



Medical Dictionary

Are you not quite sure what a medical term means?

The alphabetic Medical Dictionary may be able to help:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Aberration	Deviation from the norm
Ablatio	Separation, detachment
Ablatio retinae	Retinal detachment which can occur due to degenerative changes to the retina or vitreous in the form of a tear, or as a result of shrinking of the vitreous without the presence of a tear.
Accommodation	Adjustment of the eye to different distances by changing the curvature of the elastic crystalline lens
Acoustic schwannoma	Benign tumor of the intracranial segment of the eight cranial nerve
Acuity	Visual acuteness or clearness
Adaptation	Adjustment of the eye to different light conditions by contraction or dilation of the pupil
Adenoidectomy	Surgical removal of adenoid glands
Adenoma	Benign tumor of epithelial tissue where glands or gland-like structures are formed
Allergic conjunctivitis	Inflammatory condition of the conjunctiva in response to an allergic stimulus; symptoms usually include red, watering and itchy eyes
Amaurosis	Total blindness in which all sensitivity to light is removed due to the failure of all optical functions
Amblyopia	Functional deficiency with reduction in central visual acuity without any discernible or detectable organic malfunctions of the eye
AMD	Abbreviation for Age-related Macular Degeneration
Ametropia	Defective vision caused by imbalance between the axial length of the eye and the refractive power of the cornea or crystalline lens
Amnesia	Loss of memory
Anamnesis	Medical case history of a patient
Anatomy	Study of the structure of the body
Aneurysm	Sac formed by the dilatation of an artery



Angiography	Radiography of blood vessels after injection of a contrast medium
Aniridia	Absence of the iris
Anisocoria	Condition in which the pupils are not of equal size
Anterior	Relating to front segment of the eye
Antibiotics	Drugs used to inhibit the development of bacteria or to kill them
Antibody	Protein substances capable of neutralizing pathogens that have penetrated the body
Antiphlogistic	Agent used to reduce inflammation
Antiseptic	Agent used to inhibit or neutralize germs that have entered the body via wounds or cuts
Antroscopy	Endoscopic examination of maxillary sinus (antrum of Highmore)
Aorta	Large artery which emerges from left ventricle of the heart and directs blood toward the body
Aphakia	Eye without crystalline lens, e.g. after cataract surgery; the optical power can be achieved by a lens implant, contact lenses or cataract lenses
Aphonia	Inability to produce speech sounds, usually caused by a tumor or by inflammation in the larynx area
Aqueous (humor)	Clear, watery fluid that fills the anterior and posterior chambers of the eye and supplies the crystalline lens with nutrients
Arachnoid(ea)	Middle of the three meninges
Arcus lipoides corneae	Also Arcus senilis; annular, whitish opacity of the corneal periphery
Arteriosclerosis	Deposit of fatty substances with subsequent calcific deposits on the interior wall of the artery
Artery	Blood vessel directing blood away from heart
Arthroscope	Special endoscope which is inserted in joints and allows their internal examination



Asepsis	Endeavor to prevent pathogens from entering wounds by the implementation of various measures
Aspiration	Entry of liquid and gaseous substances into the respiratory system during breathing
Astigmatism	Visual defect caused by an error in the refraction of light by the eye. The incident parallel rays are not fused at one point.
Astrocytoma	Nodular brain tumor
Asymptomatic	Without obvious signs or symptoms of disease
Atrophy	Wasting away of an organ or tissue
Audiogram	Record of the results obtained in audiometry
Audiometry	Measurement of hearing ability
Auditory center	Part of the brain in which hearing impressions are processed.
Auditory nerve	Cranial nerve which transmits hearing impressions from the labyrinth to the auditory center in the brain
Aural	Relating to the ear
Autoclave	Apparatus used for sterilization by water vapor at increased temperatures and high pressure (same principle as pressure cooker)
Avascular	Without blood vessels
Bacilli	Rod-shaped bacteria
Bacteria	Unicellular microorganisms with no defined nucleus, many of which are pathogens
Balancing apparatus (vestibular organ)	Organ in labyrinth that serves to maintain the body's sense of balance
Benign	Property of a tumor: it forces neighboring tissue aside without destroying it and does not form any secondary tumors (metastases), i.e. it is not malignant
Biopsy	Removal of tissue sample from living body for examination purposes



Blood corpuscles	Red (erythrocytes) and white (leukocytes) components of blood as well as blood platelets (thrombocytes)
Blood count	Examination with the microscope and special instruments to determine the number of blood corpuscles and some other features of blood
Blood formation (hemopoiesis)	Production of new blood cells. In adults, red blood cells (erythrocytes) and granulocytes are formed in the red bone marrow, and lymphocytes in lymph nodes and spleen
Blood plasma	Blood fluid consisting of serum and fibrin, but without corpuscles
Blood platelets (thrombocytes)	Smallest blood corpuscles which initiate the cleaning of blood
Blood substitute	Fluid containing components of blood plasma or substances similar to plasma and used to replace lost blood
Bone marrow	Substance in interior of bone. The fatty, yellow marrow fills the cavities of long bones; the red bone marrow is found in flat, short bones and in the ends of long bones and serves for blood formation
Bronchi	Subdivisions into which trachea (windpipe) branches when entering the lung
Bronchography	Radiography of the system of respiratory tracts after contrast medium has been administered
Bronchoscopy	Viewing of trachea and bronchi through an optical system
Buphtalmus	Infant glaucoma, enlargement of eyeball in all directions



