MEDICAL TERM	LAY TERM(S)
ABDOMINAL	Pertaining to body cavity below diaphragm which contains stomach, intestines, liver, and other organs
ABSORB	Take up fluids, take in
ACIDOSIS	Condition when blood contains more acid than normal
ACUITY	Clearness, keenness, esp. of vision - airways
ACUTE	New, recent, sudden
ADENOPATHY	Swollen lymph nodes (glands)
ADJUVANT	Helpful, assisting, aiding
ADJUVANT TREATMENT	Added treatment
ANTIBIOTIC	Drug that kills bacteria and other germs
ANTIMICROBIAL	Drug that kills bacteria and other germs
ANTIRETROVIRAL	Drug that inhibits certain viruses
ADVERSE EFFECT	Negative side effect
ALLERGIC REACTION	Rash, trouble breathing
AMBULATE -ATION -ORY	Walk, able to walk
ANAPHYLAXIS	Serious, potentially life threatening allergic reaction
ANEMIA	Decreased red blood cells; low red blood cell count
ANESTHETIC general	A drug or agent used to decrease the feeling of pain or eliminate the feeling of pain by putting you to sleep
ANESTHETIC local	A drug or agent used to decrease the feeling of pain or by numbing an area of your body, without putting you to sleep
ANGINA (ANGINA PECTORIS)	Pain resulting from insufficient blood to the heart
ANOREXIA	Condition in which person will not eat; lack of appetite
ANTECUBITAL	Area inside the elbow

ANTIBODY Protein made in the body in response to foreign substance; attacks foreign substance and

protects against infection

ANTICONVULSANT Drug used to prevent seizures

ANTILIPIDEMIC A drug that decreases the level of fat(s) in the blood

ANTITUSSIVE A drug used to relieve coughing

ARRHYTHMIA Any change from the normal heartbeat (abnormal heartbeat)

ASPIRATION Fluid entering lungs

ASSAY Lab test

ASSESS To learn about

ASTHMA A lung disease associated with tightening of the air passages

ASYMPTOMATIC Without symptoms

AXILLA Armpit

BENIGN Not malignant, usually without serious consequences, but with some exceptions e.g.

benign brain tumor may have, serious consequences

BID Twice a day

BINDING/BOUND Carried by, to make stick together, transported

BIOAVAILABILITY The extent to which a drug or other substance becomes available to the body

BLOOD PROFILE Series of blood tests

BOLUS An amount given all at once

BONE MASS The amount of calcium in a give amount of bone

BRADYARRHYTHMIAS Slow irregular heart beat

BRADYCARDIA Slow heartbeat

BRONCHOSPASM Breathing distress caused by narrowing of the airways

CARCINOGENIC Capable of causing cancer

CARCINOMA Type of cancer

CARDIAC Pertaining to the heart

CARDIOVERSION Restoration of normal heart beat by electric shock

CATHETER A tube for withdrawing or introducing fluids

CATHETER

indwelling epidural

A tube placed near the spinal cord used for anesthesia during an operation

CENTRAL NERVOUS

SYSTEM (CNS)

Brain and spinal cord

CEREBRAL TRAUMA Damage to the brain

CESSATION Stopping

CHD Coronary heart disease

CHEMOTHERAPY Treatment of disease, usually cancer, by chemical agents

CHRONIC Continuing for a long time

CISPLATIN A drug used to kill cancer cells

CLINICAL Pertaining to medical care

CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT Of major importance for treating or evaluating patients

CLINICAL TRIAL An experiment in patients

COMA Unconscious state

COMPLETE RESPONSE Total disappearance of disease

CONGENITAL Occurring prior to birth, due to parent's genetic input

CONJUNCTIVITIS Irritation and redness of the thin membrane covering the eye

CONSOLIDATION

PHASE

Treatment phase intended to make a remission permanent, follows induction

CONTROLLED TRIAL Study in which the experimental treatment or procedure is compared to a standard

(control) treatment or procedure

COOPERATIVE GROUP Association of multiple institutions to perform clinical trials

CORONARY Pertains to the blood vessels that supply the heart

CT (CAT) SCAN Computerized (axial) tomography; computerized series of x-rays

CULTURE Test for infection or organisms that could cause infection

CUMULATIVE Total sum (of individual events, experiences, treatments)

