



***OET Simplified Medical  
Vocabulary List***



## OET Simplified Medical Vocabulary List

When you speak to a patient (i.e. at work or in the OET speaking role-play) you should use *simplified* medical vocabulary so that he or she can understand you.

The list below has both medical words and its simple English equivalent.

Please note: this list is NOT intended to be memorised. We recommend that you:

1. find particular words that you have trouble pronouncing
2. use the search function to find those words (“CTRL + F”)
3. practice them on the E2Pronounce pronunciation app

OR

1. find particular words that you have trouble simplifying / explaining
2. use the search function to find those words (“CTRL + F”)
3. learn their simplified equivalent.

## A

abdomen	stomach
abdominal	having to do with the stomach
abdominal cavity	space in the stomach where the stomach, intestines, kidney, liver, gallbladder, pancreas, spleen, and ureters are found
abdominocentesis	use of needle or tube to drain fluid from the stomach
abdominoperineal resection	surgery to remove the middle and end of the large intestine
abdominoplasty	surgery to fix the stomach
abduction	movement away from the middle of the body
abortion	the premature end of a pregnancy
abrasion	area where skin or other tissue is scraped away
abruptio placentae	premature separation of the placenta from the mother

abscess	swelling filled with pus
absorption	the way a drug or other substance enters the body the route and rate that a compound gets into the system (bloodstream)
acapnia	decreased carbon dioxide in the blood
acetabulum	pocket in the hip bone that holds the top of the upper leg bone
acidosis	increase of acid in the blood
acne	pimples
acoumeter	tool used to measure hearing
acoustic neuroma	growth in the ear canal
acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)	contagious illness that results in decreased ability of the body to protect itself from other illnesses
acromegaly	a disease of adults in which the body makes too much growth hormone
actinic keratosis	skin disease (bumps) caused by extreme overexposure to the sun
activated partial thromboplastin time	a test of blood clotting time used to measure the ability of the blood to clot
active ingredient	The pharmacologically active part of any medication. Many pharmaceutical products contain inactive ingredients that create the formulation.
acute	lasting a short time but often causing a serious problem
Addison's disease	serious disorder in which there is decreased cortisol and aldosterone in the body, resulting in weakness, low blood pressure, and other serious problems
adduction	movement toward the middle of the body
adenohypophysis	gland in the brain that makes many hormones that control body functions
adenoidectomy	surgery to take out the adenoids
adenoiditis	inflammation of the adenoids
adenoids	infection-fighting glands in the back of the throat
adenomyosis	a growth of muscle in the uterus
adenotome	tool used to remove adenoids
adhesion	tissue stuck together

adipose	having to do with fat
ADME	Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism and Excretion. This describes the four stages that a pharmaceutical product would go through when administered to a human.
administer	give
adrenal gland	a gland found over each kidney
adrenalectomy	surgery to remove an adrenal gland
adrenaline	hormone made by the adrenal glands that speeds up body organs and helps the body deal with stress
adrenalitis	inflammation of one or both adrenal glands
adrenocortical hormone	any of the hormones made by the outer layer of the adrenal glands
adrenocorticohyperplasia	increased growth of one or both adrenal glands
adrenocorticotrophic hormone	hormone made by the brain that activates the adrenal glands
adrenomegaly	increase in size of one or both adrenal glands
adrenopathy	disease of one or both adrenal glands
Advanced Technology Medicinal Product (ATMP)	a gene therapy medicinal product a somatic cell therapy medicinal product a tissue engineered product.
adverse	harmful, bad
Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR)	<p>In the pre-approval clinical experience with a new medicinal product or its new usages, particularly as the therapeutic dose(s) may not be established: all noxious and unintended responses to a medicinal product related to any dose should be considered adverse drug reactions.</p> <p>The phrase responses to a medicinal product means that a causal relationship between a medicinal product and an adverse event is at least a reasonable possibility, i.e. the relationship cannot be ruled out.</p> <p>Regarding marketed medicinal products: a response to a drug which is noxious and unintended and which occurs at doses normally used in man for prophylaxis, diagnosis, or therapy of diseases or for modification of physiological function</p>

Adverse Event (AE)	Any untoward medical occurrence in a patient or clinical investigation subject administered a pharmaceutical product and which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with this treatment.
aerosol	drug or substance made as a mist to be breathed in
Aetiology	The factors involved in causing a disease.
afferent	going toward the center area
afterbirth	material that provides nutrition for the unborn baby and comes out after the baby is born (placenta)
airway	tube through which air passes to enter and leave the lungs
alanine aminotransferase (ALT)	substance in blood that is measured to check for liver disease
albino	white; lacking pigment (lacking color)
albuminuria	protein in the urine
alcohol	drug found in whisky, wine, and beer that slows down the central nervous system
aldosterone	hormone made by the adrenal glands that controls the amount of mineral salts in the body
Algorithm	A procedure to assist the structured achievement of an outcome that involves a series of alternative decisions
allergy	oversensitivity to a substance
alopecia	baldness
alpha-fetoprotein	substance in blood that is measured to check for liver cancer, testicular cancer , and spina bifida
ALS	see amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
Alzheimer's disease	disorder that causes mental confusion
amenorrhea	when a woman has no menstrual period
amniocentesis	removal of some of the waters from around an unborn baby for laboratory testing
amniochorial	having to do with the tissues that surround the unborn baby
amniography	x-ray of the uterus (womb) and unborn baby taken after putting a dye into the bag of waters
amnion	tissue that covers the unborn baby
amnionitis	inflammation of the amnion

amniorrhhea	leaking of waters from around the unborn baby
amniorrhexis	breaking of the amnion
amnioscope	tool inserted through the cervix to look at the amniotic fluid and the unborn baby
amniotic fluid	waters around the unborn baby
amniotic sac	bag of tissue that surrounds the unborn baby
amniotomy	rupture of the membranes (breaking of the tissues around the unborn baby) - done to start labor
amphetamines	drugs that speed up metabolism and decrease appetite ("speed")
amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	a disease of the nerves that causes weakness, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease
anal	having to do with the anus
analgesic	drug used to control pain Drugs to relieve or reduce pain
Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	A statistical technique to determine whether the mean values of different treatment groups are the same or different.
anaphylactic shock	serious allergic reaction to a substance (e.g., food, drug) Severe generalised form of anaphylaxis which may lead to a sudden attack of wheezing, collapse, cardiac arrest and may lead to death
Anaphylaxis	Severe allergic reaction
androgen	male sex hormone
anemia	decreased number of red blood cells
anesthesia	loss of sensation or feeling
anesthetic	drug that is used to produce loss of pain sensation
aneurysm	area where an artery is swollen like a sack because the wall of the artery is weak
aneurysmectomy	surgery to take out an aneurysm
angina pectoris	chest pain due to decreased oxygen being supplied to the heart
angiocarditis	inflammation of the heart and the blood vessels entering the heart
angioma	growth made up of blood vessels or lymph vessels

angioplasty	surgery to open up a narrow blood vessel
angiorrhaphy	stitching a blood vessel
angioplasm	cramp in the blood vessels
angiostenosis	narrowing of the inside of a blood vessel
angled	bent, not straight
ankylosing spondylitis	inflammation of the spine causing pain and stiffness
ankylosis	joint stiffness
anoplasty	surgery to fix the anus
anorexia	no appetite for food
anorexia nervosa	mental disorder in which fear of getting fat results in starvation and weight loss
anoxia	no oxygen
antacid	drug used to decrease acid in the stomach (e.g., Tums, Rolaids)
antecubital.	in front of the elbow
ante partum	before childbirth
anterior	having to do with the front of the body
anterior and posterior colporrhaphy	surgery to fix weak muscles in the pelvic area
anterior lobe	front part of an organ
anterior lobe of the pituitary	part of the pituitary gland that discharges many hormones
antianginal	drug used to relieve chest pain
antiarrhythmic	drug used to restore the natural rhythm of the heart
antibiotic	drug used to stop or slow down the growth of germs
antibody	type of protein that helps protect the body against foreign matter, such as bacteria and viruses
anticoagulant	drug used to stop blood from clotting
anticonvulsant	drug used to stop seizures
antidiarrheal	drug used to stop diarrhea
antidiuretic hormone	hormone made by the pituitary gland that helps the kidneys keep water in the body by decreasing urine formation
antidote	substance used to treat allergic reactions

antiemetic	drug used to stop vomiting
antihistamine	drug used to treat allergic reaction
antinauseant	drug used to stop nausea and vomiting
antipruritic	drug used to stop itching
antiseptic	substance used to stop or slow down the growth of germs
antrectomy	surgery to remove the lower part of the stomach
antrum	lower part of the stomach
anuria	no urine being made
anus	ring of muscle that keeps the opening at the end of the digestive tract closed
aorta	biggest artery in the body
aortic stenosis	narrowing of the aorta where it comes out of the heart
aortogram	x-ray of the aorta
apepsia	without digestion
aphagia	not able to swallow
aphasia	not able to speak or write and not able to understand spoken or written words
apnea	stopping of breathing
aponeurorrhaphy	stitching of an aponeurosis
aponeurosis	strong tissue that joins muscle to bone
appendectomy	surgery to remove the appendix
appendicitis	inflammation of the appendix
Applicable Regulatory Requirement(s)	Any law(s) and regulation(s) addressing the conduct of clinical trials of investigational products.
approximately	nearly, about
aqueous humor	liquid found in the front of the cavity of the eye
arachnoid	middle layer of the meninges
Area Under Curve (AUC)	Plot of concentration of a drug against time. Used as a method of comparing bioavailability of different products
areola	dark-colored skin around the breast nipple
arrhythmia	uneven heartbeat
arteriogram	x-ray using a dye to outline an artery
arterioles	small branches of arteries

arteriorrhexis	breaking of an artery
arteriosclerosis	hardening of the artery
artery	the type of blood vessel that carries blood and oxygen from the heart to the rest of the body
arthralgia	pain in a joint
arthritis	inflammation of one or more joints
arthrocentesis	use of a needle to remove fluid from a joint
arthroclasia	surgery to free up a joint that it is stiff so it cannot move
arthrodesis	surgery to fasten a joint so it cannot move
arthrogram	x-ray of a joint
arthroplasty	surgery to fix a joint
arthrosclerosis	stiffening of the joints
arthroscope	tool used to look into a joint
arthrotomy	surgery to cut into a joint
articular cartilage	smooth tissue that covers the bones inside a joint
artificial insemination	use of a tool to put sperm into the vagina for the purpose of beginning pregnancy
ascites	fluid in the stomach
aspartate aminotransferase (AST)	substance in blood that is measured to detect liver disease
aspermia	no sperm
asphyxia	suffocation
aspirate	removing a substance using suction
asthma	breathing disorder in which there is a wheezing and difficulty breathing
astigmatism	flaw in the curve of the eye
ataxia	uncontrolled muscle movement; incoordination
atelectasis	collapse of a lung
atherosclerosis	hardening of the arteries
atraumatic	not damaging to tissue
atrioventricular defect	hole in the heart present at birth
atrophy	wasting away, or decrease in size, of a body organ
audiogram	report of a hearing test

audiologist	doctor who studies hearing
audiology	the study of hearing
audiometer	tool used to measure hearing
audiometry	measurement of hearing
Audit	A systematic and independent examination of trial related activities and documents to determine whether the evaluated trial related activities were conducted, and the data were recorded, analyzed and accurately reported according to the protocol, sponsor's standard operating procedures (SOPs), Good Clinical Practice (GCP), and the applicable regulatory requirement(s).
Audit Certificate	A declaration of confirmation by the auditor that an audit has taken place
Audit Report	A written evaluation by the sponsor's auditor of the results of the audit.
Audit Trail	Documentation (paper or electronic) that allows reconstruction of the course of events.
aural	having to do with the ear
auricle	outside flap of the ear
auscultation	use of a stethoscope to listen to sounds inside the body
autoimmune disease	disorder in which a person's immune system attacks parts of his or her own body

