

Microbiology Case Studies

Medical Glossary

abscess A cavity of liquefactive necrosis within solid tissue as a result of a localized infection; this can be the result of an acute or a chronic process.

adenopathy An enlargement of lymph nodes in response to some stimulus such as inflammation or infection; can occur singly or in multiple nodes; also referred to as lymphadenopathy.

adnexa An appendage to an organ or structure.

adrenalitis Inflammation of the adrenal gland.

afebrile Relating to the absence of fever.

agglutination The interaction between a particulate antigen and antibodies specific for the particular antigen; the antigen-antibody complex leads to the aggregation or clumping of the antigen-containing material.

alveolus An air sac in the lung consisting of a single layer of cells surrounded by a network of capillaries also consisting of a single cell layer; gas exchange occurs here.

ameboma A nodular inflammatory lesion, usually in the wall of the colon, that may develop in chronic amebiasis.

anemia A condition in which the number of functional red blood cells is decreased; this is often associated with symptoms such as pallor, fatigue, shortness of breath, and lethargy.

energy A lack of the ability of the immune system to respond with a delayed-type hypersensitivity reaction to commonly and previously encountered antigens such as mumps and candida; often seen in patients with AIDS.

anorexia Decreased appetite.

anti phagocytic Inhibiting the ability of the phagocyte to ingest bacteria, foreign materials, or other cellular debris.

antipyretics Fever-reducing agents such as aspirin, acetaminophen, or ibuprofen.

aplastic anemia Decrease in the numbers of all elements in the blood due to the death of their precursor cells in the bone marrow, where the cells usually mature; often associated with drugs which are toxic to these cells.

arthralgia Severe joint pain, usually characterized as non-inflammatory.

arthritis Inflammation or infection of a joint, leading to decreased and painful mobility of the affected joint.

asplenia Absence of the spleen, either congenitally (at birth) or later, often seen in persons with long-standing sickling disease. This condition makes the individual susceptible to infections by certain bacteria.

asterixis An involuntary jerking motion that occurs with various toxic or metabolic encephalopathies, especially hepatitis encephalopathy; most easily demonstrated when the patient is asked to extend his or her arms with the hands pointed up and the fingers extended.

ataxia The inability to coordinate muscle activity during voluntary movements of the head, limbs, or trunk; often associated with cerebellar or posterior spinal column dysfunction.

atrophy A process characterized by wasting of specific tissues, organs, or the entire body that can result from a variety of causes.

attenuation Decreased virulence of a pathogen through either natural or experimental means.

auscultation A method based on sounds or sound changes, used during a physical examination to gather data on internal organs like the heart, lungs, liver, etc.; the most common method involves the use of a stethoscope.

autochthonous Refers to a process that originated in the place where it is found.

avirulent Microorganism with limited pathogenic potential.

axillus Armpit; the area between the upper arm and chest wall where the two join.

bacteremia The presence of viable bacteria in the bloodstream; may be a transient phenomenon associated with dental care, or a persistent or recurrent condition resulting in clinical disease.

bacteriocins Proteins produced by certain bacteria that have lethal effects on related bacteria; although the effect has a more narrow range than antibiotics, it is more potent.

bacteriuria The presence of bacteria in the urine.

bilabial Pertaining to the bases of both lungs.

bilateral Pertaining to both sides of a symmetrically shaped tissue, organ, or the entire body; for example, the right and left lungs are bilateral organs.

biliary tree System of ducts through which bile is transported.

biopsy A procedure that involves the removal of specific tissues from patients for the purpose of diagnosis.

bronchiolitis Inflammation of the bronchioles (conducting airways of less than 1 mm).

bronchitis Inflammation or infection of the airways.

bronchoalveolar lavage The instillation of saline fluid into the airways of the lungs so that samples can be removed and the washings (fluids) can be analyzed for malignancy or infection; also done during bronchoscopy.

bronchoscopy The use of a flexible hollow tube to look directly at the trachea, bronchi, and larger airways in the lungs; it is also possible to obtain samples (biopsies, fluids, brushings) through this device.

bronchospasm Episodic constriction of smooth muscles lining the bronchi in response to some kind of irritant or stimulus.

cachexia General weight loss or wasting due to a disease process or emotional imbalance.

calcification Focal area of increased deposition of calcium compounds.

catheterization The placement of a catheter, usually through the urethra, into the bladder in order to drain urine from the bladder.

