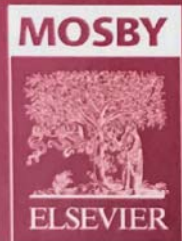


7th EDITION

# Mosby's MEDICAL DICTIONARY



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7th EDITION

Knowledge and new practice in this field are constantly changing. As new research and experience  
expand our knowledge, changes in practice, treatment and drug therapy may become necessary. It is  
essential that readers be advised to check the most current information provided in procedures listed  
within the dictionary or each product to be administered to verify the recommended dose or  
method and duration of administration, and contraindications. It is the responsibility of the  
reader to use their own experience and knowledge of the patient to make judgments as to  
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**pulmonary wedge pressure (PWP)**, the pressure produced by an inflated latex balloon against the inner wall of a pulmonary artery. A pulmonary artery catheter (PA catheter) or similar balloon-tipped catheter is inserted through a subclavian, jugular, or femoral vein to the vena cava and on through the right atrium and ventricle to the pulmonary artery. The balloon is inflated briefly, during which time it measures left ventricular diastolic pressure. The procedure is used in the diagnosis of congestive heart failure, myocardial infarction, and other conditions. Also called **pulmonary artery wedge pressure**.

**pulmonary Wegener's granulomatosis**, a rare fatal disease of young or middle-aged men, characterized by granulomatous lesions of the respiratory tract, focal necrotizing arteritis, and finally widespread inflammation of body organs. Pulmonary infarction and glomerulonephritis may occur.

**pulmonic**. See **pulmonary**.

**-pulmonic**, combining form meaning "the lungs": *apulmonic, gastropulmonic, intrapulmonic*.

**pulmonic stenosis**. See **pulmonary stenosis**.

**pulmonologist** /pʊdʊl'mə-nol'ə-jist/ [L, *pulmo*, lung], an individual skilled in pulmonology.

**pulmonology** /pʊdʊl'mɒnɒl'ə-jē/ [L, *pulmo*, lung], the science concerned with the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the lungs.

**pulp** [L, *pulpa*, flesh], any soft coherent solid spongy tissue, such as that contained within the spleen, the pulp chamber of the tooth, or the distal subcutaneous pads of the fingers and the toes. —**pulpy**, *adj.*

**pulp abscess** [L, *pulpa*, flesh + *abscedere*, to go away], a pus-producing abscess that develops in the pulp cavity of a tooth.

**pulpaceous** /pʊpə'shəs/, pertaining to a substance that is pulpy or macerated.

**pulpal** /pʊl'pəl/, pertaining to pulp.

**pulp amputation**. See **pulpotomy**.

**pulp canal**, the space occupied by the nerves, blood vessels, and lymphatic vessels in the radicular part of the tooth. Also called **root canal**.

**pulp canal therapy**. See **root canal therapy**.

**pulp cavity**, the space in a tooth bounded by the dentin and containing the dental pulp. It is divided into the pulp chamber and the pulp canal.

**pulpectomy** /pʊlpek'təmē/ [L, *pulpa*, flesh; Gk, *ektomē*, excision], the surgical removal of all or part of the pulp of a tooth.

**pulpifaction** /pʊl'pifak'shən/, the act of reducing something to a pulp.

**pulpitis** /pʊlp'itis/, infection or inflammation of the dental pulp.

**pulpless tooth** /pʊlp'ləs/, a tooth in which the dental pulp is necrotic or has been removed. Also called **devital tooth**, **nonvital tooth**.

**pulpodontia**. See **endodontics**.

**pulpotomy** /pʊl-pot'ə-mē/, root canal therapy consisting of partial excision of the dental pulp. Also called **pulp amputation**.

**pulp pinch**. See **pinch**.

**pulp stone**. See **denticle**.

**pulp test**. See **vitality test**.

**pulpy**. See **pulp**.

**pulsate** /pʊl'sāt/ [L, *pulsare*, to beat], to throb or vibrate rhythmically, as does the heart during its contraction-relaxation cycle.

**pulsatile** /pʊl'sətil/ [L, *pulsare*, to beat], pertaining to an activity characterized by a rhythmic pulsation.

**pulsatile assist device (PAD)**, a flexible, valveless balloon conduit contained within a rigid, plastic cylinder that is inserted into the arterial circulation to provide pulsatile perfusion during a cardiopulmonary bypass.

**pulsatile hematoma**. See **pseudoaneurysm**.

**pulsatility index** /pʊl'sətil'itē/, a measure of the variability of blood velocity in a vessel. It is equal to the difference between the peak systolic and minimum diastolic velocities divided by the mean velocity during the cardiac cycle.