## B

bacteria	type of germs
bacterial	having to do with bacteria
bacterial analysis	test used to detect and identify bacteria
bacterial endocarditis	bacterial infection of the inner lining of the heart
bag of waters	sack containing liquid that surrounds the unborn baby
balanitis	inflammation of the end of the penis
balanorrhagia	balanitis with discharge of pus from the end of the penis
balanorrhoea	discharge of fluid from the penis
barbiturates	group of drugs that are used for different reasons, including general anesthesia, sedation, and stopping seizures
Bartholin adenitis	inflammation of the mucus-producing glands in the vagina

Bartholin's glands	mucus-producing glands in the vagina
basal cell carcinoma	type of skin cancer
bayonet	tool that is sharp like a knife
benign	not cancerous
benign prostatic hypertrophy	increase in size of the prostate gland
beta blocker	drug used to slow down the heart
beta-HCG (human chorionic gonadotropin)	substance in blood that is measured to detect cancer of the testicles
bicuspid valve	a valve in the heart that controls the flow of blood by opening and closing with each heartbeat
bilateral	having to do with both sides of the body
bile	brown-yellow-green liquid made in the liver and stored in the gallbladder that helps with digestion
bile duct	tube that carries bile
bilirubin	a substance found in bile- a high level of bilirubin in the blood causes jaundice
binocular	having to do with both eyes
Bioavailability	A measure of the amount of active drug which enters the appropriate body system and is therefore available at the target site.
Bioequivalence Study	Bioavailability study to compare two products to determine whether they have the same bioavailability profile
biopsy	removal of tissue so it can be looked at under a microscope
bleeding time	test to measure how long it takes for a small cut to stop bleeding
blepharitis	inflammation of the eyelid
blepharoplasty	surgery to fix the eyelid
blepharoptosis	drooping of the upper eyelid
Blinding	A procedure in which one or more parties to the trial are kept unaware of the treatment assignment(s).  Single-blinding usually refers to the subject(s) being unaware.

	Double-blinding usually refers to the subject(s), investigator(s), monitor, and, in some cases, data analyst(s) being unaware of the treatment assignment(s).
blood	red liquid pumped by the heart
blood pressure (BP)	the pressure of blood flowing through blood vessels
blood urea nitrogen (BUN)	substance in blood that is measured to check kidney function
blood vessels	tubes that carry blood through the body
bone marrow	soft tissue inside bones that makes blood cells
bone marrow biopsy	use of a needle to remove bone marrow so that it can be looked at under a microscope
bone marrow transplant	putting normal bone marrow from one person into another person
bowel	the intestine
bradycardia	slow heartbeat
bradykinesia	moving slow
bradypepsia	slow digestion
brain	main part of the central nervous system
brain stem	joins the brain to the spinal column
brand name	commercial name or trade name for a drug
breasts	milk-producing glands of women
breech birth	when feet, buttocks, or knees come out before head at birth
bronchi	more than one bronchus
bronchitis	inflammation of the bronchi
bronchoconstrictor	drug used to make the bronchi tighten up and become narrower
bronchodilator	drug used to make the bronchi open up and become bigger
bronchogenic	beginning in the bronchus
bronchogram	x-ray of the bronchi
bronchoplasty	surgery to fix the bronchi
bronchopneumonia	inflammation of the bronchi and lungs
bronchoscope	tool used to look into the bronchi
bronchospasm	sudden, uncontrolled narrowing of airways in lungs

bronchus	tube that carries air from the bronchi
bulimia	an eating disorder in which a person cannot stop eating and often vomits to make room for more food
bunion	bone growth inside the base of the big toe
bursa	small sack filled with liquid that cushions moving parts, such as two bones in a joint
bursitis	inflammation of the bursa
bursolith	stone in a bursa
bursotomy	surgery to cut into a bursa
bypass	an artificial passageway from one blood vessel to another to get around a blood clot
<b>C</b>	
caffeine	drug found in coffee and colas that speeds up the central nervous system, heart rate, and blood pressure
calcaneus	heel bone
calcipenia	low in calcium
cancellous bone	a type of bone that looks like a sponge
cancer	abnormal tissue that grows and spreads in the body until it kills
cancer chemotherapy	treatment of cancer using drugs
cancer radiotherapy	treatment of cancer using x-rays
cancerous	having to do with cancer
capillary	tiny blood vessel that connects arterioles to venules
carbohydrates	type of fuel for the body that includes sugars and starches
carbuncle	group of boils on the skin
carcinoembryonic antigen	substance in blood that is measured to detect tumors of stomach or intestines
carcinogenic	causing cancer
carcinoma	type of cancer
cardiac	having to do with the heart
cardiac arrest	stopping of the heart
cardiac catheterization	putting a catheter into the heart to test for or treat a heart problem

cardiac pacemaker	battery-powered tool put under the skin to control the heart rate
cardiac scan	ultrasonographic test to view the structure of the heart
cardiac tamponade	squeezing of the heart caused by fluid or blood build-up in the sac around the heart
cardiodynia	pain in the heart
cardiogenic	beginning in the heart
cardiologist	doctor who treats disorders of the heart
cardiology	increase in the size of the heart
cardiomegaly	disorder of the heart muscle
cardiomyopathy	disorder of the heart muscle
cardiopulmonary bypass	artificial passageway through which blood goes around the heart during open-heart surgery
cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)	giving artificial respiration and heart massage to try to save a person whose breathing or heart has stopped
cardiotonic	drug used to strengthen the pumping action of the heart
cardiovalvulitis	inflammation of the heart valves
cardioversion	use of electric shock to make the heart beat with normal rhythm
Carryover Effect	Any effect of a drug which lasts beyond the period of treatment
carpal	having to do with the wrist
carpal bones	wrist bones
carpal tunnel syndrome	painful disorder caused by a pinched nerve in the wrist
carpectomy	surgery to remove a wrist bone
carpoptosis	drooping wrist
Case Report Form (CRF)	A printed, optical, or electronic document designed to record all of the protocol required information to be reported to the sponsor on each trial subject.
cartilage	a rubbery type of tissue that pads the joints and keeps the shape of the nose and outside ear flaps
cataract	clouding of the lens of the eye
Categorical Data	Data which are evaluated by sorting the values into various categories (eg low, medium, high) or data that is only available in categories (eg ethnic origin, gender)

cathartic	drug used to stop constipation
catheter	flexible, tube-like tool used to take fluids out or put fluids into the body
caudal	toward the lower side of an organ or structure
Causality	The relationship of an adverse event to the use of study medication. The likelihood of the event being caused by the study drug is often classified as: unknown, not related, possible, probable, definite
cecum	the first part of the large intestine, which is shaped like a pouch
celiotomy	surgery to cut into the abdominal cavity
cell	the basic building block of all living things
cell membrane	layer that surrounds a cell
cellulitis	inflammation of connective tissue
Central Laboratory	A single laboratory (often a contract laboratory) which is contracted to perform laboratory testing for some or all sites in a multi-center clinical trial
central nervous system (CNS)	the brain and spinal cord
central nervous system drugs	drugs that speed up or slow down the central nervous system
cephalalgia	headache
cephalic	related to the head or the head end of the body
cephalosporin	type of antibiotic
cerebellitis	.inflammation of the cerebellum
cerebellum	the part of the brain that controls the movement of the muscles and helps maintain balance
cerebral	having to do with the cerebrum
cerebral aneurysm	aneurysm in the brain
cerebral angiography	x-ray of the blood vessels in the brain
cerebral palsy (CP)	birth disorder of the brain that results in difficulty moving
cerebral thrombosis	blood clot in the brain
cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)	the liquid around and in the brain and spinal cord

cerebrovascular accident (CVA)	stroke
cerebrum	largest part of the brain, divided into right and left side
cerumen	ear wax
ceruminoma	growth inside the gland that discharges ear wax
cervical vertebrae	bones of the neck
cervicectomy	surgery to remove the cervix
cervicitis	inflammation of the cervix
chalazion	pimple on the eyelid caused by an inflamed gland
cheilorrhaphy	surgery to stitch a lip
chemical name	chemical formula for a drug (generic)
chemotherapeutic agent	anticancer drug
chemotherapy	treatment of disease using drugs
chest cavity	space where the heart, lungs, esophagus, trachea, bronchi, and thymus are located
chiropodist	doctor who treats disorders of the feet
chiropractor	doctor who treats disorders of the spine and nerves
chisel	wedge-like tool with a blade that is used for cutting or chipping
chlamydia	type of germ that usually infects the eyes, lungs, or sex organs
chloasma	a tumor arising from the skin and other organs
cholangiogram	x-ray of the gallbladder and bile ducts
cholangioma	cancer of a bile duct
cholecystectomy	surgery to remove the gallbladder
cholecystitis	inflammation of the gallbladder
choledocholithiasis	gallstones in a bile duct
choledocholithotripsy	surgery to crush gallstones in a bile duct
cholelithiasis	gallstones
cholinergic	type of nerve or a drug used to change its action
chondrectomy	surgery to remove cartilage
chondromalacia	softening of joint cartilage, usually inside the knee
chorioamnionitis	inflammation of the tissue that covers the unborn baby

chorion	outside layer of the tissue that covers the unborn baby
choroid	middle layer of the eyeball
chromosomes	structures that hold the genes
chronic	lasting a long time
chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)	lung disorder in which the flow of air to the lungs is blocked (e.g., emphysema)
cicatrix	scar
circumcision	surgery to remove the foreskin
cirrhosis	serious liver disorder in which connective tissue replaces normal liver tissue, and liver failure often occurs
clavicle	collarbone
cleft lip and palate	birth defect in which there is a split in the lip and the roof of the mouth
clinical trial	research study usually involving a drug or device
clip	metal fastener used to join or close the edges of a wound
clitoris	sensitive female sex tissue located above the opening for urination
coagulation time	measure of how long it takes for blood to clot in a test tube
coarctation of the aorta	birth disorder in which an area of the aorta is very narrow
coccyx	tailbone
cochlea	the organ of hearing inside the ear
Cohort	A group of subjects in a research study who all fulfil the prespecified criteria for entry to a trial.
Cohort Study	A group of subjects are followed over a period of time for a specific reason, e.g. to assess their experiences in a period of time.
coitus	sexual intercourse between a man and a woman
colectomy	surgery to remove part or all of the colon
colonoscope	tool used to look into the colon
colostomy	an opening, or the surgery to make an opening, between the colon and the outside of the body
colpitis	inflammation of the vagina
colporrhaphy	stitching of the vagina

