CDIL HEALTH SCIENCES PROFESSIONAL TEXTBOOK SERIES

VOLUME 4D-2

The CDIL Master Medical Language Reference

I-Q

A Rx

Δ Q

BP

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PLATINUM REVISION MASTER
PUBLICATION AUDIT IN PROGRESS

C. Douglas Institute of Learning
Making Education Easier

CDIL HEALTH SCIENCES
PROFESSIONAL TEXTBOOK SERIES

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MASTERING THE LANGUAGE OF HEALTHCARE

THE CDIL MASTER MEDICAL LANGUAGE REFERENCE

I–Q

Medical Terms and Word Elements I–Q

Dictionary • Encyclopedia • Thesaurus • Pronunciation • Word Families • Clinical Context

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The CDIL Master Medical Language Reference I-Q

PLATINUM COMPLETION CANDIDATE

This coordinated reference edition preserves the controlled medical-language entries and adds a final learning-resource section for retrieval, word construction, clinical translation, contrast recognition, documentation, assessment, and answer guidance.

Pronunciation is included only when verified in the controlled source. Learners should not infer pronunciation from spelling alone; institutional or specialty usage should be checked when uncertainty matters.

Medical terminology supports communication but does not independently establish a diagnosis, treatment plan, scope of practice, or legal authority. Meaning must remain anchored to context, source, certainty, laterality, timing, and professional responsibility.

Prepared for final CDIL freeze approval as part of the coordinated 4D reference set.

PLATINUM REFERENCE STANDARD

Recognize -> Decode -> Contextualize -> Distinguish -> Translate

Document -> Verify -> Retrieve -> Reuse

Accuracy before speed. Context before assumption.

I

76 entries

-iasis

condition, often formation/presence — nephrolithiasis

-ic, -al, -ary, -ous, -eal

pertaining to/adjectival forms — cardiac, renal, pulmonary, venous, esophageal

-ism

condition/process — hyperthyroidism

-itis

inflammation — dermatitis

iatrogenic

resulting from medical care or intervention.

icterus

yellow discoloration associated with bilirubin; may be used in specimen-quality indexing.

IDENTITY

correct patient, site, side?

idiopathic

of unknown or unidentified cause.

ile/o

ileum

ileostomy

surgically created opening of the ileum to the abdominal surface.

Ileum

part of the small intestine.

Ilium

large upper portion of the pelvic bone.

imaging when indicated

use of an appropriate imaging study when clinical findings, guidelines, or professional judgment support a need for imaging.

imbalance

sense or observation of impaired balance or unsteadiness, which may have vestibular, neurologic, musculoskeletal, visual, medication-related, or other causes.

immobilization

restriction of movement, often for injury stabilization.

immun/o

immune

immune

relating to protection against disease and immune responses.

immune checkpoint inhibitor

anticancer immunotherapy that blocks inhibitory immune checkpoints, allowing T cells to mount a stronger response against tumor cells.

immunodeficiency

inadequate immune function

immunoglobulin

antibody protein produced by B cells/plasma cells that recognizes specific antigens; major classes include IgG, IgA, IgM, IgE, and IgD.

immunoglobulin levels

laboratory measurement of antibody classes such as IgG, IgA, and IgM to evaluate immune function or selected disease processes.

immunohistochemistry

laboratory technique using antibodies to detect specific proteins or antigens in tissue sections, helping classify cells, tumors, and disease processes.

immunology

study of the immune system.

immunosuppressant

medication that reduces immune-system activity, used in transplantation, autoimmune disease, and selected inflammatory conditions.

immunotherapy

treatment that modifies or harnesses the immune system to treat cancer, autoimmune disease, allergy, infection, or other conditions.

impaired concentration

reduced ability to sustain, focus, or shift attention on a task or thought.

impetigo

contagious superficial bacterial skin infection, commonly causing vesicles, pustules, or honey-colored crusts.

incision and drainage

local approval required

incontinence

involuntary loss of urine or stool; type and cause depend on the involved system and clinical context.

indication

clinical reason for using a treatment, test, or procedure.

induction of labor

use of medical or mechanical methods to initiate uterine contractions and labor before spontaneous labor begins.

induration

localized hardening or firmness of tissue, often caused by inflammation, infiltration, or fibrosis.

INFECTION

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. invasion and multiplication of microorganisms in body tissue with host response.

Clinical use. “The report refers to the infection in describing the anatomic location.”

Clinical caution. Anatomical terminology identifies structure or location; clinical meaning depends on the full sentence and context.

Do not confuse with. contamination

inferior

below or toward the feet relative to another structure.

infertility

inability to achieve pregnancy after a defined period of regular unprotected intercourse or other inability to reproduce, depending on clinical definition and context.

INFLAMMATION

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. biologic response to tissue injury or harmful stimulus.

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term inflammation in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

inflammatory bowel disease

chronic immune-mediated inflammatory disorders of the gastrointestinal tract, primarily Crohn disease and ulcerative colitis.

informed consent

voluntary agreement after appropriate information and understanding, subject to applicable law.

infra-

below — infraorbital

Prefix/Suffix

infusion

administration of fluid, medication, or nutrients over time into the body.

infusion of biologic therapy

intravenous administration of a biologic medication, often under monitoring because of potential infusion reactions.

inhalation

breathing in; also a medication route.

inhaled corticosteroid

anti-inflammatory corticosteroid delivered by inhalation, commonly used for long-term control of asthma and selected other airway diseases.

inhaler administration

delivery of medication to the respiratory tract using an inhaler device such as a metered-dose or dry-powder inhaler.

injection

introduction of a substance into tissue or a vessel using a needle/device.

inpatient psychiatric care

mental health treatment provided in a hospital or residential inpatient setting for patients requiring intensive assessment, stabilization, or safety monitoring.

insomnia

persistent difficulty initiating sleep, maintaining sleep, or obtaining restorative sleep despite adequate opportunity, causing daytime impairment.

inspection

examination by observation.

insulin

produced by pancreatic beta cells and affects glucose handling throughout the body

insulin pump therapy

continuous subcutaneous insulin delivery using a programmable pump, with basal and bolus dosing.

insulin/o

insulin

inter-

between — intercostal

interaction

effect that one substance or factor has on another, especially medications.

intercostal

between the ribs.

Intolerance
: inability to tolerate a drug because of nonimmune adverse effects.

intra-
: within — intravenous

intracranial
: within the skull.

intradermal
: within the dermis.

intramuscular
: within muscle.

intranasal
: within/through the nose.

intraocular lens implantation
: surgical placement of an artificial lens inside the eye, commonly after cataract extraction.

intraocular pressure-lowering medication
: ophthalmic or systemic medication used to reduce pressure within the eye, especially in glaucoma management.

intraosseous
: within bone.

intravenous
: within a vein.

intravitreal injection
: injection of medication into the vitreous cavity of the eye for treatment of selected retinal and ocular diseases.

intubation
: insertion of a tube, commonly an endotracheal tube into the trachea for airway management but also used in other anatomical contexts

ipsilateral
: on the same side.

General Medical Language

irid/o
: iris

iron replacement
: administration of oral or intravenous iron to treat or prevent iron deficiency.

iron studies

group of laboratory tests used to assess iron status, commonly including ferritin, serum iron, transferrin or total iron-binding capacity, and transferrin saturation.

irrigation

washing/flushing a body area or device with fluid.

irritable bowel syndrome

functional gastrointestinal disorder characterized by recurrent abdominal pain associated with altered bowel habits without structural disease explaining the symptoms.

Visual guide W05 · p44

Visual guide W06 · p45

ISCHEMIA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. insufficient blood supply to tissue.

Word anatomy. hem/o = blood + -emia = blood condition

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term ischemia in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

Do not confuse with. infarction

ischemic

relating to ischemia.

ischemic stroke

acute neurologic injury caused by interruption of blood flow to part of the brain, usually from arterial thrombosis or embolism.

isolation precautions

infection-prevention measures used to reduce transmission of infectious agents, selected according to mode of spread and local policy.

Procedure | Infectious Disease/Microbiology | See also: zoon/o, NAAT, rash

Reference clinic: ischemia, injury and the meaning of a positive result

Applied teaching • V4D2-N01

Related terms are not interchangeable diagnoses

Ischemia concerns inadequate blood supply to tissue. It is not a synonym for every abnormal oxygen measurement, every painful episode or every elevated laboratory result. One term may describe a mechanism while another describes a consequence or a measured marker. Preserving these distinctions makes the reference useful in clinical reading. [S08]

A troponin result illustrates the problem. The test measures a marker used in evaluating heart-muscle injury; significance depends on the clinical situation and other findings. An isolated result should not be translated automatically into a specific cause of injury. [S33] This reference clinic does not introduce diagnostic cutoffs or replace a clinical guideline. It teaches the reader to avoid adding meaning absent from the evidence.

A fictional report contains “symptoms under evaluation,” “troponin result available” and “clinical review pending.” Rewriting it as “confirmed heart attack” does not simplify the report. It changes its certainty and supplies a diagnosis the source did not establish. A faithful paraphrase retains the pending evaluation and attributes the measurement to the test that produced it.

Positive must be attached to an object

The word positive is incomplete without the test, target, method and interpretive framework. A positive signal, positive screen and confirmed diagnosis are different statements. Even the same target may be investigated with different methods. A dictionary should explain the word's use rather than encourage a universal translation such as "disease present." Laboratory interpretation requires attention to the particular test and reference context. [S02]

In an exercise, three cards say "screen reactive," "confirmation pending" and "patient has symptoms." None substitutes for the other two. Arrange them into a plausible chronology without changing their certainty. Then identify the information needed before making a clinical conclusion. The exercise deliberately has no cutoff: its subject is the relationship between observation and inference.

