





# **STEDMAN'S** **CONCISE**

MEDICAL DICTIONARY  
FOR THE HEALTH  
PROFESSIONS

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**ILLUSTRATED**  
**4TH EDITION**

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# A Message from the Publisher

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Featuring more than 48,000 entries and hundreds of illustrations, *Stedman's Concise Medical Dictionary for the Health Professions, Illustrated 4th Edition*, gives students, educators, and practitioners access to the core language of medicine and the health professions. A compact counterpart to the more general *Stedman's Medical Dictionary*, *Stedman's Concise* meets the quick-reference needs of students and practitioners throughout the health professions, with particular emphasis on athletic training and athletic therapy, audiology, clinical laboratory sciences, dental assisting, dental hygiene, emergency medical services, exercise science, health information management, massage therapy, medical assisting, medical terminology, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, pharmacy and pharmacy technology, physical therapy, radiography and radiologic technology, respiratory therapy, speech-language pathology, and veterinary medicine.

This new edition offers pronunciations for every defined term, plus new and revised images, tables, and appendices. It also features expanded international content, including for the first time British spellings and contributions from a total of nine Canadian consultants in nursing, nutrition, athletic therapy, medical transcription, and other medical specialties. Students, educators, and practitioners in nursing, massage therapy, emergency medical services, and the veterinary field will also find a new emphasis on the vocabulary of their respective professions. The dictionary's chief editor and lexicographer, John H. Dirckx, M.D., has also attached usage notes to many of the definitions. In these "microessays," Dr. Dirckx provides guidelines on the proper usage of commonly misused or misunderstood terms such as *prostate* and *septum*.

## Health Professions Consultants

To expand and refresh the content of *Stedman's Concise*, we nearly doubled the number of consultants, from 17 to 32, representing more than two dozen fields. Well regarded as both scholars and practitioners, these consultants evaluated the terms and definitions in the preceding edition, added new content, and made revisions.

In all, the consultants provided approximately 1,000 new terms and definitions. The new *Concise* was further enriched by the inclusion of more than 5,000 entries from *Stedman's Medical Dictionary, 27th Edition*.

## More Color—More Illustrations

This new edition offers more than 350 photographs, radiographs, and illustrations, most in full color. Our 32 consultants provided detailed guidance as we selected these images. The art program features images from two award-winning sources, medical illustrator Neil Hardy and A.D.A.M.<sup>®</sup>, the medical education software company. The A.D.A.M.<sup>®</sup> art is showcased in a quick-reference, 32-page anatomical atlas. This edition of the *Concise* also includes a full-color insert containing about 90 illustrations depicting imaging technologies and diagnostic techniques.

In the front pages of the book, the Illustrations Index gives the page number of every image in the *Concise*. In the A–Z section, an icon next to an entry—a white "i" in a blue square (i)—indicates that a term and its definition are illustrated, either at the entry itself or in the inserts or appendices.

## Expanded and Revised Appendices

Nearly three dozen appendices round out this new edition. These include lists, scales, tables, and more than 30 labeled images that provide fast access to information that students, educators, and practitioners need in the classroom, laboratory, and clinic. A table of contents appears on the first page of the appendix section.

## Acknowledgments

We at Lippincott Williams & Wilkins are grateful, first and foremost, to John H. Dirckx—physician and etymologist—for the erudition, experience, and irrepressible love of language he has brought to his service as chief editor and lexicographer of *Stedman's Concise Medical Dictionary for the Health Professions, Illustrated 4th Edition*. We extend special thanks to Elizabeth Haigh, our Publisher, for her vision, leadership, and sure instincts for the needs of *Concise* users, and to Vincent Ercolano, Senior Managing Editor, for the benefits of his experience with the third edition and his managerial expertise. Thanks to the collegiality and unflagging commitment to quality of Ellen Atwood, Senior Developmental Editor; Dave Horne, Software Development Manager; Barbara Ferretti, Senior Online Editor; Julie K. Stegman, Production Manager; Kevin Iarossi, Production Coordinator; and Brian Smith, Production Adviser, this fourth edition represents a new level of excellence and relevance for students, educators, and practitioners. Without the hard work and fine efforts of our associate editors, Kathy Cadle, Kari Chairert, Trista DiPaula, Lisa Fahnestock, Will Howard, and Kathryn Mason, CMT, this dictionary would not have been possible. Likewise, the art program would not have been possible without the discerning, conscientious art direction provided by Jennifer Clements and Jonathan Dimes.

