

Culture Advantage
Anatomy and Medical Terminology for Interpreters

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GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM TERMINOLOGY

absorption	The movement of food from the small intestine into the cells of the body.	Alimentary	Alimen – nourishment. Refers to the gastrointestinal or digestive tract
acute	A sudden onset, lasts for a short time. Chronic – lasts a long time.	Barium Enema	Lower GI series. Barium is given rectally so the organs would show up on the xrays
aerophagia	Swallowing too much air causing gas and belching	Fecal Occult Blood Test	Testing the stool for blood
allergy	Inability to tolerate certain foods or chemicals	Flatus	Passing gas through the rectum
anastomosis	Surgery to connect or reconnect two body parts	Gastroenterologist	A doctor who specializes in digestive diseases
Anal atresia or anorectal atresia	Absence of the anal opening	Cirrho (orange)	Liver disease associated with jaundice
Abdominal adhesions	When tissues and organs “stick” together	eructation	belching
ascites	Abnormal buildup of fluid in the abdomen	Asymptomatic	Disease is not showing any symptoms
bariatrics	Bar –weight latro –treatment lc – pertains to	Icterus or jaundice	Yellow coloring
Bowel Prep	Emptying the colon by enemas and laxatives to prepare for examination	diarrhea	Liquid stools
Calculi, litho	Stones or solid clumps	Diverticulum	A weakened area or pouch in the colon.
Digestion	breaking down food into simple substances	Emesis	vomiting
Constipation	stool becomes hard	Continenence	The ability to hold in a

	and dry.			bowel movement or urine
Enema	Liquid administered rectally		Enteral Nutrition	Provide nourishment directly into the stomach or intestine
Enterostomal Therapy Nurse or ETN	A nurse who specializes in the care of patients with ostomy.		GERD Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease	Flow of the stomach's contents back up into the esophagus.
H2 blocker	Medicines that reduce the amount of acid in the stomach		Helicobacter pylori or H. pylori	Bacteria that can damage the lining of the stomach causing ulcers
Hernia	An internal organ pushes through or pouches through the wall of the abdomen		Hydrochloric Acid	Acid made in the stomach
Fistula	Abnormal opening between two surfaces		Parotid gland	One of the salivary glands.
Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)	Chronic irritation and ulcers of the GI tract		Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)	GI tract is sensitive to food, stress, gas, etc. Spastic colon.
Parenteral Nutrition or TPN	Providing nutrition intravenously		Percutaneous Transhepatic Cholangiography	A dye is injected through the abdomen and xrays taken to visualize the liver and biliary organs
Volvulus	A twisting of the stomach or large intestine		Varices	Stretched veins that can bleed easily
Upper GI Series or Barium Swallow	X-rays of the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum after patient swallows barium. Barium allows the organs to show up on the xray		Upper GI Endoscopy or EGD	Looking into the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum with an endoscope. Also called esophagogastroduodenoscopy

ANATOMY-RELATED TERMS

Epiglottis	Prevents food from entering larynx and trachea		Intestine	Bowel; small intestine and large intestine
Duodenum	First part of intestine		colon	Large intestine

Colon	Large intestine	cecum	Beginning of the large intestine, right lower abdomen
Gallbladder (cholecysto)	Stores bile. Empties into the duodenum through the common bile duct.	jejunum	Middle part of the small intestine
pancreas	Produces insulin. Empties into duodenum.	liver	Secrets bile.
appendix	Pouch at the end of cecum	Saliva (spit, slobber)	Watery substance in the mouth for lubrication and to begin digestion of foods. Contains enzymes.
ileum	End portion of small Intestine.	peritoneum	Inside lining of the abdominal cavity
laparo	abdomen	sigmoid	Lowest part of the colon that leads to the rectum
pharynx	throat	entero	intestine
gastro	stomach	lipid	"fats"
hepato	liver	insulin	Produced in the pancreas. Regulates sugar in the blood.
chole	Refers to bile; digestion of fats. Secreted by the liver, stored in the gallbladder.	amylase	Produced in pancreas and salivary glands, helps digest starches
cysto	Sac/bladder	hemorrhoid	Swollen blood vessel in the anus or rectum
anus	Opening where the bowel contents leave the body	lipase	Helps digest fats in the small intestine
Common bile duct (ductus choledochus)	Tube that carries bile the gallbladder and to the small intestine	Bowel movement	Body wastes passed through the rectum and anus
Biliary tract	Gallbladder and the bile ducts	Digestive tract	Gastrointestinal tract, GI tract
rectum	Lower end of colon that leads to the anus	lactase	Enzyme to digest milk
Vagus nerve	Nerve in the stomach that controls acid	Stool or feces	Solid waste that is passed through the rectum

antrum	Upper portion of the stomach	sphincter	A band of tissue that opens and closes an opening in the body
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PREFIX, ROOT WORDS, SUFFIX