Negative does not mean nothing happened

A negative result means that the reported criterion for that test was not met under the conditions in which it was performed. It does not logically prove that the specimen was ideal, the timing appropriate or every possible explanation excluded. The particular limitations must come from the assay and applicable evidence, not a generic caution attached to every test.

A useful entry prompts the student to ask what a test can detect and which question it was intended to answer. This is more useful than memorizing "false negatives happen" without knowing how to investigate one. Compare a fully documented specimen with one whose collection timing is unknown. The uncertainty belongs in the interpretation; it should not be silently filled with an assumed time.

Expression	Minimum meaning retained	Unsafe expansion
Ischemia	Inadequate blood supply	Every form of tissue injury
Elevated marker	A value exceeds a specified comparison	A single proven cause
Reactive screen	A screening criterion was met	Confirmation is unnecessary
Clinical review pending	Interpretation is not yet complete	A final diagnosis already exists

Table V4D2-N01-T1. Original educational comparison; numerical data are fictional where stated.

Writing a useful cross-reference

"See also" helps readers find related concepts without presenting them as synonyms. An ischemia entry can point to circulation, tissue injury and relevant tests, but the relationship must remain clear. A process, symptom and diagnostic procedure can belong in one learning map while remaining different kinds of information.

For mastery, rewrite "The positive test proves ischemia." A defensible replacement must name the test and state only what the supplied evidence supports. When neither the test nor the result is supplied, identify the missing information. Producing a polished sentence by inventing a test name is not successful terminology work.

J

3 entries

jaundice

yellow discoloration associated with bilirubin accumulation

jejun/o

jejunum

joint replacement

surgical procedure replacing a diseased or damaged joint surface with prosthetic components.

K

4 entries

kerat/o

cornea; keratin in another context

keratitis

inflammation of the cornea, caused by infection, injury, autoimmune disease, exposure, contact lenses, or other factors.

keratoplasty

surgical repair or transplantation of corneal tissue, commonly referred to as corneal transplantation in many contexts.

ketoacidosis

metabolic acidosis caused by accumulation of ketone bodies, classically occurring in diabetic ketoacidosis and some other metabolic states.

L

44 entries

-logist

specialist/practitioner associated with field — cardiologist

-logy

study/specialty — cardiology

-lysis

breakdown, destruction, release — hemolysis

labyrinth/o

inner-ear labyrinth

laceration

tear or cut in tissue.

lacrim/o

tear apparatus

lact/o

milk

lactation difficulty

problem with breast/chest milk production, latch, transfer, pain, or feeding during lactation.

laminectomy

surgical removal of part or all of a vertebral lamina to decompress the spinal canal or nerve roots.

laparoscopy

minimally invasive visualization/intervention in the abdominal/pelvic cavity using a laparoscope.

laryng/o

larynx

laser treatment

therapy using focused light energy to cut, ablate, coagulate, reshape, or otherwise treat tissue depending on specialty and indication.

lateral

away from the midline/toward the side.

laterality

designation of side, such as right or left.

laxative

medication or substance used to promote bowel movement or soften stool for treatment or prevention of constipation.

leiomyoma

benign smooth-muscle tumor, commonly referring to a uterine fibroid.

LESION

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. area of abnormal tissue or damage.

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term lesion in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

lethargic

abnormally drowsy or sluggish; local clinical definitions may vary.

leuk/o

white

leukem/o

leukemia

leukemia

malignant disorder of blood-forming tissues characterized by uncontrolled proliferation of abnormal leukocyte precursors or related cells.

leukocytosis

increased white blood cell count.

leukopenia

decreased white blood cell count.

ligament/o

ligament

limited range of motion

reduced ability of a joint or body part to move through its expected arc.

lipemia

excess lipids causing a cloudy specimen; may interfere with some tests.

lith/o

stone

lithotripsy

procedure that fragments stones, commonly urinary stones, using shock waves, laser energy, or another technique so fragments can be removed or passed.

liver function tests

group of blood tests used to evaluate liver injury, cholestasis, synthesis, or related processes; commonly includes enzymes, bilirubin, and proteins.

LLQ

left lower quadrant

local anesthetic

medication that reversibly blocks nerve conduction in a limited area, producing loss of sensation without loss of consciousness.

lubricating eye drop

ophthalmic preparation that moistens the ocular surface and relieves symptoms of dry eye.

lumbar puncture

is not the same as being qualified to perform one

LUQ

left upper quadrant

lymph-node biopsy

sampling or removal of lymph-node tissue for pathologic examination.

lymph-node sampling

collection of tissue from one or more lymph nodes for diagnostic staging or evaluation, using needle or surgical techniques.

lymph-node swelling

enlargement of lymph nodes, also called lymphadenopathy, caused by infectious, inflammatory, malignant, or other processes.

lymph/o

lymph

lymphaden/o

lymph node

lymphadenitis

inflammation of one or more lymph nodes, often due to infection.

lymphadenopathy

abnormal enlargement or disease of one or more lymph nodes.

lymphatic

relating to lymph, lymph vessels, or lymphatic system.

lymphom/o

lymphoma

lymphoma

malignancy of lymphoid cells, broadly classified into Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphomas and multiple subtypes.

M

67 entries

-malacia

abnormal softening — osteomalacia

-megaly

enlargement — hepatomegaly

-meter

measuring instrument — spirometer

-metry

process of measuring — spirometry

macro-

large — macrocyte

magnesium sulfate

magnesium salt used intravenously in selected conditions such as prevention/treatment of eclamptic seizures, severe hypomagnesemia, or certain arrhythmias.

magnetic resonance imaging

imaging technique using magnetic fields and radiofrequency energy.

major depressive disorder

mood disorder characterized by persistent depressed mood and/or loss of interest accompanied by other symptoms causing clinically significant impairment.

malaise

general feeling of discomfort, illness, or lack of well-being.

MALIGNANT

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. cancerous; capable of invasive/destructive growth.

Patient language. cancerous

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term malignant in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

Do not confuse with. metastatic

malignant neoplasm

cancerous new growth of tissue capable of invasion and, in many cases, metastasis.

mamm/o, mast/o

breast

mass
a larger or space-occupying abnormality; usage depends on context.

mastectomy
surgical removal of breast tissue.

mastoid surgery
surgical treatment involving the mastoid portion of the temporal bone, commonly for chronic ear disease or complications.

mastoid/o
mastoid

mastoiditis
infection and inflammation of the mastoid air cells, usually a complication of middle-ear infection.

MCH/MCHC
measures related to hemoglobin content/concentration in red cells.

MCV
mean corpuscular volume; average red-cell size.

mechanical ventilation
use of a machine to assist or control breathing by moving gas into and out of the lungs through an airway interface.

medial
toward the midline.

medication reconciliation
process of creating and maintaining an accurate medication list across transitions of care.

medication treatment for substance use disorder
use of approved medications, often with counseling and support, to treat opioid, alcohol, or other substance use disorders.

melan/o
melanin/black

melanoma
malignant tumor of melanocytes, most commonly arising in skin but also occurring in other sites.

melena
black, tarry stool commonly associated with digested blood

memory difficulty
subjective or observed problem learning, retaining, or recalling information.

mening/o

meninges

meningitis

inflammation of the meninges.

Menorrhagia/heavy menstrual bleeding

menstrual bleeding of excessive volume or duration that interferes with physical, social, emotional, or material quality of life; heavy menstrual bleeding is the preferred descriptive term in many modern guidelines.

mental status examination

structured assessment of appearance, behavior, speech, mood, affect, thought process, thought content, cognition, insight, judgment, and related mental functions.

metastas/o

spread

METASTASIS

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. spread of malignant disease to another site.

Patient language. cancer that has spread from its original site

Clinical use. “The clinician documented metastasis after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

metastatic

relating to spread of malignant disease.

metastatic disease

malignant disease that has spread from the primary site to distant or regional sites depending on cancer type and staging system.

metr/o, metri/o

uterus

micro-

small — microcyte

microb/o

microbe

microbiology

study of microorganisms.

microcytic

describing cells smaller than expected, often red blood cells.

microscopy
examination of cells, tissues, microorganisms, or other specimens using a microscope.

molecular testing
laboratory testing that detects or analyzes DNA, RNA, genes, mutations, proteins, or other molecular targets.

monitor
to observe or measure over time.

mono-
one — monocyte
Prefix/Suffix

mood stabilizer
medication used to reduce or prevent episodes of mania, depression, or mood instability, especially in bipolar disorder.

MRI
and when the term is used before worrying about every historical expansion

MRI brain/spine
magnetic resonance imaging of the brain and/or spinal structures using magnetic fields and radiofrequency signals.

mucolytic
medication or agent that reduces the viscosity of mucus to facilitate clearance.

multi-
many — multifocal
Prefix/Suffix

multiple sclerosis
a specific neurologic disease whose clinical meaning cannot be derived safely by treating sclerosis as a complete definition

muscle relaxant
medication that reduces skeletal muscle spasm or tone; drug classes and indications vary.

my/o
muscle

myalgia
muscle pain.

myc/o
fungus

mydriatic agent
medication that dilates the pupil, commonly used during ophthalmic examination or treatment.

myel/o

spinal cord or bone marrow depending on context

myocardi/o

heart muscle

myocardial

relating to heart muscle.

myocardial infarction

myocardial necrosis due to ischemia

myocardium

muscular layer of the heart.

myomectomy

surgical removal of uterine fibroids while preserving the uterus.

myopathy

disease of muscle.

myopia

nearsightedness, hyperopia farsightedness, astigmatism irregular focusing due to optical curvature, and presbyopia age-related loss of near focusing ability

myositis

inflammation of muscle.

myring/o

tympanic membrane

myringotomy

small surgical incision in the tympanic membrane to drain middle-ear fluid or permit ventilation, sometimes with tube placement.