colposcope	tool with magnifying glass used to look into the vagina and at the cervix
coma	varying degrees of unconsciousness from which a person may not awaken
compact bone	hard layers of the bone
compensation	payment, money
Compliance	<p>For the study team: Adherence to all the trial-related requirements, Good Clinical Practice (GCP) requirements, and the applicable regulatory requirements</p> <p>For the subject: Completing all study related activities exactly as described in the informed consent. Examples include: taking a study medication as prescribed or attendance at all study visits.</p>
complications	difficulties, problems
computerized tomography (CT)	x-ray machine that uses a computer to make pictures of the organs of the body
computerized axial tomography (CAT)	x-ray machine that uses a computer to make pictures of the body
conception	the beginning of pregnancy when the fertilized egg implants in the uterus
concomitant	given at the same time
concussion	unconsciousness resulting from a blow to the head affecting the brain
Confidentiality	Prevention of disclosure, to other than authorized individuals, of a sponsor's proprietary information or of a subject's identity.
condom	cover worn over the penis during sexual intercourse to prevent infection or pregnancy
congenital anomaly	birth defect
congenital heart disease (CHD)	heart disease present at birth
congenital heart failure (CHF)	failure of the heart resulting in fluid build-up in the lungs, other body tissues, or both
conjunctiva	tissue that lines the eyelids and covers part of the eye inside its sockets
conjunctivitis	inflammation of the conjunctiva

connective tissue	type of tissue that connects, supports, touches, and surrounds various body parts
conscious	awake and aware
consequences	outcomes, results
constipation	decreased number of or difficulty making bowel movements
contraindications	medical reasons that prevent a person from using a certain drug or treatment
contusion	bruise
convulsion	seizure
Coombs' test	blood test to detect antibodies against red blood cells that is used in analyzing blood problems and cross matching blood for transfusions
cor pulmonale	heart disease or heart failure caused by a disorder of the lungs
cornea	clear tissue covering the front part of the eye
corneitis	inflammation of the cornea and iris
coronary artery	artery that supplies blood to the heart
coronary artery bypass graft (CABG)	surgery to make a new passageway for blood to the heart
coronary ischemia	not enough blood going to the heart
coronary thrombosis	blood clot in a coronary artery
corpus	main portion of a body part or organ
cortex	outer layer of an organ or other structure in the body
cortical	having to do with a cortex
corticotropin	hormone made by the brain that activates the adrenal glands
cortisol	important hormone made by the adrenal gland that affects metabolism and mineral balance
costectomy	surgery to remove a rib
cough	sudden, loud flow of air from the lungs
CPR	see cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
cranial	related to the head or top of the body
cranial cavity	space inside the skull that holds the brain
cranioplasty	surgery to fix the skull
craniotomy	surgery on the skull or to make an opening in the skull

cranium bifidum	birth defect in which there is a crack in the skull
creatinine clearance test	blood test used to see if the kidneys can effectively remove creatinine from the blood
cretinism	a birth defect in which lack of thyroid hormone results in stopping of physical and mental development
Crohn's disease	serious inflammation of any part of the gastrointestinal tract
crossmatch	blood test to check if it is safe to give blood transfusion to a person
croup	children's breathing disorder resulting in coughing and harsh breathing
cryoextraction of the lens	surgery using low temperatures to remove a cataract
cryoretinopexy	surgery of the innermost layer of the eye
culdocentesis	removal of fluid from the pouch between the vagina and the rectum
culdoscope	tool used to look into the pouch between the vagina and the rectum
cumulation	increased action of a drug when given over a period of time
curt (curette)	spoon shaped tool used for scraping or cutting
curved	having a curved handle or a curved blade
Cushing's syndrome	disorder caused by too much of the adrenal hormones or long-time use of cortisone-type drugs in which there are many symptoms, including a fat, round face and weakness
cyanosis	blue color of tissues such as the skin or gums caused by too little oxygen
cyesiology	the study of pregnancy
cyesis	pregnancy
cyst	any closed sac in the body, especially one that contains fluid or semisolid material
cystectomy	surgery to remove the urinary bladder or gallbladder, also, removal of a cyst
cystic fibrosis (CF)	genetic disorder of glands resulting in lung and digestive problems
cystitis	inflammation of the urinary bladder
cystocele	type of hernia in which the urinary bladder bulges into the vagina

cystogram	x-ray of the urinary bladder
cystolith	stone in the urinary bladder
cystolithotomy	surgery to remove a stone from the urinary bladder
cystoscope	tool used to look into the urinary bladder
cystostomy	surgery to make an opening into the urinary bladder
cystotrachelotomy	surgical cut into the neck of the urinary bladder
cystoureterogram	x-ray of the urinary bladder and ureters
cytogenic	making cells
cytoid	like a cell
cytology	the study of cells
cytomegalovirus (CMV)	type of herpes virus
cytoplasm	material inside a cell

## D

dacryocystitis	inflammation of the tear sac
dacryocystorhinostomy	surgery to make an opening between the tear sac and the nose
debridement	surgery to clean foreign material and dead tissue out of a wound
decubitus ulcer	bedsore
decubitus ulcer	bedsore
deep	inside the body
deep vein thrombosis	blood clot in a deep vein
defecation	making a bowel movement
defibrillation	use of electric shock to make the heart start beating, or to correct an abnormal heart rate or rhythm
dementia	mental decline
deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)	material that makes up the genes
depressant	drug that slows down the action of the central nervous system
dermabrasion	method used to remove scars from the skin
dermatitis	skin inflammation

dermatoautoplasty	skin grafting using skin from another area of the patient's body
dermatofibroma	type of benign skin growth
dermatoheteroplasty	skin grafting using skin from another person
dermatologist	doctor who treats disorders of the skin
dermatome	tool used to cut thin slices of the skin to use as skin grafts
dermatoplasty	surgery to repair the skin
dermis	inner layer of the skin
detached retina	separation of the retina from the middle layer of the eye
determine	find out, see if
deviated septum	when the inner wall separating the two sides of the nose is off to one side
diabetes insipidus	excessive discharge of urine from the body caused by a deficiency in the quantity of antidiuretic hormone being produced in the body
diabetes mellitus	disorder in which there is decreased insulin in the body or the body's insulin is not effective, resulting in high blood sugar, increased thirst and urine, and many other side effects
diagnosis	determination of the cause of a medical problem
diaphoresis	heavy sweating
diaphragm	thin flat muscle that helps with breathing and separates the chest cavity from the abdominal cavity
diaphragmatocele	bulging of the abdominal organs into the chest area through a hole in the diaphragm
diaphysis	the long part of arm and leg bones
diarrhea	frequent, loose bowel movement
diastole	the time when the heart rests between contractions and fills with blood
digital rectal exam	exam using a finger inside the rectum to feel internal organs such as the prostate gland and uterus
dilation and curettage (D&C)	surgery to remove the contents and inner lining of the uterus after a miscarriage or abortion; procedure is also used to treat abnormal bleeding

dilator	tool used for stretching or enlarging an opening or tube
diplopia	seeing double
Discontinuation of a Trial Subject	A subject's participation in a clinical trial may be stopped by the subject or the investigator at any time. Among other things this may be because of side effects, intercurrent illness or withdrawal of consent.
diskectomy	surgery to remove one of the rings between the bones that make up the spine
dissector	tool used to separate or cut apart tissue
disseminate	scatter or spread
distal	away from the center of the body; distant
distended	stretched out or swollen, such as a full bladder
diuresis	increased discharge of urine
diuretic	drug used to get excess water out of the body and increase urine; "water pill"
diverticulectomy	surgery to remove abnormal pooming off to the colon
diverticulitis	inflammation of abnormal pouches coming off of the colon
diverticulosis	abnormal pouches coming off the colon
Doppler flow studies	use of ultrasonography to see blood flow inside blood vessels
dorsal	having to do with the back of the body
double-blind trial	test or experiment in which neither the person giving the treatment nor the patient knows which treatment the patient is receiving
Down's syndrome	birth disorder in which there is one extra chromosome, mental retardation, and changed appearance of the head, hands, and feet
duct	tube that carries a body fluid
ductus deferens	tube that carries sperm out of the testicle
dull	not sharp
duodenal ulcer	sore in the duodenum
duodenum	first part of the small intestine

dura mater	outer layer of the membranes that surround brain and spinal cord
duritis	inflammation of the dura mater
dyscrasia	disorder, usually of the blood cells
dysentery	inflammation of the intestine, usually the colon, resulting in pain and in blood and mucus in bowel movements
dysmenorrhea	painful menstruation
dyspepsia	trouble digesting food with discomfort after meals
dysphagia	trouble swallowing
dysphasia	difficulty speaking and putting words together
dysphonia	trouble with the voice and speaking
dysplasia	abnormal development or cell growth
dyspnea	trouble breathing
dystocia	difficult childbirth
dysuria	pain when urinating
<b>E</b>	
ecchymosis	black and blue mark; bruise
echocardiogram	picture of the heart in motion made using ultrasonography
echoencephalography	use of ultrasonography to record the shape of the brain
eclampsia	convulsions in a pregnant woman caused by high blood pressure and other medical problems
ectopic pregnancy	pregnancy growing outside the uterus, often in fallopian tubes
eczema	type of itchy skin rash
edema	swelling caused by fluid held in the tissues
efferent	going away from the center of the body
ejaculation	discharge of semen from the penis during the climax of sexual intercourse
electrocardiogram (ECG)	picture of the electrical action of the heart

electrocardiograph	machine that records the electrical action of the heart
electroencephalogram (EEG)	picture of brain wave activity
electroencephalograph	machine that records brain wave activity
elevator	tool used for lifting tissue
embolectomy	surgery to remove a blood clot
embolus	blood clot
embryo	unborn baby from 2 to 8 weeks after it is formed
embryoid	looking like an embryo
embryology	the study of the development of the unborn baby
emesis	vomiting
emetic	drug used to make a person vomit; useful in treating poisoning
emmetropia	normal condition of the eye when light focuses correctly on the retina
emollient	substance that softens the skin
emphysema	disorder in which too much air collects deep in the lungs
encephalitis	inflammation of the brain
encephalomyeloradiculitis	inflammation of the brain, the spinal cord, and the spinal nerve roots
encephalosclerosis	hardening of the brain
endocervicitis	inflammation of the inner lining of the cervix
endocrinologist	doctor who treats disorders of the glands that make hormones
endocrinopathy	disease of the glands that make hormones; hormonal imbalance
endometriosis	growths outside of the uterus made up of the tissues that lines the uterus
endometritis	inflammation of the inner lining of the uterus
endometrium	inner lining of the uterus
endophthalmitis	inflammation of the contents of the eye
endorphin	substance made by the body to stop pain

endoscope	tool used to look into body structures and hollow organs, such as the stomach
endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)	x-ray of the bile and pancreatic ducts made using an endoscope
endosteum	tissue that lines the inside of bone
endotracheal	inside the windpipe
enema	liquid that is injected into the rectum to promote bowel movement
enterorrhaphy	surgery to stitch the intestine
enucleation	surgery to remove the eye
epidermal	having to do with the outer layer of the skin
epidermis	outer layer of skin
epididymis	tubes that stores and carries sperm
epigastric region	area above the navel
epiglottis	flap of skin that keeps food from going down the windpipe
epiglottitis	inflammation of the epiglottis
epilepsy	seizure disorder
epinephrine	hormone made by the adrenal glands that speeds up body organs and helps the body deal with stress
epiphysis	growth area of a long bone
episioperineoplasty	surgery to fix the vulva and perineum
episiorrhaphy	stitching a tear in the vulva
episiotomy	surgical cut in the vagina to keep it from tearing when a baby is being born
epistaxis	nosebleed
epithelial	having to do with the epithelium
epithelioma	benign or malignant growth made up of epithelial tissue
epithelium	type of tissue that covers the outside of the body and makes up the lining and outer layers of most body organs and parts
equivalent	equal, same

