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**MOSBY'S  
POCKET  
DICTIONARY**  
of Medicine, Nursing,  
& Allied Health

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**Second Edition**

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# MOSBY'S POCKET DICTIONARY of Medicine, Nursing, & Allied Health

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Second Edition

科技阅览室

Kenneth N. Anderson

Lois E. Anderson



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## SECOND EDITION

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# Foreword

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The complexity and continuing evolution of health science vocabularies require that students and professionals alike have an affordable, compact, yet thorough, quick reference to the language of their fields. *Mosby's Pocket Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health* provides students and practitioners of the health sciences with a succinct and portable abridgement of *Mosby's Medical, Nursing, and Allied Health Dictionary*, which has been used by hundreds of thousands of nurses, allied health professionals, and physicians in their education and practice. The first edition of *Mosby's Pocket Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health* was the first pocket dictionary to address the broad spectrum of health science terminology in the medical, nursing, and allied health professions.

To reflect new developments in many facets of health care, nearly 6,000 new entries have been added to this edition, and several hundred obsolete entries have been deleted. In addition, all new and former entries were reviewed by experts and updated, as needed, to reflect current knowledge and practice. To increase the durability of this portable reference, a hard yet flexible cover has been used for the second edition. We have also printed tabs on the edge of each page to designate the letter of the alphabet covered by that page. This will assist in quickly locating definitions.

The extensive vocabulary of the larger dictionary has been retained by restructuring and condensing its many encyclopedic entries while retaining the essential content of the definitions. An example can be seen in a comparison of the entries for drugs. The pocket edition defines the drug and relates the indications for its use, while the parent volume includes further information on contraindications and adverse effects.

In our pocket dictionary, the user will continue to find many of the valuable features of our larger dictionary, including clear pronunciations and etymologies for thousands of terms.

Development of this second edition of our pocket dictionary has taken the effort of many people. We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the work of all who participated. The valuable contributions by all who were involved in the parent work, in particular, the authors whose works were consulted and the writers and editors, are also gratefully acknowledged.

The extremely positive response to the first edition leads us to believe that *Mosby's Pocket Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health* will remain an eminently useful and usable resource. We welcome your comments and suggestions for improving future editions.

# Guide to the Dictionary

## A. Alphabetic order

The entries are alphabetized in dictionary style, that is, letter by letter, disregarding spaces or hyphens between words:

analgesic	artificial lung
anal	artificially acquired
membrane	immunity
analog	artificial pacemaker

The alphabetization is alphanumeric: words and numbers form a single list with numbers positioned as though they were spelled-out numerals: Nilstat / 90-90 traction / ninth nerve. (An example of the few exceptions to this rule is the sequence 17-hydroxycorticosteroid / 11-hydroxyetiocolanolone / 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid, which can be found between the entries hydrochloroquine sulfate and hydroxyl, not, as may be expected, 17- . . . in letter "S," 11- . . . in letter "E," and 5- . . . in letter "F.")

Small subscript and superscript numbers are disregarded in alphabetizing: No / N<sub>2</sub>O / nobelium.

Compound headwords are given in their natural word order: abdominal surgery, not surgery, abdominal; achondroplastic dwarf, not dwarf, achondroplastic. There are few exceptions to this natural word order; nearly all of these concern formal classifications, for example: "comfort, alteration in: pain, a NANDA-accepted nursing diagnosis . . ."

(NOTE: In this guide, the term "headword" is used to refer to any alphabetized and nonindented definiendum, be it a single-word term or a compound term).

In some cases, there may be one or more terms that are synonymous with a headword or derived from a headword. If the synonym or derivation would immediately precede or follow the definition, it is not included as a separate entry. Therefore, if a term is not listed at the expected place, the reader might find it among the boldface terms of the immediately preceding or immediately following entry.

## B. Etymology

ETYMOLOGY is shown for principal entries and in other instances where it contributes immediately to a better understanding of the meaning: "lysergide, . . . Also called LSD (an abbreviation of the original German name, *Lyserg-Säure-Diäthylamid*), lysergic acid diethylamide, (*slang*) acid." "hang-nail, . . . painful . . . (Hang is not related to the verb but is an old English word for pain.) . . ."

## C. Pronunciation

All sounds, both English and non-English, are represented by letters or combinations of letters of the alphabet with few adaptations, and with the schwa (/ə/), the neutral vowel. Pronunciations are shown between slants. The following pronunciation key shows the symbols used:

Vowels	
SYMBOLS	KEY WORDS
/a/	hat
/ä/	father
/ā/	fate
/e/	flesh
/ē/	she
/er/	air, ferry
/i/	sit
/ī/	eye
/ir/	ear
/o/	proper
/ō/	nose
/ô/	saw
/oi/	boy
/oo/	move
/oo/	book
/ou/	out
/u/	cup, love
/ur/	fur, first
/ə/	(the neutral vowel, always unstressed, as in) ago, focus
/ər/	teacher, doctor
/œ/	as in (French) feu /fœ/; (German) schön /shœn/
/Y/	as in (French) tu /tY/; (German) grün /grYn/



**/N/** This symbol does not represent a sound but indicates that the preceding vowel is a nasal, as in French *bon* /bôn/, or international /aŋternäsyönäl/.