Ménière disease

inner-ear disorder characterized by episodic vertigo, fluctuating sensorineural hearing loss, tinnitus, and aural fullness.

N

45 entries

NAAT

nucleic acid amplification test; molecular method used to detect DNA or RNA from infectious agents or other targets.

nas/o, rhin/o

nose

nat/o

birth

nausea

the sensation of needing to vomit

nausea and vomiting of pregnancy

nausea with or without vomiting occurring during pregnancy, ranging from common mild symptoms to severe hyperemesis gravidarum.

ne/o

new

NEAR-SYNCOPE

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. sensation of impending fainting without complete loss of consciousness.

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term Near-syncope in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

Do not confuse with. syncope

nebulization

delivery of a liquid medication as an inhaled aerosol produced by a nebulizer.

necrosis

death of cells or tissue.

NEGATION

did “denies/no/not” survive?

neoadjuvant

treatment given before the primary definitive treatment, commonly before surgery, to reduce tumor burden or improve outcomes.

neonat/o

newborn

neonatal

relating to the newborn period, commonly the first 28 days after birth.

neonatal jaundice

yellow discoloration in a newborn caused by elevated bilirubin; severity and cause determine clinical significance.

neonatal resuscitation

immediate assessment and support of breathing, circulation, and transition after birth when a newborn requires assistance.

neonatal sepsis

systemic infection in a newborn, often presenting with nonspecific signs and requiring urgent evaluation and antimicrobial treatment.

neoplasm

new abnormal growth of tissue caused by uncontrolled cell proliferation; may be benign or malignant.

nephr/o

kidney

nephr/o, ren/o

kidney

nephrectomy

surgical removal of a kidney or kidney tissue

nephritis

inflammation involving the kidney

nephrolithiasis

condition involving kidney stones

nephrologist

physician specializing in nephrology

nephrology

specialty concerned with kidney disease.

nephropathy

kidney disease or damage.

nephrotic syndrome

clinical syndrome characterized by heavy proteinuria, low serum albumin, edema, and often hyperlipidemia due to glomerular disease.

nephrotoxic

harmful or toxic to the kidney

nerve conduction study

diagnostic test measuring the speed and strength of electrical signals through peripheral nerves.

neur/o

nerve/nervous system

neurocognitive disorder

diagnostic category involving acquired decline in one or more cognitive domains that interferes with function to varying degrees.

neurologic

relating to the nervous system.

neurologic examination

systematic assessment of mental status, cranial nerves, motor function, sensation, reflexes, coordination, gait, and related nervous-system functions.

neurology

specialty concerned with the nervous system.

neuropathy

disease or dysfunction of nerves.

neurosurgical decompression

surgical procedure that relieves pressure on neural structures such as the brain, spinal cord, or nerve roots.

neutropenia

a reduced neutrophil count

newborn screening

population-based testing of newborns for selected genetic, metabolic, endocrine, hearing, cardiac, or other conditions where early detection improves outcomes.

nitrate

drug class that donates nitric oxide and causes vasodilation; used for angina and selected cardiovascular conditions.

noct/o

night

nocturia

waking at night to urinate

NODULE

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. small localized lump/rounded lesion.

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term nodule in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

nondisplaced

bone fragments remain largely aligned.

nonstress test

antenatal test that monitors fetal heart-rate response to fetal movement without inducing contractions.

nosocomial

acquired in a hospital setting; often replaced by broader healthcare-associated terminology in some contexts.

NSAID

nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug; medication class that reduces pain, inflammation, and fever by inhibiting cyclooxygenase pathways.

O

58 entries

-oma

mass/tumor in many terms; meaning varies — lymphoma, hematoma (not a neoplasm)

-ostomy

creation of an opening — colostomy

-otomy

incision into — laparotomy

objective

based on observable/measurable findings.

obsessive-compulsive disorder

mental health disorder characterized by intrusive obsessions and/or repetitive compulsions that are time-consuming or cause distress or impairment.

obstetr/o

pregnancy/childbirth specialty

ocul/o

eye

ocul/o, ophthalm/o

eye

odynophagia

painful swallowing

oligo-

few, scant, reduced — oliguria

oliguria

reduced urine output.

omitted

not administered for another reason.

onc/o

tumor

oncologic

relating to oncology/cancer care.

oncologist
: physician specializing in cancer treatment.

oncology
: field concerned with cancer.

onych/o
: nail

onychomycosis
: fungal infection of one or more fingernails or toenails.

oophor/o
: ovary

oophorectomy
: surgical removal of one or both ovaries.

open reduction and internal fixation
: surgical treatment of a fracture in which bone is exposed, realigned, and stabilized with internal hardware such as plates, screws, or rods.

operative vaginal delivery
: assisted vaginal birth using forceps or vacuum extraction in selected clinical circumstances.

ophthalm/o
: eye

ophthalmic
: relating to the eye.

ophthalmology
: off-thal-MOL-uh-jee (the cluster can be challenging; listen to trusted audio examples)

ophthalmoscopy
: examination of internal eye structures, especially retina and optic disc, using an ophthalmoscope.

opportunistic infection
: infection caused by organisms that take advantage of weakened immunity or altered host defenses and are less likely to cause severe disease in immunocompetent people.

opt/o
: vision

optic
: relating to vision or optic nerve.

optical coherence tomography

noninvasive imaging technique using light to create high-resolution cross-sectional images of ocular structures, especially the retina and optic nerve.

or/o, stomat/o

mouth

oral glucose tolerance testing

test measuring blood glucose response after ingestion of a standardized glucose load, used in diagnosis of diabetes and gestational diabetes.

oral glucose-lowering medication

noninsulin medication taken by mouth to lower blood glucose in diabetes.

orch/o, orchi/o

testis

orchiectomy

surgical removal of one or both testes.

orchitis

inflammation of one or both testes, caused by infection, autoimmune disease, trauma, or other processes.

ORTHOPNEA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. shortness of breath occurring when lying flat.

Patient language. shortness of breath when lying flat

Clinical use. “Orthopnea was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

oste/o

bone

osteoarthritis

a degenerative joint disorder

osteology

study of bones.

osteomyelitis

infection/inflammation of bone and marrow.

osteoporosis

condition of reduced bone strength/density with increased fracture risk.

ot/o

ear

otalgia

ear pain.

otic

relating to the ear.

otic antibiotic

antibacterial medication formulated for administration into the ear canal.

otitis externa

inflammation or infection of the external ear canal, often called swimmer ear.

otitis media

inflammation or infection of the middle ear.

otorrhea

discharge from the ear canal, which may consist of fluid, pus, blood, or cerebrospinal fluid depending on cause.

otoscopy

visual examination of the external auditory canal and tympanic membrane using an otoscope.

ovari/o

ovary

ovarian cancer

malignant neoplasm arising from ovarian, fallopian-tube, or related peritoneal epithelial or other ovarian tissues depending on subtype.

ovarian cyst

fluid-filled or complex sac arising in or on the ovary; may be physiologic, benign, or less commonly malignant.

ox/o, oxy-

oxygen

oximetry

measurement/estimation of oxygen saturation, commonly by pulse oximetry.

oxygen saturation

percentage of hemoglobin binding sites occupied by oxygen, as measured/estimated by method.

oxygen therapy

administration of supplemental oxygen to treat or prevent inadequate oxygenation according to clinical indication and target.

oxytocin

hormone that stimulates uterine contractions and milk ejection; synthetic oxytocin is used in obstetric care for labor induction/augmentation and postpartum bleeding management.

P

137 entries

-pathy

disease/disorder — neuropathy

-penia

deficiency/decrease — leukopenia

-pexy

surgical fixation — orchiopexy

-plasty

repair/reconstruction — angioplasty

-pnea

breathing — apnea, tachypnea

pacemaker insertion

procedure implanting an electronic device that delivers electrical impulses to maintain an appropriate heart rate or rhythm.

pallor

paleness

palpation

examination by touch.

palpitation

subjective awareness of heartbeat, often described as racing, pounding, or irregular.

palpitations

awareness of heartbeat that may be rapid, irregular, pounding, or otherwise noticeable.

pan-

all — pancytopenia

Prefix/Suffix

pancreat/o

pancreas

pancreatic enzyme replacement

oral pancreatic digestive enzymes used to treat exocrine pancreatic insufficiency and improve digestion and nutrient absorption.

pancreatitis

inflammation of the pancreas.

panic

sudden intense fear or distress, often with physical symptoms; may occur as a symptom or during a panic attack.

panic disorder

anxiety disorder characterized by recurrent unexpected panic attacks and persistent concern or behavioral change related to additional attacks.

paracentesis

puncture of the abdominal/peritoneal cavity to remove fluid.

paralysis

loss or severe impairment of voluntary muscle function in one or more body regions.

paranoia

unwarranted or exaggerated suspiciousness and mistrust, which may occur in several psychiatric, neurologic, or medical conditions.

parasit/o

parasite

parasitic

relating to parasites.

parasitic infection

infection caused by protozoa, helminths, or ectoparasites.

parathyroid hormone

hormone produced by the parathyroid glands that regulates calcium and phosphate balance through effects on bone, kidney, and vitamin D metabolism.

parathyroid/o

parathyroid

paresthesia

abnormal sensation such as tingling or pins-and-needles.

Parkinson disease

progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by bradykinesia, rigidity, tremor, postural instability, and nonmotor features.

past medical history

record of prior diseases, conditions, surgeries, or relevant health events.

patch testing

skin test used to identify delayed hypersensitivity reactions, commonly in evaluation of allergic contact dermatitis.

pathogen

organism or agent capable of causing disease.

PATHOLOGY

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. study of disease; also disease-related findings depending on context.

