



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

# EMA medical terms simplifier

Plain-language description of medical  
terms related to medicines use



## EMA Medical Terms Simplifier

### Plain-language description of medical terms related to medicines use

This compilation gives plain-language descriptions of medical terms commonly used in information about medicines. Communication specialists at EMA use these descriptions for materials prepared for the public.

In our documents, we often adjust the description wordings to fit the context so that the writing flows smoothly without distorting the meaning. Since the main purpose of these descriptions is to serve our own writing needs, some also include alternative or optional wording to use as needed; we use '<>' for this purpose.

Our list concentrates on side effects and similar terms in summaries of product characteristics and public assessments of medicines but omits terms that are used only rarely. It does not include descriptions of most disease states or those that relate to specialties such as regulation, statistics and complementary medicine or, indeed, broader fields of medicine such as anatomy, microbiology, pathology and physiology.

This resource is continually reviewed and updated internally, and we will publish updates periodically.

If you have comments or suggestions, you may contact us by filling in this [form](#).



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## A

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abdomen

belly

ablation

procedure to burn or remove parts of <tissue> <an organ>

abrasions

grazes

abscess

a swollen area where pus has collected

absence seizure

**see** seizure, absence

acetylcholine

**see** neurotransmitter

acetylsalicylic acid

also known as aspirin

acid regurgitation

stomach acid flowing up into the mouth

acneiform

resembling acne

acromegaly

excessive growth particularly of the bones of the hands, feet and face caused by too much growth hormone <from the pituitary gland>

actinic keratoses

<precancerous,> abnormal skin growths caused by too much sunlight

acute

<short-lived> <sudden> <short-term>

acute coronary syndrome

<heart> conditions such as heart attack and unstable angina <(a type of severe chest pain)> <caused by blocked blood supply to parts of the heart>

acute systemic hypersensitivity reaction

**see** hypersensitivity reaction, acute systemic

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adipocytes                      fat cells

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adjunct                         add-on

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adjuvant (vaccines)         a substance <such as aluminium> that increases the effect of the vaccine

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advanced (cancer)         **Consider** has <started to> spread. **Check definition for each cancer type carefully as this description may not always apply**

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aggregate                     stick together

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agonist                         a substance that attaches to a receptor (target) and triggers an effect

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agranulocytosis             very low level of a type of white blood cell <called granulocytes><, which are important for fighting off infection>

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akathisia                      a constant urge to move

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alcohol intoxication         **Do not use: explain in text e.g.** excessive alcohol consumption

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alkaloids                      substances that are naturally found in plants

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allergen                        a substance that causes an allergy

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allergen challenge         a test to measure a patient's reaction to a defined dose of an allergen (the substance that they are allergic to)

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allergic rhinitis             **see** rhinitis, allergic

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allotransplantation         when a patient receives cells, tissues or organs from a donor

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alopecia                       **Substitute with** hair loss

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alveolitis, allergic      **see** pneumonitis, hypersensitivity

---

ambulatory              able to walk **Avoid term where possible**

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amnesia                  **Substitute with** memory loss

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amyloidosis              build-up in the body of amyloid, an abnormal protein <which can damage organs>

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anaemia                  <low red blood cell counts> <low levels of haemoglobin> <which can cause tiredness and pale skin>

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anaemia, aplastic      when bone marrow stops producing new blood cells <causing tiredness, lower ability to fight infection and uncontrolled bleeding>

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anaemia, haemolytic    excessive breakdown of red blood cells <causing tiredness and pale skin>

---

anaesthetic              a medicine <which blocks sensation> used to prevent pain and discomfort <during surgery and medical procedures>

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anaesthetic block      **see** nerve block

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anaesthetic, general    a medicine that can be used to prevent pain by making the patient unconscious

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anaesthetic, local      a medicine that blocks out sensation used to prevent pain in a part of the body <during surgery or other medical procedure>

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anaesthetist              a doctor specialised in anaesthesia

---

analgesic                  painkiller

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analgesic, intraspinal    painkilling medicine injected into the spine

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anaphylactic reaction (shock)      **see** anaphylaxis

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anaphylactoid reaction      sudden, severe allergic reaction <with breathing difficulty, swelling, lightheadedness, fast heartbeat, sweating and loss of consciousness>

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anaphylaxis                 sudden, severe allergic reaction <with breathing difficulty, swelling, lightheadedness, fast heartbeat, sweating and loss of consciousness>

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aneurysm                    bulging and weakening of blood vessel <wall>

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angina                        **see** angina pectoris

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angina attacks             sudden pains to the chest, jaw and back, brought on by physical effort and due to problems with the blood flow to the heart

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angina pectoris            pains to the chest, jaw and back, brought on by physical effort and due to problems with the blood flow to the heart

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angina, unstable          chest pain caused by interruptions in the heart's blood supply, that can occur at rest <or without an obvious trigger>

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angioedema                Rapid swelling under the skin <in areas such as the face, throat, arms and legs> <which can be life threatening if throat swelling blocks the airway>

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angiography                X-rays of blood vessels

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angioplasty                a procedure to unblock a narrowed blood vessel <in the heart>

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anorexia                    **Substitute with** loss of appetite

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anovulation                when ovaries fail to produce eggs

---

antagonist                 a substance that blocks a receptor (target) and stops other substances attaching to it and triggering an effect

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EXPLAINER

## What does antibiotic resistance mean?

Antibiotics fight off bacteria. Typically, they interfere with processes that are important for the bacteria to survive or multiply.

But bacteria can evolve to neutralise the effects of antibiotics. For example, they may develop enzymes that break down the antibiotic or they may develop a mechanism to keep the antibiotic from entering the bacteria. The antibiotic can therefore no longer fight off the bacteria and the bacteria are considered antibiotic resistant.

The instructions for building the proteins (such as enzymes) that make bacteria antibiotic resistant are contained in their genes. Worryingly, these genes can be passed on to other types of bacteria, sometimes to bacteria of different species. This can cause antibiotic resistance to spread quickly even among unrelated species of bacteria.

antibody	a protein in the blood that helps the body's defences by identifying and attaching to specific foreign substances including germs <b>Side effect</b> a protein the body produces that attaches to the medicine <and can affect how well treatment works>
anticoagulant	a substance that prevents the blood from clotting
antiemetic	a substance that <prevents> <and> <treats> nausea and vomiting
antigen	a specific structure that the body can recognise as 'foreign' and against which it can produce an antibody
antihistamine	a <medicine> <substance> that prevents symptoms of allergy <b>Alternatively:</b> an allergy medicine
antihypertensive	blood pressure lowering
antioxidant	a substance that can prevent damage from highly reactive molecules called 'free radicals'
antiplatelet medicines	medicines that prevent platelets in the blood from clumping and blocking arteries
antiretroviral	<b>Use</b> HIV medicine

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anuria                      a condition in which a patient cannot make or pass urine

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aortic stenosis            **see** stenosis, aortic

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apathy                      lack of interest or energy

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aphasia                    problems with use of language <including speech, understanding and reading>  
<because of brain damage>

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apheresis                 a procedure where blood is passed through an external device that removes <X>  
before returning the blood to the body

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apnoea                    interruption of breathing. **See also sleep apnoea and obstructive sleep apnoea**

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aqueous humour         the watery fluid in the eye

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arachnoid                one of the membranes protecting the spine and the brain

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arrhythmia               abnormal or irregular heartbeat

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artery disease,  
peripheral                reduced blood flow in arteries of the legs and arms

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arthralgia                **Substitute with** joint pain

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arthritis                 pain and inflammation in the joints

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arthropathy              damage to the joints

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ascites                    a build-up of fluid in the abdomen

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aspergillosis            an infection caused by a fungus called Aspergillus



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asthenia                    **Substitute with** weakness

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asymptomatic            showing no symptoms <effects>

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ataxia                      inability to co-ordinate muscle movements

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atelectasis                collapse of the whole or part of a lung

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atherosclerosis           a disease in which fatty deposits build up in the walls of the arteries  
**Alternatively:** fatty deposits in arteries <which can cause blockage>

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atherothrombotic events    problems caused by blood clots and hardening of the arteries

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atonic seizure            **see** seizure, atonic

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atony                        lack of normal muscle <strength> <movement> <function>

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atopic                        linked to an allergy

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atopic dermatitis        **see** eczema, atopic

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atrial fibrillation        **see** fibrillation, atrial

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atrial flutter             **see** flutter, atrial

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atrioventricular (AV) block    a type of heart rhythm disorder

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attenuated                weakened

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atypical absence seizure    **see** seizure, atypical absence

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aura unusual visual or other sensory experiences

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autograft healthy <tissue> <specific tissue: bone, skin, ...> taken from one part of the patient's body and grafted in another

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autoimmune disease a disease caused by the body's own defence system attacking normal tissue

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#### EXPLAINER

### What does autoimmune disease mean?

An autoimmune disease occurs when the immune (defence) system treats healthy parts of the body as if they were foreign and attacks them. Autoimmune disease can take many forms, depending on which body cells or tissues are targeted by the immune system.

Well-known autoimmune diseases include:

- rheumatoid arthritis, a condition of joints and nearby tissues
- psoriasis, a skin condition
- ulcerative colitis, a bowel disease
- type 1 diabetes, in which insulin-producing cells are destroyed
- multiple sclerosis, in which the protective covering of nerves is destroyed

Some autoimmune diseases can run in families.

Treatment of autoimmune diseases generally involves relieving the symptoms (especially during flare-ups) and calming down the immune system ('immunosuppressive and immunomodulatory therapy'). Medicines that tackle the underlying autoimmunity in rheumatoid arthritis are sometimes called disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) or, more generally, disease-modifying drugs.

