

# Merriam-Webster's Medical Desk Dictionary



LIBRARY

Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue  
1450 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-2088

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



**A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER**

The name *Webster* alone is no guarantee of excellence. It is used by a number of publishers and may serve mainly to mislead an unwary buyer.

*Merriam-Webster*<sup>™</sup> is the name you should look for when you consider the purchase of dictionaries or other fine reference books. It carries the reputation of a company that has been publishing since 1831 and is your assurance of quality and authority.

Copyright © 1993 by Merriam-Webster Inc.

Philippines Copyright 1993 by Merriam-Webster Inc.

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

CIP

All rights reserved. No part of this book covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without written permission of the publisher.

Made in the United States of America

101112RRD959493

stroys molds  
 | hydroxy fatty  
 : obtained esp.

anch of botany  
 | cal \,mī-kā-  
 :  
 saturated anti-  
 te of the genus

is fungi  
 | l-ik-\ n : a  
 i of the genus

type genus of  
 : polymorphic  
 cell walls that  
 s and bacteria  
**nas** or **-ma-ta**  
*ycoplasma* —  
**PPLO** —

pl : a family  
 minute  
 lar and often  
 that are inter-  
 cteria, are re-  
 asteric usu. in  
*coplasma* and

infection with

of lymphoma  
 lar and often  
 d of years to

its the growth

to a mycostat

a preparation

class of ste-

racterized by

uminants  
 to, or caused  
 ty \-tāk-'sis-

les : toxicol-

-,séz) : poi-

produced by

or a prepara-

: a long-con-

volving dila-

: pupil of the

l excision of

n : the pos-  
 or the corre-  
 medulla ob-  
 adj  
 l cord  
 material that  
 ic core of a  
 adj  
 yelin sheath

