Unit X   Acronyms and Abbreviations in Surgery and Medicine

Introduction

“The patient went from the ER to the OR and then to the ICU.”

It is an irrefutable fact that doctors’ speech is full of abbreviations. Healthcare professionals in general and surgeons in particular use at least ten abbreviations per minute (this is just a guesstimate; please don’t quote us). This high prevalence has led us to consider medical abbreviations an important challenge.

We classify acronyms and abbreviations into several “types,” namely:

- Straightforward abbreviations
- Extra-nice abbreviations
- Expanded-term abbreviations
- Energy-saving abbreviations
- Multiple-meaning abbreviations
- Mind-blowing abbreviations

Let us begin with the easy ones; we call them the *straightforward* abbreviations because for each simple abbreviation in your own language there is a simple English equivalent. No beating around the bush here. It’s just a matter of identifying the abbreviations, changing the order of the letters, and learning them. Let us give you a few examples so you can enjoy the simple things in life … while you can!

- HRT  Hormone replacement therapy
- LVOT  Left ventricle outflow tract
- ASD  Atrial septal defect
- VSD  Ventricular septal defect
- TEE  Transesophageal echocardiography
- LDA  Left anterior descending artery
- ACE  Angiotensin converting enzyme

Other abbreviations are even easier: we call these the *extra-nice* ones. They are mostly used for drugs or chemical substances whose name has three or four syllables too many. They are extra nice because they are usually the same in many languages. Let’s see just one example:

- CPK  Creatine phosphokinase
The next group, the expanded-form abbreviations, consists of abbreviations that are widely used in English but that are generally preferred in their expanded form in other languages. Since languages are constantly evolving, we are sure that these terms will eventually be abbreviated in many languages but so far you can hear them referred to mostly as expanded terms:

- **NSCLC** Non-small-cell lung cancer
- **PBSC** Peripheral blood stem cell

There is another group which we call the energy-saving abbreviations. These are abbreviations that many languages leave in the original English, so, of course, when they are expanded in other languages the first letter of each word doesn’t match the acronym. We call these energy-saving because it wouldn’t have been so difficult to come up with a real “national” abbreviation for these terms. When looking for examples, we realized that most hormone names are energy-saving abbreviations:

- **FSH** Follicle-stimulating hormone
- **TNF** Tumor necrosis factor
- **PAW** Pulmonary arterial wedge

There is yet another kind, which we call the multiple-meaning abbreviations. These are abbreviations that can refer to two or more different terms. Of course, the context helps to discern the real meaning. However, it is worth keeping an eye open for these because, if misinterpreted, these abbreviations might get you into an embarrassing situation:

- **PCR**
  - Polymerase chain reaction
  - Plasma clearance rate
  - Pathological complete response
  - Protein catabolic rate

- **HEV**
  - Human enteric virus
  - Hepatitis E virus

- **PID**
  - Pelvic inflammatory disease
  - Prolapsed intervertebral disc

- **CSF**
  - Colony-stimulating factor
  - Cerebrospinal fluid

The funniest abbreviations are those that become acronyms in which the pronunciation resembles a word that has nothing to do with the meaning of the original term. We call this group the mind-blowing abbreviations.

A *cabbage* in English is that nice vegetable known for its gasogenic properties. However, when an English-speaking surgeon says: “This patient is a clear...
candidate for cabbage,” he/she isn’t talking about what the patient should have for lunch, but rather the type of surgery he/she is suggesting should be performed. Thus, cabbage is the colloquial way of referring to CABG (coronary artery bypass grafting).

If you happen to overhear an oncologist saying: “I think your patient needs a chop,” you walk on down the corridor, wondering whether this new alternative therapy will consist of a pork or a lamb chop. But then you quickly realize that the specialist you overheard was actually referring to a CHOP (a regimen of cyclophosphamide, hydroxydaunomycin, oncovin, and prednisone, used in cancer chemotherapy).

This is just a tiny sample of all the abbreviations out there, and you can be sure that there will be more to come. As the medical profession evolves, so does the language.

Regardless of the “type” of abbreviation you have before you, we will give you three pieces of advice:

1. Identify and list the most common abbreviations.
2. Read the abbreviations on your lists out loud.
3. Begin with abbreviation lists of your surgical specialty.

*Read the abbreviations on your lists out loud.* Read the abbreviations on your lists in a natural way. Bear in mind that it may not be enough to be able to identify written abbreviations. From this standpoint, there are three types of abbreviations:

1. Abbreviations that must be spelled out
2. Abbreviations (acronyms) that must be read as words
3. Hybrid abbreviations

By abbreviations that must be spelled out, we mean those in which each letter is spoken individually. Most abbreviations are spelled out like this; in fact, certain combinations of letters are impossible to read as a word. Think, for example, of PCR, mentioned above—if there is no vowel we cannot make a word in English. Other abbreviations that contain a vowel are difficult if not impossible to pronounce as a word in English. Take COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), for example, and try to read the abbreviation instead of spelling it out. The “expanded form” (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) of a classic abbreviation like this is seldom used and often sounds unnatural.

Other abbreviations are acronyms and therefore must be read as a word rather than spelled out. Their letter order allows us to read them. LAM belongs to this group.

Nobody would understand an abbreviation that must be spelled out if you read it as a word and nobody would understand an abbreviation that must be read if you spelled it out. Let us clarify what we are trying to say with an example: LAM stands for lymphangiomyomatosis and must be read as a word lam, pronounced the same as lamb. Nobody would understand you if you spelled out L-A-M instead. Therefore, never spell out a “read abbreviation” and never read a “spelled abbreviation.”
The hybrid type is made up of abbreviations that are read as a combination of letters and words. One example is CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure), which is pronounced *C-pap*. If you spell out CPAP (C-P-A-P), nobody will understand you.

