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Merriam-Webster's Medical Desk Dictionary



MERRIAM-WEBSTER INC., *Publishers*
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Novadaq Technologies Inc. Exhibit 2004 Page 1



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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Merriam-Webster's medical desk dictionary

p. cm.

Previously published as: Webster's medical desk dictionary
ISBN 0-87779-125-2 — ISBN 0-87779-126-0 (deluxe)

I. Medicine—Dictionaries. I. Merriam-Webster Inc.

R121.M564 1993

616'.003—dc20

93-7965

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Made in the United States of America

12RRD95

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Page 2

exonuclease • exposing 229

exo-nu-cle-ase \,ek-sō-'n(y)ü-klē-'ās, -'āz\ *n*: an enzyme that breaks down a nucleic acid by removing nucleotides one by one from the end of a chain — compare **ENDONUCLEASE**

exo-nu-cle-olyt-ic \,ek-sō-'n(y)ü-klē-'ā-'lit-ik\ *adj*: cleaving a nucleotide chain at a point adjacent to one of its ends

exo-pep-ti-dase \-'pep-tə-'dās, -'dāz\ *n*: any of a group of enzymes that hydrolyze peptide bonds formed by the terminal amino acids of peptide chains: **PEPTIDASE** — compare **ENDOPEPTIDASE**

exo-phil-ic \,ek-sə-'fil-ik\ *adj*: ecologically independent of man and his domestic environment <an ~ species of mosquito> — compare **ENDOPHILIC** — **ex-ophi-ly** \ek-'säf-ə-lē\ *n, pl -lies*

exo-pho-ria \,ek-sə-'fōr-ē-ə\ *n*: latent strabismus in which the visual axes tend outward toward the temple — compare **HETERO-PHORIA** — **ex-ophor-ic** \,ek-sə-'fōr-ik\ *adj*

ex-oph-thal-mia \,ek-'säf-'thal-mē-ə\ *n*: **EXOPHTHALMOS**

ex-oph-thal-mic goiter \,ek-säf-'thal-mik-\ *n*: hyperthyroidism with protrusion of the eyeballs — called also *Basedow's disease*

ex-oph-thal-mos also **ex-oph-thal-mus** \,ek-säf-'thal-məs, -säf-\ *n*: abnormal protrusion of the eyeball — **exophthalmic adj**

exo-phyt-ic \,ek-sō-'fit-ik\ *adj*: tending to grow outward beyond the surface epithelium from which it originates — used of tumors; compare **ENDOPHYTIC**

exo-skel-e-ton \,ek-sō-'skel-ət-'n\ *n* **1**: an external supportive covering of an animal (as the system of sclerites covering the body of an insect) — compare **ENDOSKELETON** **2**: bony or horny parts (as nails, hoofs, or scales) of a vertebrate produced from epidermal tissues — **exo-skel-e-tal** \-ət-'l\ *adj*

ex-os-mo-sis \,ek-(.)säs-'mō-səs, -(.)sāz-\ *n, pl -moses* \-'sēz\: passage of material through a membrane from a region of higher to a region of lower concentration — compare **ENDOS-MOSIS** — **ex-os-mo-tic** \-'mät-ik\ *adj*

exo-spore \'ek-sə-'spō(ə)r, -'spō(ə)r\ *n*: one of the asexual spores separated from a parent cell (as in phycomycetous fungi) by formation of a septum

ex-os-tec-to-my \,ek-(.)säs-'tek-tə-mē\ *n, pl -mies*: excision of an exostosis

ex-os-to-sis \,ek-(.)säs-'tō-səs\ *n, pl -toses* \-'sez\: a spur or bony outgrowth from a bone or the root of a tooth — **ex-os-tot-ic** \-'tāt-ik\ *adj*

exo-ther-mic \,ek-sō-'thər-mik\ or **exo-ther-mal** \-mə\ *adj*: characterized by or formed with evolution of heat — compare **ENDOTHERMIC** — **ex-ther-mi-cal-ly** \-mi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **ex-ther-mi-ci-ty** \-,thər-'mis-ət-ē\ *n, pl -ties*

exo-tox-in \,ek-sō-'tāk-sən\ *n*: a soluble poisonous substance produced during growth of a microorganism and released into the surrounding medium <tetanus ~> — compare **ENDOTOXIN** — **exo-toxic** \-'tāk-sik\ *adj*