Clinical use. “Pathology was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

PCR

polymerase chain reaction; laboratory method that amplifies DNA and is widely used in molecular diagnostic testing; reverse-transcription PCR can detect RNA targets.

pelvic examination

physical examination of external and internal pelvic/reproductive structures, which may include speculum and bimanual components when indicated.

pelvic inflammatory disease

infection and inflammation of the upper female reproductive tract, often involving uterus, fallopian tubes, or adjacent structures.

pelvic pain

pain perceived in the lower abdomen or pelvis, with gynecologic, urinary, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal, neurologic, and other possible causes.

pelvic ultrasound

ultrasound examination of pelvic organs and structures, performed transabdominally, transvaginally, or by another approach depending on indication.

peptic ulcer disease

ulceration of the stomach or duodenal mucosa, commonly associated with Helicobacter pylori infection or NSAID use.

percussion

assessment by tapping body surface and interpreting resulting sounds/vibrations.

peri-

around — pericardium

pericardial

relating to the sac around the heart.

pericarditis

inflammation of the pericardium.

perinatal

relating to the period around birth; exact definition varies by context.

perineal

relating to the perineum.

peripheral neuropathy

disorder of peripheral nerves causing symptoms such as numbness, tingling, burning pain, weakness, or impaired sensation.

peripheral smear

microscopic examination of stained blood cells on a glass slide to assess morphology, number, and abnormal cell populations.

peritoneal

relating to the peritoneum.

peritoneal dialysis

renal replacement therapy using the peritoneal membrane as a semipermeable surface for exchange of solutes and fluid.

persistent cough

cough that continues beyond the expected duration for an acute illness; exact duration categories vary by guideline and age group.

persistent pain

pain that continues over time or beyond expected healing, requiring characterization of duration, cause, and functional impact.

petechiae

small pinpoint nonblanching spots caused by bleeding into the skin or mucous membranes.

phak/o

lens

pharyng/o

pharynx

phas/o

speech/language

phleb/o

vein

phlebitis

inflammation of a vein.

phob/o

fear

phosphate binder

medication that binds dietary phosphate in the gastrointestinal tract to reduce phosphate absorption, commonly used in advanced chronic kidney disease.

phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitor

drug class that enhances nitric-oxide-mediated vasodilation and is used for erectile dysfunction and selected pulmonary hypertension indications.

photophobia

abnormal sensitivity or discomfort caused by light.

pituitar/o

pituitary

pituitary adenoma

usually benign tumor arising from pituitary gland cells; may secrete hormones or cause mass effects.

placent/o

placenta

placenta previa

placenta located partly or completely over the internal cervical opening, creating risk of antepartum bleeding.

placental abruption

premature separation

plas/o, -plasia

formation/growth

plasmat/o

plasma

platelet count

platelets involved in hemostasis.

pleur/o

pleura

pleural effusion

fluid in the pleural space

pleuritic pain

sharp chest pain that worsens with breathing, coughing, or pleural movement.

pneum/o, pneumon/o

lung/air

pneum/o, pneumon/o, pulmon/o

lung/air depending on term

pneumonia

infection/inflammation of lung tissue

pneumothorax

presence of air in the pleural space causing partial or complete collapse of the affected lung.

poly-

many, much — polyuria

polycystic ovary syndrome

endocrine-metabolic disorder characterized by ovulatory dysfunction, hyperandrogenism, and polycystic ovarian morphology or related features according to diagnostic criteria.

polycythemia

increase in red blood cell mass or concentration, which may be primary or secondary.

polydipsia

excessive thirst or increased fluid intake.

polypectomy

procedure to remove a polyp, commonly during endoscopy.

polyphagia

excessive hunger or increased food intake.

polyuria

excessive urine output.

post-

after — postoperative

post-traumatic stress disorder

mental health disorder that can develop after exposure to traumatic events and involves intrusion symptoms, avoidance, negative mood/cognition changes, and hyperarousal.

postcoital bleeding

bleeding from the genital tract occurring after sexual intercourse.

postoperative

occurring after surgery.

Postoperative diagnosis

diagnosis or condition documented after a procedure, reflecting operative findings and the clinician's postprocedure assessment.

postpartum bleeding

bleeding after childbirth; amount and clinical significance vary, and excessive bleeding may represent postpartum hemorrhage.

postpartum hemorrhage

excessive bleeding after childbirth meeting clinical criteria and requiring urgent obstetric management.

potassium

electrolyte important for nerve and muscle function, including cardiac activity.

pre-

before — prenatal

preeclampsia

pregnancy-specific hypertensive disorder developing after midpregnancy and associated with proteinuria and/or signs of maternal organ dysfunction.

pregnancy test

test that detects human chorionic gonadotropin in urine or blood to identify pregnancy.

pregnancy testing

use of urine or serum hCG measurement to determine whether pregnancy is present.

prenatal

occurring before birth.

prenatal ultrasound

ultrasound examination during pregnancy used to assess fetal development, anatomy, placental location, fluid, and other obstetric parameters.

prenatal vitamin/folate

vitamin supplementation used before and during pregnancy, especially folic acid/folate to reduce risk of neural-tube defects and support maternal nutrition.

Preoperative diagnosis

diagnosis or clinical condition documented before a procedure as the reason or indication for the planned operation.

presbyopia

age-related loss of near focusing ability caused mainly by reduced flexibility of the crystalline lens.

pressure injury

localized damage to skin and/or underlying tissue caused by sustained pressure or pressure combined with shear, commonly over bony prominences or under medical devices.

presyncope

sensation of impending fainting without complete loss of consciousness; also called near-syncope.

preterm labor

regular uterine contractions with cervical change occurring before term gestation according to obstetric definitions.

PRN

as needed within conditions.

Visual guide A11 · p46

procalcitonin in selected contexts

blood biomarker that may support assessment of bacterial infection and antimicrobial decisions in selected clinical settings; it is not diagnostic by itself.

Procedure performed

field in an operative or procedure note identifying the exact procedure or action that was actually completed.

proct/o

rectum/anus

progestin

synthetic compound with progesterone-like activity used in contraception, hormone therapy, and other gynecologic or endocrine indications.

PROGNOSIS

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. anticipated course or outcome of a disease/condition.

Clinical use. “The clinician documented prognosis after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

prophylaxis

action or treatment intended to prevent disease or complication.

prostat/o

prostate

prostate cancer

malignant neoplasm arising from prostate tissue, most commonly adenocarcinoma.

prostate MRI

magnetic resonance imaging of the prostate used in evaluation, localization, staging, or surveillance of prostate disease.

prostatectomy

surgical removal of all or part of the prostate gland.

prostatitis

inflammation of the prostate, which may be bacterial or nonbacterial and can be acute or chronic.

proton-pump inhibitor

drug that suppresses gastric acid secretion by inhibiting the hydrogen-potassium ATPase proton pump in gastric parietal cells.

protozo/o

protozoa

provisional diagnosis

temporary working diagnosis pending further information.

proximal

nearer to a point of attachment or reference.

pruritus

itching sensation of the skin that produces an urge to scratch.

PSA testing

measurement of prostate-specific antigen in blood, used in prostate cancer screening/evaluation and monitoring with interpretation based on context.

psoriasis

chronic immune-mediated inflammatory skin disease producing well-demarcated plaques with scaling and variable involvement of nails and joints.

psych/o

mind

psychosis

state involving impaired reality testing, commonly including delusions, hallucinations, or severely disorganized thinking or behavior.

psychotherapy

treatment using structured therapeutic communication and psychological methods to address mental, emotional, behavioral, or interpersonal problems.

PT/INR

prothrombin time and international normalized ratio; coagulation tests used to assess the extrinsic/common pathway and monitor warfarin therapy.

public-health notification where required

reporting of specified diseases, conditions, or events to public-health authorities when mandated by applicable law or regulation.

pulmon/o

lung

pulmonary

relating to the lungs.

pulmonary edema

accumulation of fluid within lung interstitium and alveoli, impairing gas exchange; may be cardiogenic or noncardiogenic.

PULMONARY EMBOLISM

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. obstruction of pulmonary arterial blood flow by an embolus, most commonly a thrombus that traveled from a deep vein.

Clinical use. “The clinician documented pulmonary embolism after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

pulmonary function testing

group of tests measuring airflow, lung volumes, and gas transfer to evaluate respiratory function.

pulse

palpable arterial pressure wave corresponding to cardiac contraction.

pulse oximetry

noninvasive measurement estimating arterial oxygen saturation using light absorption through tissue.

purpura

nonblanching purple-red skin or mucosal discoloration caused by bleeding into tissue, generally larger than petechiae.

purulent

containing or resembling pus.

purulent drainage

thick drainage containing pus, often yellow, green, white, or brown and associated with inflammatory or infectious processes.

py/o

pus

pyel/o

renal pelvis

pyelonephritis

infection and inflammation of the kidney and renal pelvis, usually caused by ascending bacterial infection.

Evidence for the new teaching sections

These sources support the specifically cited additions, not every inherited statement. Unattributed cases, numerical datasets and comparisons in the new sections are original educational constructions. Current practice requires the approved local procedure, manufacturer instructions and appropriate professional authorization.

[S02] National Library of Medicine. How to Understand Your Lab Results. https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/how-to-understand-your-lab-results/ Accessed 2026-09-09. Test context and reference intervals.

[S08] National Cancer Institute. Ischemia. https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/ischemia Accessed 2026-09-09. Inadequate blood supply.

[S33] National Library of Medicine. Troponin Test. https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/troponin-test/ Accessed 2026-09-09. Myocardial injury in context; no universal cutoff adopted.

VOLUME 4D-2 / VISUAL LEARNING ATLAS

See the relationships. Explain the reasoning.