*Review abbreviation lists in your specialty.* Review as many abbreviation lists in your specialty as you can and go over them until you are familiar with their meaning and pronunciation.

Although you should make your own abbreviation lists, we have created several, classified by specialty. To begin with, check whether your own specialty’s list is included; if not, start writing your own. Be patient … this task can take the rest of your professional life.

### Abbreviation Lists

#### General List

- 5FU 5-Fluorouracil
- ABPA Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis
- ACE Angiotensin-converting enzyme
- aCL Antibodies to cardiolipin
- ACTH Adrenocorticotropic hormone
- ADH Antidiuretic hormone
- ADPKD Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease
- AF Atrial fibrillation
- AFP Alpha fetoprotein
- AJCC American Joint Cancer Commission
- ALT Alanine aminotransferase
- α1AT α1-Antitrypsin
- AML Acute myeloid leukemia
- ANA Antinuclear antibodies
- APCs Atrial premature complexes
- API Arterial pressure index
- APUD Amine precursor uptake and decarboxylation system
- ARDS Acute respiratory distress syndrome
- ARF Acute renal failure
- AS Ankylosing spondylitis
- AST Aspartate aminotransferase
- ATN Acute tubular necrosis
- AVP Arginine vasopressin
- BAL Bronchoalveolar lavage
- BCC Basal cell carcinoma
- BCG Bacillus Calmette-Guérin
- BMT Bone marrow transplant
| Abbreviation | Definition |
|--------------|------------|
| BP           | Bullous pemphigoid |
| BPF          | Brazilian purpuric fever |
| CBD          | Common bile duct |
| CCK          | Cholecystokinin |
| CD           | Crohn disease |
| CEA          | Carcinoembryonic antigen |
| CF           | Cystic fibrosis |
| CML          | Chronic myeloid leukemia |
| CMML         | Chronic myelomonocytic leukemia |
| COPD         | Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease |
| CP           | Cicatricial pemphigoid |
| CRF          | Chronic renal failure |
| CRH          | Corticotropin-releasing hormone |
| CSF          | Colony stimulating factor |
| CT           | Computed tomography |
| CTX          | Cholera toxin |
| CUPS         | Cancer of unknown primary site |
| CWP          | Coal workers’ pneumoconiosis |
| CXR          | Chest X-ray |
| DCIS         | Ductal carcinoma in situ |
| DLE          | Discoid lupus erythematosus |
| DGI          | Disseminated gonococcal infection |
| DH           | Dermatitis herpetiformis |
| DISH         | Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis |
| DPB          | Diastolic blood pressure |
| DRA          | Dialysis-related amyloidosis |
| DRE          | Digital rectal examination |
| DU           | Duodenal ulcer |
| DVT          | Deep venous thrombosis |
| EBA          | Epidermolysis bullosa acquisita |
| EBV          | Epstein Barr virus |
| ECG          | Electrocardiogram |
| EGD          | Esophagogastroduodenoscopy |
| ERCP         | Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography |
| ESRD         | End-stage renal disease |
| FAP          | Familial amyloid polyneuropathies |
| FEV₁         | Forced expiratory volume in one second |
| FMF          | Familial Mediterranean fever |
| FSGS         | Focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis |
| FSH          | Follicle-stimulating hormone |
| GBM          | Glomerular basement membrane |
| GCT          | Germ cell tumor |
| GFR          | Glomerular filtration rate |
| GGT          | $\gamma$-Glutamyltranspeptidase, $\gamma$-glutamyltransferase |
| GH           | Growth hormone |
| Acronym | Description |
|---------|-------------|
| GHRH    | Growth hormone-releasing hormone |
| GI      | Gastrointestinal |
| GIP     | Gastrin inhibitory peptide |
| GU      | Gastric ulcer |
| HBV     | Hepatitis B virus |
| hCG     | Human chorionic gonadotropin |
| HCV     | Hepatitis C virus |
| HIVAN   | Human immunodeficiency virus-associated nephropathy |
| HOA     | Hypertrophic osteoarthropathy |
| HP      | Hypersensitivity pneumonitis |
| HPV     | Human papilloma virus |
| HRT     | Hormone replacement therapy |
| HSC     | Hematopoietic stem cell |
| HUS     | Hemolytic uremic syndrome |
| IBD     | Inflammatory bowel disease |
| IBS     | Irritable bowel syndrome |
| IL      | Interleukin |
| ILD     | Interstitial lung disease |
| IPSID   | Immunoproliferative small intestinal disease (Mediterranean lymphoma) |
| ITP     | Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura |
| JN      | Juvenile nephronophthisis |
| LA      | Lupus anticoagulant |
| LBBB    | Left bundle branch block |
| LCDD    | Light chain deposition disease |
| LDH     | Lactate dehydrogenase |
| LES     | Lower esophageal sphincter |
| LH      | Luteinizing hormone |
| LIP     | Lymphoid interstitial pneumonitis |
| MAC     | *Mycobacterium avium* complex |
| MALT    | Mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue |
| MCD     | Medullary cystic disease |
| MCD     | Minimal change disease |
| MCHC    | Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration |
| MCTD    | Mixed connective tissue disease |
| MCV     | Mean corpuscular volume |
| MEN1    | Type 1 multiple endocrine neoplasia |
| MPGN    | Membranoproliferative glomerulopathies |
| MR      | Magnetic resonance |
| MRI     | Magnetic resonance imaging |
| NSAIDs  | Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs |
| NUD     | Non-ulcer dyspepsia |
| OA      | Osteoarthritis |
| OCG     | Oral cholecystography |
| Abbreviation | Full Form |
|--------------|-----------|
| ODT S        | Organic dust toxic syndrome |
| OSA          | Obstructive sleep apnea |
| PAH          | Primary alveolar hypoventilation |
| PAN          | Polyarteritis nodosa |
| PAP          | Pulmonary alveolar proteinosis |
| PBC          | Primary biliary cirrhosis |
| PCI          | Prophylactic cranial irradiation |
| PCP          | Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia |
| PDR          | Physicians’ desk reference (vademecum) |
| PEG          | Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy |
| PF           | Pemphigus foliaceus |
| PG           | Pemphigoid gestations |
| PIF          | Prolactin inhibitory factor |
| PML          | Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy |
| PNET         | Peripheral primitive neuroectodermal tumor |
| PRA          | Plasma renin activity |
| PRL          | Prolactin |
| PSA          | Prostate-specific antigen |
| PsA          | Psoriatic arthritis |
| PTC          | Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography |
| PTE          | Pulmonary thromboembolism |
| PTH          | Parathyroid hormone |
| PV           | Pemphigus vulgaris |
| RA           | Rheumatoid arthritis |
| RBBB         | Right bundle branch block |
| RBC          | Red blood cell |
| RF           | Rheumatoid factor |
| RMSF         | Rocky mountain spotted fever |
| RPGN         | Rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis |
| RPRF         | Rapidly progressive renal failure |
| RTA          | Renal tubular acidosis |
| RV           | Residual volume |
| RVT          | Renal vein thrombosis |
| SBC          | Secondary biliary cirrhosis |
| SBP          | Systolic blood pressure |
| SCC          | Squamous cell carcinoma |
| SCID         | Severe combined immunodeficiency |
| SCLE         | Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus |
| SI           | Serum iron |
| SIADH        | Syndrome of inappropriate secretion of antidiuretic hormone |
| SLE          | Systemic lupus erythematosus |
| SPB          | Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis |
| SSC          | Systemic sclerosis |
| SVCS         | Superior vena cava syndrome |
| Acronym | Definition |
|---------|------------|
| TB | Tuberculosis |
| TBB | Transbronchial biopsy |
| TGFβ | Transforming growth factor β |
| TIBC | Transferrin iron-binding capacity |
| TIPS | Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt |
| TLC | Total lung capacity |
| TNF | Tumor necrosis factor |
| TRH | Thyrotropin-releasing hormone |
| TSH | Thyroid-stimulating hormone |
| TTA | Transtracheal aspiration |
| TTP | Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura |
| UC | Ulcerative colitis |
| US | Ultrasonography |
| VATS | Video-assisted thoracic surgery |
| VC | Vital capacity |
| VF | Ventricular fibrillation |
| VIP | Vasoactive intestinal peptide |
| VPCs | Ventricular premature complexes |
| WBC | White blood cell |
| WDHA syndrome | Watery diarrhea, hypokalemia, and achlorhydria syndrome (Verner-Morrison) |
| ZES | Zollinger–Ellison syndrome |
| Wt | Weight |