exo-tro-pia \,ek-sə-'trō-pē-ə\ *n*: **WALLEYE** 2a

exp *abbr* **1** experiment; experimental **2** expired

ex-pan-der \ik-'span-dər\ *n*: any of several colloidal substances (as dextran) of high molecular weight used as a blood or plasma substitute for increasing the blood volume — called also *extender*

ex-pan-sion \ik-'span-chən\ *n* **1**: the act or process of expanding <localized pain along nerve trunks may be due to the ~ of the dissolved nitrogen without actual bubble formation — H. G. Armstrong> **2**: the quality or state of being expanded

ex-pan-sive \ik-'span(t)-siv\ *adj*: marked by or indicative of exaggerated euphoria and delusions of self-importance <a patient with ~ trends> — **ex-pan-sive-ness** \-nəs\ *n*

ex-pect \ik-'spekt\ *vi*: to be pregnant: await the birth of one's child — used in progressive tenses <she's ~ing next month>

ex-pec-tan-cy \-tən-sē\ *n, pl -cies*: the expected amount (as of the number of years of life) based on statistical probability — see **LIFE EXPECTANCY**

ex-pec-tant \-tənt\ *adj*: expecting the birth of a child <~ mothers>

ex-pec-to-rant \ik-'spek-t(ə)-rənt\ *adj*: having the activity of an expectorant

2 **expectorant** *n*: an agent that promotes the discharge or expulsion of mucus from the respiratory tract; *broadly*: **ANTITUSSIVE**

ex-pec-to-rate \-tə-'rāt\ *vb -rat-ed; -rat-ing vi* **1**: to eject from the throat or lungs by coughing or hawking and spitting **2**: **SPIT** ~ *vi* **1**: to discharge matter from the throat or lungs by coughing or hawking and spitting **2**: **SPIT**

ex-pec-to-ra-tion \ik-'spek-tə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1**: the act or an instance of expectorating **2**: expectorated matter

1 **ex-per-i-ment** \ik-'sper-ə-mənt also -'spir-\ *n* **1**: a procedure carried out under controlled conditions in order to discover an unknown effect or law, to test or establish a hypothesis, or to illustrate a known law **2**: the process of testing: **EXPERIMENTATION**

2 **ex-per-i-ment** \-,mənt\ *vi*: to carry out experiments — **ex-per-i-men-ta-tion** \ik-'sper-ə-mən-'tā-shən, -'men- also -'spir-\ *n* — **ex-per-i-ment-er** \-'sper-ə-'mənt-ər also -'spir-\ *n*

ex-per-i-men-tal \ik-'sper-ə-'ment-'l also -'spir-\ *adj* **1**: of, relating to, or based on experience or experiment **2**: founded on or derived from experiment <the heart of the ~ method is the direct control of the thing studied — B. F. Skinner> **3** *of a disease*: intentionally produced esp. in laboratory animals for the purpose of study <~ diabetes> — **ex-per-i-men-tal-ly** \-'l-ē\ *adv*

ex-per-i-men-tal-ist \-'l-əst\ *n*: a person conducting scientific experiments

ex-pi-ra-tion \,ek-spə-'rā-shən\ *n* **1 a** (1): the act or process of releasing air from the lungs through the nose or mouth (2): the escape of carbon dioxide from the body protoplasm (as through the blood and lungs or by diffusion) **b** *archaic*: the last emission of breath: **DEATH** **2**: something produced by breathing out

ex-pi-ra-to-ry \ik-'spi-rə-'tōr-ē, ek-, -'tōr-; 'ek-sp(ə)rə-\ *adj*: of, relating to, or employed in the expiration of air from the lungs <~ muscles> <an ~ cough>

expiratory reserve volume *n*: the additional amount of air that can be expired from the lungs by determined effort after normal expiration — compare **INSPIRATORY RESERVE VOLUME**

ex-pire \ik-'spi(ə)r, 'ofenest for vi **2** and vt ek-\ *vb* **ex-pired; ex-pir-ing vi** **1**: to breathe one's last breath: **DIE** **2**: to emit the breath ~ *vt*: to breathe out from or as if from the lungs <the basal metabolism test . . . measures the amount of carbon dioxide expired by the lungs — J. D. Ratcliff>

ex-pi-ry \ik-'spi(ə)r-ē, 'ek-spə-rē\ *n, pl -ries* **1**: exhalation of breath **2**: **DEATH**

