

## Medical Terminology Related to Use in Nutrition

### PREFIX

a-	before; without; away from; not
an-	not; without
ante-	before in time or in place
bi-	twice; two
bin-	twice; two
brady-	slow; dull
dia-	two; twice; apart; through; apart; away from
dys-	bad; painful; disordered
endo-	inward; within
epi-	on; upon
eu-	well; easily; good; true
ex-	away from; outside; without
exo-	outside; outward
hemi-	half
hyper-	excessive; above; beyond
hypo-	under; below; beneath; deficient; or, in chemistry, "lacking oxygen"
inter-	situated, formed, or occurring between
intra-	situated, formed, or occurring within
meta-	change or exchange; after or next; the 1,3 position in derivative of benzene
micro-	small; one "millionth"
multi-	many
neo-	new
nulli-	none
pan-	all
para-	similar, beside, beyond, supplementary to, disordered
per-	throughout, or completely; a large amount (in chemical terms), or designating an element in its highest valence; around, near, enclosing
peri-	around
poly-	many, or much
post-	after or behind
pre-	before
pro-	first, or in front of
sub-	below; beneath
supra-	above or over
sym-	see syn
syn-	union, or association
tachy-	swift or rapid
tetra-	four
trans-	across, through, over

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## SUFFIX

-ac	pertaining to
-al	suffix meaning 'characterized by' or 'pertaining to' (e.g., <i>meningeal</i> , <i>appendiceal</i> ) suffix designating a compound containing a member of the aldehyde group (ethanal)
-algia	pain, painful condition; <i>epigastralgia</i> , <i>utereralgia</i> .
-apheresis	a procedure in which blood is temporarily withdrawn, one or more components are selectively removed, and the rest of the blood is reinfused into the donor. The process is used in treating various disease conditions in the donor and for obtaining blood elements for treatment of other patients or for research purposes. ( <i>leukapheresis</i> , <i>plasmapheresis</i> , <i>plateletpheresis</i> ).
-ar	pertaining to.
-ary	pertaining to.
-asthenia	debility, loss of strength and energy, depleted vitality: <i>neuroasthenia</i> , <i>phlebasthenia</i> .
-atresia	a condition of abnormal occlusion or congenital absence of an opening: <i>gynatresia</i> , <i>urethratresia</i> .
-capnia	carbon dioxide.
-cele	hernia or protrusion.
-centesis	surgical puncture to aspirate fluid (with a sterile needle).
-clasia	break.
-clasis	break.
-clast	break.
-coccus (pl. cocci)	berry-shaped (a form of bacterium).
-crit	to separate.
-cyte	cell.
-desis	surgical fixation, fusion.
-drome	run, running.
-eal	pertaining to.
-ectasis	stretching out, dilation, expansion.
-ectomy	excision, surgical removal.
-emia	blood condition.
-esis	condition.
-gen	substance or agent that produces or causes.
-genesis	origin, cause.
-genic	producing, originating, causing (pertaining to).
-gram	record, x-ray image.
-graph	instrument used to record.
-graphy	process of recording, x-ray imaging.
-ia	condition of diseased or abnormal state.
-ial	pertaining to.
-iasis	condition.
-iatry	treatment, specialty.
-ic	pertaining to.
-ician	one who.
-ictal	seizure, attack.

-ism	state of.
-itis	inflammation.
-lysis	loosening, dissolution, separating.
-malacia	softening.
-megaly	enlargement.
-meter	instrument used to measure.
-metry	measurement.
-odynia	pain.
-oid	resembling.
-ologist	one who studies and treats (specialist) (physician).
-ology	study of.
-oma	tumor, swelling.
-opia	vision (condition).
-opsy	view of, viewing.
-orrhagia	excessive flow.
-orrhaphy	suturing or repair
-orrhoea	flow or discharge
-orrhexis	to rupture.
-osis	abnormal condition (means increase when used with blood cell word roots).
-ostomy	form a new opening or pertaining to a mouthlike opening ( <i>colostomy, tracheostomy</i> )
-otomy	to make an incision or cut into ( <i>phlebotomy, tracheotomy</i> ).
-ous	pertaining to.
-oxia	oxygen.
-paresis	slight paralysis.
-pathy	disease.
-penia	abnormal reduction in number.
-pepsia	digestion.
-pexia	a fixation of something specified ( <i>glycopexis, hemopexis, pllenopexis</i> ).
-pexy	a fixation of something specified ( <i>glycopexis, hemopexis, pllenopexis</i> ).
-phagia	eating, swallowing.
-phobia	abnormal fear of or aversion to specific objects or things.
-physis	growth.
-plasia	condition of formation, development, growth.
-plasm	a growth, a substance, a formation.
-plasty	surgical repair.
-plegia	paralysis.
-pnea	breathing.
-poiesis	formation.
-ptosis	falling, dropping, or prolapse of an organ.
-salpinx	fallopian tube.
-sarcoma	malignant tumor.
-schisis	split, fissure.
-sclerosis	hardening.
-scope	instrument used for visual examination.
-scopy	visual examination.