erythema	redness
erythrocyte count	the number of erythrocytes in the blood
erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)	blood test that measures how long it takes for erythrocytes to sink to the bottom of a tube- used to check for inflammation in the body
erythrocytes	cells in blood that carry oxygen; red blood cells
erythrocytosis	increase in number of red blood cells
erythroderma	red skin
esophagogastroduod enoscopy	use of an endoscope to look into the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum
esophagoscope	tool used to look into the esophagus
estrogen	female sex hormone
estrogen receptor assay	blood test used to detect tumor cells in patients with breast cancer
etiology	the cause or causes of an illness
eupnea	normal breathing
eustachian tube	tube that connects the middle ear and the throat
eversion	turning inside out
excretion	the way that substances leave the body
exophthalmic	has a bulging eyeball or eyeballs
exophthalmos	bulging of one or both eyeballs
exostosis	bony growth on the surface of a bone
extension	the straight position of an arm or leg
external auditory meatus	opening or passageway between the outside of the ear and the eardrum
external ear	outside part of the ear
external genitalia	sex organs on the outside of the body: penis, scrotum, and urethra in men; vulva, clitoris, and urethra in women
extracorporeal	outside of the body
extravasation	escape of blood from blood vessels and into tissue
<b>F</b>	

fallopian tube	tube attached to the uterus down which the egg travels from the ovary to the uterus
fasting blood sugar	blood test used to measure the amount of sugar in the blood after not eating or drinking for a set amount of time
feces	material excreted during bowel movement
femoral	having to do with the thigh area
femoropopliteal bypass	surgery to make a passageway from one artery to another in the leg
femur	thigh bone
fetus	unborn baby from 9 weeks after it is formed until it is born
fibrillation	fast uncontrolled heart beat
fibroid tumor	growth made up of fibrous tissue
fibula	the lower leg bone behind the shin
fimbria	tissue that looks like a fringe on the end of the uterine tubes
fine	having thin jaws or tips, such as a tool used for delicate or small procedures
fissure	crack or groove in tissue
flatus	passing gas
flexion	bent position of the arm or leg
fluorescent treponemal antibody absorption (FTA-ABS) test	blood test used to detect syphilis
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	government agency that regulates foods and drugs
forceps	tool with two blades and a handle used for handling tissue or dressings
foreskin	fold of skin that covers the penis and is removed in circumcision
fracture	broken bone
fulguration	use of electric sparks to remove tissue such as tumors
fundus	top of the uterus; or back of the eye

fungal	having to do with fungi
fungal test	test used to detect and identify a fungus
fungi	more than one fungus
fungus	type of living organisms, such as yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, some of which cause infection and some of which look like plants
furuncle	painful skin boil

## G

gait	the way a person walks
galactorrhea	too much discharge of milk from the breast
gallbladder	small sack under the liver that holds bile
gamma globulin	type of protein that helps the body fight infection
ganglion	group of nerve cells found outside the central nervous system; or a benign tumor on muscle connective tissue or on a tendon
ganglionectomy	surgery to remove a ganglion
ganglionitis	inflammation of a ganglion
gangrene	death of tissue caused by loss of blood flow and usually followed by infection
gastrectomy	surgery to remove all or part of the stomach
gastric lavage	washing the stomach out
gastric ulcer	sore in the stomach
gastritis	inflammation of the stomach
gastrodynia	pain in the stomach
gastroenteritis	inflammation of the stomach and intestines
gastroscope	tool used to look into the stomach
gastrostomy	surgery to make an opening from the outside of the body into the stomach
gavage	feeding a person through a tube that goes into the stomach
general anesthesia	physical state of unconsciousness and loss of pain sensation caused by anesthetic drugs
generic name	chemical name for a drug

genes	material passed from parent to child that determines the makeup of the body and mind
genetic	having to do with the genes
genital	having to do with the sex organs
genital herpes	disease caused by a herpesvirus in which there are blisters on the genitalia
genitalia	male and female sex organs
gingiva	the gums
gingivectomy	surgery to remove gum tissue
gingivitis	inflammation of the gums
gland	tissue that produces a material, such as the saliva or a hormone
glans penis	end of the penis
glaucoma	increased pressure inside the eye that causes visual problems
globulins	proteins in the blood
glomerulonephritis	inflammation of the kidney
glomerulus	place in the kidney where urine is formed
glossitis	inflammation of the tongue
glossopathy	disease of the tongue
glossorrhaphy	surgery to stitch the tongue
glucocorticoids	drugs or natural substances made by the adrenal glands that have many effects on body metabolism, raise sugar level in the blood, and reduce inflammation
glucose	type of sugar found in the blood
glucose tolerance test	test that measures blood sugar levels over a certain amount of time in a patient after he drinks a beverage that contains a measured amount of sugar
glycosuria	sugar in urine
gonad	sex gland: female ovary or male testicle
gonorrhea	type of bacterial infection in the sex organs and sometimes in the skin and joints
gout	disorder in which crystals of uric acid deposit in and around joints, causing pain and arthritis

granulocytopenia	drop in white blood cell count
growth hormone (GH)	hormone made by the pituitary gland that controls the growth of the body
guaiac test	test for blood in stool
gynecologist	doctor who test disorders of the sex organs of women
gynecology	the study of the reproductive system of women
<b>H</b>	
hair	thin strands of protein that grow up from the hair follicles
heart	muscle that moves or pumps blood through the body
heart failure	when the heart inadequately pumps blood through the body
heart murmur	swishing sound, heard when listening to the heart through a stethoscope, caused by abnormal flow of blood through the heart
hematemesis	blood in vomit
hematocrit	the percentage of blood made up of red blood cells
hematocytopenia	not enough blood cells
hematologist	doctor who treats blood disorders
hematology	the study of blood
hematoma	pocket of blood caused by bleeding from a broken blood vessel; appears "black and blue"
hematopoiesis	the making of blood cells
hematosalpinx	blood in the uterine tube
hematuria	blood in the urine
hemiparesis	muscle weakness or partial paralysis, usually with loss of feeling, on half of the body
hemiplegia	total loss of muscle movement, usually with loss of feeling, on half of the body
hemodialysis	method used to remove waste material from the blood
hemoglobin (Hgb)	substance that carries oxygen and gives blood its red color
hemolysis	bursting open of red blood cells

hemophilia	genetic defect in which blood clots too slowly
hemorrhage	bleeding, escape of blood from blood vessels
hemorrhoidectomy	surgery to remove hemorrhoids
hemorrhoids	twisted and bulging veins in the rectal area
hemostasis	the stopping of bleeding
hemothorax	blood in the chest cavity
hepatitis	inflammation of the liver
hepatoma	growth on the liver
hernia	bulging of an organ through an abnormal opening in a muscle wall
herniated disk	breaking of a ring-shaped pad in the spine, which often pinches a nerve; slipped disk
herniorrhaphy	surgery to fix a hernia
herpes	groups of tiny blisters found on the skin caused by infection with a herpesvirus
heterosexual	person who is attracted to the opposite sex
hiccup	sudden, uncontrolled spasm of the diaphragm
hidradenitis	inflammation of a sweat gland
hip bone	bone at the lower part of the body trunk
hirsutism	abnormal hairiness (in women, an adult male pattern of hair distribution)
histology	the study of tissue under the microscope
Hodgkin's disease	a cancer of white blood cells
homosexual	person who is attracted to the same sex
hordeolum	infection of the oil glands of the eyelids
hormone	substance made by a gland in the body that regulates another part of the body
Hospital Formulary	list of drugs and their proper doses maintained by each hospital
humeral	having to do with the upper arm bone
humerus	upper arm bone
hydrocephalus	increase in fluid in usually causing pressure on the brain; water on the brain

hydronephrosis	abnormal collection of urine in the kidney causing a swollen kidney
hydrosalpinx	fluid in the uterine tube
hymen	fold of tissue at the opening of the vagina
hymenectomy	surgery to remove the hymen
hypercalcemia	too much calcium in the blood
hypercapnia	too much carbon dioxide in the blood
hyperesthesia	very sensitive to touch
hyperglycemia	too much sugar in the blood
hyperkalemia	too much potassium in the blood
hyperkinesis	overactive movements
hyperopia	farsightedness
hyperplasia	abnormal increase in the number of normal cells
hypertension	high blood pressure
hypertensive heart disease	heart problems caused by high blood pressure
hyperthyroidism	overactive thyroid gland
hyperventilation	breathing that is too fast
hypnotic	drug used to make a person sleep
hypocalcemia	not enough calcium in the blood
hypocapnia	not enough carbon dioxide on the blood
hypochondriac region	area to the right or left above the naval
hypodermic	under the skin
hypodermic injection	injection of a substance under the skin
hypoesthesia	state of having less than normal sensitivity to stimulation
hypogastric region	area below the naval
hypoglycemia	not enough sugar in the blood
hypokalemia	not enough potassium in the blood
hypopnea	weak, slow breathing
hypospadias	birth defect in which the urethra opens under the penis instead of the tip of the penis

hypotension	low blood pressure
hypothermia	low body temperature
hypothyroidism	underactive thyroid gland
hypotonia	decreased muscle tone
hypoventilation	too little air entering the lungs
hypoxemia	not enough oxygen in the blood
hypoxia	not enough oxygen in the tissues
hysteratresia	birth defect in which the uterus does not open to the outside of the body
hysterectomy	surgery to remove the uterus
hysteropexy	surgery to fasten down the uterus in its normal position
hysterosalpingo-oophorectomy	surgery to remove all of the internal female reproductive organs
hysterosalpingography	taking an x-ray of the uterus and the uterine tubes using a dye to outline them
hysteroscope	tool used to look into the uterus

I

iatrology	the science of medicine
icterus	too much bile in the blood causing a yellow color to the skin, gums, eye, and other tissues
idiopathic	of unknown cause
idiosyncrasy	rare side effect of a drug; unusual reaction of a person to a drug
ileocecal	having to do with the ileum and the cecum
ileum	third and last part of the small intestine
ileus	blockage of the intestines
iliac regions	areas to the right and left below the naval
iliofemoral	having to do with the hip and thigh bones
ilium	wing-shaped upper part of the hip bone
immune globulins	proteins that help protect the body from infection and foreign matter

immune system	the cells and substances that protect the body from infection and foreign matter
immunity	protection against infection
immunodeficiency	weakness of the immune system
impedance plethysmography	test used to find blood clots
impetigo	skin infection
impotent	not able to have or to keep an erection during sexual intercourse
incontinence	not able to control bladder or bowel actions
induration	hard spot
inferior	toward the lower part of the body
inflammation	swelling, redness, and pain in tissues caused by injury or damage
influenza	the flu
infusion	placing a liquid substance into a vein by letting it flow in with gravity
inhalant	substance given through the nose or mouth to reach the lungs
insulin	the hormone that controls blood sugar levels
interictal	happening between seizures
intermittent claudication	pain and weakness in the legs when walking is impossible and then goes away after a rest
intervertebral disks	pads found between each ring (bone) in the spine
intracavity injection	injection of a substance into a body cavity
intracoronary thrombolytic therapy	injection of medicine to dissolve a blood clot in an artery of the heart
intracranial	inside the skull
intradermally	given into the skin
intra dermal injection	injection of a substance into the skin
intra dermal tests	allergy tests performed by injecting allergy-causing substances underneath the skin to see if they cause a reaction