Master Medical Language Reference I–Q

Use these plates alongside the main text. Start by describing what the visual actually shows, then read the explanation, answer the question and compare your reasoning with the model answer. The diagrams support learning; they do not replace supervised skills practice, device instructions or a clinical protocol.

The existing main-text pagination is retained. Page references in this atlas use the PDF page count from the cover as page 1. Each linked entry opens the plate; a related-reading link returns to the main text. Open the PDF bookmarks panel for chapter and atlas navigation.

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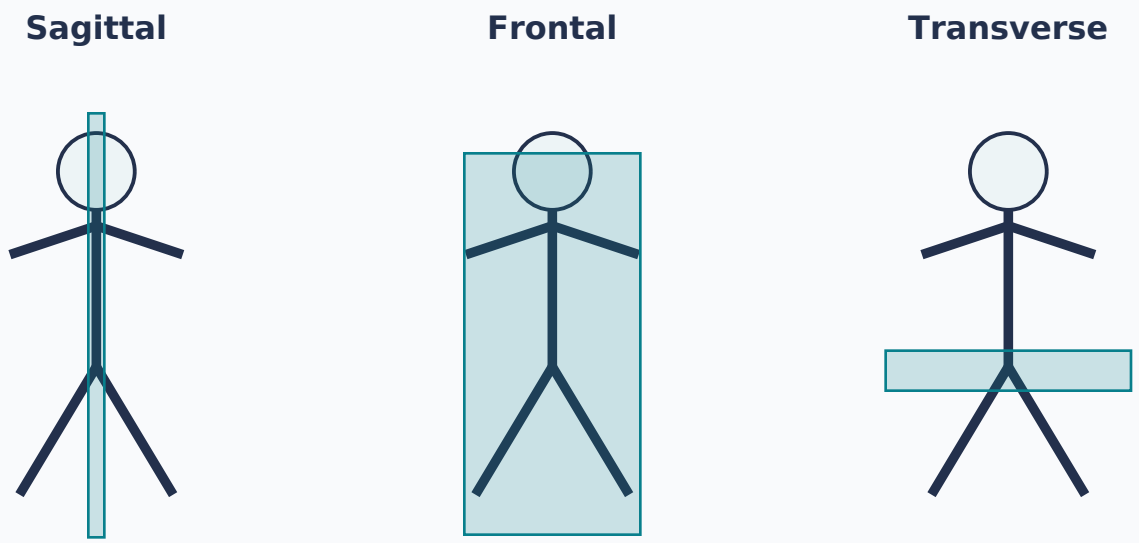
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All cases and numerical examples in the new plates are fictional. Independently drawn diagrams are identified as educational schematics; they are not diagnostic microscopy or clinical tracing atlases. Inherited photographs retain their source attribution.

VOLUME 4D-2 / LEARNING PLATE W03

A plane describes how a body is divided

ORIGINAL EDUCATIONAL DIAGRAM / COMPARISON



The three panels show conceptual divisions rather than clinical imaging slices. A sagittal plane separates left and right portions; a frontal plane separates anterior and posterior portions; a transverse plane separates superior and inferior portions. A midsagittal plane passes through the midline, whereas other sagittal planes do not have to create equal halves.

The plane name is not a complete location. To understand an image or procedure description, the learner also needs the level, the view and the orientation markers. A transverse image through the chest cannot be interpreted as though it were a transverse image through the abdomen merely because both use the same plane. Explain what the plane tells you and what remains unspecified.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING A report says “sagittal view” without saying “midline.” Must the image divide the body into equal halves?

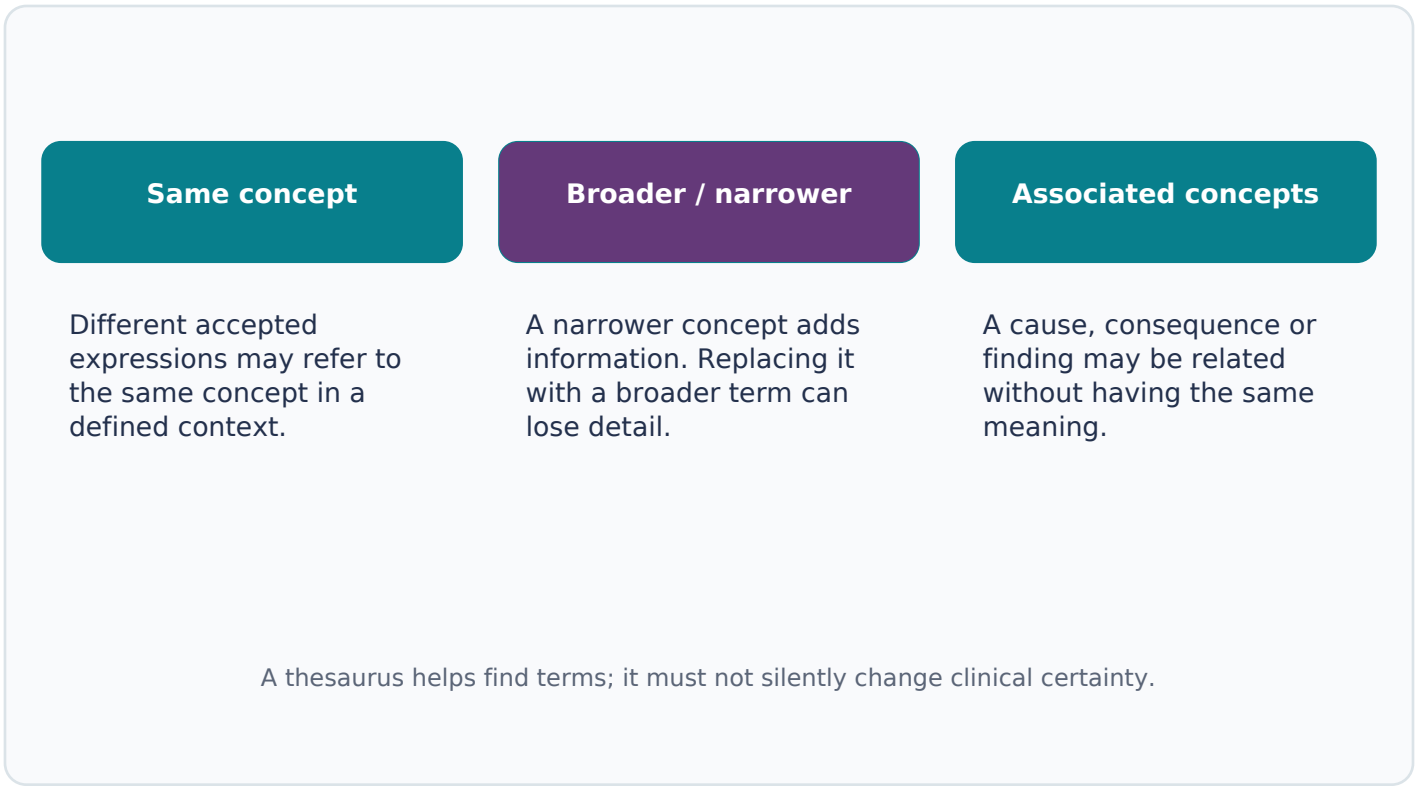
Reasoned answer. No. Sagittal describes a left-right division. Equality is not implied unless the midline or midsagittal plane is specified.

Sources: ANAT; WORDS. See the source notes in this atlas. Schematic / illustrative; not a patient image or a validated clinical protocol.

VOLUME 4D-2 / LEARNING PLATE W05

Related concepts are not always synonyms

ORIGINAL EDUCATIONAL DIAGRAM / COMPARISON



A medical reference should preserve the type of relationship between terms. A synonym points to the same concept in a relevant context. A broader term includes a larger class. A related term may describe a cause, effect, location or test. These relationships are useful for retrieval but are not interchangeable in a clinical record.

For example, a finding associated with a disease is not necessarily a diagnosis of that disease. Replacing the finding with the disease name can add certainty that was never documented. Students should practise making two statements: why the terms are connected, and why one cannot always replace the other. This is a conceptual map, not a reproduced terminology database.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING Why is “associated with” a safer link than “means the same as” for many disease–finding pairs?

Reasoned answer. It preserves the possibility of a relationship without asserting equivalence. A finding may have several causes, and a disease may present without that particular finding.

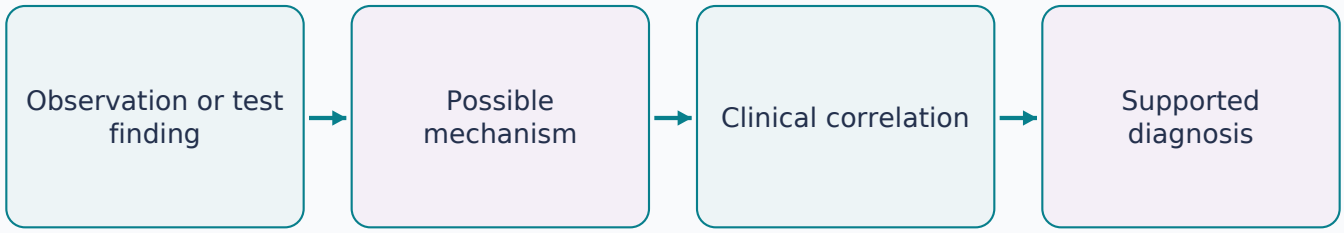
Sources: MESH; SNOMED; LAB. See the source notes in this atlas. Schematic / illustrative; not a patient image or a validated clinical protocol.

Related main-text reading: PDF page 9. Use the linked page number in the atlas index.

VOLUME 4D-2 / LEARNING PLATE W06

Finding, injury and diagnosis answer different questions

ORIGINAL EDUCATIONAL DIAGRAM / COMPARISON



The arrows show reasoning, not an automatic diagnostic pipeline.

