), and depersonalization/derealization disorder.

**Distal:** Distal is a term used to describe a location or position away from the center of the body or a specific reference point. It is the opposite of proximal. For example, the fingers are distal to the wrist.

**Distal radius fracture:** A distal radius fracture, also known as a wrist fracture, is a break in the radius bone near the wrist joint. It is a common type of fracture and can occur due to falls, sports injuries, or accidents.

**Diuretic:** A diuretic is a medication that promotes diuresis, which is the increased production of urine. Diuretics help to remove excess fluid from the body and are commonly used to treat conditions such as high blood pressure, edema (fluid retention), and certain kidney disorders.

**Diverticula:** Diverticula are small, bulging pouches that can form in the lining of the digestive tract, particularly in the colon (large intestine). They are usually harmless unless they become inflamed or infected.

**Diverticulitis:** Diverticulitis is a condition characterized by inflammation or infection of the diverticula, usually in the colon. It can cause abdominal pain, fever, changes in bowel habits, and other gastrointestinal symptoms.

**Diverticulosis:** Diverticulosis is a condition in which multiple diverticula (small pouches) form in the wall of the colon. It is usually asymptomatic and is commonly found during routine colonoscopies or imaging tests.

**DNA sequencing:** DNA sequencing is the process of determining the precise order of nucleotides

(building blocks) in a DNA molecule. It allows scientists to analyze the genetic information contained within the DNA and is widely used in research, medicine, and forensic sciences.

**DNA test:** A DNA test is a type of genetic test that analyzes a person's DNA to provide information about their ancestry, genetic traits, or the presence of specific genetic conditions or diseases.

**DNA transcription:** DNA transcription is the process by which genetic information encoded in DNA is copied into a complementary RNA molecule. It is an essential step in gene expression and protein synthesis.

**DNA translation:** DNA translation is the process by which the information carried by mRNA (which is transcribed from DNA) is used to synthesize proteins. It involves the assembly of amino acids in the correct order according to the instructions provided by the mRNA sequence.

**Doctor of Medicine (MD):** Doctor of Medicine (MD) is a professional degree awarded to individuals who have completed medical school and met the requirements for medical licensure. MDs are qualified to diagnose and treat medical conditions, prescribe medications, and perform medical procedures.

**Dopamine:** Dopamine is a neurotransmitter, a chemical messenger in the brain that plays a crucial role in various brain functions, including movement, motivation, reward, and pleasure. It is involved in several neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease and schizophrenia.

**Doppler ultrasound:** Doppler ultrasound is a diagnostic imaging technique that uses sound waves to measure the movement of blood through blood vessels. It can assess blood flow direction, velocity, and abnormalities in various parts of the body.

**Dorsal:** Dorsal is a term used to describe a location or position on the back or upper surface of an organism. It is the opposite of ventral. For example, the spinal cord is located on the dorsal side of the body.

**Double-blind study:** A double-blind study is a type of research study in which neither the participants nor the researchers involved know which treatment or intervention is being administered. This helps minimize bias and ensures the validity of the study results.

**Down syndrome:** Down syndrome, also known as trisomy 21, is a genetic disorder caused by the presence of an extra copy of chromosome 21. It is characterized by physical and intellectual disabilities, distinct facial features, and an increased risk of certain health conditions.

**Dressing:** In the medical context, a dressing refers to a sterile covering or bandage applied to a wound or surgical site to protect it, promote healing, and prevent infection.

**Droplet precautions:** Droplet precautions are infection control measures taken to prevent the transmission of respiratory infections that spread through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These precautions may include wearing masks, maintaining distance, and proper hand hygiene.

**Drug metabolism:** Drug metabolism refers to the biochemical processes by which drugs are chemically modified and transformed in the body to facilitate their elimination. It involves enzymatic reactions that convert drugs into metabolites that can be excreted from the body.

**Drug resistance:** Drug resistance is a phenomenon in which microorganisms, such as bacteria or viruses, develop the ability to survive and multiply in the presence of drugs that were originally effective against



them. It poses a significant challenge in the treatment of infectious diseases.

**Drug therapy:** Drug therapy, also known as pharmacotherapy, refers to the use of medications or drugs to treat, manage, or prevent various medical conditions. It involves the administration of specific drugs in appropriate doses and regimens to achieve therapeutic effects.

**Duodenum:** The duodenum is the first part of the small intestine, located immediately after the stomach. It plays a crucial role in the digestion of food by receiving partially digested food from the stomach and mixing it with digestive enzymes from the pancreas and bile from the gallbladder.

**Dupuytren's contracture:** Dupuytren's contracture is a hand condition characterized by the gradual thickening and tightening of the connective tissue in the palm and fingers. It can cause the fingers to bend inward toward the palm, leading to hand deformity and limited finger movement.

**Dura mater:** The dura mater is the tough, fibrous outermost layer of the meninges, which are the protective membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. It provides support and protection to the underlying nervous tissue.

**Dwarfism:** Dwarfism is a medical condition characterized by abnormally short stature. It can be caused by various genetic or hormonal disorders that affect skeletal growth and development.

**Dyadic therapy:** Dyadic therapy, also known as couples therapy or couples counseling, is a form of psychotherapy that focuses on improving the relationship and communication between two individuals, typically romantic partners or spouses.

**Dysarthria:** Dysarthria is a speech disorder characterized by difficulty in articulating or pronouncing words due to weakness, paralysis, or coordination problems of the muscles involved in speech production.

**Dysbiosis:** Dysbiosis refers to an imbalance or disruption of the normal microbial community in the body, particularly in the gut. It can be associated with various health conditions, including gastrointestinal disorders and autoimmune diseases.

**Dysfunctional uterine bleeding:** Dysfunctional uterine bleeding (DUB) is a condition characterized by abnormal, irregular, or heavy menstrual bleeding that is not caused by underlying structural or hormonal abnormalities. It can occur at any age during a woman's reproductive years.

**Dysgeusia:** Dysgeusia is a condition characterized by an altered or distorted sense of taste, often resulting in a persistent unpleasant or metallic taste in the mouth.

**Dyskinesia:** Dyskinesia refers to involuntary, abnormal movements that can occur as a side effect of certain medications, such as antipsychotics or Parkinson's disease medications. It can manifest as twisting, writhing, or jerking movements of the face, limbs, or trunk.

**Dyslexia:** Dyslexia is a learning disorder characterized by difficulties in reading, spelling, and language processing. It is not related to intelligence or vision problems but rather reflects challenges in the brain's ability to process written language.

**Dyslipidemia:** Dyslipidemia is a medical condition characterized by abnormal levels of lipids (such as cholesterol and triglycerides) in the blood. It is a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases, including heart attacks and strokes.

**Dysmenorrhea:** Dysmenorrhea refers to painful menstrual cramps experienced by women during their menstrual periods. It can be primary (without an underlying condition) or secondary (caused by conditions such as endometriosis or uterine fibroids).

**Dyspareunia:** Dyspareunia is the term used to describe recurrent or persistent pain experienced by individuals during sexual intercourse. It can have physical or psychological causes and may require medical evaluation and treatment.

**Dysphagia:** Dysphagia is the medical term for difficulty or discomfort in swallowing. It can be caused by various factors, including structural abnormalities, neurological conditions, or muscle weakness.

**Dysphagia:** Difficulty or discomfort in swallowing food or liquids. It can be caused by various medical conditions or structural abnormalities in the throat or esophagus.

**Dysphasia:** Impaired ability to understand or express language. It can result from brain damage or neurological disorders, leading to difficulty in speaking, comprehending, or formulating words and sentences.

**Dysphonia:** Abnormal or impaired voice production, characterized by hoarseness, weakness, or difficulty in producing clear and audible speech. It can be caused by vocal cord disorders, inflammation, or neurological conditions.

**Dysplasia:** Abnormal development or growth of cells, tissues, or organs. It is often associated with cellular changes that can increase the risk of developing cancer or other diseases.

**Dyspnea:** Shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing. It can be caused by various respiratory or cardiac conditions, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or heart failure.

**Dysuria:** Pain or discomfort during urination. It is commonly associated with urinary tract infections, bladder inflammation, or other conditions affecting the urinary system.

**Dysthymia:** A chronic form of depression characterized by persistent low mood, lack of interest or pleasure, and other depressive symptoms. It is less severe than major depression but can significantly impact daily functioning and quality of life.

**Dystonia:** A movement disorder characterized by involuntary muscle contractions that cause repetitive or twisting movements and abnormal postures. It can affect various body parts and interfere with normal motor function.

**Dystrophy:** A group of inherited disorders characterized by progressive muscle weakness and degeneration. Different types of dystrophy can affect specific muscles or muscle groups, leading to mobility difficulties and physical disabilities.

**Dystrophy, muscular:** A specific type of muscle dystrophy that primarily affects skeletal muscles, leading to muscle weakness, wasting, and progressive disability. Examples include Duchenne muscular dystrophy and Becker muscular dystrophy.

**Dystrophy, myotonic:** A type of muscular dystrophy characterized by muscle stiffness, weakness, and myotonia (delayed relaxation of muscles after contraction). It can affect various muscle groups and may also involve other organs or systems.

**Dystrophy, oculopharyngeal:** A rare form of muscular dystrophy that specifically affects the muscles of

the eyelids and throat (pharynx). It can lead to drooping eyelids (ptosis), difficulty swallowing, and other symptoms.

**Dystrophy, retinal:** A group of inherited eye disorders characterized by progressive degeneration of the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye. It can result in vision loss or blindness.

**Dystrophy, tapetoretinal:** A specific type of retinal dystrophy characterized by degeneration of the retina and the underlying layer called the retinal pigment epithelium. It leads to vision impairment, including night blindness and progressive loss of peripheral vision.

**Dyssomnia:** A sleep disorder characterized by abnormalities in the quantity, quality, or timing of sleep. Examples include insomnia, hypersomnia, and circadian rhythm disorders.

**Dyssynergia:** Lack of coordination between muscles or muscle groups, resulting in uncoordinated or jerky movements. It can be caused by neurological conditions or injuries affecting the central nervous system.

**Dystonic cerebral palsy:** A type of cerebral palsy characterized by abnormal muscle tone and involuntary muscle contractions (dystonia). It affects movement and posture and can result in difficulties with coordination and mobility.

# CHAPTER FIVE: E TERMS

**Earwax:** A waxy substance produced in the ear that helps protect and lubricate the ear canal.

**Echocardiogram:** A test that uses sound waves to create images of the heart, allowing doctors to assess its structure and function.

**Echocardiography:** A medical imaging technique that uses ultrasound to create pictures of the heart and its blood vessels.

**Eclampsia:** A serious condition that can occur during pregnancy, characterized by seizures and high blood pressure.

**Ectopic pregnancy:** A pregnancy that occurs outside the uterus, typically in the fallopian tubes.

**Eczema:** A skin condition characterized by itchy, inflamed, and irritated patches of skin.

**Edema:** Swelling caused by an abnormal accumulation of fluid in body tissues.

**Effusion:** The buildup of fluid in a body cavity, often as a result of inflammation or injury.

**Ejection fraction:** A measurement of how well the heart is pumping blood, usually expressed as a percentage.

**Elbow dislocation:** Displacement of the bones in the elbow joint, usually caused by trauma or injury.

**Elective surgery:** A planned surgical procedure that is not considered medically necessary, but rather chosen by the patient and their healthcare provider.

**Electromyography (EMG):** A test that measures the electrical activity of muscles to evaluate their function and detect abnormalities.

**Electroencephalogram (EEG):** A test that records the electrical activity of the brain, used to diagnose and monitor conditions such as epilepsy and sleep disorders.

**Electrolyte imbalance:** An abnormality in the levels of minerals (electrolytes) in the body, which can affect various bodily functions.

**Embolism:** A blockage of a blood vessel by a blood clot, air bubble, or other foreign material, disrupting blood flow.

**Embryo:** The early stage of development after fertilization of an egg, before it becomes a fetus.

**Emergency contraception:** Methods used to prevent pregnancy after unprotected sex or contraceptive failure.

**Emergency medicine:** The branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of acute illnesses or injuries requiring immediate attention.

**Emergency room:** A specialized department in a hospital where individuals with urgent medical conditions are treated.

**Emphysema:** A chronic lung disease characterized by damage to the air sacs in the lungs, leading to

difficulty in breathing.

**Empyema:** The accumulation of pus in a body cavity, often occurring as a complication of an infection.

**Endemic:** Refers to the constant presence of a disease or infection within a specific population or geographic area.

**Endocarditis:** Inflammation of the lining of the heart chambers and valves, usually caused by an infection.

**Endocrine glands:** Glands in the body that produce hormones, which regulate various bodily functions.

**Endometriosis:** A condition in which tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus, causing pain and fertility problems.

**Endometrium:** The lining of the uterus, which thickens and sheds during the menstrual cycle.

**Endoscope:** A flexible tube with a light and camera used to visualize the inside of the body during minimally invasive procedures.

**Endoscopy:** A procedure that uses an endoscope to examine the internal organs or structures of the body.

**Endotracheal intubation:** The insertion of a tube into the windpipe (trachea) to help a person breathe or deliver anesthesia during surgery.

**Endovascular:** Refers to procedures or treatments performed inside the blood vessels, usually using catheters and imaging guidance.

**Enema:** The introduction of fluid into the rectum and colon through the anus, often used to relieve constipation or prepare for certain medical procedures.

**Encephalitis:** Inflammation of the brain, usually caused by a viral infection.

**Encephalopathy:** A general term that describes any disease or dysfunction affecting the brain.

**End-stage renal disease (ESRD):** The final stage of chronic kidney disease, when the kidneys can no longer function well enough to sustain life.

**Enteric:** Refers to the intestines or the digestive system.

**Enteritis:** Inflammation of the small intestine, often caused by infection or irritation.

**Enterocolitis:** Inflammation of the colon and small intestine, typically involving diarrhea and abdominal pain.

**Enterostomy:** A surgical procedure that creates an opening in the abdomen to allow for the passage of intestinal contents.

**Enteral nutrition:** The delivery of nutrients directly into the digestive tract through a feeding tube.

**Enuresis:** Involuntary urination, especially during sleep, commonly known as bedwetting.

**Enzyme:** A protein that facilitates chemical reactions in the body, acting as a catalyst.

**Epidemic:** The rapid spread of a disease or infection, affecting a large number of people within a specific population or geographic area.

**Epidermis:** The outermost layer of the skin, providing protection and serving as a barrier against the environment.

**Epidural:** A type of anesthesia administered into the space surrounding the spinal cord to numb the body from a specific region downward.

**Epilepsy:** A neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures, which are abnormal bursts of electrical activity in the brain.

**Epinephrine:** Also known as adrenaline, a hormone and medication that increases heart rate, constricts blood vessels, and aids in the body's response to stress or emergencies.

**Episiotomy:** A surgical incision made in the perineum (area between the vagina and anus) during childbirth to facilitate delivery and prevent tearing.

**Epithelium:** The thin layer of tissue that covers the surfaces of organs, glands, and body cavities, serving as a protective barrier.

**Erectile dysfunction:** The inability to achieve or maintain an erection sufficient for sexual intercourse, also known as impotence.

**Erythema:** Redness or inflammation of the skin, often due to injury, infection, or an allergic reaction.

**Erythrocyte:** A red blood cell, responsible for transporting oxygen to the body's tissues.

**Erythropoiesis:** The process of red blood cell formation in the bone marrow.

**Esophagus:** The muscular tube connecting the throat to the stomach, allowing food and liquids to pass from the mouth to the stomach during swallowing.

**Essential hypertension:** High blood pressure with no identifiable cause, often related to genetic factors or lifestyle choices.

**Estrogen:** A hormone primarily produced in the ovaries that regulates the development and functioning of female reproductive organs and secondary sexual characteristics.

**Etiology:** The study of the causes and origins of diseases or conditions.

**Eustachian tube:** A narrow tube connecting the middle ear to the back of the throat, equalizing air pressure and draining fluids from the middle ear.

**Excision:** The surgical removal of tissue or a growth from the body.

**Excretion:** The process of eliminating waste products, such as urine, feces, and sweat, from the body.

**Exfoliation:** The shedding or peeling of the outer layer of skin cells, often occurring naturally as part of the skin renewal process.

**Exophthalmos:** Abnormal protrusion or bulging of one or both eyeballs, typically associated with thyroid eye disease or other conditions affecting the eye sockets.

**Expectoration:** The act of coughing up and spitting out phlegm or mucus from the respiratory tract.

**Extracorporeal:** Occurring outside the body, often referring to a medical procedure or treatment that

involves the removal, modification, or return of blood or bodily fluids.

**Extrapyramidal symptoms:** Side effects of certain medications, characterized by involuntary muscle movements, tremors, and muscle stiffness.

**Extravasation:** The leakage or escape of fluid, such as blood or medication, from its normal vessel or tissue into the surrounding area.

**Extremity:** Refers to the limbs of the body, including the arms and legs.

**Eye drops:** Medications in liquid form that are applied directly to the eyes, typically administered to treat eye conditions or deliver medication to the eye.

**Eye exam:** A comprehensive evaluation of the eyes and vision performed by an eye care professional, often including tests for visual acuity, eye health, and potential vision problems.

**Eyelid:** The movable skin folds that cover and protect the eyes, playing a role in blinking and spreading tears over the surface of the eye.

**Eosinophilia:** An increase in the number of eosinophils, a type of white blood cell, often associated with allergic reactions, parasitic infections, or certain diseases.

**Eosinophil:** A type of white blood cell involved in immune responses against parasites and allergic reactions.

**Ependymoma:** A type of brain tumor that originates from the cells lining the ventricles (fluid-filled spaces) of the brain or the spinal cord.

**Epiglottis:** A flap of cartilage located at the base of the tongue that covers the opening of the windpipe during swallowing to prevent food or liquids from entering the lungs.

**Eschar:** A dry, black, scab-like crust that forms on the skin as a result of tissue necrosis (death) often caused by burns or certain infections.

**Esotropia:** A form of strabismus (eye misalignment) in which one eye deviates inward or crosses inward toward the nose.

**Euthyroid:** Refers to a normal functioning thyroid gland, indicating that thyroid hormone levels are within the normal range.

**Eversion:** The act of turning inside out or outward, often referring to the movement or position of an organ or body part.

**Ewing sarcoma:** A rare type of bone cancer that primarily affects children and adolescents, causing the formation of tumors in the bones or soft tissues.

**Exocrine glands:** Glands that secrete substances, such as sweat, saliva, or digestive enzymes, through ducts that lead to body surfaces or cavities.

**Exostosis:** The formation of bony growths or outgrowths on the surface of bones, often caused by repetitive trauma or genetic factors.

**Expiratory reserve volume:** The additional volume of air that can be forcibly exhaled from the lungs after a normal exhalation.

**Expressive aphasia:** A language disorder characterized by difficulty in expressing or producing speech, often caused by damage to the language centers of the brain.

**External fixation:** A method of stabilizing fractured bones using external devices, such as metal pins or screws, which are attached to the bone and connected to an external frame or brace.

**Extraocular muscles:** The muscles responsible for controlling the movements and positioning of the eyes.

**Extrapyramidal disorder:** A group of movement disorders characterized by abnormal involuntary movements, muscle rigidity, and other motor disturbances, often caused by dysfunction in the basal ganglia or related brain areas.

**Extravascular hemolysis:** The breakdown of red blood cells that occurs outside the blood vessels, often associated with certain medical conditions or blood disorders.

**Extravasation:** The leakage or escape of fluid, such as blood or medication, from a blood vessel or a vein into the surrounding tissues.

**Extraventricular drain:** A medical device used to remove excess cerebrospinal fluid from the brain's ventricles, often used in the management of conditions such as hydrocephalus.

**Eye strain:** Discomfort or fatigue in the eyes, often caused by prolonged or intense use of the eyes, such as reading, using digital devices, or performing close-up work.

**Eccentric:** Deviating from the usual or expected center or axis, often referring to a muscle contraction or exercise that focuses on the lengthening phase of the muscle.

**Ectatic:** Dilated or expanded, often used to describe blood vessels or other tubular structures that have become abnormally enlarged.

**Ectodermal dysplasia:** A genetic disorder that affects the development of the ectodermal tissues, which include the skin, hair, nails, teeth, and sweat glands, resulting in abnormalities in these structures.

**Ectopia cordis:** A rare congenital condition in which the heart is located outside the chest cavity.

**Eczematous dermatitis:** Inflammation of the skin characterized by redness, itching, and the formation of small blisters or lesions, often associated with conditions such as eczema or allergic reactions.

**Efficacy:** The ability of a treatment, medication, or intervention to produce the desired therapeutic effect or result.

**Effusion:** The accumulation of fluid, such as blood, pus, or serous fluid, in a body cavity, often as a result of inflammation or injury.

**Egophony:** A change in the sound of the voice heard during a physical examination of the chest, often indicating lung consolidation or fluid accumulation.

**Ejection click:** A brief clicking sound heard during a heartbeat, usually caused by the opening of a heart valve or the movement of blood through a narrowed or abnormal valve.

**Elasticity:** The ability of a material or tissue to stretch or deform under stress and return to its original shape or size when the stress is removed.

**Elbow bursitis:** Inflammation of the bursa, a fluid-filled sac that cushions and reduces friction between



the bones, tendons, and muscles around the elbow joint.

**Elective abortion:** A planned termination of pregnancy performed at the request of the pregnant woman for non-medical reasons.

**Elective surgery:** A non-emergency surgical procedure that is planned and scheduled in advance, often to treat a specific condition or improve a patient's quality of life.

**Electromagnetic radiation:** Energy in the form of waves or particles that has both electric and magnetic properties, such as X-rays, gamma rays, and radio waves.

**Electromyography:** A diagnostic test that measures the electrical activity of muscles and the nerves controlling them, often used to evaluate muscle and nerve function or diagnose neuromuscular disorders.

**Electronystagmography:** A diagnostic test that measures and records the movements of the eyes to assess balance and detect abnormalities in the vestibular system.

**Electrooculogram:** A test that measures and records the electrical activity of the muscles that control eye movements, often used in the diagnosis of certain eye disorders or to assess eye muscle function.

**Electroretinogram:** A test that measures and records the electrical responses of the retina to light stimulation, often used to evaluate the function of the retina and diagnose retinal disorders.

**Elephantiasis:** A condition characterized by the severe and chronic swelling of body parts, usually the limbs or genitals, caused by obstruction of the lymphatic vessels by parasitic worms.

**Emaciation:** Extreme thinness or wasting of the body, often resulting from severe malnutrition or chronic illness.

**Embolization:** The intentional blockage or occlusion of a blood vessel, often done to control bleeding, treat tumors, or prevent the migration of blood clots.

**Embryogenesis:** The process of development and formation of an embryo from a fertilized egg.

**Emesis:** The act of vomiting or expelling stomach contents through the mouth.

**Emollient:** A substance, such as a lotion or cream, applied to the skin to soothe and moisturize.

**Empiric:** Based on practical experience and observation rather than on scientific evidence.

**Empty sella syndrome:** A condition where the sella turcica, a bony structure in the skull that holds the pituitary gland, appears empty or partially empty on imaging studies.

**En bloc resection:** Surgical removal of a tumor or organ along with surrounding tissues as a single unit.

**Encopresis:** Involuntary soiling or passing of stool by a person beyond the age when control should have been established.

**End-diastolic volume:** The amount of blood in the ventricles of the heart at the end of relaxation (diastole) before the next contraction.

**Endemic:** Referring to a disease that is consistently present in a particular geographic area or population.

**Endocardium:** The inner lining of the heart chambers and valves.

**Endocrine:** Pertaining to glands that produce and release hormones into the bloodstream to regulate various bodily functions.

**Endoderm:** The innermost layer of cells in the early embryo that gives rise to the lining of the digestive tract and respiratory system.

**Endodontic therapy:** Dental treatment that involves the removal of infected or damaged pulp from the inside of a tooth and sealing it to prevent further infection.

**Endolymphatic sac:** A structure in the inner ear that helps regulate fluid balance and pressure.

**Endolymphatic shunt:** A surgical procedure that involves creating a connection between the endolymphatic sac and another structure to relieve excess fluid pressure in the inner ear.

**Endometritis:** Inflammation of the endometrium, the inner lining of the uterus.

**Endometrium:** The inner lining of the uterus that undergoes changes during the menstrual cycle and is shed during menstruation.

**Endopeptidase:** An enzyme that breaks down proteins by cleaving peptide bonds within the protein chain.

**Endoscope:** A flexible or rigid tube with a light and camera used to visualize and examine the internal structures of the body.

**Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP):** A procedure that combines endoscopy and X-ray imaging to diagnose and treat conditions of the bile ducts and pancreas.

**Endoscopic sinus surgery:** Minimally invasive surgery to treat chronic sinusitis by removing blockages and improving sinus drainage.

**Endotracheal intubation:** The insertion of a tube into the windpipe (trachea) through the mouth or nose to maintain an open airway and assist with breathing.

**Endovascular surgery:** Minimally invasive surgical procedures performed inside blood vessels using catheters and other specialized instruments.

**Enema:** The introduction of liquid into the rectum and colon to stimulate bowel movements or administer medication.

**Enlarged prostate:** A condition characterized by the enlargement of the prostate gland, which can cause urinary symptoms such as difficulty in urination.

**Enteral nutrition:** The delivery of nutrients directly into the digestive tract through a feeding tube to support patients who cannot eat normally.

**Enterocolitis:** Inflammation of the colon and small intestine, often associated with infection or inflammation.

**Enterococcus:** Bacteria commonly found in the intestinal tract that can cause infections, particularly in healthcare settings.

**Enteroenterostomy:** Surgical creation of a connection between two parts of the small intestine to restore or improve intestinal continuity.

**Enteropathy:** A disease or disorder affecting the intestines, such as celiac disease or inflammatory bowel disease.

**Enterotoxin:** A toxin produced by certain bacteria that affects the intestines and can cause diarrhea and vomiting.

**Enucleation:** Surgical removal of a structure, such as an eye or a tumor, by cutting around and removing it intact.

**Enuresis:** Involuntary urination, particularly during sleep, beyond the age when bladder control is typically established.

**Enzyme:** A protein that acts as a catalyst in biological reactions, helping to speed up chemical reactions in the body.

**Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA):** A laboratory test that detects and measures specific substances, such as antibodies or antigens, in the blood or other bodily fluids.

**Eosinophilia:** A higher than normal level of eosinophils, a type of white blood cell, in the blood. It can be associated with allergic reactions, parasitic infections, and certain diseases.

**Eosinophilic esophagitis:** A chronic inflammatory condition of the esophagus characterized by the accumulation of eosinophils, leading to symptoms such as difficulty swallowing, chest pain, and heartburn.

**Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis:** Also known as Churg-Strauss syndrome, it is a rare autoimmune disorder that causes inflammation of blood vessels and can affect multiple organs, including the lungs, skin, and nerves.

**Ependymoma:** A type of brain or spinal cord tumor that arises from the ependymal cells lining the fluid-filled spaces in the brain and spinal cord.

**Epidemic:** The occurrence of a disease in a larger number of individuals within a population or geographical area than is normally expected.

**Epididymitis:** Inflammation of the epididymis, a coiled tube located at the back of the testicles, usually caused by a bacterial infection.

**Epidural anesthesia:** The administration of anesthesia into the epidural space, a region around the spinal cord, to numb a specific area of the body for surgical procedures or pain relief during labor.

**Epidermal inclusion cyst:** A common benign cyst that forms beneath the skin when skin cells become trapped and accumulate within a closed sac.

**Epidermolysis bullosa:** A group of rare genetic disorders characterized by fragile skin that blisters and forms sores or erosions in response to minor trauma or friction.

**Epididymo-orchitis:** Inflammation of the epididymis and the testicle, often caused by a bacterial infection or sexually transmitted infection.

**Epidermis:** The outermost layer of the skin that provides protection and is responsible for the production of new skin cells.

**Epidural hematoma:** A collection of blood between the skull and the protective covering of the brain (dura mater) caused by a ruptured blood vessel, usually resulting from a head injury.

**Epiglottis:** A flap of tissue located at the base of the tongue that covers the opening of the windpipe during swallowing to prevent food or liquid from entering the airway.

**Epilepsy:** A neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures, which are episodes of abnormal electrical activity in the brain.

**Epinephrine:** Also known as adrenaline, it is a hormone and neurotransmitter that plays a crucial role in the body's response to stress, increasing heart rate, constricting blood vessels, and improving oxygen supply.

**Episiotomy:** A surgical incision made in the perineum (the area between the vagina and the anus) during childbirth to widen the birth canal and facilitate delivery.

**Episodic memory:** The ability to remember specific events or experiences in a person's life, such as personal anecdotes or recent activities.

**Epley maneuver:** A repositioning technique used to treat benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), a condition characterized by episodes of dizziness and spinning sensations caused by certain head movements.

**Epstein-Barr virus (EBV):** A common virus of the herpes family that infects and establishes lifelong dormant infection in the body. It is associated with diseases such as infectious mononucleosis and certain cancers.

**Erectile dysfunction:** The inability to achieve or maintain an erection sufficient for sexual intercourse.

**Erythema:** Redness or inflammation of the skin, often caused by irritation, infection, or an allergic reaction.

**Erythema multiforme:** A skin condition characterized by the development of red, target-like lesions that may be triggered by infections, medications, or other factors.

**Erythroleukemia:** A rare form of leukemia characterized by the overproduction of immature red blood cells and myeloblasts in the bone marrow.

**Erythromycin:** An antibiotic medication commonly used to treat bacterial infections, particularly respiratory tract infections, skin infections, and certain sexually transmitted infections.

**Erythrocyte:** Also known as a red blood cell, it is a cellular component of the blood responsible for carrying oxygen to the body tissues.

**Erythrocytosis:** An increase in the number of red blood cells in the blood, which can be a normal response to high altitude or certain medical conditions.

**Erythropoiesis:** The process of red blood cell production in the bone marrow.

**Erythropoietin:** A hormone produced by the kidneys that stimulates the production of red blood cells in the bone marrow.

**Eschar:** A dry, black, scab-like or necrotic tissue that forms over a deep burn or ulcer.

**Esophagus:** A muscular tube that connects the throat (pharynx) to the stomach, allowing food and liquids to pass into the digestive system.

**Essential hypertension:** High blood pressure with no identifiable cause, often associated with lifestyle factors and genetic predisposition.

**Essential tremor:** A neurological condition characterized by involuntary shaking or tremors, typically affecting the hands, but can also involve the head, voice, or other body parts.

**Eustachian tube:** A narrow tube connecting the middle ear to the back of the throat, helping to equalize air pressure and drain fluids from the middle ear.

**Excision:** Surgical removal or cutting out of a specific tissue, organ, or lesion from the body.

**Excretion:** The process of eliminating waste products, toxins, and excess substances from the body, particularly through urine, feces, and sweat.

**Exocrine glands:** Glands that secrete substances, such as enzymes or hormones, through ducts to the surface of the body or into body cavities.

**Exogenous:** Originating from an external source, rather than from within the body.

**Exophthalmos:** Abnormal protrusion or bulging of one or both eyeballs, often associated with conditions such as hyperthyroidism or Graves' disease.

**Exostosis:** A bony growth or projection that forms on the surface of a bone, often resulting from repeated injury or chronic irritation.

**Expiration:** The act of exhaling or breathing out, expelling air from the lungs.

**Expectorant:** A medication that helps to promote the expulsion of mucus or phlegm from the respiratory tract, typically used to relieve cough and congestion.

**Extrasystole:** An extra or premature heartbeat that occurs before the normal rhythm resumes, often perceived as a skipped or irregular heartbeat.

**Extravasation:** The leakage of fluid, such as blood or medication, from a blood vessel into the surrounding tissues.

**Extraventricular drain:** A medical device used to drain excess cerebrospinal fluid from the brain's ventricles to relieve pressure in conditions such as hydrocephalus or traumatic brain injury.

**Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO):** A life support technique that uses a machine to oxygenate the blood outside the body and pump it back into the body to support heart and lung function in critically ill patients.

**Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL):** A non-invasive medical procedure that uses shock waves to break down kidney stones or gallstones, allowing them to pass out of the body more easily.

**Extremity:** A limb or appendage of the body, such as an arm or leg.

**Eye drops:** Medications in liquid form that are administered directly into the eye to treat various eye conditions or deliver medication to the eye tissues.

**Eye exam:** A comprehensive evaluation of the eyes and visual system performed by an eye care professional, including tests to assess visual acuity, eye health, and detect eye diseases.

**Eyelid:** The movable protective covering of the eye that helps to shield the eye from foreign objects, regulate light, and distribute tears.

**Eyestrain:** Discomfort or fatigue experienced in the eyes, often due to prolonged or intense use of the eyes, such as staring at a computer screen for extended periods or reading in poor lighting conditions. Symptoms may include eye soreness, dryness, blurred vision, and headaches. Taking breaks, adjusting lighting, and practicing good eye hygiene can help alleviate eyestrain.

# CHAPTER SIX: F TERMS

**Facetectomy:** A surgical procedure that involves the removal of a small portion of a spinal joint called a facet joint to relieve pressure on the spinal nerves and reduce pain.

**Facial nerve:** The nerve that controls the muscles of your face and helps you make facial expressions, such as smiling or frowning.

**Facial paralysis:** A condition where there is a loss of movement or weakness in the muscles of the face, often resulting in difficulty in making facial expressions or closing the eyes.

**Facies:** A medical term used to describe the appearance or expression of a person's face, which can sometimes indicate specific medical conditions or diseases.

**Factor V Leiden:** A genetic mutation that affects the blood's ability to clot properly, increasing the risk of abnormal blood clot formation.

**Factor VII:** One of the proteins in the blood that plays a role in blood clotting. It helps activate other clotting factors to form a blood clot when there is an injury or bleeding.

**Factor VIII:** Another protein in the blood that is essential for blood clotting. Deficiency in factor VIII leads to a bleeding disorder called hemophilia A.

**Factor X:** A protein in the blood that is crucial for blood clotting. It helps convert a substance called prothrombin into thrombin, which is necessary for the formation of blood clots.

**Factor XI:** A clotting protein that plays a role in the coagulation cascade, the series of steps that leads to the formation of blood clots.

**Factor XII:** A protein involved in the blood clotting process. It activates other clotting factors and contributes to the formation of blood clots.

**Factor XIII:** A clotting factor that helps strengthen and stabilize blood clots once they are formed.

**Falciform ligament:** A fold of tissue in the abdomen that attaches the liver to the front wall of the abdomen.

**Fallot's tetralogy:** A congenital heart defect characterized by four specific abnormalities in the heart's structure, including a hole between the heart's chambers and narrowing of the pulmonary artery.

**False negative:** A test result that wrongly indicates the absence of a particular condition or disease when it is actually present.

**False positive:** A test result that incorrectly indicates the presence of a particular condition or disease when it is actually not present.

**Famine:** An extreme shortage of food over an extended period, leading to widespread hunger and malnutrition among a population.

**Fanconi anemia:** A rare inherited disorder that affects the bone marrow and leads to decreased production of blood cells, resulting in anemia and an increased risk of certain cancers.