intramuscular injection (IM)	injection of a substance into a muscle (e.g., upper arm or backside)
intraocular	within the eye
intrathecal injection	injection of a substance into the space surrounding the spinal cord (i.e., spinal canal)
intravenous (IV) injection	injection of a substance into a vein
intravenous pyelogram	x-ray of the kidneys and ureters using dye that is injected into the blood
intussusception	telescoping of the intestine into itself
inversion	turning inward
investigation	study
iritis	inflammation of the iris
irritable bowel syndrome	bowel disorder in which there is pain and diarrhea or constipation
ischium	lower part of the pelvic bone, part you sit on
islets of Langerhans	tissue in the pancreas that makes and discharges insulin and other hormones
isthmus	thin strip of tissue that joins two parts of the body
<b>J</b>	
jaundice	too much bile in the blood causing a yellow color to the skin, gums, eye, and other tissues
jejunum	second and longest part of the small intestine
<b>K</b>	
Kaposi's sarcoma	purple or brown cancerous pimples on the skin, often associated with AIDS
karyocyte	cell with a center
karyoplasm	material inside the center of a cell
keloid	type of scar tissue that keeps growing inside
keratin	protein that is found in the hair, nails, and skin
keratoplasty	surgery to fix the cornea
ketone bodies	substances that increase in the blood and urine when too much body fat and too many carbohydrates are

	being broken down, usually because of starvation or serious, untreated diabetes mellitus
kidney	one of two organs in the lower back that filter blood and make urine
knife	tool with a sharp blade used for cutting tissue
kyphosis	hunchback
<b>L</b>	
labyrinth	structure in the inner ear
labyrinthectomy	surgery to remove the inner ear
labyrinthitis	inflammation of the inner ear
laceration	torn, ragged cut
lacrimal	having to do with the tears
lacrimal duct	passageway in the eyelids that drains tears; a type of tear duct
lactating	making milk
lactic dehydrogenase (LDH)	substance measured in a blood test to assess damage to heart and other organs
lactogenic	causing the making of breast milk
lactorrhea	too much discharge of milk from the breast
laminectomy	surgery to remove the top of vertebra
laparoscope	tool used to look into the abdominal cavity
laparotomy	surgery to make an opening into the wall of the stomach to look inside with a laparoscope
large intestine	the bowel between the small intestine and the anus, including the cecum, colon, and rectum
laryngeal	having to do with the voice box
laryngectomy	surgery to remove the voice box
laryngitis	inflammation of the voice box
laryngocentesis	surgery to puncture the voice box
laryngoplasty	surgery to fix the voice box
laryngoscope	tool used to look into the voice box
laryngospasm	sudden, uncontrolled cramp in the voice box

laryngectomy	surgery to make an opening into the voice box
laryngotracheobronchitis	inflammation of the larynx, windpipe, and bronchi; croup
larynx	voice box
laser angioplasty	using a laser light to open blocked arteries
lateral	toward or having to do with the side of the body
latex agglutination test	blood test used to detect antibodies
laxative	drug used to stop constipation
LE (lupus erythematosus)-cell test	blood test used to detect the presence of a certain type of white blood cell seen in people with lupus erythematosus and similar disorders
legionnaires' disease	serious disorder caused by bacterial infection in which there is high fever, stomach pain, headache, and pneumonia
leioderma	disorder in which the skin is too smooth and shiny
leiomyoma	smooth muscle growth
leiomyosarcoma	cancer of smooth muscle
lens	structure in the eye that is normally clear and helps to focus light coming into the eye
lesion	abnormal area of tissue, such as a wound, sore, rash, or boil
leukemia	cancer of white blood cells
leukocoria	white pupil
leukocyte	one of the infection-fighting cells in the blood and body tissues; white blood cells
leukocyte count	number of white blood cells in the blood
leukocytosis	increase in number of white blood cells in the blood
leukoderma	white skin
leukokoria	white pupil
libido	sexual desire
ligament	elastic tissue that connects bone or cartilage
lipid	fat
lipid tests	blood tests that measure how much fat is in the blood

lipoid	fatty
lipoma	growth made up of fat cells
lipoprotein electrophoresis	blood test that measures the amounts of fat and protein in the blood
lithotripsy	surgery or other method to crush a stone
liver	large organ that helps in many body functions, including digestion, metabolism, and storage of substances
lobar pneumonia	bacterial infection of one or more sections of the lung
lobectomy	surgery to remove a section of the lung
lochia	normal discharge from the vagina for 1 to 2 weeks after childbirth
long bone	bone that is long and slender, such as a leg or arm bone
lordosis	forward curving of the spine, causing saddle back or sway back
Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS)	muscle disorder
lower GI (gastrointestinal) series	x-ray using a dye given as an enema to outline the large intestine
lumbar puncture	spinal tap using a needle to remove spinal fluid for testing from the lower back
lumbar region	lower back of the body
lumbar vertebrae	bones of the spine in the lower back
lumen	the space inside a tube-like body structure, such as a blood vessel
lung lobe	one of five sections of the two lungs
lungs	the two main organs for breathing
lupus erythematosus (LE)	chronic disorders of connective tissue in which there can be skin rash, arthritis, kidney problems, and anemia, among other problems
lymph	clear liquid tissue
lymph node	tissue that filters disease germs from the blood; also called a lymph gland
lymphadenitis	inflammation of the lymph nodes

lymphangiography	x-ray of the lymph nodes
lymphocyte	type of white blood cell
lymphoid tissue	tissue that contains lymphocytes
lymphoma	cancerous growth made up of lymphoid tissue, particularly lymphocytes

## M

macro-	describes something that is large or long
macule	flat, colored spot on the skin
magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)	the use of magnetic waves to look at soft tissues of the body
malignant	cancerous
mallet	hammer-like tool used for striking objects
mammary glands	milk-producing tissue in the breasts
mammary papilla	breast nipple
mammogram	x-ray of the breast
mammoplasty	surgery to reconstruct the breast
mandible	lower jaw bone
Mantoux test	skin test used to check for tuberculosis
mastalgia	pain in the breast
mastectomy	surgery to remove a breast
mastitis	inflammation of the mammary gland or of the breast
mastoid cells	air spaces inside the mastoid process
mastoid process	protruding part of a bone located in the skull behind the ear
mastoidectomy	surgery to remove the mastoid process or mastoid cells
mastoiditis	inflammation of the air spaces in the mastoid process that communicate with the middle ear
mastoidotomy	surgery to cut into the mastoid process
mastoptosis	drooping breasts
maxilla	upper jaw bone
maxillectomy	surgery to remove the upper jaw bone

maxillitis	inflammation of the upper jaw bone
meconium	first stool of the newborn
medial	toward or having to do with the middle of the body
medications	medicines, drugs
mediastinum	tissue and organs in the middle of the chest between the two lungs
medulla oblongata	part of the brain that controls breathing, blood pressure, and other important body functions; brain stem
meibomian cyst	pimple on the eyelid caused by an inflamed gland (stye)
melanin	material that makes the color of the skin and hair
melanoma	cancerous black growth on the skin
melasma	a blotchy brown stain on the skin, usually over the cheeks, forehead, or neck; often associated with pregnancy, menopause, or the use of oral contraceptives
menarche	time in life when a girl starts having a menstrual period
Meniere's disease	disorder of the inner ear in which there is dizziness, ringing in the ears, and loss of hearing
meninges	three-layered tissue that covers the brain and spinal cord
meningitis	inflammation of the meninges
meningocele	bulging of the meninges through a hole in bone
meningomyelradiculitis	inflammation of the meninges and roots of the spinal nerves
meniscectomy	surgery to remove a meniscus
meniscitis	inflammation of the meninges and roots of the spinal nerves
meniscus	one of two crescent-shaped pads inside the knee joint
menometrorrhagia	too much bleeding from the uterus during menstruation and at other times
menopause	time in life when a woman stops having a menstrual period

menses	discharge of blood and tissue from the uterus that happens about every 4 weeks in women who are not pregnant
menstrual	having to do with menstruation
menstrual period	the time of menstruation
menstruation	discharge of blood and tissue from the uterus that happens about every 4 weeks in women who are not pregnant
metabolism	total of all the important actions in the body that keep it alive
metacarpal bones	.bones of the hand between the wrist and fingers
metastasis	spread of disease from one place in the body to another place in the body that is not nearby
metatarsal bones	foot bones
metrorrhea	discharge from the uterus
micro-	describes something that is small or delicate
microcephalus	person with a very small head
micturate	urinate
middle ear	the space between the eardrum and the inner ear
migraine	type of severe headache that occurs periodically and is often associated with nausea, vomiting, sight or hearing sensitivities
miotic	substance that makes the pupil of the eye smaller (e.g., narcotic)
miscarriage	loss of an unborn baby from the uterus before it is able to survive outside the mother's body
mitral commissurotomy	surgery to repair the mitral valve to enlarge the opening between the two parts of the left side of the heart
mitral valve	valve between two chambers on the left side of the heart
molecular pharmacology	the study of the action between two parts of the left side of the heart
monoparesis	weak muscle movement and loss of feeling in one arm or one leg

monoplegia	loss of movement and loss of feeling in one arm or one leg
motility	ability to move
mouth	opening through which food passes into the body to be digested
mucopurulent	slimy and with pus in it
mucus	slimy fluid
multigravida	women who has been pregnant two or more times
multipara	woman who has given birth two or more times
multiple sclerosis (MS)	slowly worsening disorder of the central nervous system that causes weakness, incoordination, numbness, and probh talking and seeing
muscle	type of tissue that causes movement
muscular dystrophy (MD)	genetic problem resulting in muscle weakness and atrophy
myasthenia	muscle weakness
myasthenia gravis	disorder that causes muscles to get tired quickly
mydriatic	substance that makes the pupil of the eye bigger
myelogram	x-ray of the spinal cord using dye that is injected into the spinal area
myeloma	cancer of the types of cells normally found in bone marrow
myelomalacia	softening of the spinal cord
myocardial infarction (MI)	heart attack
myocardial ischemia	not enough blood going to the heart
myocarditis	inflammation of the heart muscle
myocardium	muscle of the heart
myoma	growth made up of muscle tissue
myomectomy	surgery to remove a myoma or a piece of muscle
myometritis	inflammation of the muscle of the uterus
myometrium	muscle of the uterus
myopathy	muscle disorder

myopia	nearsightedness
myoplasty	surgery to fix a muscle
myorrhaphy	surgery to stitch a muscle
myringitis	inflammation of the eardrum
myringoplasty	surgery to fix a ruptured eardrum
myxedema	disorder caused by lack of thyroid hormone in which areas of the skin are swollen
<b>N</b>	
nail	tough plate of tissue covering the top of the end of each finger and toe
narcotic	strong habit-forming drug that stops pain and depresses the central nervous system
nasal	having to do with the nose
nasal septum	wall that divides the nose into two sides
nasogastric tube	tube that goes through the nose and into the stomach; used for feeding liquid food to a patient
nasolacrimal duct	tube that drains tears from the eye into the nose; tear duct
nasopharyngeal	having to do with the nasopharynx
nasopharyngitis	inflammation of the nasopharynx
natal	having to do with childbirth
nausea	sick to the stomach
nebulizer	device used to turn liquids into mists for breathing treatments
necrosis	death of tissue or skin
neonate	newborn infant
neonatology	the study of disorders of newborn infants
neoplasm	new growth that is not normal; tumor
nephrectomy	surgery to remove a kidney
nephritis	kidney inflammation
nephroblastoma	type of malignant kidney tumor
nephrogram	x-ray of the kidney

nephrohypertrophy	overgrowth of the kidney
nephrolithiasis	stones in the kidney
nephroma	growth in the kidney
nephromegaly	overgrowth of the kidney
nephropexy	surgery to tie down a kidney
nephroptosis	sagging kidney
nephrosonography	use of ultrasonography
nerve	string-like tissue that carries messages to and away from the brain and spinal cord and tells muscles to move
nervous tissue	type of tissue that makes up the central nervous system and nerves
neuralgia	nerve pain
neurectomy	surgery to remove part of a nerve
neuritis	inflammation of a nerve
neuroarthropathy	disorder of the joints and the central nervous system or nerves
neuroblast	cell that will develop into a nerve
neurohypophysis	part of the brain that discharges hormones including oxytocin and vasopressin
neuroid	like a nerve
neurologist	doctor who treats disorders of the central nervous system and nerves
neurolysis	surgery to open the covering of a nerve to destroy a nerve
neuroma	growth made up of nerve tissue
neuropathy	a disturbance in the function of the brain or spinal cord that may affect the nerves and muscles of the body
neuropharmacologic drug	drug that acts on the nervous system
neuroplasty	surgery to fix a nerve
neurorrhaphy	stitching a cut nerve
neurosis	mental and emotional disorder

neurotomy	surgery to make a break in a nerve
nevus	mole; birthmark
nocturia	too much urination at night
norepinephrine	hormone discharged from nerves, the brain, and the adrenal glands that helps the body deal with stress and low blood pressure
nucleus	center of a cell
nulligravida	woman that has never given birth
nullipara	woman that has never given birth to an infant that lived
nyctalopia	difficulty seeing at night