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autologous <tissue> <cells> from the patient's own body

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avascular necrosis death of bone tissue due to interruption of blood supply

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## B

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B cells cells in the immune system

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B lymphocytes	<b>use</b> B cells <b>unless it is necessary to introduce the term lymphocyte, in which case say</b> B lymphocytes (B cells) <b>the first time and then use B cells</b>
bacteraemia	bacteria present in the blood
bacteriostatic	stops bacteria from multiplying
benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH)	enlarged prostate gland<that is not cancerous>
bile	a fluid produced in the liver that helps to break down fats
biliary cirrhosis	<b>see</b> cirrhosis, biliary
bilirubin	a breakdown product of red blood cells
bilirubin (elevated)	<b>see</b> hyperbilirubinaemia

#### EXPLAINER

### What does bioequivalence mean?

Bioequivalence testing tells us if medicines that contain the same active substance behave in the same way in the body. Bioequivalence means that the active ingredient in different medicines is absorbed into the body at the same speed and to the same extent.

Testing for bioequivalence typically involves giving volunteers a medicine and then measuring the amount of the active ingredient in their blood regularly (say, every 2 hours) until very little of the ingredient remains in the blood. If the pattern of rise and fall of the active ingredient in the blood is identical then the medicines are bioequivalent.

Three measures are important for confirming bioequivalence:

- The maximum concentration of the active ingredients in the blood
- The time to reach the maximum concentration after taking the medicine
- The extent to which the active ingredients are absorbed.

bioequivalent	two medicines are bioequivalent when they produce the same levels of the active substance in the body. <b><i>If greater precision is needed consider</i></b> medicines with the same active substance are bioequivalent if the active substances from both medicines are absorbed in the body at the same rate and to the same extent.
biopsy	examination of tissue removed from the body <to check for disease>
biowaiver	an exemption from having to show bioequivalence between the medicine and its reference product
bipolar disorder	a mental illness causing alternating periods of high mood and depression
blepharitis	inflammation of the eyelid(s)
blood pressure, diastolic	blood pressure when the heart is between beats <(lower one of the two readings)>
blood pressure, systolic	blood pressure when the heart beats <( higher one of the two readings)>
blood urea nitrogen (BUN)	a marker for liver and kidney problems
BMI	body mass index <a measure of body weight in relation to height>
body surface area	<b><i>Use</i></b> calculated using the <patient / child>'s height and weight
bolus injection	full dose injected in one go <over a few seconds>
bone (mineral) density	a measure of how strong the bones are
bone marrow	spongy tissue inside the large bones <where blood cells are produced>
bone marrow transplantation	<b><i>See also</i></b> haematopoietic (blood) stem cell transplantation. a procedure where the patient's bone marrow is cleared of cells and replaced with healthy bone marrow cells from a donor

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bradycardia                      slow heart rate

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breakthrough pain              flare-up of pain despite ongoing treatment with painkillers

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bronchi                              airways in the lungs

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bronchiectasis                  when airways have become weakened and scarred

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bronchitis                          inflammation of the airways in the lungs

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bronchoconstriction          narrowing of the airways <causing breathing difficulty and wheezing>

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bronchodilator                  a medicine that widens the airways in the lungs

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bronchospasm                    excessive <and prolonged> contraction of the airway muscles causing breathing difficulty

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bruxism                              <involuntary> teeth grinding

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bulimia nervosa                  an eating disorder

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bullae(e)                            large blister(s) with pus

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bullous                                blistered

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bullous eruption                blisters

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## C

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cachexia                              muscle wasting with significant weight loss

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calcitonin	a hormone <produced by the thyroid gland> that helps to control the amount of calcium and phosphorus in the blood
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candidiasis	thrush, a fungal infection <caused by Candida>
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capillary leak syndrome	leakage of fluid from blood vessels causing tissue swelling and a drop in blood pressure
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capsid	shell (of a virus)
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carcinoid syndrome	symptoms caused by <cancerous> tumours that release substances into the blood <that act on different organs>
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carcinoid tumour	a tumour of the endocrine system that produces hormones
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carcinoma	a type of cancer
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cardiac	heart
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cardiac arrest	heart stops beating
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cardiac arrhythmia	<a href="#">see</a> arrhythmia
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cardiomyopathy	damage to the heart muscle
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cardiotoxicity	harm to the heart
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cardiovascular	affecting the heart and blood circulation
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cardiovascular system	heart and blood vessels
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cardioversion	a process that restores the heart's normal rhythm
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cartilage	tough, flexible tissue in joints and other areas such as the nose and ears
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catalyse	help
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cataplexy	sudden muscle weakness and collapse caused by a strong emotion or laughter <in patients with narcolepsy>
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cataract	clouding of the lens
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catheter	a flexible tube inserted into the body
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CD4 T-cells	white blood cells that are important in helping to fight infections
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cellulitis	inflammation of the deep skin tissue
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central nervous system	brain and spinal cord
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central venous catheter	<a href="#">see</a> central venous line
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central venous line	a tube through the skin into a large vein <used for giving medicines and fluids>
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cerebral	of <cerebrum, a part of> the brain
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cerebral oedema	<a href="#">see</a> oedema, cerebral
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cerebrospinal fluid	fluid that surrounds the brain and the spinal cord
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cerebrovascular accident	stroke
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cerebrovascular disease	disease of the blood vessels supplying the brain
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cervical cancer      cancer of the cervix

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cervical dystonia      twisting and pulling of the neck and head caused by abnormal tightening of neck muscles

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cervix      the neck of the womb

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CHD      **see** coronary heart disease

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chelate      ***Do not translate but explain in text***, e.g. 'attaches to another chemical to form a 'chelate' that can be removed from the body in the stools'

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cholestasis      reduced flow of bile from the liver <because of a blockage>

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cholestatic hepatitis      **see** hepatitis, cholestatic

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choroid      the layer below the retina that contains blood vessels

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chromatopsia      changes in colour perception

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chromosomal translocation      when parts of genes are rearranged between two chromosomes

---

chromosome      genetic material

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chronic      long term

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chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL)      cancer of a type of white blood cell called lymphocytes

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chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML)      a cancer of a type of white blood cell called granulocytes

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chronic renal failure      **see** renal failure, chronic



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chronic stable angina pectoris

**see** angina pectoris

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circumoral

**Do not use; substitute with** around the mouth

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cirrhosis

<scarring of the liver> <a type of liver disease>

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cirrhosis, biliary

liver damage caused by build-up of bile

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coagulation

clotting

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coagulopathy

problems with blood clotting

---

cognitive

ability to think, learn and remember

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colitis

inflammation in the large bowel <causing pain and diarrhoea>

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colloidal

solid particles evenly spread in a liquid

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colon

lower part of the gut

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colonoscopy

a procedure to examine the large bowel through a tube with a camera

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colorectal cancer

a cancer that starts in the large bowel and involves the rectum (the lowest part of the gut)

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community-acquired infection

infection has been caught outside of hospital

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compensated liver disease

**see** liver disease, compensated

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compliance

the ability of patients to stick to their treatment **Avoid term, explain what is meant**

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complicated flu      **see** flu, complicated

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complicated infection      **see** infection, complicated

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congenital      present at birth

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congestive heart failure      **see** heart failure, congestive

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conjunctiva      the membrane that lines the white of the eye and the inside of the eyelid

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conjunctivitis      redness and discomfort in the eye

---

connective tissue      the tissue that binds and supports the skin and internal organs

---

constriction      narrowing

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contrast agent      a compound that helps make internal body structures easier to see during imaging and medical procedures

---

contusion      bruising

---

convulsion      fits

---

cornea      the transparent layer in front of the eye that covers the pupil and iris

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corneal opacity      clouding of the cornea

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coronary arteries      blood vessels that supply the heart muscle

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coronary artery disease      **see** coronary heart disease

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coronary heart disease	heart disease caused by narrowing or blockage of blood vessels supplying the heart muscle
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corpora cavernosa	the spongy tissue of the penis
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corpuscular volume	size of the red blood cells
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C-reactive protein	a marker of inflammation
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creatine kinase	an enzyme released into the blood when muscle is damaged
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creatine phosphokinase (CPK)	<b>see</b> creatine kinase
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creatinine	a breakdown product of muscle <removed by the kidneys>
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creatinine (elevated)	a sign of <worsening> kidney problems
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creatinine clearance	a measure of how well the kidneys are working
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crepitation	unusual crackling sound
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Crohn's disease	an inflammatory disease affecting the gut
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cryotherapy	freezing
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crystalluria	<crystal> particles in the urine
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Cushing's syndrome	disorder with signs such as weight gain, fat build-up on the face and bruising caused by too much of <a type of steroid> <corticosteroid> hormone
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cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL)	CTCL is a rare type of lymphoma (cancer of the lymph tissue) where some white blood cells (T-cells) grow in the skin
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cyanosis                      skin and lips turning blue <because of a lack of oxygen>

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cystic fibrosis                an inherited disease that affects the glands in the lungs, gut and pancreas that secrete fluids such as mucus and digestive juices

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cystinosis                     a rare disorder where cystine builds up within body cells, preventing them from working correctly

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cystitis                        <inflammation> <infection> in the bladder <which can cause pain and discomfort when passing urine>

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cytokine release syndrome    <life-threatening> condition causing fever, vomiting, shortness of breath, headache and low blood pressure

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cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis    a viral infection of the retina, which can cause loss of vision

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cytopenia                     low number of cells in the blood <or tissue>

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cytotoxic                     cell-killing or able to kill <dividing> cells <such as cancer cells>

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## D

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dander                        shed skin and hair

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decompensated heart failure    **see** heart failure, decompensated

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decompensated liver disease    **see** liver disease, decompensated

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deep vein thrombosis (DVT)    blood clot in a deep vein, usually in the leg

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delirium                      confusion

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deltoid muscle                muscle covering the shoulder joint