CD4-positive (CD4+) cells Subset of T lymphocytes which are characterized by the presence of CD4 receptors on their cell membrane surfaces; they assist in turning on the immune response by activating other T and B lymphocytes; also called T-helper cells. Less than 200 cells per μ l seen in AIDS patients.

cellulitis Inflammation or infection of tissues beneath the skin.

cerebellar Pertaining to the cerebellum (the portion of the brain concerning the coordination of complex movements and balance).

cerebrospinal fluid Fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

cervical Pertaining to the neck or necklike portion of an organ.

cervicitis Inflammation of the mucous membranes or deeper structures of the cervix.

chancr The primary lesion of syphilis; typically dull red, hard, and insensitive with a center that erodes and ulcerates, then heals slowly over a period of 4 to 6 weeks.

chemoprophylaxis The use of chemicals such as antibiotics to prevent the occurrence of disease.

chemotherapy The use of drugs or chemical substances to treat disease.

cholangitis Inflammation or infection of the bile ducts.

cholecystitis Inflammation of the gall bladder.

cholecystectomy Surgical removal of the gall bladder.

chorioamnionitis Inflammation or infection of the chorion, amnion, amniotic fluid, and often the placental villi and decidua as well.

chorioretinitis Inflammation or infection of the light-detecting layer (retina) and the underlying vascular tissue (choroid) beneath it in the back of the eye, which can lead to progressive impairment of vision.

cirrhosis Destruction of a tissue or organ with loss of normal structure which is replaced with scar tissue; common in association with alcoholism, where it involves the liver.

colitis Inflammation of the colon.

conjunctivitis Inflammation or infection of the tissue protecting the front of the eye.

convalescence The period of time after a disease process has ended but before the return of optimal health is complete.

coryza Acute inflammation or infection of the nasal membranes, leading to a thin watery discharge from the nose, as is seen with the common cold.

costovertebral angle The area in the back where the last ribs join to their respective vertebrae.

crepitant Relating to the crackling sound (resembling the sound that occurs when rubbing hair between the fingers) that is heard in certain disease states.

croup The difficult, noisy respirations and hoarse cough that characterize laryngeal problems in children; this is often caused by parainfluenza virus.

cushingoid body habitus An increase in adipose tissue (fat) in certain areas of the body, legs, and trunk. Purplish stripes, especially on the abdomen (striae), are also seen associated with Cushing's disease.

cyst An abnormal membranous sac containing gas, fluid, or semisolid material.

cystitis Inflammation or infection of the urinary bladder; also called urinary tract infection (UTI). Associated with symptoms including painful urination, increased urination, and/or malodorous urine.

cystocele A hernia of the bladder; the hernia usually protrudes into the vagina.

cytologic Relating to the study of cytology (the anatomy, physiology, pathology, and chemistry of the cell).

cytopathic Changes in intracellular structures due to disease or toxins, usually leading to the death of the cell.

cytotoxic Destructive or damaging to a cell.

debride To remove devitalized tissue and/or foreign material from a wound.

dermatomal Pertaining to the area of skin which is served by one sensory spinal nerve.

disequilibrium Unsteady balance.

disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) A phenomenon which arises due to the depletion of clotting elements in the blood; caused by many disease processes; diffuse, severe hemorrhaging

can occur; without treatment, it is often fatal.

dorsal Referring to the back or posterior aspect of a tissue or organ.

dorsal root ganglion Group of nerve cell bodies outside the spinal cord which convey sensory impulses to the brain.