-scopic	pertaining to visual examination.
-sis	state of.
-spasm	sudden, involuntary muscle contraction.
-stasis	control, stop, standing.
-stenosis	constriction or narrowing.
-thorax	chest.
-tocia	birth, labor.
-tome	instrument used to cut.
-tripsy	surgical crushing.
-trophy	nourishment, development.
-uria	urine, urination.

### **COMBINING FORM**

col/o	colon
cyt/o	cell
derm/o	skin
enter/o	intestine
erythr/o	red
gastr/o	stomach
gloss/o	tongue
hema/o	blood
hepat/o	liver
ile/o	ilium
lapar/o	abdomen
myel/o	bone marrow, or spinal cord
nas/o	nose
nephr/o	kidney
onc/o	tumor
or/o	mouth
path/o	disease
phleb/o	vein
thromb/o	clot
xer/o	dry

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cyanosis	bluish discoloration of the skin and mucous membranes caused by an excess of deoxygenated hemoglobin in the blood or a structural defect in the hemoglobin molecule, such as in methemoglobin.
cytology	the study of cells, including their formation, origin, structure, function, biochemical activities, and pathologic characteristics.
cytoplasm	all of the substance of a cell other than the nucleus and the cell wall.
cephalic	pertaining to the head.
diagnosis	identification of a disease or condition by a scientific evaluation of physical signs, symptoms, history, laboratory test results, and procedures.
dysplasia	any abnormal development of tissues or organs. An alteration in cell growth

	results in cells that differ in size, shape, and appearance often as a result of chronic irritation. Common sites for dysplasia are the respiratory tract in smokers and the cervix.
dermatitis	an inflammatory condition of the skin. Various cutaneous eruptions occur and may be unique to a particular allergen, disease, or infection. The condition may be chronic or acute; treatment is specific to the cause.
epithelial	pertaining to or involving the outer layer of the skin.
erythrocyte	mature red blood cell; a biconcave disk about 7 $\mu\text{m}$ in diameter that contains hemoglobin confined within a lipid membrane. It is the major cellular element of the circulating blood and transports oxygen as its principal function.
erythrocytosis	an abnormal increase in the number of circulating red cells.
etiology	the study of all factors that may be involved in the development of a disease, including the susceptibility of the patient, the nature of the disease agent, and the way in which the patient's body is invaded by the agent.
epidermal	pertaining to upon the skin.
erythroderma	an abnormal redness of the skin.
histology	the science dealing with the microscopic identification of cells and tissue. The structure of organ tissues, including the composition of cells and their organization into various body tissues.
hyperplasia	an increase in the number of cells of a body part that results from an increased rate of cellular division. Types of hyperplasia include compensatory, hormonal, and pathologic.
hypoplasia	underdevelopment of an organ or a tissue, usually resulting from the presence of a smaller-than-normal number of cells. Kinds of hypoplasia are cartilage-hair hypoplasia and enamel hypoplasia.
iatrogenic	caused by treatment or diagnostic procedures. An iatrogenic disorder is a condition caused by medical personnel or procedures or through exposure to the environment of a health care facility.
iatrology	the science of medicine.
karyocyte	a normoblast, or developing red blood cell with a nucleus condensed into a homogenous staining body. It is normally found in the red bone marrow.
keratin	a fibrous sulfur-containing protein that is the primary component of the epidermis, hair, nails, enamel of the teeth, and horny tissue of animals. The protein is insoluble in most solvents, including gastric juice. For this reason, it is often used as a coating for pills that must pass through the stomach unchanged to be dissolved in the intestines.
leukocyte	a white blood cell, one of the formed elements of the circulating blood system. Five types of leukocytes are classified by the presence or absence of granules in the cytoplasm of the cell. The agranulocytes are lymphocytes and monocytes. The granulocytes are neutrophils, basophils, and eosinophils.
leukocytosis	an abnormal increase in the number of circulating white blood cells. An increase often accompanies bacterial, but not usually viral, infections. Leukemia may be associated with a white blood cell count as high as 500,000 to 1 million per cubic millimeter of blood.
lipoid	resembling a lipid.
metastasis	the process by which tumor cells spread to distant parts of the body. Because