### Consonants

SYMBOLS	KEY WORDS
/b/	book
/ch/	chew
/d/	day
/f/	fast
/g/	good
/h/	happy
/j/	gem
/k/	keep
/l/	late
/m/	make
/n/	no
/ng/	sing, drink
/ng-g/	finger
/p/	pair
/r/	ring
/s/	set
/sh/	shoe, lotion
/t/	tone
/th/	thin
/th/	than
/v/	very
/w/	work
/y/	yes
/z/	zeal
/zh/	azure, vision
/kh/	as in (Scottish) <i>loch</i> /lokʰ/; (German) <i>Rorschach</i> /rôr'shokʰ/
/kh/	as in (German) <i>ich</i> /ikh/ (or, approximated, as in English <i>fish</i> : /ish/, /rīsh/)
/nyə/	Occurring at the end of French words, this symbol is not truly a separate syllable but an /n/ with a slight /y/ (similar to the sound in "onion") plus a near-silent /ə/, as in <i>Bois de Boulogne</i> /bōölō'nyə/

**ACCENTS:** Pronunciation is shown with primary and secondary accents. A raised dot shows that two vowels (or occasionally, two consonants) are pronounced separately.

Many of the numerous *Latin* terms in this dictionary are not given with pronunciation, mainly because there are different ways (all of them understood) in which Latin is pronounced by the English speaker and may be pronounced by speakers elsewhere. However, guidance is given in many cases, often to reflect common usage.

**LATIN AND GREEK PLURALS:** The spelling of Latin and Greek plurals is shown in most instances. However, when the plural formation is regular according to Latin and Greek rules, the pronunciation is usually not included.

**NOTE:** Notwithstanding the listing of Latin and Greek plurals in this dictionary, and the rules of Latin and Greek pluralization, in most instances it is acceptable or even preferable to pluralize Latin and Greek words according to the rules of English words. (For certain kinds of entries, both the English and the foreign plurals are given in this dictionary, usually showing the English form first, as, for example, in nearly all -oma nouns: *hematoma*, *pl.* *hematomas*, *hematoma*.)



- a**, symbol for **arterial blood**.
- A**, **1.** abbreviation for **accommodation**. **2.** symbol for **alveolar gas**. **3.** abbreviation for **ampere**. **4.** abbreviation for **anterior**. **5.** abbreviation for **atomic weight**. **6.** abbreviation for **axial**. **7.** symbol for **mass number**.
- A68**, symbol for a protein found in the brain tissue of Alzheimer's disease patients. It is also found in the developing normal brains of fetuses and infants but begins to disappear by the age of 2 years.
- Å**, symbol for **angstrom**.
- AA**, **1.** abbreviation for **achievement age**. **2.** abbreviation for **Alcoholics Anonymous**. **3.** abbreviation for **amplitude of accommodation**.
- āa, āā, ĀĀ**, (in prescriptions) abbreviation for *ana*, indicating an equal amount of each ingredient to be compounded.
- AAAI**, abbreviation for **American Academy of Allergy and Immunology**.
- AACN**, **1.** abbreviation for **American Association of Colleges of Nursing**. **2.** abbreviation for **American Association of Critical Care Nurses**.
- AAFP**, abbreviation for *American Academy of Family Practice*.
- AAGP**, abbreviation for *American Academy of General Practice*. Now called *American Academy of Family Practice*.
- AAIN**, abbreviation for **American Association of Industrial Nurses**.
- AAMC**, abbreviation for **American Association of Medical Colleges**.
- AAMI**, abbreviation for **Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation**.
- AAN**, abbreviation for **American Academy of Nursing**.
- AANA**, abbreviation for **American Association of Nurse Anesthetists**.
- AANN**, **1.** abbreviation for **American Association of Neuroscience Nurses**. **2.** abbreviation for **American Association of Neurosurgical Nurses**.
- AANNT**, abbreviation for **American Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technicians**.
- AAOHN**, abbreviation for *American Association of Occupational Health Nurses*.
- AAOMS**, abbreviation for *American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons*.
- AAPA**, abbreviation for **American Academy of Physicians' Assistants**.
- AAPB**, abbreviation for **American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists**.
- AAPMR**, abbreviation for **American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**.
- AARP**, abbreviation for **American Association of Retired Persons**.
- AART**, abbreviation for *American Association for Respiratory Therapy*.
- AAUP**, abbreviation for **American Association of University Professors**.
- AAV**, abbreviation for **adenoassociated virus**.
- Ab**, abbreviation for **antibody**.
- abacterial** /ab'aktir'ē-əl/, any atmosphere or condition free of bacteria; literally, without bacteria.
- abaissement** /ä'bäsmän'/ [Fr, a lowering], a falling or depressing; in ophthalmology, the displacement of a lens.
- abalienation** /abäl'yönä'shän/ **1.** a state of physical deterioration or mental decay. **2.** a state of insanity. **-abalienate**, *v.*, **abalienated**, *adj.*
- A band**, the area between two I bands of a sarcomere, marked by partial overlapping of actin and myosin filaments.
- abandonment of care**, (in law) wrongful cessation of the provision of care to a patient, usually by a physician.
- abarticular** /ab'ärtik'yöölär/ **1.** of or pertaining to a condition that does not affect a joint. **2.** of or pertaining to a site or structure remote from a joint.
- abarticulation** /ab'ärtik'yälä'shän/, **1.** dislocation of a joint. **2.** a synovial joint.
- abasia** /əbä'zhə/ [Gk *a*, *basis* not step], the inability to walk, as in paralytic abasia that paralyzes the leg muscles. **-abasic**, *abatic*, *adj.*
- abasia-astasia**. See *astasia-abasia*.
- abate** /əbät'/, [ME *abaten*, to beat down], to decrease or reduce in severity or degree.
- abaxial** /abak'sē-əl/ [L *ab*, *axis* from axle], **1.** of or pertaining to a position outside the axis of a body or structure. **2.** of or per-

taining to a position at the opposite extremity of a structure.