**Lists by Specialty**

### Anatomy

| Acronym | Definition |
|---------|------------|
| AC joint | Acromioclavicular joint |
| ACL | Anterior cruciate ligament |
| ACS | Anterior cervical space |
| ARA | Anorectal angle |
| ATA | Anterior tibial artery |
| BNA | Basle Nomina Anatomica |
| CBD | Common bile duct |
| CFA | Common femoral artery |
| CHA | Common hepatic artery |
| CHD | Common hepatic duct |
| CN | Cranial nerve |
| CNS | Central nervous system |
| CS | Carotid space |
| DCF | Deep cervical fascia |
| DLDCF | Deep layer of the deep cervical fascia |
| DRUJ | Distal radioulnar joint |
| Abbreviation | Full Form |
|--------------|-----------|
| ECU          | Extensor carpi ulnaris |
| EEL          | External elastic lamina |
| GB           | Gallbladder |
| GDA          | Gastroduodenal artery |
| GE           | Gastroesophageal junction |
| GI           | Gastrointestinal |
| IANC         | International anatomical nomenclature |
| ICA          | Internal carotid artery |
| ICRP         | International Commission on Radiological Protection |
| IEL          | Internal elastic lamina |
| IHBD         | Intrahepatic biliary ducts |
| IMA          | Inferior mesenteric artery |
| ITB          | Iliotibial band |
| IVC          | Inferior vena cava |
| JV           | Jugular vein |
| LA           | Left atrium |
| LAA          | Left atrial appendage |
| LAD          | Left anterior descending coronary artery |
| LCL          | Lateral collateral ligament |
| LCX          | Left circumflex coronary artery |
| LES          | Lower esophageal sphincter |
| LGA          | Left gastric artery |
| LHA          | Left hepatic artery |
| LHD          | Left hepatic duct |
| LHV          | Left hepatic vein |
| LIMA         | Left internal mammary artery |
| LLL          | Left lower lobe (of lung) |
| LLQ          | Left lower quadrant (of abdomen) |
| LPV          | Left portal vein |
| LUCL         | Lateral ulnar collateral ligament |
| LUL          | Left upper lobe (of lung) |
| LUQ          | Left upper quadrant (of abdomen) |
| LV           | Left ventricle |
| LVOT         | Left ventricular outflow tract |
| MCL          | Medial collateral ligament |
| MCP          | Metacarpophalangeal |
| MHV          | Middle hepatic artery |
| MLDCF        | Middle layer of the deep cervical fascia |
| MS           | Masticator space |
| MTP          | Metatarsophalangeal |
| NA           | Nomina anatomica |
| OM           | Obtuse marginal branch |
| PCL          | Posterior cruciate ligament |
| PCS          | Posterior cervical space |
| PDA          | Posterior descending anterior coronary artery, patent ductus arteriosus |
| Acronym | Definition                      |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| PDV     | Pancreaticoduodenal vein        |
| PHA     | Proper hepatic artery           |
| PICA    | Posteroinferior cerebellar artery |
| PMS     | Pharyngeal mucosal space        |
| PS      | Parotid space                   |
| PTA     | Posterior tibial artery         |
| PV      | Portal vein                     |
| RA      | Right atrium                    |
| RAS     | Reticular activating system     |
| RCL     | Radial collateral ligament      |
| RDPA    | Right descending pulmonary artery |
| RHA     | Right hepatic artery            |
| RHD     | Right hepatic duct              |
| RHV     | Right hepatic vein              |
| RIMA    | Right internal mammary artery   |
| RL      | Right lower lobe (of lung)      |
| RLQ     | Right lower quadrant (of abdomen) |
| RPS     | Retropharyngeal space           |
| RPV     | Right portal vein               |
| RUL     | Right upper lobe (of lung)      |
| RUQ     | Right upper quadrant (of abdomen) |
| RV      | Right ventricle                 |
| RVOT    | Right ventricular outflow tract |
| SCF     | Superficial cervical fascia     |
| SCM     | Sternocleidomastoid muscle      |
| SCV     | Subclavian vein                 |
| SFA     | Superficial femoral artery      |
| SLS     | Sublingual space                |
| SMA     | Superior mesenteric artery      |
| SMC     | Smooth muscle cell              |
| SMS     | Submandibular space             |
| SMV     | Superior mesenteric vein        |
| ST      | Scapulothoracic                 |
| STT     | Scaphoid–trapezium–trapezoideum |
| SVC     | Superior vena cava              |
| TE      | Tracheoesophageal                |
| TFCC    | Triangular fibrocartilage complex |
| TMJ     | Temporomandibular joint         |
| TMT     | Tarsometatarsal                 |
| UCL     | Ulnar collateral ligament       |
| UES     | Upper esophageal sphincter      |
| UPJ     | Ureteropelvic junction          |
| UVJ     | Ureterovesical junction         |
| VS      | Visceral space                  |
**Clinical History**