	malignant tumors have no enclosing capsule, cells may escape, become emboli, and be transported by the lymphatic circulation of the bloodstream to implant in lymph nodes and other organs far from the primary tumor. A tumor that develops away from the site of origin.
myopathy	an abnormal condition of skeletal muscle characterized by muscle weakness, wasting, and histologic changes within muscle tissue, as seen in any of the muscular dystrophies.
oncogenic	pertaining to the origin and development of tumors or cancer.
pathogenic	capable of causing or producing a disease.
pathologist	a physician specializing in the study of disease. A pathologist usually specializes in autopsy or in clinical or surgical pathology.
pathology	the study of the characteristics, causes, and effects of disease, as observed in the structure and function of the body.
prognosis	a prediction of the probable outcome of a disease based on the condition of the person and the usual course of the disease as observed in similar situations.
somatic	pertaining to the body. somatic cell: any of the cells of the body tissue that have the diploid number of chromosomes, as distinguished from germ cells, which contain the haploid number.
somatogenic	in embryology, the development of the body from the germ plasm. The development of a physical disease or of symptoms from an organic pathophysiologic cause.
somatopathy	disease of the body.
somatoplasm	body substance. The nonreproductive protoplasmic material of the body cells, as distinguished from the reproductive material of the germ cells.
systemic	pertaining to the whole body rather than to a localized area or regional part of the body.
visceral	pertaining to the viscera, or internal organs in the abdominal cavity.
dermatology	the study of the skin, including its anatomic, physiologic, and pathologic characteristics and the diagnosis and treatment of skin disorders.
hypodermic	pertaining to the area below the skin, such as a hypodermic injection.
intra-dermal	within the dermis.
keratogenic	pertaining to an agent that induces a growth of horny tissue.
leukoderma	localized loss of skin pigment caused by several specific causes. White skin (less color than normal).
necrosis	localized tissue death that occurs in groups of cells in response to disease or injury.
percutaneous	performed through the skin, such as a biopsy; aspiration of fluid from a space below the skin using a needle, catheter, and syringe, or instillation of a fluid in a cavity or space by similar means.
seborrhea	any of several common skin conditions in which an overproduction of sebum results in excessive oiliness or dry scales.
staphylococcus	berry-shaped (bacteria) in grape-like clusters. (These bacteria cause many skin diseases.)
streptococcus	berry-shaped (bacteria) in twisted chains.
subcutaneous	pertaining to under the skin.
urticaria	a pruritic skin eruption characterized by transient wheals of varying shapes and

sizes with well-defined erythematous margins and pale centers. It is caused by capillary dilation in the dermis and results from the release of vasoactive mediators, including histamine, kinin, and the slow reactive substance of anaphylaxis associated with antigen-antibody reaction.

xeroderma	a chronic skin condition characterized by dryness and roughness.
superior	situated above or oriented toward a higher place, as the head is superior to the torso.
caudal	pertaining to the tail. Signifying a position toward the distal end of the body, or an inferior position.
inferior	situated below or lower than a given point of reference, such as the feet are inferior to the legs.
anterior	the front of a structure. Pertaining to a surface or part situated toward the front or facing forward.
ventral	pertaining to a position toward the anterior surface of the body; frontward.
posterior	in the back part of a structure, such as of the dorsal surface of the human body. The back part of something; toward the back.
dorsal	pertaining to the back or posterior.
medial	pertaining to, situated in, or oriented toward the midline of the body. Pertaining to the tunica media, the middle layer of a blood vessel wall.
lateral	pertaining to the side. Away from the midsagittal plane. Farther from the midsagittal plane. To the right or left of the midsagittal plane.
distal	away from or the farthest from a point of origin or attachment. Away from or the farthest from the midline or a central point, as a distal phalanx.
proximal	nearer to a point of reference or attachment, usually the trunk of the body, than other parts of the body.