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Calcium	Vital metal which plays an important role as a trace element in blood clotting, in the reaction of muscles to stimuli and in heart action, and which is used as a drug to treat allergic conditions
Capillaries	Finest branches of arteries in which the gas exchange takes place
Capsule fibrosis	Formation of fibrous tissue on the posterior lens capsule subsequent to cataract surgery
Capsulorhexis	Technique used in cataract surgery; in the anterior lens capsule a sharp cannula is used to create a circular opening through which the lens can be removed by suction
Capsulotomy	Opening of the lens capsule
Carcinogens	Cancer-causing chemical substances
Carcinoma	<i>Malignant tumor derived from epithelial tissue</i>
Cataract	Partial or total clouding (opacity) of the crystalline lens, leading to visual impairment or blindness
Catheter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Elastic tube fed into the bladder via the urethra. 2) Fine tube which the physician can push into any area of the body via blood vessels
CE Symbol	Legally binding certification of medical devices sold in the European Union since June 13, 1998
Central artery obstruction	Sudden, painless impairment of vision or blindness in one eye caused by obstruction of the central retinal artery
Central vein obstruction	Sudden blockage of the retinal vein with blood clots, generally leading to painless, irreversible blindness in the eye affected
Cerebellum	Part of the brain lying under the cerebrum, important for the interaction and coordination of body movements
Cerebral sclerosis	Hardening or narrowing of the brain's arteries
Cerebrospinal fluid (Liquor cerebrospinalis)	Fluid filling the brain and spinal cord and acting as a cushion
Cerebrum	The larger part of the brain comprising two hemispheres which plays a vital role in memory and intelligence



Chalcosis lentis	A cataract caused by excessive intraocular copper, also known as the sunflower cataract
Chemotherapy	Use of special drugs to kill microorganisms and cells of malignant tumors without sustained damage to the body's cells
Cholesteatoma	Benign growth in the area of the cerebellum (rare) or in the middle ear
Chordectomy	Partial or total removal of a vocal cord
Chorioretinitis	Inflammation of the choroid and retina
Choroid	Middle layer of the eye between the sclera and the retina
Choroiditis	Inflammation of the choroid
Chronic	Developing slowly, often unnoticed
Cilia	Eyelashes
Ciliary body	Part of the eye with a muscle used to adjust the curvature of the crystalline lens
Cocci (singular: coccus)	Spheroidal bacteria
Cochlea	Spiral-shaped part of inner ear
Cochlear implant	If the sensory cells in inner ear have been destroyed (nerve paths intact), this artificial "inner ear" consisting of tiny electrodes is inserted in the cochlea to stimulate the nerve ends
Collagen	Protein providing ductility and elasticity in muscles, bones, cartilage, ligaments and tendons
Computer tomography (CT)	X-ray technique performed with computer support in which the body is imaged in layers
Cones	Sensory cells of the retina vital for day and distance vision
Coniotomy	Emergency operation performed to rapidly remove the risk of suffocation caused by obstruction of the respiratory tract and if intubation or tracheotomy are not possible
Conjunctiva	Elastic mucous membrane covering the front of the eyeball and lining the inner surface of the eyelids.



Conjunctivitis	Inflammation of the conjunctiva which can be caused by various viruses
Connective tissue	Generic term for various types of tissue which are usually present in the body as "filler" tissue between organs
Contact lenses	Transparent glass or plastic lenses placed directly on the cornea instead of wearing glasses
Contrast medium	Gaseous or liquid substance internally administered before an X-ray examination to make structures discernible which are not normally visible on an X-ray
Contusion bulbi (contusion of the eyeball, orbital contusion)	Mechanical injury to the eyeball (usually caused by a blow) which can lead to a considerable increase in intraocular pressure, bleeding into the anterior chamber, damage to the trabecular meshwork and retinal tears
Cornea	Transparent front layer of the eye
Cornea	Transparent front of eye which has both an optical and protective function
Corneal transplant (keratoplasty)	Corneal graft from the eye of a dead donor onto the diseased eye of a living patient
Corpus ciliare	Ciliary body consisting of the ciliary muscle, ciliary folds and ciliary processes
Cranial	Toward the head
Crystalline lens	Elastic part of eye lying behind pupil which changes its curvature to allow accommodation to different distances. Its light-refracting structure is responsible for optical imaging in the eye; consist of the lens body, epithelium, and fiber, lies between the iris and the vitreous, and is held in position by the ciliary fibers on the ciliary body. The lens nucleus is formed by lens fibers; the accommodation of the lens is achieved by its elasticity
Cyclophotocoagulation	Glaucoma therapy in which aqueous production is reduced by coagulation of the ciliary body
Cyst	Any closed cavity or sac filled with liquid or semi-solid material