| Abbreviation | Definition |
|--------------|------------|
| AU           | Auris auterque (each ear) |
| ABCD         | Airway, breathing, circulation, defibrillate in cardiopulmonary resuscitation |
| ABSYS        | Above symptoms |
| AC, a.c.     | Ante cibum (before a meal) |
| ad lib.      | Ad libitum (as desired; for example, a patient may be permitted to move out of bed freely and orders would, therefore, be for activities to be ad lib) |
| ADR          | Adverse drug reaction |
| ANV          | Nausea and vomiting symptoms |
| AVPU         | Alert, responsive to verbal stimuli, responsive to painful stimuli, and unresponsive (assessment of mental status) |
| AWS          | Alcohol withdrawal symptoms |
| a/g ratio    | Albumin to globulin ratio |
| ACL          | Anterior cruciate ligament (one of the most common ligament injuries to the knee; the ACL can be sprained or completely torn from trauma and/or degeneration) |
| AKA          | Above the knee amputation |
| BC, BLCO, cbc| (Complete) blood count |
| BID, b.i.d.  | Bis in die (twice a day) |
| BIO          | Biochemistry |
| BIPRO        | Biochemistry profile |
| BP           | Blood pressure |
| BUCR         | BUN and creatinine |
| BUN/Cr, BUCR | Blood urea nitrogen/creatinine |
| Bandemia     | Slang for elevated level of band forms of white blood cells |
| BKA          | Below the knee amputation |
| BMP          | Basic metabolic panel: electrolytes (potassium, sodium, carbon dioxide, and chloride) and creatinine and glucose |
| BP           | Blood pressure (blood pressure is recorded as part of the physical examination) |
| BSO          | Bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy (a BSO is the removal of both of the ovaries and adjacent fallopian tubes and is often performed as part of a total abdominal hysterectomy) |
| CC           | Chief complaint |
| CCCR         | Calculated creatinine clearance |
| Ch D         | Chirugiae doctor, surgery doctor |
| Cib.         | Cibus (food) |
| COEPS        | Cortically originating extrapyramidal symptoms |
| CPE, CPX     | Complete physical examination |
| CR           | Creatinine |
| CrCl         | Creatinine clearance |
| CVS          | Current vital signs |
C&S
Culture and sensitivity, performed to detect infection
C/O
Complaint of (the patient's expressed concern)
Cap
Capsule
CBC
Complete blood count
CC
Chief complaint (the patient's main concern)
Cc
Cubic centimeters (e.g., the amount of fluid removed from the body is recorded in ccs)
Chem panel
Chemistry panel (a comprehensive screening blood test that indicates the status of the liver, kidneys, and electrolytes)
COPD
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CVA
Cerebrovascular accident (stroke)
d.
Dexter (right)
D/D, DDX
Differential diagnosis
DIFFRLS
Differentials
DM
Diastolic murmur
DNR
Do not resuscitate
DOA
Dead on arrival
DRE
Digital rectal examination
DTR
Deep tendon reflex
D/C or DC
Discontinue or discharge (e.g., a doctor will D/C a drug; alternatively, the doctor might DC a patient from the hospital)
DM
Diabetes mellitus
DNC, D&C, or D and C
Dilation and curettage. Widening the cervix and scraping with a curette for the purpose of removing tissue lining the inner surface of the womb (uterus)
DOE
Dyspnea on exertion (shortness of breath with activity)
DTR
Deep tendon reflexes (these are reflexes that the doctor tests by tapping the tendons with a rubber hammer)
DVT
Deep venous thrombosis (blood clot in large vein)
E/A
Emergency admission
EAU
Emergency admission unit
EPMS
Extrapyramidal motor symptoms
ESR
Erythrocyte sedimentation rate
ETOH
Alcohol (ETOH intake history is often recorded as part of a patient history)
FCUS
First-catch urine sediment
FEN
Fluid, electrolytes, and nutrition
FH, FAHX
Family history
FH+/FH−
Family history positive/negative
### Abbreviation Lists