## O

obstetrician	doctor who takes care of pregnant women and delivers babies
obstetrics	the study of pregnant women and childbirth
obstructive sleep apnea	breathing problems while sleeping because the airways collapse or get closed off
occlude	close off
oculomycosis	fungus infection in the eye
oculus dexter (OD)	right eye
oculus sinister (OS)	left eye
oculus uterque (OU)	each eye
oligomenorrhea	occasional and irregular menstruation that occurs every 35 days to 6 months
oligospermia	decreased amount of sperm in semen
oliguria	decreased amount of urine
omphalitis	inflammation of the belly button
omphalocele	a birth defect in which there is bulging of the intestine through the body wall in the belly button region
oncogenic	causing tumors to form
oncologist	doctor who treats cancer
oncology	cancer

onychectomy	surgery to remove a nail
onychocryptosis	ingrown nail
onychomalacia	softening of the nails
onychomycosis	fungal infection of the nail
onychophagia	nail biting
oophorectomy	surgery to remove the uterus and ovaries
oophoritis	inflammation of the ovary
oophorohysterectomy	surgery to remove the uterus and ovaries
opportunity	chance
ophthalmalgia	pain in the eye
ophthalmic	having to do with the eye
ophthalmologist	doctor who treats eye disorders
ophthalmology	the study of eye disorders
ophthalmopathy	disorder of the eye
ophthalmorrhagia	bleeding from the eye
optic	having to do with the eye
optic nerve.	nerve that carries visual messages from the retina to the brain
optician	.person who makes glasses
optometer	.tool used in eye examinations
optometry	the study of the eye and vision
oral	having to do with the mouth
oral administration	giving a drug by mouth
orchidopexy	.surgery to tie down a testicle in the scrotum
orchiectomy	surgery to remove one or both testicles
orchiepididymitis	inflammation of a testicle and epididymis
orchiopexy	surgery to tie down a testicle in the scrotum
orchioplasty	surgery to fix a testicle
orchitis	inflammation of a testicle
organ	.two or more kinds of tissues that work together to make up a part of the body with a unique function

orgasm	the climax of sexual excitement
orthodontist	dentist who treats teeth and jaw disorders
orthopedics	the study of the bones and joints
orthopedist	doctor who treats bone and joint disorders
orthopnea	difficult breathing except when sitting up
orthotist	person who puts on and teaches the use braces and splints
ossicles	bones of the middle ear that carry sound
osteoarthritis (OA)	disorder, which is seen mostly in older persons, in which the joints become painful and stiff
osteoblasts	cell that makes bone
osteocarcinoma	.bone cancer growth
osteochondritis	inflammation of bone and cartilage
osteoclasis	surgery to break a bone
osteocyte	bone cell
osteofibroma	benign tumor of bone and connective tissue
osteogenesis imperfecta	genetic disorder in which the bones are delicate and break easily
osteomalacia	soft bones
osteomyelitis	infection and inflammation of bone
osteonecrosis	death of bone tissue
osteoplasty	surgery to fix a bone
osteoporosis	loss of calcium from bone tissue resulting in bones that break easily; prevalent in postmenopausal women
osteosarcoma	cancer of bone
osteotome	chisel-like tool used for cutting or marking bone
otalgia	earache
otitis	inflammation of the ear
otitis externa	.inflammation of the outer ear canal
otitis interna	inflammation of the inner ear
otitis media	inflammation of the middle ear

otologist	doctor who treats disorders of the ear
otology	the study of the ear
otomastoiditis	inflammation of the ear together with mastoiditis
otomycosis	fungus infection in the outer ear canal
otopyorrhea	discharge of pus from the ear
otorhinolaryngologist	doctor who treats disorders of the ear, nose, and throat
otosclerosis	bone deposits in the inner ear which fuses the bones together
otoscope	tool used to look into the ear
ovaries	more than one ovary
ovulation	discharge of an egg from the ovary
ovum	the female sex cell that joins with the male sperm to make a zygote and eventually a baby; egg
oximeter	tool used to measure the amount of oxygen in the blood
oxytocin	hormone made by the brain that makes the uterus cramp and milk come out of the breasts

## P

pachyderma	thickening of the skin
palate	roof of the mouth
palatitis	inflammation of the roof of the mouth
palatoplasty	surgery to fix the roof of the mouth
pallor	pale color of the skin
palmar	having to do with the palm of the hand
pancreas	organ that makes hormones, including insulin, and digestive juices
pancreatic	having to do with the pancreas
pancreatitis	inflammation of the pancreas
panplegia	total loss of muscle control and feeling
pansinusitis	inflammation of the all the sinuses on one side of the body

Pap test	microscope test used to detect virus infection of the cervix or cancer of the vagina, cervix, or lining of the uterus
papule	pimple
para	woman who has given birth
paralysis	loss of ability to move muscles with loss of feeling also
paranasal sinuses	air cavities inside the bones of the face around the nose
paraplegia	complete loss of muscle control and total loss of feeling from the waist downward
parasympatholytic	drug that blocks a kind of nerve
parasympathomimetic	drug that imitates the action of a kind of nerve
parathyroid gland	gland that makes and discharges a hormone that helps control the amount of calcium in the blood
parathyroidectomy	surgery to remove the parathyroid gland
parathyroidoma	growth or cancer on the parathyroid gland
parenteral administration.	giving a substance by injection rather by mouth
paresis	muscle weakness; partial paralysis
parietal layer	layer of tissue in the wall of a cavity
parietal layer of the pericardium	layer of tissue in the sack around the heart
Parkinson's disease	disorder of the central nervous system, seen usually in older persons, in which there is muscle weakness, trembling, sweating
paronychia	inflammation around the nail
paroxysm	sudden worsening of an illness; or a spasm or seizure
partial thromboplastin time (PTT)	a test of blood clotting time used to measure substances that help the blood to clot
participate	take part
parturition	childbirth
patch test	allergy test performed by putting an allergy-causing material on the skin to see if it causes a reaction
patella	kneecap

patellectomy	surgery to remove the kneecap
patent	open
pathogenic	causing disease
pathologist	doctor who studies the changes in the body and its tissues caused by disease
pathology	the study of the changes in the body and body tissue caused by disease
pediculosis	infection with lice, which are tiny bugs
pelvic bone	hip bone
pelvic cavity	space where the urinary bladder, certain reproductive organs, part of the large intestine, and the rectum are found
pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)	infection of any of the female reproductive organs inside the pelvic space, including the uterus, uterine tubes, and ovaries
pelvimetry	x-ray of the pelvis of the mother to make sure her pelvis is large enough for the body to come through during birth
pelvis of the kidney	place where urine leaves the kidney
penicillin	type of antibiotic
penile implant	artificial device put into the penis to help a man get an erection
penis	outer male sex organ
peptic ulcer	sore in the stomach or in the lining of the stomach
percussion	tapping of a body surface with the fingers to check the organs under the skin by the sound that is made
percutaneous	through the skin
percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA)	procedure in which a small balloon is blown up inside the blood vessel to open up a blood vessel
pericardiotomy	surgery to make an opening into the pericardium
pericarditis	inflammation of the pericardium
pericardium	two-layer sack of tissue around the heart
perimetritis	inflammation of the perimetrium

perimetrium	outer layer of tissue around the uterus
perineorrhaphy	stitching a tear in the perineum
perineum	area between the vulva and rectum in women and between the scrotum and rectum in men
periosteum	layer of tissue that covers bone
pertussis	whooping cough
petechia	tiny red or purple spot on skin or other tissue caused by bleeding
phacoemulsification	method of removing a cataract by using sound waves to break it up
phalanges	finger and toe bones
pharmacist	person licensed to prepare and dispense drugs and fill prescriptions
pharmacodynamics	the study of how drugs act on the body
pharmacokinetics	the study of the way a drug enters and leaves the blood and tissues over time
pharyngitis	sore throat
pharynx	area between the mouth and esophagus that performs the swallowing action; throat
phenothiazines	group of drugs used for the control of mental illness
phenylketonuria (PKU)	dangerous buildup of toxic materials in the body resulting from a genetic defect that affects metabolism
phlebectomy	surgery to remove part or all of a vein
phlebography	x-ray of a vein or veins using a dye to outline them
phlebotomy	nicking or putting a needle into a vein to remove blood
phonocardiogram	detailed record of heart sounds
photophobia	irritation of the eye caused by light
photoretinitis	inflammation of the back of the eye caused by strong light
phrenic	having to do with the mind; or having to do with a diaphragm
phrenopathy	mental disorder
pia mater	inner layer of the meninges

pinna	outer flap of the ear
pituitary gland	gland that sits under the brain and makes many hormones, including some that control other glands
placebo	a pretend treatment (with no drug in it) that is compared in a clinical trial with a drug to test if the drug has a real effect
placenta	tissues that provide food for the unborn baby
plantar	having to do with the sole of the foot
plasma	liquid part of blood where cells float
plasmapheresis	removing plasma from blood that has been drawn from a person
platelet count.	the number of platelets in the blood
platelets	small structures in blood that help it to clot
pleura	thin tissue that covers the lungs and inner walls of the chest
pleural effusion	fluid in the chest cavity
pleurisy	inflammation of the pleura with discharge in the chest cavity, making breathing painful
pleuropexy	surgery to fix the film that covers the lungs
pneumatocele	bulging of the lungs through an abnormal opening
pneumobronchotomy	incision into the lungs
pneumoconiosis	dust in the lungs
Pneumocystis carinii	type of parasite or fungus that causes pneumonia in infants and weakened patients, such as those with AIDS
pneumonectomy	surgery to remove a lung
pneumonia	inflammation of the lungs in which the lungs become heavy
pneumonitis	inflammation of the lungs
pneumothorax.	free air in the chest cavity
podiatrist	foot doctor
poliomyelitis	infection with a virus in which there can be fever, headache, and stiff neck followed by paralysis and wasting away of muscles