**Abbé-Estlander operation** /ab'ē-est'-/ [Robert Abbé, American surgeon, b. 1851; Jakob A. Estlander, Finnish surgeon, b. 1831], a surgical procedure that transfers a full-thickness section of one oral lip to the other lip.

**Abbé-Zeiss apparatus**, /ābā'tsīs'/ [Abbé; Carl Zeiss, German optician, b. 1816], an apparatus for calculating the number of blood cells in a measured amount of blood.

**Abbott pump** /ab'ət/, a small portable pump that can be adjusted and finely calibrated to deliver precise amounts of medication in solution through an intravenous infusion set.

**ABC**, abbreviation for **aspiration biopsy cytology**.

**abdomen** /ab'dəmən, abdō'mən/ [L, belly], the portion of the body between the thorax and the pelvis. The abdominal cavity contains the lower portion of the esophagus, the stomach, the intestines, the liver, the spleen, the pancreas, and other visceral organs. The abdominal cavity is lined with two layers of peritoneum, a serous membrane. —**abdominal** /abdəm'-/, *adj.*

**abdominal actinomycosis**. See **actinomycosis**.

**abdominal adhesion**, the binding together of tissue surfaces of abdominal organs, usually involving the intestines and causing obstruction. The condition may be the result of trauma or inflammation and may form after abdominal surgery. The patient experiences pain, nausea, vomiting, and increased pulse rate. Surgery may be required.

**abdominal aorta**, the portion of the descending aorta that passes from the aortic hiatus of the diaphragm into the abdomen. It supplies many different parts of the body, such as the testes, ovaries, kidneys, and stomach. Its branches are the celiac, superior mesenteric, inferior mesenteric, middle suprarenal, renal, testicular, ovarian, inferior phrenic, lumbar, middle sacral, and common iliac arteries.

**abdominal aortography**, the process of producing a radiograph of the abdominal aorta using a radiopaque contrast medium.

**abdominal aponeurosis**, the conjoined tendons of the oblique and transverse muscles of the abdomen.

**abdominal bandage**, a broad supportive bandage commonly used after abdominal surgery.

**abdominal binder**, a bandage or elasticized wrap that is applied around the lower part of the torso to support the abdomen, sometimes applied after abdominal surgery to decrease discomfort. One kind of

abdominal binder is the **Scultetus binder**. **abdominal breathing**, breathing in which the majority of respiratory work is done by the diaphragm and abdominal muscles.

**abdominal cavity**, the space within the abdominal walls between the diaphragm and the pelvic area, containing the liver, stomach, intestines, spleen, kidneys, and associated tissues and vessels.

**abdominal delivery**, the delivery of a child through a surgical incision in the abdomen. The procedure performed may be any of the several kinds of cesarean section.

**abdominal fistula**, an abnormal passage from an abdominal organ to the surface of the body. In a colostomy, a passage from the bowel to an opening on the surface of the abdomen is created surgically.

**abdominal gestation**, the implantation of a fertilized ovum outside the uterus but within the peritoneal cavity.

**abdominalgia**, /abdəm'ənal'jə/ [L, *abdomen*, belly; Gk, *algos*, pain], a pain in the abdomen.

**abdominal girth**, the circumference of the abdomen, usually measured at the umbilicus.

**abdominal hernia**, a hernia in which a loop of bowel protrudes through the abdominal musculature, often through the site of an old surgical scar.

**abdominal hysterectomy**, the excision of the uterus through the abdominal wall.

**abdominal nephrectomy**, [L, *abdominis*, belly; Gk, *nephros*, kidney, *ektome*, cutting out], the surgical removal of a kidney through an incision into the abdomen.

**abdominal pain**, acute or chronic localized or diffuse pain in the abdominal cavity. Abdominal pain is a significant symptom because its cause may require immediate surgical or medical intervention. The most common causes of severe abdominal pain are inflammation, perforation of an intraabdominal structure, circulatory obstruction, intestinal or ureteral obstruction, or rupture of an organ located within the abdomen. Specific conditions include appendicitis, perforated gastric ulcer, strangulated hernia, superior mesenteric arterial thrombosis, and small and large bowel obstruction. Conditions producing acute abdominal pain that may require surgery include appendicitis, acute or severe and chronic diverticulitis, acute and chronic cholecystitis, cholelithiasis, acute pancreatitis, perforation of a peptic ulcer, various intestinal obstructions, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and trauma affecting any of the abdominal organs. Gynecologic causes of acute abdominal pain that may require

surgery include acute pelvic inflammatory disease, ruptured ovarian cyst, and ectopic pregnancy. Abdominal pain associated with pregnancy may be caused by the weight of the enlarged uterus; rotation, stretching, or compression of the round ligament; or squeezing or displacement of the bowel. Chronic abdominal pain may be functional or the result of overeating or aerophagia. Organic sources of abdominal pain include peptic ulcer, hiatus hernia, gastritis, chronic cholecystitis and cholelithiasis, chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic carcinoma, chronic diverticulitis, intermittent low-grade intestinal obstruction, and functional indigestion.