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abduction	movement of drawing away from the middle
adduction	movement of drawing toward the middle
adipose	fat, fatty
adrenocorticohyperplasia	increased growth of one or both adrenal glands
afferent	conveying toward a center (e.g., afferent nerves carry impulses to the central nervous system)
allergy	hypersensitivity to a substance
alopecia	loss of hair
benign	not malignant, nonrecurrent, favorable for recovery
bilateral	pertaining to two sides
calcipenia	deficiency of calcium (also called hypocalcemia)
cellulitis	inflammation of the skin and subcutaneous tissue caused by infection, leading to redness, swelling, and fever
cicatrix	scar
cortical	pertaining to the cortex
corticoid	resemble the cortex
cytomegalovirus (CVM)	a herpes-type virus that usually causes disease when the immune system is compromised

debridement	removal of contaminated or dead tissue and foreign matter from an open wound
decubitus ulcer	bedsore; an open area of skin caused by pressure or irritation
deep	situated far beneath the surface
dermabrasion	procedure to remove skin scars with abrasive material, such as sandpaper
diaphoresis	profuse sweating
disseminate	to scatter over a considerable area
dysphagia	difficult swallowing
ecchymosis	escape of blood into the tissues, causing superficial discoloration; a "black and blue" mark
edema	puffy swelling of tissue from the accumulation of fluid
efferent	conveying away from the center (e.g., efferent nerves carry information away from the CNS)
emollient	agent that softens or soothes the skin
endoscope	instrument used for visual examination within a hollow organ or body cavity (Current trend is to use endoscopes for surgical procedures as well as for viewing)
erythema	redness
esophagoplasty	surgical repair of the esophagus and the stomach
esophagoduodenoscopy (EGD)	visual examination of the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum
esophagoscope	instrument for visual examination of the esophagus
esophagoscopy	visual examination of the esophagus
extension	movement in which a limb is placed in a straight position
flexion	movement in which a limb is bent
gastrectomy	excision of the stomach (or part of the stomach)
gastritis	inflammation of the stomach
gastrostomy	creation of an artificial opening into the stomach (through the abdominal wall). (A tube is inserted through the opening for administration of food when swallowing is impossible.)
gingivectomy	surgical removal of gum (tissue)
gingivitis	inflammation of the gums
glosorrhaphy	suture of the tongue
idiopathic	pertaining to a disease of unknown origin
induration	abnormal hard spot(s)
inflammation	response to injury or destruction of tissue characterized by redness, swelling, heat, and pain
inversion	turning inward
jaundice	condition characterized by a yellow tinge to the skin (xanthoderma)
keloid	overgrowth of scar tissue
leukoplakia	condition characterized by white spots or patches on mucous membrane, which may be precancerous
malignant	tending to become progressively worse and to cause death, as in cancer



nasogastric	pertaining to the nose and stomach
nevus	circumscribed pigmented area present at birth; mole, birthmark
palatitis	inflammation of the liver
pallor	paleness
palmar	pertaining to the palm
papule	a small solid raised skin lesion less than 1 cm in diameter, such as the lesions of lichen planus and nonpustular acne.
peristalsis	involuntary wave-like contractions that propel food along the digestive tract
petechia	pinpoint skin hemorrhages
plantar	pertaining to the sole of the foot.
prone	having a tendency to inclination; being in horizontal position when lying face downward
pruritus	severe itching
purpura	disorder characterized by hemorrhages into the tissue, giving the skin a purple-red discoloration
pustule	elevation of skin containing pus
remission	improvement or absence of signs of disease
salivary glands	produce saliva, which flows into the mouth
sialolith	stone in the salivary gland
superficial	pertaining to the surface; not grave or dangerous
supine	position of the arms or body in which the palms of the hands face upward; lying horizontally on the back
syndrome	(set of symptoms that) run (occur) together
ulcer	eroded sore on the skin or mucous membrane
unilateral	pertaining to one side (only)
uvulectomy	excision of the uvula
uvulitis	inflammation of the uvula
uvulopalatopharyngoplasty (UPPP)	surgical repair of the uvula, palate, and pharynx (performed to correct obstructive sleep apnea)

**abdominoperineal resection** - removal off the colon and rectum through both abdominal and perineal approaches. Performed to treat colorectal cancer and inflammatory diseases of the lower large intestine. The patient will have a colostomy.