| Abbreviation | Full Form |
|--------------|-----------|
| FHA/FHHD     | Family history of alcoholism/heavy drinking |
| FHCa         | Family history of cancer |
| FHEH         | Family history of essential hypertension |
| FHMI         | Family history of mental illness |
| FHSF         | Family history symptom free |
| FHVD         | Family history of vascular disease |
| FX           | Fracture |
| GERS         | Gastroesophageal reflux symptoms |
| GISYS        | Gastrointestinal symptoms |
| GP           | General practitioner |
| GOMER        | Slang for “get out of my emergency room” |
| gtt          | Drops |
| H&P          | History and physical examination |
| HARPPS       | Heat, absence of use, redness, pain, pus, swelling (symptoms of infections) |
| H&H          | Hemoglobin and hematocrit (when the H&H is low, the patient has anemia; the H&H can be elevated in persons who have lung disease from long-term smoking or from disease, such as polycythemia rubra vera) |
| h.s.         | At bedtime (as in taking a medicine at bedtime) |
| H/O or h/o   | History of (a past event that occurred…) |
| HA           | Headache |
| HTN          | Hypertension |
| IBSY         | Irritable bowel symptoms |
| IRSS         | Illness-related symptoms |
| IV, i.v.     | Intravenous |
| I&D          | Incision and drainage |
| IM           | Intramuscular (this is a typical notation when noting or ordering an injection (shot) given into muscle, such as with B<sub>12</sub> for pernicious anemia) |
| IMP          | Impression (this is the summary conclusion of the patient’s condition by the healthcare practitioner at that particular date and time) |
| in vitro     | In the laboratory |
| in vivo      | In the body |
| IU           | International units |
| JT           | Joint |
| K            | Potassium (an essential electrolyte frequently monitored regularly in intensive care) |
| KCL          | Potassium chloride |
| LUQ          | Left upper quadrant (of the abdomen) |
| LUTS         | Lower urinary tract symptoms |
| LBP          | Low back pain (LBP is one of most common medical complaints) |
| LLQ          | Left lower quadrant (diverticulitis pain is often located in the LLQ of the abdomen) |
LUQ  Left upper quadrant (the spleen is located in the LUQ of the abdomen)
Lytes  Electrolytes (potassium, sodium, carbon dioxide, and chloride)
M.D.  Medicinae doctor
MOUS  Multiple occurrence of unexplained symptoms
MCL  Medial collateral ligament
mg  Milligrams
ml  Milliliters
MVP  Mitral valve prolapse
NFH  Negative family history
NIS  No inflammatory signs
NNS  Non-specific symptoms
NOHF  No heart failure symptoms
NOSYS  No symptoms
NPO  Nil per os (nothing by mouth)
NPx  Neurologist’s physical examination
NSAD  No signs of acute disease
NSI  No signs of infection/inflammation
NVS  Neurological vital signs
NVS  No visual symptoms
N/V  Nausea or vomiting
Na  Sodium
OD  Oculus dexter (right eye), overdose
OI  Oculus sinister (left eye)
OPEX  On physical examination
O&P  Ova and parasites (stool O&P is tested in the laboratory to detect parasitic infection in persons with chronic diarrhea)
O.U.  Both eyes
ORIF  Open reduction and internal fixation (such as with the orthopedic repair of a hip fracture)
p.c.  Post cibum (after meals)
p.r.n.  Pro re nata (according to circumstances, may require)
p.v.  Per vaginam
PC  Present complaint
PCA  Patient-controlled analgesia
PCLS  Persistent cold-like symptoms
PE, Pex, Px, PHEX  Physical examination
PESS  Problem, etiology, signs, and symptoms
PFH  Positive family history
PH, PHx  Past history
PHI  Past history of illness
PMS  Premenstrual symptoms
PO  Per os (by mouth, oral)
POMR  Problem-oriented medical record
PPES  Peer physical examinations
Abbreviation Lists