dysentery A condition marked by frequent watery stools usually containing blood and mucus; often accompanied by pain, fever, and dehydration; typically the result of amebic, bacillary, helminthic, or viral infections.

dyspepsia Gastric indigestion (upset stomach) due to alterations of gastric function that are caused by various disorders of the stomach.

dyspnea Difficulty in breathing; also called shortness of breath.

dysuria Difficulty or pain on urination.

eczema An itchy, scaly, blistering, or raised rash often seen in children and associated with irritation of the skin.

edema An accumulation of large amounts of watery fluid in tissues throughout the body.

effusion Leakage of fluid from blood vessels or lymphatics into the tissues or a cavity; for example, referred to as pleural effusion when excess fluid is found in the pleural cavity around the lungs, perhaps as a result of inflammation.

electromyography (EMG) Test used to represent electrical currents associated with muscles.

emesis Vomiting.

empyema The collection of purulent material in the pleural space.

enanthera A mucous membrane eruption; typically occurs in relation to the skin eruptions that are symptoms of acute viral or coccal disease (exanthema).

encephalitis Inflammation of the brain.

endemic Describes the presence of a disease that persists in a community or group of people.

endocarditis Inflammation or infection of the tissue lining the inside of the heart; usually involves the heart valves.

endometritis Inflammation or infection of the lining of the uterus.

endoscopy Procedure involving the passing of a flexible hollow tube into the esophagus or rectum for the purpose of visualizing portions of the gastrointestinal tract; also useful for obtaining diagnostic samples.

enteric Relating to the intestine.

enterotoxin Exotoxin that causes fluid secretion in the gut.

enzootic Referring to a temporal pattern of disease occurrence in an animal population that is marked by predictable regularity with little change over time; for example, the pattern of hantavirus infection in deer mice.

eosinophilia Increased number of eosinophils (type of leukocyte) in the blood, often associated with parasitic infections.

epidemic Refers to the unexpectedly large number of cases of a disease or illness in a community.

epididymitis Inflammation or infection of the epididymis.

epigastric Relating to the area of the abdomen that lies between the margins of the ribs.

epiglottitis Inflammation or infection of the flexible flap of tissue which covers the larynx during swallowing.

erythema Reddening, usually of the skin or mucous membranes.

erythema infectiosum A mild facial rash in children that has a "slapped cheek" appearance; usually caused by parvovirus B19.

esophagitis Inflammation of the esophagus.

ethmoid sinus Air-filled cavity in the ethmoid bone located below the orbit of the eye and beside the nose.

etiology The cause of a disease or process.

exanthema A skin rash that occurs as a symptom of acute viral or bacterial infection.

excoriate To physically scratch or remove the skin.

exotoxins Proteins secreted by bacteria which have toxic effects on mammalian cells.

extensor surface The surface of a joint involved in extension or straightening of a limb.

extradermatomal Not confined to one dermatome.

extradural Referring to the outer side of the dura mater.

extramedullary cranial ganglion Outside the medulla oblongata (brain stem), in reference to the cranial nerves.

exudate Fluid resulting from inflammation or infection; contains an increased number of cells and an increased amount of proteins and other cellular debris.

febrile Relating to fever.

flatulence The presence of excessive gas in the stomach and intestines.

flocculent The presence of mucus or a mucus-like material in a fluid such as the urine.

fomite An object that is capable of transmitting an organism from one location to another; examples of such an object might include toys, clothing, utensils, or hairbrushes.

fontanelles Soft area between the cranial bones of an infant's skull, indicative of areas not yet ossified.

fulminant The sudden occurrence of an intense or severe process.

gait Manner of walking.

gangrene Necrosis due to any cause (for example, obstructed, diminished, or lost blood flow); may be localized or widespread; may be dry or wet.

gastritis Inflammation of the stomach, usually involving only the lining inside the organ.

gastroenteritis Inflammation of the mucous membrane lining of both the stomach and intestine.

glomerulonephritis Bilateral inflammatory changes of the glomeruli that are the result of renal disease rather than infection.

granuloma A collection of leukocytes, macrophages, and specialized cells of the reticuloendothelial system surrounding a focal area of chronic inflammation or infection; usually forms a nodular mass.

granulomatous Pertaining to or resembling a granuloma.

guaiac Used as a reagent t6 test for blood in the stool.