CUTANEOUS Relating to the skin

CVA Cerebrovascular accident; Stroke

DERMATOLOGIC Pertaining to the skin

DIASTOLIC Lower number in blood pressure reading; pertaining to resting or relaxation phase of heart

DISTAL Toward the end, away from the center of the body

DIURETIC 'Water pill' or drug that causes increase in urination

DOPPLER Sound waves

DOUBLE BLIND Study in which neither investigators nor subjects know what drug the subject is receiving

DYSFUNCTION State of improper function

DYSPLASIA Abnormal cells

ECHOCARDIOGRAM Sound wave test of the heart

EDEMA Increased fluid

EEG Electroencephalogram; electric brainwave tracing

EFFICACY Effectiveness

ELECTROCARDIOGRAM Electrical tracing of the heartbeat or heart rhythm (ECG or EKG)

ELECTROLYTE IMBALANCE

Imbalance of salts or chemicals in the blood

ELEVATION OF LIVER FUNCTION

TESTS

Evidence of liver or kidney damage

EMESIS Vomiting

EMPIRIC Based on experience

ENDOSCOPIC Examination of an internal part of the body with a lighted tube; looking at a part of the **EXAMINATION** body with a lighted tube

ENTERAL By way of the intestines

EPIDURAL Outside the spinal cord **ERADICATING** Getting rid of (such as a disease)

EVALUATED Assessed; examined for medical condition

EXTERNAL Outside the body

EXTRAVASATE To leak outside of a blood vessel

FIBRILLATION Irregular beat of the heart or other muscle

FIBROUS Having many fibers, such as scar tissue

FDA U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the branch of federal government which approves

new drugs

GENERAL ANESTHESIA Pain prevention by induction of drugged sleep, as in surgery

GESTATIONAL Pertaining to pregnancy

HEMATOCRIT Amount of red blood cells in the blood

HEMATOMA A bruise, a black and blue mark

HEMODYNAMIC Related to blood flow

HEMOLYSIS Breakdown in red blood cells

HEPARIN LOCKNeedle placed in the arm with blood thinner to keep the blood from clotting inside the

needle or tubing

HEPATOMA Cancer or tumor of the liver

HERITABLE DISEASE A disease which can be transmitted to one's offspring resulting in damage to future

children

HISTOPATHOLOGIC Pertaining to the disease status of body tissues or cells

HOLTER MONITOR A portable machine for recording heart beats

HYPERCALCEMIA High blood calcium level

HYPERKALEMIA High blood potassium level

HYPERNATREMIA High blood sodium level

HYPERTENSION High blood pressure

HYPOCALCEMIA Low blood calcium level

HYPOKALEMIA Low blood potassium level

HYPONATREMIA Low blood sodium level

HYPOTENSION Low blood pressure

HYPOXIA Low oxygen level in the blood

IATROGENIC Caused by a physician or by treatment

IDE Investigational device exemption, the license to test an unapproved new medical device

IDIOPATHIC Of unknown cause

IMMUNOGLOBULIN A combination of antibodies from proteins in the blood

IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE Drug which suppresses the body's immune response, used in transplantation and

diseases caused by disordered immunity

IMMUNOTHERAPY Giving of drugs to help the body's immune (protective) system; usually used to destroy

cancer cells

IMPAIRED FUNCTION Abnormal function

IMPLANTED Placed in the body

IND Investigational new drug; the license to test an unapproved new drug

INDUCTION PHASE Beginning phase or stage of a treatment

INDURATION Hardening

INDWELLING Remaining in a given location, such as a catheter

INFARCT Death of tissue because of lack of blood supply

INFECTIOUS DISEASE Disease which is transmitted from one person to next

INFLAMMATION Swelling which is generally painful, red, and warm

INFUSION Introduction of a substance into the body, usually into the blood

INGESTION Eating; taking by mouth

INTERFERON Agent which acts against viruses; Antiviral agent

INTERMITTENT Occurring (regularly or irregularly) between two time points; alternately ceasing and

beginning

INTERNAL Within the body

INTERIOR Inside of the body

INTRAMUSCULAR Into the muscle; within the muscle

INTRAPERITONEAL Into the abdominal cavity

INTRATHECAL Into the spinal fluid

INTRAVENOUS (IV) Into (within) a vein

INTRAVESICAL In the bladder

INTUBATE The placement of a tube into the airway

INVASIVE PROCEDURE

Puncture, opening or cutting of the skin

INVESTIGATIONAL NEW DRUG (IND)