We thank our consultants in the medical specialties for writing and revising the thousands of entries in this and other *Stedman's* dictionaries. We are grateful, as well, to our health professions consultants, who reviewed, revised, and contributed new content to *Stedman's Concise*.

Finally, we warmly and respectfully honor the memory of the late Barbara Werner, who was Chief Copyeditor of this edition of *Stedman's Concise* in its early stages. In recent years, there has hardly been a *Stedman's* publication that has not been graced—and strengthened—by her intellectual sophistication, rigorous approach to her profession, and professional and personal fellowship.

## Your Medical Word Resource Publisher

We strive to provide students, practitioners, and educators with the most up-to-date and accurate medical language references. We welcome your suggestions for improvements, changes, corrections, and additions—whatever makes it possible for this *Stedman's* product to serve you better.

Beverly Wolpert

Project Editor

*Stedman's Concise Medical Dictionary*

*for the Health Professions, Illustrated 4th Edition*

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins

Baltimore, Maryland

## Editor's Preface

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When this book left the bindery, it was the latest addition to a family of medical dictionaries that can trace its lineage further back than any other in any language.

The first edition of Dunglison's *New Dictionary of Medical Science and Literature* appeared in 1833, just five years after the first edition of Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*. Robley Dunglison, M.D. (1789–1869), a native of England, was professor of medicine at the University of Virginia and served as personal physician to presidents Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, and Jackson.

Dunglison's medical dictionary passed through 19 editions during his lifetime, after which his son, Richard J. Dunglison, assumed the editorship. The last edition of the dictionary to bear the Dunglison name, the 23rd, was edited in 1903 by Thomas Lathrop Stedman (1853–1938). Dr. Stedman then made a thorough revision of the work, and the first edition of *Stedman's Medical Dictionary* was published in 1911. Since then, new editions of *Stedman's* have been issued at intervals of two to eight years, the 27th having appeared in 2000.

Meanwhile, auxiliary versions have broadened the audience and enhanced the accessibility of the work. During the 1980s, *Stedman's* became the first American medical dictionary to practice database publishing, with electronic storage, retrieval, updating, and composition. In 1994, as a by-product of this technology, the 24th edition was made available in electronic form, and since then the *Stedman's* database has generated a long series of word books and electronic versions on disk and CD.

The first edition of *Stedman's Concise Medical Dictionary*, designed specially for students and practitioners in the allied health professions, appeared in 1987 as *Stedman's Pocket Medical Dictionary*. Although derived from the same database as the full-scale dictionary, *Stedman's Concise* contains supplemental material provided by a panel of consultants in a variety of health professions. For this fourth edition, *Stedman's* has assembled the largest group of consultants ever, including representatives of four previously unrepresented disciplines: emergency medical services, massage therapy, medical transcription, and nursing.

### Some Departures from Traditional Practice

Even the most lucid dictionary entry is useless to readers if they cannot find it. And that is exactly what can happen if you are looking for the *Babinski reflex* in a work that lists it as *test*, *Babinski*, or if you are in search of *Kimmelstiel-Wilson disease* in a dictionary that calls it *syndrome*, *Kimmelstiel-Wilson*.

This newest edition of *Stedman's Concise Medical Dictionary* makes a bold departure from traditional practice by forsaking this sometimes confusing entry-subentry format. That means that each term consisting of a phrase instead of a single word, such as *colloid goiter*, *eosinophilic pneumonia*, and *persistent chronic hepatitis*, has been entered alphabetically according to the first word in that phrase.