Guillain-Barre syndrome Inflammation of peripheral nerves leading to increasing weakness or paralysis; most often occurs in more distal areas before affecting portions of the body more proximally. Usually remits with resolution of the underlying disease.

hallucinosi A syndrome characterized by hallucinations that are caused by organic substances such as drugs and alcohol.

hematemesis Vomiting up blood.

hematocrit Amount of red blood cells (erythrocytes) in a given volume of blood; usually expressed as a percentage.

hematogenous Refers to anything produced by, derived from, or spread through the blood.

hematoma A collection of blood within an extravascular space such as an organ, a tissue area, or a potential space; the blood displays various colors and degrees of organization; a bruise.

hematuria The presence of blood in the urine.

hemoco An increase in the number of red blood cells per unit volume of plasma.

hemoglobinopathies Disorders or diseases that are characterized by the destruction or breakdown of red blood cells as a result of abnormalities of hemoglobin structure; for example, sickle cell disease and thalassemia.

hemolysis Destruction or breakdown of red blood cells that leads to the release of hemoglobin into the blood.

hemoptysis Coughing up (expectoration) of blood or blood-streaked sputum from the lungs.

hepatitis Inflammation of hepatic (liver) cells.

hepatomegaly Enlargement of the liver.

hepatosplenomegaly Enlargement of the liver and spleen.

hilum The area of an organ where the nerves and vessels enter and exit; the lungs, kidneys, lymph nodes, ovaries, and spleen all have hilar areas.

horizontal transmission Passage of disease from person to person or by contact with infected materials.

humoral Referring to substances in the blood; in the immune system, this refers to antibodies to help fight disease rather than the cellular portion which involves leukocytes.

hydrocephalus Condition characterized by a large accumulation of fluid in the cerebral ventricles; this results in increased intracranial pressure and dilatation of the cerebral ventricles.

hydrops General term for the accumulation of clear, watery fluid in spaces or cavities throughout the body.

hypercholesterolemia The presence of abnormally high levels of cholesterol in the blood.

hyperinfection Infections caused by very large numbers of organisms that result from immunodeficient states.

hypertension Abnormally high blood pressure.

hyponatremia Abnormally low concentrations of sodium in the circulating blood.

hypopituitary Pertaining to a decrease in the amount of hormones produced by the anterior (forward) portion of the pituitary gland; involves hormones which affect growth, steroid production, thyroid gland function, and the regulation of the female reproductive cycle.

hypoplasia The underdevelopment of tissues or organs as a result of either atrophy or a decrease in the number of cells.

hypotension Abnormally low blood pressure.

hypoxemia Low oxygen content in the blood.

icterus See jaundice.

idiopathic cardiomyopathy Dilatation and weakening of the heart muscle with no known cause.

Immunosuppressive An agent or disease that prevents or interferes with the immune system response.

Impetigo Infection of previously damaged skin by group A streptococci or staphylococci; lesions usually drain honey-colored fluid.

In utero Inside the womb.

indolent Nearly or completely painless, sluggish, or inactive; used to describe a disease process.

induration Firmness in soft tissue.

infarct Tissue death often due to an interruption in the blood supply to that tissue.

infiltrate The invasion of the spaces in a tissue by materials not usually found in the tissue, such as tumors, infectious agents, white blood cells, etc.

interstitial Spaces between the components of a tissue; e.g., in the lungs this pertains to spaces between the lung parenchyma.

intracranial Within the skull.

intrapartum During labor or delivery.

intraabdominally Within the peritoneal cavity.

intrauterine Inside the cavity of the womb, as for an unborn child.