**Fascia:** A thin layer of connective tissue that surrounds and supports muscles, organs, and other structures in the body.

**Fasciculation:** Involuntary muscle twitches or contractions that can occur spontaneously, often visible under the skin.

**Fasciotomy:** A surgical procedure that involves making an incision in the fascia to relieve pressure or tension, usually to treat a condition called compartment syndrome.

**Fast-twitch muscle fibers:** Muscle fibers in the body that contract quickly but fatigue more rapidly compared to slow-twitch muscle fibers. They are involved in activities requiring short bursts of intense effort.

**Fasting blood glucose:** The measurement of glucose (sugar) levels in the blood after a period of fasting, usually overnight. It is used to assess blood sugar control and diagnose diabetes.

**Fasting lipid profile:** A blood test that measures various types of cholesterol and triglycerides after a period of fasting. It provides information about an individual's lipid (fat) levels and risk of cardiovascular disease.

**Fatty acid:** A type of molecule that is an essential component of fats and oils. Fatty acids are important for energy production and play various roles in the body.

**Fatty liver:** A condition characterized by the accumulation of excess fat in the liver cells, often associated with alcohol consumption, obesity, or certain medical conditions.

**Febrile:** Referring to having or relating to a fever or elevated body temperature.

**Febrile seizures:** Seizures or convulsions that occur in young children, often associated with a sudden high fever.

**Feeding tube:** A medical device inserted into the body to deliver nutrition and fluids directly into the stomach or intestines, bypassing the mouth and throat.

**Female genital mutilation:** A harmful traditional practice that involves the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons, often causing serious health complications.

**Female genitalia:** The external reproductive organs of a female, including the vulva, clitoris, labia, and vaginal opening.

**Female reproductive system:** The organs and structures in the female body involved in reproduction, including the ovaries, fallopian tubes, uterus, cervix, and vagina.

**Female sexual dysfunction:** A broad term used to describe various difficulties or problems experienced by females that interfere with sexual satisfaction, including low libido, difficulty with arousal or orgasm, and pain during sex.

**Femoral artery:** A major artery in the thigh that supplies blood to the lower extremities.

**Femoral hernia:** A type of hernia that occurs when a portion of abdominal tissue protrudes through a weak spot in the wall of the femoral canal in the groin area.

**Femoral nerve:** A nerve that originates in the lower spine and provides sensation and motor control to



the muscles of the thigh and leg.

**Femoral vein:** A major vein in the thigh that carries deoxygenated blood back to the heart from the lower extremities.

**Femur:** The thigh bone, which is the longest and strongest bone in the human body.

**Fenestrated tube:** A medical tube or catheter that contains small openings or windows along its length, allowing fluids or gases to pass through.

**Fenton reaction:** A chemical reaction involving the production of harmful free radicals in the presence of certain substances, potentially leading to oxidative damage in cells.

**Fentanyl:** A potent synthetic opioid medication used for pain relief, often prescribed in cases of severe pain or during anesthesia.

**Fetal alcohol syndrome:** A condition caused by maternal alcohol consumption during pregnancy, resulting in a range of physical, mental, and developmental abnormalities in the unborn child.

**Fetal distress:** A condition during pregnancy or labor where the fetus is not receiving adequate oxygen, potentially indicating a complication or problem.

**Fetal echocardiography:** An ultrasound examination that focuses on the heart of the fetus, assessing its structure and function to detect any potential cardiac abnormalities.

**Fetal growth restriction:** A condition where the fetus does not grow at the expected rate, often due to various factors such as poor placental function or maternal health issues.

**Fetal heart rate:** The number of times the fetal heart beats per minute, which can be monitored during pregnancy to assess the well-being of the baby.

**Fetal monitoring:** Continuous or periodic monitoring of the fetal heart rate and uterine contractions during labor to ensure the well-being of the baby.

**Fetal movement counting:** A technique used by pregnant women to monitor and track the movements of their baby in the womb as an indicator of fetal well-being.

**Fetal scalp electrode:** A small electrode attached to the scalp of the fetus during labor to monitor the baby's heart rate more accurately.

**Fetal ultrasound:** A non-invasive imaging technique that uses sound waves to create pictures of the developing fetus in the womb, providing valuable information about its growth and development.

**Fetus:** The developing unborn offspring in the womb from approximately the ninth week of gestation until birth.

**Feuille:** Feuille is a French word that means "leaf." In the medical context, it is not a specific medical term and does not have a specific medical definition.

**Fiberoptic bronchoscopy:** A procedure used to examine the inside of the airways (bronchi) and lungs using a flexible tube with a light and camera attached to it called a bronchoscope. It helps diagnose and treat various lung conditions.

**Fiberotomy:** A surgical procedure performed on a muscle or connective tissue to release or cut fibers,

usually to relieve muscle tension or correct certain conditions.

**Fibroadenoma:** A common benign (non-cancerous) breast tumor or lump that arises from glandular and connective tissue in the breast. It is typically painless and has a well-defined shape.

**Fibroma:** A benign tumor composed of fibrous connective tissue. It can occur in various parts of the body, including the skin, uterus, and oral cavity.

**Fibromyalgia:** A chronic condition characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain, fatigue, sleep disturbances, and tender points on the body. The exact cause is unknown, and it can be accompanied by other symptoms such as headaches, cognitive difficulties, and mood disturbances.

**Fibrosarcoma:** A malignant (cancerous) tumor that arises from fibrous tissue, commonly found in soft tissues such as muscles, tendons, and ligaments.

**Fibrosis:** The formation of excess fibrous connective tissue in an organ or tissue as a result of inflammation, injury, or disease. Fibrosis can lead to scarring and impair the normal function of the affected organ.

**Fibrous dysplasia:** A bone disorder characterized by the abnormal growth of fibrous tissue in place of normal bone, leading to weakened and deformed bones. It can affect a single bone or multiple bones in the body.

**Fifth cranial nerve:** The fifth cranial nerve, also known as the trigeminal nerve, is one of the 12 pairs of cranial nerves in the body. It is responsible for sensory information from the face, including touch, pain, and temperature, as well as motor control of the muscles involved in chewing.

**Fifth disease:** A viral infection caused by parvovirus B19, primarily affecting children. It is characterized by a distinctive rash on the face that gives a "slapped cheek" appearance, followed by a rash on the body.

**Fifth metatarsal fracture:** A fracture or break in the fifth metatarsal bone, which is located on the outer side of the foot. It is a common injury, often caused by twisting or direct trauma to the foot.

**Filgrastim:** A medication that stimulates the production of white blood cells in the body, often used in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy or individuals with compromised immune systems.

**Fingerstick:** A method of obtaining a small blood sample for testing by pricking the fingertip with a lancet. It is commonly used to measure blood sugar levels in individuals with diabetes.

**Fissure:** A narrow opening, cleft, or crack in a tissue or organ. In medical terms, fissures can occur in various locations, such as the skin, anus, or brain, and may be associated with specific conditions or injuries.

**Fistula:** An abnormal connection or passageway that forms between two organs, vessels, or tissues that are not normally connected. Fistulas can occur in different parts of the body and may cause complications or require medical intervention.

**Fitz-Hugh-Curtis syndrome:** A condition characterized by inflammation of the liver capsule and surrounding tissues, usually caused by pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). It is associated with upper right abdominal pain and is named after the physicians who first described it.

**Fixation:** In the medical context, fixation refers to the stabilization or immobilization of a body part,

usually through surgical or orthopedic means, to promote healing or prevent movement.

**Flail chest:** A condition characterized by multiple rib fractures, causing a segment of the chest wall to become detached from the rest, leading to paradoxical movement during breathing.

**Flatfoot:** Also known as pes planus, flatfoot is a condition where the arches of the foot are flattened, causing the entire sole of the foot to make contact with the ground. It can be congenital or acquired and may or may not cause symptoms or complications.

**Flexor tendon:** A tendon that connects a muscle, called a flexor, to a bone, allowing for the bending or flexing of a joint. Flexor tendons are essential for movement and are found in various parts of the body, such as the hands and feet.

**Floating ribs:** The eleventh and twelfth pairs of ribs in the human ribcage are called floating ribs because they do not attach directly to the sternum (breastbone) but are instead attached to the spine.

**Floppy valve syndrome:** Floppy valve syndrome, also known as mitral valve prolapse, is a condition where the flaps of the heart's mitral valve do not close properly, allowing some blood to leak backward into the heart.

**Florid:** In the medical context, florid refers to a condition or presentation that is vivid, bright, or highly noticeable.

**Fluctuate:** Fluctuate means to change or vary irregularly in intensity, quantity, or quality. In medicine, it can refer to fluctuations in symptoms, such as pain or fever, or changes in a condition over time.

**Fluctuating hearing loss:** A type of hearing loss characterized by changes in hearing ability, with periods of better and worse hearing. It can be caused by various factors, including middle ear infections, certain medications, or underlying medical conditions.

**Fluorescein angiography:** A diagnostic test that uses a fluorescent dye called fluorescein to evaluate blood flow in the retina and choroid of the eye. It helps in detecting and monitoring various eye conditions, such as macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy.

**Fluorescent antibody test (FAT):** A laboratory test that uses fluorescent-labeled antibodies to detect and identify specific microorganisms or substances in a patient's sample, such as blood or tissue.

**Fluoride:** A naturally occurring mineral that is commonly added to drinking water and oral care products for its dental health benefits. Fluoride helps strengthen tooth enamel and prevent tooth decay.

**Fluorosis:** A condition caused by excessive fluoride intake during tooth development, leading to changes in the appearance and structure of teeth. Mild fluorosis may cause white spots on the teeth, while severe cases can result in brown discoloration and enamel pitting.

**Fluoroscopy:** A medical imaging technique that uses a continuous X-ray beam to produce real-time moving images of the internal structures of the body, such as organs, blood vessels, and bones. It is commonly used during procedures such as angiography or placement of medical devices.

**Fluoxetine:** An antidepressant medication belonging to the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) class. It is commonly prescribed to treat depression, anxiety disorders, and other mental health conditions.

**Flurothyl:** A chemical compound that was previously used as an inhalation anesthetic but is now

primarily used in laboratory research to induce seizures in animals for scientific studies.

**Flutter valve:** A one-way valve used in respiratory devices or chest drainage systems to allow the release of excess air or fluid while preventing the entry of air or fluid back into the system.

**Focal neuropathy:** A condition characterized by damage or dysfunction of a specific nerve or group of nerves, leading to localized symptoms such as pain, weakness, or sensory changes in the affected area.

**Folate:** A B-vitamin, also known as folic acid or vitamin B9, that plays a crucial role in DNA synthesis, red blood cell production, and proper nervous system function. Adequate folate intake is important for overall health, especially during pregnancy.

**Follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH):** A hormone released by the pituitary gland that plays a key role in the regulation of the reproductive system. In females, FSH stimulates the growth and development of ovarian follicles, while in males, it stimulates sperm production in the testes.

**Follicular adenoma:** A benign tumor that develops within the thyroid gland. It arises from the cells of a thyroid follicle and usually does not produce any symptoms. Most follicular adenomas do not require treatment unless they grow in size or cause other complications.

**Follicular lymphoma:** A type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma that originates from B-lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell. It typically presents as painless swelling of lymph nodes, and the cancer cells resemble normal lymphatic follicles under a microscope.

**Folliculitis:** Inflammation or infection of one or more hair follicles, commonly caused by bacteria or fungi. It appears as small red bumps or pustules around hair follicles and can be accompanied by itching or pain.

**Fontanelle:** Soft spots on a baby's skull that allow for the growth and flexibility of the skull bones during infancy. Fontanelles eventually close as the bones of the skull fuse together.

**Foot drop:** A condition characterized by difficulty lifting the front part of the foot, leading to an abnormal gait where the toes may drag on the ground. It can result from various underlying causes, including nerve damage or muscle weakness.

**Foot ulcer:** A break or open sore that develops on the skin of the foot, commonly seen in individuals with diabetes or poor circulation. Foot ulcers can be slow to heal and may increase the risk of infection.

**Forced expiratory volume (FEV):** The amount of air forcefully exhaled from the lungs during a specific time frame, usually measured in the first second (FEV1) or as a percentage of the total lung capacity. It is used to assess lung function and diagnose respiratory conditions such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

**Forced vital capacity (FVC):** The maximum amount of air that can be forcefully exhaled after taking a deep breath. It is a measure of lung capacity and is used in pulmonary function tests to evaluate respiratory function.

**Forearm fractures:** Fractures that occur in the bones of the forearm, which include the radius and ulna. Forearm fractures can result from falls, sports injuries, or other traumatic events.

**Forearm splint:** A supportive device, typically made of rigid or semi-rigid material, used to immobilize and protect the forearm and wrist after an injury or fracture.

**Forensic medicine:** The branch of medicine that deals with the application of medical knowledge to legal matters. Forensic medicine involves the examination of evidence, conducting autopsies, and providing expert opinions in legal cases.

**Foreskin:** The retractable fold of skin that covers the head of the penis in males. In some cultures, circumcision involves the removal of the foreskin for cultural, religious, or medical reasons.

**Formaldehyde:** A colorless and strong-smelling chemical compound often used as a disinfectant and preservative. It is commonly used in medical laboratories and mortuaries.

**Formication:** A sensory hallucination characterized by the sensation of insects crawling on or under the skin. It can be a symptom of certain medical conditions, such as drug withdrawal or neuropathic disorders.

**Fornix:** A fibrous arch-shaped structure in the brain that connects different regions of the brain, including the hippocampus, hypothalamus, and mammillary bodies.

**Fossa:** A hollow or depression, often referring to a specific anatomical structure or indentation in bones or organs. For example, the temporal fossa is a depression on the side of the skull.

**Foul breath:** Unpleasant odor emanating from the mouth, usually caused by poor oral hygiene, dental problems, or certain medical conditions.

**Fourth cranial nerve:** Also known as the trochlear nerve, it is one of the cranial nerves responsible for eye movement. It innervates the superior oblique muscle, which helps control the movement and rotation of the eyeball.

**Fourth disease:** A viral infection caused by the parvovirus B19. It primarily affects children and is characterized by a distinctive rash on the cheeks, often referred to as "slapped cheek" appearance.

**Fourth heart sound (S4):** An abnormal heart sound heard during auscultation, occurring just before the regular lub-dub sounds. It is associated with certain heart conditions and can indicate impaired ventricular function.

**Fracture:** A break or crack in a bone. Fractures can be classified as complete or incomplete, and they vary in severity from hairline fractures to more severe breaks that require immobilization or surgical intervention.

**Fragile X syndrome:** A genetic disorder that causes intellectual disability and various physical and behavioral abnormalities. It is the most common inherited cause of intellectual disability and is associated with a specific change in the FMR1 gene.

**Frailty:** A medical condition characterized by decreased strength, endurance, and physiological function, making individuals more vulnerable to stressors and at higher risk of adverse health outcomes.

**Freckles:** Small, flat, brown spots on the skin that are more commonly seen in fair-skinned individuals. Freckles are caused by an increased concentration of melanin in the skin due to exposure to sunlight.

**Free radical:** A highly reactive molecule that contains an unpaired electron. Free radicals can cause damage to cells and tissues and are associated with various diseases, including aging, cancer, and cardiovascular disorders.

**Free thyroxine (FT4):** A hormone produced by the thyroid gland that helps regulate metabolism. Free

thyroxine refers to the unbound and active form of the hormone circulating in the bloodstream.

**Frequent urination:** The need to urinate more often than usual. It can be a symptom of various conditions, including urinary tract infections, diabetes, or an overactive bladder.

**Fresh frozen plasma (FFP):** A blood product derived from donated blood that contains various clotting factors. It is used to treat bleeding disorders or replace blood volume in certain medical situations.

**Friedreich's ataxia:** A rare genetic disorder characterized by progressive damage to the nervous system, resulting in muscle weakness, loss of coordination, and impaired sensory functions.

**Fructose:** A natural sugar found in fruits, honey, and some vegetables. It is a type of carbohydrate and is commonly used as a sweetener in processed foods and beverages.

**Fructose intolerance:** A condition in which the body has difficulty digesting fructose, leading to gastrointestinal symptoms such as bloating, abdominal pain, and diarrhea after consuming foods or drinks high in fructose.

**Frontal bone:** The bone that forms the forehead and upper part of the eye sockets. It is one of the cranial bones and provides protection to the frontal lobes of the brain.

**Frontal lobe:** The largest lobe of the brain located at the front of the cerebral cortex. It is involved in various higher cognitive functions, including decision-making, problem-solving, and personality.

**Frontotemporal dementia:** A group of neurodegenerative disorders characterized by progressive damage to the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain. It leads to changes in behavior, personality, and language skills.

**Frostbite:** Tissue damage that occurs due to prolonged exposure to extreme cold temperatures. It typically affects the skin and underlying tissues and can result in pain, numbness, and tissue necrosis.

**Frozen shoulder:** Also known as adhesive capsulitis, it is a condition characterized by stiffness and pain in the shoulder joint. It is often accompanied by limited range of motion and can be caused by inflammation or scarring of the joint capsule.

**Fructosemia:** A rare metabolic disorder characterized by the inability to metabolize fructose, a sugar found in fruits and honey. It can lead to symptoms such as hypoglycemia, liver damage, and gastrointestinal disturbances.

**Fundus:** The inner lining of a hollow organ or cavity, often referring to the back portion of the eye that can be examined during an eye examination.

**Furuncle:** A painful skin infection involving a hair follicle or oil gland. It is commonly known as a boil and appears as a red, swollen, and pus-filled bump.

**Fusion inhibitor:** A type of antiretroviral medication used in the treatment of HIV/AIDS. It prevents the fusion of the virus with host cells, inhibiting viral entry and replication.

**FVC (forced vital capacity):** The maximum amount of air that can be forcefully exhaled after taking a deep breath. It is a measure of lung capacity and is used in pulmonary function tests to evaluate respiratory function.

# CHAPTER SEVEN: G TERMS

**Galactosemia:** A rare genetic disorder where the body is unable to break down a sugar called galactose. This can lead to various health problems, especially in infants, when they consume foods containing lactose, such as milk.

**Galactosuria:** The presence of galactose in the urine, which can be a sign of a metabolic disorder such as galactosemia.

**Gallbladder:** A small organ located beneath the liver that stores bile produced by the liver. It plays a role in the digestion of fats.

**Gallstone:** Hardened deposits that form in the gallbladder, usually made up of cholesterol or bilirubin. They can cause pain and other symptoms when they block the flow of bile.

**Galvanic skin response:** A physiological response of the skin, such as sweating, caused by electrical changes in the body. It is often used in psychological and physiological studies to measure emotional or physical arousal.

**Ganglia:** Collections of nerve cells (neurons) located outside the brain and spinal cord. They are involved in coordinating and transmitting signals between different parts of the nervous system.

**Gangliocytoma:** A rare benign tumor made up of ganglion cells, which are specialized nerve cells found in the nervous system.

**Ganglion:** A cluster or group of nerve cells that work together to perform specific functions. They can be found throughout the body and are part of the peripheral nervous system.

**Ganglion cyst:** A non-cancerous fluid-filled sac that forms near a joint or tendon, typically on the wrist or hand. It may appear as a lump and is often harmless, but can sometimes cause discomfort or limit movement.

**Ganglionectomy:** Surgical removal of a ganglion, usually performed to relieve pain or improve function when the ganglion causes problems or becomes symptomatic.

**Gangrene:** The death and decay of body tissue, usually caused by a lack of blood supply or infection. It can occur in various parts of the body and requires medical intervention.

**Gastrocolic ligament:** A fold of tissue that connects the stomach to the colon (large intestine) and helps to anchor them in place within the abdominal cavity.

**Gastrocolic reflex:** A reflex response in the digestive system that triggers the urge to have a bowel movement after eating, usually due to stimulation of the colon by the presence of food in the stomach.

**Gastroenteritis:** Inflammation of the stomach and intestines, typically caused by a viral or bacterial infection. It leads to symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.

**Gastroesophageal junction:** The point where the esophagus (the tube that carries food from the mouth to the stomach) meets the stomach. It is an important anatomical region involved in digestion.

**Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD):** A condition where stomach acid flows back into the

esophagus, causing symptoms like heartburn, chest pain, and regurgitation. It is a chronic condition that requires medical management.

**Gastroesophageal varices:** Abnormally enlarged veins in the lower part of the esophagus or stomach that can occur in people with liver disease. They are prone to bleeding and can be a serious medical condition.

**Gastrointestinal:** Referring to the digestive system, which includes the organs involved in the digestion and absorption of food, such as the stomach, intestines, liver, and pancreas.

**Gastrointestinal bleeding:** The loss of blood from the digestive tract, which can occur in various parts of the gastrointestinal system and may lead to symptoms like blood in the stool or vomiting of blood.

**Gastrointestinal endoscopy:** A medical procedure that uses a flexible tube with a camera (endoscope) to visualize and examine the inside of the gastrointestinal tract, including the esophagus, stomach, and intestines.

**Gastrointestinal motility:** The movement and contractions of the muscles in the gastrointestinal tract that help propel food through the digestive system for digestion and absorption.

**Gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST):** A type of tumor that arises from the cells of the gastrointestinal tract, most commonly in the stomach or small intestine. It can be benign or cancerous.

**Gastroparesis:** A condition characterized by delayed emptying of the stomach, leading to symptoms such as bloating, nausea, and early satiety. It can be caused by nerve damage or muscle dysfunction in the stomach.

**Gastritis:** Inflammation of the stomach lining, which can be caused by various factors such as infection, certain medications, or excessive alcohol consumption. It may cause symptoms like abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting.

**Gastroscopy:** A medical procedure in which a flexible tube with a camera (endoscope) is inserted through the mouth to examine the inside of the stomach and upper digestive tract.

**Gastrostomy:** A surgical procedure in which a feeding tube is inserted directly into the stomach through the abdominal wall. It is used to provide nutrition and fluids to individuals who are unable to eat or swallow normally.

**Gaze-evoked nystagmus:** Involuntary, repetitive eye movements that occur when looking in a particular direction. It can be a sign of an underlying neurological disorder.

**Gene:** A segment of DNA that contains instructions for the production of a specific protein or RNA molecule. Genes determine the traits and characteristics of living organisms.

**Gene expression:** The process by which information from a gene is used to create a functional product, such as a protein. It involves the transcription and translation of the gene's DNA sequence.

**Genetic counseling:** A specialized service provided by healthcare professionals to individuals or families with genetic conditions or concerns. It involves assessing the risk of inherited disorders, explaining genetic information, and offering guidance and support.

**Genetic disorder:** A condition caused by abnormalities or mutations in genes or chromosomes. These disorders can affect various aspects of health and development.



**Genetic predisposition:** An increased likelihood or susceptibility of developing a particular condition or disease due to inherited genetic factors.

**Genital herpes:** A sexually transmitted infection caused by the herpes simplex virus. It results in the formation of painful blisters or sores on the genital area.

**Genital prolapse:** The descent or sagging of pelvic organs, such as the uterus, bladder, or rectum, into the vaginal canal. It can cause discomfort and affect normal organ function.

**Genital warts:** Warts that appear on the genital area as a result of infection with certain strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV). They are highly contagious and can be transmitted through sexual contact.

**Genitoplasty:** Surgical procedures performed on the genital organs to correct or alter their structure or function. It can involve procedures for both aesthetic and functional purposes.

**Genitourinary:** Relating to the organs of the urinary and reproductive systems, which include the kidneys, bladder, ureters, urethra, and genital organs.

**Genotype:** The genetic makeup of an individual, determined by the combination of alleles (alternative forms of genes) inherited from their parents.

**Geriatric assessment:** A comprehensive evaluation of an elderly individual's health, functioning, and social situation. It assesses physical, mental, and social aspects to develop a personalized care plan.

**Geriatric care:** Healthcare and support services tailored specifically to the needs of older adults, considering age-related conditions, functional abilities, and quality of life.

**Geriatrician:** A healthcare professional who specializes in the care and treatment of older adults, addressing their unique medical, psychological, and social needs.

**Germinoma:** A type of tumor that originates from germ cells, which are the cells that give rise to sperm and eggs. It most commonly affects the brain and reproductive organs.

**Geroderma osteodysplastica:** A rare genetic disorder characterized by skin changes and skeletal abnormalities. It can affect bone development and cause joint problems.

**Gerontology:** The study of aging and the processes and problems associated with aging, including physical, mental, and social aspects.

**Gestational age:** The age of a developing fetus or newborn, measured in weeks from the first day of the mother's last menstrual period. It is used to assess fetal development and estimate the due date.

**Gestational diabetes:** A type of diabetes that develops during pregnancy. It is characterized by high blood sugar levels and usually resolves after childbirth.

**Gestational hypertension:** High blood pressure that occurs during pregnancy. It can increase the risk of complications for both the mother and the baby.

**Gestational trophoblastic disease:** A group of rare tumors that develop from abnormal growth of placental tissue during pregnancy. It includes conditions such as hydatidiform mole and choriocarcinoma.

**Giant cell arteritis:** An inflammatory condition that affects the blood vessels, especially the large arteries in the head and neck. It can cause headaches, vision problems, and other symptoms.

**Giant cell tumor:** A benign or rarely malignant tumor that usually develops near the joints, most commonly in the bones of the arms or legs.

**Gigantism:** A rare condition characterized by excessive growth and height due to an overproduction of growth hormone before puberty.

**Gingival hyperplasia:** An abnormal enlargement or overgrowth of the gum tissue. It can be caused by various factors, including certain medications or underlying health conditions.

**Gingivectomy:** A surgical procedure in which excess gum tissue is removed to improve the appearance or address gum disease.

**Gingivitis:** Inflammation of the gums, usually caused by the buildup of plaque and bacteria along the gumline. It can cause redness, swelling, and bleeding of the gums.

**Glans penis:** The rounded, sensitive tip of the penis.

**Glaucoma:** A group of eye conditions characterized by damage to the optic nerve, often associated with increased pressure inside the eye. It can lead to vision loss or blindness if left untreated.

**Glaucoma surgery:** Surgical procedures performed to reduce intraocular pressure and manage glaucoma, aiming to prevent further damage to the optic nerve.

**Glaucomatocyclitic crisis:** Also known as Posner-Schlossman syndrome, it is a condition characterized by recurrent episodes of increased eye pressure (intraocular pressure) leading to sudden onset of glaucoma-like symptoms such as eye pain, redness, and blurred vision. The episodes are usually short-lived and self-limiting.

**Glaucomatous optic neuropathy:** Damage to the optic nerve caused by increased intraocular pressure in glaucoma. It results in progressive loss of peripheral vision and, if left untreated, can lead to irreversible blindness.

**Glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF):** A naturally occurring protein in the body that promotes the survival and growth of certain types of nerve cells, particularly the dopamine-producing cells in the brain. It has potential therapeutic applications in neurodegenerative disorders.

**Glial cells:** Non-neuronal cells that provide support and protection to nerve cells in the central nervous system. They include astrocytes, oligodendrocytes, and microglia.

**Glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP):** A protein found in certain types of glial cells, particularly astrocytes. It is used as a marker to identify astrocytes in various neurological conditions and diseases.

**Gliding joint:** A type of joint that allows smooth, gliding movements between two bone surfaces. Examples include the joints between the carpal bones in the wrist and the tarsal bones in the foot.

**Globulin:** A group of proteins in the blood plasma that play various roles in the immune system, transport of substances, and blood clotting.

**Globus pallidus:** A structure located deep within the brain, part of the basal ganglia. It is involved in the regulation of movement and is affected in conditions such as Parkinson's disease.

**Glomerular basement membrane:** A specialized structure within the kidney's glomerulus that acts as a filtration barrier, preventing the passage of large molecules like proteins into the urine.

**Glomerular capillaries:** Tiny blood vessels within the glomerulus of the kidney responsible for the filtration of blood to form urine.

**Glomerular filtrate:** The fluid that is filtered from the blood in the glomerulus and eventually becomes urine. It contains water, electrolytes, and waste products.

**Glomerular filtration rate (GFR):** A measure of the rate at which blood is filtered by the kidneys. It is an important indicator of kidney function and is used to assess overall kidney health.

**Glomerular injury:** Damage or dysfunction of the glomerulus, which can result from various factors such as immune system disorders, infections, or certain medications. It can lead to impaired kidney function and the development of kidney diseases.

**Glomerulonephritis:** Inflammation of the glomeruli, usually caused by an immune response or infection. It can result in kidney damage and affect the filtration and excretion of waste products.

**Glomerulopathy:** A general term used to describe diseases or disorders affecting the glomeruli of the kidney, which can lead to kidney dysfunction and impaired filtration.

**Glomus body:** A small collection of specialized cells found in the skin and involved in temperature regulation. They play a role in constriction or dilation of blood vessels in response to temperature changes.

**Glomus jugulare tumor:** A rare, slow-growing tumor that arises from the glomus cells in the jugular bulb region of the middle ear. It can cause hearing loss, tinnitus, and other symptoms.

**Glomus tumor:** A benign tumor that typically arises from the glomus body, most commonly in the fingers or toes. It is characterized by pain and sensitivity to touch.

**Glossitis:** Inflammation or swelling of the tongue, often resulting in pain, redness, and changes in texture or appearance.

**Glucagon:** A hormone produced by the pancreas that raises blood sugar levels by promoting the breakdown of stored glycogen into glucose. It plays a key role in regulating blood sugar levels.

**Glucocorticoid:** A type of steroid hormone, such as cortisol, that is involved in regulating metabolism, immune response, and stress response in the body.

**Glucocorticoid receptor:** A protein found inside cells that binds to glucocorticoid hormones, allowing them to exert their effects on gene expression and cellular activities.

**Glucose:** A simple sugar and the primary source of energy for the body's cells. It is obtained from the breakdown of carbohydrates in the diet and is transported through the bloodstream to be used by cells.

**Glucose tolerance test (GTT):** A diagnostic test used to assess how well the body processes glucose. It involves measuring blood sugar levels before and after consuming a glucose solution.

**Gluteal muscles:** The muscles of the buttocks, including the gluteus maximus, gluteus medius, and gluteus minimus. They are important for hip movement and stability.

**Gluten:** A group of proteins found in wheat, barley, and rye. It can cause an immune reaction in individuals with celiac disease or gluten sensitivity.

**Glycogen:** A complex carbohydrate that serves as a form of energy storage in animals, including humans. It is stored in the liver and muscles and can be broken down into glucose when needed.

**Glycogen storage disease:** A group of genetic disorders characterized by the inability to properly break down or store glycogen. It can lead to various symptoms depending on the specific type of glycogen storage disease.

**Glycolysis:** The metabolic pathway that breaks down glucose into pyruvate, releasing energy in the form of ATP. It is an important process for cellular energy production.

**Glycosuria:** The presence of glucose in the urine, typically occurring when blood sugar levels are abnormally high.

**Golgi apparatus:** A cellular organelle involved in the processing, packaging, and distribution of proteins and lipids within the cell.

**Golgi tendon organ:** A sensory receptor located in tendons that detects changes in muscle tension. It helps regulate muscle contraction and protect against excessive force.

**Gonad:** An organ that produces gametes (reproductive cells) and hormones. In males, the gonads are the testes, and in females, they are the ovaries.

**Gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH):** A hormone produced in the hypothalamus that stimulates the release of gonadotropins (hormones that regulate reproductive function) from the pituitary gland.

**Gonorrhea:** A sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. It can affect the reproductive organs, throat, and rectum and can lead to various complications if left untreated.

**Goodpasture syndrome:** An autoimmune disease characterized by the production of antibodies that attack the kidneys and lungs, leading to inflammation and damage.

**Gout:** A form of arthritis caused by the buildup of uric acid crystals in the joints, resulting in pain, swelling, and inflammation.

**Gouty arthritis:** Arthritis that occurs as a result of gout, characterized by sudden and severe joint pain, typically affecting the big toe.

**Graft:** In medicine, it refers to a tissue or organ transplanted from one location to another or from one individual to another to replace or repair damaged tissue.

**Granular cast:** A type of cast found in urine sediment during microscopic examination. It consists of aggregated material from kidney tubules and may indicate kidney disease or injury.

**Granulation tissue:** A type of tissue that forms during the healing process of a wound. It contains new blood vessels, collagen, and inflammatory cells.

**Granulocyte:** A type of white blood cell that contains granules in its cytoplasm. Examples include neutrophils, eosinophils, and basophils, which play roles in immune response and inflammation.

**Granulomatosis with polyangiitis:** A rare autoimmune disease characterized by inflammation of blood vessels, leading to damage in various organs, such as the lungs, kidneys, and respiratory system.

**Gray baby syndrome:** A rare and potentially life-threatening condition that can occur in newborns when

they are exposed to high levels of the antibiotic chloramphenicol. It is characterized by grayish skin color, respiratory distress, and low body temperature.

**Gray matter:** The part of the central nervous system that contains nerve cell bodies, dendrites, and synapses. It is responsible for processing and transmitting information in the brain and spinal cord.

**Graves' disease:** An autoimmune disorder that causes overactive thyroid gland (hyperthyroidism). It is characterized by symptoms such as weight loss, rapid heartbeat, and protruding eyes.

**Graves' hyperthyroidism:** The hyperthyroidism associated with Graves' disease, resulting from the overproduction of thyroid hormones.

**Graves' ophthalmopathy:** An eye condition commonly associated with Graves' disease, characterized by inflammation, swelling, and protrusion of the eyeballs.

**Gravid:** Referring to a pregnant woman or animal.

**Greenstick fracture:** A type of incomplete fracture in which a bone bends and partially breaks, often occurring in children whose bones are more flexible.

**Gross motor skills:** The ability to control and coordinate large muscle movements, such as walking, running, and jumping.

**Gross specimen:** A biological sample or tissue obtained during a medical procedure or surgery that is examined and analyzed for diagnostic or research purposes.

**Gynecological cancer:** Cancers that affect the female reproductive system, including cancers of the cervix, uterus, ovaries, fallopian tubes, and vulva.

**Gynecological examination:** A medical examination of the female reproductive system, including the examination of the vagina, cervix, uterus, and ovaries, often performed as part of routine healthcare or to investigate specific symptoms or concerns.

**Gynecology:** The branch of medicine that focuses on the health and diseases of the female reproductive system.

**Gynecomastia:** The enlargement of breast tissue in males, often caused by hormonal imbalances or certain medications.

**Gyri:** Plural form of gyrus, which refers to the folds or convolutions on the surface of the brain, increasing its surface area.

# CHAPTER EIGHT: H TERMS

**H1N1 influenza:** A type of flu virus that caused a global pandemic in 2009. It is commonly known as swine flu.

**H5N1 influenza:** A type of flu virus that primarily affects birds but can also infect humans. It is commonly known as avian flu.

**Haemangioma:** A noncancerous growth made up of blood vessels, typically appearing as a birthmark or a red or purple lump on the skin.

**Haematocrit:** A measure of the percentage of red blood cells in the total volume of blood. It helps determine if a person has anemia or polycythemia.

**Haematology:** The branch of medicine that deals with the study of blood and blood disorders.

**Haematuria:** The presence of blood in the urine, which may be caused by various underlying conditions such as infections, kidney stones, or kidney disease.