**abdominal paracentesis**, [L, *abdominis*, belly; Gk, *para*, near, *kentesis*, puncturing], the surgical puncturing of the abdominal cavity in order to remove fluid for diagnosis or treatment.

**abdominal pregnancy**, an extrauterine pregnancy in which the conceptus develops in the abdominal cavity after being extruded from the fimbriated end of the fallopian tube or through a defect in the tube or uterus. The placenta may implant on the abdominal or visceral peritoneum. Abdominal pregnancy may be suspected when the abdomen has enlarged but the uterus has remained small for the length of gestation. Abdominal pregnancies constitute approximately 2% of ectopic pregnancies and approximately 0.01% of all pregnancies. The condition results in perinatal death of the fetus in approximately 90% of cases, maternal death in approximately 6%. Because of its rarity, the condition may be unsuspected, and diagnosis is often delayed. Surgical removal of the placenta, sac, and embryo or fetus is necessary.

**abdominal pulse**, the pulse of the abdominal aorta.

**abdominal quadrant**, any of four topographic areas of the abdomen divided by two imaginary vertical and horizontal lines intersecting at the umbilicus. The divisions are the left upper quadrant (LUQ), the left lower quadrant (LLQ), the right upper quadrant (RUQ), and the right lower quadrant (RLQ).

**abdominal reflex**, a superficial neurologic reflex obtained by firmly stroking the skin of the abdomen, normally resulting in a brisk contraction of abdominal muscles in which the umbilicus moves toward the site of the stimulus. This reflex is lost in diseases of the pyramidal tract.

**abdominal regions**, the nine topographic subdivisions of the abdomen, determined by four imaginary lines, in a tic-tac-toe pattern, imposed over the anterior surface.

The upper horizontal line passes along the level of the cartilages of the nine ribs; the lower along the iliac crests. The two vertical lines extend on each side of the body from the cartilage of the eighth rib to the center of the inguinal ligament. The lines divide the abdomen into three upper, three middle, and three lower zones: right hypochondriac, epigastric, and left hypochondriac regions (upper zones); right lateral, umbilical, and left lateral regions (middle zones); right inguinal, pubic, and left inguinal regions (lower zones).

**abdominal splinting**, a rigid contraction of the muscles of the abdominal wall. It may result in hypoventilation and respiratory complications.

**abdominal sponge**, [L, *abdomen*, belly; Gk, *spoggia*, sponge], a thin, flat surgical sponge used as packing, absorbent, and covering for the viscera.

**abdominal surgery**, any operation that involves an incision into the abdomen, usually performed under general anesthesia. Some kinds of abdominal surgery are **appendectomy**, **cholecystectomy**, **colostomy**, **gastrectomy**, **herniorrhaphy**, and **laparotomy**.

**abdominal tenaculum**. See **tenaculum**.

**abdominocentesis**. See **paracentesis**.

**abdominocyesis** /abdɒm'ɪnɔ̄sɪ-ē'sis/, an abdominal pregnancy.

**abdominohysterectomy**. See **abdominal hysterectomy**.

**abdominohysterotomy**, hysterotomy through an abdominal incision.

**abdominopelvic cavity**, the space between the diaphragm and the groin. There is no structurally distinct separation between the abdomen and pelvic regions.

**abdominoperineal**, pertaining to the abdomen and the perineum, including the pelvic area, female vulva and anus, and the male anus and scrotum.

**abdominoplasty** /abdɒm'ænɔ̄plɑs'tē/ plastic surgery involving the abdominal tissues.

**abdominoscopy** /abdɒm'ɪnɔ̄s'kɔpē/ [L *abdomen*; Gk *skopein* to view], a procedure for examining the contents of the peritoneum in which an electrically illuminated tubular device is passed through a trocar into the abdominal cavity.

**abducens**, [L, drawing away], pertaining to a movement away from the median line of the body.

**abducens muscle**, the extraocular lateral rectus muscle that moves the eyeball outward.

**abducens nerve** /abdɔ̄'sən/ [L *abducere* to take away], the sixth cranial nerve. It controls the external rectus muscle, turn-

ing the eye outward. Also called *abducent nerve*.

**abduct** /abdukt'/'/, to move away from the median plane of the body.

**abduction** /abduk'shən/ [L *abducere* to take away], movement of a limb away from the body.

**abduction boots**, a pair of orthopedic casts for the lower extremities, available in both short-leg and long-leg configurations, with a bar incorporated at ankle level to provide hip abduction.

**abductor** /abduk'tər/ [L *abducere*], a muscle that draws a body part away from the midline, or one part from another.

**Abernethy's sarcoma** /ab'ərnē'thēz/, a malignant neoplasm of fat cells, usually occurring on the trunk.

**aberrancy**. See **aberrant ventricular conduction**.

**aberrant** /aber'ənt/ [L *aberrare* to wander]

1. of or pertaining to a wandering from the usual or expected course, such as various ducts, nerves, and vessels in the body. 2. (in botany and zoology) of or pertaining to an abnormal individual, such as certain atypical members of a species.

**aberrant goiter**, an enlargement of a supernumerary or ectopic thyroid gland.

**aberrant ventricular conduction (AVC)**, the temporary abnormal intraventricular conduction of a supraventricular impulse, usually associated with a change in cycle length.