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delusion	false beliefs
dementia	loss of intellectual function
demyelinating polyneuropathy	a neurological disorder characterised by progressive weakness and loss of sensation in the legs and arms
demyelination	breakdown of the covering around nerve fibres <which can affect brain activity, muscle control and sensations>
depot injection	a type of injection where the medicine is prepared so that it is absorbed by the body very slowly
dermatitis	inflammation of the skin
dermatitis, atopic	<b>see</b> eczema, atopic
dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans	a type of cancer (sarcoma) in which cells in the tissue beneath the skin divide uncontrollably
dermatology	the treatment of skin conditions
desquamation	shedding of the upper layers of the skin
diabetic foot infection	<b>Consider</b> infection that occurs in the feet of patients with diabetes
diabetic ketoacidosis	a serious complication of diabetes with high levels of ketones in the blood <b>Add relevant symptoms if needed</b>
diabetic peripheral neuropathy	damage to the nerves in the extremities that can occur in patients with diabetes
diabetic precoma	a dangerous condition that can occur in diabetes ( <b>Combine with ketoacidosis if necessary</b> )
dialysis	technique for removing unwanted substances and excess fluid from the blood <when the kidneys do not work well enough>

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dialysis, peritoneal	type of dialysis <involving circulating fluid into the abdomen and then allowing the fluid to flow out>
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diaphoresis	excessive sweating
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diaphragm	the main breathing muscle under the lungs
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diastolic blood pressure	<b>see</b> blood pressure, diastolic
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digital ulcers	<b>see</b> ulcers, digital
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dilate	<b>Substitute with</b> widen <b>or</b> expand
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diplopia	double vision
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disease-modifying (drugs or therapy)	treatment that changes the progress of a <long-term> disease
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dissociation (psychiatry)	feeling disconnected from emotions and physical surroundings
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distension	swelling
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diuretic	a medicine that increases urine production <and reduces build-up of water in the body> <and lowers blood pressure>
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diverticulitis	a disease affecting the gut
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DNA	genetic material
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dopamine	neurotransmitter <b>Parkinson's disease only</b> : a messenger substance in the parts of the brain that control movement and coordination
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Doppler ultrasound	a diagnostic test that measures the speed of blood flow
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---

dormant

inactive

---

DRESS (drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms)

a severe reaction affecting the skin, blood and internal organs

---

duodenitis

inflammation of the duodenum, the part of the gut leading out of the stomach

---

duodenum

the part of the gut leading out of the stomach

---

dysaesthesia

unpleasant and abnormal feeling when touched

---

dysarthria

difficulty speaking

---

dysgeusia

taste disturbance

---

dyskinesia

difficulty controlling movement

---

dyslipidaemia

abnormal levels of fat in the blood

---

dysmenorrhoea

period pains

---

dyspepsia

indigestion

---

dysphagia

difficulty swallowing

---

dysphonia

changes in the sound of the voice

---

dysplasia

presence of abnormal cells <which may become cancerous>

---

dyspnoea

difficulty breathing

---

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dystonia                      involuntary muscle contractions

---

## E

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echocardiography            a diagnostic test where an image of the heart is obtained using ultrasound

---

ectopia lentis                a disorder where the lens of the eye is in the wrong position

---

ectopic pregnancy            pregnancy developing outside the womb

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eczema                        itchy, red and dry skin

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eczema, atopic                itchy, red and dry skin in people prone to allergies

---

efficacy                      **Avoid. If absolutely necessary, use** 'how well <medicine> works as measured in clinical studies'

---

ejection fraction              blood pumped out of the heart in one beat

---

electrocardiogram  
(ECG)                        a test of the heart's <electrical> activity

---

electrolytes                 salts such as sodium, potassium, calcium, chloride and bicarbonate <in blood and other fluids in the body>

---

embolism                     obstruction of a blood vessel <by a clot>

---

embolism, air/gas            air or gas bubbles in the blood that obstruct a blood vessel

---

emetogenic                 triggering nausea and vomiting

---

emotional lability            mood swings

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---

empirical treatment      treatment started on current knowledge until better information is available

---

encephalitis              inflammation of the brain

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encephalopathy         brain disorder caused by a harmful substance or infection

---

encephalopathy,  
hepatic                    brain damage caused by liver problems

---

encephalopathy,  
hyperammonaemic       brain damage caused by high levels of ammonia

---

endocarditis             infection of the sac around the heart <which can lead to serious heart complications>

---

endocrine                related to <glands that produce> hormones in the body  
*In some circumstances, particularly where 'endocrine' is an adjective, using 'hormonal' might be enough*

---

endometrium            the lining of the womb

---

endophthalmitis        inflammation of the inside the eye <often caused by infections>

---

endoscope                a thin tube used to look into the body

---

endoscopy                a procedure that uses a tube with a camera to look inside the body

---

engraftment             **Consider** when the cells start growing <and producing normal blood cells>

---

enzyme                    a protein that <explain role of enzyme, e.g. converts X to Y>

---

enzyme replacement  
therapy                    therapy in which the patient is provided the enzyme that is lacking

---

eosinophil                a type of white blood cell

---

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eosinophilia	an excess of eosinophils, a type of white blood cell
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epidemic	when a disease spreads to a large number of people in a community, region or country
----------	--

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epidemiological studies	studies of the causes and distribution of diseases in the population
-------------------------	--

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epidermis	outer layer of the skin
-----------	-------------------------

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epigastralgia	pain around the upper part of the stomach
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epigastric (region)	upper and middle part of the belly
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epiphyses	the growing ends of long bones <which become part of the main bone when growth finishes>
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epistaxis	<b><i>Substitute with</i></b> nosebleed
-----------	---

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erectile dysfunction	inability to get or keep an erection; impotence
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erosion	ulcer
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erythema	reddening of the skin
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erythropoietin	hormone that stimulates the production of red blood cells <by the bone marrow>
----------------	--

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exacerbation	flare-up
--------------	----------

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exercise capacity	the ability to carry out physical activity
-------------------	--

---

exfoliative	flaky
-------------	-------

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extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)	a technique to oxygenate the blood outside the body using a device similar to a heart-lung machine
--	--

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extrapyramidal side effects/symptoms	effects on a part of the brain that regulates movement <which may result in tremor, muscle spasms or movement disorders>
--------------------------------------	--

---

extravasation	when a medicine that is normally injected into a vein leaks or is accidentally injected into the tissue surrounding the vein, where it can cause serious damage
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## F

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faecal urgency	urgent need to open the bowels
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familial	runs in the family
----------	--------------------

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familial adenomatous polyposis	formation of numerous growths mainly in the large intestine
--------------------------------	---

---

familial hypercholesterolaemia	high blood cholesterol levels that run in the family
--------------------------------	--

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fatigue	<b>Substitute with</b> tiredness
---------	----------------------------------

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febrile	feverish
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febrile neutropenia	<b>see</b> neutropenia, febrile
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fibrillation	uncoordinated twitching of muscle <fibres>
--------------	--

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fibrillation, atrial	irregular and uncoordinated contractions of the upper chambers of the heart <caused by problems in the flow of electrical impulses> <which may cause <palpitations> <fast heart beat>>
----------------------	--

---

fibrillation, ventricular	dangerous, irregular and uncoordinated contractions of the lower chambers of the heart <caused by problems in the flow of electrical impulses> <which can stop the heart working>
---------------------------	---

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fibroids	non-cancerous growths in the womb
----------	-----------------------------------

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fibrosis, pulmonary	lung damage with tissue scarring and thickening
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ferritin	a protein that stores iron in the body
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FEV1 (forced expiratory volume in 1 second)	the most air a person can breathe out in 1 second
---	---

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fibrinolytic	dissolves blood clots made out of a substance called fibrin
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fissure	tear or crack
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fistula	abnormal passageway <between the gut and other organs>
---------	--

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flatulence	gas
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flu, complicated	serious effects of flu generally requiring hospital care
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flushing	reddening of the skin
----------	-----------------------

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flutter, atrial	rapid contractions of the upper chambers of the heart <caused by problems in the flow of electrical impulses> <which causes strain on the heart because the upper and lower chambers are beating at different speeds>
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follicles	small sacs <in the ovary> that hold the eggs
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folliculitis	inflammation of hair follicles
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forced expiratory volume	the most air a person can breathe out <in one second>
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forced vital capacity	a measure of how much air the lungs can hold
-----------------------	--

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formication	a sensation of something crawling on or under the skin
-------------	--

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---

FVC **see** forced vital capacity

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## G

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gangrene decay and death of tissue

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gastric retention when the stomach does not empty properly

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gastritis inflammation of the stomach lining

---

gastroenteritis diarrhoea and vomiting

---

gastrointestinal stomach and gut

---

gastro-oesophageal reflux disease disease where stomach acid goes upwards into the oesophagus

---

gastro-resistant <tablets> <capsules> that can pass through the stomach intact

---

gastrostomy inserting a tube through the skin into the stomach (**see also** PEG)

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general anaesthetic **see** anaesthetic, general

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generalised anxiety disorder long-term anxiety or nervousness about everyday matters

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generalised seizure **see** seizure, generalised

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EXPLAINER

## What are genes?

Our genes determine our makeup and we inherit them from our parents. A gene is a set of precise instructions for making a specific protein in a cell. We have a bank of between 20,000 and 25,000 different genes. Each gene forms a small section of the long strands of DNA (chromosomes), present in the nucleus of the cell.

Cells make copies of the DNA when they divide. The copies can develop mistakes but these are usually repaired and there is no effect on the genes. For many of the remaining mistakes, the consequences are minor and go unnoticed. But, rarely, mistakes lead to an alteration (mutation) of a gene and affect the production of an important protein and so cause disease. Cystic fibrosis, a disease affecting the lungs and the digestive system, is an example of a disease caused by faulty genes.

