

# Glossary of Lay Terms for use in Consent Documents

Informed consent is a process that is necessary to assure that participants are fully informed before deciding to volunteer as research participants in research projects of any type. The information provided in the consent documents must be in a language understandable to the participants. Technical and medical terms should be adequately explained using common or lay terminology.

The glossary can be used to help investigators translate commonly used technical and medical terms into lay language. These terms are not the only acceptable lay language for those technical and medical terms. However, you may consider defining or replacing them with the lay language as suggested below.

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## A

Technical/ Medical Term(s)	Definition	Layperson language
Anorectal malformation	Anorectal: of, relating to, or involving both the anus and rectum;  Malformation: irregular, anomalous, abnormal, or faulty formation or structure	abnormal formation of the anus and rectum
Antigen	any substance (as an immunogen or a hapten) foreign to the body that evokes an immune response either alone or after forming a complex with a larger molecule (as a protein) and that is capable of binding with a product (as an antibody or T cell) of the immune response	substance that causes an immune response or allergic reaction
Ascites	abnormal accumulation of serous fluid in the spaces between tissues and organs in the cavity of the abdomen	accumulation of fluid in the abdomen
Asthenia	lack or loss of strength	loss of strength

**B**

<b>Technical/ Medical Term(s)</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Layperson language</b>
Biomarkers	a distinctive biological or biologically derived indicator (as a biochemical metabolite in the body) of a process, event, or condition (as aging, disease, or exposure to a toxic substance)	a substance or activity that can be measured and serves as a marker of a specific biological activity
Bone turn over	Turnover: the continuous process of loss and replacement of a constituent (as a neurotransmitter, cell, or tissue) of a living system  Bone turnover: a dual relationship between the process of bone formation by osteoblasts (creation of new bone) and the process of bone resorption by osteoclasts (removal of old bone)	creation of new bone and removal of old bone

**C**

<b>Technical/ Medical Term(s)</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Layperson language</b>
Cell line	a cell culture selected for uniformity from a cell population derived from a usually homogeneous tissue source (as an organ)	a clone of cultured cells derived from an identified parental cell type  a biological tissue or group of individual cells that are genetically identical as a result of dividing mitotically from a single progenitor cell
Cellulitis	diffuse and especially subcutaneous inflammation of connective tissue	skin infection

<b>Technical/ Medical Term(s)</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Layperson language</b>
Chemiluminescence	luminescence (as bioluminescence) due to chemical reaction usually at low temperatures	using a chemical reaction to glow
Convulsion	an abnormal violent and involuntary contraction or series of contractions of the muscles - often used in plural; seizure	seizure
Corticosteroids	any of various adrenal-cortex steroids (as corticosterone, cortisone, and aldosterone) that are divided on the basis of their major biological activity into glucocorticoids and mineralocorticoids	drugs used to control inflammation or to regulate salt in the body (depending on type of corticosteroid)
Cutaneous	of, relating to, or affecting the skin	relating to the skin

## **D**

<b>Technical/ Medical Term(s)</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Layperson language</b>
Dysphagia	difficulty in swallowing	difficulty in swallowing
Dyspnea	difficult or labored respiration	difficulty in breathing

## **G**

<b>Technical/ Medical Term(s)</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Layperson language</b>
Genotype	all or part of the genetic constitution of an individual or group	heritable genetic identity, the genetic constitution of an individual

## H

Technical/ Medical Term(s)	Definition	Layperson language
Haemoptysis	expectoration of blood from some part of the respiratory tract	the act of coughing up blood or blood-stained mucus
Hematoma	a mass of usually clotted blood that forms in a tissue, organ, or body space as a result of a broken blood vessel	blood clot
Hirschsprung's disease	megacolon that is caused by congenital absence of ganglion cells in the muscular wall of the distal part of the colon with resulting loss of peristaltic function in this part and dilatation of the colon proximal to the aganglionic part	blockage of the large intestine, disease affects the large intestine (colon)
Hyomandibular	of or derived from the hyoid arch and mandible; specifically being or relating to the dorsal segment of the hyoid arch	bone or cartilage that connects the hyoid arch and the lower jaw
Hyperparathyroidism	the presence of excess parathyroid hormone in the body resulting in disturbance of calcium metabolism with increase in serum calcium and decrease in inorganic phosphorus, loss of calcium from bone, and renal damage with frequent kidney-stone formation	high levels of parathyroid hormone, parathyroid hormone is a hormone in the body that regulates calcium and phosphate levels
Hyponatremia	deficiency of sodium in the blood	low sodium levels

**I**

<b>Technical/ Medical Term(s)</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Layperson language</b>
in vitro	outside the living body and in an artificial environment	in a test tube
in vivo	in the living body of a plant or animal; in a real-life situation	in the living body of a plant or animal
Intravenous bolus	Intravenous: situated within, performed within, occurring within, or administered by entering a vein;  Bolus: a dose of a substance (as a drug) given intravenously; a large dose of a substance given by injection for the purpose of rapidly achieving the needed therapeutic concentration in the bloodstream	injection into the vein
Intravenous infusion	Intravenous: situated within, performed within, occurring within, or administered by entering a vein;  Infusion: the introducing of a solution (as of glucose or salt) especially into a vein	slow injection into vein

**L**

<b>Technical/ Medical Term(s)</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Layperson language</b>
Lateral	of or relating to the side; especially of a body part: lying at or extending toward the right or left side	side of