intubation The placement of a tubular device from the oro- or nasopharyngeal cavity into the trachea in order to assist with ventilation.

ischemia Cellular injury and death due to the impairment of blood flow to a region.

jaundice Yellow cast of the skin and mucous membranes due to an increase of bilirubins (bile breakdown products) which occur because the liver is unable to clear these chemicals from the blood; often due to toxic or infectious hepatitis; also referred to as icterus.

laryngitis Inflammation of the larynx (voice box).

laryngotracheobronchitis Inflammation of the larynx and larger airways.

lethargy Drowsiness or decreased responsiveness.

leukemia General term used to describe a group of malignancies of either lymphoid or hematopoietic origin; progressive proliferation of abnormal leukocytes can be found in the blood, the hematopoietic tissues, and other organs.

lumbar puncture A procedure that is used to obtain cerebrospinal fluid for diagnostic purposes.

lymphocytosis An increase in the number of lymphocytes above normal.

lymphoma Cancer of the lymph cells or their precursors.

lymphoproliferative disorders Anyone of a group of cancers involving cells from which white blood cells or platelets are derived; includes lymphomas, leukemias, and multiple myeloma, among others.

macular Pertaining to lesions which are flat and which are often only detected because of a change in color or texture of the lesion from surrounding, normal tissue.

maculopapular Pertaining to lesions with properties which are both macular and papular.

malabsorptive diarrhea An increase in the total number or volume of stools due to a decrease in the absorption of nutrients (especially fats) in the small intestine.

malaise Generalized feeling of discomfort caused by any disease process.

melena Excretion of black, tarry stools containing blood that has been altered by intestinal substances.

meninges Thin, tough tissue surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

meningitis Inflammation of the meninges.

aseptic Low number of white cells in cerebrospinal fluid, predominantly lymphocytes, most frequently caused by infection by viruses or fungi.

septic High number of white cells, predominantly neutrophils, due to infection by bacteria.

meningoencephalitis Inflammation of the brain and surrounding membranes.

metaphyseal Relating to the conical portion of long bones that lies between the epiphysis and diaphysis.

metastasis The occurrence of disease at sites distant from and not connected directly with the site where the disease first appeared; this process is seen with many tumors and infections.

microangiopathic hemolytic anemia The destruction or breakdown of red blood cells as a result of diseases or disorders of the capillaries.

mitral regurgitation Any condition of the mitral valve between the left atrium and left ventricle that allows blood to flow back into the atrium when the ventricle contracts; normally, the valve shuts tightly, allowing no flow of blood back into the atrium; often heard as a heart murmur during auscultation.

mitral valve prolapse A defect in the valve between the left atrium and ventricle caused by a weakening of the tough connective tissue of the valve leaflets, which allows the valve to project back into the left atrium; during normal function, the valve closes tightly during ventricular contraction.

morbilliform rash Rash which resembles the flat to slightly raised (maculopapular) lesions seen in measles.

mucocutaneous Involving the skin and mucous membranes.

murmur Abnormal sounds heard on, auscultation of the heart, lungs, or vessels; this is a physical finding that has a variety of causes.

myalgia Soreness or aching of muscles.

myeloma Cancer of well-differentiated immunoglobulin-producing cells; progressive proliferation of plasma cells is seen with this type of malignancy.

myocarditis Inflammation of heart muscle cells.

nares Nostrils.

nasopharyngeal Pertaining to the nasal and pharyngeal cavities.

necrosis Death of cells, tissues, or portions of organs that results from irreversible injury; several different types of necrosis can be distinguished.

necrotizing fasciitis A destructive soft-tissue infection that causes necrosis of the superficial fascia and surrounding tissues; this is often a fulminant process.

neonate A newborn infant.

nephrosis Degeneration of renal tubular epithelium.

neuropathy Diseases or disorders affecting the cranial nerves or the peripheral or autonomic nervous systems.

neutropenia Abnormally low numbers of neutrophils in the circulating blood.

nodular Knotlike or raised, solid lesions of the skin or other organs.