A test finding is a piece of evidence. Injury names a biological process. A diagnosis integrates evidence through an applicable clinical framework. These categories can overlap, but the learner should not collapse them into one word. In particular, an abnormal result may require further evaluation without independently establishing a specific disease.

Use the figure to slow down language that is too certain. A professional can communicate an urgent concerning finding accurately while leaving the final diagnosis to the authorised clinician. The report should preserve the method, timing and uncertainty relevant to that finding. This is not a reason to delay escalation; it is a reason to escalate without inventing a conclusion.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING What is lost when a learner changes “troponin elevated” into a definite diagnosis without further evidence?

Reasoned answer. The distinction between measured evidence of myocardial injury and a specific clinical diagnosis is lost. Communicate the result and urgency in context rather than adding unsupported certainty.

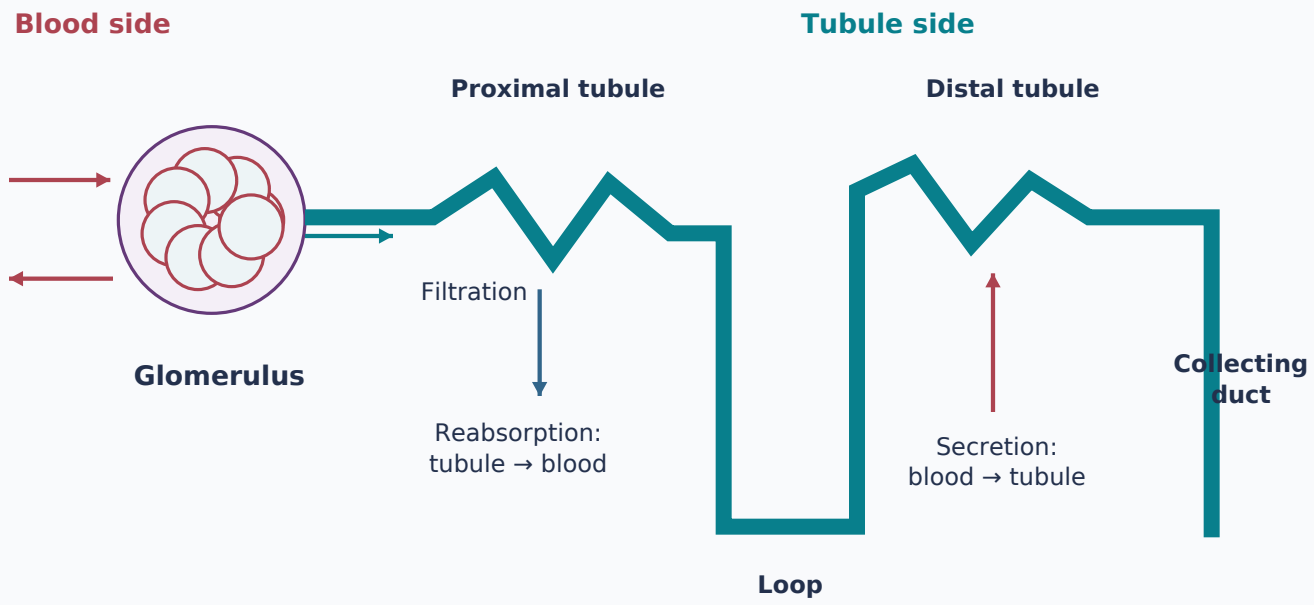
Sources: TROP; LAB. See the source notes in this atlas. Schematic / illustrative; not a patient image or a validated clinical protocol.

Related main-text reading: PDF page 9. Use the linked page number in the atlas index.

VOLUME 4D-2 / LEARNING PLATE A11

The nephron changes filtrate along a pathway

ORIGINAL EDUCATIONAL DIAGRAM / COMPARISON



Filtration moves fluid and filterable substances from blood into the nephron's initial filtrate. Reabsorption returns substances from the tubular fluid toward the blood, while secretion moves selected substances in the opposite direction. Excretion describes what leaves in the final urine. These terms are defined by movement and location, not by whether a substance is considered useful or harmful.

The nephron diagram simplifies a complex vascular and tubular arrangement. It separates the major directions so the learner can explain why the amount excreted does not necessarily equal the amount filtered. A substance may be filtered and extensively reabsorbed, or filtered and additionally secreted. Quantitative interpretation requires the substance, method and physiological context.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING For a substance that is filtered and then reabsorbed, must the amount in final urine equal the amount initially filtered?

Reasoned answer. No. Reabsorption reduces the amount remaining in tubular fluid. The final amount also depends on any secretion and other relevant processes.

Sources: ANAT; URINE. See the source notes in this atlas. Schematic / illustrative; not a patient image or a validated clinical protocol.

Related main-text reading: PDF page 38. Use the linked page number in the atlas index.

VOLUME 4D-2 / SOURCE NOTES AND PROVENANCE

Sources for the visual learning plates

These entries support the specified new plates. They do not certify every inherited statement, illustration or practice in the main text. Source organisations have not endorsed this book. New vector drawings are original CDIL educational designs, not copied agency or publisher artwork. Publication and clinical decisions must use the applicable full standards and current authorised procedures.

[ANAT] OpenStax / Rice University. Anatomy and Physiology: organization, cells, tissues and systems.
https://openstax.org/books/anatomy-and-physiology-2e/pages/1-introduction
Reference for established science. New diagrams are independently drawn CDIL schematics; no OpenStax artwork copied.

[LAB] US National Library of Medicine. How to Understand Your Lab Results.
https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/how-to-understand-your-lab-results/
Reference intervals, test context and interpretation limits.

[MESH] US National Library of Medicine. Medical Subject Headings.
https://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html
Controlled vocabulary and retrieval; no licensed terminology dataset reproduced.

[SNOMED] SNOMED International. What is SNOMED CT?.
https://www.snomed.org/what-is-snomed-ct
Concepts, descriptions and typed relationships; new diagrams do not reproduce a terminology release.

[TROP] US National Library of Medicine. Troponin Test.
https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/troponin-test/
Myocardial injury in clinical context; no universal cutoff or testing interval supplied.

[URINE] US National Library of Medicine. Urinalysis.
https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003579.htm
Physical, chemical and microscopic evidence.

[WORDS] US National Library of Medicine. Understanding Medical Words; Word Parts and What They Mean.
https://medlineplus.gov/medwords/medicalwords.html
Word analysis supports, but does not replace, verification of whole-term meaning.

VOLUME 4D-2 / VISUAL ATLAS INDEX

Visual atlas index and reading links

This index covers the added learning plates. It is not a replacement for a complete, evidence-audited subject index of the inherited textbook. All numbers refer to PDF pages.

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Peri- 33
Pericardial 33
Pericarditis 33
Perinatal 33
Perineal 33
Peripheral neuropathy 34
Peripheral smear 34
Peritoneal 34
Peritoneal dialysis 34
Persistent cough 34
Persistent pain 34
Petechiae 34
-pexy 31
Phak/o 34
Pharyng/o 34
Phas/o 34
Phleb/o 34
Phlebitis 34
Phob/o 34
Phosphate binder 34

Phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitor 35
Photophobia 35
Pituitar/o 35
Pituitary adenoma 35
Placent/o 35
Placenta previa 35
Placental abruption 35
Plas/o, -plasia 35
Plasmat/o 35
-plasty 31
Platelet count 35
Pleur/o 35
Pleural effusion 35
Pleuritic pain 35
-pnea 31
Pneum/o, pneumon/o 35
Pneum/o, pneumon/o, pulmon/o 35
Pneumonia 36
Pneumothorax 36
Poly- 36
Polycystic ovary syndrome 36
Polycythemia 36
Polydipsia 36
Polypectomy 36
Polyphagia 36
Polyuria 36
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Post- 36
Post-traumatic stress disorder 36
Postcoital bleeding 36
Posterior 43f
Postoperative 36
Postoperative diagnosis 36
Postpartum 36
Postpartum bleeding 36
Postpartum hemorrhage 37
Potassium 37
Pre- 37
Preeclampsia 37
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Pregnancy testing 37
Prenatal 37
Prenatal ultrasound 37
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Proct/o 38
Progestin 38
Prognosis 38
Prophylaxis 38
Prostat/o 38
Prostate cancer 38
Prostate MRI 38
Prostatectomy 38
Prostatitis 38
Proton-pump inhibitor 38
Protozo/o 39
Provisional diagnosis 39
Proximal 39
Pruritus 39
PSA testing 39
Psoriasis 39
Psych/o 39
Psychosis 39
Psychotherapy 39
Pt/inr 39
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Pulmon/o 39
Pulmonary 39
Pulmonary edema 39
Pulmonary embolism 40
Pulmonary function testing 40
Pulse 40
Pulse oximetry 40
Purpura 40
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Py/o 40
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Synonym 9, 42, 44f

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Urinary 15, 33

VOLUME 4D-2

Platinum Reference Learning Laboratory

The CDIL Master Medical Language Reference I-Q

Purpose

This final learning section converts the reference volume from a lookup tool into an active clinical-language laboratory. Use it to decode unfamiliar terms, distinguish look-alike words, translate technical language without distorting meaning, document safely, and retrieve terms efficiently.

Core rule: preserve what the source actually says. Do not promote possibility to certainty, do not drop laterality or timing, and do not use terminology knowledge as a substitute for clinical authority.

