

A

A – assessment.

Antecubital fossa – the longitudinal depression in front of the elbow.

Anterior – situated at or directed toward the front; opposite of posterior.

Anterolateral – situated before and to one side.

Anteromedial – situated in front and on median line.

Apices – plural of apex, the top of a conical part.

Aspect – that part of a surface viewed from a particular direction.

Atelectasis – see *Consolidation*.

Atherosclerosis – a condition characterized by the degeneration and hardening of the walls of the arteries and sometimes the valves of the heart.

Axillary – pertaining to the axilla, or armpit.

B

Basal – situated near a base.

“Blanches with pressure” – color disappears when that area of the body is touched.

Blep – a bulla or skin vesicle filled with fluid.

B/P – blood pressure.

Bruit – abnormal sound or murmur.

Bullous emphysema – air-filled blisters on the surface of the lungs with air present in the connective tissue.

C

Calvaria – domelike skull cap of the cranium.

Carotid – principal artery of the neck.

Cartilaginous – consisting of cartilage.

Catheter – see *Intravenous catheters*.

Cephalothin – semi-synthetic antibiotic administered intravenously or intramuscularly.

Cervical radiculopathy – there are three levels of whiplash injury. Minor whiplash is Cervical Muscular Discomfort; intermediate level: Cervical Radiculopathy; major whiplash injury: Cervical Spondylosis with nerve root or spinal cord compression. Modern treatment consists of two tablets of Parafon Forte by mouth four times a day, and 600 mg Motrin by mouth every four hours.

Chest Tube – tube inserted into pulmonary, pleural to re-expand a collapsed lung.

C/O – complains of.

Conjunctivae – delicate mucous membrane lining the eyelids and covering the eyeballs.

Consolidation – solidification.

Consolidation and atelectasis – solidification into a firm thick mass marked with an absence of gas from the lungs due to a failure of resorption of gas in the lungs alveoli (air sacs).

Cornea – the clear, transparent anterior covering of the eye.

Cortex – the outer layer of an organ or part.

Costochondral – pertaining to a rib and its cartilage.

Costophrenic recess – the indentation where rib and diaphragm meet.

Cutaneous – pertaining to the skin.

D

Dependent Personality Disorder – a psychiatric term used to describe people who are unable to make everyday decisions on their own. Dominant behavioral characteristics are dependency and submissiveness. Feelings of helplessness, low self-confidence, and fear of abandonment are common. This disorder is diagnosed more frequently in females than males.

Dermal – pertaining to the skin.

Diazepam – useful in the symptomatic relief of tension and anxiety states resulting from stressful circumstances or whenever somatic complaints are concomitant with emotional factors. Useful in psycho-neurotic states manifested by tension, anxiety, apprehension, fatigue, and depressive symptoms or agitation. Also marketed under the trade name Valium.

Dorsal – pertaining to the back.

Duodenum – the first division of the small intestine, about ten inches long, plays an important role in digestion of food.

Dura – the fibrous membrane forming the outer envelope of the brain and spinal cord.

E

EKG (electrocardiogram) pads – sensor pads attached to the body and used to monitor the heartbeat.

Emphysema – see *Bullous emphysema*.

Endocardium – the membrane lining the chambers of the heart and covering the cusps of the various valves.

Endocrine – applies to organs whose function is to secrete into the blood or lymph a substance that has a specific effect on another organ or part.

Endotracheal tube – hose-like device inserted into the air passage (wind pipe) extending from the larynx to the lungs.

Epidural – external to the dura.

Etiology – the science dealing with the causes of disease.

Extensor – a muscle which tends to straighten a limb when contracted.

Exudate was . . . legionella – fluid which escapes from immune system as antibodies sent to combat legionella (a genus of bacteria).

F

Fibrous adhesions – connective tissue that develops when an injured area begins to heal.

Fibrous replacement – localized overgrowth of fibrous tissue.

Flurazepam Hydrochloride – hypnotic agent useful in all types of insomnia characterized by difficulty in falling asleep, frequent nocturnal awakenings, and/or early morning awakenings. Can be used effectively in patients with recurring insomnia or poor sleeping habits, and in acute medical situations requiring restful sleep.

Possible Adverse Reactions – Dizziness, drowsiness, lightheadedness, staggering, and falling have occurred in elderly or debilitated persons. Severe sedation, lethargy, disorientation, and coma probably indicative of drug intolerance or overdosage have been reported.

Frontal – pertaining to the forehead.

FU – follow up.

G

Gentamicin – antibiotic used in treating infections of the central nervous system, GI tract, urinary tract, respiratory tract, bone, skin, and soft tissue.

GI tract – gastrointestinal system.

Gyri (plural of gyrus) – the prominent rounded elevations that form the cerebral hemisphere.

H

Hematocrit – the percentage of the volume of a blood sample occupied by erythrocytes.

Hematology specimen – blood sample.

Hemoglobin – the oxygen-carrying primary protein pigment of the blood.

Hemoperitoneum – effused blood in the peritoneal cavity.