Dacryostenosis	Congenital or acquired narrowing of a lacrimal/nasal duct which normally transports tears from the eye to the nose. The result is an obstruction of tear (lacrimal) fluid. Normally occurs in children, but disappears of its own accord at the age of 2-3 years. In adults the blockage can result from chronic sinusitis or as a result of trauma. Gentle massage of the tear gland 2-3 times a day for several months can open the duct again.
Deafmutism	Type of muteness in which the patient possesses intact speech organs, but has not learnt to speak due to congenital deafness
Deafness	Inability to hear. The cause always lies in the labyrinth. A distinction is made between absolute deafness in which the patient is no longer able to hear anything at all, and practical deafness in which individual noises and sounds can be perceived
Dermatologist	Skin specialist
Diabetes mellitus	Age-induced diabetes in which blood sugar increases as a result of an insulin deficiency; retinal damage normally occurs as a late consequence of the disorder
Diabetic retinopathy	A principal cause of blindness in the presence of diabetes. Retinal disorders result from negative effects on the blood vessels supplying the retina. Swollen retinal vessels which allow fluid to seep into the retina can normally be identified in eye examinations. Poorly controlled insulin-dependent diabetes and/or high blood pressure are the greatest risk factors. The symptoms include reduced visual acuity and color perception.
Diaphanoscopy	Illumination of a region of the body using a strong light source
Diplopia	Double vision resulting from irregular refraction in the eye or from deviation of the visual axis from the fixation point
Disphagia	Difficulty swallowing food
Dura (abbreviation for Dura mater)	A tough, fibrous membrane forming the outer covering of the brain: the hard meninges
Dysgnathia	Abnormalities extending beyond the teeth to include the jaw
Dysphonia	Altered voice production as a result of disorders of the larynx



Edema	Swelling due to the accumulation of fluid in tissue
Edema of the glottis	Sudden swelling of the mucous membrane of the larynx
Electrocardiogram (ECG)	Measuring the electrical activity of the heart either at rest or under duress
Electroencephalogram (EEG)	Measuring the electrical activity of the brain (brain waves)
Emmetropia	Normal vision, state of normal refraction of light in the eye
Endophthalmitis	Inflammation of the entire eye
Endoscope	Optical instrument, either rigid or flexible, for observing body cavities
Endoscopy in medicine	Identification of pathologies in the mucous membrane or of pathogenically relevant variants of inflammatory diseases
Endothelium	Epithelial tissue; retina
Entropion	Inversion of the lid rims toward the eyeball. It is usually the bottom lid which is affected
Ependyma	Cellular membrane lining the central canal of the spinal cord and the brain
Epidemic parotiditis	Inflammation of the parotid gland, also commonly known as mumps
Epidermis	Top layer of skin
Epipharynx	The nasal part of the pharynx
Epithelium	Single-layer or multilayer coating of cells lining inner or outer body surfaces
Esophageal carcinoma	Cancer of the alimentary canal
Esophageal diverticulum (a)	Sac-like projection(s) from the alimentary canal
Esophageal stenosis	Narrowing of the alimentary canal
Esophagitis	Inflammation of the alimentary canal
Esophagus	Alimentary canal
Ethmoid air cells	Air-filled cavities in the ethmoid bone communicating with the nose



Ethmoid bone	Skull bone in the area of the eye socket and nasal cavity
Eustachian tube	Tube-like connection between nasopharynx and the middle ear which serves to compensate for fluctuations in pressure
Exostosis	Knob-like projection from bone. Usually harmless and does not cause any discomfort until it leads to restrictions in movement or presses on a nerve
Exstirpation	Surgical removal of (diseased) organ, part of an organ or a well- localized tumor
Extracapsular cataract extraction	Removal of the crystalline lens, leaving the posterior lens capsule intact. Subsequently, an artificial intraocular lens (IOL) can be implanted. About 10 weeks are required for complete recovery and healing.
Eye injury by chemicals	There are two main types of eye injury by chemicals: by acids and by bases, with the latter being much more serious. Injury of the eye by alkali results in colliquative necrosis. Injury by bases leads to coagulation necrosis. Both types of injury require immediate rinsing of the eye with water and consultation of a doctor.
Eyeball	Structure consisting of different layers lying in the eye socket. Together with the eye muscles, eyelids, conjunctiva, lachrymal apparatus and optic nerve, it forms the visual organ.
Facial nerve	Cranial nerve which supplies the facial muscles with stimuli and hence triggers facial movements
Facialis	Abbreviation for Nervus facialis (facial nerve)
Fascia	Sheet of fibrous tissue covering individual organs
Fistula	Tube-like connection between body cavities, hollow organs or the body surface
Fixation	Alignment of the line of vision so that the visual image of the object is incident on the fovea centralis.
Fovea centralis	See yellow spot
Frenulum of the tongue	Mobile band of tissue between the bottom of the tongue and the floor of the mouth
Frontal sinusitis	Infection of one or both frontal sinuses