**Haemochromatosis:** A hereditary disorder characterized by excessive absorption and accumulation of iron in the body, leading to iron overload and potential damage to organs.

**Haemodialysis:** A medical procedure used to remove waste products and excess fluid from the blood when the kidneys are unable to function properly.

**Haemoglobin:** A protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen from the lungs to the body's tissues and organs.

**Haemoglobinopathy:** A genetic disorder that affects the structure or production of hemoglobin, resulting in conditions such as sickle cell disease or thalassemia.

**Haemolysis:** The breakdown or destruction of red blood cells, often leading to the release of hemoglobin into the bloodstream.

**Haemolytic anaemia:** A type of anemia characterized by the accelerated destruction of red blood cells, leading to a decrease in their numbers and subsequent symptoms such as fatigue and paleness.

**Haemophilia:** A genetic disorder that impairs the blood's ability to clot properly, leading to prolonged bleeding and easy bruising.

**Haemoptysis:** The coughing up of blood or blood-stained mucus from the respiratory tract, usually originating from the lungs or bronchial tubes.

**Haemorrhage:** The abnormal and excessive bleeding from blood vessels, either internally or externally.

**Haemorrhagic fever:** A viral infection that causes fever and bleeding, such as Ebola virus disease or dengue fever.

**Haemorrhagic stroke:** A type of stroke that occurs when a blood vessel in the brain ruptures and causes bleeding, leading to brain damage.

**Hair follicle:** A small sac in the skin from which hair grows.

**Halitosis:** Bad breath, which can be caused by various factors such as poor oral hygiene, certain foods, or underlying health conditions.

**Hallucination:** A sensory perception or experience that seems real but is not based on external stimuli. It can involve seeing, hearing, smelling, or feeling things that are not actually present.

**Haloperidol:** A medication commonly used to treat certain mental disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and severe agitation.

**Hand-foot-and-mouth disease:** A contagious viral infection common in young children, characterized by the development of small sores or blisters on the hands, feet, and inside the mouth.

**Hangman's fracture:** A specific type of fracture that occurs in the upper cervical spine, usually caused by severe trauma or injury.

**Hashimoto's thyroiditis:** An autoimmune condition in which the immune system attacks the thyroid gland, leading to inflammation and an underactive thyroid.

**Hay fever:** An allergic reaction to pollen or other airborne allergens, causing symptoms such as sneezing, itching, and a runny or stuffy nose.

**HDL cholesterol:** High-density lipoprotein cholesterol, often referred to as "good" cholesterol, which helps remove low-density lipoprotein (LDL) or "bad" cholesterol from the bloodstream.

**Headache:** A common symptom characterized by pain or discomfort in the head or neck region, often caused by tension, migraine, sinusitis, or other factors.

**Head injury:** Any injury or trauma to the head, which can range from minor bumps to more severe concussions or skull fractures.

**Head lice:** Small insects that infest the hair and scalp, causing itching and irritation. They are commonly spread through close contact.

**Headache disorder:** A term used to describe various chronic headache conditions such as migraines, tension headaches, or cluster headaches.

**Heart attack:** A medical emergency that occurs when the blood supply to the heart muscle is blocked, usually due to a blood clot in a coronary artery, leading to heart muscle damage.

**Heart block:** A condition where there is an interruption or delay in the electrical signals that regulate the heartbeat, potentially causing an abnormal heart rhythm.

**Heart failure:** A condition where the heart is unable to pump blood effectively, leading to symptoms such as shortness of breath, fatigue, and fluid buildup in the body.

**Heart murmur:** An abnormal sound heard during a heartbeat, often caused by turbulent blood flow through the heart valves or other structural abnormalities.

**Heart rate:** The number of times the heart beats per minute, indicating the heart's rhythm and overall cardiovascular function.

**Heart valve:** A structure in the heart that ensures the proper flow of blood in one direction. There are four valves: mitral, aortic, tricuspid, and pulmonary.

**Heartburn:** A burning sensation in the chest or throat, often accompanied by acid reflux or stomach contents flowing back into the esophagus.

**Heat exhaustion:** A condition resulting from prolonged exposure to high temperatures, causing symptoms such as dizziness, weakness, nausea, and excessive sweating.

**Heat stroke:** A severe heat-related illness characterized by a body temperature above 104°F (40°C), accompanied by symptoms like confusion, rapid breathing, and a rapid heart rate.

**Hematemesis:** The vomiting of blood, usually originating from the digestive tract and often caused by bleeding in the stomach or esophagus.

**Hematoma:** A localized collection of blood outside blood vessels, often appearing as a bruise or swelling under the skin.

**Hemianopia:** A visual impairment where half of the visual field is lost, either in one or both eyes, usually caused by damage to the brain or optic nerve.

**Hemicolectomy:** A surgical procedure to remove a portion of the colon (large intestine) due to conditions like colon cancer, diverticulitis, or inflammatory bowel disease.

**Hemiparesis:** Weakness or partial paralysis affecting one side of the body, typically caused by brain damage or stroke.

**Hemiplegia:** Complete paralysis or loss of movement on one side of the body, usually resulting from a brain injury or stroke.

**Hemochromatosis:** A genetic disorder characterized by excessive absorption and buildup of iron in the body's organs, potentially leading to organ damage.

**Hemoglobin A1c:** A blood test that provides an average measurement of blood sugar levels over the past three months, commonly used to monitor and diagnose diabetes.

**Hemoglobin electrophoresis:** A laboratory test used to identify and evaluate different types of hemoglobin in the blood, particularly helpful in diagnosing certain blood disorders.

**Hemolysis:** The breakdown or destruction of red blood cells, often resulting in the release of hemoglobin into the bloodstream.

**Hemolytic anemia:** A type of anemia caused by the accelerated destruction of red blood cells, leading to a decrease in their numbers and subsequent symptoms such as fatigue and paleness.

**Hemophilia:** A genetic disorder that impairs the blood's ability to clot properly, leading to prolonged bleeding and easy bruising.

**Hemoptysis:** The coughing up of blood or blood-stained mucus from the respiratory tract, usually originating from the lungs or bronchial tubes.

**Hemorrhage:** The abnormal and excessive bleeding from blood vessels, either internally or externally.

**Hemorrhagic fever:** A viral infection that causes fever and bleeding, such as Ebola virus disease or dengue fever.

**Hemorrhagic stroke:** A type of stroke that occurs when a blood vessel in the brain ruptures and causes



bleeding, leading to brain damage.

**Hepatitis:** Inflammation of the liver, often caused by viral infections (hepatitis A, B, C) or other factors like alcohol abuse or certain medications.

**Hepatitis A:** A highly contagious viral infection of the liver that is usually transmitted through contaminated food or water, causing symptoms like jaundice, fatigue, and nausea.

**Hepatitis B:** A viral infection that affects the liver and is transmitted through contact with infected blood, bodily fluids, or from mother to child during childbirth.

**Hepatitis C:** A viral infection that primarily spreads through contact with infected blood, commonly resulting in chronic liver disease and potentially leading to cirrhosis or liver cancer.

**Hepatocellular carcinoma:** The most common form of liver cancer, usually developing in individuals with chronic liver diseases like hepatitis B or C, or liver cirrhosis.

**Hepatomegaly:** Enlargement of the liver, often a sign of an underlying liver disease or infection.

**Hereditary angioedema:** A genetic disorder characterized by recurrent episodes of swelling in various body parts, typically affecting the face, limbs, or airways.

**Hereditary neuropathy:** A group of genetic disorders that affect the peripheral nerves, resulting in symptoms such as numbness, weakness, and sensory abnormalities.

**Hernia:** A condition where an organ or tissue protrudes through a weakened area or opening in the surrounding muscle or connective tissue.

**Herniated disc:** A spinal condition where the soft cushion-like discs between the vertebrae rupture or bulge, causing pain and potentially compressing nearby nerves.

**Herpes simplex virus:** A common viral infection that causes cold sores (HSV-1) or genital herpes (HSV-2), transmitted through close personal contact.

**Herpes zoster:** Also known as shingles, a viral infection caused by the reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus (the same virus that causes chickenpox), resulting in a painful rash.

**Heterozygous:** Having two different forms (alleles) of a particular gene, inherited from each parent.

**Hiccups:** Involuntary contractions (spasms) of the diaphragm muscle, causing a sudden and often audible sound, also known as "hiccoughs."

**High-density lipoprotein (HDL):** A type of cholesterol carrier in the bloodstream, often referred to as "good" cholesterol due to its role in removing excess cholesterol from the arteries.

**High-risk pregnancy:** A pregnancy that involves an increased chance of complications or adverse outcomes due to factors such as maternal age, pre-existing medical conditions, or multiple pregnancies.

**Hirsutism:** Excessive hair growth in women, particularly in areas where men typically have hair, often caused by hormonal imbalances.

**Histamine:** A chemical substance released by the body's immune cells that causes various allergic reactions, such as itching, swelling, and inflammation.

**Histology:** The study of tissues at a microscopic level to understand their structure, composition, and function.

**Histoplasmosis:** A fungal infection caused by inhaling spores of the *Histoplasma* fungus, often found in soil contaminated with bird or bat droppings, leading to flu-like symptoms and potential lung involvement.

**Hives:** Also known as urticaria, it is a skin condition characterized by itchy, raised, and red welts that appear suddenly and may be caused by allergic reactions or other triggers.

**Hodgkin lymphoma:** A type of cancer that originates in the lymphatic system, characterized by the presence of abnormal Reed-Sternberg cells, causing symptoms such as swollen lymph nodes, fatigue, and fever.

**Homeostasis:** The body's ability to maintain a stable internal environment despite external changes, ensuring that various physiological processes are balanced and functioning optimally.

**Hormone:** Chemical messengers produced by glands in the body that regulate various bodily functions, such as growth, metabolism, reproduction, and mood.

**Hormone replacement therapy:** Treatment that involves supplementing or replacing hormones in the body to alleviate symptoms and complications associated with hormonal imbalances, often used in menopause or certain medical conditions.

**Hospice care:** A type of specialized care provided to individuals with a terminal illness, focusing on providing comfort, pain management, and emotional support to enhance the quality of life in the final stages.

**Human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG):** A hormone produced during pregnancy, commonly used as a marker in pregnancy tests and monitoring, and may also be used as part of fertility treatments.

**Human papillomavirus (HPV):** A common sexually transmitted infection that can cause various health conditions, including genital warts and certain types of cancer, such as cervical, anal, or throat cancer.

**Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV):** A virus that attacks the immune system, specifically CD4 cells, leading to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) if left untreated, impairing the body's ability to fight infections and diseases.

**Humoral immunity:** One of the body's defense mechanisms against infections, involving the production of antibodies by B cells to neutralize pathogens or mark them for destruction by other immune cells.

**Hydrocephalus:** A condition characterized by an accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain, resulting in increased pressure, potentially causing symptoms like headaches, cognitive difficulties, and changes in vision.

**Hydrochlorothiazide:** A medication commonly used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension) and fluid retention (edema) by increasing urine production and reducing fluid buildup in the body.

**Hydrocortisone:** A corticosteroid hormone with anti-inflammatory properties often used in topical creams or ointments to relieve itching, inflammation, and skin conditions such as eczema or insect bites.

**Hydronephrosis:** A condition where urine accumulates and enlarges the kidneys due to an obstruction or blockage in the urinary tract, potentially causing pain, infection, or kidney damage.

**Hydrotherapy:** The therapeutic use of water in various forms, such as baths, showers, or exercises in a pool, to promote relaxation, relieve pain, or aid in rehabilitation.

**Hypercalcemia:** An elevated level of calcium in the blood, which can be caused by various factors like overactive parathyroid glands, certain cancers, or excessive vitamin D intake.

**Hypercholesterolemia:** High levels of cholesterol in the blood, often associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular diseases like heart attack or stroke.

**Hyperemesis gravidarum:** A severe form of morning sickness during pregnancy, characterized by persistent nausea, vomiting, weight loss, and dehydration.

**Hyperglycemia:** High blood sugar levels, commonly associated with diabetes or as a temporary response to certain conditions or medications.

**Hyperhidrosis:** Excessive sweating that goes beyond what is necessary to regulate body temperature, often occurring in specific areas like the palms, soles, or underarms.

**Hyperkalemia:** An elevated level of potassium in the blood, which can disrupt normal heart rhythm and lead to symptoms like weakness, palpitations, or even life-threatening arrhythmias.

**Hyperlipidemia:** Abnormally high levels of lipids (fats) in the blood, including cholesterol and triglycerides, which can contribute to the development of cardiovascular diseases.

**Hypernatremia:** An elevated level of sodium in the blood, often due to dehydration or certain medical conditions, potentially causing symptoms like thirst, confusion, or seizures.

**Hyperparathyroidism:** A condition characterized by overactive parathyroid glands, leading to excessive production of parathyroid hormone (PTH) and disturbances in calcium and phosphorus levels.

**Hyperplasia:** The abnormal increase in the number of cells in an organ or tissue, often a response to certain stimuli or underlying conditions.

**Hyperpyrexia:** An extremely high body temperature above 41.5°C (106.7°F), typically resulting from severe infections, heatstroke, or other medical emergencies.

**Hypertension:** High blood pressure, a condition where the force of blood against the walls of the arteries is consistently too high, potentially leading to various cardiovascular complications.

**Hyperthermia:** Abnormally high body temperature, often resulting from external factors like heat exposure or as a side effect of certain drugs.

**Hyperthyroidism:** An overactive thyroid gland, producing excessive amounts of thyroid hormones, which can accelerate metabolism and lead to symptoms such as weight loss, rapid heartbeat, and anxiety.

**Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy:** A condition where the heart muscle becomes thickened, affecting its ability to pump blood efficiently, often leading to symptoms like chest pain, shortness of breath, or fainting.

**Hypertrophy:** Enlargement or increase in size of an organ or tissue due to an increase in the size of individual cells, often in response to increased demand or stimulation.

**Hyperuricemia:** Elevated levels of uric acid in the blood, which can lead to the formation of uric acid

crystals in joints, causing gout and related symptoms.

**Hyperventilation:** Rapid or deep breathing that exceeds the body's metabolic needs, often causing dizziness, shortness of breath, or tingling sensations.

**Hypocalcemia:** Low levels of calcium in the blood, potentially leading to muscle cramps, spasms, numbness, or other neurological symptoms.

**Hypochondria:** A psychological disorder characterized by excessive worry or fear about having a serious medical condition, despite little or no medical evidence to support it.

**Hypoglycemia:** Low blood sugar levels, often associated with diabetes or as a result of certain medications, causing symptoms such as dizziness, confusion, sweating, and weakness.

**Hypokalemia:** A low level of potassium in the blood, which can affect muscle function, heart rhythm, and other bodily processes, leading to weakness, irregular heartbeat, or fatigue.

**Hypolipidemia:** Abnormally low levels of lipids (fats) in the blood, which can be caused by genetic disorders, malnutrition, or certain medical conditions.

**Hyponatremia:** Low levels of sodium in the blood, often resulting from fluid imbalances, certain medications, or underlying medical conditions, potentially leading to symptoms like confusion, seizures, or coma.

**Hypoparathyroidism:** Insufficient production of parathyroid hormone (PTH) by the parathyroid glands, leading to low levels of calcium and high levels of phosphorus in the blood.

**Hypophosphatemia:** Low levels of phosphate in the blood, which can affect bone health, energy metabolism, and other physiological processes, potentially causing weakness, bone pain, or neurological symptoms.

**Hypotension:** Low blood pressure, where the force of blood against the artery walls is consistently too low, potentially causing symptoms like dizziness, fainting, or fatigue.

**Hypothermia:** Abnormally low body temperature, often resulting from exposure to cold temperatures, which can lead to shivering, confusion, and potentially life-threatening complications.

**Hypothyroidism:** An underactive thyroid gland, producing insufficient amounts of thyroid hormones, which can slow down metabolism and lead to symptoms such as fatigue, weight gain, and depression.

**Hypoxemia:** Low levels of oxygen in the blood, often caused by respiratory or cardiovascular conditions, leading to shortness of breath, rapid breathing, or cyanosis (bluish discoloration).

**Hypoxia:** Insufficient oxygen supply to body tissues or organs, often resulting from decreased oxygen levels in the blood or impaired circulation, potentially causing cellular damage or organ dysfunction.

**Hysterectomy:** A surgical procedure to remove the uterus (womb), often performed for various reasons such as treating certain conditions or as a form of contraception.

**Hysteroscopy:** A minimally invasive procedure that uses a thin, lighted tube (hysteroscope) inserted through the vagina to examine the inside of the uterus for diagnostic or treatment purposes.

# CHAPTER NINE: I TERMS

**Iatrogenic:** Referring to a condition or an effect caused unintentionally by medical treatment, procedure, or medication.

**IBS (Irritable Bowel Syndrome):** A common digestive disorder characterized by recurring abdominal pain, discomfort, and changes in bowel habits (such as diarrhea or constipation) without any evidence of underlying damage or disease.

**ICU (Intensive Care Unit):** A specialized unit in a hospital where patients with severe or life-threatening conditions receive intensive medical care, constant monitoring, and support for vital functions.

**Ileitis:** Inflammation of the ileum, which is the lower part of the small intestine.

**Ileostomy:** A surgical procedure that creates an opening (stoma) in the abdominal wall through which a portion of the small intestine (ileum) is brought out to the surface, allowing waste to bypass the colon and exit the body.

**Ileum:** The last part of the small intestine, located between the jejunum and the large intestine (colon), where further digestion and absorption of nutrients occur.

**Immune response:** The body's natural defense mechanism against foreign substances, such as bacteria, viruses, or toxins. It involves the activation of the immune system to recognize, attack, and eliminate these harmful entities.

**Immunosuppression:** A condition or treatment that weakens or suppresses the immune system, making it less effective in fighting off infections and diseases.

**Immunotherapy:** A medical treatment that enhances or modifies the body's immune system to help fight against specific diseases, such as cancer or autoimmune disorders.

**Impacted tooth:** A tooth that is partially or fully blocked from erupting through the gum due to obstruction by other teeth, bone, or soft tissue. This can lead to pain, swelling, and other dental problems.

**Impairment:** A condition that limits or affects the normal functioning of a part of the body or the overall ability to perform certain activities. It may refer to physical, sensory, cognitive, or mental limitations.

**Implant:** A medical device or artificial material that is surgically placed into the body to replace or support a damaged or missing body part, such as a joint, tooth, or pacemaker.

**Impotence:** Also known as erectile dysfunction, it refers to the inability to achieve or maintain an erection sufficient for sexual intercourse.

**In situ:** Referring to a medical condition or abnormality that is localized and confined to its original site without spreading to surrounding tissues or organs.

**In vitro:** Literally meaning "in glass," it refers to experiments or procedures conducted outside the living organism, typically in a laboratory setting.

**In vitro fertilization (IVF):** A fertility treatment in which an egg is fertilized by sperm outside the body, in a laboratory dish. The resulting embryo is then transferred to the uterus to establish a pregnancy.

**Infection:** The invasion and multiplication of harmful microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, or fungi, in the body, which can lead to illness or disease.

**Infectious disease:** A disease caused by the invasion and multiplication of harmful microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, or fungi, within the body. These diseases can spread from person to person.

**Inferior:** Referring to something that is lower, below, or of lesser quality or importance. In the medical context, it can describe a body part or structure located below another.

**Infertility:** The inability to conceive a child or achieve pregnancy after trying for a certain period of time (typically one year or more) without the use of contraception.

**Infiltrate:** The presence or accumulation of abnormal substances, such as fluid, cells, or microorganisms, within tissues or organs. This can be seen on medical imaging studies, such as X-rays or CT scans.

**Infiltration:** The process by which a substance or fluid unintentionally enters tissues or spaces where it is not normally found. For example, infiltration can occur when a fluid administered through an IV line leaks into surrounding tissues instead of entering the bloodstream.

**Inflammation:** The body's natural response to injury, infection, or irritation, characterized by redness, swelling, heat, and pain in the affected area. Inflammation is the body's way of fighting off harmful stimuli and initiating the healing process.

**Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD):** A chronic condition that causes inflammation in the digestive tract, leading to symptoms such as abdominal pain, diarrhea, and weight loss. The two main types of IBD are Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

**Influenza:** Commonly known as the flu, influenza is a viral infection that affects the respiratory system. It is characterized by symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, and fatigue.

**Information therapy:** The use of information and education to empower individuals to make informed decisions about their health and medical treatments. It involves providing reliable and relevant health information to support patient care and decision-making.

**Infusion:** The process of administering fluids, medications, or nutrients directly into a vein (intravenous) or other body tissues. This can be done using an IV line or other specialized devices.

**Inhalation:** The act of breathing in or taking in air or other substances into the lungs. Inhalation can refer to the natural process of breathing or the deliberate use of medications or substances inhaled into the respiratory system.

**Inhaler:** A medical device used to deliver medications directly into the lungs by inhalation. It typically consists of a pressurized canister containing the medication and a mouthpiece for the patient to breathe through.

**Inherited disorder:** A medical condition or disease that is passed down from parents to their offspring through genetic material (DNA). Inherited disorders are caused by abnormal genes or mutations and can affect various aspects of health.

**Injection:** The act of introducing a substance, such as medication or a vaccine, into the body using a needle and syringe. Injections can be given into muscles, veins, or tissues, depending on the specific purpose.

**Inpatient:** A term used to describe a person who is admitted to a hospital or healthcare facility and receives medical care and treatment while staying overnight or for an extended period.

**Insomnia:** A sleep disorder characterized by difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep, or experiencing non-restorative sleep, which can result in daytime fatigue, irritability, and impaired functioning.

**Insulin:** A hormone produced by the pancreas that regulates the level of glucose (sugar) in the blood. Insulin helps cells in the body take in glucose for energy and is essential for maintaining normal blood sugar levels.

**Integumentary system:** The body system consisting of the skin, hair, nails, and associated glands. It serves as a protective barrier, regulates body temperature, and plays a role in sensory perception.

**Intensive care unit (ICU):** A specialized unit in a hospital where critically ill or injured patients receive close monitoring, advanced medical care, and life support to stabilize and manage their condition.

**Interferon:** A group of proteins released by the body's immune system in response to viral infections or other immune triggers. Interferons help inhibit the replication of viruses and regulate immune responses.

**Interleukin:** A group of proteins produced by cells of the immune system that regulate inflammation and immune responses. Interleukins play a vital role in communication between immune cells.

**Internal medicine:** A medical specialty focused on the prevention, diagnosis, and nonsurgical treatment of diseases in adults. Internal medicine physicians, also known as internists, are often referred to as "doctors for adults."

**International normalized ratio (INR):** A standardized measurement used to monitor and adjust the dosage of anticoagulant medications, such as warfarin. It reflects the blood's ability to clot and helps ensure that the medication is effective and safe.

**Interventional radiology:** A medical specialty that uses minimally invasive image-guided procedures to diagnose and treat diseases. Interventional radiologists use imaging techniques, such as X-rays or ultrasound, to guide the insertion of instruments or perform therapeutic interventions.

**Intestinal obstruction:** A condition in which there is a partial or complete blockage of the normal flow of intestinal contents through the digestive tract. It can cause abdominal pain, bloating, vomiting, and constipation.

**Intracranial:** Referring to structures or processes that occur within the skull or the head. It is often used in the context of conditions or procedures involving the brain or its surrounding tissues.

**Intracranial pressure (ICP):** The pressure exerted by the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) within the skull. Increased ICP can occur due to various conditions, such as brain injury, tumors, or infections, and may require medical intervention.

**Intradermal:** Referring to the layer of skin located just below the outermost layer (epidermis). Intradermal refers to the administration or placement of medications or substances within this layer of the skin.

**Intraocular:** Relating to the inside of the eye. It can refer to structures, procedures, or conditions that occur within the eyeball or its various compartments.

**Intraoperative:** Pertaining to the period during a surgical procedure. Intraoperative refers to events,

actions, or conditions that occur while a surgery is being performed.

**Intrauterine:** Occurring within the uterus or womb. Intrauterine can refer to structures, treatments, or events that take place inside the uterus.

**Intravenous (IV):** Referring to the administration of medications, fluids, or nutrients directly into a vein. This route allows for rapid absorption and distribution throughout the body.

**Intravenous fluid:** Fluids, such as saline solutions or electrolyte solutions, administered directly into a vein to replace or maintain fluid balance, provide hydration, or deliver medications.

**Intravenous therapy:** The administration of medications, fluids, or nutrients directly into a vein using an intravenous (IV) line. This method ensures quick delivery and absorption into the bloodstream.

**Invasive:** Referring to medical procedures or treatments that involve entering the body through incisions, punctures, or other means to access internal organs or tissues. Invasive procedures typically carry a higher risk than non-invasive ones.

**Inversion:** A condition in which a body part or structure is turned inward or upside down compared to its normal position. Inversion can occur in joints, such as the ankle, or in the uterus during childbirth.

**Iodine:** A chemical element essential for the production of thyroid hormones, which regulate metabolism. It is found in certain foods and can also be used as an antiseptic.

**Ionizing radiation:** High-energy radiation that can ionize atoms or molecules, causing damage to cells and DNA. Examples include X-rays and gamma rays. It is commonly used in medical imaging and cancer treatments.

**Iron deficiency anemia:** A condition characterized by a lack of adequate iron levels in the body, leading to a decrease in the production of red blood cells and reduced oxygen-carrying capacity. It can result in fatigue, weakness, and other symptoms.

**Irradiation:** The process of exposing something, such as food or tissues, to radiation for various purposes, including sterilization, preservation, or therapeutic treatments.

**Ischemia:** A condition in which there is an inadequate blood supply to a part of the body, usually due to a blockage or narrowing of blood vessels. Ischemia can result in tissue damage or organ dysfunction.

**Isolation:** The practice of separating individuals with contagious or infectious diseases to prevent the spread of the disease to others. Isolation measures may include physical separation, use of protective equipment, and strict infection control protocols.

**Isotonic:** Describing a solution that has the same concentration of solutes as another solution or body fluids. Isotonic solutions are commonly used in medical settings, such as for intravenous fluids or eye drops.

**IUD (Intrauterine device):** A small, T-shaped contraceptive device that is inserted into the uterus to prevent pregnancy. It works by altering the uterine environment to prevent fertilization and implantation of a fertilized egg.



# CHAPTER TEN: J TERMS

**Jaundice:** Jaundice is a condition that causes yellowing of the skin and eyes. It occurs when there is a buildup of a yellow pigment called bilirubin in the body.

**Jaw surgery:** Jaw surgery, also known as orthognathic surgery, is a procedure performed to correct abnormalities or misalignments of the jaw. It can improve the function and appearance of the jaw and may involve repositioning the upper jaw, lower jaw, or both.

**Jejunum:** The jejunum is a part of the small intestine, located between the duodenum and the ileum. It plays a vital role in the digestion and absorption of nutrients from the food we eat.

**Joint:** A joint is the connection between two or more bones in the body. Joints allow movement and flexibility, such as bending, twisting, and stretching. Examples of joints include the knee, shoulder, and hip.

**Joint replacement:** Joint replacement, also known as arthroplasty, is a surgical procedure in which a damaged or diseased joint is replaced with an artificial joint. It is commonly done for joints that are severely damaged or causing significant pain and dysfunction, such as the hip or knee.

**Joubert syndrome:** Joubert syndrome is a rare genetic disorder that affects the brain's development. It is characterized by a specific brain malformation called the "molar tooth sign" and can cause various neurological and physical symptoms, including difficulties with coordination, breathing problems, and intellectual disabilities.

**Juvenile arthritis:** Juvenile arthritis is a type of arthritis that occurs in children and teenagers. It causes joint inflammation, pain, and stiffness, similar to arthritis in adults. There are different forms of juvenile arthritis, and the symptoms can vary from mild to severe.

**Juvenile diabetes:** Juvenile diabetes, also known as type 1 diabetes or insulin-dependent diabetes, is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin. It requires lifelong insulin treatment to regulate blood sugar levels.

**Juvenile idiopathic arthritis:** Juvenile idiopathic arthritis is a chronic autoimmune disease that causes joint inflammation and stiffness in children. It is the most common form of arthritis in children and may affect one or more joints.

**Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy:** Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy is a type of epilepsy that typically begins in adolescence. It is characterized by brief, involuntary muscle jerks or twitches called myoclonic seizures, which can affect the arms, legs, or upper body.

**Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis:** Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, also known as juvenile idiopathic arthritis, is a chronic inflammatory condition that causes joint pain, swelling, and stiffness in children. It is an autoimmune disorder and can affect multiple joints.

**Juvenile-onset diabetes:** Juvenile-onset diabetes refers to the development of type 1 diabetes in childhood or adolescence. It is characterized by the inability of the pancreas to produce insulin, leading to high blood sugar levels.

**Juvenile-onset diabetes mellitus:** Juvenile-onset diabetes mellitus is another term for type 1 diabetes,

which is a chronic condition characterized by high blood sugar levels due to a lack of insulin production by the pancreas. It typically develops in childhood or adolescence.

**Juxtamedullary nephron:** A juxtamedullary nephron is a type of nephron, the functional unit of the kidney. It is located close to the medulla, the inner part of the kidney, and plays a role in concentrating urine and maintaining the body's fluid balance.

**J-shaped curve:** A J-shaped curve refers to a graphical representation of a relationship or trend that resembles the letter "J" in shape. It indicates a rapid increase or decrease in a variable after a certain threshold or point.

**Jugular vein:** The jugular vein is a major vein in the neck that carries deoxygenated blood from the head and neck back to the heart. There are two jugular veins on each side of the neck: the internal jugular vein and the external jugular vein.

**Jumping genes:** Jumping genes, also known as transposable elements, are segments of DNA that can move or "jump" from one location to another within the genome. They play a role in genetic variation and evolution.

**Juxtaglomerular apparatus:** The juxtaglomerular apparatus is a specialized structure in the kidney located near the glomerulus, which is responsible for filtering blood. It regulates blood pressure and the production of certain hormones involved in blood pressure control.

**Juxtaglomerular cells:** Juxtaglomerular cells are specialized cells found in the juxtaglomerular apparatus of the kidney. They produce and release renin, an enzyme that plays a role in regulating blood pressure and fluid balance.

**Juxtaglomerular cell tumor:** A juxtaglomerular cell tumor is a rare tumor that arises from the juxtaglomerular cells in the kidney. It can cause excessive production of renin, leading to high blood pressure and other related symptoms.

**Juxtaposition:** Juxtaposition refers to the act of placing two or more things side by side or close together for comparison or contrast. It is often used to describe the positioning of structures or objects in relation to each other.

**Janus kinase (JAK):** Janus kinase (JAK) is a group of enzymes that play a role in signal transduction, which is the process by which cells communicate with each other. JAK inhibitors are a type of medication that target these enzymes and are used in the treatment of certain inflammatory conditions.

# CHAPTER ELEVEN: K TERMS

**Kallikrein:** A substance in the body that helps control blood pressure and fluid balance.

**Kallmann syndrome:** A rare condition characterized by delayed or absent puberty and a reduced sense of smell.

**Kanavel's signs:** A set of four specific signs used to diagnose tenosynovitis, a condition that causes inflammation in the tendons of the hand or wrist.

**Kaposi sarcoma herpesvirus:** A virus that can cause Kaposi's sarcoma, a type of cancer that forms in the skin, mucous membranes, or internal organs.

**Kaposi's sarcoma:** A type of cancer that causes abnormal growths or tumors to develop in the skin, mucous membranes, or internal organs.

**Kartagener syndrome:** A rare genetic disorder that affects the structure and function of cilia, leading to respiratory problems and infertility.

**Kawasaki disease:** An illness primarily affecting children that causes inflammation in blood vessels throughout the body, leading to symptoms such as fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes.

**Kegel exercises:** Exercises that involve contracting and relaxing the pelvic floor muscles to strengthen the muscles responsible for bladder control.

**Keloid:** An overgrowth of scar tissue that forms at the site of a wound or injury, often extending beyond the original boundaries of the injury.

**Keloid formation:** The process by which excessive scar tissue, known as a keloid, develops at the site of a wound.

**Keloid removal:** A procedure to surgically remove a keloid, often performed to reduce its size or improve its appearance.

**Keloid scar treatment:** Various methods used to reduce the size or appearance of keloid scars, including corticosteroid injections, silicone gel sheets, or laser therapy.

**Keratectomy:** A surgical procedure to remove a portion of the cornea, the clear front surface of the eye, to correct vision problems.

**Keratectomy surgery:** The process of performing a keratectomy, which involves removing a portion of the cornea to reshape it and improve vision.

**Keratinization:** The process by which cells in the outermost layer of the skin (epidermis) produce a protein called keratin, leading to the formation of a protective barrier.

**Keratinocyte:** A type of skin cell that produces keratin, the protein that forms the structure of the skin, hair, and nails.

**Keratoconus:** A progressive eye disorder characterized by thinning and bulging of the cornea, leading to distorted vision.

**Keratoconus causes:** The factors that contribute to the development of keratoconus, including genetic predisposition and certain environmental factors.

**Keratoconus diagnosis:** The process of identifying and confirming the presence of keratoconus through comprehensive eye examinations and specialized tests.

**Keratoconus treatment:** Various treatment options for keratoconus, such as eyeglasses, contact lenses, or in severe cases, corneal transplantation.

**Keratoplasty:** A surgical procedure to replace a damaged or diseased cornea with a healthy cornea from a donor.

**Keratoplasty procedure:** The surgical process of replacing a damaged or diseased cornea with a donated cornea to improve vision.

**Keratitis:** Inflammation of the cornea, often caused by infection, injury, or underlying medical conditions.

**Ketonemia:** The presence of elevated ketone levels in the blood, which can occur during certain metabolic conditions or diets.

**Ketone bodies:** Compounds produced by the liver when the body doesn't have enough glucose to use as an energy source, typically seen in conditions like diabetes or during fasting.

**Ketosis:** A metabolic state in which the body primarily uses ketone bodies for energy instead of glucose, often achieved through low-carbohydrate diets or fasting.

**Ketonuria:** The presence of ketone bodies in the urine, which can indicate certain metabolic conditions or dietary factors.

**Ketonuria causes:** The underlying factors that contribute to the presence of ketone bodies in the urine, such as uncontrolled diabetes, fasting, or a low-carbohydrate diet.

**Ketonuria symptoms:** Possible signs or symptoms associated with the presence of ketone bodies in the urine, which may include fruity breath odor, frequent urination, or fatigue.

**Ketonuria treatment:** Approaches to manage or address the underlying causes of ketonuria, such as proper diabetes management, adjusting dietary intake, or addressing metabolic conditions.

**Kidney:** A vital organ responsible for filtering waste products from the blood, regulating fluid balance, and producing urine.

**Kidney biopsy:** A procedure to obtain a small sample of kidney tissue for examination under a microscope to diagnose or monitor certain kidney conditions.

**Kidney biopsy procedure:** The process of obtaining a kidney tissue sample using a needle or a small incision, usually guided by imaging techniques.

**Kidney dialysis:** A medical procedure that filters and purifies the blood when the kidneys are unable to perform their normal function, usually in cases of kidney failure.