**abdominoplasty** - surgical repair of the abdomen

**acidosis** - condition brought about by an abnormal accumulation of acid products of metabolism, seen frequently in uncontrolled diabetes mellitus.

**adhesion** - abnormal growing together of two surfaces that normally are separated. This may occur after abdominal surgery; surgical treatment is called *adhesiolysis of adhesiotomy*.

**adrenalectomy** - excision of an adrenal gland

**anastomosis** - surgical connection between two normally distinct structures.

**anoplasty** - surgical repair of the anus.

**antrectomy** - excision of the antrum.

**appendectomy** - excision of the appendix.

**appendicitis** - inflammation of the appendix.

**bilateral** - pertaining to two sides.

**bile ducts** - passageways that carry bile: the hepatic duct is a passageway for bile from the liver; and the cystic duct carries bile from the gallbladder. They join to form the common bile duct, which conveys bile to the duodenum.

**celiotomy** - incision into the abdominal cavity

**cholangiogram** - x-ray image of bile ducts. (An injection of radiopaque material is used to outline the ducts.)

**cholangioma** - tumor of the bile duct.

**cholecystitis** - inflammation of the gallbladder.

**cholecystogram** - x-ray image of the gallbladder. (Oral cholecystogram is still used to diagnose cholelithiasis, but ultrasound is now the method of choice).

**choledocholithiasis** - condition of stones in the common bile duct.

**cholelithiasis** - condition of gallstones.

**cirrhosis** - chronic disease of the liver with gradual destruction of cells, most commonly caused by alcoholism.

**colectomy** - excision of the colon

**colonoscope** - instrument used for visual examination of the colon.

**colostomy** - artificial opening into the colon (through the abdominal wall). (Used for the passage of stool. A colostomy may be permanent or temporary and performed as treatment for bowel obstruction, cancer, or diverticulitis.)

**crohn's disease** - chronic inflammation, usually affects the ileum, although it can affect any part of the gastrointestinal tract. It is characterized by cobblestone ulcerations along the intestinal wall and the formation of scar tissue and may cause obstruction. It is also called *regional ileitis* or *reginal enteritis*.

**diverticulectomy** - excision of a diverticulum.

**diverticulitis** - inflammation of the diverticulum.

**diverticulosis** - abnormal condition of having diverticula.

**duodenal ulcer** - ulcer in the duodenum.

**endoscope** - instrument used for visual examination within a hollow organ.

**enterorrhaphy** - suture of the intestine.

**esophagogastroplasty** - surgical repair of the esophagus and the stomach.

**esophagoscope** - instrument for visual examination of the esophagus.

**eversion** - turning outward.

**gallbladder** - small, sac-like structure that stores bile.

**gastric ulcer** - ulcer in the stomach.

**gastroenteritis** - inflammation of the stomach and intestines.

**gastroenterocolitis** - inflammation of the stomach, intestines, and colon.

**gastrojejunostomy** - creation of an artificial opening between the stomach and jejunum.

**gastroscope** - instrument used for visual examination of the stomach.

**hepatitis** - inflammation of the liver.

**hepatoma** - tumor of the liver.

**herniorrhaphy** - suturing of a hernia (for repair).

**hormone** - a complex chemical substance produced in one part or organ of the body that initiates

or regulates the activity of an organ or a group of cells in another part. Hormones secreted by the endocrine glands are carried through the bloodstream to the target organ. Secretion of these hormones is regulated by other hormones, by neurotransmitters, and by a negative feedback system in which an excess of target organ activity or hormone signals a decreased need for the stimulating hormone. Other hormones are released by organs for local effect, most commonly in the digestive tract.

**ileostomy** - creation of an artificial opening into the ileum through the abdominal wall. (Used for the passage of stool. It is performed for ulcerative colitis, Chron's disease, or cancer).

**ileus** - obstruction of the intestine, often caused by failure of peristalsis. (An obstruction of the intestines, such as an adynamic ileus caused by immobility of the bowel or a mechanical ileus in which the intestine is blocked by mechanical means.)

**intussusception** - telescoping of a segment of the intestine.

**inversion** - turning inward.

**irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)** - periodic disturbances of bowel function such as diarrhea and/or constipation usually associated with abdominal pain.

**isthmus** - narrow strip of tissue connecting two large parts in the body, such as the isthmus that connects the two lobes of the thyroid gland.

