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pie-shaped pieces of cornea are removed under local anesthetic. The resulting scar tissue formation reshapes the cornea.

re·frac·tiv·i·ty (rē'frak-tiv'i-tē) Refractive power.

re·frac·tom·e·ter (rē'frak-tom'ē-ter) An instrument for measuring the degree of refraction in translucent substances, especially the ocular media. SEE ALSO refractive index. [refraction + G. *metron*, measure]

re·frac·tom·e·try (rē'frak-tom'ē-trē) **1.** Measurement of the refractive index. **2.** Use of a refractometer to determine the refractive error of the eye.

re·frac·to·ry (rē-frak'tōr-ē) **1.** Resistant to treatment, as of a disease. SYN intractable (1), obstinate (2). **2.** SYN obstinate (1). [L. *refractorius*, fr. *refringo*, pp. *-fractus*, to break in pieces]

re·frac·to·ry a·ne·mi·a (rē-frak'tōr-ē ā-nē'mē-ā) Progressive anemia unresponsive to therapy other than transfusion.

re·frac·to·ry pe·ri·od (rē-frak'tōr-ē pēr'ē-ōd) **1.** The time following effective stimulation, during which excitable tissue such as heart muscle and nerve fails to respond to a stimulus of threshold intensity (i.e., excitability is depressed). **2.** A period of temporary psychophysiological resistance to further sexual stimulation, which occurs immediately following orgasm.

re·frac·to·ry state (rē-frak'tōr-ē stāt) Subnormal excitability immediately following a response to previous excitation; the state is divided into absolute and relative phases.

re·frac·ture (rē-frak'shūr) Breaking a bone that has united after a previous fracture. [re- + fracture]

re·fresh (rē-fresh') **1.** To renew; to cause to recuperate. **2.** To perform revivification (2). [O. Fr. *re-frescher*]

re·frig·er·ant (rē-frij'ēr-ānt) **1.** Cooling; reducing slight fever. **2.** An agent that gives a sensation of coolness or relieves feverishness. [L. *re-frigero*, pp. *-atus*, pr. p. *-ans*, to make cold, fr. *frigor* (*frigor-*), cold]

re·frig·er·a·tion (rē-frij'ēr-ā'shūn) The act of cooling or reducing fever. [L. *refrigeratio* (see refrigerant)]

re·frig·er·a·tion an·es·the·si·a (rē-frij'ēr-ā'shūn an'es-thē-zē-ā) SYN cryoanesthesia.

re·frin·gence (rē-frin'jēns) SYN refraction.

re·frin·gent (rē-frin'jēnt) SYN refractive.

Ref·sum dis·ease (ref'sūm di-zēz') A rare degenerative disorder due to a deficiency of phy-

signs; autosomal recessive inheritance caused by mutation in the gene encoding phytanoyl-CoA hydroxylase (PAHX or PAYH) on chromosome 10p. Infantile Refsum disease is an impaired peroxisomal function with accumulation of phytanic acid and pipecolic acid; autosomal recessive inheritance caused by mutation in the PEX 1 gene on 7q.

re·fu·sal of pro·ce·dure (rē-fyū'zāl prō-sē'jūr) A declining of a procedure, therapy, or treatment by the patient.

re·fu·sion (rē-fū'zhūn) Return of the circulation of blood that has been temporarily cut off by ligation of a limb. [L. *re-fundo*, pp. *-fusus*, to pour back]

Re·gaud fix·a·tive (re-gō' fiks'ā-tiv) A fixative containing formaldehyde and sodium dichromate, used to preserve mitochondria but not fat; requires afterchroming and extensive washing.

re·gen·er·a·tion (rē-jen'ēr-ā'shūn) **1.** Reproduction or reconstitution of a lost or injured part. SYN neogenesis. **2.** A form of asexual reproduction (e.g., when a worm is divided into two or more parts, each segment is regenerated into a new individual). [L. *regeneratio* (see regenerate)]

re·gen·er·a·tive pol·yp (rē-jen'ēr-ā-tiv pol'ip) A hyperplastic polyp of the gastric mucosa.

reg·i·men (rej'i-mēn) Any program (including drugs) that regulates aspects of one's lifestyle for a hygienic or therapeutic purpose; a program of treatment. USAGE NOTE Sometimes mistakenly called regime. [L. direction, rule]

re·gi·o, gen. **re·gi·o·nis**, pl. **re·gi·o·nes** (rē'jē-ō, -ō'nīs, -ō'nēz) [TA] SYN region. [L.]

re·gion (rē'jūn) **1.** An often arbitrarily limited portion of the surface of the body. SEE ALSO space, zone. **2.** A portion of the body having a special nervous or vascular supply, or a part of an organ having a special function. SEE ALSO area, space, spatium, zone. SYN regio [TA]. [L. *regio*]

re·gion·al (rē'jūn-āl) Relating to a region.

re·gion·al a·nat·o·my (rē'jūn-āl ā-nat'ō-mē) Method of anatomic study based on regions, parts, or divisions of the body (e.g., the foot or the inguinal region), emphasizing the relationships of structures (e.g., muscles, nerves, and arteries) within that area; distinguished from systemic anatomy.

re·gion·al an·es·the·si·a (rē'jūn-āl an'es-thē-zē-ā) Use of local anesthetic solution(s) to produce circumscribed areas of loss of sensation; a generic term including conduction, nerve block, spinal, epidural, field block, infiltration, and topical anesthesia. SYN conduction analgesia.