

PARENT DICTIONARY

Acute (ah-kyut): A condition beginning suddenly with sharp or severe intensity of symptoms, then subsiding shortly after.

Acidosis (ah-cid-osis): A disease state caused by the build up of acids or loss of alkaline substances in the blood and body tissues. Often seen when there are severe problems with either the lungs or the kidneys.

Adaptive (ah-dap-tive): Capable of required changes; making changes so that something can work to the benefit of the person. (example: adaptive feeding equipment)

Advocate (ad-vo-cate): One that supports or promotes the interest of another.

AFO's: Angle-foot orthosis (braces to support the ankle/foot joints).

Anemia (ane-mee-a): There are many forms. Usually refers to a decrease in the number of red blood cells or a reduction in the amount of hemoglobin (the oxygen carrying part of the red blood cell) below the normal range.

Anomaly (a-nom-aly): Absence of, deformity of, or excess of body parts or systems as a result of faulty development of the baby at a very early stage of development.

Anoxic (a-nox-ic): not enough oxygen getting into vital body organs/systems to maintain health of these various body organs/systems.

Antibiotics (anti-biot-ics): Medications given to fight infection (can be bacteria or fungal).

Anuria (Ah-`nur-ee-ah): Very little production of urine over a 24 hour period of time.

Apnea (`ap-knee-ah): Abnormal periods when breathing stops.

Arterial (art-er-ial): Pertaining to an artery (a type of blood vessel that carries blood rich in oxygen).

Atelectasis (At-ah-le`ct-ta-sis): A lung that has collapsed or a lung that never had air in it to begin with. May pertain to the whole lung or just part of the lung.

Atresia (ah-tr`ee-sha): Congenital absence or closure of a normal body opening or tubular structure.

Atrophy: (A-tro-pee): Decrease in size of a normally developed organ or tissue (example: brain, spinal cord, etc.).

Atelectasis (*At-ah-lekt-ta-sis*): A lung that has collapsed or a lung that never had air in it to begin with. May pertain to the whole lung or just part of the lung.

Atrophy (*A-tro-pee*): Decrease in size of a normally developed organ or tissue
(example: brain, spinal cord, etc.)

Benign (*bee-nine*): Refers to a tumor, mild type with no immediate threat, may require future treatment.

Birthmark: A blemish or spot on the skin, present at birth or before birth. The cause is generally unknown.

Blood Gas: A test for determining the pH and amount of oxygen, carbon dioxide, nitrogen and bicarbonate in the blood.

Blood Cultures: Test to determine if there are any germs growing in the blood sample. There should be none.

Bowel Program: A scheduled plan of bowel care with the goal of avoiding constipation and achieving continence (control of bowel or urinary functions).

Bracing: Also called orthotics, braces are usually made of molded plastic or metal and may insert into the child's shoes. Braces add stability to joints and also support muscles that are weak.

Bronchoscopy: (*braun-ko-sk-ko-pee*): A test that allows the physician to look at the structures of the upper part of the air way (larynx, bronchi) and determine if there is illness, inflammation or injury to any of these structures. Physicians can also take samples of this tissue for another doctor to look at and determine different illnesses.

Bradycardia (*Bray-di-card-ee-ah*): A slow heart beat. For newborns and infants this is considered less than 100 beats per minute, for older children, this is considered less than 80 beats per minute.

CPAP: Continuous Positive Airway Pressure: Artificial method of keeping the airway open so that oxygen can be delivered.

Cardiac (*card-i-ac*): Anything related to the heart.

Cardiovascular (*kar-dee-oh-v-as-ku-lar*): The system which includes the heart and blood vessels.

Cerebellum (*Ser-a-b-el-um*): The part of the brain that is concerned primarily with coordination of movement and balance.

Cerebral (*Sir-re-bral*): Generally meaning brain or anything related to the brain.

Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) (*Sir-r ee-bral-spy-nal*): The fluid that flows through and protects the brain and spinal canal.

Chronic (*chro-nic*): A condition developing slowly and continuing for a long time (often over a lifetime).

Chromosome (*kr o-mo-som*): The material that is in the center of every cell at the time of cell division. Chromosomes contain the genes or hereditary information. Problems with chromosomes (the number of or structure of) have been shown to be an important cause of certain mental and physical defects.

Clean Intermittent Catheterization (CIC): Procedure performed to drain the bladder or urine. By keeping the bladder drained, CIC helps to prevent reflux of urine from the bladder (organ that holds the urine) back into the kidneys (organs that make the urine), which can cause kidney damage over time.

Clonic Convulsions (*kl on-ick*): A type of convulsion where opposing muscles contract and relax, producing rhythmic movements.

Colostomy (*ko-l st-oh-me*): An artificial opening (anus) made on the surface of the abdomen connecting the colon to an opening in the abdominal wall. Can be temporary or permanent.

Complete Blood Count (CBC): A lab test that checks for the status or problems of red and white blood cells.

Congenital (*con-geni-tal*): Present at and existing from the time of birth. (example: Congenital heart defects are structural defects of the heart or great vessels of the heart, present at birth).