**aberration** /ab'ə-rā'shən/ [L *aberrare* to wander], 1. any departure from the usual course or normal condition. 2. abnormal growth or development. 3. (in psychology) an illogical and unreasonable thought or belief, often leading to an unsound mental state. 4. (in genetics) any change in the number or structure of the chromosomes. 5. (in optics) any imperfect image formation caused by unequal refraction or focalization of light rays through a lens.

**abetalipoproteinemia**

/əbā'təlip'əprō'tinē'mē-ə/ [Gk *a*, *beta* not beta, *lipos* fat, *proteios* first rank, *haima* blood], a rare inherited disorder of fat metabolism, characterized by acanthocytosis, low or absent serum betalipoproteins, and hypocholesterolemia.

**ABG**, abbreviation for **arterial blood gas**.

**abient** /ab'ē-ənt/ [L *abire* to go away], characterized by a tendency to move away from stimuli. —**abience**, *n*.

**ability**, the capacity to act in a specified way because of the possession of appropriate skills and mental or physical fitness.

**abiogenesis** /ab'ē-ōjen'əsis/ [Gk *a*, *bios* not life, *gēnein* to produce], spontaneous

generation; the theory that organic life can originate from inanimate matter. —**abiogenetic**, *adj*.

**abiosis** /ab'ē-ō'sis/ [Gk *a*, *bios* not life], a nonviable condition or a situation that is incompatible with life. —**abiotic**, *adj*.

**abiotrophy** /ab'ē-ōt'rəfē/ [Gk *a*, *bios* + *trophe* nutrition], a premature depletion of vitality or the deterioration of certain cells and tissues, especially those involved in genetic degenerative diseases. —**abiotrophic** /ab'ē-ōtrō'fik/, *adj*.

**ablate** /ablāt'/'/, [L, *ab*, *latus*, carried away], to cut away or remove.

**ablation** /ablā'shən/ [L *ab*, *latus*, carried away], an amputation, an excision of any part of the body, or a removal of a growth or harmful substance.

**ablatio placentae**. See **abruptio placentae**.

**ablepsia** /əblep'sē-ə/ [Gk *a*, *blepein* not to see], the condition of being blind.

**ABMS**, abbreviation for **American Board of Medical Specialties**.

**abnerval current** [L *ab* from; Gk *neuron* nerve], an electric current that passes from a nerve to and through muscle.

**abnormal behavior** [L *ab*, *norma* away from rule], maladaptive acts or activities detrimental to the individual and to society.

**abnormality** /ab'nōrmal'itē/, [L *ab* away from; *norma* the rule], a condition that differs from the usual physical or mental state.

**abnormal psychology**, the study of mental disorders and maladaptive behavior, including neuroses and psychoses, and of normal phenomena that are not completely understood, such as dreams and altered states of consciousness.

**ABO blood groups**, the most important of several systems for classifying human blood based on the antigenic components of the red blood cell. The ABO blood group is identified by the presence or absence of two different antigens, A or B, on the surface of the erythrocyte. The four blood types in this grouping, A, B, AB, and O, are determined by and named for these antigens. Type AB indicates the presence of both antigens; type O the absence of both.

**aboiement** /ä'bō-ämän'/'/, an involuntary making of abnormal, animal-like sounds, such as barking. Aboiement may be a clinical sign of Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome.

**abort** /abôt'/'/ [L *ab* away from, *oriri* to be born] 1. to deliver a nonviable fetus; to miscarry. 2. to terminate a pregnancy before the fetus has developed enough to live ex utero. 3. to terminate in the early stages

or to discontinue before completion, as to arrest the usual course of a disease, to stop growth and development, or to halt a project.

**aborted systole**, a contraction of the heart that is usually weak and is not associated with a radial pulse.

**abortifacient** /əbɔr'tifə'shənt/, **1.** producing abortion. **2.** an agent that causes abortion.

**abortion** [L *ab* + *oriri*], the spontaneous or induced termination of pregnancy before the fetus has developed enough to be expected to live if born. Kinds of abortion include **habitual abortion**, **infected abortion**, **septic abortion**, **threatened abortion**, and **voluntary abortion**.

**abortion on demand**, a concept promoted by pro-choice health advocates that it is the right of a pregnant woman to have an abortion performed at her request.

**abortive infection**, an infection in which some or all viral components have been synthesized, but no infective virus is produced.

**abortus** /əbɔr'tʌs/, any incompletely developed fetus that results from an abortion, particularly one that weighs less than 500 g.

**abortus fever**, a form of brucellosis, the only one endemic to North America. It is caused by *Brucella abortus*, an organism so named because it causes abortion in cows. Infection in humans results from contact with cows infected with *B. abortus*.

**abouchement** /ä'bʊʃməN'/ [Fr, a tube connection], the junction of a small blood vessel with a large blood vessel.

**aboulia**. See **abulia**.

**ABP**, abbreviation for **arterial blood pressure**.

**ABPM**, abbreviation for **ambulatory blood pressure monitoring**.

**abrachia** /əbrä'kē-ə/ [Gk *a*, *brachion* not arm], the absence of arms. **-abrachial**, *adj.*

**abrade**, /əbräd'/ to remove the epidermis or other skin layers, usually by scraping or rubbing.

**abrasion** /əbrä'zhən/ [L *abradere* to scrape off], a scraping, or rubbing away of a surface by friction. Abrasion may be the result of trauma, such as a skinned knee; of therapy, as in dermabrasion of the skin for removal of scar tissue; or of normal function, such as the wearing down of a tooth by mastication. **-abrade**, *v.*, **abrasive**, *adj.*

**abreaction** /ab're-ak'shən/ [L *ab* from, *re* again, *agere* to act], an emotional release resulting from mentally reliving or from

bringing into consciousness, through the process of catharsis, a long-repressed, painful experience.