polyarteritis	inflammation of many arteries
polycystic kidney	kidney with many cysts in it
polydipsia	too much thirst
polymyositis	inflammation of more than one muscle
polyneuritis	inflammation of several nerves
polyp	type of growth that sticks up out of tissue
polypectomy	surgery to remove a polyp
polyuria	too much urine being made
pons	part of the brain through which the two sides and different areas of the brain communicate
porphyria	disturbance of metabolism that can be seen as disorders of the skin or other organs
posterior	having to do with the back of the body
posterior lobe of the pituitary	part of the pituitary gland that discharges oxytocin, vasopressin, and some proteins
postictal	happening after a seizure
postpartum	after childbirth
potentiation	increase in drug action from using two drugs together instead of using each drug alone
preeclampsia	serious problem of pregnancy in which there is high blood pressure and excess fluid in the tissues of the mother
pregnancy	carrying an unborn baby
preictal	happening before a seizure
premature infant	infant born before it has fully developed; weight less than 5.5 lbs
prepuce	fold of skin (foreskin) that covers the penis and is removed in circumcision
presbycusis	loss of hearing because of old age
presbyopia	problems with vision because of old age
primigravida	woman going through her first pregnancy
primipara	woman who has one pregnancy that lasted at least 20 weeks

proctologist	doctor who treats disorders of the rectum and anus
proctology.	the study of the disorders of the rectum and anus
proctoptosis	fallen anus protruding from the body
proctoscope	tool used to look into the rectum
progestins	type of female hormones that prepare the uterus for pregnancy
prognosis	forecast of the probable outcome of a disease
prolapsed uterus	fallen uterus protruding from the body
prone	lying face down
prostate gland	gland that makes fluid that aids movement of sperm
prostate-specific antigen (PSA)	substance in blood that is measured to check for prostatic cancer
prostatectomy	surgery to remove all or part of the prostate gland
prostatic cancer	cancer of the prostate gland
prostatitis	inflammation of the prostate gland
prostatocystitis	inflammation of the neck of the bladder and the bladder
prostatolith	stone in the prostate gland
prostatorrhoea	discharge of liquid from the prostate
prosthesis	artificial body part
prothrombin time (PT)	a test of blood clotting time used to measure substances that help the blood to clot
proximal	nearest
pruritus	itchiness
pseudocyesis	false pregnancy
psoriasis	scaly skin rash
psychiatry	the study of mental disorders
psychogenic	caused by the mind (rather than the body)
psychologist	doctor who treats disorders of the mind, thoughts, and behavior
psychology	the study of mental action and behavior
psychopathy	any disorder of the mind

psychosis	severe mental disorder; craziness
psychosomatic	having a connection between the mind and physical symptoms
pterygium	unusual fold of film on the eye
puberty	years when the sex organs mature
puerpera	a woman who has just given birth to an infant
puerperal	right after childbirth
puerperium	the first 3 to 6 weeks after childbirth
pulmonary	having to do with the lungs
pulmonary edema	fluid in the lungs
pulmonary embolism	blood clot in the lungs
pulmonary neoplasm	lung tumor
pupil	black spot in the middle of the eye, which is the opening in the center of the iris
pupillometer	tool that measures how wide the pupil is
purgative	drug used to cause the bowels to empty
purified protein derivative (PPD)	substance used in tuberculosis skin test
purpura	small purple-red marks in skin or other tissue caused by bleeding
pustule	pimple filled with pus
pyelitis	inflammation of the kidney and its pelvis
pyelogram	x-ray of the kidney and ureters
pyelolithotomy	surgery to remove a kidney stone
pyelonephritis	inflammation of the kidney and its pelvis
pyeloplasty	surgery to fix the pelvis of the kidney
pyelostomy	surgery to make an opening into the pelvis of the kidney
pyloric sphincter	ring of muscles between the stomach and the small intestine
pyloromyotomy	surgery to cut muscles of a pyloric sphincter that is too narrow
pyloroplasty	surgery to fix the pyloric sphincter

pylorus	the opening of the stomach into the small intestine
pyosalpinx	pus in the uterine tubes
pyuria	pus in the urine

## Q

quadriplegia	loss of muscle movement and loss of feeling in both arms and legs
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## R

rachiotomy	surgery to cut into a bone or bones of the spine
rachischisis	birth defect in which there is a groove in the spine
radial keratotomy	surgery to fix nearsightedness
radiculitis	inflammation of a spinal nerve root
radioimmunoassay (RIA)	laboratory method to measure a substance, such as a hormone
radius	one of the two lower arm bones
rectal administration	giving a substance by putting it into the rectum
rectocele	bulging of the rectum into the vagina
rectouterine pouch	pouch in the area between the uterus and the rectum
red blood cell (RBC)	a cell in blood that carries oxygen
red blood cell count	the number of red blood cells in the blood
red blood cell morphology	the size and shape of individual red blood cells as seen under a microscope
remission	condition that occurs when signs of an illness are decreased or gone
renal	having to do with the kidney
renal biopsy	removing a piece of kidney tissue to look at it under a microscope
renal calculi	kidney stones
renal pelvis	place where urine leaves the kidney
renal transplant	kidney transplant

renogram	x-ray to check kidney function by measuring how fast a dye passes through the kidneys and to the urinary bladder
reproduction	making babies
reproductive	having to do with reproduction
resectoscope	tool used to remove or biopsy tissue from the urinary bladder, prostate, or urethra
retina	innermost layer of the eye
retinal	having to do with the retina
retinal photocoagulation	use of a laser light to treat disorders of the retina or tumors in the eye
retinitis pigmentosa	eye disorder in which the retinal atrophies and vision gradually worsens
retinoblastoma	cancer in the eye growing off of the retina
retractor	tool used for holding back tissue
retrograde pyelogram	x-ray of the kidney and ureter made by injecting dye backward into the ureter
Reye's syndrome	serious disorder of children, which often occurs after a viral infection, affecting the brain, liver, and other body organs
rhabdomyoma	benign tumor of a muscle
rhabdomyosarcoma	cancer of a muscle
rheumatic fever	bacterial disease in which there is fever and inflammation of the heart, blood vessels, and joints
rheumatic heart disease	damage to the heart caused by rheumatic fever, especially deformed heart valves
rheumatoid factor	substance in blood that is measured to check for rheumatoid arthritis
rhinitis	inflammation of the nose
rhinomycosis	fungus infection in the nose
rhinoplasty	surgery to fix the nose
rhinorrhagia	nosebleed
rhinorrhea	runny nose
rhizotomy	surgery to cut apart a nerve root
rhytidectomy	surgery to remove wrinkles

rhytidoplasty	surgery to remove wrinkles from the face
rongeur	tool used for cutting hard tissue, such as bone

## S

sacrum	large triangle-shaped bone at the bottom of the spine just above the tailbone
sagittal plane	divides the body into a right and left side
saliva	liquid in the mouth that helps with swallowing food; spit
salivary glands	glands that make saliva
salpingectomy	surgery to remove the uterine tube
salpingitis	inflammation of the uterine tubes
salpingo-oophorectomy	surgery to remove an ovary and uterine tube
salpingocele	uterine tube bulging out of an abnormal opening
salpingocycosis	pregnancy growing in the uterine tube
salpingostomy	surgery to make an opening into or to open a blockage of a uterine tube
salpinx	tube down which the egg travels from the ovary to the uterus
sarcoma	cancer of connective tissue cells
saw	tool with a notched blade used for cutting
scabies	itchy skin infection by a microscopic bug called a mite; mange
scapule	shoulder blade
Schick test	skin test used to detect diphtheria
sciatica	pain running down from the lower back to the buttocks to the back or side of the leg
scissors	tool with two sharp blades used for cutting tissue
sclera	outer protective layer of the eye; "whites of the eyes"
scleral buckling	surgery to fix a detached retina
scleroderma	hardening and thickening of the skin
sclerokeratitis	inflammation of the sclera and the cornea

scleromalacia	softening of the sclera seen in patients with rheumatoid arthritis
sclerotomy	surgery to cut into the sclera
scoliosis	S-shaped (side-to-side) curve of the spine
scratch test	allergy test performed by putting a small amount of allergy-causing material on small skin patches to see if it causes a reaction
scrotum	pouch that holds the testicles
sebaceous gland	gland that discharges oil into the skin
seborrhea	very oily skin
sedation	calmness
sedative	drug used to relax a person without making the person sleepy
seizure	sudden, uncontrolled muscle spasms and loss of consciousness resulting from abnormal brain function
self-retaining	stays in place without being held
semen	fluid containing, sperm, which is discharged from the penis during the climax of sexual intercourse
semen analysis	test used to count and examine the sperm cells
semicircular canals	channels in the labyrinth of the ear
semilunar valves	valves that control the flow of blood out of the heart by opening and closing with each heartbeat
septoplasty	surgery to fix the wall inside the nose
septotomy	incision into the wall inside the nose
serrations	small grooves in the edges or tips of tools that help to hold tissue
serum	clear liquid part of blood
serum bilirubin	blood test used to detect liver disorder
serum calcium	blood test used to find out how much calcium is in the blood
serum creatine kinase	blood test used to measure creatine

serum enzyme test	blood test used to detect the presence of certain chemicals discharges into the blood from dying heart muscle
serum phosphorus	blood test used to measure the amount of phosphorus present
serum test.	blood test used to measure the amount of endocrine material in the blood
sexually transmitted disease (STD)	disorder spread by sexual contact
sharp	with an edge or tip that cuts
shingles	painful, fluid-filled blisters caused by herpesvirus infection
shunt	artificial or natural channel running between two other channels
sialolith	stone in a salivary gland or duct
sickle cell anemia	genetic defect of hemoglobin causing red blood cells to change shape; symptoms include pain in the joints and stomach, and ulcers on the legs
side effect	an effect of a drug that is not related to the reason the drug is used
sigmoid colon	the lower part of the colon just before the rectum
sigmoidoscope	tool used to look into the sigmoid colon
single-blind trial	test or experiment in which the person giving treatment, but not the patient, knows which treatment the patient is receiving
sinusotomy	incision into the sinus
sleep apnea	breathing problems while sleeping
slipped disk	bulging out of a pad between bones of the spine, which often causes pinched nerve roots
small intestine	the bowel between the stomach and the large intestine, including the duodenum, jejunum, and ileum
smooth	without teeth or grooves; not rough
snare	tool with a wire loop used for removing tissue growth
somatic	having to do with the body
somatogenic	caused by the body (rather than the mind)

somatopathy	disorder of the body as opposed to the mind
spasm	a muscle contraction that produces pain and interferes with use of the muscle
specific gravity	test used to measure the amount of solid material and minerals in a liquid, such as the urine
speculum	tools used to stretch and hold open an opening into a body channel, such as the nose or vagina
sperm	the male sex cell that joins with a female egg to make a zygote and eventually a baby
sphygmocardiograph	tool used to record arterial blood pressure
sphygmomanometer	tool for measuring blood pressure
spina bifida	birth defect in which the spine does not develop fully and close up
spinal cavity	space inside the spinal column where the spinal cord is found
spinal cord	the cord of nerve cells and nerve fibers running down the spine that helps guide messages to and from the brain
spirometer	tool used to measure the amount of air going into and out of the lungs during breathing
spleen	largest lymph organ in the body
splenectomy	surgery to remove the spleen
splenomegaly	enlarged spleen
splenopexy	surgery to tie down the spleen
spondylosyndesis	fusion of the spine
sputum	fluid and material brought up from the lungs and windpipe and spit out through the mouth
squamous cell carcinoma	cancer that usually occurs on the skin or in the lungs
staphylococcus	type of bacteria
stenosis	narrowing of a channel
stereotactic breast biopsy	biopsy of breast tissue taken by using a three-dimensional body map to locate the tissue
sterilization	the killing of all living germs; or a process to make a man or woman not able to have children