A new drug which has not yet been approved by the FDA

INVESTIGATIONAL METHOD

A treatment method which has not been proven to be beneficial or has not been accepted

as standard care

ISCHEMIA PROCEDURE Decreased oxygen in a tissue (usually because of decreased blood flow)

LAPORATOMY A procedure in which an incision is made in the abdominal wall to enable a physician to

look at the organs

LETHARGY Sleepiness

LEUKOPENIA Low white blood cell count

LIPID Fat

LIPID PROFILE

(panel)

Fat and cholesterol levels in the blood

LOCAL ANESTHESIA Creation of insensitivity to pain in a small local area of the body

LOCALIZED Restricted to one area; limited to one area (of the body)

LUMEN Cavity of an organ or tube (e.g. inside of blood vessel)

LYMPHANGIOGRAPHY An x-ray of the lymph nodes or tissues after injection of dye in lymph vessels (e.g. in feet)

LYMPHOCYTE A type of white blood cell important in the body's defense against infection

LYMPHOMA A cancer of the lymph nodes (or tissues)

MALAISE A vague feeling of bodily discomfort, feeling bad

MALFUNCTION Condition in which something is not functioning properly

MALIGNANCY Cancer or other progressively enlarging and spreading tumor, fatal if not successfully

treated

MEDULLOBLASTOMA Type of brain tumor

METRONIDAZOLE A drug used to treat infections caused by parasites or other causes of anaerobic

infections

METABOLIZE Process of breaking down substances in the cells

METASTASIS Spread of cancer cells from one part of body to another

MI Myocardial infarction, heart attack

MINIMAL Slight

MINIMIZE Reduce

MONITOR Check on; keep track of; watch carefully

MOBILITY Ease of movement; Ability to move around

MORBIDITY Undesired result or complication; serious disease

MORTALITY Death or death rate

MRI Magnetic resonance imaging, body pictures created using magnetic rather than x-ray

energy

MYALGIA Muscle aches

MUCOSA,

MUCOUS MEMBRANE

Moist lining of digestive, respiratory, reproductive, and urinary tracts

MYOCARDIAL
M. INFARCTION

Pertaining to the (muscle of the) heart Heart attack; death of heart muscle

NCI National Cancer Institute

NECROSIS Death of tissue

NEOPLASIA Tumor, may be non-cancerous or cancerous

NEUROBLASTOMA A cancer of nerve tissue

NEUROLOGICAL Pertaining to the nervous system

NEUTROPENIA Decrease in the main part of the white blood cells

NIH National Institutes of Health

NON-INVASIVE Not breaking, cutting or entering the skin

NOSOCOMIAL PNEUMONIA

Pneumonia acquired in the hospital

OCCLUSION Closing; obstruction

OHRP Office of Human Research Protections, oversees IRBs and related matters

ONCOLOGY The study of tumors or cancer

OPHTHALMIC Pertaining to the eye

OPTIMAL Best, most favorable or desirable

ORAL

ADMINISTRATION

Given by mouth

ORTHOPEDIC Pertaining to the bones

OSTEOPETROSIS Rare bone disorder characterized by dense bone

OSTEOPOROSISBone disorder characterized by loss of bone leading to increased risk of fracture

OVARIES Female sex glands; female organs which release eggs

PARENTERAL Administration by injection

PATENCY Condition of being open

PATHOGENESIS The initial cause of a disease

PERCUTANEOUS Through the skin

PERFORATION Puncture, tear or hole

PERIPHERAL Not central

PER OS (PO) By mouth

PHARMACOKINETICS Study of the way the body absorbs, distributes and gets rid of a drug

PHASE I Initial study of a new drug in humans to determine limits of tolerance

PHASE II Second phase of study of a new drug intended to obtain initial information