ppm Parts per million
PRE Progressive-resistance exercise
PRSCJ, PS Prescription
PT Physical therapy/therapist
P Pulse
p.r.n. As needed (so that something is done only when the situation calls for it; for example, administering a pain killer only when the patient is in pain)
PCL Posterior cruciate ligament
PERRLA Pupils equal, round, and reactive to light and accommodation
Plt Platelets (one of the elements making up blood along with the white and red blood cells)
PMI Point of maximum impulse of the heart when felt during examination (as in beats against the chest)
q.2h. Quaque secunda hora (every 2 h)
q.3h. Quaque tertia hora (every 3 h)
q.d. Quaque die (every day)
q.h. Quaque hora (every hour)
q.i.d. Quater in die (four times daily)
q.v. Quantum vis (as much as desired)
qAM Each morning (as in taking a medicine each morning)
qhs At each bedtime (as in taking a medicine each bedtime)
qod Every other day (as in taking a medicine every other day)
qPM Each evening (as in taking a medicine each evening)
RBC Red blood count
RDA Recommended daily allowance
RESP Respiratory symptoms
RLL Right lower lobe (of lung)
RLQ Right lower quadrant (of abdomen)
RML Right middle lobe (of lung)
RMSD Rheumatic-musculoskeletal symptoms/diseases
RS Review of symptoms
RUL Right upper lobe (of lung)
RUQ Right upper quadrant (of abdomen; the liver is located in the RUQ of the abdomen)
Rx Prescribe, prescription drug
R/O Rule out (doctors frequently will rule out various possible diagnoses when figuring out the correct diagnosis)
REB Rebound (as in rebound tenderness of the abdomen when pushed in and then released)
ROS Review of systems (an overall review relating to the organ systems, such as the respiratory, cardiovascular, and nervous systems)
S&S, S/S, SS Signs and symptoms
SASR Symptoms of acute stress reaction
si op. sit, si opus sit  If necessary
SM  Systolic murmur
SOAP  Subjective, objective, assessment, and plan (used in problem-oriented records)
SQ  Subcutaneous
SSHF  Signs and symptoms of heart failure
SUS  Stained urinary sediment
Sx  Signs
s/p  Status post (e.g., a person who had a knee operation would be s/p a knee operation)
SOB  Shortness of breath = dyspnea
SQ  Subcutaneous (this is a typical notation when noting or ordering an injection (shot) given into the fatty tissue under the skin, such as with insulin for diabetes mellitus)
t.i.d.  Ter in die (three times daily)
TFTS  Thyroid function tests
TINFHO/NFHO  (There is) no family history of …
TPN  Total parenteral nutrition
TRINS  Totally reversible ischemic neurological symptoms
TWBC  (Total) white blood count
T  Temperature (recorded as part of the physical examination; it is one of the “vital signs”)
T&A  Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
tab  Tablet
TAH  Total abdominal hysterectomy
THR  Total hip replacement
TKR  Total knee replacement
U&E  Urea and electrolytes
UEE  Urinary excretion of electrolytes
UGIS  Upper gastrointestinal symptoms
UGS  Urogenital symptoms
URELS  Urine electrolytes
UA or u/a  Urinalysis (a typical part of a comprehensive physical examination)
URI  Upper respiratory infection (such as sinusitis or the common cold)
ut dict  As directed (as in taking a medicine according to the instructions that the healthcare practitioner gave in the office or in the past)
UTI  Urinary tract infection
VR  Vocal resonance
VS, vs  Vital signs
VSA  Vital signs absent
VSO*K  Vital signs normal
WRS  Work-related symptoms
The Hospital

CCU  Coronary care unit
CCU  Critical care unit
ICF  Intermediate care facility
ICU  Intensive care unit
ECU  Emergency care unit
EMS  Emergency medical service
ER   Emergency room
OT   Operating theatre (UK) = OR operating room (US)

Radiology

Computed Tomography (CT), Image Reconstruction and Reformation

CAT  Computed axial tomography
CECT Contrast-enhanced CT
CPR  Curved planar reformation
CT   Computed tomography
CTA  CT angiography, CT arteriography
CTAP CT during arterial portography
CTC  CT cholangiography
CTDI CT dose index
CTHA CT hepatic arteriography
CTM  CT myelography
CTP  CT perfusion imaging
CVS  Continuous volume scanning
DCTM Delay CT myelography
DEQCT Dual-energy CT
EBCT Electron beam CT
EBT  Electron beam tomography
FOV  Field of view
FWAHM Full width at half maximum
FWATA Full width at tenth area
HRCT High-resolution CT
HU   Hounsfield units
LI   Linear interpolation
MCTM Metrizamide CT myelography
MIP  Maximum intensity projection
mIP, minIP Minimum intensity projection
MLI  Multislice linear interpolation
MPR Multiplanar reformation or multiplanar reconstruction
MTT  Mean transit time
Nr-MIP Noise-reduced maximum intensity projection
QCT  Quantitative CT
ROI  Region of interest
| Abbreviation | Definition |
|--------------|------------|
| SC           | Slice collimation |
| SEQCT        | Single-energy CT |
| SFOV         | Scan field of view |
| SNR          | Signal-to-noise ratio |
| SSD          | Shaded surface display |
| SSP          | Section sensitivity profile |
| SVS          | Step volume scanning (EBCT) |
| TF           | Table feed |
| UFCT         | Ultrafast CT |
| VOI          | Volume of interest |
| VRT          | Volume rendering technique |

**Conventional Radiology**

| Abbreviation | Definition |
|--------------|------------|
| ABER         | Abduction and external rotation |
| ACR          | American College of Radiology |
| ALARA        | As low as reasonably achievable (radiation dosages) |
| AP           | Anteroposterior |
| ASNR         | American Society of Neuroradiology |
| ASSR         | American Society of Spine Radiology |
| At Wt, AW    | Atomic weight |
| BE           | Barium enema |
| Bol          | Bolus |
| Bq           | Becquerel |
| BS           | Cervical/esophageal barium swallows |
| C/C          | Cholecystectomy and operative cholangiogram |
| CAG, CHGM    | Cholangiogram |
| CAG, CHGRY   | Cholangiography |
| CDG          | Conventional dacryocystography |
| CPR          | Curved planar reformation |
| CRT          | Cathode ray tube |
| CSG, CG, CCG | Cholecystography or cholecystogram |
| CXR          | Chest X-ray |
| DC           | Double contrast |
| DCG          | Dacryocystography |
| DCSA         | Double-contrast shoulder arthrography |
| DFCG         | Digital fluorocholangiogram |
| DICOM        | Digital imaging and communications in medicine |
| DLP          | Dose–length product |
| DSAR         | Digital subtraction arthrography |
| FOV          | Field of view |
| FWAHM        | Full width at half maximum |
| FWATA        | Full width at tenth area |
| H/S          | Hysterosalpingography |
| HOCA         | High osmolar contrast agent |
| ICRP         | International Commission on Radiological Protection |
Abbreviation Lists