**pulsating exophthalmos** /pʊl'sāting/ [L, *pulsare*, to beat; Gk, *ex* + *ophthalmos*, eye], an eye disorder characterized by a bulging, pulsating eyeball. The cause is an arteriovenous aneurysm involving the internal carotid artery and the cavernous sinus of the orbit.

**pulsation** /pʊl-sā'shən/ [L, *pulsatio*], a throb or rhythmic beat, as of the heart.

**pulse** [L, *pulsare*, to beat], 1. a rhythmic beating or vibrating movement. 2. a brief electromagnetic wave. 3. the regular, recurrent expansion and contraction of an artery produced by waves of pressure caused by the ejection of blood from the left ventricle of the heart as it contracts. The pulse is easily detected on superficial arteries, such as the radial and carotid arteries, and corresponds to each beat of the heart.

**pulse curve**, sphygmogram.

**pulsed Doppler**, a type of Doppler device involving the transmission of a short-duration burst of sound into the region to be examined. The Doppler-shifted signals are processed from a limited depth range. The depth range is determined by a sample gate whose position and size usually can be selected by the instrument operator.

**pulse deficit**, a condition in which a peripheral pulse rate is less than the ventricular contraction rate as auscultated at the apex of the heart or seen on the electrocardiogram. The condition indicates a lack of peripheral perfusion.

**pulsed laser**, a laser that emits short bursts of energy at fixed intervals rather than a continuous stream of energy.

**pulse duration**, (in ultrasonics) a measure of the time a transducer oscillates for each pulse. The shorter the pulse duration, the better the axial resolution.

**pulse-echo response profile**, a graph of the amplitude of an ultrasound echo from a small reflector versus the distance from the reflector beam axis. The reflector is scanned perpendicular to the axis of the ultrasound transducer beam.

**pulse-echo ultrasound**, a diagnostic technique in which short-duration ultrasound pulses are transmitted into the region to be studied, and echo signals resulting from scattering and reflection are detected and displayed. The depth of a reflective structure is inferred from the delay between pulse transmission and echo reception.

**pulse generator**, the power source for a cardiac pacemaker system, usually fueled by lithium, supplying impulses to the implanted electrodes, either at a fixed rate or in some programmed pattern.

**pulse height analyzer**, a device that accepts or rejects electronic pulses according to their amplitude or energy. It is commonly used to select certain gamma radiation energies.

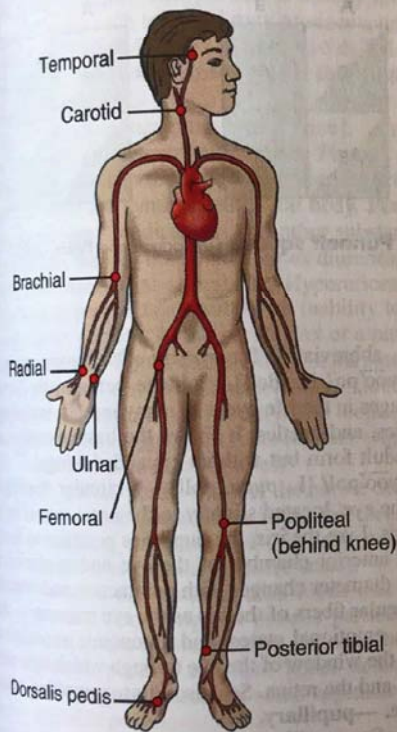
**pulseless disease**. See **Takayasu's arteritis**.

**pulseless electrical activity (PEA)**, continued electrical rhythmicity of the heart in the absence of effective mechanical function; it may be caused by the uncoupling of ventricular muscle contraction from electrical activity or may be a result of cardiac damage with respiratory failure and cessation of cardiac venous return. Also called **electromechanical dissociation**.

**pulse MR**, a magnetic resonance (MR) technique that uses radiofrequency pulses and Fourier transformation of the MR

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**Pulse oximeter** has largely replaced older, continuous techniques. **Pulse MR** has largely replaced older, continuous techniques. **Pulse oximeter**, a device that measures the amount of saturated hemoglobin in the tissue capillaries. A beam of light is transmitted through the tissue to a receiver. This noninvasive method of measuring the saturated hemoglobin is a screening tool for determining basic respiratory function. The cliplike device may be used on either the ear lobe or the fingertip. As the amount of saturated hemoglobin in the blood is translated into a percentage of oxygen saturation (SO<sub>2</sub>) of the blood. Also called (informally) **pulse oximetry**. **Compare blood gas determination.** **Pulse point**, one of the sites on the surface of the body where arterial pulsations can be easily palpated. The most commonly used pulse point is over the radial artery at the wrist. Other pulse points include the temporal artery in front of the ear, the common carotid artery at the lower level of the neck, the facial artery at the lower margin of the orbit, and the femoral, popliteal, posterior tibialis, and dorsalis pedis pulse points.