Fundus

Inner back surface of the eyeball lined by the retina

Fundus coagulation

Thermal therapy of retina using laser or xenon radiation



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Gas sterilization	Sterilization technique in which germs are killed by toxic gases
Gauze	Wide-meshed cotton material used, for example, for wound dressings
Glaucoma	General term for disorders in which increased intraocular pressure leads to destruction of the optic nerve, subsequently leading to a reduction in the size of the visual field and acuity and hence ultimately to blindness; most frequent cause of blindness in industrialized countries.
Glossitis	Inflammatory change to the tongue's mucous membrane
Glottis	Opening between the vocal folds of the larynx, the varying constriction of which serves for voice production
Gonioscope	Contact lens required to nullify the refracting power of the crystalline lens in glaucoma surgery
Goniotomy	Also trabeculectomy; surgery to treat glaucoma in which, with the physician monitoring the procedure through the gonioscope, a fistula is created between the anterior chamber of the eye and the subconjunctival space through a subscleral excision of a portion of the trabecular meshwork, allowing the outflow of aqueous
Hemangioma	Benign tumor resulting from a proliferation of blood vessels
Hemeralopia	Inability to see as distinctly in bright light as in reduced light, with good vision in twilight or night conditions
Hemianopia	Loss of vision for one half of the visual field of one or both eyes
Hemoglobin	Red pigment of blood to which oxygen is bound until it is released in the tissue
Histology	Branch of medicine concerned with the microscopic study of tissue structure
Hypermetropia	Long-sightedness resulting from fusion of parallel rays behind the retina which can be corrected by a convex lens
Hyphema	Accumulation of blood in the anterior chamber of the eye after injury or infection
Hypopharynx	Bottommost area of the pharynx
Hypophysis	Medical term for pituitary gland



Hypophysis

Hypothalamus



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Thyroid gland

Part of the brain below the cerebrum which secretes substances that control metabolism



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Immune system	The body's defense system against alien substances and cells. Its individual components interact in an extraordinarily complicated way
Immunity	Total insensitivity to a disease such as that often resulting after recovery from an infectious disease
Impaired hearing	Poor hearing caused by a disorder in the conduction of sound in the ear or by a pathological abnormality in the labyrinth or in the auditory nerve
Incision	Surgical cutting of living tissue. Term also used for the opening of a an accumulation of pus (abscess)
Incubation period	In an infectious disease, the time between the entry of the pathogen into the body and the occurrence of the first symptoms
Incus	Middle part of the ossicular chain which conducts sound waves form the tympanic membrane to the labyrinth (also commonly known as the anvil)
Infection	Entry into the body of microorganisms which cause disease
Inferior	Below the macula
Infundibulotomy	Endonasal widening of the ethmoidal infundibulum
Infundibulum	Funnel connecting the hypophysis directly with the hypothalamus
Infusion	Slow administering of fluids to the body, mostly via a vein, less frequently under the skin or into the intestine
Inhalation	Breathing-in of gases and vaporous fluids for the purpose of healing
Inspiration	Act of breathing in
Intensive care medicine	Treatment of life-threatening diseases and incidents in the best surroundings possible and using the best staff and apparatus available
Intracapsular cataract extraction	Removal of the entire crystalline lens, including the lens capsule
Intraocular lens	Small, transparent plastic lenses inserted in the eye to replace the crystalline lens after its removal by surgery



Intraocular pressure	Pressure acting on the inner wall of eye, normally measuring approx. 17 mm Hg.
Intubation	Insertion of a special tube in the trachea or a main bronchus
Intubation anesthesia	Anesthesia with endotracheal intubation
IOL	Abbreviation for i ntra o cular I ens
Iridectomy	Partial removal of the iris, also used as a synonym for iridotomy
Iridocyclitis	Inflammation of the iris and the ciliary body
Iridotomy	Surgical procedure performed in the treatment of glaucoma, in which a small hole is cut in the iris to create an outflow for the aqueous and hence reduce intraocular pressure
Iris	Colored part of the eye surrounding the pupil
Iris bombé	Bulging of the iris occurring in glaucoma and caused by a blockage of aqueous outflow
Iritis	Inflammation of the iris



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Keratitis	Inflammation of the cornea
Keratoconjunctivitis	Inflammation of cornea and conjunctiva
Keratoconus	Conical deformation of the cornea
Keratoplasty	Corneal transplant; either a living human cornea or a fresh or conserved cornea from a dead donor is used
Labial	Pertaining to the lips
Labyrinth	The part of the hearing organ next to the middle ear in which hearing impressions are perceived and transmitted to the brain; also location of the vestibular (balancing) system. Also known as the inner ear
Labyrinth	Inner ear with hearing and balancing organs
Labyrinthine deafness	Impaired hearing resulting from disease of inner ear
Landmarks	Known anatomical structures used for reliable orientation
Laryngeal carcinoma	The most frequent malignant tumor in the neck area
Laryngeal polyp	Benign growth on mucous membrane of the larynx
Laryngectomy	Total or partial surgical removal of larynx
Laryngitis	Inflammation of the mucous membrane in the larynx
Laryngoparalysis (laryngoplegia)	Paralysis of the vocal cords inside the larynx.
Laryngoscopy	Examination of the larynx with an optical instrument
Larynx	Organ located at the entrance to the trachea (windpipe) which prevents food particles from entering the trachea during the swallowing process and which is important for the generation of sound with its vocal cords
Laser coagulation	Searing of body tissue with the aid of laser rays
Laser rays (beams)	Strongly bundled light rays with extremely high energy
Latent	Hidden, concealed
Lateral	Lying to the side, to the outside
Lens extraction	Removal of the crystalline lens (general)