1 **ex-plant** \(')ek-'splənt\ *vt*: to remove (living tissue) esp. to a medium for tissue culture — **ex-plan-ta-tion** \,ek-'splən-'tā-shən\ *n*

2 **ex-plant** \'ek-'splənt\ *n*: living tissue removed from an organism and placed in a medium for tissue culture

ex-plode \ik-'splōd\ *vb* **ex-plod-ed; ex-plod-ing vi**: to cause to explode or burst noisily <~ dynamite> <~ a bomb> ~ *vi*: to undergo a rapid chemical or nuclear reaction with the production of noise, heat, and violent expansion of gases <dynamite ~s> <an atomic bomb ~s>

ex-plor-a-to-ry \ik-'splōr-ə-'tōr-ē, -'splōr-, -'tōr-\ *adj*: of, relating to, or being exploration <~ surgery>

ex-plore \ik-'splō(ə)r, -'splō(ə)r\ *vt* **ex-plored; ex-plo-ring**: to examine minutely (as by surgery) esp. for diagnostic purposes <operation seemed indicated and the patient was explored — J. G. Scannell & L. L. Robbins> — **ex-plo-ra-tion** \,ek-splə-'rā-shən\ *n*

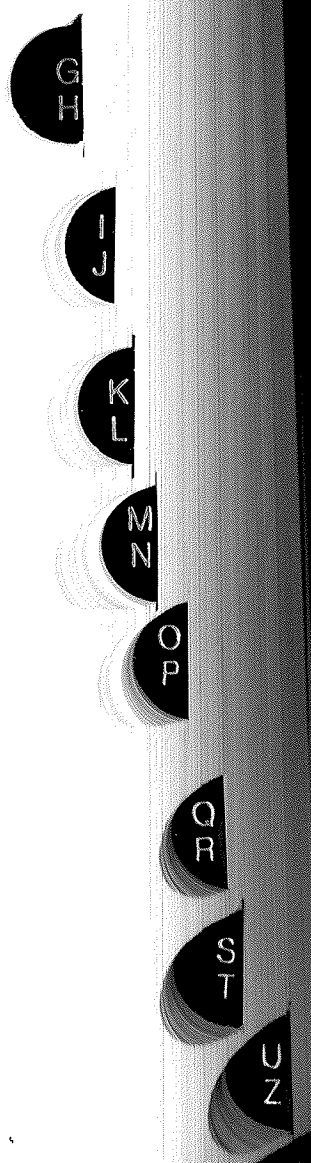
ex-plor-er \ik-'splōr-ər, -'splōr-\ *n*: an instrument for exploring cavities esp. in teeth: **PROBE** **1**

ex-plo-sion \ik-'splō-zhən\ *n*: the act or an instance of exploding

ex-po-nen-tial \,ek-spə-'nen-chəl\ *adj*: expressible or approximately expressible by an exponential function <an ~ growth rate> — **ex-po-nen-tial-ly** \-'nench-(ə-)lē\ *adv*

ex-pose \ik-'spōz\ *vt* **ex-posed; ex-posing** **1**: to make liable to or accessible to something (as a disease or environmental conditions) that may have a detrimental effect <children exposed to

\ə\but \ə\kitten \ər\farther \ə\ash \ā\ace \ā\cot, cart \ā\out \ch\chin \e\bet \ē\easy \g\go \i\hit \i\ice \j\job \j\sing \ō\go \ō\law \ōr\boy \th\thin \th\the \ü\loot \ü\foot \y\yet \zh\vision see also Pronunciation Symbols page



230 exposure • external intercostal muscle

diphtheria > 2 : to lay open to view; as a : to conduct (oneself) as an exhibitionist b : to reveal (a bodily part) esp. by dissection

ex-po-sure \ik-'spō-zhər\ n 1 : the act or an instance of exposing — see INDECENT EXPOSURE 2 : the condition of being exposed to severe weather conditions <she died as a result of ~ suffered after a shipwreck — Amer. Guide Series: Maine>

ex-pressed almond oil \ik-'sprest-əl\ n : ALMOND OIL

ex-pres-sion \ik-'spresh-ən\ n 1 a : something that manifests, represents, reflects, embodies, or symbolizes something else <the first clinical ~ of a disease> b : the detectable effect of a gene; also : EXPRESSIVITY 2 : facial aspect or vocal intonation as indicative of feeling 3 : an act or product of pressing out — **ex-press** \ik-'spres\ vt