**Pulse points** (Monahan and Neighbors, 1998)

**Blood pressure**, the difference between the systolic and diastolic blood pressures, normally 30 to 50 mm Hg. **Pulser** /pul'sər/, a component of an ultrasound instrument that provides signals for exciting the piezoelectric transducer in order to transmit an ultrasound beam. **Pulse rate** [L, *pulsare* + *teri*, to calculate], the number of pulse beats per minute. Normally it is the same as the heart rate. The normal pulse rate in an average adult varies from 60 to 80/min, with fluctuations occurring with exercise, injury, illness, and emotional reactions. The average pulse rate

for a newborn is 120/min, which slows throughout childhood and adolescence. At about 12 years of age, females begin to have a higher pulse rate than males.

**pulse repetition frequency (PRF)**, (in ultrasonics) the number of acoustic pulses transmitted per second.

**pulse sequence**, the sequence of radiofrequency pulses and magnetic gradients used to generate a magnetic resonance image.

**pulse wave** [L, *pulsare*, to beat; AS, *wafian*], a transient increase in blood pressure that spreads like a wave through the arterial system. It begins with the ejection of blood by the ventricles during systole.

**pulse width**. See **duration**.

**-pulsion**, combining form meaning the "action or condition of pushing forward": *compulsion*, *lateropulsion*, *retropulsion*.

**pulsus alternans** /pul'səs əl'tərnanz/ [L, *pulsare* + *alternare*, to alternate], a pulse characterized by a regular alternation of weak and strong beats without changes in the pulse rate. Also called **alternating pulse**.

**pulsus magnus**. See **full pulse**.

**pulsus paradoxus**, an abnormally large decrease in systolic blood pressure and pulse wave amplitude during inspiration. The normal fall in pressure is less than 10 mm Hg. An excessive decline may be a sign of tamponade, adhesive pericarditis, severe lung disease, advanced heart failure, or other conditions. Also called **paradoxical pulse**.

**pulsus parvus et tardus** [L, *pulsus*, beat, *parvus*, small, *tardus*, slow], a small pulse with low pressure that rises and falls gradually. The condition occurs in aortic stenosis.

**pulsus tardus** [L, *pulsus*, beat, *tardus*, slow], a pulse with a gradual rise and fall in amplitude.

**pultaceous**, pertaining to a substance that is pulpy or macerated.

**pulverize** /pul'vəriz/ [L, *pulvis*, dust], to reduce to a fine powder.

**pulverulent** /pulver'ələnt/, having the form of a fine powder.

**pulvule** /pul'vyool/ [L, *pulvis*, dust], a proprietary type of capsule containing a dose of a drug in powder form.

**pumice** /pum'is/ [L, *pumex*], a very finely divided volcanic rock, used in powdered or solid form for smoothing or polishing surfaces.

**pump** [ME, *pumpe*], 1. an apparatus used to move fluids or gases by suction or by positive pressure, such as an infusion pump or stomach pump. 2. a physiologic mechanism by which a substance is moved, usually by active transport across a cell membrane, such as a sodium-potassium pump. 3. to move a liquid or gas by suction or positive pressure.

**pump lung**. See **adult respiratory distress syndrome**.

**pump oxygenator** [ME, *pumpe* + Gk, *oxys*, sharp, *genein*, to produce], a device that pumps oxygenated blood through the body during cardiopulmonary surgery.

**punch biopsy** [L, *pungere*, to prick; Gk, *bios*, life, *opsis*, view], the removal of living tissue for microscopic examination, usually bone marrow aspirates from the sternum, by means of a punch. Compare **needle biopsy**, **exfoliative cytology**.

**punchdrunk syndrome**, a condition in which repeated cerebral concussions result in an abnormal gait, slow movement, tremor, and slurred or halting speech.

**punch forceps**, a surgical instrument used to cut out a disk of dense or resistant tissue, such as bone and cartilage. The ends of the blades of the punch forceps are perforated to grip the involved tissue. There are several varieties of this instrument, with blades and tips specially designed for different surgical needs.