Terminology	Prefix/Root Word	Root Word/Suffix	Meaning
Anoscopy	Ano - anus	Scopy – use of a scope	Viewing inside the anus with a scope
Antacids	Anti -against	Acid –acid produced in the stomach	Medication to relieve symptoms of gas. Maalox, Mylanta
antidiarrheal	Anti -against	Diarrhea – watery stool	Medication to control diarrhea. Imodium
antiemetic	Anti-against	Emesis - vomiting	Medication to prevent or treat vomiting. Compazine.
antrectomy	Antre, antrum – upper portion of the stomach	Ectomy -removal	Operation to remove the upper part of the stomach usually to reduce stomach acid.
appendicitis	Appendix – pouch at the end of the cecum	'itis' - inflammation	Inflammation of the appendix
appendectomy	appendix	Ectomy-removal	Surgical removal of the appendix
Cholangitis	Cholang –bile duct	'itis' inflammation	Infected or inflamed bile ducts.
Cholecystectomy	Cholecyst - gallbladder	Ectomy-removal	An operation to remove the gallbladder
Cholecystitis	Cholecyst- gallbladder	'itis'-inflammation	An inflamed gallbladder
Cholecystogram	Cholecyst - gallbladder	Gram –image or record	An x-ray of the gallbladder and bile ducts.
Choledocholithiasis	Choledocho –bile duct	Lith-stone lasis -condition	Gallstones in the bile ducts.
Cholelithiasis	Chole –gall or bile	Lith-stone	Gallstones in the gallbladder.
Cirrhosis	Cirrh -liver	Osis - condition	chronic liver condition caused by scar tissue and cell damage
Colectomy	Col -colon	Ectomy -removal	An operation to remove all or

			part of the colon.
Colonoscopy	Col -colon	Scope or scopy – to look with a scope	A test to look into the rectum and colon
Colostomy	Col -colon	Ostomy -opening	Opening into the colon to allow stool to pass.
Dysphagia	Dys –abnormal or difficult	Phagia – to eat or to swallow	Problems in swallowing
Hepatitis	Hepato -liver	'itis' inflammation	inflammation of the liver, hepatoma - tumor of the liver
Laparotomy	Lap - abdomen	Otomy -incision	Incision into the abdomen
Paracentesis or abdominocentesis	Para -sides	Centesis - puncturing and draining	Incision to drain abnormal fluid in the abdomen
Cholelithotripsy	Chole –bile Litho -stone	Tripsy –to crush	Crushing gall stones with sound waves
Cholelithiasis	Chole –bile Lith - stone	lasis or iosis - condition	Condition of having gallstones
Endoscope	Endo -inside	Scope –a lighted flexible tube	To look inside the body with a scope
ERCP Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography	Endoscopic –to look with a scope Retrograde – backward Cholangio –bileduct Pancreato-pancreas	Graphy –an image or record	A test using an x-ray and a dye to look into the bile and pancreatic ducts.
PEG Tube	Percutaneous – through the skin Gastro –stomach	Ostomy - opening	percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy, a feeding tube inserted into the stomach
Enterostomy	Entero -intesting	Ostomy -opening	An ostomy, or opening, into the intestine through the abdominal wall.
Hepatic Encephalopathy	Hepatic –liver Encephalo -brain	Pathy -disease	Advanced liver disease with loss of consciousness and coma
Ileostomy	Ileo –small intestine	Ostomy -opening	Opening in the skin to empty the small intestine's bowel contents
Laparoscopy	Lap -abdomen	Scope – device to look inside the body	using a laparoscope to look at and take tissue from the inside of the body.
Laparotomy	Lap -abdomen	Otomy –to open or incise	An operation that opens up the abdomen

Proctologist	Procto –anus and rectal area	Logist – a specialist	A doctor who specializes in disorders of the anus and rectum.
Xerostomia	Xero-nothing or deficient	Stoma –opening or mouth, ia -condition	Dry mouth or insufficient production of saliva

What is meaning the following terms:

epiglottis	Laparoscopic appendectomy
pharyngitis	Cholangiopancreatography
antrectomy	gastroenterologist
Esophageal stricture	Choledocholithiasis
gastritis	cirrhosis
gastrectomy	ileostomy
cholecystogram	GERD
Peritonitis	IBS
Percutaneous Transhepatic Cholangiography	esophagogastroduodenoscopy
fistulagram	gastroplasty
hepatoma	varices
laparotomy	laparoscopy

RESOURCES

Medical Dictionary http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mplusdictionary.html
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Wikipedia Root Words, Prefixes http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_medical_roots