Visual Learning Map 1 - Building a Medical Term

PREFIX	ROOT / COMBINING FORM	SUFFIX	MEANING CHECK
changes direction, amount, time, or state	names body structure or core idea	describes condition, procedure, process, or state	read left to right; especially in plain language; verify context

TERM	PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	SAFE PLAIN-LANGUAGE RECONSTRUCTION
leukocytosis	leuk/o	cyt	-osis	increase/condition involving white cells
nephrolithiasis	nephr/o	lith	-iasis	stone-forming condition involving kidney
myocardial	my/o	cardi	-al	pertaining to heart muscle
osteomyelitis	oste/o	myel	-itis	inflammation/infection involving bone and marrow context

Visual Learning Map 2 - From Source Language to Safe Communication

1. SOURCE	What exactly was written or said?
2. DECODE	What do the word parts and full term mean?
3. CONTEXT	What body system, document type, timing and certainty apply?
4. CONTRAST	Is there a look-alike or opposite term that could be confused?
5. TRANSLATE	How can the meaning be explained without adding or removing information?
6. DOCUMENT	Use the verified term, preserve uncertainty, and cite/attribute when required.

The most common language error is not failure to know a definition. It is loss of context: dropping a qualifier, changing certainty, confusing a symptom with a diagnosis, or reusing an abbreviation without verification.

High-Risk Look-Alike and Contrast Terms

TERM A	TERM B	DISTINCTION TO PRESERVE
ileum	ilium	small-intestinal segment versus pelvic bone
infection	inflammation	microbial invasion versus tissue response that may or may not be infectious
ischemia	infarction	insufficient blood flow versus tissue death from prolonged ischemia
leukopenia	leukocytosis	low versus high white blood cell count
medial	lateral	toward versus away from the midline
mucous	mucus	adjective versus noun
nephritic	nephrotic	distinct renal syndromic patterns
palpation	palpitation	examination by touch versus awareness of heartbeat
prognosis	diagnosis	expected course versus identification of condition
proximal	distal	nearer versus farther from point of origin

I-Q Term Retrieval and Context Practice

Use these entries as retrieval drills. Cover the definition, explain the term aloud, then uncover the definition and compare. The source page is included so the learner can return to the full entry.

TERM	CORE MEANING / CONTEXT	SOURCE
-iasis	condition, often formation/presence — nephrolithiasis -ic, -al, -ary, -ous, -eal	4
Ileum	part of the small intestine.	4
immunoglobulin	antibody protein produced by B cells/plasma cells that recognizes specific antigens; major classes include IgG, IgA, IgM, IgE, and IgD.	5
incision and drainage	local approval required	5
informed consent	voluntary agreement after appropriate information and understanding, subject to applicable law.	6
inpatient psychiatric care	mental health treatment provided in a hospital or residential inpatient setting for patients requiring intensive assessment, stabilization, c	7
Intolerance	inability to tolerate a drug because of nonimmune adverse effects.	8
intraosseous	within bone.	8
irritable bowel syndrome	functional gastrointestinal disorder characterized by recurrent abdominal pain associated with altered bowel habits without structural di	9
Expression Minimum meaning retained Inadequate blood supply Every form of tissue injury Elevated marker A value exceeds a specified comparison A single prove	ischemia	10
-logist	specialist/practitioner associated with field — cardiologist -logy	13
laparoscopy	minimally invasive visualization/intervention in the abdominal/pelvic cavity using a laparoscope.	13

TERM	CORE MEANING / CONTEXT	SOURCE
leukocytosis	increased white blood cell count.	14
lumbar puncture	is not the same as being qualified to perform one	15
lymphoma	malignancy of lymphoid cells, broadly classified into Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphomas and multiple subtypes.	16
major depressive disorder	mood disorder characterized by persistent depressed mood and/or loss of interest accompanied by other symptoms causing clinically s	17
medial	toward the midline.	18
mental status examination	structured assessment of appearance, behavior, speech, mood, affect, thought process, thought content, cognition, insight, judgment,	19
monitor	to observe or measure over time.	20
fungus	mydriatic agent medication that dilates the pupil, commonly used during ophthalmic examination or treatment.	20
myopia	nearsightedness, hyperopia farsightedness, astigmatism irregular focusing due to optical curvature, and presbyopia age-related loss o	21
necrosis	death of cells or tissue.	22
nephrectomy	surgical removal of a kidney or kidney tissue nephritis	23
nerve conduction study	diagnostic test measuring the speed and strength of electrical signals through peripheral nerves.	24

TERM	CORE MEANING / CONTEXT	SOURCE
neutropenia	a reduced neutrophil count newborn screening	24
-ostomy	creation of an opening — colostomy -otomy	26
oliguria	reduced urine output.	26
operative vaginal delivery	assisted vaginal birth using forceps or vacuum extraction in selected clinical circumstances.	27
oral glucose-lowering medication	noninsulin medication taken by mouth to lower blood glucose in diabetes.	28
otic	relating to the ear.	29
oximetry	measurement/estimation of oxygen saturation, commonly by pulse oximetry.	29
-pnea	breathing — apnea, tachypnea pacemaker insertion	31
panic	sudden intense fear or distress, often with physical symptoms; may occur as a symptom or during a panic attack.	31
paresthesia	abnormal sensation such as tingling or pins-and-needles.	32
pelvic ultrasound	ultrasound examination of pelvic organs and structures, performed transabdominally, transvaginally, or by another approach dependin	33
peripheral neuropathy	disorder of peripheral nerves causing symptoms such as numbness, tingling, burning pain, weakness, or impaired sensation.	34

TERM	CORE MEANING / CONTEXT	SOURCE
fear	phosphate binder medication that binds dietary phosphate in the gastrointestinal tract to reduce phosphate absorption, commonly used	34
fluid in the pleural space	pleuritic pain sharp chest pain that worsens with breathing, coughing, or pleural movement.	35
polypectomy	procedure to remove a polyp, commonly during endoscopy.	36
postpartum bleeding	bleeding after childbirth; amount and clinical significance vary, and excessive bleeding may represent postpartum hemorrhage.	36
prenatal ultrasound	ultrasound examination during pregnancy used to assess fetal development, anatomy, placental location, fluid, and other obstetric para	37
Procedure performed	field in an operative or procedure note identifying the exact procedure or action that was actually completed.	38
protozoa	provisional diagnosis temporary working diagnosis pending further information.	39
pulmonary	relating to the lungs.	39
pyel/o	renal pelvis pyelonephritis	40
Sagittal	Left / right portions Frontal	43
A narrower concept adds	information. Replacing it with a broader term can	44
Blood side	Tubule side Glomerulus	46

TERM	CORE MEANING / CONTEXT	SOURCE
https://medlineplus.gov/medwordsmedicalanalysis.html	Word analysis supports, but does not replace, verification of whole-term meaning.	47
Cardiovascular 24	Certainty 6, 9, 14, 17, 44f Chronic 6, 18, 34, 38	49
-iasis 4	Iatrogenic 4 -ic, -al, -ary, -ous, -eal 4	49
Immunodeficiency 5	Immunoglobulin 5 Immunoglobulin levels 5	49
Inferior 6	Infertility 6 Inflammation 6	49
Insulin 7	Insulin pump therapy 7 Insulin/o 7	50
Intravenous 8	Intravitreal injection 8 Intubation 8	50
Kerat/o 12	Keratitis 12 Keratoplasty 12	50
Leiomyoma 14	Lesion 14 Lethargic 14	50
51	Lubricating eye drop 15 Lumbar puncture 15	51
Magnetic resonance imaging 17	Major depressive disorder 17 -malacia 17	51
Medical language 8, 42	Medication reconciliation 18 Medication treatment for substance use disorder 18	51

TERM	CORE MEANING / CONTEXT	SOURCE
Metastatic disease 19	-meter 17 Metr/o, metri/o 19	51
Multi- 20	Multiple sclerosis 20 Muscle relaxant 20	51
Myositis 21	Myring/o 21	51
Neonatal 23	Neonatal jaundice 23 Neonatal resuscitation 23	52
Nervous 24	Neur/o 24 Neurocognitive disorder 24	52
Nosocomial 25	NSAID 25	52
Onych/o 27	Onychomycosis 27 Oophor/o 27	52
53	Orch/o, orchi/o 28 Orchiectomy 28	53
Otitis media 29	-otomy 26 Otorrhea 29	53
Palpitations 31	Pan- 31 Pancreat/o 31	53
Parkinson disease 32	Past medical history 32 Patch testing 32	53
Perinatal 33	Perineal 33 Peripheral neuropathy 34	53

Clinical Translation Laboratory

For each scenario, write a response that preserves meaning, uncertainty, identity, timing and professional boundaries.

Case 1. Referral note. The note contains a familiar term, an unfamiliar modifier, and an abbreviation. Decode the word parts, preserve the modifier, verify the abbreviation locally, and rewrite the meaning in plain language without adding a diagnosis.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 2. Laboratory result. A term in the report names a measurement rather than a disease. State exactly what was measured, distinguish the result from a diagnosis, and identify what contextual information would be needed before interpretation.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 3. Imaging report. The report contains a location term and a probability modifier. Translate both. Do not convert possibility into certainty and do not erase laterality or anatomical level.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 4. Medication record. A drug-class term appears beside a route and frequency. Separate the medication class from the administration instructions. Verify unfamiliar abbreviations before reuse.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 5. Handover. Two professionals use different words for the same concept. Identify the shared meaning, preserve any clinically important distinction, and choose a patient-friendly explanation.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 6. Patient portal message. The patient asks what a technical term means. Explain it in ordinary language, identify what the term does not establish by itself, and advise the learner to defer diagnosis or treatment decisions to the responsible clinician.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 7. Operative note. A procedure suffix indicates what was done. Decode the suffix, identify the body structure from the root, and distinguish the procedure from the underlying indication.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 8. Emergency documentation. A term is time-sensitive and easily confused with a similar term. Confirm spelling and meaning before documenting. Record observed findings separately from interpretation.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 9. Specimen label. The written term is correct but the patient identifier is inconsistent. Explain why terminology accuracy does not compensate for identification failure and state the safe next action.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 10. Cross-jurisdiction record. A spelling variant or abbreviation differs from local usage. Preserve the original meaning, avoid silently changing clinically significant content, and document the verified local equivalent when needed.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Platinum Question Bank

Questions assess retrieval, distinction, translation and safe documentation. Answers follow the bank.