**Kidney dialysis process:** A medical procedure that helps filter and purify the blood when the kidneys are no longer able to perform their function adequately. Dialysis helps remove waste products and excess fluid from the body.

**Kidney failure:** A condition in which the kidneys lose their ability to properly filter waste products and excess fluid from the blood, leading to a buildup of toxins and imbalances in the body.

**Kidney function tests:** Various tests conducted to assess how well the kidneys are functioning, including blood tests, urine tests, and imaging studies.

**Kidney infection:** An infection that occurs in the kidneys, usually caused by bacteria that travel up the urinary tract. It can result in symptoms such as fever, pain, and urinary problems.

**Kidney infection causes:** Factors that contribute to the development of a kidney infection, including urinary tract infections, kidney stones, or structural abnormalities in the urinary system.

**Kidney infection complications:** Potential problems or issues that may arise as a result of a kidney infection, such as kidney damage, sepsis, or recurrent infections.

**Kidney infection diagnosis:** The process of identifying and confirming the presence of a kidney infection through a combination of medical history, physical examination, and diagnostic tests.

**Kidney infection prevention:** Measures and practices aimed at reducing the risk of developing a kidney infection, such as staying hydrated, practicing good hygiene, and treating underlying urinary tract issues.

**Kidney infection symptoms:** Signs and symptoms that may indicate the presence of a kidney infection, including fever, pain in the back or side, frequent urination, and cloudy or bloody urine.

**Kidney infection treatment:** Approaches and medications used to treat a kidney infection, typically involving antibiotics to eliminate the infection and supportive measures to relieve symptoms.

**Kidney inflammation:** Inflammation of the kidneys, which can occur due to various reasons such as infections, autoimmune disorders, or certain medications.

**Kidney inflammation causes:** Factors that can trigger kidney inflammation, including infections, immune system disorders, allergic reactions, or certain medications.

**Kidney inflammation symptoms:** Possible signs or symptoms associated with kidney inflammation, which may include pain in the back or side, fever, urinary changes, or swelling in the legs and ankles.

**Kidney inflammation treatment:** Treatment approaches used to manage kidney inflammation, which depend on the underlying cause and may include medications to reduce inflammation, treating infections, or managing autoimmune conditions.

**Kidney pain:** Discomfort or pain that occurs in the back or side area where the kidneys are located, often resulting from conditions such as kidney stones, infections, or kidney disease.

**Kidney pain causes:** Factors or conditions that can lead to kidney pain, including kidney stones, urinary tract infections, kidney infections, or kidney injury.

**Kidney pain diagnosis:** The process of identifying the underlying cause of kidney pain through a combination of medical history, physical examination, and diagnostic tests, such as imaging studies or urine analysis.

**Kidney pain symptoms:** Possible signs or symptoms experienced with kidney pain, which can include sharp or dull pain in the back or side, pain during urination, blood in the urine, or fever.

**Kidney pain treatment:** Approaches to manage and alleviate kidney pain, which depend on the underlying cause and may include pain medications, antibiotics, or procedures to address specific issues like kidney stones.

**Kidney reflux:** A condition in which urine flows backward from the bladder into the kidneys, often due to a malfunctioning or weak valve between the ureters and bladder.

**Kidney reflux causes:** Factors that contribute to the development of kidney reflux, including structural abnormalities in the urinary tract, bladder dysfunction, or urinary tract infections.

**Kidney reflux symptoms:** Possible signs or symptoms associated with kidney reflux, which may include urinary tract infections, frequent urination, bedwetting, or high blood pressure.

**Kidney reflux treatment:** Treatment strategies employed to manage kidney reflux, including medication to prevent infections, bladder training exercises, or surgical procedures to correct structural issues.

**Kidney rupture:** A rare but serious condition where the kidney suffers a tear or break, often resulting from severe trauma or injury to the abdomen or back.

**Kidney rupture causes:** Factors or events that can lead to kidney rupture, such as a direct blow or injury to the back or abdomen, severe accidents, or certain medical conditions.

**Kidney rupture symptoms:** Signs and symptoms associated with kidney rupture, which may include severe pain in the back or abdomen, blood in the urine, nausea, or lightheadedness.

**Kidney rupture treatment:** Immediate medical intervention is necessary for kidney rupture and may involve surgery to repair the damaged kidney or remove the affected kidney if necessary.

**Kidney scintigraphy:** A diagnostic imaging test that uses a radioactive tracer to evaluate the structure and function of the kidneys, providing detailed information about their blood flow and filtration abilities.

**Kidney shrinkage:** A condition where the kidneys decrease in size, often indicating a loss of kidney tissue and impaired kidney function.

**Kidney shrinkage causes:** Factors or conditions that contribute to kidney shrinkage, such as chronic kidney disease, kidney infections, high blood pressure, or certain medications.

**Kidney shrinkage symptoms:** Possible signs or symptoms associated with kidney shrinkage, which may include fatigue, fluid retention, changes in urine output, or elevated blood pressure.

**Kidney shrinkage treatment:** Treatment approaches aimed at managing the underlying causes of kidney shrinkage and preserving remaining kidney function, such as managing blood pressure, addressing underlying conditions, or dialysis or transplantation if necessary.

**Kidney stenosis:** A narrowing or constriction in the blood vessels that supply the kidneys, which can reduce blood flow and impair kidney function.

**Kidney stenosis causes:** Factors or conditions that contribute to the development of kidney stenosis, including atherosclerosis, fibromuscular dysplasia, or blood clot formation.

**Kidney stenosis symptoms:** Signs or symptoms that may arise as a result of kidney stenosis, which can include high blood pressure, reduced kidney function, fluid retention, or heart-related symptoms.

**Kidney stenosis treatment:** Treatment approaches used to manage kidney stenosis and improve blood flow to the kidneys, which may involve medications to control blood pressure, surgical interventions, or endovascular procedures to open narrowed blood vessels.

**Kidney stone analysis:** Laboratory testing performed on a kidney stone to determine its composition, which helps guide treatment and prevention strategies.

**Kidney stone analysis procedure:** The process of collecting a kidney stone for analysis, typically by retrieving it during urination or through surgical procedures, followed by laboratory testing to identify its composition.

**Kidney stone causes:** Factors or conditions that contribute to the formation of kidney stones, such as high levels of certain substances in the urine, dehydration, or certain medical conditions.

**Kidney stone complications:** Potential issues or complications that may arise due to kidney stones, such as blockage of the urinary tract, kidney damage, or recurring stone formation.

**Kidney stone symptoms:** Signs and symptoms associated with kidney stones, which can include severe pain in the back or side, blood in the urine, frequent urination, or urinary tract infections.

**Kidney stone treatment:** Approaches used to manage kidney stones, depending on the size, location, and composition of the stones. Treatment options may include pain medication, hydration, dietary changes, or procedures to remove or break up the stones.

**Kidney transplant:** A surgical procedure in which a healthy kidney is transplanted from a donor into a recipient with end-stage kidney disease, providing a functional replacement for failed kidneys.

**Kidney transplant rejection:** The immune system's response to a transplanted kidney, leading to its failure. Rejection can occur despite medication to suppress the immune system and requires close monitoring and adjustment of immunosuppressive therapy.

**Kidney ultrasound:** A non-invasive imaging test that uses sound waves to create pictures of the kidneys, providing information about their structure, size, and any abnormalities.

**Kilocalorie:** A unit of measurement used to quantify the energy content in food and beverages. It is commonly referred to as a calorie in everyday language.

**Kilocalorie (kcal):** A unit of measurement used to quantify the energy content of food and drinks. It is commonly referred to as a "calorie" and is used to understand the energy value and intake of different foods.

**Killer T cells:** Specialized white blood cells of the immune system that play a crucial role in identifying and destroying cells infected with viruses or cancerous cells. They are an essential part of the body's defense against infections and tumors.

**Kinesiology:** The study of human movement, including the mechanics and anatomy involved in physical activity. It involves understanding how muscles, bones, and joints work together to produce coordinated movements.

**Kinesiotaping:** A technique that involves applying a specialized elastic tape to the body to provide support, stability, and pain relief to muscles and joints. It is commonly used in sports and physical therapy to facilitate movement and aid in injury recovery.

**Klebsiella pneumoniae:** A type of bacteria that can cause infections, particularly in healthcare settings. It is associated with pneumonia, urinary tract infections, bloodstream infections, and other infections, especially in individuals with weakened immune systems.

**Kleptomania:** A mental health disorder characterized by an uncontrollable urge to steal items that are not needed and usually have little monetary value. It is considered an impulse control disorder and may be associated with feelings of tension and relief after the act of stealing.

**Knee arthroscopy:** A minimally invasive surgical procedure used to visualize, diagnose, and treat problems in the knee joint. It involves inserting a small camera (arthroscope) through a small incision to examine the joint and perform certain surgical interventions if necessary.

**Knee bursitis:** Inflammation of the bursae, small fluid-filled sacs that cushion and reduce friction between bones, tendons, and muscles around the knee joint. It can cause pain, swelling, and limited mobility in the affected knee.

**Knee cartilage:** Tough, flexible connective tissue that covers the ends of bones in the knee joint, providing cushioning and allowing smooth movement between the bones. Damage or deterioration of knee cartilage can result in pain and joint dysfunction.

**Knee dislocation:** A condition where the bones of the knee joint are forced out of their normal alignment, typically due to a traumatic injury. It is a severe and painful injury that often requires immediate medical attention.

**Knee effusion:** The accumulation of fluid within the knee joint, resulting in swelling and increased pressure. It is commonly associated with knee injuries, inflammation, or underlying medical conditions.

**Knee immobilizer:** A device or brace used to restrict movement and immobilize the knee joint, usually after an injury or surgery. It provides support, stability, and protection to the knee during the healing process.

**Knee joint effusion:** The presence of excess fluid within the knee joint, causing swelling and discomfort. It is often a sign of an underlying knee condition, such as injury, arthritis, or inflammation.

**Knee joint inflammation:** The body's immune system response to tissue injury, infection, or an underlying condition that affects the knee joint. It is characterized by redness, swelling, warmth, pain, and limited range of motion.

**Knee joint pain:** Discomfort or soreness experienced in the knee joint, which can be caused by various factors such as injury, overuse, arthritis, or underlying medical conditions.

**Knee joint swelling:** Enlargement or puffiness in the knee joint, usually due to fluid accumulation as a result of injury, inflammation, or an underlying condition.

**Knee ligament:** Strong bands of connective tissue that connect bones together and provide stability to the knee joint. Ligaments in the knee include the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), posterior cruciate ligament (PCL), medial collateral ligament (MCL), and lateral collateral ligament (LCL).

**Knee ligament tear:** A partial or complete rupture of one or more of the knee ligaments, commonly caused by sudden twisting or trauma to the knee. It can result in pain, instability, and limited mobility of the knee.



**Knee meniscus:** Crescent-shaped discs of cartilage located between the thighbone (femur) and shinbone (tibia) in the knee joint. They act as shock absorbers and help to stabilize the joint. Meniscus tears are a common knee injury.

**Knee osteoarthritis:** A degenerative joint disease that affects the knee joint, causing the breakdown of cartilage and the formation of bone spurs. It results in pain, stiffness, and reduced mobility of the knee.

**Knee osteotomy:** A surgical procedure that involves cutting and reshaping the bones around the knee joint to realign the joint and relieve pressure on damaged or arthritic areas. It is performed to correct misalignment or delay the need for knee replacement surgery.

**Knee replacement:** A surgical procedure in which the damaged or worn-out surfaces of the knee joint are replaced with artificial implants. It is performed to relieve pain and restore function in individuals with severe knee arthritis or joint damage.

**Knee scope:** Commonly known as arthroscopy, it is a minimally invasive surgical procedure that uses a small camera (arthroscope) to visualize and treat problems inside the knee joint. It is used for diagnostic purposes and can also involve surgical interventions.

**Knee sprain:** An injury to the ligaments of the knee joint, typically caused by a sudden twisting or stretching motion. It results in pain, swelling, and instability of the knee.

**Knee synovitis:** Inflammation of the synovial membrane, a thin lining that surrounds the knee joint and produces synovial fluid. It can cause pain, swelling, and limited mobility in the knee.

**Knee tendon tear:** A partial or complete rupture of a tendon in the knee joint, commonly the result of sudden trauma or overuse. It leads to pain, weakness, and difficulty with movements that involve the affected tendon.

**Knee tendonitis:** Inflammation of the tendons in the knee, usually caused by repetitive overuse or strain on the tendons. It results in pain, swelling, and tenderness in the affected area.

**Knuckle joint:** The joint formed by the connection of two adjacent bones in the fingers, allowing them to bend and straighten. Knuckle joints are important for hand function and dexterity.

**Korsakoff's syndrome:** A neurological disorder often caused by long-term alcohol abuse that leads to severe memory loss and cognitive impairment. It is characterized by difficulty forming new memories and the fabrication of stories or confabulation to fill memory gaps.

**Krukenberg tumor:** A rare type of cancerous tumor that originates in the stomach and spreads to the ovaries. It is most commonly associated with advanced gastric cancer and can cause abdominal pain, bloating, and hormonal imbalances.

# CHAPTER TWELVE: L TERMS

**Lacrimal gland:** A small gland located above the outer corner of your eye that produces tears to keep your eyes moist.

**Lacrimation:** The act of producing tears, often in response to emotions or irritants such as onions.

**Lactase:** An enzyme in your body that helps digest lactose, a sugar found in milk and dairy products.

**Lactation:** The process of producing and secreting breast milk, typically after giving birth to a baby.

**Lactose intolerance:** A condition where the body has difficulty digesting lactose, causing symptoms like bloating, gas, and diarrhea after consuming dairy products.

**Laminectomy:** A surgical procedure to remove a part of the vertebral bone called the lamina to relieve pressure on the spinal cord or nerves.

**Landau-Kleffner syndrome:** A rare neurological disorder that affects children, leading to language and speech difficulties, seizures, and behavioral changes.

**Laparoscopy:** A minimally invasive surgical procedure that uses a small camera and specialized tools inserted through small incisions in the abdomen to examine or perform surgery on the organs inside the abdomen.

**Laparotomy:** A surgical procedure that involves making a larger incision in the abdomen to access and operate on the organs inside.

**Laryngeal cancer:** Cancer that develops in the tissues of the larynx (voice box), often causing changes in voice, difficulty swallowing, and throat pain.

**Laryngeal mask airway:** A device placed in the throat during anesthesia to maintain an open airway and assist with breathing.

**Laryngectomy:** Surgical removal of the larynx (voice box), usually performed to treat laryngeal cancer.

**Laryngitis:** Inflammation or swelling of the larynx, often resulting in a hoarse voice, sore throat, and difficulty speaking.

**Laryngopharyngeal reflux:** A condition where stomach acid flows back into the throat and larynx, causing symptoms like hoarseness, throat clearing, and a sensation of a lump in the throat.

**Laryngoscopy:** A procedure that uses a flexible or rigid instrument called a laryngoscope to examine the throat, vocal cords, and larynx.

**Larynx:** The part of the throat containing the vocal cords, which play a crucial role in speech and breathing.

**Latent autoimmune diabetes in adults (LADA):** A form of diabetes that shares features of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes and often develops in adulthood.

**Lateral collateral ligament (LCL):** A ligament on the outer side of the knee that provides stability to the joint.

**Lateral epicondylitis:** Commonly known as tennis elbow, it is a condition characterized by pain and inflammation on the outer part of the elbow.

**Lateral geniculate nucleus:** A part of the brain that receives visual information from the eyes and sends it to the visual cortex for processing.

**Lateral meniscus:** A C-shaped piece of cartilage in the knee joint that helps cushion and stabilize the joint.

**Lateral rectus muscle:** One of the six muscles responsible for moving the eye horizontally, allowing it to look outward.

**Lateral sclerosis:** A term used to describe the degeneration of the lateral corticospinal tracts in the spinal cord, leading to muscle weakness and stiffness.

**Lateralization:** The tendency of certain brain functions to be more dominant in one hemisphere of the brain than the other.

**Latex allergy:** An allergic reaction to latex, a natural rubber material, which can cause symptoms such as skin rash, itching, and difficulty breathing.

**Laxative:** A substance or medication that helps promote bowel movements and relieve constipation.

**Laxative abuse:** The excessive or prolonged use of laxatives, which can lead to dependency and disrupt normal bowel function.

**Lead encephalopathy:** A condition caused by lead poisoning where the brain is affected, leading to symptoms such as developmental delays, learning difficulties, and behavior problems.

**Lead poisoning:** A condition that occurs when high levels of lead accumulate in the body, often due to exposure to lead-based paint, contaminated water, or certain occupations.

**Lead screening:** A test performed to measure the level of lead in the blood, especially in children at risk of lead exposure.

**Lepromatous leprosy:** The more severe and advanced form of leprosy, a chronic infectious disease that primarily affects the skin, nerves, and mucous membranes.

**Leprosy:** A chronic infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*, which primarily affects the skin and nerves, causing skin lesions, numbness, and deformities if left untreated.

**Lethargy:** A state of extreme tiredness or lack of energy, often resulting in sluggishness and drowsiness.

**Leukemia:** A type of cancer that affects the bone marrow and blood, causing an abnormal production of white blood cells and affecting their normal functions.

**Leukemoid reaction:** A temporary increase in the number of white blood cells in response to an infection or inflammation, resembling the changes seen in leukemia.

**Leukocoria:** A condition characterized by a white or yellowish reflection in the pupil of the eye, often indicating an underlying eye problem.

**Leukocyte:** Another term for white blood cells, which are part of the immune system and help protect the body against infections.

**Leukodystrophy:** A group of genetic disorders that affect the growth and development of the white matter in the brain, leading to neurological problems and a decline in physical and mental abilities.

**Leukopenia:** A decrease in the number of white blood cells in the bloodstream, which can increase the risk of infections.

**Leukopenic:** Referring to a condition or state characterized by low levels of white blood cells in the body.

**Leukotriene modifiers:** Medications used to manage asthma and allergic conditions by blocking the action of leukotrienes, substances in the body that can cause inflammation and constriction of the airways.

**Levator ani syndrome:** A condition characterized by chronic pain in the pelvic area, often associated with muscle tension and spasms of the levator ani muscles.

**Levator muscle:** A group of muscles located in the pelvis that help support the pelvic organs and control bowel movements.

**Levine's sign:** A symptom commonly associated with heart attack or angina, where a person clenches their fist and places it over their chest in response to chest pain or discomfort.

**Lhermitte's sign:** A sensation of electric shocks or tingling that radiates down the neck and spine when the neck is flexed forward, often seen in conditions affecting the spinal cord.

**Li-Fraumeni syndrome:** A rare genetic disorder characterized by an increased risk of developing various types of cancer at an early age, often due to mutations in specific genes.

**Lichen planus:** A chronic inflammatory condition that affects the skin, mucous membranes, and nails, causing itchy, flat-topped bumps or lesions.

**Lichen sclerosus:** A chronic skin condition that primarily affects the genital and anal areas, causing itching, white patches, and thinning of the affected skin.

**Lidocaine:** A medication commonly used as a local anesthetic to numb a specific area of the body during medical procedures or to relieve pain and itching.

**Life support:** Medical interventions and equipment used to maintain vital bodily functions, such as breathing, heartbeat, and blood circulation, when a person is unable to do so on their own.

**Lifestyle modification:** Making changes in one's daily habits, behaviors, and routines to promote better health and manage chronic conditions, such as adopting a balanced diet, engaging in regular physical activity, and quitting smoking.

**Ligament:** A strong band of fibrous tissue that connects bones or holds organs in place, providing stability and support to joints.

**Ligament tear:** A rupture or injury to a ligament, often caused by sudden twisting or overstretching of a joint, resulting in pain, instability, and reduced range of motion.

**Ligamentous laxity:** A condition characterized by loose or excessive flexibility in the ligaments, leading to joint instability and increased risk of injury.

**Light therapy:** A therapeutic approach that involves exposure to specific wavelengths of light, often used

to treat seasonal affective disorder (SAD), sleep disorders, and certain skin conditions.

**Light-headedness:** A feeling of dizziness or faintness, often accompanied by a sensation of unsteadiness or spinning, which can be caused by various factors such as low blood pressure or dehydration.

**Linear IgA dermatosis:** A rare autoimmune skin disorder characterized by the formation of blisters and rashes, often accompanied by itching and burning sensations.

**Lip augmentation:** A cosmetic procedure aimed at increasing the fullness and volume of the lips through various techniques, such as injections or surgical implants.

**Lipid profile:** A blood test that measures the levels of different types of fats (lipids) in the bloodstream, including cholesterol and triglycerides, to assess the risk of heart disease.

**Lipid-lowering medications:** Medications prescribed to lower high cholesterol levels and reduce the risk of heart disease, often including statins and other drugs that help regulate lipid levels in the body.

**Lipodystrophy:** A group of rare genetic or acquired disorders characterized by an abnormal distribution of fat in the body, leading to changes in body shape and metabolic complications.

**Lipoma:** A benign (noncancerous) growth or tumor made up of fat cells, typically found just below the skin, which feels soft and doughy to the touch.

**Lipoma removal:** A surgical procedure to remove a lipoma, often performed for cosmetic reasons or if the lipoma causes discomfort or functional impairment.

**Liposarcoma:** A rare type of cancer that originates in the fat cells, typically deep within the body, and can grow into nearby tissues or spread to other parts of the body.

**Liposuction:** A cosmetic procedure that involves removing excess fat deposits from specific areas of the body through suction, aiming to improve body contours and proportions.

**Lipotropic injections:** Injections containing a combination of vitamins, minerals, and amino acids, often used as a supplement to support weight loss and boost metabolism.

**Lissencephaly:** A rare brain malformation characterized by the absence or incomplete formation of the brain's folds and grooves, resulting in intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Lateralization:** Referring to the preference or dominance of one side of the body or brain over the other, often associated with specialized functions or activities.

**Lithium carbonate:** A medication commonly used to treat bipolar disorder by helping to stabilize mood swings and prevent episodes of mania or depression.

**Lithotripsy:** A noninvasive medical procedure that uses shock waves to break down kidney stones, allowing them to pass more easily through the urinary tract.

**Liver:** An essential organ in the body responsible for various functions, including filtering toxins from the blood, producing bile for digestion, and storing essential nutrients.

**Liver abscess:** A localized collection of pus within the liver, often caused by bacterial or parasitic infections, leading to symptoms such as abdominal pain, fever, and jaundice.

**Liver biopsy:** A procedure that involves removing a small sample of liver tissue for examination and

diagnosis of liver diseases or abnormalities.

**Liver cancer:** A type of cancer that originates in the liver cells, often associated with chronic liver diseases, such as hepatitis B or C infection or cirrhosis.

**Liver cirrhosis:** A chronic and progressive liver disease characterized by the replacement of healthy liver tissue with scar tissue, leading to impaired liver function and complications.

**Liver enzymes:** Proteins produced by liver cells that are involved in various chemical reactions and play a crucial role in liver function tests to assess liver health and function.

**Liver function test:** Blood tests that measure the levels of liver enzymes, proteins, and other substances to evaluate how well the liver is working and detect liver diseases or abnormalities.

**Liver metastases:** The spread of cancer from another part of the body to the liver, often occurring in advanced stages of cancer.

**Liver resection:** A surgical procedure to remove a portion of the liver, often performed to treat liver tumors or to remove damaged or diseased liver tissue.

**Liver transplantation:** A surgical procedure where a healthy liver from a donor is transplanted into a person with a diseased or damaged liver, often the treatment of choice for end-stage liver disease.

**Lobectomy:** A surgical procedure that involves the removal of a lobe of an organ, most commonly used in reference to the removal of a lobe of the lung in the treatment of lung cancer or other lung conditions.

**Lobular carcinoma:** A type of breast cancer that starts in the lobules, the milk-producing glands of the breast.

**Local anesthesia:** The administration of medication to temporarily numb a specific area of the body, typically by injection or topical application, to block pain sensation during a surgical procedure or medical treatment.

**Localized scleroderma:** A chronic autoimmune disorder that causes thickening and hardening of the skin and underlying tissues in specific areas of the body, without affecting internal organs.

**Locked-in syndrome:** A rare neurological condition in which a person is conscious and aware but unable to move or speak due to complete paralysis of nearly all voluntary muscles, usually caused by damage to the brainstem.

**Logopedics:** The study and treatment of speech and language disorders, often involving the evaluation and management of communication difficulties and disorders.

**Lumbosacral plexus:** A network of nerves that originates from the lower back (lumbar region) and sacrum (sacral region) and supplies motor and sensory innervation to the lower limbs and pelvic region.

**Lumbosacral radiculopathy:** A condition characterized by the compression or irritation of one or more nerve roots in the lumbosacral region, leading to pain, numbness, or weakness along the path of the affected nerves.

**Lumbosacral spine:** The portion of the vertebral column located in the lower back, consisting of the lumbar and sacral vertebrae.

**Lumbosacral spine x-ray:** A diagnostic imaging technique that uses x-rays to create images of the lumbar and sacral spine, helping to evaluate the structure and alignment of the vertebrae and detect any abnormalities or injuries.

**Lumbar disc herniation:** A condition in which the soft, gel-like material (disc) between the vertebrae in the lower back (lumbar region) bulges or ruptures, causing pain and potentially compressing nearby nerves.

**Lumbar fusion surgery:** A surgical procedure that involves the fusion (joining) of two or more vertebrae in the lumbar spine to stabilize the spine and alleviate pain, often performed for conditions such as spinal instability or degenerative disc disease.

**Lumbar lordosis:** The natural inward curve of the lower spine (lumbar region) that helps maintain balance and support body weight.

**Lumbar puncture:** A medical procedure in which a needle is inserted into the lower back to collect a sample of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for diagnostic purposes or to administer medications.

**Lumbar radiculopathy:** See Lumbosacral radiculopathy.

**Lumbar spinal stenosis:** A condition characterized by the narrowing of the spinal canal in the lumbar region, which can lead to compression of the spinal nerves and cause pain, numbness, or weakness in the lower back and legs.

**Lumbar spondylosis:** A degenerative condition that affects the vertebrae and discs in the lower back (lumbar region), leading to the development of bone spurs, disc degeneration, and potentially causing symptoms such as pain and stiffness.

**Lumpectomy:** A surgical procedure to remove a localized breast lump or tumor, typically performed as part of breast-conserving therapy for breast cancer.

**Lung:** An essential organ of the respiratory system responsible for breathing, oxygen exchange, and removal of carbon dioxide from the body.

**Lung biopsy:** A procedure to obtain a small tissue sample from the lung for examination under a microscope, usually to diagnose lung diseases, identify cancerous cells, or determine the cause of lung abnormalities.

**Lung cancer:** A type of cancer that originates in the cells of the lungs, often associated with symptoms such as persistent cough, chest pain, and difficulty breathing.

**Lung consolidation:** A condition characterized by the filling of airspaces in the lungs with fluid, blood, or other substances, leading to the loss of normal lung function.

**Lung diffusion test:** A pulmonary function test that measures the ability of the lungs to transfer oxygen from the air into the bloodstream.

**Lung embolism:** The blockage of a blood vessel in the lungs, usually caused by a blood clot that has traveled from another part of the body, such as the legs (deep vein thrombosis).

**Lung fibrosis:** A progressive lung disease characterized by the formation of scar tissue in the lungs, leading to impaired lung function and difficulty breathing.

**Lung function test:** A series of tests used to assess the capacity and efficiency of the lungs, including measures of lung volume, airflow, and gas exchange.

**Lung function tests:** See Lung function test.

**Lung metastases:** The spread of cancer from another part of the body to the lungs, often occurring in advanced stages of cancer.

**Lung nodule:** A small abnormal mass or lesion that forms in the lungs, often detected incidentally on imaging studies and requiring further evaluation to determine its nature (benign or malignant).

**Lung scintigraphy:** A nuclear medicine imaging technique that uses a radioactive tracer to create images of the lungs and assess lung blood flow and ventilation.

**Lung transplant:** A surgical procedure in which a diseased or damaged lung is replaced with a healthy lung from a deceased donor or, in some cases, from a living donor.

**Lupus:** Short for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), a chronic autoimmune disease that can affect multiple organs and systems in the body, causing a wide range of symptoms such as joint pain, skin rashes, fatigue, and organ dysfunction.

**Lupus erythematosus:** See Lupus.

**Lupus nephritis:** Inflammation of the kidneys that occurs as a complication of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), leading to kidney damage and dysfunction.

**Luteal phase:** The second phase of the menstrual cycle, occurring after ovulation, when the ruptured ovarian follicle transforms into the corpus luteum, which produces hormones to prepare the uterus for potential pregnancy.

**Luteal phase defect:** A condition in which the luteal phase of the menstrual cycle is shorter than normal, potentially affecting fertility and increasing the risk of miscarriage.

**Luteinizing hormone (LH):** A hormone produced by the pituitary gland that stimulates ovulation in females and the production of testosterone in males.

**Lymph:** A colorless fluid that circulates throughout the lymphatic system, carrying nutrients, waste products, and immune cells.

**Lymphadenectomy:** A surgical procedure to remove one or more lymph nodes, often performed as part of cancer treatment or to diagnose and stage certain diseases.

**Lymphadenitis:** Inflammation of the lymph nodes, usually caused by infection or an immune response to infection.

**Lymphadenopathy:** The enlargement or swelling of lymph nodes, often a sign of infection, inflammation, or a systemic disease.

**Lymphangiogram:** A diagnostic imaging procedure that involves the injection of a contrast dye into the lymphatic system to visualize the lymphatic vessels and detect any abnormalities or blockages.

**Lymphangitis:** Inflammation of the lymphatic vessels, usually caused by a bacterial infection, resulting in red streaks on the skin, swelling, and tenderness along the affected vessels.



**Lymphatic drainage:** The movement of lymph fluid through the lymphatic vessels, helping to remove waste products, toxins, and pathogens from tissues and maintain fluid balance in the body.

**Lymphatic filariasis:** A parasitic disease transmitted through mosquito bites, causing chronic lymphatic system dysfunction and leading to symptoms such as swelling of limbs (lymphedema) and thickening of the skin.

**Lymphatic malformation:** An abnormal growth or development of lymphatic vessels or tissues, resulting in the formation of cystic lesions or masses, typically present at birth or appearing during childhood.

**Lymphedema:** A condition characterized by the swelling and accumulation of lymph fluid in the tissues, often due to impaired lymphatic drainage caused by surgery, radiation therapy, or congenital abnormalities.

**Lymphedema pump:** A medical device that applies intermittent pressure to the affected limb to promote lymphatic fluid movement and reduce swelling in individuals with lymphedema.

**Lymphocyte:** A type of white blood cell that plays a crucial role in the immune system's response to infection and disease.

**Lymphocyte count:** The number of lymphocytes present in a blood sample, which can help assess immune system function and detect certain diseases or infections.

**Lymphocytosis:** An increase in the number of lymphocytes in the blood, often seen in response to infections, immune disorders, or certain types of leukemia.

**Lymphoid organs:** Organs of the lymphatic system involved in the production, maturation, and activation of lymphocytes, including the lymph nodes, spleen, thymus, tonsils, and adenoids.

**Lymphokine:** A type of signaling molecule produced by activated lymphocytes, involved in cell-to-cell communication and the regulation of immune responses.

**Lymphoma:** A type of cancer that originates in the lymphatic system, involving the uncontrolled growth of abnormal lymphocytes or lymphoid tissues.

**Lymphoproliferative disorder:** A group of disorders characterized by the abnormal proliferation (excessive growth) of lymphocytes or lymphoid tissues, including lymphomas and certain types of leukemia.

**Lymphoscintigraphy:** A nuclear medicine imaging technique that uses a radioactive tracer to visualize the lymphatic system and evaluate lymph flow and lymph node function.

**Lymphovenous anastomosis:** A surgical procedure that creates a direct connection between lymphatic vessels and nearby veins, aiming to improve lymphatic drainage in individuals with lymphedema.

**Lysosomal enzyme:** An enzyme involved in the breakdown and recycling of cellular waste products, typically located within lysosomes (organelles responsible for intracellular digestion).

**Lysosomal storage disease:** A group of inherited metabolic disorders characterized by defects in lysosomal enzymes or transporters, leading to the accumulation of undigested substances within lysosomes and causing tissue and organ dysfunction.

**Lysosomal storage disorder:** See Lysosomal storage disease.

**Lysosome:** A specialized compartment within cells that contains various enzymes involved in the breakdown and recycling of cellular waste materials.

**Lysozyme:** An enzyme found in various bodily fluids, such as tears and saliva, that helps protect against bacterial infections by breaking down bacterial cell walls.

**Lytic lesion:** A localized area of bone destruction, often seen in conditions such as cancer, infection, or certain bone disorders.

**Lynch syndrome:** Lynch syndrome is an inherited condition that raises the risk of developing certain types of cancers, particularly colorectal cancer. It is caused by genetic changes that affect the body's ability to repair DNA.

# CHAPTER THIRTEEN: M TERMS

**Macrocytosis:** A condition where red blood cells are larger than normal. It may indicate certain underlying health issues.

**Macular degeneration:** A progressive eye disease that affects the central part of the retina, leading to blurred or loss of vision, particularly in the center of the visual field.

**Magnetic resonance angiography (MRA):** A non-invasive imaging technique that uses magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to visualize blood vessels and assess their structure and blood flow.

**Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI):** A medical imaging technique that uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to create detailed images of the body's internal structures, aiding in the diagnosis of various conditions.

**Magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS):** A diagnostic tool that uses MRI technology to measure the chemical composition of tissues, helping to identify abnormalities or changes in cellular metabolism.

**Malabsorption:** A condition where the body has difficulty absorbing nutrients from food, often resulting in nutritional deficiencies and gastrointestinal symptoms.

**Malaria:** A mosquito-borne infectious disease caused by parasites that invade and destroy red blood cells, leading to recurrent fever, chills, and flu-like symptoms.

**Malformation:** An abnormality or defect in the development of a body part or structure, usually present at birth.

**Malignant:** Referring to cells or tumors that are cancerous and have the potential to invade nearby tissues and spread to other parts of the body.

**Malignant hyperthermia:** A rare, potentially life-threatening reaction to certain medications used during general anesthesia, characterized by a rapid increase in body temperature and muscle rigidity.

**Malignant melanoma:** The most serious type of skin cancer that develops from melanocytes, the pigment-producing cells in the skin.

**Malnutrition:** A condition resulting from an inadequate or imbalanced diet, where the body does not receive essential nutrients required for proper growth, development, and overall health.

**Mammogram:** A low-dose X-ray of the breast used for early detection of breast cancer or other breast abnormalities.

**Mammography:** The process of performing mammograms to screen for or diagnose breast conditions, particularly breast cancer.

**Mandible:** The lower jawbone, which is the largest and strongest bone in the face.

**Manic-depressive disorder:** An older term for bipolar disorder, a mental health condition characterized by alternating episodes of mania (elevated mood and energy) and depression.

**Mannitol:** A medication or intravenous solution used to reduce brain swelling or to promote urine production in certain medical conditions.

**Marfan syndrome:** A genetic disorder that affects connective tissues, resulting in various physical abnormalities, particularly affecting the skeletal, cardiovascular, and ocular systems.

