

Culture Advantage

Anatomy and Medical Terminology for Interpreters

Marlene V. Obermeyer, MA, RN

marlene@culture-advantage.com

Culture Advantage

Musculoskeletal Terminology

analgesia	A – without Algesia – pain State of being unable to feel pain	fracture	Broken bone
anesthesiologist	A - without Esthesia – sensation Physician who “puts the patient to sleep” during surgery	greenstick fracture	Bone is bent, not completely broken, usually on children
brace, splint	Supports a part of a body in correct alignment	joint	Connection between bones
cast	Hard plaster or fiberglass support for a broken bone	ligament	Connects two or more bones or cartilage together
comminuted fracture	Bone that is broken in many places	muscle flap	A muscle is transferred to another part of the body
compound fracture	Broken bones sticks out of the skin	Open reduction internal fixation(ORIF)	Surgery to fix a fracture, involving metal rods, plates or screws
crutch, crutches	A wooden or metal support for walking usually with one leg supporting the body weight	Orthopaedics Orthopedics	A medical specialty in diagnosing and treating disorders of muscles and bones
dislocation	Bone is out of the socket	Orthopedist	A physician who specializes in orthopedics
External Fixator	An external metal device placed during surgery to support a fracture	PCA	Patient controlled analgesia
reduction or to reduce a fracture	Physically correcting the alignment of two bones or joints	Simple fracture	One break in the bone
sprain	Tension injury to a ligament	Weight bearing status	Recommendation for the amount of weight

			to put on an injured extremity
traction	Tension is applied to muscle and bones by means of weights and pulleys	tendon	Connects muscles to bones. Achilles tendon

ANATOMY-RELATED TERMINOLOGY

acetabulum	the hip socket	frontalis	forehead
calcaneus	heel	temporalis	Temples, sides of the head
carpals	wrist bones	masseter	Cheek muscle used for chewing
cervical bones	bones of the neck	sternocleidomastoid	Front and side neck muscle
chondro	cartilage	pectoralis	Chest muscle
clavicle	collar bone	external oblique	Abdominal side muscles
costo, cost	ribs	rectus abdominis	Abdominal muscles
femur	Thigh bone, longest bone	brachioradialis	Lower arm muscles
fibula	smaller of the two bones in the lower leg/shin area	deltoid	Muscles of shoulder and upper arm
humerus	Upper arm bone	biceps brachii, biceps	Front of the upper arm
lumbar bones	Bones of lower back	quadriceps femoris or quads	Muscles of the thigh
mandible	Jaw bone	cartilage	Connective tissue between bones
mastoid	Bone behind the ear	meniscus	Cartilage in the knee
maxilla	mustache bone	pectoralis	Chest muscle
olecranon	Tip of the elbow	peroneous	Outer shin muscle
parietal bones	Roof of the skull	latissimus	Covers the sides and lower back
patella	Knee cap	trapezius	Triangular muscle of the upper back
pelvis or pelvic bone	Upper hip area	hamstrings	Muscles in the back of the thigh
phalanges	Fingers, toes	gluteus maximus	buttocks
Rotator cuff	A group of muscles that stabilize the shoulder	ACL	Anterior cruciate ligament in the knee

scapula	Shoulder blade	soleus	Lower leg muscle
temporal bone	Side of the skull	gastrocnemius	Calf muscle
tendon	Connects muscle to bone	ligament	Connect bones to bones
tibia	The larger of the two bones in the lower leg or shin area	Achilles tendon	Muscle attachment from the lower back of the leg to the calcaneus (heel bone)
zygomatic	Cheek bone	triceps	Back of the upper arm
ulna	Bone of lower arm, located on the little finger side of the hand	vertebra	An individual bone in the spinal column
Thoracic bones, thorax	Bones of the chest, sternum, ribs	vertebral column	Includes: cervical (neck bones), thoracic (upper back), Lumbar (lower back), sacrum, coccyx.

Prefixes/Root Words and Suffixes

Terminology	Prefix/Root Word	Root Word/Suffix	Meaning
bilateral	bi - two	lateral - side	Two sides or both sides
unilateral	uni - one	lateral - side	One side
hemiarthroplasty	Hemi –one half Arthro – joint	plasty - repair	Usually refers to repair a fractured hip by replacing the head of the femur
arthrotomy	Arthro – joint	otomy – to open	Surgical incision into a joint
atrophy	A - without	trophy – growth or development	Weakening of tissue from lack of use
arthrodesis	Arthro - joint	desis – to fuse or to bind	To fuse joints together
AVN	A – without Vascular – blood supply	necrosis – death of tissue	Death of bone due to lack of blood circulation
bursitis	Bursa – cushions between bones	itis-inflammation	Inflammation of a bursa
Discectomy diskectomy	Disc-cushioning between the spinal bones (shock absorber)	ectomy- removal	Back surgery that involves removal of a disc
dysplasia	Dys-abnormal	plasia - development	Abnormal development, for example, dysplasia of the hip
Hypotonia or	Hypo-decreased	ton, tonic - tension	Decreased muscle tone;

hypotonic			floppy
Hypertonia, hypertonic	Hyper - increased	tonia, tonic - tension	Increased tension in the muscles; spastic; rigid
kyphosis	Kypho - curve	osis - condition	Frontward curvature of the spine
laminectomy	Lamina –a portion of the vertebral arch	ectomy -removal	Bone from the spine is removed to relieve back pain.
osteoarthritis	Osteo –bone Arthr-joint	Itis -inflammation	Inflammation and breakdown of cartilage in between the joints of the bones

EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

ACL		bilateral	
arthritis		hypertonic	
arthroplasty		bursitis	
chondritis		traction	
costochondritis		tendon	
hemiarthroplasty		hypotonic	
laminectomy		AVN	
meniscectomy		arthrodesis	
ORIF		atrophy	
osteoarthritis		kyphosis	

RESOURCES

Medical Dictionary http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mplusdictionary.html
Medical Encyclopedia http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/encyclopedia.html
Medline Plus Word Parts http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/appendixa.html
National Cancer Institute http://www.cancer.gov/dictionary/
National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases http://www.niams.nih.gov/
Wikipedia Root Words, Prefixes http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_medical_roots