Genetic diseases are challenging to treat. Treatment focuses on relieving symptoms of the disease and, where possible, replacing the missing or abnormal protein resulting from the faulty gene. For some diseases, advanced medicines may be able to introduce genes into body cells and so correct the underlying genetic abnormality, possibly permanently.

genetic engineering      artificially altering an organism's genetic makeup

genotoxic substance      a substance that is harmful to the DNA, the genetic material in cells

glaucoma      damage to the nerve in the eye <usually caused by high pressure in the eye>

glaucoma, angle-closure      damage to the nerve in the eye caused by pressure inside the eye rising rapidly because fluid cannot drain out

glaucoma, narrow-angle      [see](#) glaucoma, angle-closure

glaucoma, open-angle      damage to the nerves in the eye caused by high pressure due to clogging of fluid drainage canals

glioblastoma multiforme      a type of aggressive brain tumour

glioma      a type of brain tumour that begins in 'glial' cells (the cells that surround and support nerve cells)

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glossodynia	burning or tingling sensation in or around the mouth
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glucose	sugar
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gluteal region	buttocks
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glycosylated haemoglobin (HbA1c)	the proportion of haemoglobin in the blood that has glucose attached. HbA1c indicates how well blood glucose is controlled
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gout	high levels of uric acid in the blood causing symptoms especially painful inflammation in the joints
------	--

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graft versus host disease	when transplanted cells attack the body <because the transplanted tissue or organ regards the patient's tissue as 'foreign' and attacks the body>
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granulation	wound healing
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granulation, hypertrophic	excessive production of tissue during wound healing
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granulocytes	a type of white blood cell
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Guillain-Barré syndrome	an immune system disorder that causes nerve inflammation <and can result in pain, numbness, muscle weakness and difficulty walking>
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gynaecomastia	abnormal breast enlargement
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## H

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5-hydroxytryptamine	also known as serotonin – <b>see</b> neurotransmitter
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haemagglutination	clumping of red blood cells
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haemagglutinins      <virus> proteins that make red blood cells clump together

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haematological      <of> <related to> blood

---

haematoma            a collection of blood under the skin

---

haematopoietic (blood) stem cell transplantation      a procedure where the patient's bone marrow is <cleared of cells and> replaced <by stem cells> <from a donor> <with the patient's own stem cells> to form new bone marrow <that produces healthy cells>

---

haematopoietic progenitor cells      **see** stem cells

---

#### EXPLAINER

### What is haematopoietic stem cell transplantation?

Haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) involves a patient receiving stem cells to help the bone marrow produce healthy blood cells. Stem cells are unspecialised cells that can develop to become different types of specialised cells. HSCT is used to treat serious diseases of the blood and immune system. A stem cell transplant in which the patient receives cells from a matched donor is called an allogeneic transplant. Before receiving the transplant, treatment is given to clear cells from the patient's own bone marrow. The patient then receives the donor cells, which multiply and develop into healthy specialised blood and immune cells.

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haematuria            **Substitute with** blood in the urine

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haemodialysis      technique for removing waste products from the blood<used in patients with kidney disease> <using a blood filtration machine>

---

haemoglobin        the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen around the body

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haemolytic anaemia      **see** anaemia, haemolytic

---

haemophilia A        an inherited bleeding disorder caused by lack of factor VIII

---



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haemophilia B	an inherited bleeding disorder caused by lack of factor IX
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haemoptysis	coughing blood
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haemorrhage	<b>Substitute with</b> bleeding
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haemorrhagic stroke	<b>see</b> stroke, haemorrhagic
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haemostasis	stopping bleeding
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hairy cell leukaemia	cancer of a type of white blood cell called B-lymphocytes <The term 'hairy cell' refers to the hair-like projections that can be seen on the surface of the lymphocytes when they are examined under a microscope.>
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hallucination	seeing, hearing or feeling things that are not there
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hand foot syndrome	rash and numbness on the palms and soles
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hay fever	inflammation of the nasal passages caused by an allergy to pollen <b>Do not define unless absolutely necessary</b>
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EXPLAINER

## What does HbA1c say about diabetes control?

HbA1c is a substance in the blood, with the full name glycosylated (or glycated) haemoglobin. As blood sugar rises, the amount of glycosylated haemoglobin increases. HbA1c is measured in people with diabetes and tells us about a person's average blood glucose (sugar) control over the previous 2 to 3 months.

HbA1c is measured as a proportion of haemoglobin in the blood, either as a percentage or in 'mmol/mol'. Generally, in people who don't have diabetes the HbA1c is below 6% (42 mmol/mol) and in people with diabetes it is over 6.5% (48 mmol/mol).

Taking diabetes medicines regularly lowers HbA1c levels. HbA1c is often used to measure the effectiveness of diabetes medicines. Because HbA1c tells us about long-term control of blood glucose it may be a better measure than the level of blood glucose itself, which fluctuates and can change within a few minutes of eating or taking a diabetes medicine. The aim of diabetes treatment is to achieve reliable long-term control of blood glucose and prevent complications of the disease.

head and neck  
squamous cell  
carcinoma

a type of cancer that starts in the cells lining the mouth, nose, throat or ear

heart failure

when the heart does not pump blood as well as it should <with shortness of breath, tiredness and ankle swelling>

heart failure,  
congestive

when the heart does not pump blood as well as it should <with build-up of fluid around the heart> <causing shortness of breath, tiredness and ankle swelling>

heart failure,  
decompensated

when the heart is working less and less well

hepatic

liver

hepatic  
encephalopathy

**see** encephalopathy, hepatic

hepatitis

inflammation of the liver

hepatitis, cholestatic

build-up of bile leading to inflammation of the liver

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hepatomegaly            enlarged liver

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HER2                    a protein involved in the growth of certain types of breast cancer

---

herpes simplex            viral infection of the mouth (such as cold sores) or the genitals

---

herpes zoster            **see** shingles

---

hirsutism                excessive hair <in parts where there is usually very little or no hair>

---

histamine                a substance in the body that causes allergic symptoms

---

HMG-CoA reductase      an enzyme in the liver that is needed to make cholesterol

---

Hodgkin's lymphoma      **see** lymphoma

---

homocystinuria            an inherited disease where the amino acid methionine cannot be broken down completely by the body

---

hormone                 a substance <released by a gland> that circulates in the blood and helps body organs to work in specific ways

---

hyperaemia                increased blood flow

---

hyperaemia, ocular        red eye

---

hyperammonaemia        high blood levels of ammonia

---

hyperammonaemic encephalopathy      **see** encephalopathy, hyperammonaemic

---

hyperbilirubinaemia      high blood levels of bilirubin<, a breakdown product of red blood cells, which can cause yellowing of the skin and eyes> <, indicating liver problems>

---

hypercalcaemia	high blood calcium levels
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hypercalciuria	high calcium levels in the urine
----------------	----------------------------------

---

hyperchloraemic acidosis	excess acid in the blood caused by too much chloride
--------------------------	--

---

hypercholesteraemia	high blood cholesterol levels
---------------------	-------------------------------

---

hypercholesterolaemi, primary	high blood cholesterol levels that have no identifiable cause
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---

hyperglycaemia	high blood glucose levels
----------------	---------------------------

---

hyperglycaemic coma	coma caused by too much blood glucose
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---

hyperhidrosis	excessive sweating
---------------	--------------------

---

hyperkalaemia	high blood potassium levels <which can cause tiredness, muscle weakness, feeling sick and heart rhythm disturbances>
---------------	--

---

hyperlactataemia	high blood lactic acid levels
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---

hyperlipidaemia	high blood levels fat in the blood
-----------------	------------------------------------

---

hypernatraemia	high blood sodium levels <which can cause thirst, tiredness, confusion and fits>
----------------	--

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hyperparathyroidism	when the parathyroid glands produce too much parathyroid hormone, which raises calcium levels in the blood <and can lead to bone and muscle pain, dehydration, and fragile bones>
---------------------	---

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hyperphosphataemia	high blood phosphate levels
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---

hyperplasia	enlargement of an organ or body tissue <caused by increased cell division>
-------------	--

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hyperprolinaemia	a genetic disorder causing high levels of the amino acid proline in the blood
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---

hypersensitive	allergic
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---

hypersensitivity	allergic reactions
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hypersensitivity reaction, acute systemic	allergic reaction with widespread effects such as shortness of breath, skin rashes and low blood pressure
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hypertension	high blood pressure
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hypertension, ocular	raised pressure in the eye
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---

hypertensive crisis	sudden, dangerously high blood pressure
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---

hyperthermia	high body temperature
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---

hyperthyroidism	an overactive thyroid gland <which can cause hyperactivity, sweating, weight loss and thirst>
-----------------	---

---

hypertonia	muscle tension
------------	----------------

---

hypertriglyceridaemia	high blood levels of triglycerides, a type of fat
-----------------------	---

---

hypertrophic granulation	<b>see</b> granulation, hypertrophic
--------------------------	--------------------------------------

---

hypertrophy	excessive growth <b>or</b> increase in the number or size of cells
-------------	--

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hyperuricaemia	high blood levels of uric acid
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---

hypervolaemic	when the amount of water in the body is higher than normal
---------------	--

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hypoacusis	hearing loss
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hypoesthesia	reduced sensation to touch, pain and temperature
--------------	--

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hypocalcaemia	low blood calcium levels
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hypoglycaemia	low blood glucose levels
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hypogonadotropic hypogonadism	a rare hormone deficiency disease
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---

hypokalaemia	low blood potassium levels <which can cause weakness, muscle cramps, tingling and heart rhythm disturbance>
--------------	---

---

hypomagnesaemia	low blood magnesium levels
-----------------	----------------------------

---

hypomania	feeling excited and overactive
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---

hyponatraemia	low blood sodium levels <which can cause headache, tiredness, fits and coma>
---------------	--

---

hypophosphataemia	low blood levels of phosphates
-------------------	--------------------------------

---

hypoplasia	incomplete development of an organ or tissue
------------	--

---

hypoproteinaemia	low blood protein levels
------------------	--------------------------

---

hypotension	low blood pressure
-------------	--------------------

---

hypotension, orthostatic	<b>see</b> hypotension, postural
--------------------------	----------------------------------

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hypotension, postural	feeling dizzy or lightheaded on standing or sitting up because of a drop in blood pressure
-----------------------	--

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hypothalamus                    a region of the brain

---

hypothyroidism                an underactive thyroid gland <with tiredness, weight gain, and skin and hair changes>

---

hypotonia                      reduced muscle strength or tone

---

hypoxia                         lack of oxygen in body tissues

---

## I

---

icterus                         **see** jaundice

---

idiopathic                      the cause of the disease is unknown

---

idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP)                a disease in which people do not have enough platelets and are at high risk of bleeding