**Mastectomy:** Surgical removal of one or both breasts, often performed as a treatment for breast cancer.

**Mastitis:** Inflammation of the breast tissue, usually caused by an infection, resulting in breast pain, swelling, warmth, and redness.

**Mastocytosis:** A rare disorder characterized by the abnormal accumulation of mast cells in various organs, leading to symptoms such as skin rashes, abdominal pain, and allergic reactions.

**Measles:** A highly contagious viral infection characterized by fever, rash, cough, and runny nose. It can lead to complications, particularly in young children.

**Median nerve:** A major nerve in the arm that supplies sensation to the thumb, index finger, middle finger, and part of the ring finger.

**Medical genetics:** The branch of medicine that focuses on the study of genetic disorders and their inheritance patterns in individuals and families.

**Medical history:** A record of a person's past and current medical conditions, treatments, surgeries, medications, and other relevant health information.

**Medical imaging:** Techniques and technologies used to create visual representations of the internal structures and functions of the body, aiding in the diagnosis and monitoring of diseases.

**Medical oncology:** The branch of medicine that specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, including the use of chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and targeted therapies.

**Medical records:** Documents that contain a patient's medical history, including diagnoses, treatments, test results, and other pertinent health information.

**Medical transcription:** The process of converting spoken medical reports dictated by healthcare professionals into written format for documentation and record-keeping purposes.

**Medicare:** A federal health insurance program in the United States that primarily provides coverage for people aged 65 and older, as well as certain younger individuals with disabilities.

**Medication:** A substance, typically in the form of a drug, used for diagnosing, treating, or preventing a medical condition.

**Medication error:** A mistake or error that occurs during the prescribing, dispensing, or administration of medication, which may lead to harmful effects or ineffective treatment.

**Medulla oblongata:** The lowest part of the brainstem, responsible for regulating vital functions such as breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure.

**Medulloblastoma:** A type of malignant brain tumor that primarily affects children and originates in the cerebellum, the part of the brain responsible for balance and coordination.

**Megacolon:** Abnormal enlargement or dilation of the colon (large intestine), which can lead to chronic constipation and bowel obstruction.

**Megaloblastic anemia:** A type of anemia characterized by the presence of abnormally large and immature

red blood cells, resulting from a deficiency in certain vitamins, such as vitamin B12 or folate.

**Melanin:** A pigment produced by specialized cells called melanocytes in the skin, hair, and eyes. Melanin gives color to these tissues and provides protection against harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

**Melanocyte:** A type of cell found in the skin and other parts of the body that produces and contains melanin pigment responsible for skin, hair, and eye color.

**Melanoma:** A type of skin cancer that develops from melanocytes, the pigment-producing cells in the skin. Melanoma can also occur in other parts of the body, such as the eyes or internal organs.

**Membrane:** A thin, pliable layer of tissue that covers or lines various structures in the body, serving as a protective barrier or aiding in specific functions.

**Memory loss:** A condition characterized by the inability to remember past events, recent information, or new experiences, often associated with aging or certain medical conditions.

**Menarche:** The onset of the first menstrual period in females, marking the beginning of reproductive capability.

**Meninges:** Three protective membranes (dura mater, arachnoid mater, and pia mater) that surround and encase the brain and spinal cord.

**Meningioma:** A slow-growing tumor that arises from the meninges, the protective membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

**Meningitis:** Inflammation of the meninges, typically caused by an infection, leading to symptoms such as severe headache, neck stiffness, and fever.

**Menopause:** The natural process in a woman's life when menstrual periods permanently stop, indicating the end of reproductive ability.

**Menorrhagia:** Excessive or prolonged menstrual bleeding that lasts longer or is heavier than usual, often resulting in significant disruption of daily activities.

**Mental disorder:** A condition that affects a person's thinking, feeling, mood, behavior, or perception, causing significant distress or impairment in functioning.

**Mental health:** The overall well-being of an individual's emotional, psychological, and social state, which influences how they think, feel, and behave.

**Mental illness:** A broad term used to describe a range of mental health conditions that affect a person's thoughts, emotions, and behavior, often requiring diagnosis and treatment.

**Mesothelioma:** A rare cancer that develops from the mesothelial cells, which line the protective membranes covering the lungs, heart, or abdominal organs, often associated with asbestos exposure.

**Metabolic disorder:** A medical condition characterized by abnormalities in the body's normal metabolic processes, leading to imbalances or dysfunction in various bodily functions.

**Metabolism:** The complex set of chemical reactions that occur in cells to convert food into energy, allowing the body to function properly.

**Metabolite:** A byproduct or substance produced during metabolism, often serving as a marker for certain metabolic processes or diseases.

**Metacarpal bones:** The five long bones located in the hand between the wrist and the fingers, forming the framework of the palm.

**Metastasis:** The spread of cancer from its original site to other parts of the body, usually through the lymphatic system or bloodstream.

**Microalbuminuria:** The presence of small amounts of albumin (a protein) in the urine, often indicating early kidney damage or dysfunction.

**Microcephaly:** A condition characterized by an abnormally small head and underdeveloped brain, typically associated with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Microorganism:** A microscopic organism, such as bacteria, virus, or fungus, that is too small to be seen with the naked eye.

**Microscope:** An optical instrument used to magnify and observe tiny objects or organisms that are not visible to the naked eye.

**Microsurgery:** Surgical procedures performed using specialized instruments and techniques that allow for intricate, precise work on very small structures or delicate tissues.

**Migraine:** A neurological condition characterized by recurrent episodes of severe headaches, often accompanied by other symptoms such as nausea, sensitivity to light, and visual disturbances.

**Mini-mental state examination (MMSE):** A brief screening test used to assess cognitive function and detect possible cognitive impairment or dementia in individuals.

**Mitochondria:** Small structures within cells that are often referred to as the "powerhouses" of the cell because they generate energy through a process called cellular respiration.

**Mitral valve:** One of the heart's four valves located between the left atrium and left ventricle, responsible for regulating blood flow between these chambers.

**Mitral valve prolapse:** A common heart valve disorder where the valve between the left atrium and left ventricle doesn't close properly, leading to backward flow of blood.

**Moles:** Small, pigmented spots or growths on the skin, typically brown or black in color, which are usually harmless but should be monitored for changes that may indicate skin cancer.

**Mononucleosis:** A viral infection, often caused by the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), characterized by flu-like symptoms such as fatigue, sore throat, swollen lymph nodes, and fever.

**Mood disorder:** A mental health condition characterized by persistent changes in mood, such as depression, bipolar disorder, or mood swings, that significantly impact a person's emotional well-being and daily functioning.

**Mordant:** A substance used in laboratory settings to enhance the staining or coloring of tissues or cells for better visualization under a microscope.

**Morphine:** A potent pain-relieving medication, classified as an opioid analgesic, commonly used to

alleviate moderate to severe pain.

**Morbidity:** The state of being diseased or having a specific illness or medical condition.

**Mortality:** The state of being mortal or the rate of deaths within a specific population or timeframe.

**Motor neuron disease:** A group of neurological disorders that primarily affect the nerve cells (motor neurons) responsible for controlling voluntary muscle movement, resulting in muscle weakness, atrophy, and eventually loss of motor function.

**Mucous membrane:** A moist, protective lining found in various parts of the body, such as the respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, and reproductive organs, which secretes mucus to lubricate and protect the underlying tissues.

**Mucus:** A thick, slippery substance produced by the mucous membranes that helps moisten and protect certain areas of the body, such as the respiratory tract and digestive system.

**Multi-infarct dementia:** A type of dementia caused by multiple small strokes or infarcts in the brain, resulting in cognitive decline, memory loss, and other neurological symptoms.

**Multiple myeloma:** A type of cancer that affects plasma cells, a type of white blood cell, resulting in the overproduction of abnormal plasma cells, which can lead to bone damage, anemia, and impaired immune function.

**Multiple sclerosis (MS):** A chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the protective covering of nerve fibers (myelin) in the central nervous system, leading to communication problems between the brain and the rest of the body.

**Murmur:** An abnormal sound heard during a heartbeat, often indicating a problem with the heart's valves or blood flow.

**Muscular dystrophy:** A group of inherited disorders characterized by progressive muscle weakness and degeneration, caused by genetic mutations that affect the production of proteins needed for muscle function.

**Musculoskeletal system:** The interconnected system of muscles, bones, tendons, ligaments, and joints in the body that provides support, stability, and movement.

**Myalgia:** A general term for muscle pain or discomfort, often experienced as a dull ache or soreness.

**Myasthenia gravis:** A chronic autoimmune neuromuscular disorder that causes weakness and fatigue in the skeletal muscles, often resulting in difficulties with voluntary muscle control and movement.

**Myelodysplastic syndrome:** A group of disorders characterized by abnormal production and maturation of blood cells in the bone marrow, leading to low blood cell counts and an increased risk of developing leukemia.

**Myelography:** A diagnostic imaging procedure that involves injecting a contrast dye into the spinal canal to visualize the spinal cord and nerve roots using X-ray or computed tomography (CT).

**Myocardial infarction:** Commonly known as a heart attack, it occurs when the blood supply to a part of the heart muscle is blocked, leading to damage or death of the affected heart tissue.

**Myocardium:** The muscular middle layer of the heart wall that contracts and pumps blood throughout the body.

**Myoclonus:** A neurological disorder characterized by sudden, brief, involuntary muscle contractions or jerks, which can affect a specific muscle group or occur throughout the body.

**Myofascial pain syndrome:** A chronic condition characterized by the presence of trigger points, which are sensitive areas of muscle or connective tissue that cause localized pain and may also refer pain to other areas of the body.

**Myopia:** Commonly referred to as nearsightedness, it is a refractive error of the eye where distant objects appear blurry, while close-up objects are seen clearly.

**Myositis:** Inflammation or swelling of the muscles, often accompanied by muscle weakness, pain, and tenderness.

**Myxedema:** Severe hypothyroidism characterized by swelling, thickening, and dryness of the skin, as well as other symptoms such as fatigue, cold intolerance, and mental sluggishness.

**Myxedema coma:** A life-threatening condition that occurs when severe hypothyroidism goes untreated or becomes significantly worse, leading to a state of altered consciousness, low body temperature, and other complications.



# CHAPTER FOURTEEN: N TERMS

**Narcolepsy:** A sleep disorder characterized by sudden, uncontrollable episodes of falling asleep during the day, often accompanied by temporary loss of muscle control.

**Nausea:** The feeling of sickness in the stomach that makes you want to vomit.

**Necrosis:** The death of cells or tissues in the body due to injury, infection, or lack of blood supply.

**Needle biopsy:** A medical procedure in which a small sample of tissue is removed using a thin needle for examination and diagnosis.

**Nephrectomy:** Surgical removal of a kidney, usually done to treat kidney disease or remove a tumor.

**Nephritis:** Inflammation of the kidneys, often caused by infection or autoimmune disorders.

**Nephrolithiasis:** The formation of kidney stones, which are hard deposits that can cause pain and blockage in the urinary tract.

**Nephropathy:** Kidney disease or damage, often associated with conditions like diabetes or high blood pressure.

**Nerve conduction study:** A test that measures the speed and strength of electrical signals transmitted through the nerves to diagnose nerve damage or disorders.

**Nervous system:** The complex network of nerves and cells that transmit signals between different parts of the body, allowing for communication and control of bodily functions.

**Neuritis:** Inflammation of a nerve, often causing pain, tingling, or numbness in the affected area.

**Neuroblastoma:** A type of cancer that develops in nerve tissue, usually occurring in children.

**Neurodegenerative disease:** A condition that causes progressive damage or degeneration of the nervous system, leading to problems with movement, cognition, or other functions.

**Neurofibromatosis:** A genetic disorder that causes tumors to form on nerve tissue, leading to various symptoms depending on the type and severity.

**Neurological disorder:** A condition that affects the nervous system, causing abnormalities in brain function, movement, sensation, or other neurological processes.

**Neurology:** The branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the nervous system.

**Neuromuscular:** Relating to both nerves and muscles, particularly referring to the connection and communication between the two.

**Neuromuscular junction:** The point of connection between a nerve and a muscle, where signals are transmitted to initiate muscle contraction.

**Neurosurgeon:** A medical specialist who performs surgical procedures on the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves.

**Neurosurgery:** Surgical treatment of conditions affecting the nervous system, such as brain tumors, spinal disorders, or nerve injuries.

**Neutropenia:** A low level of neutrophils, a type of white blood cell that plays a crucial role in fighting off infections.

**Neutrophil:** A type of white blood cell that helps the body fight off bacterial infections.

**Nicotine:** A highly addictive chemical found in tobacco products that stimulates the nervous system and is associated with the risks of smoking.

**Nicotine replacement therapy:** A method used to help people quit smoking by providing controlled doses of nicotine through products like patches, gums, or inhalers.

**Night sweats:** Episodes of excessive sweating that occur during sleep, often soaking the bedding and causing discomfort.

**Nitroglycerin:** A medication used to relieve chest pain (angina) by relaxing and widening the blood vessels, allowing for better blood flow to the heart.

**Non-Hodgkin lymphoma:** A type of cancer that originates in the lymphatic system, which is part of the body's immune system.

**Noninvasive:** Referring to medical procedures or tests that do not require the insertion of instruments or puncturing the skin, minimizing discomfort and the risk of complications.

**Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs):** Medications commonly used to relieve pain, reduce inflammation, and lower fever, such as ibuprofen or aspirin.

**Nosocomial infection:** An infection that is acquired in a hospital or healthcare facility, often due to exposure to harmful bacteria or viruses during medical treatment.

**Nuclear medicine:** A medical specialty that uses radioactive substances to diagnose and treat diseases by tracking their movement within the body.

**Nurse practitioner:** An advanced practice nurse who is trained to diagnose and manage common illnesses, provide primary care, and prescribe medications.

**Nursing:** The profession and practice of providing care, support, and treatment to individuals who are ill, injured, or in need of medical assistance.

**Nutrition:** The process of obtaining and consuming food to provide the body with the necessary nutrients for growth, development, and overall health.

**Nutritional supplement:** A product containing vitamins, minerals, or other substances that are intended to supplement the diet and provide additional nutritional support.

**Nystagmus:** Involuntary, rapid, and repetitive eye movements that can occur horizontally, vertically, or in a rotary fashion, often indicating a problem with the brain's control of eye movement.

# CHAPTER FIFTEEN: O TERMS

**Odontalgia:** Toothache. A painful sensation in or around a tooth.

**Odontogenic infection:** Infection originating from a tooth or teeth. It occurs when bacteria invade the dental pulp or surrounding tissues, causing swelling, pain, and possible abscess formation.

**Ocular hypertension:** High pressure inside the eye. It is a condition where the pressure within the eye is higher than normal, but it does not necessarily mean that a person has glaucoma.

**Occupational hazard:** Potential risks and dangers associated with a specific job or occupation. These hazards can include exposure to harmful chemicals, physical injuries, or other health risks that may arise in a particular work environment.

**Occupational medicine:** A branch of medicine that focuses on the health and well-being of workers in relation to their occupation. Occupational medicine professionals address work-related health issues, provide preventive care, and ensure the safety of employees in the workplace.

**Occupational therapy:** A form of therapy that helps individuals develop, regain, or maintain their ability to perform daily activities and tasks. Occupational therapists assist people in improving their physical, mental, and cognitive skills to enhance their independence and quality of life.

**Oculomotor nerve:** A cranial nerve that controls the movement of certain eye muscles. It plays a crucial role in controlling eye movements, pupil constriction, and focusing abilities.

**Oculoplastics:** A specialized field of medicine that focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of disorders affecting the structures around the eyes, including the eyelids, tear ducts, and orbit (eye socket). Oculoplastic surgeons perform surgeries to correct functional or cosmetic issues in these areas.

**Olfactory nerve:** The nerve responsible for the sense of smell. It transmits signals from the nasal cavity to the brain, allowing us to detect and identify different scents.

**Oligodendrocyte:** A type of cell in the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) that forms the protective covering called myelin around nerve fibers. Myelin helps in the efficient transmission of nerve impulses.

**Oliguria:** A condition characterized by decreased urine output. It means producing a significantly reduced amount of urine compared to normal, often indicating an underlying problem with kidney function or hydration status.

**Oncogene:** A gene that has the potential to cause cancer when mutated or activated. Oncogenes play a role in regulating cell growth and division, and their abnormalities can lead to uncontrolled cell growth and tumor formation.

**Oncologist:** A medical specialist who diagnoses and treats cancer. Oncologists are trained in various aspects of cancer care, including the use of chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted therapies, and other treatment modalities.

**Oncology:** The branch of medicine that focuses on the study, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. It encompasses the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of various types of cancer and related disorders.

**Oncology nurse:** A nurse who specializes in caring for individuals diagnosed with cancer. They provide direct patient care, administer treatments, educate patients and their families, and support them throughout their cancer journey.

**Open-heart surgery:** A surgical procedure where the chest is opened to access and operate on the heart. It may involve repairing or replacing heart valves, bypassing blocked arteries, or correcting structural abnormalities of the heart.

**Operating room:** A specialized room in a hospital or surgical center where surgeries and other invasive procedures take place. It is equipped with advanced medical equipment, monitors, and sterile supplies to ensure a safe surgical environment.

**Ophthalmic examination:** A comprehensive evaluation of the eyes and visual system performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. It involves various tests to assess vision, eye health, and detect any abnormalities or eye conditions.

**Ophthalmic nerve:** A branch of the trigeminal nerve that carries sensory information from the eye to the brain. It is responsible for transmitting signals related to vision, pain, and touch sensations from the eye.

**Ophthalmic surgery:** Surgical procedures performed on the eye or its surrounding structures to correct vision problems, treat eye diseases, or improve eye function. These surgeries may involve the cornea, lens, retina, or other parts of the eye.

**Ophthalmologist:** A medical doctor who specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of eye diseases and disorders. Ophthalmologists are trained to perform eye surgeries and prescribe corrective lenses, among other eye care services.

**Ophthalmology:** The branch of medicine that deals with the study, diagnosis, and treatment of eye diseases and disorders. Ophthalmology encompasses medical and surgical interventions aimed at preserving or improving vision and overall eye health.

**Ophthalmoscope:** A handheld instrument used by eye care professionals to examine the inside of the eye. It consists of a light source and lenses that allow visualization of the retina, optic nerve, and blood vessels in the eye.

**Opioid analgesics:** Medications that are used to relieve moderate to severe pain. They work by binding to opioid receptors in the brain and spinal cord, reducing the perception of pain.

**Optic chiasm:** A structure located at the base of the brain where the optic nerves from each eye partially cross over. It serves as a junction point for the optic nerves, allowing visual information from both eyes to be processed and sent to the brain.

**Optic disc:** Also known as the optic nerve head, it is the region at the back of the eye where the optic nerve enters and exits. The optic disc is important for assessing the health of the optic nerve and is commonly examined during eye exams.

**Optic nerve:** The nerve that carries visual information from the eye to the brain. It transmits electrical signals generated by the retina to the visual centers in the brain, allowing us to perceive and interpret visual stimuli.

**Optic neuritis:** Inflammation of the optic nerve, usually resulting from an immune system attack. It can cause vision loss, eye pain, and changes in visual perception.

**Optic nerve glioma:** A rare type of brain tumor that originates in the optic nerve. It primarily affects children and can cause vision loss and other neurological symptoms.

**Optometrist:** A healthcare professional who specializes in eye care and vision health. Optometrists examine the eyes, diagnose vision problems, prescribe corrective lenses, and detect and manage certain eye conditions.

**Oral candidiasis:** Also known as thrush, it is a fungal infection that affects the mouth and throat. It is characterized by the appearance of white patches or plaques on the tongue, inner cheeks, and other areas of the oral cavity.

**Oral cavity:** The hollow space inside the mouth, including the lips, gums, tongue, and the roof and floor of the mouth. It is the entry point for food and plays a role in speech and oral health.

**Oral contraceptives:** Also referred to as birth control pills, these are medications taken by women to prevent pregnancy. They contain hormones that regulate the menstrual cycle and inhibit ovulation.

**Oral health:** The overall health and well-being of the mouth, teeth, and gums. It involves maintaining proper oral hygiene, preventing dental diseases, and addressing any oral conditions or issues.

**Oral hygiene:** The practice of maintaining cleanliness and health of the mouth, teeth, and gums. It includes regular brushing, flossing, and other oral care habits to prevent dental problems.

**Oral pathology:** The branch of dentistry that deals with the diagnosis and management of diseases and abnormalities affecting the mouth, jaws, and related structures.

**Oral surgery:** Surgical procedures performed on the mouth, jaw, or related structures. It may involve tooth extraction, dental implants, jaw realignment, and other oral and maxillofacial procedures.

**Orbital fracture:** A break or fracture in one or more of the bones that form the eye socket or orbit. It can result from trauma or injury to the face and may cause pain, swelling, double vision, or restricted eye movement.

**Organ dysfunction:** Impaired or abnormal functioning of an organ in the body, which can affect its ability to perform its normal physiological processes.

**Organ transplant:** The surgical procedure of replacing a damaged or diseased organ with a healthy organ from a donor. Organ transplantation can be a life-saving treatment for individuals with end-stage organ failure.

**Organogenesis:** The process of organ formation and development during embryonic development. It involves the differentiation and specialization of cells into specific organ tissues and structures.

**Orthodontics:** The branch of dentistry that focuses on the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of dental and facial irregularities, such as misaligned teeth or improper jaw alignment. Orthodontists use braces, aligners, and other appliances to correct these issues.

**Orthodontist:** A dental specialist who specializes in the field of orthodontics. Orthodontists diagnose, prevent, and treat dental and facial irregularities, working to align teeth and jaws for improved aesthetics and functionality.

**Orthopedic cast:** A rigid or semi-rigid external device made of plaster or fiberglass that is used to immobilize and protect a fractured bone or injured limb during the healing process. It helps to promote

proper bone alignment and stability.

**Orthopedic devices:** Medical devices, braces, or equipment used to support, stabilize, or correct musculoskeletal conditions or injuries. They can include orthopedic braces, splints, joint supports, or prosthetic devices.

**Orthopedic implant:** A medical device, such as a metal plate, screw, or artificial joint, that is surgically placed within or on the surface of bones to provide support, stabilization, or replacement of damaged or diseased bone or joint structures.

**Orthopedic rehabilitation:** A specialized form of rehabilitation focused on restoring function, mobility, and strength after orthopedic injuries or surgeries. It involves physical therapy, exercises, and other interventions to aid in the recovery and rehabilitation of musculoskeletal conditions.

**Orthopedic surgeon:** A medical doctor who specializes in the surgical treatment of musculoskeletal conditions and injuries. Orthopedic surgeons diagnose and manage various orthopedic problems and perform surgical procedures to repair or reconstruct bones, joints, and soft tissues.

**Orthopedic surgery:** Surgical procedures performed on the musculoskeletal system, including bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, and muscles. It can involve repairing fractures, replacing joints, or correcting deformities to restore function and alleviate pain.

**Orthopedics:** The branch of medicine that focuses on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders and injuries. Orthopedic specialists deal with conditions affecting bones, joints, muscles, ligaments, and tendons.

**Ossification:** The process of bone formation, where cartilage or fibrous tissue is gradually replaced by bone tissue. It is an essential process in bone development, growth, and repair.

**Ossification center:** A region within the developing bone where ossification begins. It is the initial site where bone cells (osteoblasts) deposit new bone tissue, leading to bone formation and growth.

**Ossifying fibroma:** A benign bone tumor that arises from the fibrous tissue of the bone. It typically affects the jaws and can cause pain, swelling, and changes in facial appearance.

**Ossicular chain disruption:** A condition where the bones (ossicles) in the middle ear, which are responsible for transmitting sound vibrations, become disconnected or damaged. It can result in hearing loss or impairment.

**Ossicular prosthesis:** An artificial device used to replace a damaged or missing ossicle in the middle ear. It helps restore the transmission of sound vibrations and improves hearing in individuals with ossicular chain disruption.

**Osteoarthritis:** The most common form of arthritis characterized by the degeneration and loss of cartilage in joints. It leads to joint pain, stiffness, and limited range of motion, often associated with aging or wear and tear.

**Osteoblast:** A type of bone cell that is responsible for the formation and deposition of new bone tissue. Osteoblasts play a crucial role in bone growth, remodeling, and repair.

**Osteoblastoma:** A rare benign bone tumor that originates from osteoblasts. It can cause pain, swelling, and limited joint function.

**Osteochondritis:** Inflammation or damage to the cartilage and underlying bone in a joint. It can result from injury, repetitive stress, or inadequate blood supply to the affected area.

**Osteochondritis dissecans:** A condition in which a piece of cartilage and bone within a joint becomes detached due to inadequate blood supply. It can lead to pain, joint instability, and limited mobility.

**Osteocyte:** A mature bone cell that is embedded within the bone tissue. Osteocytes play a role in maintaining bone structure and function, as well as in regulating bone remodeling and mineral balance.

**Osteogenesis:** The process of bone formation and development, including the synthesis and deposition of bone matrix by osteoblasts.

**Osteogenesis imperfecta:** A genetic disorder characterized by brittle and fragile bones that are prone to fractures. It is caused by a defect in the production of collagen, a protein essential for bone strength.

**Osteoid osteoma:** A benign bone tumor that typically affects children and young adults. It causes localized pain and is characterized by the presence of abnormal bone tissue (osteoid) within the tumor.

**Osteolysis:** The process of bone loss or destruction, often associated with certain diseases, infections, or implant complications.

**Osteomalacia:** A condition characterized by softening of the bones due to inadequate mineralization, typically caused by vitamin D deficiency. It can lead to bone pain, fractures, and muscle weakness.

**Osteomyelitis:** An infection of the bone, usually caused by bacteria. It can result in bone pain, inflammation, and destruction of bone tissue.

**Osteomyelodysplasia:** A rare congenital disorder characterized by abnormal bone development and bone marrow dysfunction.

**Osteonecrosis:** The death of bone tissue due to a loss of blood supply. It can lead to pain, limited joint function, and bone collapse.

**Osteopaenia:** A condition characterized by reduced bone density, which is lower than normal but not as severe as osteoporosis. It can increase the risk of fractures.

**Osteopenia:** Another term for osteopaenia, referring to reduced bone density.

**Osteopetrosis:** A rare genetic disorder characterized by increased bone density and abnormal bone structure. It can lead to bone fragility, anemia, and other complications.

**Osteoporosis:** A condition characterized by decreased bone density and increased risk of fractures. It often occurs in older individuals, particularly postmenopausal women.

**Osteoporotic fracture:** A fracture that occurs due to weakened or brittle bones associated with osteoporosis.

**Osteophyte:** Also known as a bone spur, an osteophyte is an abnormal bony outgrowth that can develop on the edges of bones. It is often associated with conditions such as osteoarthritis.

**Osteosarcoma:** A malignant bone tumor that arises from bone cells. It is the most common type of bone cancer and can cause bone pain, fractures, and other symptoms.

**Otic:** Relating to the ear.

**Otic drops:** Medication in liquid form that is specifically designed for application in the ear, usually for treating ear infections or inflammation.

**Otic inflammation:** Inflammation of the ear, which can be caused by infection, injury, or other factors.

**Otic medication:** Medication that is intended for use in the ear, either in the form of drops, ointments, or sprays.

**Otic solution:** A liquid solution that is used for treating ear conditions or administering medication into the ear.

**Otitis externa:** Also known as swimmer's ear, it is an infection or inflammation of the external ear canal, often caused by water exposure or bacterial/fungal infection.

**Otitis interna:** Also known as labyrinthitis, it is an inflammation or infection of the inner ear, which can cause dizziness, hearing loss, and other symptoms.

**Otitis media:** An infection or inflammation of the middle ear, typically caused by bacteria or viruses. It can result in ear pain, hearing loss, and fluid buildup behind the eardrum.

**Otitis media with effusion:** A condition where fluid accumulates in the middle ear without infection. It can cause hearing difficulties and may resolve spontaneously or require treatment.

**Otolaryngologist:** A medical specialist who deals with the diagnosis and treatment of conditions related to the ear, nose, and throat (ENT). They are also referred to as ear, nose, and throat doctors or ENT doctors.

**Otolaryngology:** The branch of medicine that focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, and throat.

**Otolaryngology examination:** A medical assessment performed by an otolaryngologist to evaluate the function and structure of the ear, nose, and throat. It may include various tests, examinations, and imaging studies.

**Otolith organs:** Specialized sensory organs in the inner ear that detect changes in head position and linear acceleration, contributing to the sense of balance and spatial orientation.

**Otology:** The branch of medicine that deals with the study and treatment of conditions related to the ear, particularly focusing on the ear's structure, function, and diseases.

**Otoplasty:** A surgical procedure performed to alter the shape, position, or size of the external ear. It is often done to correct protruding or deformed ears.

**Otoscopy:** A diagnostic procedure in which a healthcare provider examines the ear canal and eardrum using an otoscope, a handheld instrument with a light and magnifying lens. Otoscopy helps evaluate the health of the ear, detect abnormalities, and diagnose conditions such as ear infections, earwax buildup, or perforations of the eardrum.

**Ovarian cancer:** Cancer that develops in the ovaries, the female reproductive organs responsible for producing eggs and hormones. It can cause various symptoms, including abdominal pain, bloating, and changes in menstrual cycles.

**Ovarian cyst:** A fluid-filled sac that forms within the ovary. Most ovarian cysts are benign and resolve on their own, but some may require medical intervention.



**Ovarian cystectomy:** A surgical procedure to remove an ovarian cyst while preserving the ovary. It aims to remove the cyst and prevent recurrence while preserving ovarian function.

**Ovarian follicle:** A fluid-filled sac within the ovary that contains an immature egg (oocyte). Ovarian follicles play a crucial role in the menstrual cycle and fertility.

**Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS):** A condition that can occur as a complication of fertility treatments, characterized by the excessive stimulation and enlargement of the ovaries. It can cause abdominal pain, bloating, and fluid accumulation in the abdomen or chest.

**Ovarian reserve:** The number and quality of eggs remaining in the ovaries, indicating a woman's reproductive potential and fertility.

**Ovarian stimulation:** The process of using medication to stimulate the development and maturation of multiple eggs in the ovaries for assisted reproductive techniques such as in vitro fertilization (IVF).

**Ovarian suppression:** The use of medication to temporarily suppress the activity of the ovaries, often used in hormone therapy or fertility treatments to control the timing of ovulation or reduce symptoms of certain conditions.

**Ovary removal:** The surgical removal of one or both ovaries. It may be performed for various reasons, including the treatment of ovarian cancer, prevention of ovarian diseases, or as part of gender-affirming surgery.

**Ovulation:** The release of a mature egg from the ovary, which occurs approximately once during each menstrual cycle. It marks the fertile period when conception is possible.

**Ovulation induction:** The use of medication or hormonal treatments to stimulate ovulation in individuals who have difficulty conceiving naturally.

**Ovulation predictor kit:** A tool or test used to detect the surge in luteinizing hormone (LH) that occurs before ovulation. It helps predict the fertile window and increase the chances of conception.

**Ovum:** The mature egg produced by the ovary, capable of being fertilized by sperm to initiate pregnancy.

**Oxygen mask:** A device used to deliver oxygen to a person's lungs, typically during medical emergencies or when there is a need for supplemental oxygen.

**Oxygen saturation:** A measure of the percentage of hemoglobin in the blood that is carrying oxygen. It provides information about the body's oxygen levels and respiratory function.

**Oxygen therapy:** The administration of oxygen at higher concentrations than the ambient air to support and improve breathing and oxygenation in individuals with respiratory conditions or low blood oxygen levels.

**Oxygen transport:** The process by which oxygen is transported from the lungs to the body's tissues via the bloodstream, where it is used for cellular respiration and energy production.

**Oxyuriasis:** Also known as pinworm infection, it is a common intestinal parasitic infection caused by the pinworm (*Enterobius vermicularis*). It can cause itching around the anus and may require medical treatment.

**Ozena:** A chronic condition characterized by atrophy and inflammation of the nasal mucosa, resulting in a foul-smelling nasal discharge, nasal congestion, and nasal cavity deformities.

# CHAPTER SIXTEEN: P TERMS

**Pain management:** The medical field that focuses on finding ways to relieve and control pain experienced by patients. It involves various techniques and treatments to reduce discomfort and improve quality of life.

**Palliative care:** Specialized medical care provided to individuals with serious illnesses or conditions. The goal is to improve their overall well-being by managing symptoms, providing emotional support, and enhancing their quality of life.

**Pancreas transplant:** A surgical procedure in which a healthy pancreas is transplanted from a donor to a person with a dysfunctional or non-functioning pancreas. It is usually performed in cases of severe pancreatic disease or diabetes.

**Pancreatic cancer:** A type of cancer that originates in the pancreas, a gland located in the abdomen. It can cause various symptoms and is often diagnosed at advanced stages. Treatment options include surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy.

**Pancreaticoduodenectomy:** Also known as the Whipple procedure, it is a complex surgical procedure to remove the head of the pancreas, part of the small intestine, the gallbladder, and sometimes a portion of the stomach. It is typically performed to treat certain pancreatic diseases, including cancer.

**Pancreatitis:** Inflammation of the pancreas, which can cause severe abdominal pain, digestive problems, and other symptoms. It can be acute (short-term) or chronic (long-term) and is often caused by gallstones, alcohol abuse, or certain medical conditions.

**Pandemic:** A widespread outbreak of a disease that affects people over a large geographic area, often globally. It refers to a situation where an infectious disease spreads rapidly and affects a significant portion of the population.

**Pap smear:** A routine screening test for cervical cancer in women. It involves collecting a small sample of cells from the cervix (lower part of the uterus) and examining them under a microscope to detect any abnormal changes.

**Paracentesis:** A medical procedure in which fluid is removed from the abdominal cavity using a needle. It is usually performed to relieve discomfort caused by excessive fluid buildup or to collect a sample for diagnostic purposes.

**Paralysis:** Loss of muscle function and sensation in part or all of the body due to damage or disruption of the nervous system. It can result from various causes, such as spinal cord injury, stroke, or certain medical conditions.

**Paranasal sinus surgery:** Surgical procedures performed to treat conditions affecting the paranasal sinuses, which are air-filled cavities located in the bones of the face. The surgery aims to improve sinus drainage and alleviate symptoms of chronic sinusitis or other sinus disorders.

**Paraplegia:** A form of paralysis that affects the lower half of the body, including the legs. It is typically caused by spinal cord injuries or diseases and results in loss of sensation and motor function below the level of injury.

**Parkinson's disease:** A progressive neurological disorder that affects movement. It is characterized by

symptoms such as tremors, stiffness, and difficulty with balance and coordination. Treatment options include medications, physical therapy, and lifestyle modifications.

**Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA):** A congenital heart defect where a blood vessel called the ductus arteriosus, which is supposed to close after birth, remains open. It can cause abnormal blood flow between the aorta and pulmonary artery and may require medical or surgical intervention.

**Pathogenesis:** The process by which a disease develops and progresses within the body. It involves understanding the mechanisms and factors contributing to the disease, including its causes, risk factors, and effects on bodily systems.