nonsuppurative sequelae Complications, caused by a previous attack of a disease, that do not contain or drain pus.

normotensive Normal blood pressure; the usual readings in adults are seen between 90/50 and 150/90 mm Hg.

nosocomial Any hospital-acquired condition resulting from a person's hospital stay.

nuchal rigidity Stiffness of the neck, often associated with meningeal infection.

occult blood Blood present in body fluids such as stool which cannot be detected with the naked eye; the most rapid test for occult blood is a guaiac (Hem occult) test.

opisthotonic Spastic state in which the head and heels are bent backward and the torso extends outward.

opportunistic infection An infection caused by an organism capable of causing disease only in individuals whose resistance to infection is lowered.

opsonic Pertaining to an agent (typically an antibody) that, when bound to an antigen such as bacterial proteins, enhances the ingestion of the antigen by white blood cells.

organomegaly Abnormal enlargement of the organs; visceromegaly.

oropharyngeal Pertaining to the oral and pharyngeal cavities.

orthostatic hypotension Decreased blood pressure caused by standing erect; often seen in patients who are dehydrated.

osteomyelitis Inflammation or infection of bone.

otitis media Inflammation of the middle ear behind the ear drum; visualized with an otoscope, which often shows the presence of fluid or pus behind the ear drum.

ototoxic Refers to a substance that has a toxic effect on the ear; some antibiotics, for example, have this property.

palpation A technique used during physical examination that involves the use of the hands to feel for organs, abnormal masses, pulses, or vibrations in the chest.

pancytopenia A significant reduction in the number of red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets in the circulating blood.

pandemic Relating to a disease that is affecting the population of an extensive region, country, or continent.

papular Pertaining to lesions which are raised and well circumscribed.

parasitemia Presence of parasites in the blood.

paravertebral Beside a vertebra or the vertebral column.

parenchyma Cells of a gland or organ that are contained within and supported by the surrounding connective tissue network.

paresis Incomplete paralysis.

paroxysm The abrupt episodic recurrence of disease or disease symptoms; also, spasms or fits.

pathogen Any microorganism that causes disease.

pathognomonic Symptoms or lesions characteristic of a single disease process, on the basis of which a diagnosis can be determined.

pelvic inflammatory disease Inflammation of the female reproductive organs, typically due to infection.

pericarditis Inflammation of the sac covering the heart.

periobital Around the eye socket (orbit).

periosteum The tough tissue surrounding the surface of any bone.

periostitis Inflammation of the periosteum (the thick fibrous membrane that covers the surface of the bone, except for the articular cartilage).

peristalsis The alternating waves of contraction and relaxation within the gastrointestinal tract that propel its contents onward.

peritonitis Inflammation of the peritoneum (the thin lining of mesothelium and connective tissue that lines the abdominal cavity).

periumbilical Pertaining to the area surrounding the navel (umbilicus).

petechiae Pinpoint, flat lesions due to hemorrhage of blood into tissues under the skin or mucous membranes.

petechial rash Small, pinpoint, and flat lesions of the skin and mucous membranes associated with hemorrhage beneath the tissue; similar to purpura, except the lesions seen with purpura tend to be larger.

Peyer's patches Lymphatic tissues in the walls of the large intestine.

phagocytosis The process by which cells ingest and digest solid substances such as tissue debris, bacteria, or foreign material.

pharyngitis Inflammation of the pharynx, the muscular tube connecting the nose and mouth to the esophagus and larynx; sore throat.

phenotypic Pertaining to the effects of an organism's genes and the environment on its physical appearance, biochemistry, and physiology.

photophobia Abnormal sensitivity to light.

pleocytosis The presence of abnormally large numbers of cells; often refers to the increase in white blood cells that occurs during an infection.

pleuritic Referring to inflammation of the pleura (pleurisy).

pleurodynia Episodic pain due to transient intercostal muscle (muscles between the ribs which assist in respiration) spasms, caused by irritation of the pleura.

pneumonia Infection of the lung parenchyma.

pneumonitis Inflammation of the lungs.