---

ileum (ileal)                    last part of the small intestine

---

immediate-release tablet                **Only needs definition when comparing with other types of tablet:** a tablet that releases the active substance immediately

---

immune reactivation syndrome                **see** immune reconstitution syndrome

---

immune reconstitution syndrome                when the immune system starts working again leading to inflammation and damage to healthy tissue <such as the liver and thyroid gland>

---

immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS)                **see** immune reconstitution syndrome

---

immune system                the body's natural defences

---

immunity                        protection

immunity, passive	short-term protection against infection <from injected antibodies><from antibodies passed to a baby from the mother>
immunocompetent person	person with an immune system that works normally
immunocompromised person	person with a weakened immune system
immunodeficiency disorder, primary	when body defences are reduced from birth
immunogenicity	<b>General:</b> the ability to make the immune system respond to the <viruses/bacteria etc.>; <b>Studies:</b> the ability of X to trigger the production of antibodies
immunoglobulins	Antibodies ( <b>see</b> antibody) <b>As active substance:</b> blood proteins that have been extracted from donor plasma
immunological response	triggering of the body's defences against <an organism or a foreign substance>
immunomodulator	a substance that changes the activity of the body's defences
immunosuppressant medicine	a medicine that reduces the activity of the immune system
immunosuppressive	reduces the activity of the immune system
immunotherapy	medicines that stimulate the immune system <to kill the cancer cells>
impetigo	a skin infection causing crusting scabs
inactivated (vaccine)	uses organism that <has been killed> <cannot reproduce>
incidence	the number of people who get the <disease/condition/illness> every <year>



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incontinence                      lack of control over passing <urine><stools>

---

incontinence, urge                **see** urinary urgency

---

induration                         hardening <at the injection site>

---

indwelling intravenous cannula      a thin tube permanently inserted into a vein

---

infection, complicated            infection that is difficult to treat because it has spread within the body or the patient has other conditions

---

infection, upper respiratory tract      nose and throat infection

---

influenza                          flu

---

infusion                            drip

---

insomnia                          difficulty sleeping (**Consider** difficulty falling and staying asleep, and poor quality of sleep)

---

insomnia, primary                insomnia with no identified cause <including medical, mental or environmental causes>

---

interstitial lung disease                **see** lung disease, interstitial

---

intra-abdominal infections            **Use:** infections within the abdomen (belly)

---

intracranial                        within the skull <in or around the brain>

---

intra-dermal                        <within><into> the skin

---

intramuscular                    into a muscle

---

intraocular                      into the eye

---

intraspinal analgesia        **see** analgesic, intraspinal

---

intrathecal                     into the spinal canal <into the fluid surrounding the spinal cord>

---

intravenous<ly>              into a vein

---

intravitreal                    inserted into the vitreous humour, the jelly-like fluid in the eye

---

intubation                      insertion of a breathing tube through the nose or the mouth

---

intussusception              when part of the bowel becomes enfolded within another part of the bowel, leading to a blockage

---

invasive disease              disease <that has spread> <capable of spreading> to other parts of the body

---

invasive procedure            **Avoid if possible; consider** a medical procedure that may involve piercing or cutting into the body or inserting instruments

---

ions                                charged particles

---

iron overload                   an excess of iron in the body

---

ischaemia                        reduced blood supply

---

ischaemic heart disease      **see** coronary heart disease

---

ischaemic stroke              **see** stroke, ischaemic

---

## J

---

jaundice                      yellowing of the skin and eyes

---

## K

---

Kaposi's sarcoma            a type of cancer affecting the skin

---

keratitis                      inflammation of the cornea

---

keratoconjunctivitis  
sicca                          dry eyes

---

keratopathy                 damage to the cornea, the transparent layer of the eye

---

ketoacidosis                 a dangerous condition with high blood levels of ketones <that can make blood more acidic>

---

## L

---

lacerations                  cuts

---

lacrimation                 watery eyes

---

lactate dehydrogenase    a marker for tissue damage

---

lactic acidosis              a build-up of lactic acid in the body

---

larynx                         voice box

---

laxatives                     medicines that treat constipation

---

---

lean body mass

body weight excluding fat

---

lesion

**Consider** injury or abnormality

---

lethargy

lack of energy

---

leucocytes

white blood cells

---

leucocytosis

high levels of white blood cells

---

leucopenia

low white blood cell counts

---

leukaemia

cancer of the white blood cells

---

limb

arm or leg

---

lipids

fats

---

lipoatrophy

loss of fat below the skin <that can change body shape>

---

lipodystrophy  
(syndrome)

changes in the distribution of body fat

---

liver disease,  
compensated

when the liver is damaged but is still able to work <adequately>

---

liver disease,  
decompensated

when the liver is damaged and can no longer work adequately

---

liver impairment

problems with the liver

---

local anaesthetic

**see** anaesthetic, local

---

---

long QT syndrome	<b>see</b> QT<c> prolongation
------------------	-------------------------------

---

low density lipoprotein (LDL)-cholesterol	'bad' cholesterol
---	-------------------

---

lower respiratory tract infection	infection of the lungs such as bronchitis or pneumonia
-----------------------------------	--

---

lumbar puncture	inserting a needle into the lower spine <to test for or treat conditions affecting the spinal cord and brain>
-----------------	---

---

lumbar vertebra	one of the bones in the lower part of the spine
-----------------	---

---

lung disease, interstitial	disorders causing scarring in the lungs
----------------------------	---

---

luteinising hormone (LH)	the hormone that triggers the release of eggs during the menstrual cycle
--------------------------	--

---

lymphadenopathy	enlarged lymph nodes, or 'swollen glands'
-----------------	---

---

lymphatic system	<b>Consider</b> a network of vessels that transport fluid from tissues through the lymph nodes and into the bloodstream
------------------	---

---

lymphoblastic lymphoma (LBL)	a cancer of a type of immature white blood cell called T-lymphoblasts
------------------------------	---

---

lymphocele	collection of lymph fluid usually in the lower belly
------------	--

---

lymphocytes	a type of white blood cell
-------------	----------------------------

---

lymphoma	cancer of lymphocytes, white blood cells involved in the body's defences
----------	--

---

lymphopenia	low levels of lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell
-------------	---

---

lysis	cell death
-------	------------

---

---

## M

---

macrocytosis                      enlargement of red blood cells

---

macula                                the central part of the retina at the back of the eye

---

macular oedema                    **see** oedema, macular

---

macrophage                         a type of white blood cell

---

magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)                      technique for detailed scanning of internal organs <using magnetic fields>

---

maintenance (dose, treatment)                      **Consider** <continuing> <ongoing><subsequent>  
**If only the first dose is different, then no need to describe the rest of the doses as continuing, ongoing, etc**

---

malabsorption                      poor absorption of nutrients from the digestive system

---

malaise                                **Substitute with** feeling generally unwell

---

malignant                             cancerous

---

mania                                  mental disorder with extreme excitement and overactivity

---

manic episodes                      periods of extremely high mood

---

mantle cell lymphoma              an aggressive cancer of a type of white blood cell called B-lymphocytes

---

melanoma                              a type of skin cancer affecting cells called melanocytes

---

meningitis	inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord
metabolites	breakdown products in the body <b>or</b> the substances that <a food> <a medicine> <a chemical> is broken down into
metastasis	cancer that has spread from another part of the body
metastatic	has spread to other parts of the body
methaemoglobinaemia	too much of an abnormal haemoglobin that cannot carry oxygen effectively
mitochondria	the energy-producing components within cells
modified-release	<b><i>For layered tablets containing two active substances:</i></b> the two active substances are released at different rates from the tablet <over a few hours> <b><i>For other modified release preparations, do not give a general definition of modified release but give a description restricted to the medicine.</i></b>
monoclonal antibody	an antibody (a type of protein) designed to recognise and attach to <named antigen> <a specific target>
monotherapy	used on its own
mortality	<b><i>Do not use, but say:</i></b> death rate
mucosa	<b><i>see</i></b> mucous membranes
mucositis	inflammation of the moist body surfaces
mucositis, oral	inflammation of the lining in the mouth <ranging from soreness and redness to severe ulceration>
mucous membranes	moist body surfaces, such as the lining of the mouth

mucus	<b>If an explanation is considered necessary, consider</b> a thick bodily fluid for lubrication and protection
multiple myeloma	a cancer of the bone marrow
multiple sclerosis (MS)	a disease of the brain and spinal cord in which inflammation destroys the protective covering around nerves and damages the nerves
multiple sclerosis, primary progressive	gradual start of multiple sclerosis with steady worsening of the disease
multiple sclerosis, relapsing-remitting	when the disease causes multiple sclerosis attacks (relapses) followed by periods with milder symptoms (remission)
multiple sclerosis, secondary progressive	when relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis steadily worsens without any improvement
muscle relaxants	medicines used to relax muscles <including muscles that help the patient to breathe>
muscular atrophy	muscle wasting
musculoskeletal	relating to the muscles and bones
mutated	changed
myalgia	<b>Substitute with</b> muscle pain
myasthenia gravis	a disease, causing muscle weakness
myelin	protective covering of nerves
myeloablative therapy	treatments that destroy the bone marrow
myelodysplastic syndromes	when the bone marrow does not make enough healthy blood cells or platelets



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---

myeloid                      of <in> bone marrow

---

myeloproliferative diseases              <a slow-growing cancer with> production of too many blood cells of a particular type <that can cause blockages>

---

myelosuppression              a condition in which the bone marrow cannot make enough blood cells

---

myocardial infarction              heart attack <because of blockage in blood supply to a part of the heart>

---

myocarditis                      inflammation of heart muscle

---

myoclonic seizure              **see** seizure, myoclonic

---

myopathy                      muscle disease causing weakness

---

myopia                      nearsightedness or short-sightedness

---

myositis ossificans              abnormal bone growth in the muscle

---

## N

---

naevus/nevus                      <mole> <visible area of skin damage>

---

naïve patients                      **Do not use but say:** patients who have not been treated before

---

nanobody                      a small antibody

---

narcolepsy                      a sleep disorder that causes a person to fall asleep suddenly and unexpectedly