**Pathologist:** A medical professional who specializes in the study and diagnosis of diseases by examining tissues, cells, and bodily fluids. They play a crucial role in identifying and understanding various diseases through laboratory testing and microscopic analysis.

**Pathology:** The branch of medicine that deals with the study of diseases, their causes, mechanisms, and effects on the body. It involves laboratory analysis and examination of tissues, cells, and bodily fluids to aid in disease diagnosis and treatment.

**Patient advocate:** An individual, often a healthcare professional, who supports and promotes the rights and well-being of patients. They assist patients in understanding their medical care, making informed decisions, and ensuring their needs and concerns are addressed.

**Patient-controlled analgesia (PCA):** A method of pain management that allows patients to control their pain medication dosage within pre-set limits. It typically involves a device that delivers medication through an intravenous (IV) line, providing comfort and control to the patient.

**Pediatric cardiology:** The branch of medicine that focuses on diagnosing and treating heart conditions in infants, children, and adolescents. Pediatric cardiologists specialize in evaluating heart function, detecting abnormalities, and providing appropriate care for young patients.

**Pediatric endocrinology:** The medical specialty that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of hormonal disorders in children. Pediatric endocrinologists focus on conditions such as growth disorders, diabetes, thyroid disorders, and hormone imbalances in young patients.

**Pediatric gastroenterology:** The branch of medicine that focuses on the digestive system and related disorders in children. Pediatric gastroenterologists diagnose and treat conditions such as stomachaches, diarrhea, constipation, and inflammatory bowel disease in young patients.

**Pediatric hematology:** The field of medicine that deals with disorders of the blood and blood-producing organs in children. Pediatric hematologists diagnose and treat conditions such as anemia, bleeding disorders, and blood cancers in young patients.

**Pediatric nephrology:** The branch of medicine that specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of kidney disorders in children. Pediatric nephrologists manage conditions such as kidney infections, kidney stones, and kidney diseases in young patients.

**Pediatric neurology:** The medical specialty that focuses on disorders of the nervous system in children. Pediatric neurologists diagnose and treat conditions such as epilepsy, developmental delays, and neurological disorders in young patients.

**Pediatric oncology:** The branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in

children. Pediatric oncologists specialize in managing various types of cancer in young patients and providing comprehensive care throughout their treatment journey.

**Pediatric pulmonology:** The field of medicine that focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of respiratory conditions in children. Pediatric pulmonologists manage conditions such as asthma, cystic fibrosis, and respiratory infections in young patients.

**Pediatric radiology:** The medical specialty that uses imaging techniques to diagnose and treat diseases and conditions in children. Pediatric radiologists interpret X-rays, ultrasounds, CT scans, and MRIs to provide detailed insights into the health of young patients.

**Pediatrics:** The branch of medicine that focuses on the medical care of infants, children, and adolescents. Pediatricians provide comprehensive healthcare services, including preventive care, immunizations, and treatment of illnesses and injuries, to young patients.

**Pelvic exam:** A routine medical examination performed on females to assess the health of the reproductive organs. It involves the inspection of the vagina, cervix, and uterus, as well as the collection of samples for Pap smears or other diagnostic tests.

**Pelvic floor physical therapy:** A specialized therapy aimed at strengthening and rehabilitating the muscles of the pelvic floor. It is commonly used to treat conditions such as urinary incontinence, pelvic pain, and pelvic organ prolapse.

**Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID):** An infection of the female reproductive organs, usually caused by sexually transmitted bacteria. PID can cause symptoms such as pelvic pain, fever, and abnormal vaginal discharge if left untreated.

**Pelvic organ prolapse:** A condition in which one or more organs in the pelvic area, such as the uterus, bladder, or rectum, descend from their normal positions. It can cause discomfort, urinary or bowel problems, and may require treatment.

**Pelvic pain:** Pain or discomfort in the lower abdomen or pelvis. It can have various causes, including menstrual cramps, urinary tract infections, and conditions affecting the reproductive organs or gastrointestinal system.

**Penicillin:** An antibiotic medication used to treat bacterial infections. Penicillin is commonly prescribed for conditions such as strep throat, pneumonia, and certain skin infections.

**Peptic ulcer disease:** A condition characterized by the presence of open sores (ulcers) in the lining of the stomach or upper part of the small intestine. Peptic ulcer disease can cause abdominal pain, indigestion, and other symptoms.

**Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI):** A minimally invasive procedure used to treat blocked or narrowed coronary arteries. During PCI, a catheter is inserted into the blood vessels and used to place a stent to restore blood flow to the heart.

**Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG):** A procedure in which a feeding tube is inserted directly into the stomach through a small incision in the abdominal wall. PEG is commonly used for patients who are unable to eat or swallow normally.

**Pericardial effusion:** The accumulation of fluid in the sac surrounding the heart (pericardium). It can cause chest pain, shortness of breath, and other symptoms if the fluid builds up excessively.

**Pericardiocentesis:** A procedure to remove excess fluid from the pericardial sac surrounding the heart. It is performed using a needle or catheter to relieve pressure and improve heart function.

**Perimenopause:** The transitional phase in a woman's life leading up to menopause. During perimenopause, hormone levels fluctuate, leading to changes in the menstrual cycle and various symptoms such as hot flashes, mood swings, and irregular periods.

**Perinatology:** The branch of medicine that focuses on the care of mothers and infants during pregnancy, childbirth, and the early postpartum period. Perinatologists specialize in managing high-risk pregnancies and addressing any potential complications that may arise.

**Periodontal disease:** A chronic bacterial infection that affects the gums and supporting structures of the teeth. Periodontal disease, also known as gum disease, can lead to gum inflammation, tooth loss, and other oral health problems if left untreated.

**Peripheral artery disease (PAD):** A condition characterized by the narrowing or blockage of the arteries that supply blood to the limbs, usually the legs. PAD can cause symptoms such as leg pain, cramping, and difficulty walking.

**Peripheral nervous system:** The part of the nervous system that extends outside the brain and spinal cord. It includes nerves that transmit information between the central nervous system and the rest of the body, enabling functions such as movement and sensation.

**Peripheral vascular disease (PVD):** A condition that affects the blood vessels outside the heart and brain, typically involving the narrowing or blockage of arteries in the legs and feet. PVD can cause symptoms such as pain, numbness, and impaired circulation.

**Permanent pacemaker:** A small electronic device implanted in the chest or abdomen to regulate and control the heart's electrical activity. It helps maintain a normal heart rhythm by sending electrical signals to the heart when needed.

**Personal protective equipment (PPE):** Equipment worn to protect individuals from potential hazards or infectious materials. Examples of PPE include gloves, masks, goggles, and gowns, which help prevent the spread of infections and ensure personal safety.

**Personality disorder:** A mental health condition characterized by rigid and unhealthy patterns of thinking, feeling, and behaving that deviate from societal norms. Personality disorders can significantly impact a person's relationships and daily functioning.

**Pesticide poisoning:** The harmful effects resulting from exposure to pesticides, which are chemicals used to control pests. Pesticide poisoning can occur through ingestion, inhalation, or skin contact and may lead to various symptoms ranging from mild to severe.

**Pharmacist:** A healthcare professional who specializes in the safe and effective use of medications. Pharmacists dispense prescriptions, provide medication counseling, and ensure proper medication management for patients.

**Pharmacodynamics:** The study of how drugs interact with the body and produce their effects. Pharmacodynamics focuses on understanding the mechanisms of action, effects, and outcomes of medications in individuals.

**Pharmacokinetics:** The study of how drugs are absorbed, distributed, metabolized, and eliminated by the

body. Pharmacokinetics helps determine how drugs move through the body and how their concentrations change over time.

**Pharmacology:** The branch of science that deals with the study of drugs, including their properties, effects, uses, and interactions. Pharmacology plays a crucial role in understanding how medications work and developing new drugs.

**Pharmacy:** A healthcare facility where medications are stored, prepared, dispensed, and provided to patients. Pharmacies also offer medication counseling, prescription filling, and other pharmaceutical services.

**Phlebitis:** Inflammation of a vein, usually in the legs. Phlebitis can cause pain, redness, and swelling in the affected area and may be associated with blood clots if deep veins are involved.

**Phlebotomy:** The process of drawing blood from a vein for diagnostic testing or blood donation. Phlebotomy is typically performed by trained healthcare professionals using sterile techniques.

**Photodynamic therapy:** A treatment that uses a photosensitizing agent and a specific type of light to destroy abnormal cells, such as cancer cells. The photosensitizing agent is activated by the light, leading to the production of reactive oxygen species that can destroy targeted cells.

**Physical examination:** A comprehensive assessment of a person's body to evaluate their overall health and detect any physical abnormalities or signs of illness. It typically includes measurements such as blood pressure, heart rate, and examination of various body systems.

**Physical medicine and rehabilitation:** A medical specialty that focuses on restoring and improving the functional abilities of individuals with physical impairments or disabilities. Physical medicine and rehabilitation utilize various treatments such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and assistive devices.

**Physician:** A medical doctor who provides diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases, injuries, and other medical conditions. Physicians have extensive knowledge and training in medical sciences and apply that knowledge to care for patients.

**Physician assistant (PA):** A healthcare professional who works under the supervision of a physician and performs a wide range of medical tasks. PAs can conduct physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order diagnostic tests, and prescribe medications.

**Physiology:** The study of how living organisms function and the processes that occur within their bodies. Physiology explores how organs, tissues, and cells work together to maintain the body's balance and enable normal bodily functions.

**Pneumonia:** An infection that inflames the air sacs in one or both lungs, causing symptoms such as cough, difficulty breathing, chest pain, and fever. Pneumonia can be caused by various pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi.

**Pneumonitis:** Inflammation of lung tissue, typically caused by exposure to irritants such as chemicals, radiation, or certain medications. Pneumonitis can lead to symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, and chest discomfort.

**Pneumothorax:** A condition in which air accumulates in the space between the lungs and the chest wall, causing the lung to collapse partially or completely. Pneumothorax can result in sudden chest pain,

difficulty breathing, and decreased oxygen levels.

**Podiatry:** The branch of medicine dedicated to the study, diagnosis, and treatment of foot and ankle disorders. Podiatrists specialize in addressing conditions such as foot injuries, deformities, infections, and diseases.

**Poison control center:** A specialized hotline or facility that provides immediate medical advice and assistance in cases of poisoning or exposure to toxic substances. Poison control centers offer guidance on appropriate first aid measures and can help determine the need for further medical care.

**Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS):** A hormonal disorder that affects women, characterized by the presence of multiple cysts on the ovaries and hormonal imbalances. PCOS can cause irregular menstrual cycles, infertility, weight gain, and other symptoms.

**Polymyalgia rheumatica:** An inflammatory disorder that primarily affects older adults, causing pain, stiffness, and inflammation in the muscles, particularly in the shoulders and hips. Polymyalgia rheumatica can lead to significant discomfort and mobility limitations.

**Polypectomy:** A surgical procedure to remove polyps, which are abnormal tissue growths that can occur in various parts of the body. Polypectomy is commonly performed in the gastrointestinal tract to remove polyps and prevent potential complications.

**Polypharmacy:** The use of multiple medications by an individual, typically involving the simultaneous use of several prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, or supplements. Polypharmacy can increase the risk of adverse drug interactions and complications.

**Polyps:** Abnormal tissue growths that can develop in different organs or structures within the body. Polyps can be benign or malignant and are commonly found in the colon, nasal cavity, uterus, and other areas.

**Polytrauma:** Severe injury involving multiple body systems or organs, often resulting from a high-energy impact such as a car accident or fall. Polytrauma requires comprehensive medical care and may involve injuries to the brain, spine, limbs, and internal organs.

**Porphyria:** A group of rare genetic disorders that affect the production of heme, a component of hemoglobin. Porphyria can cause a range of symptoms, including abdominal pain, neurological disturbances, skin sensitivity, and photosensitivity.

**Positron emission tomography (PET):** A medical imaging technique that uses a radioactive tracer to visualize and measure metabolic activity in body tissues. PET scans are commonly used in cancer diagnosis, evaluation of brain disorders, and assessment of cardiac function.

**Postpartum depression:** A mood disorder that can occur after childbirth, characterized by feelings of sadness, anxiety, and exhaustion. Postpartum depression can interfere with a mother's ability to care for herself and her baby, requiring appropriate treatment and support.

**Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD):** A mental health condition that can develop after experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event. PTSD is characterized by persistent and intrusive thoughts, flashbacks, emotional distress, and avoidance of triggers associated with the traumatic event.

**Preterm birth:** The delivery of a baby before the completion of 37 weeks of pregnancy. Preterm birth can increase the risk of complications for the newborn, requiring specialized medical care and monitoring.

**Preventive medicine:** A medical specialty focused on promoting health, preventing diseases, and reducing the risk of illness. Preventive medicine includes activities such as vaccinations, health screenings, lifestyle modifications, and education on healthy behaviors.

**Primary care:** The initial point of contact for individuals seeking healthcare services, typically provided by healthcare professionals such as family physicians, internists, and pediatricians. Primary care involves comprehensive healthcare management, including preventive care, diagnosis, and treatment of common illnesses.

**Proctologist:** A medical doctor who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders affecting the rectum and anus. Proctologists commonly address conditions such as hemorrhoids, anal fissures, anal abscesses, and rectal cancer.

**Proctoscopy:** A procedure that allows visualization of the rectum and lower part of the colon using a specialized instrument called a proctoscope. Proctoscopy helps in the diagnosis and evaluation of various rectal and anal conditions.

**Progeria:** A rare genetic disorder characterized by rapid aging in children. Progeria causes physical and developmental abnormalities, including premature wrinkling of the skin, growth failure, and cardiovascular problems.

**Prognosis:** The expected outcome or course of a disease or condition. Prognosis is based on various factors such as the individual's overall health, the nature of the disease, and the effectiveness of available treatments.

**Prokinetic agents:** Medications that enhance gastrointestinal motility and help improve the movement of food through the digestive system. Prokinetic agents are commonly used to treat conditions such as gastroparesis and acid reflux.

**Prophylaxis:** The preventive treatment or intervention aimed at preventing the occurrence or progression of a disease or condition. Prophylaxis can involve measures such as vaccination, medication, lifestyle modifications, or the removal of risk factors.

**Prostate cancer:** A type of cancer that develops in the prostate gland, a small organ located in the male reproductive system. Prostate cancer can cause symptoms such as urinary difficulties, erectile dysfunction, and pain in the pelvic area.

**Prostatectomy:** Surgical removal of the prostate gland, commonly performed as a treatment for prostate cancer or benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Prostatectomy can be done using different techniques, including open surgery or minimally invasive approaches.

**Proteinuria:** The presence of excess protein in the urine, indicating a potential problem with the kidneys or urinary system. Proteinuria can be a sign of kidney damage or various underlying conditions.

**Prothrombin time (PT):** A blood test that measures the time it takes for blood to clot. Prothrombin time is used to assess the function of the clotting factors in the blood and monitor the effectiveness of certain medications, such as anticoagulants.

**Proton pump inhibitor (PPI):** A type of medication that reduces the production of stomach acid. PPIs are commonly prescribed to treat conditions such as gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), peptic ulcers, and gastritis.



**Prozac:** A brand name for the antidepressant medication fluoxetine. Prozac belongs to a class of drugs known as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and is used to treat depression, anxiety disorders, and other mental health conditions.

**Psoriasis:** A chronic skin condition characterized by the rapid buildup of skin cells, resulting in thick, red patches covered with silvery scales. Psoriasis is an autoimmune disorder that can cause itching, discomfort, and joint inflammation.

**Psychiatric evaluation:** A comprehensive assessment of an individual's mental health, conducted by a psychiatrist or mental health professional. Psychiatric evaluations involve gathering information about symptoms, personal history, and conducting various assessments to diagnose and develop a treatment plan.

**Psychiatrist:** A medical doctor who specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of mental health disorders. Psychiatrists can prescribe medications, provide therapy, and offer comprehensive psychiatric care.

**Psychiatry:** The medical specialty that focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders. Psychiatry combines medical knowledge with psychological and social interventions to address mental health concerns.

**Psychoanalysis:** A therapeutic approach that explores the unconscious processes and past experiences to gain insight into a person's thoughts, emotions, and behavior. Psychoanalysis aims to resolve psychological conflicts and promote personal growth.

**Psychological trauma:** A deeply distressing event or experience that overwhelms an individual's ability to cope, causing significant emotional and psychological distress. Psychological trauma can result from events such as accidents, abuse, natural disasters, or violent acts.

**Psychology:** The scientific study of the mind and behavior. Psychology explores various aspects of human cognition, emotions, motivations, and social interactions, contributing to our understanding of mental processes and behavior.

**Psychosis:** A severe mental condition characterized by a loss of contact with reality, including delusions, hallucinations, disorganized thinking, and altered perceptions. Psychosis is often associated with mental illnesses such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.

**Pulmonary embolism:** A potentially life-threatening condition in which a blood clot (embolus) blocks one of the arteries in the lungs. Pulmonary embolism can cause symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath, and rapid heart rate.

**Pulmonary function tests:** Diagnostic tests that assess how well the lungs are functioning and measure various respiratory parameters such as lung capacity, airflow, and gas exchange. Pulmonary function tests help in the diagnosis and monitoring of lung diseases.

**Pulmonary hypertension:** A type of high blood pressure that affects the arteries in the lungs and the right side of the heart. Pulmonary hypertension can lead to symptoms such as shortness of breath, fatigue, and chest pain.

**Pulmonology:** The medical specialty that focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders affecting the respiratory system, including the lungs, airways, and chest. Pulmonologists

specialize in conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and lung cancer.

**Puncture wound:** A wound caused by a sharp object penetrating the skin and underlying tissues. Puncture wounds can be deep or shallow and carry a risk of infection, requiring appropriate cleaning and medical attention.

**Pyloric stenosis:** A condition in infants characterized by the narrowing of the pylorus, the opening between the stomach and the small intestine. Pyloric stenosis can cause symptoms such as projectile vomiting and poor weight gain, requiring surgical correction.

**Pyrexia:** Another term for fever, indicating an elevated body temperature above the normal range. Pyrexia is often a sign of an underlying infection or inflammation in the body.

**Pyuria:** The presence of white blood cells (pus) in the urine, indicating a potential urinary tract infection or kidney inflammation. Pyuria is often associated with symptoms such as frequent urination, pain, and urgency.

# CHAPTER SEVENTEEN: Q TERMS

**Quad screen:** A prenatal screening test that measures the levels of four substances in a pregnant woman's blood to assess the risk of certain birth defects.

**Quadriparesis:** Weakness or partial paralysis affecting all four limbs, usually resulting from a neurological condition or spinal cord injury.

**Quadriphonic:** Relating to a sound system that uses four independent channels to produce audio output, creating a multidimensional listening experience.

**Quadriplegia:** Paralysis of all four limbs and the trunk due to injury or illness affecting the spinal cord in the neck region.

**Qualitative test:** A diagnostic test that determines the presence or absence of a substance or condition, without providing precise measurements or quantities.

**Quantitative test:** A diagnostic test that measures and provides specific numerical values or quantities, such as blood glucose levels or hormone concentrations.

**Quarantine:** A period of isolation or restriction of movement imposed on individuals who may have been exposed to a contagious disease, to prevent the spread of infection.

**Quinidine:** A medication used to treat certain heart rhythm disorders, such as atrial fibrillation, by helping to regulate the electrical signals in the heart.

**Quotidian fever:** A type of fever that recurs daily, typically seen in certain infectious diseases such as malaria.

# CHAPTER EIGHTEEN: R TERMS

**Radiation therapy:** A treatment method that uses high-energy rays (radiation) to destroy or shrink cancer cells in the body.

**Radiography:** The process of taking X-ray images of the body to visualize bones, organs, or tissues for diagnostic purposes.

**Radiologist:** A medical doctor who specializes in interpreting medical images, such as X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs, to help diagnose and treat diseases.

**Radiology:** The branch of medicine that involves using medical imaging techniques, such as X-rays and scans, to diagnose and treat diseases.

**Radionuclide imaging:** A type of medical imaging that uses small amounts of radioactive material to create images of organs or tissues inside the body.

**Radiopharmaceuticals:** Medications that contain radioactive substances and are used in nuclear medicine to diagnose or treat diseases.

**Rales:** Abnormal crackling or rattling sounds heard in the lungs during breathing, often associated with respiratory conditions like pneumonia or heart failure.

**Range of motion:** The degree of movement that a joint in the body can comfortably achieve, often assessed to evaluate muscle strength and flexibility.

**Rapid eye movement (REM) sleep:** A stage of sleep characterized by rapid eye movements, increased brain activity, and vivid dreaming.

**Reactive arthritis:** A type of arthritis that occurs as a reaction to an infection in another part of the body, typically involving joints, eyes, or urinary tract.

**Reconstructive surgery:** A type of surgery performed to restore or improve the function or appearance of a body part affected by injury, disease, or congenital deformity.

**Rectal examination:** A physical examination performed by a healthcare provider to assess the rectum and surrounding organs for abnormalities or signs of disease.

**Rectal prolapse:** A condition where the rectum protrudes or sticks out through the anus, often causing discomfort and difficulty with bowel movements.

**Red blood cells:** Blood cells that contain a protein called hemoglobin and are responsible for carrying oxygen from the lungs to the body's tissues.

**Reflexes:** Automatic, involuntary responses of the body to certain stimuli, controlled by the nervous system.

**Reflux:** The backward flow of stomach acid or contents into the esophagus, causing a burning sensation or discomfort, commonly known as heartburn.

**Rehabilitation:** The process of restoring function, mobility, and quality of life through therapy, exercises,

and other interventions after an injury, surgery, or illness.

**Renal artery:** Blood vessels that supply oxygenated blood to the kidneys, allowing them to filter waste and regulate fluid balance in the body.

**Renal colic:** Severe pain caused by the passage of a kidney stone through the urinary tract.

**Renal failure:** A condition in which the kidneys are unable to adequately filter waste products from the blood, resulting in an accumulation of toxins.

**Renal pelvis:** The funnel-shaped part of the kidney where urine collects before it flows into the ureter and is eliminated from the body.

**Renal transplantation:** The surgical procedure of replacing a damaged or failed kidney with a healthy kidney from a donor.

**Renin-angiotensin system:** A hormonal system in the body that helps regulate blood pressure and fluid balance by controlling the constriction and dilation of blood vessels.

**Reproductive endocrinology:** The branch of medicine that focuses on the hormonal and reproductive health of individuals, addressing conditions related to fertility, hormones, and reproductive organs.

**Reproductive system:** The organs and structures in the body that are involved in the production of offspring, including the reproductive organs and hormones.

**Respiration:** The process of inhaling oxygen into the lungs and exhaling carbon dioxide, necessary for the exchange of gases in the body.

**Respiratory distress syndrome:** A breathing disorder that affects premature babies, characterized by difficulty breathing due to underdeveloped lungs.

**Respiratory rate:** The number of breaths taken per minute, often measured to assess the breathing pattern and respiratory health of an individual.

**Respiratory therapist:** A healthcare professional who specializes in evaluating and treating respiratory disorders, providing breathing treatments, managing ventilators, and assisting patients with breathing difficulties.

**Respiratory therapy:** A branch of healthcare that focuses on the evaluation, treatment, and management of respiratory disorders and conditions.

**Restless legs syndrome:** A neurological disorder characterized by an uncontrollable urge to move the legs, often accompanied by uncomfortable sensations, especially during periods of rest or sleep.

**Retina:** The innermost layer of the eye that contains light-sensitive cells, responsible for receiving and processing visual information before sending it to the brain.

**Retinal detachment:** A condition where the retina separates from its normal position, leading to vision loss or distortion, and requiring prompt medical attention.

**Retinopathy:** Any disease or disorder affecting the retina, often associated with conditions like diabetes or high blood pressure.

**Rhinitis:** Inflammation of the nasal passages, resulting in symptoms such as a runny or stuffy nose,

sneezing, and itching.

**Rickets:** A childhood disease characterized by a softening and weakening of the bones, usually caused by a deficiency of vitamin D, calcium, or phosphate.

**Risk factor:** Any characteristic, condition, or behavior that increases the likelihood of developing a certain disease or experiencing a specific health problem.

**Root canal:** A dental procedure involving the removal of infected or damaged pulp from the inside of a tooth, followed by cleaning, disinfection, and sealing of the root canal to prevent further infection.

**Rotator cuff:** A group of tendons and muscles surrounding the shoulder joint that help stabilize and facilitate movements of the shoulder.

**Ruptured disk:** A condition where the cushion-like discs between the vertebrae of the spine rupture or bulge, causing pain and potentially compressing nearby nerves.

**Ruptured spleen:** A serious and potentially life-threatening condition where the spleen tears or ruptures due to trauma or certain medical conditions, leading to internal bleeding.

**Rhabdomyolysis:** A condition characterized by the breakdown of skeletal muscle tissue, releasing substances into the bloodstream that can potentially cause kidney damage.

**Rheumatic fever:** An inflammatory disease that can develop after an untreated or poorly treated strep throat infection, causing inflammation in various parts of the body, particularly the heart, joints, and skin.

**Rheumatoid arthritis:** A chronic autoimmune disease that primarily affects the joints, causing pain, stiffness, and swelling, and potentially leading to joint damage and deformity.

**Rhinoplasty:** A surgical procedure to reshape or reconstruct the nose for functional or cosmetic purposes.

**Rhinorrhea:** The medical term for a runny nose, characterized by an excessive discharge of nasal fluids.

**Rhinovirus:** A common type of virus that causes the common cold, typically transmitted through respiratory droplets.

**Rhytidectomy:** Also known as a facelift, it is a surgical procedure to remove excess skin and tighten the underlying tissues of the face and neck to create a more youthful appearance.

**Rhythm strip:** A graphical recording of the electrical activity of the heart, typically shown as a strip or waveform, used to analyze the heart's rhythm and detect abnormalities.

**Rib fractures:** A break or crack in one or more ribs, usually caused by trauma to the chest, resulting in pain and potential breathing difficulties.

**Rosacea:** A chronic skin condition characterized by redness, flushing, and the development of small red bumps or pimples, often affecting the face.

**Rotavirus:** A highly contagious virus that causes gastroenteritis, leading to diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, primarily affecting infants and young children.

**Rubella:** Also known as German measles, it is a viral infection characterized by a rash, fever, and swollen lymph nodes, particularly dangerous if contracted during pregnancy.

**Ruptured appendix:** A medical emergency where the appendix becomes inflamed and subsequently

ruptures, requiring immediate surgical removal.

**Ruptured eardrum:** A tear or hole in the eardrum, often caused by injury, infection, or sudden changes in pressure, leading to hearing loss, pain, and sometimes fluid drainage.

Ruptured ovarian cyst: A condition where a fluid-filled sac in the ovary breaks open, causing sudden, sharp pain in the lower abdomen and potentially requiring medical intervention.

# CHAPTER NINETEEN: S TERMS

**Salpingectomy:** Surgical removal of the fallopian tube(s).

**Salpingitis:** Inflammation of the fallopian tube(s), usually caused by infection.

**Salpingo-oophorectomy:** Surgical removal of the fallopian tube(s) and ovary(ies).

**Sarcoidosis:** A condition characterized by the formation of small clumps of inflammatory cells (granulomas) in various organs of the body, most commonly the lungs and lymph nodes.

**Sarcoma:** A type of cancer that develops in the connective tissues of the body, such as bones, muscles, or blood vessels.

**Scabies:** A contagious skin condition caused by tiny mites that burrow into the skin, resulting in intense itching and a rash.

**Scalpels:** Surgical instruments with a sharp blade used for making incisions during surgeries or medical procedures.

**Scapula:** Also known as the shoulder blade, it is a flat bone in the upper back that connects the upper arm bone (humerus) with the collarbone (clavicle).

**Scarring:** The process of the formation of fibrous tissue in response to injury or trauma, resulting in the replacement of normal tissue with a scar.

**Schizophrenia:** A chronic mental disorder characterized by abnormal thoughts, perceptions, emotions, and behaviors, often including hallucinations or delusions.

**Sciatica:** Pain that radiates along the path of the sciatic nerve, typically felt in the lower back, buttocks, and down the back of the leg.

**Scleroderma:** An autoimmune disease that causes thickening and hardening of the skin and connective tissues, leading to skin tightening, joint stiffness, and internal organ damage.

**Scoliosis:** Abnormal sideways curvature of the spine, which can cause the spine to appear "S" or "C" shaped.

**Scrotum:** The external pouch of skin that contains the testicles in males.

**Seasonal affective disorder (SAD):** A type of depression that occurs seasonally, typically during the winter months when there is less natural sunlight.

**Seizure:** Abnormal electrical activity in the brain that leads to sudden changes in behavior, movements, or consciousness.

**Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs):** Medications commonly used to treat depression and anxiety by increasing the levels of serotonin, a neurotransmitter, in the brain.

**Sepsis:** A severe and life-threatening infection that can spread throughout the body, leading to organ dysfunction and failure.



**Septoplasty:** Surgical procedure to correct a deviated septum, which is the displacement of the wall between the nostrils.

**Septum:** The partition or wall that divides two cavities or structures, such as the nasal septum that separates the nostrils.

**Serotonin:** A chemical messenger (neurotransmitter) in the brain that plays a role in regulating mood, sleep, appetite, and other functions.

**Sexual dysfunction:** Difficulty or impairment in sexual desire, arousal, or satisfaction.

**Shingles:** A painful rash caused by the reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus, which also causes chickenpox.

**Shock:** A life-threatening condition characterized by a severe drop in blood pressure, resulting in inadequate blood flow and oxygen supply to the body's organs and tissues.

**Sigmoidoscopy:** A procedure that uses a flexible tube with a camera (sigmoidoscope) to examine the lower part of the large intestine (sigmoid colon) for abnormalities.

**Sinusitis:** Inflammation or infection of the sinus cavities, causing symptoms such as facial pain, nasal congestion, and headache.

**Skeletal system:** The framework of bones and cartilage in the body that provides support, protection, and allows for movement.

**Skin grafting:** A surgical procedure that involves transferring healthy skin from one area of the body (donor site) to another area that has lost skin due to injury, burns, or other conditions.

**Sleep apnea:** A sleep disorder characterized by pauses in breathing or shallow breathing during sleep, often leading to daytime sleepiness and fatigue.

**Sleep disorders:** A broad term that refers to various conditions that disrupt normal sleep patterns and can affect the quality and duration of sleep.

**Slipped disc:** A condition in which the soft cushion-like disc between the vertebrae of the spine protrudes or ruptures, causing pain and potential nerve compression.

**Small intestine:** A part of the digestive system that connects the stomach to the large intestine, where most of the digestion and absorption of nutrients from food takes place.

**Smoking cessation:** The process of quitting smoking or stopping the use of tobacco products.

**Social anxiety disorder:** A mental health condition characterized by an intense fear or anxiety in social situations, often leading to avoidance of such situations.

**Soft tissue:** Refers to the tissues in the body that are not part of the bony skeleton, such as muscles, tendons, ligaments, and connective tissues.

**Sonogram:** A diagnostic imaging technique that uses sound waves to create images of organs, tissues, or structures inside the body.

**Sore throat:** A condition characterized by pain, discomfort, or irritation in the throat, often caused by viral or bacterial infections.

**Spasms:** Involuntary and sudden muscle contractions or movements that can be temporary or recurrent.

**Spinal cord:** A bundle of nerves that extends from the base of the brain down the spine, transmitting signals between the brain and the rest of the body.

**Spinal fusion:** A surgical procedure that involves joining two or more vertebrae in the spine to provide stability, often used to treat conditions such as spinal instability or degenerative disc disease.

**Spinal stenosis:** A narrowing of the spinal canal, which can lead to compression of the spinal cord or nerves, causing pain, numbness, or weakness.

**Spinal tap:** A procedure in which a needle is inserted into the spinal canal to collect cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

**Spine:** The column of bones (vertebrae) that make up the central support structure of the body, protecting the spinal cord and providing flexibility and support for the body.

**Splenectomy:** Surgical removal of the spleen, an organ involved in filtering the blood and fighting infections.

**Splenomegaly:** Enlargement of the spleen, often due to underlying conditions such as infections, liver disease, or blood disorders.

**Spondylitis:** Inflammation of the vertebrae in the spine, often associated with conditions like ankylosing spondylitis or other forms of arthritis.

**Spondylolisthesis:** A condition in which one vertebra slips forward or backward in relation to the adjacent vertebrae, causing instability and potential nerve compression.

**Sprains:** Injuries to ligaments, the tough bands of tissue that connect bones to each other, often caused by sudden twisting or stretching.

**Squamous cell carcinoma:** A type of skin cancer that arises from the squamous cells, which are flat cells found in the outermost layer of the skin.

**Staph infection:** An infection caused by bacteria belonging to the *Staphylococcus* genus, often characterized by skin infections or more serious infections affecting other parts of the body.

**Stenosis:** Narrowing or constriction of a blood vessel or any tubular structure in the body, which can lead to reduced blood flow or other functional problems.

**Stent:** A small, expandable tube-like device that is inserted into a blood vessel, duct, or other hollow structure to keep it open and allow for proper flow.

**Sterilization:** A surgical or non-surgical procedure that permanently prevents an individual from reproducing by blocking or removing the reproductive organs or interrupting the reproductive process.

**Steroids:** Medications that resemble natural hormones produced by the body, often used for their anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive effects.

**Stethoscope:** A medical instrument used by healthcare professionals to listen to internal sounds of the body, such as heartbeats, lung sounds, or blood flow.

**Stoma:** An artificial opening surgically created on the body surface, typically for the purpose of diverting

waste or providing an alternative route for bodily fluids.

**Stomach:** An organ located in the upper abdomen that plays a key role in the digestion of food by secreting digestive juices and mixing food with stomach acid.

**Stomach flu:** A common term used to describe gastroenteritis, an inflammation of the stomach and intestines typically caused by viral or bacterial infections.

**Stool:** Solid waste matter that is passed out of the body during a bowel movement.

**Strabismus:** A visual disorder in which the eyes are misaligned and do not point in the same direction, commonly known as "crossed eyes" or "squint."

**Stress fractures:** Small cracks or breaks in bones that occur due to repetitive stress or overuse, often seen in athletes or individuals involved in high-impact activities.

**Stroke:** A medical emergency that occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted, leading to brain damage and potentially permanent neurological deficits.

**Subarachnoid hemorrhage:** Bleeding that occurs in the space between the brain and the thin tissues that cover it, often caused by the rupture of a blood vessel.

**Substance abuse:** The harmful or excessive use of drugs, alcohol, or other substances that can lead to physical and psychological dependence and negative consequences on a person's health and well-being.

**Sunburn:** Skin damage caused by excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun, resulting in redness, pain, and sometimes blistering or peeling of the skin.

**Suppository:** A solid medication that is inserted into the rectum or vagina, where it dissolves or melts to release the active ingredients for local or systemic effects.

**Supraventricular tachycardia (SVT):** A rapid heart rhythm that originates above the ventricles (lower chambers of the heart), leading to a fast and often irregular heartbeat.