ex-pres-siv-i-ty \ek-,spres-'iv-ət-ē\ n, pl -ties : the relative capacity of a gene to affect the phenotype of the organism of which it is a part — compare PENETRANCE

exptl *abbr* experiment

exptl *abbr* experimental

ex-pul-sive \ik-'spəl-siv\ *adj* 1 : serving to expel <~ efforts during labor> 2 : characterized by concern with the elimination of feces <there are two anal phases — the earlier ~ and the later retentive — G. S. Blum> — **ex-pul-sion** \-'spəl-shən\ n

ex-san-gui-na-tion \,(,)ek(s)-,səŋ-'gwā-'nā-shən\ n : the action or process of draining or losing blood — **ex-san-gui-nate** \ek(s)-'səŋ-'gwā-,nāt\ vt -**nat-ed**; -**nat-ing**

ex-san-guine \ek(s)-'səŋ-'gwān\ *adj* : BLOODLESS, ANEMIC —

ex-san-guin-i-ty \ek(s)-,səŋ-'gwīn-ət-ē-, -san-\ n, pl -ties

ex-san-gui-no-trans-fu-sion \ek(s)-,səŋ-'gwīn-ō-,trans-'fyū-zhən\ n : EXCHANGE TRANSFUSION

ex-sect \ek-'sekt\ vt : to cut out : EXCISE <an ~ed uterus> —

ex-sec-tion \-'sek-shən\ n

ex-sic-cate \ek-'sī-,kāt\ vt -**cat-ed**; -**cat-ing** : to remove moisture from : DRY <exsiccated magnesium sulfate> — **ex-sic-cation** \ek-'sī-'kā-shən\ n

ex-sic-co-sis \ek-'sī-'kō-səs\ n, pl -**co-ses** \-,sēz\ : insufficient intake of fluids; also : the resulting condition of bodily dehydration

ex-stro-phy \ek-'strə-fē\ n, pl -**phies** : eversion of a part or organ; *specif* : a congenital malformation of the bladder in which the normally internal mucosa of the organ lies exposed on the abdominal wall because of failure of union between the halves of the pubic symphysis and between the adjacent halves of the abdominal wall

ext *abbr* 1 external 2 extract 3 extremity

ex-tend \ik-'stend\ vt 1 : to straighten out (as an arm or leg)

2 : to increase the quantity or bulk of (a product) by the addition of a relatively inexpensive or otherwise readily available substance <~ing ground meat with cereal>; also : ADULTERATE

extended family n : a family that includes in one household near relatives in addition to a nuclear family

ex-tend-er \ik-'sten-dər\ n 1 : a substance added to a product esp. in the capacity of a diluent, adulterant, or modifier 2 : EXPANDER

ex-ten-si-bil-i-ty \ik-,sten(t)-sə-'bil-ət-ē\ n, pl -**ties** : the capability of being stretched <~ of muscle> — **ex-ten-si-ble** \ik-'sten(t)-sə-bəl\ *adj*

ex-ten-sion \ik-'sten-shən\ n 1 : the stretching of a fractured or dislocated limb so as to restore it to its natural position 2 : an unbending movement around a joint in a limb (as the knee or elbow) that increases the angle between the bones of the limb at the joint — compare FLEXION 1

ex-ten-som-e-ter \ek-,sten-'säm-ət-ər\ n : an instrument for measuring minute deformations (as of a test specimen) caused by tension, compression, bending, or twisting — called also *strain gauge*

ex-ten-sor \ik-'sten(t)-sər-, -s(ə)r\ n : a muscle serving to extend a bodily part (as a limb) — called also *extensor muscle*; compare FLEXOR

extensor car-pi ra-di-al-is brevis \-'kār-,pī-,rā-dē-'ā-ləs-'brev-əs-, -'kār-,pē-\ n : a short muscle on the radial side of the back of the forearm that extends and may abduct the hand

extensor carpi radialis longus \-'lōŋ-'gəs\ n : a long muscle on the radial side of the back of the forearm that extends and

abducts the hand
extensor carpi ul-na-ris \-,əl-'nar-əs\ n : a muscle on the ulnar side of the back of the forearm that extends and adducts the hand