PPD skin test A diagnostic test in which purified protein derivative is placed just under the skin; this test is used to determine if patients are infected with tuberculosis.

portal circulation The circulation of blood to the liver from the small intestine, the right half of the colon, and the spleen via the portal vein.

post ictal Referring to a patient's condition following a seizure. Many people are less alert, and transient neurologic findings may be observed.

preeclampsia A condition of the late stages of pregnancy caused by accumulation of toxins in the blood; characterized by high blood pressure, swelling of the hands and feet, and the presence of proteins in the urine. If seizures are present, it becomes known as eclampsia.

prion Infectious protein, possibly self-replicating.

proctitis Inflammation of the rectum.

proctocolitis Inflammation of the colon (large intestine) and rectum.

prodrome An early symptom of a disease.

prophylactic Pertaining to agents or procedures which prevent disease processes in susceptible individuals; for example, giving vaccines or antibiotics to prevent infection before it occurs.

prosthetic Pertaining to a man-made replacement for a missing or defective body part, such as artificial limbs or heart valves.

proximal phalanx The part of a digit (fingers or toes) that is closest to its attachment to the body.

pruritus Itching.

pseudomembranous colitis Inflammation of the mucous membranes of the small and large intestines with the formation of false membranes composed of bacteria, white blood cells, fibrin, platelets, and necrotic material; occurs most frequently as a result of the action of exotoxins made by *Clostridium difficile*.

ptosis Drooping of the upper eyelid.

punctate Pertaining to lesions or markings which look like points or dots.

purpura Purplish lesions of the skin and mucous membranes due to hemorrhage beneath the tissues; usually less than 1 cm in size, lesions may be flat or raised.

purulent Related to presence, consistency, or formation of pus.

pustular Pertaining to a skin rash with the presence of pus in the lesions.

pyelonephritis Infection of the kidney with or without a concurrent bladder infection.

pyrogenic Causing fever.

pyuria The presence of pus in the urine.

quadripareisis Weakness of all four extremities.

rales Abnormal breathing sounds heard by auscultation of the lungs during respiration; classified as dry or moist.

rectocolitis Inflammation of both the rectum and colon.

renal Pertaining to the kidney.

reticuloendothelial system (RES) The specialized white blood cells (especially macrophages) and other cells in the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen.

retinal Referring to the retina.

retinitis Inflammation of the light-detecting tissue (retina) in the back of the eye.

rhinitis Inflammatory or infectious process involving the mucous membranes lining the nose.

rhinorrhea Thin, watery discharge from the nose; runny nose.

rhonchi Coarse, low-pitched sounds associated with the presence of secretions or obstruction of larger airways in the lungs during inspiration and expiration.

rigor Episodes of rigidity and chills that are occasionally brought on by infections and high fevers.

ring-enhancing lesions Lesions in the brain seen on computed tomography (CT) scans, consisting of lucent (less dense to X-rays), rounded masses surrounded by a region of increased density (especially with the use of vascular contrast material); often seen in certain infections of the brain.

salpingitis Inflammation or infection of a tube; usually the Fallopian tubes between the ovaries and the uterus.

sclerosing cholangitis Recurrent or persistent obstructive jaundice due to extensive, destructive fibrosis of the bile ducts; frequently progresses to cirrhosis, liver failure, or portal hypertension; most common in young men.

sepsis The presence of pathogenic microorganisms or toxins in the blood or tissues.

septic abortion Infection of the mother after the abortion of a fetus; can involve the uterus and become a widespread systemic infection.

septic embolus Clot (blood or other occlusive material) carried by the blood which contains infectious agents; often leads to systemic infection. Its occurrence can be sudden.

sequela (pl. sequelae) A condition that occurs as a result of a disease process.

serum sickness An immune complex disease that occurs approximately 1 to 2 weeks after a foreign serum or protein has been introduced into the body; local or systemic reactions can occur.