<~ nerve fibers>  
**my-e-li-na-tion** \,mī-ə-lā-'nā-shən\ n 1 : the process of ac-  
 quiring a myelin sheath 2 : the condition of being myelinated  
**my-e-lin-iza-tion** also *Brit* **my-e-lin-isa-tion** \,mī-ə-'lin-ə-'zā-  
 shən\ n : MYELINATION  
**my-eli-noc-la-sis** \,mī-ə-lā-'nāk-lā-səs\ n, pl -lā-sēs \-,séz\  
 : the process of destruction of myelin leading to demyelination  
 — **my-eli-no-clas-tic** \-,lin-ə-'klast-ik\ adj  
**my-eli-nol-y-sis** \-'nāl-ə-səs\ n, pl -y-sēs \-,séz\ — see CENTRAL  
 PONTINE MYELINOLYSIS  
**my-eli-no-tox-ic** \,mī-ə-'lin-ə-'tāk-sik\ adj : destructive of  
 myelin <a substance that is ~ in vitro>  
**myelin sheath** n : a layer of myelin surrounding some nerve  
 fibers — called also *medullary sheath*  
**my-eli-tis** \,mī-ə-'lit-əs\ n, pl **my-eli-ti-des** \-'lit-ə-'déz\ : in-  
 flammation of the spinal cord or of the bone marrow —  
**my-eli-tic** \-'lit-ik\ adj  
**my-elo-ar-chi-tec-ton-ic** \,mī-ə-lō-'ār-kə-'tek-'tān-ik\ adj : of  
 or relating to myeloarchitectonics  
**my-elo-ar-chi-tec-ton-ics** \-'tān-iks\ n pl but sing in constr  
 : cytological architectonics of the brain, spinal cord, or bone  
 marrow  
**my-elo-blast** \'mī-ə-lō-'blast\ n : a large mononuclear nongran-  
 ular bone-marrow cell; esp : one that is a precursor of a myelo-  
 cyte — compare LEUKOBLAST — **my-elo-blas-tic** \,mī-ə-lō-  
 'blas-tik\ adj  
**my-elo-blas-te-mia** or chiefly *Brit* **my-elo-blas-tae-mia** \,mī-ə-  
 lō-blas-'tē-mē-ə\ n : the presence of myeloblasts in the circulat-  
 ing blood (as in myelogenous leukemia)  
**myeloblastic leukemia** n : MYELOGENOUS LEUKEMIA  
**my-elo-blas-to-ma** \-blas-'tō-mə\ n, pl -mas or -ma-ta \-māt-  
 ə\ : a myeloma consisting of myeloblasts  
**my-elo-blas-to-sis** \-blas-'tō-səs\ n, pl -to-sēs \-,séz\ : the  
 presence of an abnormally large number of myeloblasts in the  
 tissues, organs, or circulating blood  
**my-elo-cele** \'mī-ə-lō-'sēl\ n : spina bifida in which the neural  
 tissue of the spinal cord is exposed — compare MYELOMENINGO-  
 CELE  
**my-elo-coele** \'mī-ə-lō-'sēl\ n : the central canal of the spinal  
 cord  
**my-elo-cyte** \'mī-ə-lō-'sit\ n : a bone-marrow cell; esp : a mo-  
 tile cell with cytoplasmic granules that gives rise to the blood  
 granulocytes and occurs abnormally in the circulating blood (as in  
 myelogenous leukemia) — **my-elo-cyt-ic** \,mī-ə-lō-'sit-ik\ adj  
**myelocytic leukemia** n : MYELOGENOUS LEUKEMIA  
**my-elo-cy-to-ma** \-si-'tō-mə\ n, pl -mas or -ma-ta \-māt-ə\  
 : a tumor esp. of fowl in which the typical cellular element is a  
 myelocyte or a cell of similar differentiation  
**my-elo-cy-to-sis** \-si-'tō-səs\ n, pl -to-sēs \-,séz\ : the pres-  
 ence of excess numbers of myelocytes esp. in the blood or bone  
 marrow  
**my-elo-dys-pla-sia** \-dis-'plā-zh(ē)-ə\ n : a developmental  
 anomaly of the spinal cord — **my-elo-dys-plas-tic** \-'plas-tik\  
 adj  
**my-elo-fi-bro-sis** \,mī-ə-lō-'fī-brō-səs\ n, pl -bro-sēs \-,séz\  
 : an anemic condition in which bone marrow becomes fibrotic  
 and the liver and spleen usu. exhibit a development of blood-cell  
 precursors — **my-elo-fi-brot-ic** \-'brāt-ik\ adj  
**my-elog-e-nous** \,mī-ə-'lāj-ə-nəs\ also **my-elo-gen-ic** \,mī-ə-  
 lō-'jen-ik\ adj : of, relating to, originating in, or produced by  
 the bone marrow <~ sarcoma>  
**myelogenous leukemia** n : leukemia characterized by prolif-  
 eration of myeloid tissue (as of the bone marrow and spleen) and  
 an abnormal increase in the number of granulocytes, myelocytes,  
 and myeloblasts in the circulating blood — called also *granulo-  
 cytic leukemia, myeloblastic leukemia, myelocytic leukemia,*  
*myeloid leukemia*  
**my-elo-gram** \'mī-ə-lō-'gram\ n 1 : a differential study of the  
 cellular elements present in bone marrow usu. made on material  
 obtained by sternal biopsy 2 : a roentgenogram of the spinal  
 cord made by myelography  
**my-elo-graph-ic** \,mī-ə-lō-'graf-ik\ adj : of, relating to, or by  
 means of a myelogram or myelography — **my-elo-graph-i-cal-y**  
 \-i-k(ə)-lē\ adv