## M

Technical/ Medical Term(s)	Definition	Layperson language
Membranous nephropathy	a kidney disorder that leads to changes and inflammation of the structures inside the kidney that help filter wastes and fluids. The inflammation may lead to problems with kidney function	a kidney disorder that leads to changes and inflammation of the structures inside the kidney that help filter wastes and fluids. The inflammation may lead to problems with kidney function
Mucositis	inflammation of a mucous membrane	inflammation of the lining of (organ e.g. throat / mouth)

## N

Technical/ Medical Term(s)	Definition	Layperson language
Nasoendoscopy	evaluation of the nasal and sinus passages with direct vision using a magnified high-quality view	a scope used to view the nasal and sinus cavities, The use of a flexible scope to view upper airways (nasal passages, nasopharynx, oropharynx and larynx)
Neuropathy	an abnormal and usually degenerative state of the nervous system or nerves	damage to the nerves which can cause numbness, pain and weakness
Neutropenia	leukopenia in which the decrease in white blood cells is chiefly in neutrophils	a decrease in the number of white blood cells. These cells are the body's main defense against infection
Neutropenic fever/ Febrile neutropenia	a single oral temperature of 38.3°C (101°F) or a temperature of greater than 38.0°C (100.4°F) sustained for more than 1 hour in a patient with neutropenia	fever resulting from neutropenia

Technical/ Medical Term(s)	Definition	Layperson language
Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are a medication widely used to treat a range of conditions. NSAIDs are used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relieve pain</li> <li>• reduce inflammation (redness and swelling)</li> <li>• bring down a high temperature (fever)</li> </ul>	drugs used to treat inflammation. In this case, they are used for the treatment of (examples), They are medications with pain reducing and fever reducing effects

## O

Technical/ Medical Term(s)	Definition	Layperson language
Odynophagia	pain produced by swallowing	painful swallowing
Orthognathic	correcting deformities of the jaw and the associated malocclusion	correction of jaw deformities
Osteomyelitis	an infectious usually painful inflammatory disease of bone that is often of bacterial origin and may result in death of bone tissue	bone infection
Osteotomy	surgical operation in which a bone is divided or a piece of bone is excised (as to correct a deformity)	surgical removal

## P

Technical/ Medical Term(s)	Definition	Layperson language
Pancytopenia	an abnormal reduction in the number of red blood cells, white blood cells, and blood platelets in the blood	abnormal decrease in the levels of all type of blood cells

Technical/ Medical Term(s)	Definition	Layperson language
Parathyroidectomy	partial or complete excision of the parathyroid glands	surgery to remove partial tissue in the neck that makes thyroid hormones, which control metabolism
Pathogenesis	the pathologic, physiologic, or biochemical mechanism resulting in the development of a disease or morbid process	development of a disease or unhealthy condition
Pharyngeal	relating to or located in the region of the pharynx; innervating the pharynx especially by contributing to the formation of the pharyngeal plexus	relating to or located in the region of the pharynx. Referring to the part inside the mouth where the passages of the nose connect to the mouth and throat
Pleural effusion	<p>an exudation of fluid from the blood or lymph into a pleural cavity; an exudate in a pleural cavity;</p> <p>Pleural: of or relating to the pleura or the sides of the thorax</p>	a condition which excess fluid builds around the lung
Pneumothorax	a condition in which air or other gas is present in the pleural cavity and which occurs spontaneously as a result of disease or injury of lung tissue, rupture of air-filled pulmonary cysts, or puncture of the chest wall or is induced as a therapeutic measure to collapse the lung	an abnormal collection of air or gas in the pleural space that causes an uncoupling of the lung from the chest wall
Polysomnogram	a record of physiological variables during sleep obtained by polysomnography	results from a sleep study



## R

Technical/ Medical Term(s)	Definition	Layperson language
Radioimmunoassay	immunoassay of a substance (as insulin) that has been radiolabeled; immunoassay: a technique or test (as the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) used to detect the presence or quantity of a substance (as a protein) based on its capacity to act as an antigen or antibody; radiolabeled: to label with a radioactive atom or substance	a sensitive method for measuring very small amounts of a substance in the blood

## S

Technical/ Medical Term(s)	Definition	Layperson language
Septicemia	invasion of the bloodstream by virulent microorganisms (as bacteria, viruses, or fungi) from a focus of infection that is accompanied by acute systemic illness - called also blood poisoning	a serious bloodstream infection
Syncope	loss of consciousness resulting from insufficient blood flow to the brain: faint	fainting spell
Synovial fluids	a transparent viscid lubricating fluid secreted by a membrane of an articulation, bursa, or tendon sheath - called also joint fluid, synovia	joint fluid

## T

Technical/ Medical Term(s)	Definition	Layperson language
Tachycardia	relatively rapid heart action whether physiological (as after exercise) or pathological	fast heart beat

<b>Technical/ Medical Term(s)</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Layperson language</b>
Thrombocytopenia	persistent decrease in the number of blood platelets that is often associated with hemorrhagic conditions - called also thrombopenia	low platelet count

## V

<b>Technical/ Medical Term(s)</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Layperson language</b>
Vascular calcification	<p>Vascular : of, relating to, constituting, or affecting a tube or a system of tubes for the conveyance of a body fluid (as blood or lymph); supplied with or containing ducts and especially blood vessels;</p> <p>Calcification: impregnation with calcareous matter as deposition of calcium salts within the matrix of cartilage often as the preliminary step in the formation of bone</p>	deposition of calcium in the blood vessels
Venipuncture	surgical puncture of a vein especially for the withdrawal of blood or for administration of intravenous fluids or drugs	blood draw via a vein