**laparotomy** - incision into the abdomen.

**oncology** - the branch of medicine concerned with the study of malignancy; the study of cancerous growths.

**palatoplasty** - surgical repair of the palate.

**pancreatitis** - inflammation of the pancreas.

**parathyroidectomy** - excision of a parathyroid gland.

**peptic ulcer** - another name for gastric or duodenal ulcer.

**polyp** - tumor-like growth extending outward from a mucous membrane. Usually benign, common sites are in the nose, throat,, and intestines.

**polypectomy** - excision of a polyp.

**polyposis** - abnormal condition of (multiple) polyps (in the mucous membrane of the intestine, especially the colon, high potential for malignancy).

**proctoptosis** - prolapse of the rectum.

**proctoscope** - instrument used for visual examination of the rectum.

**pyloroplasty** - surgical repair of the pylorus.

**rectocele** - protrusion of the rectum.

**sigmoidoscope** - instrument used for visual examination of the sigmoid colon.

**tetany** - a condition characterized by cramps, convulsions, twitching of the muscles, and sharp flexion of the wrists and ankle joints. Tetany is a manifestation of an abnormality in calcium metabolism, which can occur in relation to vitamin D deficiency, hypoparathyroidism, alkalosis, or the ingestion of alkaline salts.

**thyroidectomy** - incision of the thyroid gland.

**thyroparathyroidectomy** - excision of the thyroid and parathyroid glands.

**ulcerative colitis** - inflammation of the colon with the formation of ulcers. The main symptom is diarrhea -- as many as 15 to 29 stools per day. An ileostomy may be performed to treat this condition.

**unilateral** - pertaining to one side (only).

**vagotomy** - cutting of certain branches of the vagus nerve, performed with gastric surgery to reduce the amount of gastric acid produced and thus reduce the recurrence of ulcers.

**volvulus** - twisting or kinking of the intestine, causing intestinal obstruction.  
**epigastric region** - directly above the umbilical region.  
**hypogastric region** - directly below the umbilical region.

**hypochondriac region** - to the right & left of the epigastric region.  
**lumbar regions** - to the right & left of the umbilical region.  
**iliac regions** - to the right & left of the hypogastric region.  
**umbilical region** - around the navel.

**acromegaly** - enlargement of the extremities (and bones of the face) caused by excessive production of the growth hormone.

**Addison's disease** - chronic syndrome resulting from a deficiency in the hormonal secretion of the adrenal cortex. Symptoms may include weakness, darkening of the skin, loss of appetite, depression, and other emotional problems.

**adrenalitis** - inflammation of the adrenal gland.

**adrenomegaly** - enlargement (of one or both) of the adrenal glands.

**adrenopathy** - disease of the adrenal gland.

**anorexia nervosa** - an eating disorder characterized by failure to maintain body weight, intensive fear of gaining weight, pronounced desire for thinness, and in females, amenorrhea.

**anuria** - absence of urine (failure of the kidney to produce urine.)

**apnea** - absence of breathing.

**aspirate** - (a). to withdraw fluid or to suction; (b). to draw foreign material into the respiratory tract.

**bulimia** - a disorder characterized by an insatiable craving for food, often resulting in episodes of continuous eating and often followed by purging, depression, and self-deprivation. (binge eating).

**carcinoma** - cancerous tumor (malignant).

**catheter** - flexible, tube-like device, such as a urinary catheter, for withdrawing or instilling fluids.

**cheilorrhaphy** - suture of the lip.

**cholecystectomy** - excision of the gallbladder.

**choledocholithotomy** - incision into the common bile duct to remove a stone.

**choledocholithotripsy** - a procedure for crushing gallstones in the common bile duct with a lithotrite.

**cretinism** - condition caused by congenital absence or atrophy (wasting away) of the thyroid gland, resulting in hypothyroidism. The disease is characterized by puffy features, mental deficiency, large tongue, and dwarfism.

**Cushing's syndrome** - group of symptoms that are attributed to the excessive production of cortisol by the adrenal cortices. This syndrome may be the result of a pituitary tumor. Symptoms include abnormally pigmented skin, "moon face," pads of fat on the chest and abdomen, "buffalo hump" (fat on the upper back), and wasting away of muscle.

**cystectomy** - excision of the bladder.

**decubitus ulcer** - bedsore; an open area of skin caused by pressure or irritation.

**diabetes insipidus (DI)**- result of decreased secretion of antidiuretic hormone by the posterior lobe of the pituitary gland. Symptoms include excessive thirst (polydipsia) and large amounts of urine (polyuria) and sodium being excreted from the body.