**abrosia** /əbrō'zhə/ [Gk, fasting], a condition caused by fasting or abstaining from food.

**abruptio placentae** [L *ab* away from, *rumperere* to rupture], separation of the placenta implanted in normal position in a pregnancy of 20 weeks or more or during labor before delivery of the fetus. It occurs approximately once in 200 births, and, because it often results in severe hemorrhage, it is a significant cause of maternal and fetal mortality. In severe cases, shock and death can occur in minutes. Cesarean section must be performed immediately and rapidly. If the pregnancy is near term, labor may be permitted or induced by means of amniotomy.

**abscess** /ab'səs/ [L *abscedere* to go away], a cavity containing pus and surrounded by inflamed tissue, formed as a result of supuration in a localized infection (characteristically, a staphylococcal infection). Healing usually occurs when an abscess drains or is incised.

**abscess of liver** [L *abscedere*; AS *lifer*], an abscess in the liver cells, usually caused by an amebic infection, bacterial infections, or trauma, characterized by sweats and chills, pain, nausea, and vomiting.

**abscissa** /ab'sis'ə/ [L *ab* away; *scindere* to cut], a point on a horizontal Cartesian coordinate plane measured from the y-axis running perpendicular to the plane.

**absence seizure**, an epileptic seizure characterized by a sudden, momentary loss of consciousness occasionally accompanied by minor myoclonus of the neck or upper extremities, slight symmetric twitching of the face, or a loss of muscle tone. The seizures usually occur many times a day without a warning aura and are most frequent in children and adolescents, especially at the time of puberty. The patient experiencing a typical seizure has a vacant facial expression and ceases all voluntary motor activity; with the rapid return of consciousness, the patient may resume conversation at the point of interruption without realizing what occurred. During and between seizures, the patient's electroencephalogram shows three cycle-per-second spike and wave discharges. Anticonvulsant drugs used to prevent absence seizures include ethosuximide and valproic acid.

**absenteeism**, (for health or related reasons) absence from work. The most common causes of absenteeism include influenza and occupationally related skin diseases.

**absentia epileptica** [L, *absens*, not present; Gk, *epilepsia*, seizure], a brief loss of consciousness. It usually occurs without convulsions but may be accompanied by minor involuntary muscle contractions. Formerly called **petite mal seizures**.

**absent without leave (AWOL)** /ə'wɒl/ [L *absentia*], describing a patient who leaves a psychiatric facility without authorization.

**absolute agraphia** [L, *absolutus*, set loose; Gk, *a*, not, *graphein*, to write], a complete inability to write due to a central nervous system lesion. The person is unable to write even the letters of the alphabet.

**absolute alcohol**. See **dehydrated alcohol**.

**absolute cephalopelvic disproportion**. See **cephalopelvic disproportion**.

**absolute discharge** [L *absolutus* set free], a final and complete termination of the patient's relationship with a hospital.

**absolute growth**, the total increase in size of an organism or a particular organ or part, such as the limbs, head, or trunk.

**absolute humidity**, the actual weight or content of water in a measured volume of air. It is usually expressed in grams per cubic meter or pounds per cubic foot or cubic yard.

**absolute refractory period**. See **refractory period**.

**absolute temperature**, temperature that is measured from a base of absolute zero on either the Kelvin scale or the Rankine scale.

**absolute threshold**, [L *absolutus* set loose; AS *therscold*], the lowest point at which a stimulus can be perceived.

**absolute zero**, the temperature at which all molecular activity ceases. On the Kelvin scale, absolute zero is estimated to be equal to  $-273^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**absolutum glaucoma** [L *abolutus*; Gk *cataract*], complete blindness in which vision is permanently lost and intraocular pressure is increased. The optic disc is white and deeply excavated and the pupil is usually widely dilated and immobile.

**absorb** /əbsɔrb/, /əbzɔrb/ [L *absorbere* to swallow], **1.** the act of taking up various substances; for example, the tissues of the intestines absorb fluids. **2.** the energy transferred to tissues by radiation, such as an absorbed dose of radioactivity.

**absorbable gauze**, a gauzelike material, produced from oxidized cellulose, that can be absorbed. It is applied directly to bleeding tissue for hemostasis.

**absorbable surgical suture**, [L *absorbere*; Gk *cheiourgos*, surgery; L *sutura*], sutures made from material that can be com-

pletely removed by the body's phagocytes. **absorbance** /əbsɔr'bæns/, the degree of absorption of light or other radiant energy by a medium through which the radiant energy passes.

**absorbed dose**, (in radiotherapy) the energy imparted by ionizing radiation per unit mass of irradiated material at the place of interest. The SI unit of absorbed dose is the gray, which is 1 joule/kg and equals 100 rad.

**absorbent** /əbsɔr'bɛnt/ [L *absorbere*], **1.** capable of attracting and absorbing substances into itself. **2.** a product or substance that can absorb liquids or gases.