sinusitis Inflammation of the sinus cavities, often leading to headaches or nasal congestion.

somnolent Drowsy.

specific gravity A laboratory measurement that allows for comparison of the weight (density) of a liquid with that of distilled water; frequently used to determine the relative concentration or dilution of urine.

splenectomy Removal of the spleen.

splenomegaly Enlargement of the spleen.

spongiform Pertaining to a spongelike appearance; when this is noted in brain tissue, it is indicative of the presence of Creutzfeldt-jakob disease or another slow viral disease.

stridorous cough Cough associated with laryngeal blockage which results in a characteristic high-pitched cough.

subcarinal Refers to the area below the ridge that separates the right and left main bronchi at their junction with the trachea.

subcostal retractions Inward movement of the area between the ribs, associated with an increased respiratory effort.

superantigen An antigen which induces a T-cell response by binding to a T-cell receptor in an area outside of the antigen recognition site; usually results in the activation of many T cells.

superinfection An infection by organisms because of a previously acquired but ongoing infection (such as a bacterial pneumonia which sometimes occurs during or after a viral pneumonia).

supine Refers to lying on the back with the face directed upward.

suppurative lymphadenopathy Enlarged, tender lymph nodes from which pus is draining.

syncope Transient, brief episodic loss of consciousness (fainting).

synergy When the actions of two or more processes, structures, or agents are combined to yield a result that is greater than the sum of each individually; for example, antibiotics can be synergistic.

tachycardia Increased heart rate (> 100 beats per min in adults).

tachypnea Increase in respiratory rate (>20 breaths per min in adults).

tenosynovitis Inflammation of the tough sheath surrounding a tendon.

teratogenic Concerning agents which cause the abnormal development of an embryo, commonly resulting in fetal death or birth defects.

thrombocytopenia A decrease in the numbers of platelets.

thrombosis Clotting within a blood vessel that may lead to infarction of the tissues supplied by that vessel.

tonsillitis Inflammation of one or more tonsils, usually the palatine tonsil.

trachoma Inflammation of the conjunctiva due to a microbial infection; usually contagious, and accompanied by hypertrophy.

transbronchial biopsy During bronchoscopy, the removal of a small piece of lung tissue through the walls of a bronchus (airway).

transplacental Crossing the placenta; pertaining to any substance which passes from the mother to the fetus or vice versa.

trismus Spasm of the jaw muscles.

tropism Movement of an organism toward or away from a source of light, heat, or some other stimulus.

tympanic membrane The ear drum.

ulcer A lesion on the surface of the skin or mucous membranes caused by superficial loss of tissue; often accompanied by inflammation.

urethritis Inflammation of the urethra.

vaccine Weakened (attenuated) or dead (inactivated) bacteria or virus, inactivated toxin (toxoid), or genetically engineered component of an infectious agent, used to promote immunity against a disease (such as smallpox or diphtheria).

vaginitis Inflammation of the vagina.

vasculitis Inflammation of blood vessels leading to lesions on the skin, mucous membranes, or internal organs.

vegetation A clot composed of platelets, fibrin, and microorganisms that typically adheres to a diseased heart valve or opening as a result of infection of the involved structures; the clot can release thrombi (smaller pieces) that travel in the bloodstream to cause infection or necrosis of distant areas.

venipuncture A procedure used to draw blood or inject a solution that involves puncturing a vein.

vertical transmission Passage of an infectious agent from the mother to an unborn child.

vesicular Pertaining to small, blisterlike lesions filled with clear fluid.

vesiculopustular Pertaining to blisterlike lesions containing pus.

viremia The presence of viable virus in the bloodstream.

virulent Refers to the particularly toxic effects of a pathogenic microorganism.

wheeze A high-pitched whistling noise made when narrowed airway passages cause difficulty in breathing.

zoonotic Pertaining to diseases or conditions usually affecting animals other than humans; however, following contact with infected animals or their tissues, humans can become infected.