Lens implant

Insertion of an artificial lens, primarily after cataract surgery

Lenticonus

Conical projection of the anterior or posterior surface of the lens, leading to refraction anomalies and visual impairment

Limbus

Shallow groove in the transition from the cornea to the sclera

Logopedics

The scientific study and treatment of speech defects

Luxation

Displacement of crystalline lens, e.g. after a severe knock



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Macula lutea	Medical term for the yellow spot on the retina of the eye
Macular degeneration	Damage to a part of the macula
Macular edema	Inflammatory swelling of the retina in the area of the macula
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)	Type of tomography in which sectional images are obtained of the body without the use of contrast media
Malignant	Property of a tumor to destroy neighboring tissue and form secondary tumors (metastases)
Malignant tumor	Also known as malignant growth, neoplasm or cancer.. This malignant proliferation of tissue forms secondary growths and must be removed in its entirety, if possible
Malleus	Part of the ossicular chain lying directly on the tympanic membrane (also known in everyday English as the "hammer")
Mastoid process	Projection from the temporal bone
Mastoidectomy	Surgical opening of the mastoid antrum via retroauricular access and removal of parts of the mastoidal process displaying inflammatory changes
Mastoiditis	Inflammation of the mucous membrane in the bone lying behind the ear
Maxilla	Upper jawbone
Maxillary sinus	Cavity communicating with the nose in the upper jawbone (superior maxilla)
Maxillary sinusitis	Form of sinusitis affecting the maxillary sinus in the upper jawbone
Maxillary sinusitis	Infection of a maxillary sinus
Medial	Lying toward the center
Median nerve	Nerve which supplies some underarm, hand and finger muscles with stimuli
Mediastinoscopy	Inspection of the anterior upper mediastinum under intubation anesthesia and using a mediastinoscope, with the possibility of biopsy



Mediastinum	Central area of thoracic cavity behind the sternum
Melanin	Dark pigment which colors the skin and hair
Melanoma	Benign or malignant growth
Membranotomy	Severing of membranes
Meninges	Membranes covering the brain and spinal cord in three layers
Meningioma	Tumor arising from the meninges
Meningitis	Inflammation of the meninges
Metastases	Secondary tumor in a different area of the body than the initial tumor and often far removed from it
Microorganisms	Microscopic organisms such as bacteria and tiny fungi (also see Viruses)
Middle ear	Area in skull containing air, in which sound waves are transmitted from the tympanic membrane to the inner ear by means of the ossicular chain
Middle ear inflammation (otitis media)	Inflammation of the ear beyond the tympanic membrane
Middle nose concha	Part of the ethmoid bone and the most important landmark for endoscopic paranasal sinus surgery. It represents the boundary between the cribriform plate and the roof of the ethmoid bone
Minimally invasive	Causing minimum injury to the tissue
Mixrospores	Tiny fungi that can cause infectious skin diseases
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging performed for diagnostic purposes to display tumors and the surrounding soft tissue
Mucocele	Accumulation of secretion in a body cavity. A change of this type is often found in the paranasal sinus.
Mucociliary apparatus	Ensures regulated transportation of secretions
Mycosis	Any disease caused by fungus
Mydriasis	Dilation of pupil of the eye, i.e. diameter >5 mm, by stimuli, excitement or paralysis



Myopia	Pronounced shortsightedness with changes to the retina; parallel rays are fused in front of the retina. Possible causes include excessively high refracting power of the crystalline lens or an overly long eyeball
Myringitis	Inflammation of the tympanic membrane
Myringoplasty	Closure of a perforation in the tympanic membrane using a fascia transplant
Nasal	Inwards, toward the nose
Nasal bone	Skull bone supporting the bone
Nasal polyps	Growths on the mucous membrane of the nose and paranasal sinuses. Polyps are benign, mushroom-like protrusions
Nasal tampon	Insertion of gauze or foam material in the nostril to stop severe bleeding
Nasopharynx	Nose/throat area
Necrosis	Localized death of tissue due to an interruption of blood supply
Necrotizing	Causing tissue death
Neurinoma (schwannoma)	Benign tumor of the nerve sheath
Neuritis	Inflammation of nerves in the brain or spinal cord
Neurofibroma	Benign tumor arising from the nerve sheaths
Neurogenic	Arising from or caused by the nervous system
Neuroglia	Covering and supporting tissue of the nervous system
Neuroma	Nodular tumor. Unlike a neurinoma, a neuroma arises on the nerve itself
Neuroretinitis	Inflammation of the optic nerve and its surroundings
Nodules on vocal cords	Thickening of the mucous membrane on the vocal fold, usually due to excessive use