PHASE III Large scale trial to confirm and expand information on safety and usefulness of a new

drug

PHLEBITIS Irritation or inflammation of a vein

PLACEBO An inactive substance which may resemble an active agent but has no medical value

PLACEBO EFFECT Symptom or change of condition seen when a placebo is given; not attributable to an

active drug agent

PLATELETS Small particles in the blood that help with blood clotting

POTENTIAL Possible

POTENTIATE Increase or multiply the effect of a drug or toxin by administration of another drug or toxin

at the same time

POTENTIATOR An agent that helps another agent work better

PRENATAL Before birth

PROPHYLAXIS A drug given to prevent disease or infection

PROSTHESIS Artifical limbs, such as arms and legs

PRN As needed

PROGNOSIS Outlook, probable outcomes

PRONE Lying on the stomach

PROSPECTIVE STUDY Study following patients forward in time

PROTOCOL Plan of study

PROXIMAL Closer to the center of the body, away from the end

PULMONARY Pertaining to the lungs

QD Every day; daily

QID Four times a day

RADIATION THERAPY X-ray or cobalt treatment

RANDOM By chance

RANDOMIZATION Assignment of treatment group by chance, similar to tossing a coin (when there are two

treatment choices)

RBC Red blood cell

RECOMBINANT Formation of new combinations of genes

RECONSTITUTION Putting back together the original parts or elements

RECUR Happen again

REFRACTORY Not responding to treatment

REGENERATION Regrowth of a structure or of lost tissue

REGIMEN Pattern of administering treatment

RELAPSE The return or reappearance of a disease

REMISSION Disappearance of evidence of cancer or other disease

RENAL Pertaining to the kidneys

REPLICABLE Capable of being duplicated

RESECT Remove or cut out (surgically)

RETROSPECTIVE

STUDY

Study looking back over past experience

SARCOMA A type of cancer

SEDATIVE A drug to calm or make less anxious

SEMINOMA A type of testes cancer

SEQUENTIALLY In a row

SOFTWARE Computer program

SOMNOLENCE Sleepiness

SPIROMETER An instrument to measure the amount of air taken into and exhaled from the lungs

STANDARD OF

CARE

Treatment plan which the majority of the medical community would accept as appropriate

STAGING A determination of the extent of the disease

STENOSIS Narrowing of a duct, tube, or one of the heart valves

STOMATITIS Mouth sores; inflammation of the mouth

STRATIFY Arrange in groups for analysis of results (e.g., stratify by age, sex, etc.)

STUPOR Stunned state in which it is difficult to get a response or the attention of the subject

SUBCLAVIAN Under the collarbone

SUBCUTANEOUS Under the skin

SUPINE Lying on the back

SUPPORTIVE CARE General medical care aimed at symptoms, not intended to improve or cure underlying

disease

SYMPTOMATIC Having symptoms

SYNDROME A condition characterized by a set of symptoms

SYSTOLIC Top number in blood pressure; pertaining to contraction phase of heart beat

TERATOGENIC Capable of causing malformations in unborn fetuses

TESTES Male sex glands; male organs which produce sperm

THROMBOSIS Blood clotting within blood vessels

TID Three times a day

TITRATION Gradual alteration of drug dose to determine desired effect or most beneficial strength of

drug

T-LYMPHOCYTES Type of white blood cells involved in immune reactions

TOPICAL Surface; on the skin

TOPICAL ANESTHETIC

Applied to certain area of the skin to reduce pain to specific (limited) area to which applied

TOXICITY Side effects or undesirable effects of a drug

TRANSDERMAL Through the skin

TRANSIENTLY Temporarily

TRAUMA Injury; wound

TREADMILL Walking machine often used to determine heart function

UPTAKE Absorption and incorporation of a substance by living tissue; absorb and incorporate a

substance, taking in of a substance by living tissue

VALVULOPLASTY Plastic repair of a valve, especially of the heart

VARICES Enlarged veins, usually in legs or lining of tube between mouth and stomach

VASOSPASM Narrowing of blood vessels due to spasm of vessel walls

VECTOR A carrier, usually an insect, that carries and transmits disease-causing microorganisms

VENIPUNCTURE Entering vein with a needle, generally through the skin

VERTICAL TRANSMISSION

Spread of disease

WBC White blood cell