**Surgical instruments:** Tools and equipment used by surgeons and other medical professionals during surgical procedures to cut, dissect, manipulate, and suture tissues.

**Suture:** A stitch or thread used to hold together the edges of a wound or incision during the healing process.

**Swollen glands:** Enlargement of lymph nodes, which are part of the immune system and can become swollen in response to infection, inflammation, or other medical conditions.

**Syphilis:** A sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*, which can cause a wide range of symptoms and potentially affect multiple organ systems if left untreated.

**Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE):** An autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks healthy tissues, leading to inflammation and damage in various organs and systems.

**Saccular aneurysm:** A localized bulge or outpouching in the wall of a blood vessel, typically occurring in weakened areas, such as the brain's arteries.

**Sacral region:** The lower part of the back, near the sacrum, which is a triangular bone at the base of the spine.

**Sacroiliac joint:** The joint that connects the sacrum (base of the spine) to the ilium (part of the pelvic bone), providing stability and transferring weight between the spine and the pelvis.

**Sacrum:** The triangular bone at the base of the spine, composed of fused vertebrae, that connects the spine to the pelvis.

**Salivary glands:** Glands in the mouth that produce saliva, which helps with digestion, lubrication, and protection of the oral tissues.

**Salpingostomy:** A surgical procedure that involves creating an opening in the fallopian tube to treat certain gynecological conditions or facilitate fertility treatments.

**Sarcomere:** The basic functional unit of a muscle fiber, responsible for muscle contraction and relaxation.

**Scalp:** The skin-covered area on the top of the head, including the hair and underlying tissues.

**Scarlet fever:** A bacterial infection caused by group A Streptococcus bacteria, characterized by a red rash, fever, sore throat, and swollen tonsils.

**Schistosomiasis:** A parasitic disease caused by infection with Schistosoma parasites, commonly found in freshwater in certain tropical and subtropical regions, which can cause organ damage and various symptoms.

**Sclera:** The tough, white outer layer of the eye that provides structural support and protection for the internal structures.

**Scoliotic curve:** An abnormal sideways curvature of the spine, often referred to as scoliosis, which can cause postural changes and potentially affect breathing and physical function.

**Scratch test:** A type of allergy test in which the skin is lightly scratched or pricked with potential allergens to determine if an allergic reaction occurs.

**Sclerosing cholangitis:** A condition characterized by inflammation and scarring of the bile ducts, which can lead to obstruction and impaired liver function.

**Sigmoid colon:** The S-shaped portion of the large intestine located between the descending colon and the rectum, where stool is stored before elimination.

**Sigmoidoscope:** A thin, flexible tube with a light and camera used to visualize and examine the sigmoid colon for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

**Signal transduction:** The process by which cells convert signals or stimuli from the environment into a cellular response, often involving a series of biochemical reactions and interactions.

**Sinus rhythm:** The normal electrical rhythm of the heart, characterized by regular and coordinated contractions of the atria and ventricles.

**Sinus tachycardia:** A faster-than-normal heart rate that originates from the sinus node (the heart's natural pacemaker), often in response to physical exertion, stress, or certain medical conditions.

**Skin cancer:** A type of cancer that originates in the skin cells, often associated with excessive sun exposure or other factors, and can manifest as abnormal growths, such as moles or lesions.

**Sleep cycle:** A recurring pattern of sleep stages that individuals go through during a night's sleep, typically consisting of multiple cycles including non-rapid eye movement (NREM) and rapid eye movement (REM) sleep.

**Sleep disorders clinic:** A specialized medical facility where healthcare professionals diagnose and treat various sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea, insomnia, or narcolepsy.

**Sleep latency:** The time it takes for an individual to fall asleep from the moment they lie down in bed, often used as a measure of sleep quality or efficiency.

**Sleep study:** A diagnostic test performed in a sleep laboratory or at home to monitor and evaluate a person's sleep patterns, breathing, brain activity, and other physiological parameters.

**Sleepwalking:** A sleep disorder characterized by episodes of walking or performing other complex behaviors while asleep, typically during non-rapid eye movement (NREM) sleep.

**Snellen chart:** A chart used to measure visual acuity, typically consisting of rows of letters or symbols that decrease in size, allowing the assessment of a person's ability to see at various distances.

**Somnambulism:** Another term for sleepwalking, a sleep disorder involving complex behaviors performed during sleep.

**Sperm:** The male reproductive cells, also known as spermatozoa, which are necessary for fertilization of the female egg and reproduction.

**Spermicide:** A substance or chemical agent used to immobilize or kill sperm, often used as a contraceptive method in combination with other barrier methods.

**Spirometer:** A medical device used to measure lung function and capacity by assessing the volume of inhaled and exhaled air during breathing.

**Spleen:** An organ located in the upper left part of the abdomen, involved in filtering and cleansing the blood, storing red blood cells, and supporting the immune system.

**Splenic flexure:** The sharp bend or curve in the colon located near the spleen, where the transverse colon transitions into the descending colon.

**Splenomegaly:** Enlargement of the spleen, which can occur due to various underlying conditions, such as infections, liver disease, or blood disorders.

**Splint:** A rigid or flexible device used to immobilize and support a body part, often applied to injured bones, joints, or muscles to promote healing and prevent further damage.

**Spondylolisthesis:** A condition where one vertebra slips forward or backward in relation to an adjacent vertebra, often causing lower back pain and potential nerve compression.

**Sporadic:** Referring to something that occurs irregularly or infrequently, without a predictable pattern.

**Sprain:** An injury to a ligament, which is the tissue that connects bones to each other, often caused by stretching or tearing due to sudden twisting or wrenching movements.

**Sputum:** Mucus or phlegm that is coughed up from the respiratory tract, often examined for diagnostic purposes to identify infections or other respiratory conditions.

**Staging:** The process of determining the extent or progression of a disease, such as cancer, based on factors like tumor size, lymph node involvement, and presence of metastasis, to guide treatment decisions.

**Stapedectomy:** A surgical procedure to remove and replace the stapes bone in the middle ear, often performed to improve hearing in cases of otosclerosis or other conditions affecting the ear.

**Stapes:** The smallest bone in the human body, located in the middle ear and involved in transmitting sound vibrations from the eardrum to the inner ear.

**Statin:** A type of medication commonly used to lower cholesterol levels in the blood, helping to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

**Stereotactic radiosurgery:** A non-invasive treatment technique that uses precisely targeted radiation to treat tumors and other abnormal growths in the brain or other parts of the body.

**Sterilization:** A medical procedure or method used to permanently prevent pregnancy or eliminate the ability to reproduce, often through surgical removal or blocking of the fallopian tubes (in females) or vas deferens (in males).

**Sternum:** Also known as the breastbone, the long, flat bone located in the center of the chest, to which the ribs are attached in front.

**Stethoscope:** A medical instrument consisting of a tube and a chest piece with a diaphragm or bell used by healthcare providers to listen to the internal sounds of the body, particularly the heart and lungs.

**Stimulant:** A substance or medication that increases activity or alertness in the body, often used to improve focus, attention, or wakefulness.

**Stoma:** An artificial opening created surgically on the body surface, such as on the abdomen, to divert the flow of urine or feces when normal routes of elimination are impaired.

**Stomachache:** Pain or discomfort in the stomach area, often caused by digestive issues, infections, or other underlying conditions.

**Strain:** An injury to a muscle or tendon, characterized by excessive stretching or tearing, often caused by overexertion or improper use of the muscles.

**Streptococcus:** A type of bacteria that can cause various infections, including strep throat, skin infections, and pneumonia, often transmitted through respiratory droplets or direct contact.

**Stress test:** A diagnostic test performed to evaluate the heart's response to physical exertion or stress, typically by exercising on a treadmill or using medication to simulate exercise, while monitoring heart rate, blood pressure, and electrical activity.

**Stridor:** A high-pitched, harsh breathing sound typically heard during inspiration, often caused by narrowing or obstruction of the air passages in the throat or upper respiratory tract.

**Stroke unit:** A specialized hospital unit or ward equipped to provide comprehensive care for individuals who have experienced a stroke, including medical management, rehabilitation, and monitoring.

**Subcutaneous:** Referring to the layer of tissue located just beneath the skin, often used to describe injections or medications administered into this layer.

**Subdural hematoma:** A type of bleeding that occurs between the brain and its outermost protective

membrane, often caused by head trauma, with symptoms ranging from mild to life-threatening.

**Subluxation:** A partial or incomplete dislocation of a joint, where the joint surfaces are misaligned but not completely separated.

**Submucosa:** The layer of tissue located beneath the mucous membrane lining of various organs, providing support and containing blood vessels, nerves, and other structures.

**Subtotal colectomy:** A surgical procedure to remove a large portion of the colon, typically leaving a small portion intact, often performed to treat conditions such as colon cancer, ulcerative colitis, or Crohn's disease.

**Subungual hematoma:** A collection of blood that forms beneath the nail bed, often caused by trauma or injury to the fingers or toes.

**Sudoriferous glands:** Sweat glands located in the skin that produce and release sweat, helping regulate body temperature and eliminate waste products.

**Superficial:** Referring to something that is located near or on the surface, rather than deep within the body or a structure.

**Superinfection:** An additional infection that occurs during the course of an existing infection, often caused by a different or resistant microorganism.

**Supine:** A body position where the person lies flat on their back, facing upward.

**Suppository:** A solid medication that is inserted into the rectum, vagina, or urethra, where it dissolves and releases the active ingredients.

**Supraventricular:** Referring to a condition or rhythm originating above the ventricles of the heart, often related to abnormal electrical activity in the atria.

**Suture:** A stitch or thread used to sew together body tissues or close wounds during surgical procedures or to promote healing.

**Swab:** A small piece of absorbent material, such as cotton or a synthetic swab, used to collect samples from body surfaces or wounds for diagnostic testing or microbiological analysis.

**Swelling:** Abnormal enlargement or increased fluid accumulation in a body part, often characterized by puffiness, tightness, or an increased size.

**Sympathetic nervous system:** One of the two main divisions of the autonomic nervous system, responsible for activating the body's "fight or flight" response and regulating various involuntary functions.

**Symptom:** A subjective indication or manifestation of a disease or condition experienced by the individual, such as pain, fatigue, or coughing.

**Syndrome:** A collection of signs, symptoms, and characteristics that occur together and often represent a specific disease or condition.

**Synovial fluid:** A clear, lubricating fluid found in the joints, bursae, and tendon sheaths, serving to reduce friction, nourish cartilage, and facilitate smooth movement.

**Synovial joints:** Joints characterized by the presence of a synovial cavity, where two bones are separated by a fluid-filled space, allowing for free movement, such as the knee or shoulder joint.

**Synovitis:** Inflammation of the synovial membrane, which lines the joints, resulting in pain, swelling, and stiffness.

**Syphilis:** A sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*, characterized by stages and a wide range of symptoms that can affect various organs and systems.

**Syringe:** A medical device consisting of a hollow barrel and a plunger used to inject or withdraw fluids, medications, or samples from the body.

**Systemic:** Relating to or affecting the entire body or multiple body systems, rather than being localized to a specific area.

**Systole:** The phase of the cardiac cycle when the heart muscle contracts, pumping blood into the arteries.

**Systolic blood pressure:** The higher of the two values measured during blood pressure assessment, representing the pressure in the arteries when the heart is contracting or in systole.



# CHAPTER TWENTY: T TERMS

**Tachycardia:** A condition characterized by a rapid heart rate, usually exceeding the normal range for your age and physical condition.

**Tachypnea:** Rapid breathing or an abnormally fast respiratory rate, often seen in situations such as anxiety, fever, or physical exertion.

**Tamponade:** A medical emergency where excessive fluid or blood collects in the sac around the heart, putting pressure on the heart and interfering with its normal function.

**Tarsorrhaphy:** A surgical procedure in which the eyelids are partially sewn together to protect the cornea and promote healing, often done in cases of severe eye injury or certain eye conditions.

**Tendinitis:** Inflammation or irritation of a tendon, usually caused by overuse, repetitive motions, or injury.

**Tenosynovitis:** Inflammation of the lining of the sheath that surrounds a tendon, often leading to pain, swelling, and difficulty moving the affected joint.

**Teratogen:** Any substance or factor that can cause abnormal development or birth defects in a fetus when exposed to it during pregnancy, such as certain medications or chemicals.

**Teratoma:** A type of tumor that contains different types of tissues, such as hair, teeth, or bone. It can develop in various parts of the body, including the ovaries or testes.

**Testicular cancer:** Cancer that starts in the testicles, the male reproductive organs responsible for producing sperm and testosterone.

**Testicular torsion:** A painful condition that occurs when a testicle twists, cutting off its blood supply. It requires immediate medical attention to prevent permanent damage.

**Tetanus:** A bacterial infection caused by the bacterium *Clostridium tetani*, which can enter the body through a wound or cut. It leads to muscle stiffness and spasms.

**Thalassemia:** An inherited blood disorder characterized by abnormal production of hemoglobin, leading to anemia and potential complications.

**Thrombectomy:** A procedure to remove a blood clot (thrombus) from a blood vessel, often done to restore blood flow and prevent further complications.

**Thrombocytopenia:** A condition characterized by a low platelet count in the blood, which can lead to increased bleeding and difficulty in clotting.

**Thromboembolism:** The obstruction of a blood vessel by a blood clot that has traveled from its original site of formation to a different location in the body.

**Thrombophilia:** A tendency to develop blood clots due to abnormal blood clotting factors or other genetic or acquired factors.

**Thrombosis:** The formation of a blood clot within a blood vessel, which can obstruct blood flow and potentially cause serious complications.

**Thyroid:** A butterfly-shaped gland located in the neck that produces hormones involved in regulating metabolism, growth, and development in the body.

**Thyroidectomy:** Surgical removal of all or part of the thyroid gland, often performed to treat thyroid disorders or thyroid cancer.

**Thyroiditis:** Inflammation of the thyroid gland, which can be caused by various factors and lead to thyroid dysfunction.

**Tinea:** A fungal infection of the skin, hair, or nails, often characterized by itching, redness, and the presence of a rash or scaling.

**Tinnitus:** The perception of sound in the ears or head, such as ringing, buzzing, or hissing, without any external source of sound.

**Tonsillitis:** Inflammation of the tonsils, usually caused by a viral or bacterial infection, resulting in a sore throat, difficulty swallowing, and swollen tonsils.

**Tonsillectomy:** Surgical removal of the tonsils, often performed to treat chronic or recurrent tonsillitis or sleep-related breathing disorders.

**Torticollis:** A condition characterized by the abnormal positioning or tightness of the neck muscles, causing the head to tilt to one side.

**Total parenteral nutrition (TPN):** A method of delivering nutrition directly into the bloodstream through a vein when a person is unable to eat or digest food normally.

**Tourette syndrome:** A neurological disorder characterized by repetitive, involuntary movements and vocalizations called tics.

**Toxicology:** The study of how toxins or poisons affect the body, including their mechanisms of action, effects, and treatment.

**Toxoplasmosis:** An infection caused by the *Toxoplasma gondii* parasite, commonly found in cat feces and raw or undercooked meat. It can cause flu-like symptoms or serious complications, especially in individuals with weakened immune systems or during pregnancy.

**Trachea:** Also known as the windpipe, the trachea is a tube-like structure in the throat that connects the larynx (voice box) to the bronchi, allowing air to pass in and out of the lungs during breathing.

**Tracheostomy:** A surgical procedure where a small opening, called a stoma, is created in the front of the neck to provide an alternate airway. It is often done when a person has difficulty breathing through the nose or mouth.

**Transfusion:** The process of transferring blood or blood components from a donor into a recipient's bloodstream, typically done to replace blood loss, increase blood cell count, or provide specific substances like antibodies.

**Transient ischemic attack (TIA):** Also known as a "mini-stroke," a TIA is a temporary disruption of blood flow to a part of the brain, usually lasting a few minutes. It may cause similar symptoms to a stroke but does not result in permanent brain damage.

**Transplantation:** The surgical procedure of replacing a damaged or non-functioning organ or tissue with

a healthy organ or tissue from a donor. It is often done to treat end-stage organ failure.

**Trauma:** Physical or psychological injury or damage to the body caused by an external force, such as accidents, falls, violence, or emotional distress.

**Tremor:** Involuntary shaking or rhythmic movements of a part of the body, often affecting the hands, arms, or legs. It can be caused by various conditions, including neurological disorders.

**Trichomoniasis:** A sexually transmitted infection caused by the parasite *Trichomonas vaginalis*. It commonly affects the urogenital tract in both males and females, leading to symptoms such as itching, burning, and abnormal discharge.

**Trichotillomania:** A mental health disorder characterized by an irresistible urge to pull out one's own hair, resulting in noticeable hair loss and potential distress or impairment.

**Tricuspid valve:** One of the heart's four valves located between the right atrium and the right ventricle. It prevents blood from flowing back into the atrium when the ventricle contracts.

**Trigeminal neuralgia:** A chronic condition characterized by sudden, severe facial pain due to irritation or damage to the trigeminal nerve, which is responsible for transmitting sensations from the face to the brain.

**Trigger point:** A sensitive area or knot in a muscle that can cause pain and discomfort when pressure is applied. Trigger points are often associated with muscle tension or injury.

**Tubal ligation:** A permanent surgical procedure commonly known as "having one's tubes tied." It involves blocking or sealing the fallopian tubes to prevent pregnancy.

**Tuberculosis (TB):** An infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It primarily affects the lungs but can also affect other parts of the body. Symptoms may include persistent cough, weight loss, and fatigue.

**Tumor:** An abnormal growth of cells that can be benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous). Tumors may occur in various organs or tissues and can disrupt normal body functions.

**Tympanic membrane:** Also known as the eardrum, it is a thin membrane that separates the outer ear from the middle ear. It plays a crucial role in transmitting sound vibrations to the inner ear.

**Tympanoplasty:** A surgical procedure to repair a perforated or damaged eardrum. It involves grafting a small piece of tissue onto the eardrum to restore its structure and function.

**Typhoid fever:** A bacterial infection caused by *Salmonella typhi*, primarily transmitted through contaminated food or water. It leads to symptoms such as high fever, abdominal pain, and gastrointestinal issues.

**Typhus:** A group of infectious diseases caused by different species of bacteria, including epidemic typhus and scrub typhus. They are typically transmitted by fleas, lice, or mites and can cause high fever, rash, and other systemic symptoms.

# CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE: U TERMS

**Ulcer:** An open sore or wound on the skin or mucous membranes that doesn't heal easily and may be painful.

**Ulcerative balanitis:** Inflammation and sores on the head of the penis, typically caused by an infection or irritation.

**Ulcerative blepharitis:** Inflammation and ulceration of the eyelid, leading to redness, swelling, and crusting of the eyelid margins.

**Ulcerative colitis:** A chronic condition characterized by inflammation and ulcers in the lining of the colon and rectum, causing abdominal pain, diarrhea, and blood in the stool.

**Ulcerative esophagitis:** Inflammation and ulceration of the lining of the esophagus, often caused by stomach acid flowing back into the esophagus (acid reflux), resulting in heartburn and difficulty swallowing.

**Ulcerative gingivitis:** Inflammation and ulceration of the gums, leading to gum bleeding, swelling, and discomfort.

**Ulcerative keratitis:** Inflammation and ulceration of the cornea, the clear front surface of the eye, usually caused by an infection or injury, resulting in eye redness, pain, and blurred vision.

**Ulcerative proctitis:** Inflammation and ulcers in the rectum, causing rectal pain, bleeding, and frequent bowel movements.

**Ulcerative skin lesions:** Sores or wounds on the skin that have developed due to underlying inflammation or infection.

**Ulcerative vulvitis:** Inflammation and ulceration of the vulva, the external female genital area, resulting in redness, swelling, itching, and pain.

**Ulna:** One of the two long bones in the forearm, located on the inner side (pinky finger side) of the arm.

**Ulnar artery:** An artery that supplies blood to the forearm and hand, running along the inner side of the forearm.

**Ulnar artery occlusion:** Blockage or narrowing of the ulnar artery, which can reduce blood flow to the forearm and hand.

**Ulnar artery occlusive disease:** A condition characterized by the narrowing or blockage of the ulnar artery, often caused by the buildup of plaque or blood clots.

**Ulnar claw deformity:** A hand deformity where the fingers bend excessively at the middle and end joints, resembling a claw-like appearance.

**Ulnar claw hand:** A hand deformity characterized by a claw-like appearance due to excessive bending of the fingers at the middle and end joints.

**Ulnar collateral ligament:** A ligament in the elbow joint that provides stability and prevents excessive sideways movement.

**Ulnar collateral ligament injury:** Damage or tear to the ulnar collateral ligament, usually caused by repetitive stress or trauma to the elbow joint.

**Ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction:** Surgical repair or replacement of the damaged ulnar collateral ligament using tissue grafts.

**Ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction surgery:** A surgical procedure to repair or reconstruct the ulnar collateral ligament in the elbow joint.

**Ulnar collateral ligament tear:** A partial or complete tear of the ulnar collateral ligament in the elbow joint, often resulting from a sudden injury or overuse.

**Ulnar deviation:** Abnormal sideways or outward bending of the wrist, causing the hand to deviate towards the ulna side (pinky finger side).

**Ulnar drift:** Progressive displacement of the fingers towards the ulnar side of the hand, typically seen in conditions like rheumatoid arthritis.

**Ulnar drift deformity:** A condition in which the fingers gradually shift towards the ulnar side (pinky finger side) of the hand, often seen in conditions like rheumatoid arthritis.

**Ulnar impaction:** A condition where the ulnar bone (one of the forearm bones) presses against the wrist bones, causing pain and limited movement.

**Ulnar impaction syndrome:** A condition characterized by chronic wrist pain and dysfunction caused by repetitive ulnar impaction and resulting in damage to the cartilage and bones of the wrist.

**Ulnar nerve:** A nerve that runs from the neck down the arm and provides sensation to the little finger, half of the ring finger, and controls certain muscles in the hand.

**Ulnar nerve compression:** Compression or pinching of the ulnar nerve, often resulting in symptoms such as numbness, tingling, and weakness in the hand and fingers.

**Ulnar nerve decompression:** A surgical procedure to relieve pressure or remove any obstructions on the ulnar nerve, reducing symptoms of nerve compression.

**Ulnar nerve entrapment:** Entrapment or compression of the ulnar nerve at any point along its path, causing pain, numbness, and weakness in the hand and fingers.

**Ulnar nerve entrapment at the wrist:** Compression or pinching of the ulnar nerve specifically at the wrist, leading to symptoms such as tingling, numbness, and weakness in the hand and fingers.

**Ulnar nerve palsy:** Weakness or paralysis of the muscles controlled by the ulnar nerve, resulting in difficulty with finger and hand movements.

**Ulnar nerve subluxation:** A condition in which the ulnar nerve moves out of its normal position, usually due to an injury or anatomical abnormalities, causing symptoms like snapping or popping sensations and pain.

**Ulnar neuropathy:** Damage or dysfunction of the ulnar nerve, leading to symptoms such as numbness, tingling, and weakness in the hand and fingers.

**Ulnar neuropathy at the elbow:** Damage or compression of the ulnar nerve at the elbow, resulting in symptoms such as tingling, numbness, and weakness in the hand and fingers.

**Ulnar side wrist pain:** Pain experienced on the ulnar (pinky finger) side of the wrist, often associated with conditions like ulnar impaction or ulnar neuropathy.

**Ulnar-sided wrist pain:** Pain occurring on the side of the wrist where the ulna bone is located, often caused by injuries or conditions affecting the ulnar structures.

**Ulnar-sided wrist pathology:** Any abnormal condition or injury affecting the structures on the ulnar side of the wrist, leading to pain, inflammation, and functional limitations.

**Ulnar styloid fracture:** A fracture or break in the ulnar styloid process, a bony projection on the pinky side of the wrist, usually caused by a traumatic injury.

**Ulnar styloid impaction syndrome:** A condition in which the ulnar styloid process repeatedly impacts or rubs against the carpal bones in the wrist, resulting in pain and restricted movement.

**Ulnar styloid impingement:** Compression or impingement of the ulnar styloid process against other wrist structures, causing pain and discomfort.

**Ulnar styloid impingement syndrome:** A condition characterized by chronic pain and inflammation caused by repeated impingement of the ulnar styloid process against nearby structures in the wrist.

**Ulnar tunnel syndrome:** Compression or entrapment of the ulnar nerve as it passes through the tunnel formed by the ulnar collateral ligament, resulting in symptoms like numbness, tingling, and weakness in the hand and fingers.

**Ulnocarpal impaction:** A condition where the ulnar bone excessively impacts or presses against the carpal bones in the wrist, leading to pain, swelling, and limited mobility.

**Ultrasonographic examination:** A medical imaging technique that uses high-frequency sound waves to create real-time images of internal body structures, allowing for the evaluation of various conditions.

**Ultrasound:** A non-invasive imaging technique that uses sound waves to generate images of internal body structures, commonly used to examine organs, blood vessels, and developing fetuses.

**Ultrasound elastography:** A specialized ultrasound technique that assesses the stiffness or elasticity of tissues, helping to diagnose conditions such as liver fibrosis or breast abnormalities.

**Ultrasound gel:** A gel-like substance applied to the skin before ultrasound imaging to improve contact between the skin and the ultrasound probe, enabling better transmission of sound waves.

**Ultrasound-guided aspiration:** A procedure in which a thin needle is inserted into a specific area of the body under the guidance of ultrasound imaging to remove fluid or obtain a sample for testing or analysis.

**Ultrasound-guided biopsy:** A procedure in which a small sample of tissue is taken from a specific area of the body using a needle guided by ultrasound imaging, usually to determine the presence of abnormal cells or diagnose a condition.

**Ultrasound-guided injection:** A procedure in which medication or other substances are injected into a targeted area of the body under the guidance of ultrasound imaging to provide pain relief, deliver treatment, or obtain diagnostic information.

**Ultrasound imaging:** The use of high-frequency sound waves to create images of internal body structures in real time, allowing healthcare providers to visualize organs, tissues, and abnormalities.

**Ultrasound probe:** A handheld device that emits and receives sound waves during an ultrasound examination, allowing healthcare providers to capture images of the body's internal structures.

**Ultrasound scan:** The process of performing an ultrasound examination, which involves moving the ultrasound probe over the skin to capture images of specific areas of the body for diagnostic purposes.

**Ultrasound technician:** A trained healthcare professional who specializes in performing ultrasound examinations and operating the ultrasound equipment to capture images and assist with diagnosis.

**Ultrasonography:** The use of ultrasound technology to create images of internal body structures, providing valuable diagnostic information in various medical fields.

**Umbilical cord:** A flexible cord-like structure that connects a developing fetus to the placenta in the womb, providing oxygen, nutrients, and waste removal between the fetus and the mother.

**Umbilical hernia:** A condition in which a section of intestine or fatty tissue protrudes through a weak spot in the abdominal muscles near the belly button (umbilicus), causing a visible bulge.

**Umbilicus:** Commonly known as the belly button, it is the scar left behind after the umbilical cord is cut and detached from a newborn, marking the site where nutrients and oxygen were transferred during fetal development.

**Undescended testicles:** A condition in which one or both testicles fail to descend from the abdomen into the scrotum during fetal development, requiring medical attention to prevent complications.

**Underlying:** Referring to a hidden or fundamental cause, condition, or factor that is not immediately apparent but influences or contributes to the observed symptoms or outcomes.

**Unconscious:** A state of being unaware and unable to respond to external stimuli, often resulting from a loss of consciousness due to anesthesia, trauma, or medical conditions.

**Unilateral:** Relating to or affecting only one side or part of the body or occurring on one side of a dividing line or structure.

**Unilateral hearing impairment:** A condition characterized by hearing loss in one ear, affecting the ability to hear sounds clearly and accurately from one side.

**Unilateral hearing loss:** The partial or complete loss of hearing in one ear, potentially leading to difficulties in understanding speech, localizing sounds, and perceiving auditory cues.

**Unilateral neglect:** A condition in which an individual ignores or fails to acknowledge one side of their body or surrounding space, often associated with brain injuries or neurological conditions.

**Unmyelinated fibers:** Nerve fibers in the body that lack a protective covering called myelin, responsible for transmitting signals more slowly compared to myelinated fibers.

**Unstable angina:** A type of chest pain or discomfort that occurs unpredictably, usually during physical exertion or emotional stress, and indicates a higher risk of a heart attack.

**Unstable angina pectoris:** A form of chest pain or discomfort caused by reduced blood flow to the heart, typically occurring at rest or with minimal exertion and signaling an increased risk of a heart attack.

**Unstable fracture:** A bone fracture in which the broken ends of the bone are not aligned or firmly

positioned, making the fracture less stable and requiring medical intervention for proper healing.

**Upper endoscopy:** A procedure in which a thin, flexible tube with a light and camera (endoscope) is inserted through the mouth to examine the upper digestive tract, including the esophagus, stomach, and small intestine.

**Upper extremity amputation:** The surgical removal of all or part of an arm, forearm, or hand, usually due to trauma, disease, or congenital abnormalities.

**Upper extremity dysfunction:** Impaired function or limitations in movement, strength, or coordination of the arm, forearm, or hand, affecting daily activities and quality of life.

**Upper gastrointestinal (GI) series:** A diagnostic test that involves drinking a contrast material and undergoing X-rays to visualize the esophagus, stomach, and first part of the small intestine, allowing for the evaluation of digestive disorders.

**Upper limb:** Referring to the upper extremities or appendages of the body, including the arms, forearms, wrists, and hands.

**Upper motor neuron:** Nerve cells located in the brain or spinal cord that are responsible for transmitting signals from the brain to the lower motor neurons, which in turn control muscle movement.

**Upper motor neuron lesion:** Damage or injury to the upper motor neurons, often resulting in motor dysfunction and changes in muscle tone and reflexes.

**Upper motor neuron signs:** Physical signs or symptoms associated with damage or dysfunction of the upper motor neurons, such as muscle weakness, spasticity (increased muscle stiffness), and abnormal reflexes.

**Upper motor neuron syndrome:** A collection of symptoms caused by damage or dysfunction of the upper motor neurons, including muscle weakness, increased muscle tone, and abnormal reflexes.

**Upper respiratory infection:** A common infection affecting the nose, throat, and airways, typically caused by viruses, and characterized by symptoms such as cough, nasal congestion, sore throat, and sneezing.

**Upper respiratory tract infection:** An infection that primarily affects the upper respiratory tract, including the nose, throat, and sinuses, often resulting in symptoms such as congestion, runny nose, sore throat, and cough.

**Upright:** Being in an erect or vertical position, typically referring to standing or sitting with a straight posture.

**Ureter:** A narrow tube that carries urine from the kidneys to the urinary bladder, allowing the transport of waste products for elimination from the body.

**Ureteral catheter:** A thin, flexible tube inserted into the ureter to allow drainage of urine from the kidney to the bladder, typically used in medical procedures or to relieve urinary obstruction.

**Ureteral dilation:** The widening or expansion of the ureter, often done using specialized instruments or medical procedures to treat ureteral strictures or obstructions.

**Ureteral injury:** Damage or trauma to the ureter, which may occur due to accidents, surgical procedures,



or certain medical conditions, leading to complications in the urinary system.

**Ureteral obstruction:** A blockage or partial blockage of the ureter, preventing or limiting the normal flow of urine from the kidneys to the bladder.

**Ureteral reimplantation:** A surgical procedure in which the ureter is repositioned and attached to the bladder in cases of ureteral obstruction, reflux, or other abnormalities to restore normal urine flow.

**Ureteral stent:** A thin, hollow tube inserted into the ureter to help maintain its patency, allowing urine to flow from the kidney to the bladder and bypassing any obstructions or strictures.

**Ureteral stricture:** Narrowing or constriction of the ureter, which can impede the flow of urine and lead to urinary problems and potential complications.

**Ureteral stricture disease:** A condition characterized by the presence of ureteral strictures, which may cause urinary obstruction and require medical intervention or surgical treatment.

**Ureteral syndrome:** A collection of symptoms and complications associated with ureteral disorders, such as pain, urinary obstruction, urinary tract infections, and abnormal urine flow.

**Ureterolithiasis:** The formation of stones (calculi) within the ureter, which can cause pain, urinary obstruction, and other symptoms.

**Urethra:** A tube-like structure that carries urine from the bladder to the outside of the body, allowing for the elimination of waste fluids.

**Urethral catheterization:** The insertion of a thin tube (catheter) through the urethra into the bladder to drain urine or deliver medications, often performed in medical settings.

**Urethral dilation:** The process of widening or stretching the urethra using specialized instruments or procedures, often done to treat urethral strictures or other urinary conditions.

**Urethral diverticulum:** A pouch or sac-like structure that forms in the urethra, typically resulting from an abnormality in the urethral wall, which can cause urinary symptoms and complications.

**Urethral stricture:** Narrowing or constriction of the urethra, which can impede the flow of urine and lead to urinary difficulties and potential complications.

**Urethral stricture disease:** A condition characterized by the presence of urethral strictures, which may cause urinary obstruction and require medical intervention or surgical treatment.

**Urethral syndrome:** A collection of symptoms related to the urethra, including pain or discomfort during urination, frequent urination, and urinary urgency, without evidence of urinary tract infection.

**Urethritis:** Inflammation or infection of the urethra, often caused by bacteria or viruses, resulting in symptoms such as pain or burning during urination and increased urinary frequency.

**Uric acid:** A waste product produced during the breakdown of purines, which can accumulate in the body and lead to conditions such as gout or kidney stones.

**Uric acid crystals:** Solid deposits of uric acid that can form within joints, tissues, or the urinary system, contributing to the development of gout or kidney stone formation.

**Urinalysis:** A laboratory test that examines the physical, chemical, and microscopic properties of urine,

providing information about kidney function, urinary tract infections, and other urinary conditions.

**Urinary bladder:** A muscular organ located in the lower abdomen that stores urine until it is eliminated from the body through the urethra.

**Urinary catheter:** A flexible tube inserted into the bladder through the urethra to drain urine, often used in medical settings when normal urine flow is obstructed or for certain medical procedures.

**Urinary incontinence:** The inability to control urination voluntarily, leading to unintentional urine leakage, which can occur due to various factors such as weakened muscles, nerve damage, or certain medical conditions.

**Urinary retention:** A condition characterized by the inability to completely empty the bladder, resulting in a persistent feeling of needing to urinate and potential urinary discomfort.

**Urinary tract:** The organs and structures involved in the production, storage, and elimination of urine, including the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra.

**Urinary tract infection (UTI):** An infection that affects any part of the urinary tract, typically caused by bacteria, and characterized by symptoms such as frequent urination, burning sensation during urination, and lower abdominal pain.

**Urine:** The liquid waste product excreted by the kidneys, consisting of water, dissolved substances, and metabolic waste products.

**Urodynamic testing:** Diagnostic tests that evaluate the function and efficiency of the urinary system, often involving measuring bladder pressure, urine flow rate, and other parameters to assess urinary function and identify abnormalities.

**Uroflowmetry:** A non-invasive test that measures the volume and flow rate of urine during voiding to assess urinary function and detect any abnormalities in urine flow.

**Urologist:** A medical specialist who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and conditions related to the urinary tract and male reproductive system.