Obliteration	Closure of a body cavity or a vessel
Obstruction	Closure or clogging of a hollow organ or vessel
Occult	Hidden, concealed
Olfactometry	Testing the sense of smell
Olfactory center	Area of brain in which impressions of smell are processed
Ophthalmologist	Eye specialist
Ophthalmology	Branch of medicine dealing with the eye
Optic atrophy	Compression of the optic nerve by such conditions as glaucoma and trauma; the compression leads to wasting (atrophy) of the optic nerve
Optic disk	Spot on retina containing no light receptors. Here, the nerve fibers leave the eyeball and fuse to become the optic nerve
Optic neuritis	Inflammation of the optic nerve
Optical apparatus of the eye	Consists of cornea, anterior chamber, crystalline lens and vitreous
Ora serrata	Jagged rim of the retina
Orbit of eye	Bony cavity containing the eyeball
Ossicles (Ossicular chain)	System of small bones in the middle ear (hammer (malleus), anvil (incus), and stirrup (stapes) which transmit sound waves from tympanic membrane (eardrum) to the labyrinth
Osteoporosis	Disease of the skeletal system with increased proneness to fractures
Osteosarcoma	Most common malignant tumor of the bone
Osteosynthesis	Internal fixation of a fracture by means of a mechanical device such as plates, screws, clips and wires
Osteotomy	Surgical cutting of a bone with a chisel or saw
Ostitis	Inflammation of a bone
Ostium	Opening, entry



Otalgia	Pain in the ear and its surroundings as a result of pathological processes
Othematoma	Detachment of skin from the cartilage of the external ear as a result of trauma
Otitis externa	Inflammation of external ear
Otitis media	Inflammation of middle ear
Otorhinolaryngology	Ear-Nose-Throat medicine (abbreviated to ENT)
Otosclerosis	Hardening of the bony parts of the middle and inner ear. The mobility of the stapes footplate in the oval window is frequently affected.
Pannus	Granulation tissue that invades the cornea from the conjunctiva in response to inflammation
Pansinusitis	Simultaneous inflammation of all paranasal sinuses
Papilla nervi optici	Front part of optic disk
Papilloma	Usually benign tumor of the epithelium
Paracentesis	Incision of the tympanic membrane to drain off fluid which has accumulated as a result of inflammation in the middle ear
Paranasal sinuses	Air-filled bone cavities which are lined with mucous membrane and which communicate with the nose: maxillary sinus, frontal sinus, sphenoidal sinus and ethmoidal air cells
Paresis of facial nerve	Total or partial paralysis of facial movements due to damage to the facial nerve (Nervus facialis)
Parotid gland	Large salivary gland situated in front of the ear. The saliva produced by it is discharged opposite the maxillary teeth in the mouth
Parotiditis	Purulent (i.e. with discharge of pus) inflammation of the saliva gland in front of the ear
Pars plana	Area between the ora serrata and the limbus
Pathogen	Any disease-producing microorganism
Perforation	Making a hole in an organ or body cavity



Perichondritis	Inflammation of the external ear
Perichondrium	Cartilage membrane
Perimetry	Technique used to determine the extent of the visual field
Periosteum	The thick, fibrous membrane covering the surface of a bone, important for its nutrition and growth
Periosteum	Membrane covering bone
Periostitis	Inflammation of membrane covering bone
Peripheral	Toward the outside or edge
Peripheral nervous system	Totality of nerves not belonging to the central nervous system, i.e. all nerves branching from the brain or spinal cord into the body
Phacoemulsification	Procedure for removing the crystalline lens in cataract surgery using a special ultrasonic probe which generates approx. 40,000 vibrations per second and shatters and aspirates the lens. Benefit: only one small incision necessary
Pharyngeal tonsil	Structure consisting of glandular tissue on the roof of the pharynx
Pharyngitis	Inflammation of the pharynx
Pharynx	Cavity at the back of the mouth
Phlegmon	Serious inflammation spreading in all directions and caused by bacteria
Phonasthenia	Easily fatiguing, weak voice without pathological cause
Photocoagulation	Thermal denaturation of tissue by the application of radiation
Phototoxicity	Triggering of toxic effects on tissue by photochemical reactions during the application of radiation
Pia mater	Innermost of the three meninges immediately covering the brain and spinal cord
Pigment	Colored substance (melanin) in the cells of skin, hair and iris of the eye
Pituitary gland (hypophysis)	Important hormone gland found at the base of the skull



Plasma cells	Cells found in various tissues which can form immunoglobulins and antibodies and are hence extremely important for the body's immune system
Pleomorphous	Having different forms at different stages
Polyneuritis	Inflammation of the peripheral nervous system
Polyp	Benign protrusion from mucous membrane of a hollow organ
Polyposis	Presence of several polyps
Posterior	Toward the back of the eye
Posterior chamber	Absorbs the aqueous produced by the ciliary body
Posterior chamber lenses	Intraocular lenses inserted in the empty capsule sac of the natural crystalline lens subsequent to extracapsular lens extraction
Postoperative v	After surgery
Potassium	Metal, traces of which are required for the transmission of nerve pulses and for muscle movement
Preoperative	Before surgery
Presbyopia	Visual defect resulting from advancing age in which close-up objects can no longer be seen clearly due to a decrease in the elasticity of the crystalline lens. Starts at about the age of 40
Progenia, prognathism	Malformation of the jaw in which the lower jaw is too small compared to the upper jaw
Proliferation	Excessive cell growth
Prophylactic	Preventive
Pruriginous	Itchy
Psychic	Pertaining to the psyche or to the mind
Psychogenic	Caused by psychic factors
Psychological	Of the mind, mental
Psychosomatic	Bodily symptoms of psychic (mental) origin



