

Lay Language

abdomen	belly, stomach
abdominal distention	bloating
absorb	take up fluids, take in
acid taste	sour taste
acidosis	condition when blood contains more acid than normal
acuity	clearness, keenness, esp. of vision and airways
acute	new, recent, sudden, urgent
acute cholecystitis	gall stones, which may cause upper abdominal pain and require hospitalization and surgery
adenopathy	swollen lymph nodes (glands)
adjuvant	helpful, assisting, aiding, supportive
agent	drug, medication
albumin	protein found in blood
allergic reaction	rash, hives, swelling, trouble breathing
alopecia	loss of hair
ambulate/ambulation/ambulatory	walk, able to walk
analgesic	pain-relieving drug
anaphylaxis	serious, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction
anasarca	build up of fluid throughout the whole body, which occurs in severely ill people
anemia	low number of red blood cells, can causes tiredness and shortness of breath. May require a blood transfusion
anesthetic	a drug or agent used to decrease the feeling of pain, or eliminate the feeling of pain by putting you to sleep
angina	chest pain due to decreased oxygen getting to the heart.
anorexia	disorder in which person will not eat; lack of appetite
antecubital	related to the inner side of the forearm
antibody	protein made in the body in response to foreign substance
anticonvulsant	drug used to prevent seizures
antiemetic	medication to prevent nausea/vomiting
antilipemic	a drug that lowers fat levels in the blood
antimicrobial	drug that kills bacteria and other germs
antiretroviral	drug that works against the growth of certain viruses
antitussive	a drug used to relieve coughing
aplastic anemia	a disorder caused by decreased production of red blood cells
arrhythmia	irregular heart beat
arterial thrombosis	blood clot in an artery that blocks the artery. This could be serious and life threatening
arterial catheter	small tube placed in an artery
arthralgia	joint pain
ascites	build up of fluid in the abdomen, which causes bloating and discomfort. This could require that the fluid be removed by a procedure called paracentesis
aspiration	fluid entering the lungs, such as after vomiting
assay	lab test
asthenia	

cluster sample	a probability sample that is determined by randomly selecting clusters of people from a population and subsequently selecting every person in each cluster for inclusion in the sample
cognitively impaired	having either a psychiatric disorder (e.g., psychosis, neurosis, personality or behavior disorders, or dementia) or a developmental disorder (e.g., mental retardation) that affects cognitive or emotional functions to the extent that capacity for judgment and reasoning is significantly diminished
cohort	a group of subjects initially identified as having one or more characteristics in common who are followed over time
coma	unconscious state
compassionate use	a method of providing experimental therapeutics prior to final FDA approval for use in humans
compensation	payment or medical care provided to subjects injured in research; does not refer to payment (remuneration) for participation in research
competence	a legal term to indicate a person's capacity to act on one's own behalf; a person's ability to understand information presented, to realize the consequences of acting (or not acting) on that information, and to make a choice.
complete response	total disappearance of disease
confounding factor	any factor that might serve as an alternative explanation for a study's result confounding factors include non-randomized samples, selection bias, and any arbitrary differences between people that are being compared.
congenital	present before birth
conjunctivitis	redness and irritation of the thin membrane that covers the eye
consolidation phase	treatment phase intended to make a remission permanent (follows induction phase)
constipation	difficulty passing stools
contract	an agreement
contraindicated	disadvantageous, perhaps dangerous; a treatment that should not be used in certain individuals or conditions due to risks. For instance, a drug may be contraindicated for pregnant women and people with high blood pressure
control group	in many clinical trials, one group of patients will be given an experimental drug or treatment, while the control group is given either a standard treatment for the illness or a placebo
controlled trial	research study in which the experimental treatment or procedure is compared to a standard (control) treatment or procedure
convenience sample	a non-probability sample that is determined by selecting participants that are readily accessible (convenient) to the researcher, (examples in studies of Stanford students might include going to an organizational meeting or hanging out outside of rastall and asking students exiting the lunchroom to take a survey)
cooperative group	association of multiple institutions to perform clinical trials
coronary	related to the blood vessels that supply the heart, or to the heart itself
correlational relationship	a relationship where two variables are associated (this can be measured in terms of strength and direction using statistical tests) but not causally related
cross-over design	a type of clinical trial in which each subject experiences, at different times, both the experimental and control therapy
culture	test for infection, or for organisms that could cause infection
cumulative	added together from the beginning