1. Define **-iasis** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
2. A learner encounters **Ileum** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
3. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **immunoglobulin** without changing the source meaning.
4. Define **incision and drainage** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
5. A learner encounters **informed consent** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
6. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **inpatient psychiatric care** without changing the source meaning.
7. Define **Intolerance** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
8. A learner encounters **intraosseous** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
9. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **irritable bowel syndrome** without changing the source meaning.
10. Define **Expression Minimum meaning retained Unsafe expansion** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
11. A learner encounters **-logist** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
12. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **laparoscopy** without changing the source meaning.
13. Define **leukocytosis** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
14. A learner encounters **lumbar puncture** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
15. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **lymphoma** without changing the source meaning.

16. Define **major depressive disorder** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
17. A learner encounters **medial** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
18. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **mental status examination** without changing the source meaning.
19. Define **monitor** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
20. A learner encounters **fungus** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
21. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **myopia** without changing the source meaning.
22. Define **necrosis** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
23. A learner encounters **nephrectomy** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
24. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **nerve conduction study** without changing the source meaning.
25. Define **neutropenia** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
26. A learner encounters **-ostomy** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
27. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **oliguria** without changing the source meaning.
28. Define **operative vaginal delivery** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
29. A learner encounters **oral glucose-lowering medication** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
30. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **otic** without changing the source meaning.

31. Define **oximetry** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
32. A learner encounters **-pnea** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
33. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **panic** without changing the source meaning.
34. Define **paresthesia** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
35. A learner encounters **pelvic ultrasound** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
36. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **peripheral neuropathy** without changing the source meaning.
37. Define **fear** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
38. A learner encounters **fluid in the pleural space** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
39. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **polypectomy** without changing the source meaning.
40. Define **postpartum bleeding** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
41. A learner encounters **prenatal ultrasound** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
42. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **Procedure performed** without changing the source meaning.
43. Define **protozoa** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
44. A learner encounters **pulmonary** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
45. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **pyel/o** without changing the source meaning.

46. Define **Sagittal** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
47. A learner encounters **A narrower concept adds** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
48. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **Blood side** without changing the source meaning.
49. Define **https://medlineplus.gov/medwords/medicalwords.html** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
50. A learner encounters **Cardiovascular 24** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
51. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **-iasis 4** without changing the source meaning.
52. Define **Immunodeficiency 5** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
53. A learner encounters **Inferior 6** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
54. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **Insulin 7** without changing the source meaning.
55. Define **Intravenous 8** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
56. A learner encounters **Kerat/o 12** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
57. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **Leiomyoma 14** without changing the source meaning.
58. Define **51** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
59. A learner encounters **Magnetic resonance imaging 17** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
60. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **Medical language 8, 42** without changing the source meaning.

Model Answer Guidance

1. -iasis: condition, often formation/presence — nephrolithiasis -ic, -al, -ary, -ous, -eal A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

2. Ileum: part of the small intestine. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

3. immunoglobulin: antibody protein produced by B cells/plasma cells that recognizes specific antigens; major classes include IgG, IgA, IgM, IgE, and IgD. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

4. incision and drainage: local approval required A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

5. informed consent: voluntary agreement after appropriate information and understanding, subject to applicable law. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

6. inpatient psychiatric care: mental health treatment provided in a hospital or residential inpatient setting for patients requiring intensive assessment, stabilization, or safety monitoring. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

7. Intolerance: inability to tolerate a drug because of nonimmune adverse effects. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

8. intraosseous: within bone. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

9. irritable bowel syndrome: functional gastrointestinal disorder characterized by recurrent abdominal pain associated with altered bowel habits without structural disease explaining the symptoms. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

10. Expression Minimum meaning retained Unsafe expansion: Ischemia Inadequate blood supply Every form of tissue injury Elevated marker A value exceeds a specified comparison A single proven cause A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

11. -logist: specialist/practitioner associated with field — cardiologist -logy The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

12. laparoscopy: minimally invasive visualization/intervention in the abdominal/pelvic cavity using a laparoscope. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

13. leukocytosis: increased white blood cell count. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

14. lumbar puncture: is not the same as being qualified to perform one The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

15. lymphoma: malignancy of lymphoid cells, broadly classified into Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphomas and multiple subtypes. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

16. major depressive disorder: mood disorder characterized by persistent depressed mood and/or loss of interest accompanied by other symptoms causing clinically significant impairment. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

17. medial: toward the midline. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

18. mental status examination: structured assessment of appearance, behavior, speech, mood, affect, thought process, thought content, cognition, insight, judgment, and related mental functions. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

19. monitor: to observe or measure over time. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

20. fungus: mydriatic agent medication that dilates the pupil, commonly used during ophthalmic examination or treatment. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

21. myopia: nearsightedness, hyperopia farsightedness, astigmatism irregular focusing due to optical curvature, and presbyopia age-related loss of near focusing ability Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

22. necrosis: death of cells or tissue. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

23. nephrectomy: surgical removal of a kidney or kidney tissue nephritis The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

24. nerve conduction study: diagnostic test measuring the speed and strength of electrical signals through peripheral nerves. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

25. neutropenia: a reduced neutrophil count newborn screening A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

26. -ostomy: creation of an opening — colostomy -otomy The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

27. oliguria: reduced urine output. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

28. operative vaginal delivery: assisted vaginal birth using forceps or vacuum extraction in selected clinical circumstances. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

29. oral glucose-lowering medication: noninsulin medication taken by mouth to lower blood glucose in diabetes. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

30. otic: relating to the ear. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

31. oximetry: measurement/estimation of oxygen saturation, commonly by pulse oximetry. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

32. -pnea: breathing — apnea, tachypnea pacemaker insertion The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

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34. paresthesia: abnormal sensation such as tingling or pins-and-needles. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

35. pelvic ultrasound: ultrasound examination of pelvic organs and structures, performed transabdominally, transvaginally, or by another approach depending on indication. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

36. peripheral neuropathy: disorder of peripheral nerves causing symptoms such as numbness, tingling, burning pain, weakness, or impaired sensation. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

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40. postpartum bleeding: bleeding after childbirth; amount and clinical significance vary, and excessive bleeding may represent postpartum hemorrhage. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

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42. Procedure performed: field in an operative or procedure note identifying the exact procedure or action that was actually completed. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

43. protozoa: provisional diagnosis temporary working diagnosis pending further information. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

44. pulmonary: relating to the lungs. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

45. pyel/o: renal pelvis pyelonephritis Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

46. Sagittal: Left / right portions Frontal A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

47. A narrower concept adds: information. Replacing it with a broader term can The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

48. Blood side: Tubule side Glomerulus Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

49. https://medlineplus.gov/medwords/medicalwords.html: Word analysis supports, but does not replace, verification of whole-term meaning. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

50. Cardiovascular 24: Certainty 6, 9, 14, 17, 44f Chronic 6, 18, 34, 38 The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

51. -iasis 4: Iatrogenic 4 -ic, -al, -ary, -ous, -eal 4 Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

52. Immunodeficiency 5: Immunoglobulin 5 Immunoglobulin levels 5 A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

53. Inferior 6: Infertility 6 Inflammation 6 The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

54. Insulin 7: Insulin pump therapy 7 Insulin/o 7 Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

55. Intravenous 8: Intravitreal injection 8 Intubation 8 A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

56. Kerat/o 12: Keratitis 12 Keratoplasty 12 The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

57. Leiomyoma 14: Lesion 14 Lethargic 14 Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

58. 51: Lubricating eye drop 15 Lumbar puncture 15 A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

59. Magnetic resonance imaging 17: Major depressive disorder 17 -malacia 17 The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

60. Medical language 8, 42: Medication reconciliation 18 Medication treatment for substance use disorder 18 Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

Pronunciation, Spelling and Verification Standard

Do not invent pronunciation. If the controlled entry does not provide a verified pronunciation, consult an approved clinical dictionary, institutional resource, or qualified instructor.

Accept legitimate variants. Pronunciation and spelling may vary by region and profession. Preserve the meaning and use the local authorized convention when documentation requires standardization.

Read abbreviations cautiously. An abbreviation can have more than one meaning. Verify it from the source context and local policy before expanding or reusing it.

Separate what was observed from what was inferred. Terminology accuracy strengthens documentation only when the underlying clinical statement is itself accurate and within scope.

Reference Retrieval Checklist

1. Confirm spelling before searching.
2. Search the full term, then search the root/combining form if needed.
3. Check nearby look-alike entries.
4. Read the whole definition, not only the first phrase.
5. Return to the original document and confirm that the definition fits the sentence.
6. Preserve certainty words such as possible, suspected, likely, confirmed, ruled out, history of, and resolved.
7. Verify pronunciation separately when it matters for spoken communication.
8. Use Volume 4D-4 for cross-reference, thesaurus, plain-language and association retrieval.

Completion Index - Learning Resources

RESOURCE	WHERE TO FIND IT
Word construction and morphology	Visual Learning Map 1
Meaning preservation	Visual Learning Map 2
Look-alike/contrast terms	High-Risk Contrast Table
Term retrieval practice	I-Q Term Retrieval
Clinical translation	Clinical Translation Laboratory
Question bank	Platinum Question Bank
Answer guidance	Model Answer Guidance
Pronunciation and verification	Pronunciation, Spelling and Verification Standard
Cross-volume retrieval	Reference Retrieval Checklist

End of coordinated Platinum completion resources for this reference volume.