extensor dig-i-ti min-i-mi \-'dij-ə-,tī-'min-ə-,mī-, -'dij-ə-,tē-'min-ə-,mē\ n : a slender muscle on the medial side of the extensor digitorum communis that extends the little finger

extensor digiti quin-ti pro-pri-us \-'kwīn-,tī-'prō-prē-əs-, -'kwīn-,tē-\ n : EXTENSOR DIGITII MINIMI

extensor dig-i-to-rum brev-is \-,dij-ə-'tōr-əm-'brev-əs\ n : a muscle on the dorsum of the foot that extends the toes

extensor digitorum com-mu-nis \-kə-'myūn-əs-, -'kām-ya-nəs\ n : a muscle on the back of the forearm that extends the fingers and wrist

extensor digitorum long-us \-'lōŋ-'gəs\ n : a pennate muscle on the lateral part of the front of the leg that extends the four small toes and dorsally flexes and pronates the foot

extensor hal-lu-cis brevis \-'hal-(y)ü-səs-'brev-əs-, -'hal-kəs-\ n : the part of the extensor digitorum brevis that extends the big toe

extensor hallucis lon-gus \-'lōŋ-'gəs\ n : a long thin muscle situated on the shin that extends the big toe and dorsiflexes and supinates the foot

extensor in-di-cis \-'in-də-səs-, -də-kəs\ n : a thin muscle that arises from the ulna in the more distal part of the forearm and extends the index finger

extensor indicis pro-pri-us \-'prō-prē-əs\ n : EXTENSOR INDICIS

extensor pol-li-cis brevis \-'pāl-ə-səs-'brev-əs-, -'pāl-ə-kəs-\ n : a muscle that arises from the dorsal surface of the radius, extends the first phalanx of the thumb, and adducts the hand

extensor pollicis lon-gus \-'lōŋ-'gəs\ n : a muscle that arises dorsolaterally from the middle part of the ulna, extends the second phalanx of the thumb, and abducts the hand

ex-te-ri-or \ek-'stīr-ē-ər\ *adj* : being on an outside surface : situated on the outside — **ex-te-ri-or-ly** *adv*

ex-te-ri-or-ize or *Brit* **ex-te-ri-or-ise** \ek-'stīr-ē-ər-,īz\ vt -**ized** or *Brit* -**ised**; -**iz-ing** or *Brit* -**is-ing** 1 : EXTERNALIZE 2 : to bring out of the body (as for surgery) <the section of perforated colon was exteriorized> — **ex-te-ri-or-iza-tion** or *Brit* **ex-te-ri-or-isa-tion** \-,stīr-ē-ər-'zā-shən\ n

ex-tern also **ex-terne** \ek-,stərn\ n : a nonresident doctor or medical student at a hospital — **ex-tern-ship** \-,shīp\ n

ex-ter-nal \ek-'stərn-əl\ *adj* 1 : capable of being perceived outwardly : BODILY <~ signs of a disease> 2 a : situated at, on, or near the outside <an ~ protective covering> <an ~ muscle> b : directed toward the outside : having an outside object <~ perception> <eyesight and the other ~ senses> c : used by applying to the outside <an ~ lotion> 3 a (1) : situated near or toward the surface of the body; also : situated away from the mesial plane <the ~ condyle of the humerus> (2) : arising or acting from outside : having an outside origin <~ causes> <~ stimuli> b : of, relating to, or consisting of something outside the mind : having existence independent of the mind <sensations aroused by ~ phenomena> <~ reality> — **ex-ter-nal-ly** \-'l-ē-\ *adv*

external anal sphincter n : ANAL SPHINCTER a

external auditory meatus n : the passage leading from the opening of the external ear to the eardrum — called also *external acoustic meatus*, *external auditory canal*, *meatus acusticus externus*

external capsule n : CAPSULE 1b(2)

external carotid artery n : the outer branch of the carotid artery that supplies the face, tongue, and external parts of the head — called also *external carotid*

external ear n : the parts of the ear that are external to the eardrum; also : PINNA 2b

external iliac artery n : ILIAC ARTERY 2

external iliac node n : any of the lymph nodes grouped around the external iliac artery and the external iliac vein — compare INTERNAL ILIAC NODE

external iliac vein n : ILIAC VEIN b

external inguinal ring n : SUPERFICIAL INGUINAL RING

external intercostal muscle n : INTERCOSTAL MUSCLE a —