**absorbent dressing**, a dressing of any material applied to a wound or incision to absorb secretions.

**absorbent gauze**, a gauze for absorbing fluids. The form, weight, and use vary. Gauze may be a fine fabric in rolled single layers for spiral bandages, or it may be a thick, many-layered pad for a sterile pressure dressing.

**absorbifacient** /əbsɔr'bifā'shənt/ [L *absorbere* + *facere* to make], **1.** any agent that promotes or enhances absorption. **2.** causing or enhancing absorption.

**absorption** /əbsɔrp'shən/ [L *absorbere*], **1.** the incorporation of matter by other matter through chemical, molecular, or physical action, as the dissolving of a gas in a liquid or the taking up of a liquid by a porous solid. **2.** (in physiology) the passage of substances across and into tissues, such as the passage of digested food molecules into intestinal cells or the passage of liquids into kidney tubules. Kinds of absorption are **agglutinin, cutaneous, external, interstitial, intestinal, parenteral, and pathologic absorption**. **3.** (in radiology) the process of absorbing radiant energy by living or nonliving matter with which the radiation reacts.

**absorption coefficient**, (in radiology) the fractional loss in intensity of radioactive energy as it interacts with an absorbing material. It is usually expressed per unit of thickness or per unit mass.

**absorption rate constant**, a value describing how much drug is absorbed per unit of time.

**absorption spectrum**, the range of electromagnetic energy that is used for spectroanalysis, including both visible light and ultraviolet radiation; also, a graph of spectrum for a specific compound.

**absorptivity** /əb'sɔrptiv'itē/, absorbance divided by the product of the concentration of a substance and the sample path length.

**abstinence** /əb'stɪnəns/, voluntary avoidance of any substance or the performance



of any act for which the person has an appetite.

**abstinence syndrome** [L *abstinere* to hold back; Gk *syn* together, *dromos* course], the withdrawal symptoms experienced by a chemically dependent person who is suddenly deprived of a regular intake of alcohol or other drugs.

**abstract** /ab'strakt, abstrakt'/, a condensed summary of a scientific article, literary piece, or address.

**abstraction** /abstrak'shən/ [L *abstrahere* to drag away], a condition in which the teeth or other maxillary and mandibular structures are below their normal position or away from the occlusal plane.

**abstract thinking**, the final stage in the development of the cognitive thought processes in the child. During this phase, thought is characterized by adaptability, flexibility, and the use of concepts and generalizations.

**abulia** /əb'oo'lyə/ [Gk *a*, *boule* not will], a loss of the ability or a reduced capacity to function voluntarily or to make decisions. Also spelled **aboulia**.

**abuse** /aby'ooz/ [L *abuti* to waste], 1. improper use of equipment, a substance, or a service, such as a drug or program, either intentionally or unintentionally. 2. to attack or injure. A kind of abuse is **child abuse**.

**abuse of the elderly**, physical, psychologic, or material abuse, as well as violation of the rights of safety, security, and adequate health care of older adults. The victim of such abuse is generally an older woman with physical or mental impairment who lives with an adult child or another relative.

**abutment** [Fr *abouter* to place end to end], a tooth, root, or implant for the support and retention of a fixed or movable prosthesis.

**abutment tooth**, a tooth selected to support a prosthesis.

**ABVD**, an anticancer drug combination of doxorubicin, bleomycin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine.

**Ac**, symbol for the element actinium.

**a.c.**, (in prescriptions) abbreviation for *ante cibum*, a Latin phrase meaning "before meals." The times of administration are commonly 7 AM, 11 AM, and 5 PM.

**A-C**, abbreviation for *alveolar-capillary*.

**acacia gum**, a dried, gummy exudate of the acacia tree (*Acacia senegal*) used as a suspending or emulsifying agent in medicines.

**academic ladder** [Gk *akademeia* school], the hierarchy of faculty appointments in a university through which a faculty member must advance from instructor to assis-

tant professor, to associate professor, and, finally, to professor.

**acalculia** /a'kalkoo'lyə/ [Gk *a* not; L *calcularre* to reckon], a type of aphasia characterized by the inability to solve simple mathematic calculations.

**acampsia** /əkamp'sē-ə/ [Gk *a*, *kampsein* not to bend], a condition in which a joint becomes rigid.

**acantha** /əkən'thə/ [Gk *akantha* thorn], a spine or a spinous projection. **-acanthoid**, *adj.*

**acanthiomeatal line** /əkən'thē-ō'mē-ā'təl/ a hypothetical line extending from the external auditory meatus to the acanthion. In dentistry, a full maxillary denture is constructed so that its occlusal plane is parallel with this line.

**acanthion**, a point at the center of the base of the anterior nasal spine.

**Acanthocheilonema perstans**, /əkən'thōkī'lənē'mə/ a threadworm usually found in Africa. It commonly infects wild and domestic animals and occasionally invades the bloodstream of humans, causing a skin rash, muscle and joint pains, and various neurologic disorders.

**acanthocyte** /əkən'thōsīt'/ [Gk *akantha* + *kytos* cell], an abnormal red blood cell with spurlike projections giving it a thorny appearance.

**acanthocytosis** /əkən'thōsītō'sis/ [Gk *akantha*, *kytos* + *osis* condition], the abnormal presence of acanthocytes in the circulating blood system.