cutaneous	relating to the skin
debilitation	weakened condition
	giving participants previously undisclosed information about the research project following completion of their participation in research. In studies involving deception, if the participants are not informed of the deception in the informed consent, the IRB-SBS requires a signed debrief form for each participant following completion of his/her participation in the study
debrief	the intentional withholding of information from participants, or deception about the study's purpose and exact nature, that is deemed necessary by the researcher in order to meet the study's goals
deception	
dehydrate	lose water or body fluids
dermatitis	skin irritation, rash
dermatologic	pertaining to the skin
deteriorate	condition to grow worse
	refers to trials that are conducted to find better tests or procedures for diagnosing a particular disease or condition
diagnostic trials	

endoscopic examination	examination of an internal part of the body with a lighted tube
endpoint	overall outcome that the protocol is designed to evaluate
enteral	by way of the intestines
enzyme	a chemical in the blood that causes chemical changes
epidemiology	The branch of medical science that deals with the study of incidence and distribution and control of a disease in a population.
epidural	outside the spinal cord
epistaxis	bloody nose
equitable	fair or just; used in the context of selection of participants to indicate that the benefits and burdens of research are fairly distributed
erythema	redness of the skin
ethnographic research	ethnography is the study of people and their cultures
evaluated, assessed	examined for a medical condition
excrete	discharge, pass

expanded access

hematoma
hematuria

blood clot
blood in urine

investigator
irradiation
ischemia

the individual(s) designated to have the appropriate level of authority and responsibility to direct the research project and/or activity
x-ray

prospective studies
prosthesis

studies designed to observe outcomes or events that occur after the group of participants has been identified. prospective studies do not have to involve manipulation or intervention but may be purely observational or involve only the collection of data instead.

artificial part, most often limbs, such as arms or legs

name, address, elements of dates related to an individual (e.g., birthdate), email address, numbers; telephone, fax, social security, medical record, health beneficiary/health insurance, certificate or license numbers, vehicle, account numbers, characteristics, or codes (e.g., global positioning system (gps) readings), web urls, internet protocol (ip) addresses, biometric

protected health
information

research	a systematic investigation (i.e., the gathering and analysis of information) designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge
resect	remove or cut out surgically
respiratory failure	difficulty breathing with low levels of oxygen in the blood, which could be serious and life threatening and require you to have a tube inserted into your windpipe that is hooked up to a machine to help you breathe
respondents	research participants, who fill out a survey, are interviewed, participate in an experiment, are observed in a naturalistic setting, or who are otherwise studied
rhabdomyolysis	rhabdomyolysis is a breakdown of muscle fibers.
rigors	chills and shivering
saline	salt water solution
sample	a subset of a given population used for research purposes
sarcoma	a type of cancer
screening	examination, test

structured interview	a data collection method in which an interviewer reads a standardized interview schedule to the respondent and records the answers
study endpoint	a primary or secondary outcome used to judge the effectiveness of a treatment
stupor	stunned state in which it is difficult to get a response or the attention of the subject
subclavian	under the collarbone
subcutaneous	under the skin
supine	lying on the back
supine position	lying on the back
supplement	add
supportive care	general medical care aimed at symptoms, not intended to improve or cure underlying disease
survey	a study in which the same data are collected from all members of the sample using a highly structured questionnaire and analyzed using statistical tests
syndrome	a condition characterized by a set of symptoms
systolic	top number in blood pressure; pressure during active contraction of the heart
T-lymphocytes	type of white blood cells
tachycardia	fast heart rate
teratogenic	capable of causing malformations in a fetus (developing baby still inside the mother's body)
testes/testicles	male sex glands
theory	a general explanation about a specific behavior or set of events that is based on known principles and serves to organize related events in a meaningful way
therapy	treatment intended and expected to alleviate a disease or disorder
thrombocytopenia	Low number of platelets, which may cause bleeding and bruising. May require a blood transfusion. Bleeding may be serious or life threatening.
thrombosis	clotting
thrombus	blood clot
tinnitus	ringing in the ears
titration	a method for deciding on the strength of a drug or solution; gradually increasing the dose
topical	on the surface
topical anesthetic	

variable	any characteristic or trait that can vary from one person to another (race, sex, academic major) or for one person over time (age, political beliefs)
varices	enlarged veins
vasospasm	narrowing of the blood vessels
vector	a carrier that can transmit disease-causing microorganisms (germs and viruses)
venipuncture	needle stick, blood draw, entering the skin with a needle
vertical transmission	spread of disease
visual disturbances	inability to see properly.
voluntary	free of coercion, duress, or undue inducement. Used in the research context to refer to a subject's decision to participate (or to continue to participate) in a research activity
ward	persons who are wards of the state or any other agency, institution, or