Convulsion (*con-vul-sion*): A spasm or contraction (tightening) of the muscles that a person has no control over. Can be clonic (rhythmic), tonic (rigid), clonic/tonic (mixed), or "Jacksonian": muscle twitching starts in one area and "marches" to another. May or may not mean that the person has epilepsy.

Cortical Vision (*cort-i-cal*) (*Vis-ion*): of or relating to, or consisting of the cortex. Vision: Act or power of seeing.

Constipation: (*kon-sti-p ay-shun*): Not the number of times a person is having a stool (bowel movement) over a period of time, but the amount of moisture in the stool: instead of being easy to pass the stool becomes hard/dry and difficult to pass.

Cranium (*kray-nee-um*): The skull, or, bones of the head.

Cyanosis (*sy-ah-no se-is*): bluish discoloration of the skin usually caused by a lack of oxygen.

Cystogram (*sis-toe-gram*): A special xray to determine how the urine flows from the kidneys through the urinary tract (ureters, bladder, urethra).

Cystoscopy (*sis-to-sco-pee*): A special procedure where the structures of the urinary tract (bladder, urethra, ureters) can be looked at using a very small tube with a bright light at the end of it. Samples of tissue can be taken for special examination by a physician (pathologist) so that the cause of illness can be determined.

Dehydration (*dee-hide-dray-shun*): Too much loss of water from the body. Can be caused by too little water in or too much water/fluids out example: dehydration due to too much vomiting and too many loose bowel movements)

Diagnosis (*diag-no-sis*): Identification of a disease or condition by scientific evaluation.

Diuretic (*dy-your-e-h-tic*): A drug or substance that promotes loss of fluid from the body.

Dysmorphia (*dis-morph-ee-ah*): A disease caused by faulty nutrition of the cells that make up certain organ systems (example: muscular dystrophy).

Electro-Encephalogram (EEG) (*E-ek-tro In-seph-a-lo-gram*): The recording of changes in the electrical activity of the brain. The rate, height and length of the waves vary in different parts of the brain. Is widely used to study brain function and tracing the connections between parts of the central nervous system (the brain, spinal cord and out-lying nerves). Can help to determine different conditions of the brain.

Emesis (*em-en-sis*): Medical term for vomit.

Encephalopathy (*in-seph-ah-l-op-ah-thee*): Any disorder of the brain.

Endoscopy (*in-dos-co-pee*): A visual exam of parts of the body (hollow organs) with an instrument that looks like a hollow tube fitted with a lens and a powerful light that can move in many different directions. (example: colonoscopy, bronchoscopy, gastroscopy...)

Etiology (*ee-tee-ol-o-gee*): The science dealing with causes of disease.

Extubate (*x-too-bait*): To remove the breathing tube.

Flaccid (*fl-apid*): Weak, soft, flabby; lacking normal muscle tone.

Fontanel (s) (*font-ah-nell*): One of the soft areas on a baby's scalp: a membrane-covered gap between the bones of the skull which allows for the baby's brain to grow during the first 2 years of life.

Gag reflex: A normal reflex elicited by touching the soft palate or back of the tongue.

Gastric (*gas-tric*): Pertaining to the stomach

Gastrostomy (*gas-tros-toe-mee*): Surgical creation of any opening into the stomach. This allows for food to by pass the esophagus and go directly into the stomach.

Gastrostomy Tube (*gas-tros-tomy*): A latex or plastic tube inserted in a surgical opening in the stomach to provide nourishment.

Hemangioma (*hee-man-gee-oh-ma*): A benign (non-cancerous) tumor that is made up of newly formed blood vessels which are clustered together. Most are on the surface of the skin. Some of the names of common hemangiomas are: strawberry, raspberry, port-wine stains.

Hematoma (*hee-mah-toe-mah*): The formation of a large blood clot below the surface of the skin or in a cavity (such as the skull). Common hematomas are also known as bruises, or, black eyes. Hematomas are almost always present when there is a fracture (break) in a bone. They are especially serious if they occur inside the skull, because they can press on the brain with damage to the brain itself.

Hemoglobin (*he-mah-globe-in*): A protein composed of heme and globin that gives red blood cell their color; its main purpose is to transport oxygen from the lungs to the body tissues (brain heart, skin, etc.).

Hepatomegaly (*he-pat-oh-meg-ah-lee*): enlargement of the liver.

Hydrocephalus (*hi-dro-ceph-ah-lus*): A condition caused by enlargement of the skull caused by an abnormal collection of fluid in the brain. Also called water on the brain.

Hypertonia (*hi-per-toe-ee-ah*): Abnormal increase in the tone of a muscle.

Hypoxia (*hi-pox-ee-ah*): Abnormally low levels of oxygen.

Intubation (*in-tube-ah-shun*): the introduction of a tube into a hollow organ (as the trachea or intestine) to keep it open or restore its patency if obstructed.