Hemorrhage – bleeding, the escape of blood from a ruptured vessel.

Hemostasis – the arrest of the escape of blood by either natural (clot formation) or artificial (compression) means.

Hemothorax – a collection of blood in the pleural (chest) cavity.

Hepatobiliary – liver and bile systems.

Herniation – an abnormal protrusion of an organ or other body structure through a defect or natural opening.

Hypertrophic mottled hypo- and hyperpigmented scar – overgrown scar tissue with some areas that are white and some that are deeply colored.

I

Inferior – situated below or directed downward; reference to the lower surface of an organ or other structure.

Intercostal – situated between the ribs.

Interior – situated inside.

Intravenous catheters – tubes used in administering drugs/solutions directly into the veins.

Involute – to regress; to change to an earlier or more primitive condition.

Irides (plural of Iris) – iris, the colored membrane behind the eye's cornea.

L

Leptomeninges (plural of leptomeninx) – the two most delicate membranes beneath the dura enveloping the brain and spinal cord.

Lesion – any wound or damage to a tissue.

Lividity – the quality of being livid, discolored, black and blue.

Lymphatic – a vessel conveying lymph; one of the systems of absorbent vessels that drain the lymph from various body tissues and return it to the blood stream.

Lymphoreticular system – net of lymphatic tissue.

M

Malleolus – a rounded bone process on either side of the ankle joint.

Massae (plural of massa) – lumps.

Medial – pertaining to the middle.

Mediastinum – a median septum or partition between two parts of an organ or cavity.

Mononeuritis – lesions without inflammation but degenerative in nerve roots or peripheral nerves. May be caused by: mechanical stress, vascular disorder, microorganisms, toxic agents, metabolic disorder, or malignancy. Treatment: Mild cases may recover without treatment; more severe cases need physical therapy and splints. Some cases require surgery, including neurolysis or transplant.

Motrin – a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory analgesic that reduces joint swelling, pain, and duration of morning stiffness. It is available in 300, 400, and 600 mg tablets for oral administration.

Mucosa – mucus membrane.

Myocardium – the muscular middle layer of the heart.

N

Nafcillin – semi-synthetic antibiotic used in treating bacterial infections.

Nares (plural of Naris) – nostril openings.

O

O – objective diagnosis.

Ora-tracheal tube – a breathing tube inserted into the mouth and down the trachea.

Ovoid – egg-shaped.

P

P – prescription or plan.

Palpable – perceptible by touch.

Parafon Forte – provides symptomatic relief of pain, stiffness, and limitation of motion

associated with most musculo-skeletal disorders through relaxation of muscle spasm by chlorzoxanone, an effective and well-tolerated centrally acting agent. Analgesia by acetaminophen, a nonsalicylate analgesic, is useful in skeletal muscle pain.

Parenchyma – the essential or functional elements or specific cells of an organ, as distinguished from its framework.

Pelves – plural of pelvis; basin-shaped ring of bone at the posterior extremity of the trunk, supporting the spinal column and resting upon the lower extremities.

Pericardium – the fibrous membrane enclosing the heart.

Peritoneal cavity – the space between the two tissue layers of the peritoneum (abdominal cavity).

Petechial – characterized by purplish red spots, indicates hemorrhaging.

Pleura – membrane enclosing the lungs.

Pneumonia – inflammation of the lung due to infection.

Posterior – pertaining to the back.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder – psychiatric term for describing characteristic symptoms that develop following a psychologically distressing event that is outside the range of usual human experience. Examples of this type of event are natural disasters, military combat, witnessing another person being seriously injured or killed by an accident or physical violence. Symptoms include avoidance of situations, thoughts, or activities associated with the event; feeling detached from others; difficulty sleeping; recurrent nightmares; and depression. Symptoms must persist longer than one month to be diagnosed under this disorder. The disorder is more severe when the stress-inducing event was of human design.

Pt – patient.

R

Renal – pertaining to the kidney.

Respiratory Distress Syndrome – filling of the gas-exchanging units of the lung with protein-rich fluid. This leads to severe reduction in oxygenation of blood passing through the lung.

S

S – subjective diagnosis.

Serosanguineous drainage – systematic withdrawal of a fluid compound of serum and blood from a wound, sore, or cavity.

Staphylococcal – a genus of an infectious bacteria

Striae – streaks or lines

Subcostal region – area below a rib or ribs.

Subcrepitant – characterized by faint crackling or rattling sounds.

Subdural – beneath the dura.

Superior – situated or directed above.

Sutures – stitches.

T

Thoracic – pertaining to the chest.

Thymus – a ductless gland-like body situated in the anterior mediastinal cavity which reaches its maximum development during the early years of childhood.

TID – three times daily (dosage rate).

Trachea – the air passage extending from the throat to the lungs.

Tympanic membranes – a thin, oval membrane that stretches across the ear canal separating the middle ear from the outer ear.

U

Ureter – fibromuscular tube that conveys the urine from the kidneys to the bladder.

V

Valium – see *Flurazepam Hydrochloride*.

W

Whiplash – see *Cervical radiculopathy*.