Also new to this edition are a number of terms pertaining to alternative and complementary

medicine. While their inclusion does not imply an endorsement of these concepts or methods, it does constitute recognition that they have become a part of modern practice and that terms referring to them now appear in clinical reports and medical literature.

This volume, like the 27th edition of *Stedman's Medical Dictionary*, incorporates *Terminologia Anatomica* (TA), the latest revision of international anatomic nomenclature, promulgated in 1997 to replace *Nomina Anatomica* (NA). Important as it is to make the most recent version of such terminology accessible to readers, however, one must recognize that older terms will continue to be used for decades to come. Hence, for example, we have retained the time-honored phrase *gray matter* as well as the far less familiar alternative *gray substance*, recommended by the compilers of TA as an English equivalent of *substantia grisea*.

### **Consistency: A Safeguard Against Ambiguity**

In 1841, Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds." That cavalier remark has often been quoted in a reproachful tone against editors and lexicographers who strive for maximum uniformity and standardization of language.

But before judging too harshly of this zeal for conformity, one ought to remember that eliminating senseless and confusing diversity of language is one of the principal functions of a dictionary. The sheer bulk of medical material published each day, the increasing reliance on electronic ways of handling it, and the challenge of making it accessible by means of key words all demand safeguards against ambiguity.

As an example of our heightened efforts to eliminate divergence of form that does not parallel divergence of sense, the term *disk* is spelled throughout *Stedman's Concise* with *k*, whether it refers to a germinal, intercalated, intervertebral, or optic disk. Neither etymologic considerations nor modern usage can justify keeping the alternative spelling *disc* in service, much less distinguishing it semantically from the term spelled *disk*.

Another kind of standardization, initiated in the 27th edition of *Stedman's Medical Dictionary* in response to a widespread trend among physicians and medical editors, is an across-the-board elimination of the possessive form with 's in eponyms such as *Alzheimer disease* and *Ewing sarcoma*. Besides doing away with inconsistencies, this step simplifies typography and reduces confusion over the spelling of names that end in *s*, such as *Graves*, *Homans*, and *Langerhans*. It should also appease those who object that, since Addison neither invented nor suffered from the disease he described, it isn't proper to call it *Addison's disease*.

### **Thanks and Acknowledgments**

I am deeply grateful to all our consultants for their contributions not only to the content of this dictionary but to its overall tone and quality. Indeed, the term *consultant* scarcely does justice to the breadth and value of their work. It is my pleasure to acknowledge the smooth guidance of Beverly Wolpert, the multifarious managerial skills of Vincent Ercolano, and the patient and meticulous editing of Ellen Atwood and Barbara Ferretti.

Lastly, a word of tribute and solemn farewell to Barbara Werner, whose creative editorial labors

during recent years have left their mark on all the Stedman's publications, and whose sudden death in 2000 interrupted her work on this dictionary.

*\*John H. Dirckx, M.D., has been director of the Student Health Center at the University of Dayton (Ohio) since 1968. His lifelong interest in and study of language have given rise to several books and numerous articles related to medical terminology. He has served as a Stedman's consultant since 1994, and edited the previous (third) edition of Stedman's Concise Medical Dictionary for the Health Professions (1997).*



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## Illustrations Index

The Illustrations Index provides a quick way to find any image in *Stedman's Concise*. The page number accompanying each term listed below tells you where to find an illustration of that term. A page number preceded by the letter *A* indicates that the image can be found in the first color insert, the 32-page anatomical atlas. A page number preceded by the letter *B* indicates that the image can be found in the second color insert, a 16-page section dedicated to diagnostic medicine and imaging techniques. A page number preceded by *APP* indicates that the image appears in the appendices. When you look up a word in the A-Z section, you can tell if it is illustrated—either at the word itself or in the inserts or appendices—if it is accompanied by this symbol: .

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