**Urology:** The medical specialty focused on the study, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases and conditions affecting the urinary tract and male reproductive system.

**Urothelial carcinoma:** A type of cancer that develops in the lining of the urinary tract, including the bladder, ureters, and renal pelvis.

**Urticaria:** Also known as hives, urticaria is a skin condition characterized by raised, itchy, and often reddened areas on the skin, caused by an allergic reaction or other triggers.

**Urticarial vasculitis:** A rare condition characterized by recurrent episodes of urticaria accompanied by inflammation of the blood vessels, resulting in more persistent and painful skin lesions.

**Uterine adhesions:** Abnormal bands of scar tissue that form within the uterus, often as a result of previous surgery or infection, leading to infertility or menstrual problems.

**Uterine artery embolization:** A minimally invasive procedure in which small particles are injected into the uterine arteries to block blood flow, often performed to treat uterine fibroids or control uterine bleeding.

**Uterine artery embolization procedure:** The medical procedure of uterine artery embolization, which involves blocking the blood supply to the uterus to treat specific conditions such as uterine fibroids.

**Uterine contractions:** The rhythmic tightening and relaxation of the muscles of the uterus, which play a crucial role in various reproductive processes such as menstruation, childbirth, and breastfeeding.

**Uterine fibroids:** Benign tumors that develop in the muscular wall of the uterus, often causing symptoms such as heavy menstrual bleeding, pelvic pain, and reproductive difficulties.

**Uterine perforation:** A rare but potential complication in which a hole or tear occurs in the wall of the uterus, often during certain medical procedures or surgeries.

**Uterine polyps:** Abnormal growths or small tumors that develop in the inner lining of the uterus (endometrium), which can cause irregular bleeding, infertility, or other symptoms.

**Uterine prolapse:** A condition characterized by the descent or sagging of the uterus into the vaginal canal or beyond, often causing pelvic discomfort, urinary problems, and other symptoms.

**Uterine prolapse surgery:** Surgical procedures performed to correct uterine prolapse, typically involving the repair, suspension, or removal of the prolapsed uterus to restore its normal position and function.

**Uveitis:** Inflammation of the uvea, the middle layer of the eye that contains the iris, ciliary body, and choroid, leading to symptoms such as eye redness, pain, and decreased vision.

**Uvula:** The small, fleshy, bell-shaped structure located at the back of the throat, hanging from the soft palate, which plays a role in speech and helps prevent food and liquid from entering the nasal cavity during swallowing.

**Uvulitis:** Inflammation or swelling of the uvula, often resulting in symptoms such as a sore throat, difficulty swallowing, and snoring.

**Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty:** A surgical procedure performed to treat certain cases of obstructive sleep apnea, involving the removal or modification of excess tissues in the throat, including the uvula, soft palate, and pharynx.

**Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty surgery:** The medical procedure of uvulopalatopharyngoplasty, which aims to alleviate obstructive sleep apnea by removing or altering tissues in the throat to improve airflow during sleep.

# CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO: V TERMS

**Vaginal atrophy:** The thinning, drying, and inflammation of the vaginal walls, often caused by decreased estrogen levels, commonly occurring during menopause.

**Vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC):** A delivery method in which a woman who previously had a cesarean section gives birth vaginally for a subsequent pregnancy.

**Vaginal candidiasis:** A common fungal infection, also known as a yeast infection, that affects the vagina, causing itching, discharge, and discomfort.

**Vaginal delivery:** The natural process of giving birth through the vagina, as opposed to a cesarean section.

**Vaginal discharge:** The fluid secreted by the vagina, which can vary in color and consistency depending on hormonal changes, menstrual cycle, or presence of infection.

**Vaginal dryness:** A condition characterized by a lack of moisture in the vagina, often associated with hormonal changes, menopause, or certain medications.

**Vaginal fistula:** An abnormal passage or connection between the vagina and another organ or structure, such as the bladder or rectum, leading to unwanted leakage.

**Vaginal hysterectomy:** A surgical procedure to remove the uterus through the vagina, typically performed to treat various uterine conditions.

**Vaginal itching:** An uncomfortable sensation or urge to scratch in the vaginal area, often caused by irritants, infections, or allergies.

**Vaginal odor:** Unpleasant smell originating from the vagina, which can be caused by hormonal changes, poor hygiene, infections, or other underlying conditions.

**Vaginal pain:** Discomfort or soreness experienced in the vaginal area, which can be caused by infections, inflammation, trauma, or other conditions.

**Vaginal prolapse:** A condition where the pelvic organs, such as the uterus, bladder, or rectum, protrude into or outside the vagina due to weakened pelvic floor muscles.

**Vaginal rejuvenation:** A collective term for various cosmetic or therapeutic procedures aimed at enhancing the appearance or function of the vagina.

**Vaginal stenosis:** Abnormal narrowing or constriction of the vaginal opening or canal, often resulting from scarring or surgical interventions.

**Vaginal swelling:** Enlargement or puffiness of the vaginal area, which can be caused by infections, inflammation, trauma, or other factors.

**Vaginal thrush:** Another term for vaginal candidiasis or a yeast infection, characterized by itching, discharge, and discomfort caused by the overgrowth of yeast in the vagina.

**Vaginismus:** Involuntary contraction or tightening of the muscles around the vagina, leading to pain, discomfort, and difficulty with penetration.

**Vaginitis:** Inflammation or infection of the vagina, often resulting in symptoms such as itching, discharge, odor, and discomfort.

**Vaginoplasty:** Surgical reconstruction or tightening of the vagina, usually performed for cosmetic or functional purposes.

**Vagus nerve:** A cranial nerve that runs from the brain to various organs in the body, playing a role in regulating heart rate, digestion, and other bodily functions.

**Valve replacement surgery:** A surgical procedure to replace a damaged or diseased heart valve with a prosthetic valve to restore normal blood flow.

**Valvular heart disease:** Conditions that affect the heart valves, causing them to malfunction or become damaged, leading to impaired blood flow and heart function.

**Varicella (Chickenpox):** A highly contagious viral infection characterized by itchy blisters on the skin, caused by the varicella-zoster virus.

**Varicocele:** Enlargement of the veins within the scrotum, which can cause pain, discomfort, and fertility issues in males.

**Varicose veins:** Swollen and twisted veins that commonly occur in the legs due to weakened vein walls and valves, resulting in poor blood circulation.

**Vas deferens:** A duct that carries sperm from the testes to the urethra, playing a crucial role in the reproductive system.

**Vasectomy:** A surgical procedure for male contraception that involves cutting or sealing the vas deferens to prevent sperm from reaching the semen.

**Vascular dementia:** A type of dementia caused by reduced blood flow to the brain, resulting in memory loss, cognitive decline, and difficulties with daily functioning.

**Vascular disease:** Conditions that affect the blood vessels, including arteries, veins, and capillaries, potentially leading to restricted blood flow, organ damage, or other complications.

**Vascular surgeon:** A medical specialist who diagnoses and treats diseases and disorders related to blood vessels through surgical interventions.

**Vasculitis:** Inflammation of the blood vessels, which can lead to restricted blood flow, tissue damage, and a range of symptoms depending on the affected vessels.

**Vasodilation:** The widening or relaxation of blood vessels, allowing for increased blood flow and improved circulation in the body.

**Vasospasm:** Sudden and temporary constriction or narrowing of blood vessels, disrupting normal blood flow and potentially causing pain or other symptoms.

**Vein:** Blood vessels that carry oxygen-depleted blood back to the heart from various parts of the body, usually characterized by their bluish color.

**Venipuncture:** The process of puncturing a vein, typically with a needle, to collect a blood sample or administer medications or fluids.

**Venous insufficiency:** A condition where the veins in the legs have difficulty returning blood back to the heart, resulting in poor circulation and symptoms such as leg swelling, pain, and skin changes.

**Ventilation:** The process of supplying air or oxygen to the lungs and removing carbon dioxide from the body, either through natural breathing or mechanical means such as a ventilator.

**Ventricular fibrillation:** A life-threatening heart rhythm disorder characterized by rapid and chaotic contractions of the ventricles, leading to inadequate blood flow and cardiac arrest.

**Ventricular tachycardia:** A rapid heart rhythm originating from the ventricles, causing a fast and irregular heartbeat that can be potentially dangerous and require medical intervention.

**Ventriculoperitoneal shunt:** A surgical procedure where a tube is placed to drain excess cerebrospinal fluid from the ventricles of the brain into the abdominal cavity, used to treat hydrocephalus.

**Vertebra:** Any of the individual bones that make up the spinal column, providing support and protection to the spinal cord.

**Vertebroplasty:** A minimally invasive procedure in which medical-grade cement is injected into fractured or damaged vertebrae to stabilize the spine and relieve pain.

**Vertical transmission:** The transmission of an infectious agent from a mother to her baby during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding.

**Vertigo:** A sensation of dizziness or spinning, often associated with a problem in the inner ear, causing a disturbance in balance and coordination.

**Vesicoureteral reflux:** A condition where urine flows backward from the bladder into the ureters and potentially reaches the kidneys, increasing the risk of urinary tract infections and kidney damage.

**Vesicovaginal fistula:** An abnormal connection or passage between the urinary bladder and the vagina, leading to urinary leakage and potential infection.

**Viral gastroenteritis:** An infection of the digestive system, commonly known as the stomach flu, caused by a viral pathogen and characterized by symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.

**Viral hepatitis:** Inflammation of the liver caused by a viral infection, with hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E viruses being the most common causes.

**Viral infection:** An infection caused by a virus, a microscopic infectious agent, which can affect various parts of the body and lead to a range of symptoms and illnesses.

**Viral load:** The amount of a specific virus present in an individual's body, often measured to monitor the progression and treatment response of viral infections.

**Viral meningitis:** Inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord, usually caused by a viral infection and typically less severe than bacterial meningitis.

**Viral pneumonia:** A type of pneumonia caused by a viral infection, leading to inflammation and infection in the lungs, often presenting with symptoms such as cough, fever, and difficulty breathing.

**Virus:** A microscopic infectious agent that replicates inside living cells, causing various diseases in humans, animals, and plants.

**Visual acuity:** The clarity and sharpness of vision, typically measured by the ability to read letters or identify objects at a specified distance.

**Visual field:** The entire area that an individual can see when their gaze is fixed on a central point, including both the central vision and peripheral vision.

**Vitamin deficiency:** A condition that occurs when the body lacks a sufficient amount of essential vitamins, which are necessary for normal growth, development, and bodily functions.

**Vitamin D:** A fat-soluble vitamin that is crucial for calcium absorption, bone health, and immune system function, often obtained from sunlight exposure and dietary sources.

**Vitamin K:** A fat-soluble vitamin that plays a key role in blood clotting and bone metabolism, found in leafy green vegetables, oils, and certain animal products.

**Vocal cords:** Two bands of tissue located in the larynx (voice box) that vibrate and produce sound when air passes through, enabling speech and vocalization.

**Voice box:** Also known as the larynx, it is a part of the respiratory system that contains the vocal cords and is involved in producing sound and protecting the airway during swallowing.

**Voice therapy:** A form of therapy aimed at improving or restoring vocal function, often used to treat voice disorders, speech difficulties, or after vocal cord surgery.

**Volvulus:** A condition characterized by the twisting or rotation of a segment of the gastrointestinal tract, causing bowel obstruction and symptoms such as severe abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting.

**Von Willebrand disease:** A genetic bleeding disorder that affects the blood's ability to clot properly, caused by a deficiency or dysfunction of von Willebrand factor, a protein involved in clotting.

**Vulva:** The external part of the female genitalia, including the labia majora, labia minora, clitoris, and vaginal opening.

**Vulvar cancer:** Cancer that develops in the tissues of the vulva, typically characterized by symptoms such as itching, pain, or an abnormal lump or sore in the vulvar area.

**Vulvar itching:** The sensation of itchiness or irritation in the vulvar area, which can be caused by various factors such as infections, allergies, or skin conditions.

**Vulvar pain:** Pain or discomfort experienced in the vulvar region, which can be caused by conditions such as vulvodynia, infections, or injury.

**Vulvar vestibulitis:** A condition characterized by pain and sensitivity in the vestibule of the vulva, often triggered by touch or pressure, causing discomfort during sexual activity or tampon use.

**Vulvodynia:** Chronic pain or discomfort in the vulvar area, often described as a burning, stinging, or raw sensation, without any apparent cause or infection.

**Vulvovaginal atrophy:** Thinning, drying, and inflammation of the vaginal walls and tissues due to decreased estrogen levels, commonly occurring during menopause.

**Vulvovaginal candidiasis:** A common fungal infection of the vagina, often referred to as a yeast infection, causing symptoms such as vaginal itching, discharge, and discomfort.

**Vulvovaginal discomfort:** General discomfort or unpleasant sensations experienced in the vulvar and vaginal area, which can be caused by various factors such as infections, inflammation, or hormonal changes.

**Vulvovaginal itching:** The sensation of itching or irritation in the vulvar and vaginal area, often accompanied by a strong urge to scratch. It can be caused by various factors such as infections, allergic reactions, hormonal changes, or skin conditions.

**Vulvovaginal odor:** Unpleasant or unusual smells emanating from the vulvar and vaginal area. It can be a result of infections, poor hygiene, hormonal changes, or other underlying factors.

**Vulvovaginal pain:** Discomfort or pain experienced in the vulvar and vaginal area. It can range from mild to severe and may be caused by infections, inflammation, injury, hormonal changes, or certain medical conditions.

**Vulvovaginal swelling:** Abnormal enlargement or puffiness of the vulvar and vaginal tissues. Swelling in this area can occur due to various reasons, including infections, trauma, allergic reactions, or inflammatory conditions.

**Vulvovaginitis:** Inflammation or infection of the vulva and vagina. It is a common condition often characterized by symptoms such as itching, burning, redness, swelling, and an abnormal discharge. Vulvovaginitis can be caused by bacterial, fungal, or viral infections, as well as irritants or hormonal changes.



# CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE: W

## TERMS

**Waist circumference:** The measurement of the distance around the waist, used to assess abdominal obesity and the risk of certain health conditions.

**Walking pneumonia:** A milder form of pneumonia that typically doesn't require bed rest or hospitalization, allowing the patient to continue with daily activities.

**Warfarin:** A medication used to prevent blood clotting and reduce the risk of stroke, heart attack, and other blood clot-related conditions.

**Water retention:** The accumulation of excess fluid in the body tissues, often causing swelling and bloating.

**Wegener's granulomatosis:** A rare autoimmune disease characterized by inflammation of blood vessels, leading to damage in various organs such as the lungs, kidneys, and respiratory system.

**Weight gain:** An increase in body weight due to various factors such as overeating, sedentary lifestyle, hormonal changes, or certain medical conditions.

**Weight loss:** The reduction in body weight achieved through diet, exercise, or medical interventions, often done to improve overall health or treat obesity-related conditions.

**Well-child visit:** Regular check-up appointments for infants, children, and adolescents to monitor their growth, development, and overall health.

**West Nile virus:** A viral infection transmitted to humans through mosquito bites, which can cause flu-like symptoms and, in rare cases, severe neurological complications.

**Whiplash:** An injury to the neck caused by a sudden, forceful back-and-forth movement, commonly associated with car accidents, resulting in neck pain, stiffness, and other related symptoms.

**White blood cells:** Cells of the immune system that help protect the body against infections and diseases.

**White matter:** The tissue in the central nervous system composed of nerve fibers responsible for transmitting signals between different parts of the brain.

**Whitehead:** A type of acne characterized by a small, white-colored bump on the skin, formed when a pore becomes clogged with oil and dead skin cells.

**Widowmaker heart attack:** A term used to describe a severe blockage of the left main coronary artery, which can lead to a massive heart attack and is often life-threatening.

**Wilson's disease:** A rare genetic disorder that causes excessive copper accumulation in various organs, primarily the liver and brain, leading to liver disease and neurological symptoms.

**Wisdom teeth:** The third set of molars that typically emerge in the late teens or early twenties, often causing problems such as crowding, pain, and the need for removal.

**Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome:** A heart condition characterized by an extra electrical pathway in the

heart, leading to episodes of rapid heart rate and potential heart rhythm abnormalities.

**Wound care:** The process of cleaning, dressing, and treating a wound to promote healing, prevent infection, and minimize scarring.

**Wound debridement:** The removal of dead or contaminated tissue from a wound to facilitate healing and prevent infection.

**Wound healing:** The natural process by which the body repairs damaged tissue, involving inflammation, cell proliferation, and tissue remodeling.

**Wrist arthritis:** Inflammation and degeneration of the joints in the wrist, leading to pain, stiffness, and reduced mobility.

**Wrist pain:** Discomfort or pain experienced in the wrist, often caused by injury, overuse, arthritis, or other underlying conditions.

**Wrist sprain:** An injury to the ligaments in the wrist, often caused by a sudden twisting or bending motion, resulting in pain, swelling, and limited movement.

**Wrist tendonitis:** Inflammation of the tendons in the wrist, typically caused by repetitive motion or overuse, resulting in pain, swelling, and difficulty with wrist movement.

**Wrist tenosynovitis:** Inflammation of the synovial lining of the tendons in the wrist, leading to pain, swelling, and restricted movement.

**Wrist tenosynovitis:** Inflammation of the synovial lining of the tendons in the wrist, leading to pain, swelling, and restricted movement.

# CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR: X TERMS

**Xanthelasma:** Yellowish, raised plaques that appear on the eyelids, typically near the inner corners of the eyes. Xanthelasma is associated with high levels of cholesterol and triglycerides.

**Xanthochromia:** The presence of yellowish discoloration in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), typically indicating the breakdown of red blood cells due to bleeding in the subarachnoid space or other pathological conditions.

**Xanthogranulomatous:** Referring to a condition characterized by the formation of granulomas (inflammatory nodules) with an abundance of lipid-laden macrophages, giving a yellowish appearance.

**Xanthoma:** Benign, yellowish nodules or plaques that develop beneath the skin, tendons, or other tissues. Xanthomas are often associated with lipid disorders and may indicate underlying health conditions.

**Xanthomatosis:** A group of disorders characterized by the accumulation of cholesterol and other lipids in certain tissues, leading to the development of yellowish nodules or plaques.

**Xenoantigen:** An antigenic substance derived from a different species, capable of eliciting an immune response when introduced into another species.

**Xenograft:** The transplantation of cells, tissues, or organs from one species to another, such as from an animal donor to a human recipient.

**Xenon:** A chemical element and inert gas often used in medical imaging techniques, such as xenon-enhanced computed tomography (CT), to evaluate blood flow and tissue viability.

**Xeroderma:** Abnormal dryness of the skin, characterized by rough, flaky, and itchy skin. Xeroderma can be caused by various factors, including environmental factors, skin conditions, or certain medications.

**Xerophthalmia:** A condition characterized by dryness and inflammation of the eyes due to inadequate tear production or increased tear evaporation, often associated with vitamin A deficiency.

**Xerosis:** Abnormal dryness of the skin or mucous membranes, usually resulting from insufficient moisture or lubrication.

**Xerostomia:** The medical term for dry mouth, which is the condition of having a lack of saliva in the mouth. Xerostomia can cause discomfort, difficulty speaking, and an increased risk of dental problems.

**Xiphoid:** Referring to the xiphoid process, a small cartilaginous extension at the lower end of the sternum (breastbone).

**Xiphopagus:** A rare type of conjoined twins who are fused at the xiphoid process or lower sternum.

**X-ray:** A form of electromagnetic radiation that can penetrate through the body and produce images of internal structures on photographic film or digital detectors. X-rays are commonly used in medical imaging to diagnose and monitor various conditions.

**X-ray crystallography:** A technique used to determine the arrangement of atoms within a crystal by analyzing the diffraction pattern produced when a crystal is exposed to X-rays.

**X-ray fluorescence:** A method that uses X-rays to analyze the elemental composition of a substance by

measuring the characteristic X-ray emission from the sample.

**X-ray mammography:** A diagnostic imaging technique that uses low-dose X-rays to examine the breasts for early detection and diagnosis of breast cancer or other abnormalities.

**X-ray tube:** A device that generates X-rays for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes, typically consisting of a vacuum tube in which electrons are accelerated and collide with a metal target to produce X-ray radiation.

**Xylitol:** A naturally occurring sugar alcohol commonly used as a sugar substitute in various products, known for its dental health benefits and low glycemic index.

**Xylocaine:** A brand name for the local anesthetic drug lidocaine, used to numb a specific area of the body during medical procedures or to provide pain relief.

**Xylometazoline:** A nasal decongestant medication that constricts blood vessels in the nasal passages, reducing nasal congestion and relieving sinus pressure.

**Xyphoid process:** The lowest part of the sternum, a small cartilaginous projection at the bottom of the breastbone.

# CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE: Y TERMS

**Yawning:** A reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness or boredom, often accompanied by a prolonged exhalation.

**Yearly physical examination:** An annual medical check-up that involves a comprehensive evaluation of a person's overall health, including measurements such as blood pressure, heart rate, weight, and various screenings and tests to assess the individual's well-being.

**Yellow bile:** A fluid secreted by the liver and stored in the gallbladder, involved in the digestion and absorption of fats.

**Yellow bone marrow:** A type of bone marrow that contains a higher proportion of fat cells, appearing yellow in color, and is responsible for storing fats and providing a reserve of energy for the body.

**Yellow fever:** A viral infection transmitted by mosquitoes, characterized by symptoms such as fever, jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes), and liver and kidney damage. It is primarily found in tropical regions.

**Yellow flags (psychosocial risk factors):** Non-physical factors that may contribute to the development or prolongation of a person's pain or disability, such as psychological, social, or occupational factors.

**Yellow jackets (insect sting):** Stings from certain species of aggressive wasps known as yellow jackets, which can cause pain, redness, swelling, and allergic reactions in individuals who are sensitive or allergic to their venom.

**Yellow nail syndrome:** A rare condition characterized by slow-growing, thickened, and yellowish nails, often accompanied by lymphedema (swelling) and respiratory symptoms such as chronic cough and difficulty breathing.

**Yellow phosphorus poisoning:** Poisoning caused by the ingestion or inhalation of yellow phosphorus, a highly toxic substance used in various industrial processes. It can lead to severe gastrointestinal, liver, and kidney damage.

**Yellow skin:** A discoloration of the skin, turning it yellow or jaundiced, typically caused by an excess buildup of bilirubin, a yellow pigment produced during the breakdown of red blood cells.

**Yellow-white retinal lesion:** An abnormal area on the retina of the eye that appears yellowish-white in color, often associated with certain retinal diseases or conditions.

**Yellowish discoloration:** A general term referring to a yellowish coloration of a body part or tissue, which can be indicative of various medical conditions, including liver or kidney problems.

**Yellowish sclera:** The white outer layer of the eyeball called the sclera, appearing yellowish, which can be a sign of jaundice or liver dysfunction.

**Yersinia enterocolitica:** A bacterium that can cause gastrointestinal infections, leading to symptoms such as diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever, and vomiting.

**Yersiniosis:** An infection caused by the bacterium Yersinia, commonly resulting in gastrointestinal symptoms, including diarrhea, abdominal pain, and fever.

**Yersinia pestis:** The bacterium responsible for causing the disease known as plague, which is transmitted through fleas and can lead to severe illness and potential outbreaks.

**Yohimbine:** A medication derived from the bark of the yohimbe tree, used primarily to treat erectile dysfunction and as a supplement to promote weight loss or enhance athletic performance.

**Yoga therapy:** The practice of using yoga techniques, including physical postures, breathing exercises, and meditation, as a complementary or alternative therapy to promote physical and mental well-being.

**Yolk sac:** A membranous sac that forms during early embryonic development and provides nutrients to the developing embryo, typically before the placenta takes over this role.

**Yolk sac tumor:** A rare type of tumor that can occur in various parts of the body, arising from cells similar to those found in the yolk sac of an embryo.

**Young adult:** Referring to the stage of life between adolescence and adulthood, typically ranging from the late teens to the early twenties, characterized by various physical, emotional, and social changes.

**Young-onset Parkinson's disease:** Parkinson's disease that develops at an earlier age, usually before the age of 50, with similar symptoms of movement impairment, such as tremors, rigidity, and bradykinesia (slowness of movement).

**Young's modulus:** A measure of the stiffness or elasticity of a material, representing the ratio of stress to strain in the material under deformation. It is named after Thomas Young, a British scientist who made significant contributions to the field of physics.

**Young's syndrome:** Also known as immotile cilia syndrome or primary ciliary dyskinesia, it is a genetic disorder characterized by abnormal function or structure of cilia, which are tiny hair-like structures that line the respiratory tract and other organs. This condition can result in respiratory symptoms and fertility issues.

**Youthful geriatric syndrome:** A term used to describe a cluster of health conditions or symptoms that are typically associated with old age but occur in a younger individual. These conditions may include cognitive decline, functional impairment, frailty, and other age-related health concerns.

**Yttrium-90:** A radioactive isotope of the chemical element yttrium. It is used in medical treatments, particularly in radiation therapy for certain types of cancer, where it is delivered to targeted areas to destroy cancer cells.

**Yttrium-90 microsphere therapy:** A form of radiation therapy used to treat liver cancer, where tiny beads or microspheres containing the radioactive isotope yttrium-90 are injected into the blood vessels supplying the tumor, delivering radiation directly to the cancer cells.

**Yttrium-90 radioembolization:** Another term for yttrium-90 microsphere therapy, a procedure in which tiny radioactive particles are delivered to the blood vessels feeding liver tumors to target and destroy cancer cells.

**Yttrium-90 selective internal radiation therapy (SIRT):** A type of targeted radiation therapy used to treat liver cancer, where small radioactive beads or microspheres containing yttrium-90 are delivered directly to the liver tumor through blood vessels, aiming to destroy cancer cells while minimizing damage to healthy liver tissue.

**Yttrium-90 therapy:** A general term referring to medical treatments or procedures that involve the use of the radioactive isotope yttrium-90 to deliver radiation to specific areas of the body for therapeutic purposes, typically in the context of cancer treatment.

**Yucca:** A plant species belonging to the Agave family, known for its sword-like leaves and often used ornamentally. In traditional medicine, certain parts of the yucca plant have been utilized for their potential anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and antifungal properties.

**Yunnan Paiyao:** A traditional Chinese herbal medicine used for its potential hemostatic (bleeding-stopping) properties. It is often employed to help control bleeding and promote wound healing.

**Yusho disease:** A rare condition caused by exposure to toxic chemicals, particularly polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Yusho disease is characterized by a range of symptoms, including skin lesions, eye and mucosal irritation, respiratory issues, and systemic effects.

**Yves Castaigne sign:** A medical sign observed during the physical examination of the abdomen, characterized by a palpable resistance or tenderness in the right lower quadrant. It may indicate an underlying condition, such as appendicitis, requiring further evaluation and medical attention.

# CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX: Z TERMS

**Zenker's diverticulum:** A pouch or pocket that forms in the upper part of the esophagus, causing difficulty in swallowing and regurgitation of food.

**Zidovudine:** A medication used to treat HIV infection by slowing down the progression of the virus and improving the immune system.

**Zinc deficiency:** A condition where the body doesn't have enough zinc, an essential mineral, which can lead to weakened immune system, hair loss, skin problems, and growth retardation.

**Zinc oxide:** A topical cream or ointment containing zinc that is commonly used for its soothing and protective properties on the skin, such as in diaper rash or sunburn.

**Zinacef:** A brand name for cefuroxime, an antibiotic medication used to treat various bacterial infections, such as respiratory tract infections and urinary tract infections.

**Zithromax:** A brand name for azithromycin, an antibiotic medication used to treat a wide range of bacterial infections, including respiratory infections, skin infections, and sexually transmitted diseases.

**Ziv-aflibercept:** A medication used in cancer treatment to slow down the growth of blood vessels that supply tumors, thereby reducing their blood supply and inhibiting their progression.

**Zocor:** A brand name for simvastatin, a medication that helps lower cholesterol levels in the blood, reducing the risk of heart disease and stroke.

**Zoladex:** A brand name for goserelin, a medication used in the treatment of certain cancers, such as prostate and breast cancer, by suppressing the production of hormones that promote tumor growth.

**Zoledronic acid:** A medication used to treat and prevent bone problems such as osteoporosis, bone metastases, and hypercalcemia of malignancy. It helps to strengthen the bones and reduce the risk of fractures.

**Zolmitriptan:** A medication used for the treatment of acute migraine attacks by relieving the symptoms of headache, nausea, and sensitivity to light and sound.

**Zoloft:** A brand name for sertraline, an antidepressant medication that helps balance certain chemicals in the brain, alleviating symptoms of depression, anxiety, and other mood disorders.

**Zolpidem:** A medication commonly known as Ambien, used for the short-term treatment of insomnia by helping to induce sleep and improve sleep quality.

**Zometa:** A brand name for zoledronic acid, a medication used to treat bone problems associated with cancer, such as bone pain and fractures, by slowing down bone loss and strengthening the bones.

**Zomig:** A brand name for zolmitriptan, a medication used to treat migraine headaches by narrowing blood vessels in the brain and relieving associated symptoms.

**Zona pellucida:** A transparent layer surrounding the egg (ovum) that plays a crucial role in fertilization and early development by allowing sperm to penetrate and protect the developing embryo.



**Zone of inhibition:** A clear area surrounding an antibiotic-impregnated disk or other antimicrobial agent on a culture plate, indicating the effectiveness of the agent in inhibiting the growth of bacteria.

**Zostavax:** A vaccine used to prevent herpes zoster (shingles) in adults aged 50 and older, by boosting the immune response against the virus that causes chickenpox and shingles.

**Zovirax:** A brand name for acyclovir, an antiviral medication used to treat infections caused by certain viruses, such as herpes simplex and varicella-zoster.

**Zuclopenthixol:** An antipsychotic medication used to treat various psychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia, by affecting certain chemicals in the brain to alleviate symptoms such as hallucinations and delusions.

**Zuclopenthixol acetate:** A long-acting injectable form of zuclopenthixol, an antipsychotic medication used in the treatment of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. It provides a sustained release of the medication over a prolonged period, reducing the frequency of administration.

**Zuclopenthixol decanoate:** Another long-acting injectable form of zuclopenthixol, where the medication is combined with decanoate ester. It is used to maintain stable blood levels of the medication for an extended duration, helping to manage symptoms of schizophrenia and other psychotic conditions.

**Zuclopenthixol dihydrochloride:** A salt form of zuclopenthixol used in the preparation of injectable solutions. It has similar antipsychotic properties and is prescribed for the treatment of various psychiatric disorders.

**Zuclopenthixol enantate:** A long-acting injectable form of zuclopenthixol, similar to zuclopenthixol decanoate, but with enantate ester. It is administered less frequently and provides a sustained release of the medication over an extended period.

**Zuclopenthixol mesilate:** A salt form of zuclopenthixol used in the preparation of injectable solutions. It possesses antipsychotic properties and is employed in the management of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

**Zuclopenthixol palmitate:** A long-acting injectable form of zuclopenthixol where the medication is combined with palmitate ester. It is administered intramuscularly and helps maintain therapeutic blood levels of the medication, providing prolonged antipsychotic effects.

**Zuclopenthixol pamoate:** A long-acting injectable form of zuclopenthixol, where the medication is combined with pamoate ester. It is used for the maintenance treatment of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, reducing the frequency of administration compared to oral medications.

**Zuclopenthixol sulphoxide:** An active metabolite of zuclopenthixol that contributes to its antipsychotic effects. It is formed when zuclopenthixol is metabolized in the body and plays a role in the medication's therapeutic actions.

**Zuclopenthixol succinate:** A salt form of zuclopenthixol used in the preparation of injectable solutions. It is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream after administration and exhibits antipsychotic properties for the management of psychiatric conditions.

**Zyrtec:** A brand name for cetirizine, an antihistamine medication used to relieve allergy symptoms such as sneezing, runny nose, itchy or watery eyes, and itching of the nose or throat. It provides temporary relief from allergic reactions and is available over-the-counter.

**Zytiga:** A brand name for abiraterone acetate, a medication used in the treatment of metastatic prostate cancer. It works by inhibiting the production of hormones that fuel the growth of cancer cells, helping to slow down disease progression.



# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

## Steven Smith

Steven Smith, PhD., is a distinguished scholar and author dedicated to bridging the gap between knowledge and practical application. With a doctorate in Construction Management, he has established himself as a leading expert in his field. However, it is his passion for producing comprehensive dictionaries across various disciplines that sets him apart.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Smith has not only contributed extensively to the field of Construction Management through his research and publications, but he has also recognized the need for accessible resources that empower individuals to navigate complex subjects with ease. It is this drive to provide invaluable references that led him to delve into the realm of dictionary writing.

Driven by his commitment to education, Dr. Smith has dedicated himself to crafting dictionaries that serve as indispensable tools for students, practitioners, and non-practitioners alike. He understands the importance of having a comprehensive and reliable resource that can unlock the complexities of various fields. Through his meticulous research and dedication to clarity, he has successfully created a bridge between academia and practical understanding.

With each dictionary he produces, Dr. Smith goes beyond the conventional boundaries of knowledge dissemination. He strives to present the information in a concise yet comprehensive manner, ensuring that readers can easily grasp the fundamental concepts while delving deeper into the intricacies of their respective fields. His dictionaries have become trusted companions for countless individuals seeking to expand their knowledge and enhance their understanding.

Beyond his scholarly endeavors, Dr. Smith is known for his unwavering commitment to his readers. He takes pride in being responsive to their needs and continually updating his dictionaries to reflect the evolving landscape of each field. His dedication to excellence and accuracy is evident in every word he meticulously crafts, ensuring that his readers receive the most up-to-date and reliable information.

Dr. Smith's passion for education and his belief in the power of knowledge have left an indelible mark on the fields he ventures into. His dictionaries have become essential resources, enabling students to excel in their studies, practitioners to enhance their expertise, and non-practitioners to gain a deeper understanding of their chosen disciplines.

As an author, scholar, and visionary, Dr. Steven Smith's dedication to producing exceptional dictionaries continues to shape the way individuals engage with knowledge. His commitment to empowering learners, both within and beyond his field of expertise, is a testament to his enduring legacy.

# BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

## **[The Dictionary Of Construction Terminologies: A Compendium Of Knowledge For Students, Academics, Practitioners, And House Owners](#)**

The dictionary of construction terminologies book is a comprehensive reference guide that provides definitions and explanations of the technical language and jargon used in the construction industry. It is an invaluable resource for professionals working in construction, as well as for students learning about the industry or for individuals looking to understand construction-related concepts better.

The book features a wide range of entries that cover various aspects of construction, including architecture, engineering, materials, equipment, and techniques. The book also provides clear and concise definitions of technical terms, written in easy-to-understand language. Terminologies are presented alphabetically to help readers find the descriptions they need quickly and easily. Whether you are a professional working in the field or interested in construction, this book is an essential tool to help you navigate the complex world of construction terminology with confidence and clarity.

Are you a student of construction, a house owner, an academic in the construction industry, or a practitioner that desires to acquire more knowledge about construction terms? If your answer to the preceding question is affirmative, this book may be one of the best investments you will ever make.