Pupil

Black aperture in the eye surrounded by colored iris



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Radial nerve	Nerve which supplies a large number of arm and hand muscles with stimuli
Radiotherapy	Use primarily of X-rays to combat or destroy malignant tumors
Reactive	Resulting from a reaction
Recessive	Covered by other (dominant) features, receding
Recurrent laryngeal nerve	A nerve running along the back surface of the thyroid gland; important for voice formation
Reflux esophagitis	Inflammation of the mucous membrane of the esophagus caused by the return low of gastric acid from the stomach
Refractive surgery	Surgical procedure on the cornea to improve vision
Relapse	Recurrence of a disease after apparent recovery
Respiratory	Pertaining to breathing
Retina	Light-sensitive layer at the back of the eye, from which the optic nerve travels to the brain
Retina	Innermost nerve layer of the eye, consisting of a blind and a light-sensitive part (pars optica); the pars optica contains the ganglions, sensory cells and supporting cells
Retinitis	Inflammation of the retina
Retinopathy	Disease of the retina or the fundus without inflammation
Retrograde	From behind
Revascularization	Formation of new vessels
Rhinitis	Inflammation of nose, also known as the common cold
Rhinophyma	Enlargement of the nose as a result of skin disease, e.g. acne
Rhinoplasty	Surgical restructuring of the nose structure, taking both functional and esthetic aspects into account
Rhinoscopy	Examining the nostril with an instrument



Rods

Special cells of the retina containing the substance rhodopsin (visual purple) which is vital for twilight and night vision

Rudimentary

Not fully formed or developed



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Saddle nose	Saddle-like depression in the bridge of the nose caused either by injury or by softening of the bone
Sarcoma	Extremely malignant tumor arising from connective tissue
Schlemm's canal	Situated on the anterior border and inner wall of the sclera; connected to veins and lymph system of the eyeball which permit aqueous outflow
Scintigram (also scintiscan)	Image obtained using the technique of scintigraphy
Scintigraphy	Method of examination in which a recording is made of how radioactive substances administered beforehand are deposited in certain organs and tissues in the body
Sclera	The tough outer white coating of the eyeball
Sclerosis	Pathological hardening of tissue. The hardening is generally the result of an increase in connective tissue with subsequent calcification (hardening)
Sclerotic	Hardened
Scotoma	Area of varying size and shape within the visual field in which vision is absent or impaired. First sign of glaucoma
Semi-malignant tumor	Semi-malignant growth which does not normally form secondary tumors (metastases)
Septum deviation	Deviation of the septum of the nose from the bisecting line
Serous	Consisting predominantly of serum
Sialadenitis	Inflammation of a salivary gland
Siderosis bulbi	Deposition of waste products of foreign bodies containing iron. Consequences: patchy, brownish clouding of the crystalline lens, greenish discoloring of the iris, and increase in intraocular pressure due to damage to trabecular meshwork
Sinus	Anatomical term for dilatations in blood vessels and air-filled bone cavities, e.g. paranasal sinuses
Sinuscopy	Examination of the paranasal sinuses with an endoscope
Sinusitis	Acute or chronic inflammation of paranasal sinuses
Skull base	Skull bones on which the brain lies and which form the bony roof of the nasopharynx



Skull base fracture	Breakage of the cranial (skull) bone lying under the brain
Slit lamp	Lamp which emits a slit of light consisting of parallel rays, used to examine the anterior segment of the eye and the refractive ocular media
Soft palate	Posterior, mobile part of the palate
Somatic	Pertaining to the body
Sonography	Special type of examination using ultrasound
Sphenoidal sinus	Cavity communicating with the nose in a bone of the skull base
Spinal cord	Elongated, approximately cylindrical part of central nervous system that lies in the vertebral canal and which connects the brain with the peripheral nervous system and is of major importance for reflexes
Spinal nerve	Nerve which emerges from the spinal cord into the body and either triggers muscle movement as a motor nerve or, as a sensory nerve, transmits sensations of touch and pain to the brain
Squamous cell carcinoma	Malignant tumor of the uppermost layers of the skin
Squamous epithelium	Single-layer or multilayer epithelium consisting of flat, plate-like structures
Stapedectomy	Removal of the posterior part of the stapes footplate
Stapedotomy	Perforation of the footplate for the subsequent attachment of a prosthesis
Stapes	Part of the ossicular chain which conducts sound from the tympanic membrane to the labyrinth. Also commonly known as the stirrup
Stenosis	Narrowing of hollow organs
Sterile	Germ-free
Sternum	Breast bone
Stomatitis	Inflammatory changes to the mucous membrane of the mouth
Strabismus	Squint



