

# MEDICAL, NURSING, & ALLIED HEALTH DICTIONARY

SIXTH EDITION

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**Cryosurgery** from Jaffe ND: *Atlas of ophthalmic surgery*, ed St. Louis, 1996, Mosby.

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## **SIXTH EDITION**

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globulin, probably an autoantibody, that exerts a prolonged stimulatory effect on the thyroid gland, causing rapid growth of the gland and excess activity of thyroid function, resulting in hyperthyroidism. It is found circulating in the blood of 50% of people with Graves' disease.

**long-acting thyroid stimulator protector (LATS-P)**, an antibody that inhibits the neutralization of long-acting thyroid stimulator and is found in the serum of persons with Graves' disease. LATS-P interferes with the binding of thyroid-stimulating hormone to its receptor on the plasma membrane of thyroid cells. See also **long-acting thyroid stimulator**.

**long-arm cast** [As, *lang* + *earm*, arm; ONorse, *kasta*], an orthopedic cast applied to immobilize the arm from the hand to the upper arm. It is used in treating fractures of the forearm, elbow, and humerus; for maintaining postoperative positioning of the distal arm, elbow, or upper arm; and for correcting or maintaining the correction of deformities of the distal arm, wrist, or elbow. See also **cast**. Compare **short-arm cast**.

**long bones**, the bones that contribute to the height or length of an extremity, particularly the bones of the legs and arms.

**longevity** /lonjev'itē/ [L, *longus*, long, *aveum*, age], the number of years an average person of a particular age is expected to continue living. It is determined by statistical tables based on mortality rates of various population groups.

**longissimus** /lon-jis'i-məs/ [L, longest, very long], a general term denoting a long structure, as a muscle.

**longitudinal** /lon'jətōō'dənəl/ [L, *longitudo*, length],  
1. pertaining to a measurement in the direction of the long axis of an object, body, or organ, such as the longitudinal arch of the foot. 2. pertaining to a scientific study that is conducted over a long period of time, such as the Framingham (Massachusetts) Study of heart disease.

**longitudinal diffusion**, the diffusion of solute molecules in the direction of flow of the mobile phase.

**longitudinal dissociation**, the insulation of parallel pathways of cardiac impulses from each other, usually in the atrioventricular junction.

**longitudinal fissure** [L, *longitudo*, length, *fissura*, cleft], the largest and deepest groove between the medial surfaces of the cerebral hemispheres.

**longitudinal presentation** [L, *longitudo*, length, *praesentare*, to show], the normal presentation of a fetus, with the long axis of the infant body parallel to that of the mother.

**longitudinal sound waves**, pressure waves formed by the oscillation of particles or molecules parallel to the axis of wave propagation. The compression and expansion of such waves at high frequencies is the principle on which ultrasonography is based.

**long-leg cast**, an orthopedic cast applied to immobilize the leg from the toes to the upper thigh. It is used in treating fractures and dislocations of the knee; for maintaining post-

syncope, and sudden death. Syncopal episodes often occur during physical exercise in young, otherwise healthy persons.

**long-scale contrast**, a high-kilovolt radiographic image containing a wide range and great number of shades of gray with little difference in the adjacent tones.

**long-term care (LTC)**, the provision of medical, social, and personal care services on a recurring or continuing basis to persons with chronic physical or mental disorders. The care may be provided in environments ranging from institutions to private homes. Long-term care services usually include symptomatic treatment, maintenance, and rehabilitation for patients of all age groups.

**long-term memory**, the ability to recall sensory events, ideas, and other information for long periods of time without apparent effort. It is generally the last memory system to be destroyed in patients with Alzheimer's disease. Compare **short-term memory**.

**long thoracic nerve**, one of a pair of supraclavicular branches from the roots of the brachial plexus. It arises from three roots, from the fifth, the sixth, and the seventh cervical nerves. The fibers from the fifth and the sixth cervical nerve join just after they pierce the scalenus medius and are united with the fibers from the seventh cervical nerve at the level of the first rib. Compare **phrenic nerve**.

**long thoracic nerve injury**, damage to the nerve (C5-C6) that innervates the serratus muscle, which anchors the angle of the scapula to the posterior of the rib cage. Symptoms include an abnormally prominent scapula and difficulty flexing the outstretched arm above the shoulder level, protracting the shoulder, or performing scapula abduction and adduction.

**long tract signs**, neurologic signs such as clonus, muscle spasticity, or bladder involvement that usually indicate a lesion in the middle or upper parts of the spinal cord or in the brain.

**Loniten**, trademark for an antihypertensive (minoxidil).

**loop** [ME, *loupe*], a set of instructions in a computer program that causes certain commands to be executed repeatedly if specified criteria are met.

**loop colostomy** [ME, *loupe* + Gk, *kolon*, colon, *stoma*, mouth], a type of temporary colostomy performed as part of the surgical treatment for repair of some colon disease. The procedure involves bringing an intact segment of colon anterior to the repair through an abdominal incision and suturing it onto the abdomen. A loop is formed and held in position by placing a piece of glass rod between the segment and the abdomen. The two ends of the rod are connected with a piece of rubber tubing to prevent the rod from slipping. The stomal opening is made on the exterior surface of the segment. The colostomy is reversed after resolution of the original pathology. Also called **double-barrel colostomy**. See also **colostomy irrigation**, **Hirschsprung disease**.