---

narrow-angle glaucoma                      **see** glaucoma, angle-closure

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---

nasal congestion      a blocked nose

---

nasal polyps      growths in the lining of the nose

---

nasogastric tube      a tube through the nose to the stomach

---

nasopharyngitis      inflammation of the nose and throat

---

nausea      feeling sick

---

nebuliser      device to produce a mist <of the medicine> for the patient to breathe in  
<through a mask or mouthpiece>

---

necrosis      death of cells or tissue

---

neoadjuvant treatment      preliminary treatment to shrink the <cancer> <tumour>

---

neonate      newborn baby  
**Preferably substitute** newborn baby **for** neonate

---

neonatologist      doctor specialising in treating newborn babies

---

nephritis      kidney inflammation

---

nephrolithiasis      kidney stones

---

nerve block      procedure to block sensation to a part of the body

---

neuralgia      **Substitute with** nerve pain

---

neuralgia, post-herpetic      long-lasting nerve burning pain that may occur after shingles

neuroleptic malignant syndrome	a dangerous reaction with fever, rigid muscles, changing blood pressure and coma, usually caused by antipsychotic medicines
neurological	relating to the brain or nerves
neuropathic pain	<b>see</b> pain, neuropathic
neuropathic ulcers	<b>see</b> ulcer, neuropathic
neuropathy	nerve damage
neuropathy, peripheral	nerve damage in arms and legs <causing pain or numbness, burning and tingling>
neuropathy, peripheral motor	nerve damage causing difficulty with movement
neuropathy, sensory	nerve damage affecting sensation of pain, temperature and touch
neuropsychiatric disorders	disorders of the brain and nerves resulting in altered thinking or behaviour
neurosurgery	surgery on the nervous system, including the brain
neurotransmitter	a substance that nerve cells use to communicate with neighbouring cells <b>Also consider</b> a substance that relays signals from a nerve cell to another cell

#### EXPLAINER

### What are neurotransmitters?

Cells, typically nerve cells, communicate by releasing chemicals which attach to a neighbouring cell. These chemicals are called neurotransmitters. There are many different neurotransmitters – some well-known ones include acetylcholine, dopamine, noradrenaline and serotonin (also called 5-hydroxytryptamine). If enough of these neurotransmitters reach the neighbouring cell, they provoke an effect on the cell, most often by increasing or decreasing the cell's activity, for example muscle contraction.

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---

neutropenia                      low levels of neutrophils, a type of white blood cell <that fights infection>

---

neutropenia, febrile            low white blood cell counts with fever <due to infection>

---

neutropenic                      with low levels of neutrophils, a type of white blood cell

---

neutropenic fever              **see** neutropenia, febrile

---

neutrophil                        a type of white blood cell <that fights infection>

---

nocturia                         need to pass urine at night

---

nonclinical studies              **Use** laboratory studies

---

non-Hodgkin's  
lymphoma                        **see** lymphoma

---

nosocomial                      <infection> <disease> picked up in hospital

---

## O

---

obesity                         being very overweight

---

observational studies          studies looking at the effects of medicines as they are used by patients in a real-life setting

---

obstructive sleep  
apnoea (syndrome)            repeated interruption of breathing during sleep due to airways becoming blocked

---

ocular                            of eye

---

ocular hyperaemia              **see** hyperaemia, ocular

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ocular hypertension      **see** hypertension, ocular

---

oedema                      swelling (**Consider** fluid retention)

---

oedema, cerebral        swelling in the brain

---

oedema, macular        swelling in the macula, the central part of the retina at the back of the eye

---

oedema, periorbital     puffy eyes

---

oedema, peripheral      swelling especially of the ankles and feet <due to fluid retention>

---

oesophageal              <gullet> <foodpipe> <tube that leads from the mouth to the stomach>

---

oesophageal stenosis   **see** stenosis

---

oesophagitis            inflammation of the foodpipe

---

oesophagus              the tube that leads from the mouth to the stomach

---

oestrogen                a female sex hormone

---

oestrogen-receptor  
negative tumour        where the cancer cells do not have receptors for the hormone oestrogen on their surface

---

oestrogen-receptor  
positive                where the cancer cells have receptors for the hormone oestrogen on their surface

---

oligo-ovulatory         rarely produces eggs

---

oliguria                  low urine output

---

oncologist                      cancer specialist

---

opacity                         **Substitute with** clouding

---

open-angle glaucoma        **see** glaucoma, open-angle

---

ophthalmologist            eye specialist

---

opioid                         a <painkiller><medicine> that is related to morphine

---

opportunistic infections    infections seen in patients with a weakened immune system

---

optic nerve                    the nerve that sends signals from the eye to the brain

---

oral mucositis                **see** mucositis, oral

---

orodispersible                that dissolves in the mouth

---

oropharynx  
(oropharyngeal)            mouth and throat

---

orphan medicine             a medicine used in rare diseases

---

orthopaedic                  relating to the bones

---

orthostatic                    on standing or sitting up

---

orthostatic hypotension    **see** hypotension, postural

---

ossification                  bone formation

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---

osteoarthritis                      swelling and pain in the joints

---

osteoblasts                        bone-forming cells

---

osteoclasts                        cells that are involved in breaking down the bone tissue

---

osteomyelitis                      bone infection

---

osteonecrosis                      death of bone tissue

---

osteopenia                         reduction in bone strength

---

osteoporosis                        a disease that makes bones fragile

---

otitis media                        infection of the middle ear

---

ovalbumin                         a protein in egg white

---

ovarian cysts                        sacs of fluid within the ovaries

---

ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome                      when the ovaries over-respond to treatment <causing nausea, weight gain and diarrhoea>

---

ovarian stimulation                      fertility treatment where the ovaries are stimulated to release more eggs

---

ovulation                            the release of eggs <during the menstrual cycle>

---

oxygen saturation                      **Consider** a measure of lung function

---

## P

---

paediatrician	doctor specialised in the treatment of children
---------------	---

---

Paget's disease	a disease involving bone destruction and regrowth, which causes deformity
-----------------	---

---

pain, neuropathic	pain due to nerve damage
-------------------	--------------------------

---

palliative	relieving symptoms
------------	--------------------

---

palliative care	treatment of the symptoms of a disease that is not intended to lead to cure
-----------------	---

---

palmar-plantar erythrodysaesthesia syndrome	<b>see</b> hand foot syndrome
---	-------------------------------

---

palpitations	a forceful heartbeat that may be rapid or irregular
--------------	---

---

palsy	paralysis with weakness and shaking
-------	-------------------------------------

---

pancreatitis	inflammation of the pancreas <causing severe pain in the belly and back>
--------------	--

---

pancytopenia	<low blood cell counts> <b>or</b> <low levels of all types of blood cells <including platelets>>
--------------	--

---

pandemic	when a disease spreads to a large number of people in many countries worldwide
----------	--

---

papillomaviruses	viruses that cause warts and abnormal tissue growth
------------------	---

---

paraesthesia	sensations like numbness, tingling, pins and needles
--------------	--

---

parathyroid glands	glands that secrete the hormone that controls blood calcium levels
--------------------	--



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Parkinson's disease	a progressive brain disease that causes shaking and muscle stiffness and slows movement
parkinsonism	effects similar to Parkinson's disease such as shaking, muscle stiffness and slow movement
paronychia	nail bed infection
partial<-onset> seizure <with <or without> secondary generalisation>	<b>see</b> seizure, partial<-onset> <with <or without> secondary generalisation>
passive immunity	<b>see</b> immunity, passive
patent ductus arteriosus	a condition where the ductus arteriosus (a blood vessel that allows blood to bypass the baby's lungs before birth) fails to close after birth ('patent' means open). This causes heart and lung problems in the baby.
patient-year	the equivalent of one patient taking the medicine for one year
peak expiratory flow	the maximum speed a person can breathe out
Pearl Index	a standard way of measuring the effectiveness of contraceptives, which measures how many unwanted pregnancies occur in 100 user-years
pedal arteries	<b>Avoid: Just write</b> 'arteries that supply blood to the feet'
PEG (percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy)	a feeding tube inserted through the skin into the stomach ( <b>see also gastrostomy</b> )
pegylated	attached to a chemical called polyethylene glycol
pegylated liposomes	tiny fatty spheres that are coated with < <b>or</b> attached to> a chemical called polyethylene glycol
pelvic	lower abdominal

---

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---

pelvic inflammatory disease

a type of infection of the upper part of the female genital tract

---

peptic ulcer disease

ulcers in the stomach or the duodenum

---

peptide

a short chain of amino acids

---

percutaneous coronary intervention

a procedure that unblocks blood vessels of the heart to restore its blood supply

---

percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy

**see** PEG

---

percutaneous transluminal coronary angiography (PTCA)

surgical procedure that is used to unblock narrowed coronary arteries

---

perennial

occurs throughout the year

---

performance status

**Adapt the following as necessary:** a rating of how well a patient is

---

perfusion

blood circulation <through an organ>

---

pericardial disease

disease of the membrane around the heart

---

pericarditis

inflammation of the membrane around the heart

---

periocular infections

infections around the eyes

---

periorbital oedema

**see** oedema, periorbital

---

peripheral neuropathy

**see** neuropathy, peripheral

---

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---

peripheral arterial disease      **see** artery disease, peripheral

---

peripheral motor neuropathy      **see** neuropathy, peripheral motor

---

peripheral oedema      **see** oedema, peripheral

---

peritoneal cavity      abdominal space

---

peritoneal dialysis      **see** dialysis, peritoneal

---

peritoneum      the membrane that forms the lining of the abdominal (belly) cavity

---

pertussis      whooping cough

---

petechiae      tiny blood spots under the skin

---

phaeochromocytoma      a tumour of the adrenal gland

---

phagocytes      specialised 'scavenger' cells of the immune system

---

pharmacodynamics      a medicine's effects in the body

---

pharmacokinetics      how a medicine is absorbed, modified and removed from the body