Ileostomy (*ill-lee-oh-st-oh-mee*): Creating an opening (by surgery) into the ilieum (lower portion of the small bowel) and bringing it to the surface of the abdomen (creating an artificial anus) so that it will drain into a bag.

Jejunostomy (*jay-june-oh-st-oh-mee*): Creation of a permanent or temporary opening through the abdominal wall to the jejunum, which is the second part of the small intestine. The jejunum then will empty into a bag.

Jejunal Tube (*J-Tube*): Artificial opening made through the abdomen into the jejunum (Part of the small intestine) where a small latex or plastic tube inplaced to provide nourishment.

Kyphosis (*kee-fō-sis*): Abnormal increase in the curving out of the spine at the middle of the back, commonly known as “hunchback”. Cannot be gotten through poor posture.

Lethargy (*leth-argy*): The state of being indifferent, not caring about things, or sluggish.

Mental Retardation: Below average intellectual ability and functioning; and IQ of usually less than 70.

Microcephaly (*mike-kro-ceph-ah-lee*): abnormally small brain; thus, a small head.

Millileter: (*ml*) A unit of measure of volume. One millileter is equivalent to one “cc”. There are approximately 5 ml’s or cc’s in one teaspoon.

Meningitis (*men-in-jī-tis*): Inflammation or infection of the lining of the brain.

Neurogenic Bladder (*noo-roh-ge-n-ick*): When the urinary bladder does not have the right nerve connections to make it work properly (fill, empty, or to have the feelings necessary to know that it needs to be emptied).

Neurogenic Bowel (*neuron-gen-ic*): When the bowel, especially the lower part, does not have the right nerve connections to make it work properly (move the solid waste products on through) or to provide the person with the feelings that it (the bowel) is full and needs to be emptied.

N-G Tube: A soft rubber tube passed through the nose and into the stomach to provide nourishment.

Nystagmus (*nigh-stag-mus*): Involuntary (without control) rhythmic movements of the eyes.

O2 Sats: A test to determine the amount of oxygen that is saturating the red blood cell, or, how much oxygen the red blood cell is carrying.

Occipital (*ok-sip-it-tal*): Of or pertaining to the back part of the head.

Peripheral (*per-rif-fer-al*): Of or pertaining to the outside, surface, or surrounding area.

Platelet Count (*pl-ate-lett*): A lab test that measures the amount of platelets in the blood (these are the elements that are concerned with the clotting of blood).

Polyuria (*polly-u-r-ee-ah*): Larger than normal amounts of urine production.

Polydactily (*polly-dak-ti-lee*): Presence of extra fingers or toes.

Pulmonary (*pull-mo-nar-ee*): Referring to the lung or lungs.

Radiology (ra-di-ology): *The taking of pictures of internal structures of the body, using x-rays or gamma rays.*

Reflux (re-flux): *A return in the usual flow of substance (example: reflux of the contents of the stomach, reflux of the urine from the bladder into the kidneys).*

Renal: *Pertaining to the kidneys.*

Rhonchi (r \square on-ki): *Abnormal sounds (rumbling sounds which can be heard usually only with a stethoscope) in the lungs or wind pipe caused by thick secretions or spasms. Mostly heard when the child breathes out and can disappear for a short time after the child coughs.*

Scoliosis (sko-lee-o \square h-sis): *a lateral curvature of the spine.*

Seizure (see-zure): *Uncontrolled electrical discharges from the nerve cells of the brain causing a wide variety of symptoms.*

Self-injurious Behavior: *Causing harm to your own body (chewing, picking, scratching, etc.) The person using this behavior may or many not be aware of this behavior.*

Sepsis (sep-sis): *Infection that has entered the blood stream or the cerebrospinal fluid.*

Shunt (sha-nt): *to divert by or as if by a shunt; especially : to divert (blood) from one part to another by a surgical shunt.*

Stoma (sto-ma): *an artificial permanent opening especially in the abdominal wall made in surgical procedures <a colostomy stoma>.*

Swallow Study: *Observation of the passage of something from the mouth through the throat and esophagus in the stomach by muscular action.*

Syndrome (syn-drome): *Sign, symptoms resulting from a common cause, presenting a clinical picture.*

Tachycardia (tack-y-card-ia): *relatively rapid heart action whether physiological (as after exercise) or pathological.*

Tachypnea (tack-y-pnee-a): *increased rate of respiration.*

Total Parenteral Nutrition ("TPN"): *Nutrition given by a vein or some other means, (not through the digestive system).*

Tumor (to-mur): *A swelling or enlargement occurring in inflammatory conditions.*

Tracheostomy (traik-ee-os-toe-mee): *An opening made through the tissue of the neck into the trachea (wind pipe)*

Ventricular (*ven-tri-cal*): *Small cavity filled with CSF (fluid) in the brain or the right and left chambers of the heart.*

Ventilate (*ven-ti-late*): *To subject the lungs of (an individual) to ventilation.*

Wheeze: *A high pitched (whistling) sound heard with or without a stethoscope usually meaning that there is some narrowing of the airway/s with resulting difficulty in breathing.*