Subacute	Between acute and chronic
Subarachnoid spaces	System of cavities and spaces in the brain and around the brain, filled with cerebrospinal fluid (see above)
Subarachnoidal bleeding	Accumulation of blood in the slit between the arachnoid membrane and the pia mater. Almost always the result of a ruptured aneurysm
Subdural hematoma	Hemorrhage under the outer meninges usually caused by accidents
Superior	Above the macula
Surditas	Latin for deafness
Symptomatic	Pertaining to or of the nature of a symptom
Synechia(e)	Disease of the eye in which the iris adheres to the crystalline lens or to the cornea
Systemic	Pertaining to or affecting a complete organ system or the entire organism
Tapetoretinal degeneration	Deterioration of the pigment layer of the retina
Temporal	Lying beside the macula in the direction of the temple
Temporal artery	Anatomical term for the large artery in the temple area
Teratogenic	Producing a malformation
Thyroid gland	Hormone-producing gland lying in front of the trachea
Thyroidectomy	Surgical removal of the entire thyroid gland
Tinnitus	Noise in the ears only discernible to the person affected
Tonsillectomy	Surgical removal of the tonsils and their capsules
Tonsils	Pair of node-like organs on the boundary between the mouth cavity and the nasopharynx area which help to combat infections
Trabecular meshwork	A pore-like structure in the chamber angle of the eye
Trabeculectomy	See Goniotomy
Trachea	Windpipe



Tracheitis	Inflammation of the windpipe
Tracheobronchitis	Inflammation of the windpipe and bronchi
Tracheotomy	Surgical opening of the trachea (windpipe) as an emergency measure if there is an acute risk of suffocation
Trachoma	Bacterial infection of the conjunctiva and cornea leading to blindness, found primarily in tropical and subtropical countries
Traumatic	Resulting from force or injury
Trigeminal nerve	Nerve with three divisions, responsible for transmitting feelings in the face area to the brain
Trismus	Obstruction of opening of mouth
Tritanomaly	Yellow-blue weakness, blue blindness, impaired color perception in the blue area
Trocar	A sharply pointed surgical instrument with a handle and three-cornered tip and inserted in a tube, used to puncture a cavity in order to remove fluid, etc.
Tympanic cavity	Space between the tympanic membrane and the labyrinth
Tympanic membrane	Membrane between the external auditory canal and the middle ear (also commonly known as the eardrum)
Tympanic ventilation	Insertion of a tube in the tympanic membrane to ventilate and dry the tympanic cavity
Tympanoplasty	Surgical procedure performed to improve hearing in the presence of defects of the tympanic membrane or the ossicular chain



Ulnar nerve	Nerve which supplies parts of the underarm and hand
Ultrasound	Sound waves whose frequency is so high that they can no longer be perceived by the human ear
Ultrasound examination	Painless and safe examination technique, in which ultrasonic waves are sent into the body. The recording of the waves reflected back again provides a considerable amount of information that can be used for diagnostic purposes
Ultraviolet rays (UV rays, UV light)	Short-wave region of the spectrum
Uvea	Vascular layer of the eye consisting of iris, ciliary body, choroid
Vagus nerve	Nerve which belongs to the vegetative nervous system and supplies the muscles of the heart, blood vessels, lung, esophagus and gastrointestinal tract. It is part of the parasympathetic nervous system, i.e. it increases excretion and digestion and inhibits blood pressure and heart beat)t
Vegetative	Pertaining to the vegetative nervous system
Vegetative (autonomic) nervous system	That part of the nervous system which represents the motor innervation (stimulation) of smooth muscles, cardiac muscle and gland cells
Venous	Pertaining to a vein
Vertigo	Dizziness caused by a disorder in the balancing (vestibular) apparatus in the labyrinth
Vestibular organ	Balancing organ
Vignetting	Undesired shadows in optical instruments
Viral	Caused by viruses
Virulent	Particularly aggressive with regard to contagiousness and reproduction
Viruses	Minute pathogens which reproduce by intervening in the metabolism of special cells of the infected organism and by making these cells produce numerous new viruses. The cells affected are destroyed in the process
Visual acuity	Acuteness or clearness of vision



Visual centers	Areas of the brain in which the fibers of the optic nerve end, i.e. where visual impressions are perceived
Visual field	The area visible at one time with the unmoving eye
Vitrectomy	Partial to almost complete removal of the vitreous; replacement of the vitreous either by an electrolyte solution or temporarily by silicone oil
Vitreous (humor)	Corpus vitreum; lies between the crystalline lens and retina, consisting of vitreous gelatin, up to 90% of which is composed of fluid
Vitreous membrane	Non-transparent membrane in posterior vitreous area
Vocal cords	Elastic bands in the vocal folds of the larynx which enclose the glottis and are used for voice production
Vocal folds	Folds in the larynx containing the vocal cords and muscles



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YAG laser coagulation

Removal of capsule fibrosis using a YAG laser

Yellow spot

Spot on the retina on which there is an accumulation of cones, explaining why it is also known as the "spot of sharpest vision" or the fovea centralis

Yellow spot (Macula lutea)

Spot of sharpest vision on the retina

Zonular fibers

Part of the ciliary body forming the elastic suspension apparatus of the crystalline lens

Zygomatic bone

Bone which forms the prominence of the cheek



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