---

pharyngitis      sore throat

---

Philadelphia chromosome positive (Ph+)      this means that some of the patient's genes have rearranged themselves to form a special chromosome called the Philadelphia chromosome. This chromosome produces an enzyme that leads to the development of leukaemia

---

phlebitis      inflammation of a vein

---

---

phlebotomy	removal of some of the blood from the body
------------	--

---

phosphenes (luminous phenomena)	a temporary brightness in the field of vision
---------------------------------	---

---

photodynamic therapy	treatment in which a medicine is 'switched on' by <a special type of> light
----------------------	---

---

photophobia	abnormal sensitivity of the eyes to light
-------------	---

---

photopsia	flashes of light in the field of vision
-----------	---

---

photosensitising agent	a medicine 'switched on' by <a special type of> light <and used for photodynamic therapy>
------------------------	---

---

photosensitivity reactions	sunburn-like reactions (following exposure to light)
----------------------------	--

---

pigmentation	colouring of the skin, hair and eyes
--------------	--------------------------------------

---

pituitary gland	a gland <at the base of the brain> that controls many other hormone-producing glands in the body
-----------------	--

---

placebo	dummy treatment
---------	-----------------

---

plaque psoriasis	<b>see</b> psoriasis
------------------	----------------------

---

plasma	the liquid part of the blood <b>or</b> the part of the blood left when the blood cells are removed
--------	--

---

plasma exchange	a procedure to remove <unwanted> <substances> <antibodies> from plasma (the liquid part of the blood) <by replacing the patient's plasma with plasma from a donor>
-----------------	--

---

plasmapheresis	<b>see</b> plasma exchange
----------------	----------------------------

---

plasmin	an enzyme that breaks up clots <and helps restore the normal blood flow to the heart>
---------	---

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---

platelet aggregation      formation of blood clots

---

platelets      components that help the blood to clot

---

pleural effusion      fluid around the lungs

---

pleuritic pain      a type of chest pain

---

pneumonia      infection of the lungs

---

pneumonitis      inflammation in the lungs <causing shortness of breath and cough>

---

pneumonitis, hypersensitivity      inflammation in the lungs due to an allergy <causing shortness of breath and cough>

---

poliomyelitis      **Use:** polio

---

pollakiuria      abnormally frequent urination

---

polyuria      increase in urine production

---

porphyria      an inability to break down chemicals called porphyrins

---

portal vein      vein leading to the liver

---

posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome      brain swelling with <usually temporary effects such as> headache, changes in vision, reduced consciousness and seizures

---

post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN)      **see** neuralgia, post-herpetic

---

postmenopausal women      women who have been through the menopause

---

postpartum                    after childbirth

---

postural hypotension    **see** hypotension, postural

---

precancerous lesions    abnormal cells that could develop into cancer

---

preclinical studies       **Use** laboratory studies

---

preprandially             **Substitute with** before meals

---

PRES                        **see** posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome

---

preterm                    **Substitute with** premature

---

prevalence                the number of people with the disease

---

primary  
hypercholesterolaemia    **see** hypercholesterolaemia, primary

---

primary  
immunodeficiency  
syndrome                 **see** immunodeficiency disorder, primary

---

primary insomnia         **see** insomnia, primary

---

proctalgia                anal pain

---

prodrug                    a medicine that is converted to an active form in the body

---

progression (disease)    getting worse

---

progression-free  
survival                    how long patients live without their disease getting worse

---

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progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML)	a rare but serious <viral> brain infection <with symptoms similar to those of a multiple sclerosis attack>
--	--

---

prolonged release	the active substance is released slowly <from the tablet> over a few <weeks/ days/hours> <after being injected>
-------------------	---

---

prophylaxis	prevention
-------------	------------

---

proteasome	a system within cells that breaks down proteins when they are no longer needed
------------	--

---

proteinuria	excess protein in the urine
-------------	-----------------------------

---

pruritus	<b>Substitute with</b> itching
----------	--------------------------------

---

psoriasis	<a> <an inflammatory> disease causing red, scaly patches on the skin
-----------	--

---

psoriatic arthritis	a disease causing inflammation in the joints in combination with psoriasis
---------------------	--

---

psychomotor hyperactivity	restlessness
---------------------------	--------------

---

psychosis	altered sense of reality
-----------	--------------------------

---

pulmonary (arterial) hypertension	high blood pressure in the arteries of the lungs <b>Consider</b> (for brevity and if appropriate) high blood pressure in the lungs
-----------------------------------	--

---

pulmonary artery	the blood vessel that leads from the heart to the lungs
------------------	---

---

pulmonary embolism (PE)	clot in a blood vessel in the lungs <which can cause chest pain, breathlessness and fainting>
-------------------------	---

---

pulmonary fibrosis	<b>see</b> fibrosis, pulmonary
--------------------	--------------------------------

---

pulmonary nodule	a small <area of damage> <lump> in the lungs
------------------	--

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punctate keratitis      spots of inflammation in the cornea

---

pure red cell aplasia      a condition in which no red blood cells are produced

---

purpura      purple patches like bruising

---

pustulation      blisters

---

pyelonephritis      kidney infection

---

pyrexia      **Substitute with** fever

---

## Q

---

QT interval      A measure of the heart's electrical activity

---

QT<c> prolongation      abnormal electrical activity of the heart that affects its rhythm

---

## R

---

radiofrequency ablation      insertion of a probe into a tumour to destroy cancer cells by heat

---

radiolabelling      a technique where a substance is <tagged/labelled> with a radioactive compound

---

radiotherapy      treatment with radiation

---

Raynaud's disease (phenomenon, syndrome)      severe narrowing of blood vessels in the cold <with skin turning white or blue>

---

receptor      **When receptor occurs under mechanism of action consider saying** 'receptor (target)'

---



EXPLAINER

## What are receptors, agonists and antagonists?

A receptor is a part of a cell that attaches to a specific substance and this attachment triggers a particular change ('response'), such as the release of messenger substances or making a protein. The substance that attaches to the receptor to bring about the change is called an agonist. The shape of agonists make them just the right fit for their receptors – a 'lock and key' mechanism because each key will fit just one lock.

Agonists are mostly substances made in the body and include neurotransmitters (released by nerves), hormones (released by special glands), and cytokines (released by cells such as those involved in inflammation). But agonists can also be substances introduced into the body and many medicines work by acting as agonists which attach to specific receptors to trigger a response.

Some substances can attach to the receptor without triggering a response. By sitting in the receptor they block the agonist from attaching to the receptor and having an effect. These substances are called antagonists or blockers. Many medicines have been developed to be antagonists at particular receptors and they prevent harmful overactivity at those receptors.

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rectum                      the lowest part of the gut <that stores faeces>

---

recurrence                when <symptoms/the disease> come(s) back <after treatment>

---

recurrent                    <has come back/keeps coming back> <after previous treatment>

---

refractory                    when treatment does not work

---

registry (patient or disease)      ongoing collection of information about <a specific group of> patients affected by a particular condition

---

relapse                      when <symptoms/the disease> come(s) back <after treatment>

---

relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis      **see** multiple sclerosis, relapsing-remitting

---

remission                    a period without disease symptoms after treatment

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---

renal ***Do not use. Write:*** kidney

---

renal failure inability of the kidneys to work properly

---

renal failure, chronic long-term, progressive decrease in the kidneys' ability to work properly

---

renal impairment reduced kidney function

---

resistant (treatment) when treatment does not work

---

respiratory depression inhibition of breathing

---

respiratory failure inability of the lungs <to work properly> <to take in oxygen and get rid of carbon dioxide properly>

---

respiratory insufficiency difficulty breathing

---

respiratory system lungs and airways

---

respiratory tract congestion blocked airways

---

respiratory tract infection Infection of the airways

---

response rate ***Do not use. Write:*** number of patients who respond to treatment

---

restless legs syndrome a disorder where the patient has uncontrollable urges to move the legs to stop uncomfortable, painful or odd sensations, usually at night

---

reticulocytopenia low levels of reticulocytes, a type of immature red blood cell

---

retina the light sensitive membrane at the back of the eye

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retinopathy                      damage to the retina

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revascularisation              restoration of blood flow

---

reverse transcriptase          an enzyme produced by <virus> that allows it to infect cells in the body and make more viruses

---

rhabdomyolysis                breakdown of muscles often leading to kidney damage

---

rheumatoid arthritis          an immune system disease causing damage and inflammation in the joints

---

rhinitis                         stuffy and runny nose

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rhinitis, allergic              stuffy and runny nose <with inflammation> caused by an allergy <e.g. hay fever or dust-mite allergy>

---

rhinorrhoea                    **Substitute with** runny nose

---

ribosomes                      the parts of the cell that produce proteins

---

rigors                          shaking chills

---

RNA                             genetic material <instructions for producing proteins>

---

rotavirus                      a virus that causes gastroenteritis

---

rubella                         German measles

---

## S

---

saccadic (eye movements)    rapid eye movements

scleroderma	hardening of the skin and connective tissue around internal organs
sclerosis, systemic	<b>see</b> scleroderma
seasonal allergic conjunctivitis	inflammation of the eyes caused by pollen in patients with hay fever
seasonal allergic rhinitis	hay fever
secondary progressive multiple sclerosis	<b>see</b> multiple sclerosis, secondary progressive
sedation	<calming effect> <induce sleepiness>
seizure	<epileptic> fit
seizure, absence	a type of fit during which a person has a blank stare but is partly aware of surroundings
seizure, atonic	brief loss of muscle control and reduced consciousness
seizure, atypical absence	a type of fit during which a person has a blank stare <possibly losing awareness of surroundings>
seizure, generalised	fit affecting most or all of the brain
seizure, myoclonic	short, shock-like jerks of a muscle or group of muscles
seizure, partial<-onset> <with <or without> secondary generalisation>	epileptic fit starting in one specific part of the brain <Secondary generalisation is when the seizure subsequently spreads to the whole brain>
seizure, tonic	brief fit with muscle contraction
seizure, tonic-atonic	a type of epileptic fit that often involves the patient falling to the floor
seizure, tonic-clonic	major fit, including loss of consciousness