**my-elog-ra-phy** \,mī-ə-'lāg-rā-fē\ n, pl -phies : roentgeno-  
 graphic visualization of the spinal cord after injection of a con-  
 trast medium into the spinal subarachnoid space  
**my-eloid** \'mī-ə-'lōid\ adj 1 : of or relating to the spinal cord  
 2 : of, relating to, or resembling bone marrow  
**myeloid leukemia** n : MYELOGENOUS LEUKEMIA  
**my-elo-li-po-ma** \,mī-ə-lō-'lī-'pō-mə-,lip-'ō-mə\ n, pl -mas or  
 -ma-ta \-māt-ə\ : a benign tumor esp. of the adrenal glands that  
 consists of fat and hematopoietic tissue  
**my-elo-ma** \,mī-ə-'lō-mə\ n, pl -mas or -ma-ta \-māt-ə\ : a  
 primary tumor of the bone marrow formed of any one of the  
 bone-marrow cells (as myelocytes or plasma cells) and usu. in-  
 volving several different bones at the same time — see MULTIPLE  
 MYELOMA  
**my-elo-ma-to-sis** \,mī-ə-lō-mə-'tō-səs\ n, pl -to-sēs \-,séz\  
 : MULTIPLE MYELOMA  
**my-elo-ma-tous** \,mī-ə-'lō-māt-əs-,lām-ət-əs\ adj : of or re-  
 lating to a myeloma or to myelomatosis  
**my-elo-me-nin-go-cele** \,mī-ə-lō-mə-'nīŋ-gə-'sēl-,mā-'nīŋ-  
 jə\ n : spina bifida in which neural tissue and the investing  
 meninges protrude from the spinal column forming a sac under  
 the skin — compare MYELOCELE  
**my-elo-mono-cyte** \-'mān-ə-'sit\ n : a blood cell that has the  
 characteristics of both monocytes and granulocytes —  
**my-elo-mono-cyt-ic** \-,mān-ə-'sit-ik\ adj  
**myelomonocytic leukemia** n : a kind of monocytic leukemia  
 in which the cells resemble granulocytes  
**my-elo-path-ic** \-'path-ik\ adj : of or relating to a myelopathy  
 : resulting from abnormality of the spinal cord or the bone mar-  
 row <~ anemia>  
**my-elop-a-thy** \,mī-ə-'lāp-ə-thē\ n, pl -thies : any disease or  
 disorder of the spinal cord or bone marrow  
**my-elo-per-ox-i-dase** \,mī-ə-lō-pə-'rāk-sə-'dās-,dāz\ n : a  
 peroxidase of phagocytic cells (as polymorphonuclear leuko-  
 cytes) that is held to assist in bactericidal activity by catalyzing  
 the oxidation of ionic halogen to free halogen  
**my-elo-phthi-sic anemia** \-'tiz-ik-,-'tī-sik-\ n : anemia in  
 which the blood-forming elements of the bone marrow are unable  
 to reproduce normal blood cells and which is commonly caused  
 by specific toxins or by overgrowth of tumor cells  
**my-elo-plax** \,mī-ə-lō-'plaks, mī-'el-ə-\ n : any of the large  
 multinucleate cells in bone marrow  
**my-elo-pol-e-sis** \,mī-ə-lō-'pōi-'ē-səs\ n, pl -pol-esēs \-'ē-  
 ,séz\ 1 : production of marrow or marrow cells 2 : production  
 of blood cells in bone marrow; esp : formation of blood granu-  
 locytes  
**my-elo-pol-et-ic** \-(,)'pōi-'et-ik\ adj : of or relating to myelo-  
 poiesis  
**my-elo-pro-lif-er-a-tive** \'mī-ə-lō-prə-'lif-ə-'rāt-iv-,rāt-\ adj  
 : of, relating to, or being a disorder (as leukemia) marked by  
 excessive proliferation of bone marrow elements and esp. blood  
 cell precursors  
**my-elo-ra-dic-u-li-tis** \-rə-'dik-yə-'lit-əs-,rə-\ n : inflamma-  
 tion of the spinal cord and the spinal nerve roots  
**my-elo-scle-ro-sis** \-sklə-'rō-səs\ n, pl -ro-sēs \-,séz\ 1  
 : sclerosis of the bone marrow 2 : MYELOFIBROSIS  
**my-elo-sis** \,mī-ə-'lō-səs\ n, pl -elo-sēs \-,séz\ 1 : the prolif-  
 eration of marrow tissue to produce the changes in cell distribu-  
 tion typical of myelogenous leukemia 2 : MYELOGENOUS LEU-  
 KEMIA  
**my-elo-spon-gi-um** \,mī-ə-lō-'spān-jē-əm\ n, pl -gia \-jē-ə\  
 : a network in the embryonic central nervous system derived  
 from the spongioblasts and giving rise to the neuroglia  
**my-elo-sup-pres-sion** \-sə-'pres-ən\ n : suppression of the  
 bone marrow's production of blood cells and platelets  
**my-elo-sup-pres-sive** \-sə-'pres-iv\ adj : causing myelo-  
 suppression <~ chemotherapy> <a ~ drug>  
**my-elot-o-my** \,mī-ə-'lāt-ə-mē\ n, pl -mies : surgical incision  
 of the spinal cord; esp : section of crossing nerve fibers at the

ə\abut \ə'kitten \ər\urther \ə'ash \ə'ace \ə'cot, cart  
 \ə'out \ch\chin \ə\bet \ē'easy \g'go \i'hlt \f'ice \j'job  
 \ŋ'sing \ð'go \ð'law \oi'boy \th'thin \ð'the \ū'loot  
 \ū'foot \y\yet \zh\vision see also Pronunciation Symbols page