■ **INDICATIONS:** It is prescribed in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis.

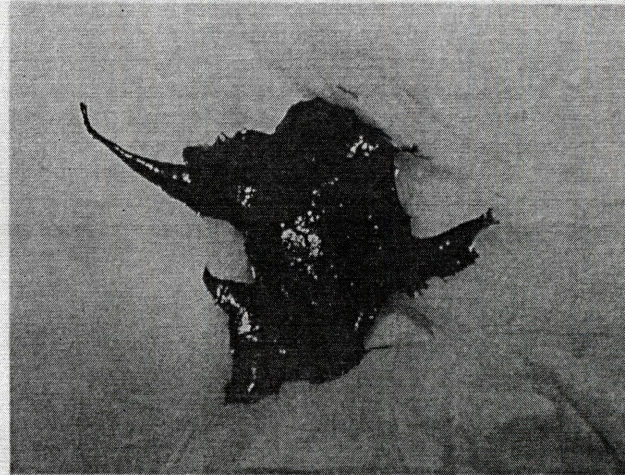
■ **CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Known hypersensitivity to aspirin or to nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs prohibits its use. It is used with caution in patients who have upper GI disease or impaired renal function.

■ **ADVERSE EFFECTS:** Among the more serious adverse reactions are GI distress, peptic ulcers, dizziness, rashes, and tinnitus. This drug interacts with many other drugs.

**Meclomen**, trademark for an antiinflammatory agent (meclofenamate sodium).

**mecocephaly.** See **scaphocephaly**.

**meconium** /mikō'nē-əm/ [Gk, *mekon*, poppy], a material that collects in the intestines of a fetus and forms the first stools of a newborn. It is thick and sticky, usually greenish to black, and composed of secretions of the intestinal glands, some amniotic fluid, and intrauterine debris, such as bile pigments, fatty acids, epithelial cells, mucus, lanugo, and blood. With ingestion of breast milk or formula and proper functioning of the GI tract, the color, consistency, and frequency of the stools change by the third or fourth day after the initiation of feedings. The presence of meconium in the amniotic fluid during labor may indicate fetal distress.



**Meconium** (Zitelli and Davis, 1997)

**meconium aspiration**, the inhalation of meconium by a fetus or newborn. It can block the air passages and cause failure of the lungs to expand or other pulmonary dysfunction, such as pneumonia or emphysema.

**meconium ileus**, obstruction of the small intestine in the newborn caused by impaction of thick, dry, tenacious meco-

**meconium plug syndrome**, obstruction of the large intestine in the newborn caused by thick, rubbery meconium that may fill the entire colon and part of the terminal ileum. Symptoms include failure to pass meconium within the first 24 to 48 hours after birth, abdominal distension, and vomiting if complete intestinal blockage occurs. A barium enema indicates the presence of a plug and in most cases dislodges it from the bowel wall. Subsequent gentle saline solution enemas may be needed to expel it. The condition may be an indication of Hirschsprung's disease or cystic fibrosis. See also **meconium ileus**.

**med**, 1. abbreviation for *medical*. 2. abbreviation for *medicine*. 3. abbreviation for *minimum effective dose*.

**MED**, 1. abbreviation for *minimal effective dose*. 2. abbreviation for *minimal erythema dose*. See also **threshold dose**.  
**medcard** /med'kãrd/, (in nursing) a small card listing the name, dose, and schedule of administration of each patient's medications, used in dispensing drugs to each patient.

**medevac**, abbreviation for *medical evacuation*.

**MEDEX** /med'eks/, 1. an educational program accredited by the American Medical Association for training military personnel with medical experience to become physician assistants. 2. a physician's assistant who has gained medical experience during military service and further training in a physician's assistant program.

**medi-**, **medio-**, prefix meaning 'middle': *medialecithum*, *medicinerea*, *mediotarsal*.

**media.** See **medium**.

**medial** /mē'dē-əl/ [L, *medius*, middle], 1. pertaining to, situated in, or oriented toward the midline of the body. 2. pertaining to the tunica media, the middle layer of the blood vessel wall. Also **mesial**.

**medial antebrachial cutaneous nerve**, a nerve of the arm that arises from the medial cord of the brachial plexus medial to the axillary artery. Near the axilla a cutaneous branch emerges to supply the skin over the biceps almost as far as the elbow. It descends on the ulnar side of the arm and divides into the anterior branch and the ulnar branch. The anterior branch is the larger of the two branches, innervating the skin as far as the wrist. The ulnar branch descends as far as the wrist, innervates the skin, and communicates with the branches of the ulnar nerve. Compare **medial brachial cutaneous nerve**.

**medial arteriosclerosis.** See **Mönckeberg's arteriosclerosis**.

**medial brachial cutaneous nerve**, a nerve of the arm arising from the medial cord of the brachial plexus and distributed to the medial side of the arm. It passes through the axilla, pierces the deep fascia in the middle of the arm, and supplies the skin of the arm as far as the olecranon. Compare **medial antebrachial cutaneous nerve**.

**medial cerebellar nucleus.** See **fastigial nucleus**. This term is more commonly used to refer to animals other than primates.