**diabetes mellitus (DM)** - chronic disease involving a disorder of carbohydrate metabolism. Diabetes mellitus is caused by underactivity of the islets of Langerhans in the pancreas, which results in insufficient production of insulin. When the disease is not controlled or is untreated, the patient may develop ketosis, acidosis, and finally coma.

**diuretic** - a drug that promotes the formation and excretion of urine. Diuretics are prescribed to reduce the volume of extracellular fluid in the treatment of many disorders, including hypertension, congestive heart failure, and edema.

**dyspnea** - difficult breathing.

**endocrinologist** - a physician who studies and treats diseases of the endocrine system.

**endocrinology** - the study of the endocrine system.

**endocrinopathy** - (any) disease of the endocrine system.

**epithelioma** - tumor composed of epithelium (malignant tumor).

**etiology** - study of causes (of diseases).

**euthyroid** - resembling a normal (functioning) thyroid gland.

**exophthalmic** - abnormal protrusion of the eyeball, a characteristic of thyroid disease.

**gangrene** - death of tissue caused by loss of blood supply followed by bacterial invasion.

**gigantism** - condition brought about by overproduction of the pituitary growth hormone.

**glycosuria** - sugar (sucrose) in the urine.

**goiter** - enlargement of the thyroid gland.

**hematuria** - blood in the urine.

**hypercalcemia** - excessive calcium (Ca) in the blood.

**hyperglycemia** - excessive sugar in the blood.

**hyperkalemia** - excessive potassium (K) in the blood.

**hyperthyroidism** - state of excessive thyroid gland activity (characterized by excessive secretion of thyroid hormones).

**hypocalcemia** - deficient level of calcium in the blood.

**hypoclycemia** - deficient level of sugar in the blood.

**hypokalemia** - deficient level of potassium in the blood.

**hypothyroidism** - state of deficient thyroid gland activity (characterized by decreased secretion of thyroid hormones).

**hypoxia** - deficient oxygen (to the tissues).

**isthmus** - narrow strip of tissue connecting two large parts in the body, such as the isthmus that connects the two lobes of the thyroid gland.

**ketosis** - condition resulting from uncontrolled diabetes mellitus, in which the body has an abnormal concentration of ketone bodies (compounds that are a normal product of fat metabolism).

**leiomyoma** - tumor of smooth muscle (benign).

**leiomyosarcoma** - malignant tumor of smooth muscle.

**lipoma** - tumor containing fat (benign tumor).

**metabolism** - sum total of all the chemical processes that take place in a living organism.

**metastasis** - beyond control (transfer of disease from one organ to another as in the transfer of malignant tumors).

**myxedema** - condition resulting from a deficiency of the thyroid hormone thyroxine. A severe form of hypothyroidism in an adult.

**nebulizer** - device that creates a mist used to deliver medication for giving respiratory treatment.

**nocturia** - night urination.

**oliguria** - scanty urination.

**parathyroidoma** - tumor of a parathyroid gland.

**polycystic kidney** - condition in which the kidney contains many cysts and is enlarged.

**polydipsia** - abnormal state of much thirst.

**polyuria** - much (excessive) urine.

**pyloromyotomy** - incision into the pyloric muscle.

**renal calculi** - stones in the kidney.

**scleroderma** - a disease characterized by chronic hardening (induration) of the connective tissue of the skin and other body organs.

**systemic lupus erythematosus** - a chronic inflammatory disease involving the skin, joints, kidneys, and nervous system. This autoimmune disease is characterized by periods of remission and exacerbations. It also may affect other organs.

**thyroidotomy** - incision of the thyroid gland.

**thyroparathyroidectomy** - excision of the thyroid and parathyroid glands.

**thyrotoxicosis** - a condition caused by excessive thyroid hormones.

**uremia** - condition of urine (urea) in the blood (toxic condition resulting from retention of by-products of the kidney in the blood).

**urinary retention** - abnormal accumulation of urine in the bladder because of an inability to urinate.

**ventilator** - mechanical device used to assist with or substitute for breathing when patient cannot breathe unassisted.

**xanthochromic** - pertaining to yellow color.

**xanthoderma** - yellow skin (also called jaundice).

**xanthosis** - abnormal condition of yellow (discoloration).