---

sensitivity (of disease)	when a condition is treatable by a <medicine> <group of medicines>
sensitivity (test)	a measure of how well a test can detect those who have a <disease> <condition>
sensory neuropathy	<b>see</b> neuropathy, sensory
sepsis	<when bacteria and their toxins circulate in the blood leading to organ damage> <blood poisoning>
septic shock	a dangerous drop in blood pressure caused by severe infection
septicaemia	blood poisoning
seroconversion	development of antibodies <(proteins in the body's defence system)> against a specific target
serum sickness	allergic reaction to injected proteins <and blood products> <with fever, rash, joint pain, digestive system problems and headache>
shingles	a painful, blistering rash in one part of the body
shock	a steep fall in blood pressure
sinus node	the 'pacemaker' for the heart that controls the heart contractions and regulates heart rate
sinus rhythm	normal heartbeat
sinuses	air-filled passageways in the bones around the nose and eyes
sinusitis	inflammation of the sinuses
sleep apnoea	frequent interruption of breathing during sleep <b>See also</b> obstructive sleep apnoea
sleep latency	the length of time taken to fall asleep
slit lamp	an instrument used by eye specialists to look into the eye

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---

soft tissues	tissues just below the skin
--------------	-----------------------------

---

somnolence	sleepiness
------------	------------

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spasticity	continuously stiffened muscles
------------	--------------------------------

---

specificity (test)	a measure of how well a test can distinguish people with a condition from those who don't have it
--------------------	---

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splenomegaly	enlarged spleen
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sputum	phlegm
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ST segment elevation	an abnormal reading on the electrocardiogram (ECG)
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stable angina pectoris	<b>see</b> angina pectoris
------------------------	----------------------------

---

statin	the standard type of medicine used to reduce cholesterol
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status epilepticus	an epileptic fit, or series of fits, lasting longer than 5 minutes
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---

stem cell transplant	<b>see</b> haematopoietic (blood) stem cell transplantation
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---

stem cells (haematopoietic stem cells)	cells that can develop into different types of (blood) cells
---	--

---

stenosis	narrowing of a <body passage> <blood vessel>
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stenosis, aortic	narrowing of the aorta
------------------	------------------------

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stent	a short tube placed in an artery to prevent it closing up
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---

steroid	<b>Preferably use</b> corticosteroid <b>except where glucocorticoid needs to be distinguished from mineralocorticoid, in which case use</b> glucocorticoid
---------	--

---

Stevens-Johnson syndrome	life-threatening reaction with flu-like symptoms and painful rash affecting the skin, mouth, eyes and genitals
--------------------------	--

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stomatitis	inflammation of the lining of the mouth
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strain	<b>Do not translate, but explain by using in context, e.g.</b> 'the strain of flu virus responsible for a pandemic'
--------	---

---

stroke	sudden interruption of blood flow in the brain which can cause paralysis and unconsciousness
--------	--

---

stroke, haemorrhagic	stroke <(sudden interruption of blood flow in the brain)> caused by bleeding in a part of the brain
----------------------	---

---

stroke, ischaemic	stroke <(sudden interruption of blood flow in the brain)> caused by blocked blood supply to a part of the brain
-------------------	---

---

subcutaneous injection	<b>Substitute with</b> injection under the skin
------------------------	---

---

subcutaneous(ly)	<b>Avoid. Use:</b> under the skin
------------------	-----------------------------------

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sublingual tablet	a tablet which is placed under the tongue where it dissolves
-------------------	--

---

sulphonylureas	<b>No definition required. We just say</b> other medicines to treat diabetes
----------------	--

---

supportive care	treatment to prevent or relieve the symptoms of the disease <but not specific treatment against the disease>
-----------------	--

---

surfactant (lung)	a substance lining the airsacs which allows gases to pass easily between the lung and blood
-------------------	---

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survival, overall	how long patients live
-------------------	------------------------

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survival, progression-free	<b>see</b> progression-free survival
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suspension	a liquid with solid particles in it <b>No need to describe when part of pharmaceutical form, e.g. suspension for injection</b>
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---

sutured	stitched
---------	----------

---

syncope	fainting
---------	----------

---

systemic (side effects)	side effects that can affect anywhere in the body
-------------------------	---

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---

systemic treatment	treatment with <a> medicine<s> given <by mouth> <or> <by injection>
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systemic lupus erythematosus	a condition in which the body's defence system attacks normal tissue causing symptoms such as swollen joints, tiredness and rashes
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systolic blood pressure	<b>see</b> blood pressure, systolic
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## T

---

T cells	cells in the immune system
---------	----------------------------

---

T lymphocytes	<b>use</b> T cells <b>unless it is necessary to introduce the term lymphocyte, in which case say</b> T lymphocytes (T cells) <b>the first time and then use</b> T cells
---------------	---

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tachycardia	<b>Substitute with</b> rapid heartbeat
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tachypnoea	rapid breathing
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tapering (dose)	reducing the dose gradually
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tardive dyskinesia	uncontrolled movements of the face and jaw
--------------------	--

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tenosynovitis	inflammation of the sheath surrounding a tendon
---------------	---

---

teratogen	a substance that can cause birth defects in the unborn baby
-----------	---

---

teratogenicity	ability to cause birth defects
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thrombin	a protein involved in blood clotting
----------	--------------------------------------

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thrombocytopenia	low blood platelet counts <which can lead to bleeding and bruising>
------------------	---



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---

thromboembolism      problems due to the formation of blood clots in the blood vessels

---

thrombolytic      dissolves blood clots

---

thrombophlebitis      inflammation in a vein leading to a blood clot <and blockage>

---

thrombosis      formation of blood clots in the blood vessels

---

thrombotic events      problems due to the formation of blood clots in the blood vessels

---

thymus gland      a gland <in the chest> that prepares <cells> <lymphocytes> to help the body's defences

---

tibia      shin bone

---

time to (disease) progression      ***Do not use. Explain as:*** the time until the disease started worsening <again>

---

time to treatment failure      ***Do not use. Explain as:*** the time until the treatment stopped working

---

tinnitus      ringing or buzzing in the ears

---

tonic-atonic seizure      ***see*** seizure, tonic-atonic

---

tonic-clonic seizure      ***see*** seizure, tonic-clonic

---

tonic seizure      ***see*** seizure, tonic

---

tonsillitis      infection of the tonsils

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tophi      deposits of uric acid crystals in joints, skin or cartilage <which can cause damage>

---

---

topically	on the skin
-----------	-------------

---

torsades de pointes	abnormal electrical activity in the heart with life-threatening rhythm disturbance
---------------------	--

---

torticollis	<b>see</b> cervical dystonia
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---

toxic epidermal necrolysis	life-threatening reaction with flu-like effects and blistering in the skin, mouth eyes and genitals
----------------------------	---

---

toxin	a harmful substance produced by infectious organisms
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---

toxoid	an inactivated toxin
--------	----------------------

---

trachea	windpipe
---------	----------

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transdermal patch	patch to give <a medicine> <medicines> through the skin
-------------------	---

---

transplant rejection	when the immune system attacks the transplanted organ
----------------------	---

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trauma	<severe> injury
--------	-----------------

---

treatment-experienced	<b>use</b> <had been> treated for <disease> before
-----------------------	--

---

treatment-naïve	<b>use</b> <had> never <been> treated for <disease>
-----------------	---

---

tremor	shaking
--------	---------

---

triglycerides	a type of fat
---------------	---------------

---

trismus	contraction of the jaw muscles which holds the mouth shut
---------	---

---

---

tumour lysis syndrome	a serious <side effect> <complication> with rapid break down of cancer cells <causing high levels of uric acid, potassium and phosphate>
-----------------------	--

---

tumour progression	tumour getting worse
--------------------	----------------------

---

## U

---

ulcer	open sore
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ulcer, neuropathic	open sore caused by a nerve problem
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ulcers, digital	sores on the fingers and toes
-----------------	-------------------------------

---

ulcerative colitis	inflammation of the large intestine causing ulceration and bleeding
--------------------	---

---

unresectable	cannot be removed by surgery
--------------	------------------------------

---

unstable bladder	an overactive bladder, when the bladder muscles contract suddenly
------------------	---

---

upper respiratory tract infection	<b>see</b> infection, upper respiratory tract
-----------------------------------	---

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urethra	the tube that leads from the bladder to the outside <of the body>
---------	---

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urge incontinence	<b>see</b> urinary urgency
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---

urgency	sudden urge to pass urine
---------	---------------------------

---

uricaemia	high blood levels of uric acid
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urinary retention	inability to completely empty the bladder
-------------------	---

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urinary tract                      structures that carry urine <such as the bladder>

---

urinary tract infection        infection of the structures that carry urine

---

urinary urgency                sudden urge to pass urine <with urine leakage>

---

uterus                              womb

---

urticaria                          itchy rash

---

uveitis                              inflammation of the uvea, the layer beneath the white of the eyeball

---

## V

---

varicella                          chickenpox

---

varices                              swollen <and knotted> veins

---

vascular                          <affecting> <of> blood vessels

---

vasculitis                          inflammation of blood vessels

---

vasoconstrictor                a substance that narrows blood vessels

---

vasodilation                      widening of the blood vessels

---

vaso-occlusive crises        when blood vessels become blocked by abnormal red blood cells, restricting the flow of blood to an organ

---

vasopressors                      medicines that increase blood pressure

---

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ventilator                      a machine that helps a patient to breathe

---

vertebral                      **avoid; use** (of the) spine

---

vertigo                         a spinning sensation

---

ventricle (heart)              one of the two lower chambers of the heart <that pumps blood into the circulation>

---

ventricular fibrillation      **see** fibrillation, ventricular

---

vesicle                         spot

---

viral load                      the amount of virus found in the blood

---

viral vector                    a virus that has been altered so that it can carry genetic material into cells

---

visual acuity                 sharpness of vision

---

vitreous floaters              small, dark shapes moving in the field of vision

---

volume depletion              reduced amounts of fluids in the body

---

**W**

---

**X**

---

**Y**

---

**Z**

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