sternoclavicular	having to do with the breastbone and the collarbone
sternoid	like the breastbone
sternum	breastbone
stethoscope	tool used to listen to the sounds made by the heart, lungs, intestines, and other organs
stimulant.	drug used to speed up the central nervous system
stomach	the first part of the intestines that holds food for digestion after it is swallowed
stomatitis	inflammation inside the mouth that sometimes occurs as an allergic reaction; can also result from infection or virus
stomatogastric	the mouth and stomach
stool	bowel movement; feces
stool culture	test for bacteria in stool
strabismus	abnormal position of the eye, as in walleye or crossed eyes
streptococcus	type of bacteria
streptomycin	type of antibiotic
stricture	area where a tube in the body is too narrow
stye	pimple on the eyelid
subcostal	below the ribs
subcutaneous (SC)	under the skin
subdural	below the outer layer of the meninges
sublingual	under the tongue
sublingual administration	giving a substance by placing it under the tongue (not to be swallowed) (e.g., nitroglycerin)
submandibular	below the lower jaw
submaxillary	below the upper jaw
subscapular	below the shoulder blade
sulfonamide	type of antibiotic
superficial	close to the outside of the body
superior	toward the top of the body
supine	lying on the back

suppository	drug that is given by putting it into the rectum, vagina, or urethra
suprarenal	above the kidney; or having to do with the adrenal gland
suprascapular	above the shoulder blade
sweat glands	structures in and under the skin that makes sweat
swimmer's ear	inflammation of the outer ear canal
sympatholytic	drug used to slow down the action of certain types of nerves
sympathomimetic	drug used to speed up heart rate, raise blood pressure, and open up air passages
symphysis	type of joint where two bones meet but there is no movement
syncope	fainting spell
syndrome	set of signs that happen at the same time in the body
synergism	combined action of two drugs used together that is better than using each drug alone
synoviosarcoma	cancer of the joint
syphilis	bacterial infection spread by sexual contact
system	having to do with the whole body
systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)	chronic disorder of connective tissue in which there can be skin rash, arthritis, kidney problems, and anemia, among other problems
systole	the time when the heart contracts to pump blood to the body

## T

tachypnea	fast breathing
tarsal bones	ankle bones
tarsectomy	surgery to remove one or more of the ankle bones
tendinitis	inflammation of tendons
tendon	elastic band that attaches muscle at each end
tenodynia	pain in a tendon
tenomyoplasty	surgery to stitch together a ripped tendon
tenorrhaphy	surgery to fix a tendon and muscle

tenosynovitis	inflammation of covering layer around a tendon
tenotomy	surgery to cut tendon of an eye muscle to fix strabismus
testicle	one of two male sex glands that make sperm
testicular carcinoma	cancer of the testicles
testis	one of two male sex glands that make sperm
tetany	muscle cramps caused by a low amount of calcium
tetracycline	type of antibiotic
tetraplegia	total loss of muscle movement and loss of feeling in both arms and legs
thoracalgia	pain in the chest or wall of the chest
thoracentesis	using a needle to remove fluid from the chest cavity
thoracic cavity	space where the heart, lungs, esophagus, trachea, bronchi, and thymus are found
thoracic vertebrae	bones of the spine in back of the chest
thoracoscope	tool used to look into the chest cavity
thoracotomy	surgery to cut into the chest
thorax	the chest
throat	area between the mouth and esophagus that performs the swallowing action
thrombus	a clotting of blood factors that frequently blocks blood flow
thymectomy	surgery to remove the thymus
thymoma	tumor of the thymus
thymus	lymph organ in the chest, which is most active at puberty, where a type of lymphocyte is made
thyroid gland	gland in the neck that makes the thyroid hormones, which are important in controlling metabolism
thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH)	hormone that makes the thyroid gland active
thyroidectomy	surgery to remove the thyroid gland
thyroparathyroidectomy	surgery to remove the thyroid and parathyroid glands
thyrotoxicosis	disorder caused by too much thyroid hormone

tibia	the larger of the two lower leg bones; the shin bone
tinea	fungus infection of skin; ringworm
tinnitus	ringing, roaring, buzzing, or clicking noises in the ears
tissue	group of cells that work together
titration	slow increase in drug dosage, guided by patient's responses
tolerance	decrease in response to a fixed dosage of drug; over time, higher and higher doses of a drug are needed to get desired effect
tonometer	tool that measures pressure inside the eye
tonsil	lymphoid tissue in the back of the mouth
tonsillectomy	surgery to remove a tonsil or tonsils
topical application	giving a medication by putting it directly on the skin
toxicity	any harmful effect of a drug or poison
trabeculectomy	surgery that makes a place for fluid to drain from the eye, reducing eye pressure in patients with glaucoma
trachea	windpipe
tracheitis	inflammation of the windpipe
trachelocystitis	inflammation of the neck of the urinary bladder
tracheoplasty	surgery to fix the windpipe
tracheostomy	surgery to make a hole through the neck from the windpipe to the outside of the body
tranquilizer	drug used to control anxiety
transdermal	through the skin
transdermal patch	patch containing a drug that is put on the skin so the drug will enter the body through the skin
transient ischemic attack (TIA)	sudden loss of blood flow to the brain that lasts for a few minutes to an hour but has no lasting effect
transrectal ultrasound	ultrasonography of the organs in the stomach done using a probe in the rectum
transverse plane	divides the body to make a top and bottom
traumatic	causing damage, like a tool used to crush tissue
treadmill stress test	test used to determine heart function

trichomoniasis	parasite infection that is spread by sexual contact
trichomycosis	fungus infection in the hair
tricuspid valve	a valve in the heart that controls the flow of blood by opening and closing with each heartbeat
tubal ligation	surgery to close the uterine tubes to prevent pregnancy
tuberculin	substance used in skin tests to test for tuberculosis
tuberculosis	bacterial infection that usually results in a serious lung disorder
tympanic membrane	eardrum
tympanitis	inflammation of the ear drum
tympanometer	tool used to fix the ear drum
tympanoplasty	surgery to fix the eardrum and bones of the middle ear
<b>U</b>	
ulcer	sore
ulcerative colitis	sores in the colon
ulna	one of the two lower arm bones
ultrasonography.	making a picture of internal organs by bouncing sound waves off them and recording the echoes
ultrasound	making a picture of internal organs by bouncing sound waves off them and recording the echoes
umbilical region	area around the naval
umbilicus	navel; belly button
unconscious	not awake and not aware; knocked out
ungual	having to do with the nails
unilateral	having to do with only one side of a structure
upper GI (gastrointestinal) series	x-ray using a dye to show the upper part of the digestive system
upper respiratory infection (URI)	a cold or flu
uremia	buildup of poisons in the blood, usually because of kidney failure

ureter	tube that carries urine from a kidney to the urinary bladder
ureterectomy	surgery to remove all or part of a ureter
ureteritis	inflammation of the ureter
ureterocele	bulging of a ureter taken after putting a dye in it to outline it
urethrogram	x-ray of a ureter taken after putting a dye in it to outline it
ureterolithiasis	stones in the ureter
ureterostenosis	narrow area in a ureter
ureterostomy	surgery to make an opening into a ureter
ureterotomy	surgery to cut into a ureter
urethra	tube that carries urine from the urinary bladder to the outside of the body
urethritis	inflammation of the urethra
urethrocystitis	inflammation of the urethra
urethrometer	tool used to measure the urethra
urethropexy	surgery to tie down the urethra
urethroplasty	surgery to fix the urethra
urethrostomy	surgery to make an opening from the urethra to the outside of the body
uric acid test	blood test used to measure the amount of uric acid in the blood
urinal	container that holds urine
urinalysis	series of tests done on urine
urinary	having to do with urine
urinary bladder	sack that holds urine before it leaves the body
urinary catheterization	passing a tube into the urinary bladder to remove urine
urinary retention	abnormal holding of urine
urinary suppression	not able to discharge urine
urinary tract	all the structures that make and pass urine, including the kidneys, ureters, urinary bladder, and urethra

urinary tract infection (UTI)	infection of the urinary system
urination	the act of passing urine
urine	pale yellow liquid waste material and sediment
urine casts and crystals	urine test to check mineral levels and sediment in the urine and to check for infection or inflammation in the urinary tract
urine color	normal color for urine is straw yellow
urine pH	urine test to find out the chemical makeup of urine (acidity)
urine protein	urine test used to measure how much protein is in the urine
urinometer	tool used to measure the specific gravity of urine
urodynamics	the force and flow of urine
urologist	doctor who treats disorders of the urinary tract of men and women and the genital tract of men
urticaria	hives
uterine tube	tube down which the egg travels from the ovary to the uterus
uterus	organ where the unborn baby develops and grows
uvula	v-shaped tissue that hangs from the roof of the back of the mouth
uvulectomy	surgery to remove the uvula
uvulitis	inflammation of the uvula

## V

vagina	tube that connects the uterus to the outside of the body
vaginitis	inflammation of the vagina
vaginodynia	pain in the vagina
vaginoperineorrhaphy	surgery to fix tears in the vagina and vaginal areas
vaginoplasty	surgery to fix the vagina
vagotomy	surgery to cut the vagus nerve or nerves, usually done to slow down the making of stomach acid
varicose veins	twisted and bulging veins that are larger than normal

vas deferens	tube that carries sperm out of the testicle
vasectomy	surgery to cut out part or all of the ductus deferens-done to make a man not able produce children
vasoconstrictor	drug used to make blood vessels tighten up and become narrower
vasodilator	drug used to make blood vessels open up and become bigger
vasovasostomy	surgery to undo a vasectomy by connecting up the ductus deferens again-done to make a man able to produce children again
VDRL test	blood test used to detect syphilis
vein	the type of blood vessel that carries blood back to the heart from the rest of the body
vein ligation and stripping	surgery to remove twisted (varicose) veins in the legs
vena cava	largest vein in the body
venipuncture	putting a needle into a vein
venogram.	x-ray of a vein
ventilator	machine used to help a person breathe
ventral	toward or having to do with the front of the body
ventricle	small space, such as one of several that hold spinal fluid inside the brain and the two lower chambers of the heart
venule	little vein
verruca	wart
vertebra	one of the 33 bones in the spine
vertebral column	the spine
vertebrocostal	having to do with a vertebra and a rib
vertigo	light-headedness; dizziness
vesicle	blister
vesicourethral	having to do with the urethra and the bladder
vesicovaginal fistula	abnormal opening between the bladder and vagina
viral	having to do with a virus

virus	tiny type of gene
visceral	having to do with the internal organs
vitreous body	jelly-like liquid found in the back chamber of the eye
void	urinate
volvulus	twisting of the intestines causing a blockage
vomit	matter discharged from the stomach out of the mouth
vulva	the tissues around the opening to the vagina
vulvectomy	surgery to remove the vulva
vulvovaginal	having to do with the vagina and vulva
vulvovaginitis	inflammation of the vagina and vulva
<b>W</b>	
wheal	hive; welt
white blood cell (WBC)	one of several types of infection-fighting cells in the blood and body tissues
white blood cell differential	blood test to find out the types and numbers of mature and immature forms of white blood cells that are in the blood
white cell count	number of white blood cells in the blood
whooping cough (pertussis)	bacterial infection, usually seen in young children, in which there is a serious, loud, dry cough
withdraw, discontinue	stop taking part
<b>X</b>	
xanthochromic	having a yellow color
xanthoderma	yellow color to the skin
xanthosis	yellow color
xeroderma	dry skin
xeroma	abnormally dry membranes of the eye
xerophthalmia	abnormal dryness of membranes of the eye due to vitamin A deficiency; symptoms may begin in the form of night blindness, and they become progressively worse

xerostomia	dryness of the mouth due to dysfunction of the salivary gland
xiphoid process	lower part of the breast bone
<b>Z</b>	
zygote	the cell made by joining of the female egg and male sperm at the beginning of pregnancy