**acanthoid**. See **acantha**.

**acanthoma** /ək'anthō'mə/ [Gk *akantha* + *oma* tumor], any benign or malignant tumor arising from the prickle-cell layer of the epidermis.

**acanthoma adenoides cysticum**. See **trichoeptithelioma**.

**acanthoma verrucosa seborrheica**. See **seborrheic keratosis**.

**acanthosis** /ək'anthō'sis/ [Gk *akantha* + *osis* condition], an abnormal thickening of the prickle-cell layer of the skin, as in eczema and psoriasis. **-acanthotic**, *adj.*

**acanthosis nigricans** /nē'grikanz'/, a skin disease characterized by hyperpigmented, warty lesions of the axillae and perianal body folds.

**acapnia**, /əkəp'nē-ə/ a deficiency of carbon dioxide in the blood. The condition is usually the result of hyperventilation.

**AC/A ratio**, in ophthalmology, the proportion between accommodative convergence (AC) and accommodation (A), or the amount of convergence automatically resulting from the dioptric focusing of the eyes at a specified distance. The ratio of accommodative convergence to accommo-



dation is usually expressed as the quotient of accommodative convergence in prism diopters divided by the accommodative response in diopters.

**acardia** /akär'bē-ə/ [Gk *a* not; L *carbo*, coal], **1.** a decrease in the bicarbonate level in the blood. **2.** any condition that lowers the bicarbonate level in the blood.

**acardia** /akär'dē-ə/ [Gk *a*, *kardia* not heart], a rare congenital anomaly in which the heart is absent. It is sometimes seen in a conjoined twin whose survival until birth depended on the circulatory system of its twin. —**acardiac**, *adj.*

**acardius acephalus**, an acardiac fetus that lacks a head and most of the upper part of the body.

**acardius acormus**, an acardiac fetus that has a grossly defective trunk.

**acardius amorphus**, an acardiac fetus with a rudimentary body that does not resemble the normal form.

**acarasis** /ak'ərī'əsis/ [Gk *akari* mite, *osis* condition], any disease caused by an acarid, such as scrub typhus, which is transmitted by trombiculid mites.

**acarid** /ak'ərīd/, one of the many mites that are members of the order Acarina, which includes a great number of parasitic and free-living organisms. Important as vectors of scrub typhus and other rickettsial agents are the six-legged larvae of trombiculid mites, which are parasitic of humans, many other mammals, and birds.

**acc, Acc**, abbreviation for **accommodation**.

**accelerated hypertension**. See **malignant hypertension**.

**accelerated idiojunctional rhythm** /id'ē-ō-, an automatic junctional rhythm at a rate exceeding the normal firing rate of the junction but slower than 100 per minute (60 to 100 per minute) and without retrograde conduction to the atria.

**accelerated idioventricular rhythm (AIVR)**, an automatic ectopic ventricular rhythm, faster than the normal rate of the His-Purkinje system but slower than 100 per minute (50 to 100 per minute) and without retrograde conduction to the atria.

**accelerated junctional rhythm**, an ectopic junctional heart rhythm with a rate that exceeds the normal firing rate of junctional tissue, with or without retrograde atrial conduction.

**acceleration** [L *accelerare* to quicken], an increase in the speed or velocity of an object or reaction. —**accelerator**, *n.*

**acceleration phase**, (in obstetrics) the first period of active labor, characterized by an increased rate of dilatation of the cervical os as charted on a Friedman curve.

**accelerator urinae**. See **bulbocavernosus**.

**accentuation**, [L *accentus* accent], an increase in distinctness or loudness, as in heart sounds.

**acceptable daily intake (ADI)**, the maximum amount of any substance that can be safely ingested by a human. Ingestion in excess of this amount may cause toxic effects.

**acceptance of individuality**, (in psychiatry) an index of family health by which differentiation or individuation is a valued goal.

**acceptance of separation**, an indicator of mental well-being in a family by which a loss is mourned and the family moves on to growth issues.

**acceptor** [L *accipere* to receive], **1.** an organism that receives from another person or organism living tissue, such as transfused blood or a transplanted organ. **2.** a substance or compound that combines with a part of another substance or compound.

**access cavity** [L *accedere* to approach], a coronal opening in a tooth, required for effective cleaning, shaping, and filling of the pulp space.

**accessory** /aksēs'ərē/ [L *accessionis* appendage], **1.** a supplement used chiefly for convenience or for safety, such as the electric elevator mechanisms for hospital beds. **2.** a structure that serves one of the main anatomic systems, such as the accessory organs of the skin, the hair, the nails, and the skin glands.

**accessory chromosome**, an unpaired X or Y sex chromosome.

**accessory diaphragm**, a congenital defect in which a second diaphragm or portion of a diaphragm develops in the chest. It may be separated from the true diaphragm by a lobe of a lung.

**accessory ligament**, [L *accessionis* a thing added, *ligare* to bind], a ligament that helps to strengthen a union between two bones, although it is not part of a joint capsule.

**accessory movements**, joint movements that are necessary for a full range of motion, but that are not under direct voluntary control of the individual. Examples include rotation and gliding motions.

**accessory muscle**, a relatively rare anatomic duplication of a muscle that may appear anywhere in the muscular system.

**accessory muscles of respiration** [L, *supplementary*], additional or reinforcing muscles, such as muscles of the neck, back, and abdomen, that may play a more prominent role in respiration during a breathing disorder or during exercise.