IOCG  Intraoperative cholangiogram
IVCH  Intravenous cholangiogram
IVP   Intravenous pyelogram
IVU   Intravenous urogram
KeV   Kiloelectron-volt
KUB   Kidney ureters bladder (plain abdominal radiography)
kV    Kilovolt
LAO   Left anterior oblique position
LAP   Late arterial phase
LMM   Lumbar metrizamide myelography
LOCM  Low osmolar contrast medium
LPO   Left posterior oblique position
LUT   Look-up table
MCU   Micturating cystography
MCUG  Micturating cystourethrogram
MLG   Myelography
Nr-MIP Noise-reduced maximum intensity projection
OCC   Oral cholecystography
OCG   Oral cholangiogram
PA    Posteroanterior
PACS  Picture archive and communication system
PFMM  Plain film metrizamide myelography
PMG   Pneumomylography
PS    Parotid sialography
PVP   Portal venous phase
RAO   Right anterior oblique
RC    Retrograde cystogram
REP   Retrograde pyelogram
RGP   Retrograde pyelography
ROI   Region of interest
RPO   Right posterior oblique
RU    Retrograde urogram
RUG   Retrograde urethrogram, retrograde urethrography
RUP   Retrograde ureteropyelography, retrograde pyelogram
S/N, SNR Signal to noise ratio
SBFT  Small-bowel follow-through examination
SC    Single contrast
SCGC  Single-contrast graded-compression technique (GI radiology)
SCVIR Society of cardiovascular and interventional radiology
SFOV  Scan field of view
SOL   Space-occupying lesion
SSD   Shaded surface display
TTC   T tube cholangiogram
TTP   Time to peak
UCG, UCR Urethrocystography
| Acronym | Definition |
|---------|------------|
| UGI     | Upper gastrointestinal series |
| UGI, IGIS | Upper gastrointestinal series/upper gastrointestinal DC/SC examination |
| VCG     | Voiding cystography, voiding cystourethrography |
| VCU, VCUG | Voiding cystourethrogram, voiding cystourethrography |
| VOI     | Volume of interest |
| VR      | Volume rendering |
| VRT     | Volume rendering technique |
| WSM     | Water-soluble myelography |
| XR      | X-ray |

**Interventional Radiology**

| Acronym | Definition |
|---------|------------|
| BN      | Bird’s nest filter |
| CVA     | Central venous access |
| DSA     | Digital subtraction angiography |
| EAP     | Early arterial phase |
| ERC     | Endoscopic retrograde cholangiography |
| F       | French (unit of a scale for denoting size of catheters etc.) |
| FNAC    | Fine-needle aspiration cytology |
| FWHM    | Full width at half maximum |
| HDAF    | Hemodynamic access fistula |
| IACB    | Intraaortic counterpulsation balloon pump |
| LAP     | Late arterial phase |
| LP      | Lumbar puncture |
| PC      | Percutaneous cholecystostomy |
| PCD     | Percutaneous drainage |
| PCN     | Percutaneous nephrostomy |
| PCWP    | Pulmonary capillary wedge pressure |
| PEG     | Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy |
| PEI     | Percutaneous ethanol injection |
| PFG     | Percutaneous fluoroscopic gastrostomy |
| PICC    | Peripherally inserted central catheter |
| PTA     | Percutaneous transluminal angioplasty |
| PTBD    | Percutaneous transhepatic biliary drainage |
| PTC     | Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography |
| PTFE    | Polytetrafluoroethylene |
| PTHC    | Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography |
| PVP     | Portal venous phase, percutaneous vertebroplasty |
| Rt-PA   | Recombinant tissue plasminogen activator |
| SCVIR   | Standards of Practice Guidelines on Angioplasty |
| SK      | Streptokinase |
| TACE    | Transcatheter arterial chemoembolization |
| TIPS    | Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt |
| TNB     | Transthoracic needle biopsy |
| tPA     | Tissue plasminogen activator |
TTP  Time to peak
UK   Urokinase
VT   Vena-Tech filter

**Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)**

CHESS  Chemical shift selective pulses
CME-MRI  Contrast medium-enhanced MRI
CNR  Contrast to noise ratio
COPE  Centrally ordered phase encoding
CSI  Chemical shift imaging (magnetic resonance spectroscopy method)
CVMR  Cardiovascular magnetic resonance
DNMR  Dynamic nuclear magnetic resonance
DTPA  Diethylene triamine pentaacetic acid (a binding substance for both Gd and 99m-Tc)
DWI  Diffusion-weighted image
EMRI  Electron MRI
EPI  Echoplanar imaging
EPMR  Echoplanar magnetic resonance
EP-MRSI  Echoplanar magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging
ERSC-MRI  Endorectal surface coil MRI
ESR  Electron spin resonance
ETL  Echo train length
FAST  Fourier-acquired steady-state technique
FC  Flow compensation
FID  Free induction decay
FISP  Fast imaging with steady-state precession
FLASH  Fast low-angle shot
fMRI  Functional MRI
FMRIB  Functional MRI of the brain
FS  Fast saturation
FSE  Fast spin-echo
FT  Fourier transform
FTNMR  Fourier transform nuclear magnetic resonance
Gd-DTPA  Gadolinium-diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid
Gd-MRA  Gadolinium-enhanced magnetic resonance arteriography
GE  Gradient echo
GEMRA  Gadolinium-enhanced magnetic resonance angiography
GRASS  Gradient-recalled acquisition in steady-state
GRE  Gradient-recalled echo, gradient echo
GRM  Gradient rephasing motion
HASTE  Half Fourier acquisition single-shot turbo spin-echo
i-MR  Interventional MRI
IR  Inversion recovery
ISM RM  International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine
| Acronym | Description |
|---------|-------------|
| MAS NMR | Magic angle spinning nuclear magnetic resonance |
| MOTSA   | Multiple overlapping thin-slab acquisition |
| MPGR    | Multiplanar two-dimensional gradient echo |
| MRA     | Magnetic resonance angiography |
| MRA     | Magnetic resonance arthrography |
| MRCP    | Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography |
| MRE     | Magnetic resonance elastography, magnetic resonance enteroclysis |
| MRI     | Magnetic resonance imaging |
| MRM     | Magnetic resonance myelography |
| MRS     | Magnetic resonance spectroscopy |
| MRU     | Magnetic resonance urography |
| MRV     | Magnetic resonance venography/venogram |
| MT      | Magnetization transfer pulse |
| MTF     | Modulation transfer function |
| NAA     | N-Acetyl aspartate (MR spectroscopy) |
| NAQ     | Number of acquisitions |
| NEX     | Number of excitations |
| NMRI    | Nuclear MRI |
| PC      | Phase contrast |
| PMR     | Proton magnetic resonance |
| PWI     | Perfusion-weighted imaging |
| RF      | Radiofrequency |
| ROPE    | Respiratory-ordered phase encoding |
| SAR     | Specific absorption rate |
| SE      | Spin-echo |
| SENSE   | Sensitivity encoding for MRI |
| SLS     | Interslice spacing |
| SLTHK   | Slice thickness |
| SMASH   | Simultaneous acquisition of spatial harmonics |
| SMRI    | Society of Magnetic Resonance Imaging |
| SPGR    | Spoiled gradient recalled acquisition in steady state, spoiled gradient-recalled echo |
| SPIO    | Superparamagnetic iron oxide (particles) |
| SPIR    | Spectral presaturation by inversion recovery |
| SSFP    | Steady-state free precession |
| SSNMR   | Solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance |
| STEAM   | Stimulated-echo acquisition mode |
| STIR    | Short-tau inversion recovery, short T1 inversion recovery |
| T1-W    | T1-weighted image |
| T2-W    | T2-weighted image |
| TE      | Time to echo (echo time) |
| TI      | Inversion time |
| TOF     | Time of flight |
| TR      | Time of repetition (repetition time) |
| TSE     | Turbo spin echo |
| Abbreviation | Description |
|--------------|-------------|
| USPIO | Ultrasmall superparamagnetic particles |
| VENC-MR | Velocity-encoded cine MRI |
| **Nuclear Medicine** | |
| AXL | Axillary lymphoscintigraphy |
| CPDS | Computer processed dynamic scintigraphy |
| CS | Cerebral scintigraphy |
| DIC | Direct isotope cystography |
| DMSA | 99m-Tc-dimercaptoposuccinic acid scintigraphy |
| DPLS | Dynamic perfusion lung scintigraphy |
| DRC, DRCG, DRNC | Direct radionuclide cystography |
| DRVC | Direct radionuclide voiding cystography |
| DTMS | Dipyridamole-thallium myocardial scintigraphy |
| EMPS | Exercise myocardial perfusion scintigraphy |
| HBFS | Hepatobiliary functional scintigraphy |
| HIDA | Hepatobiliary scintigraphy with dimethyliminodiacetic acid |
| IMP | I-123-isopropylidobenzylatemine (radiolabeled agent for brain perfusion SPECT) |
| IRC | Indirect radionuclide cystography |
| IVCU | Isotope-voiding cystourethrogram |
| MPS | Myocardial perfusion scintigraphy |
| PET | Positron emission tomography |
| Rcbf | Regional cerebral blood flow |
| RIA | Radioimmunoassay |
| RNVC, RNC | Radionuclide voiding cystography |
| SCINT | Scintigraphy |
| SESC | Sestamibi scan |
| SPECT | Single photon emission computed tomography |
| SRS | Somatostatin receptor scintigraphy |
| SSMM | Sestamibi scintimammography |
| Tc-99m-ECD-bicisate | Technetium-99m bicisate ethyl cysteinate dimer (radiolabeled agent for brain perfusion SPECT) |
| Tc-99m-HMPAO | Technetium-99m-hexamethyl propylamine oxime (radiolabeled agent for Brain Perfusion SPECT) |
| Tc-99mI-123-QNB | Technetium-99m-iodine-123-quinuclidinyl-iodobenzylate |
| Tc-99m-labeled RBCs | Red blood cell scan (Meckel’s scan) |
| TMS | Thallium myocardial scintigraphy |
| TPBS | Three-phase dynamic bone scintigraphy |
| V/Q | scanning Ventilation-perfusion scintigraphy |
| WBC | scans White blood cell scans |
| WBS | Whole body scintigraphy |
| WCS | White cell scintigraphy |
| Acronym | Description |
|---------|-------------|
| 3D US   | Three-dimensional ultrasound |
| AD      | Acoustic densitometry (ultrasound) |
| B-mode  | Brightness-mode |
| BPD     | Bi-parietal diameter (ultrasound measurement of the head of a fetus) |
| CCUS    | Complete compression ultrasound |
| CDI     | Color Doppler imaging |
| CEUS    | Contrast-enhanced ultrasound |
| CRL     | Crown rump length (ultrasound fetal measurement) |
| CW Doppler | Continuous wave Doppler |
| DPVTI   | Doppler power velocity time integral |
| DR      | Dynamic range |
| EDV     | End diastolic velocity |
| EFOV    | Extended field of view |
| EJU     | European Journal of Ultrasound |
| ELB     | Echolucent band |
| ERUS, EUS | Endorectal ultrasonography, endorectal ultrasound |
| ESB     | Echostrong band |
| EUS     | Endovascular ultrasonography, endoscopic ultrasound |
| EVS     | Endovaginal sonography |
| EVUS    | Endovaginal ultrasound |
| ISUOG   | International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology |
| IVUS    | Intravascular ultrasound |
| PDI     | Power Doppler imaging |
| PI      | Pulsatility index |
| PIM     | Pulse inversion mode |
| PNU     | Prenatal ultrasonography |
| PRF     | Pulse repetition frequency |
| PSV     | Peak systolic velocity |
| PWD     | Pulsed-wave Doppler |
| QUI     | Quantitative ultrasound index (bone density) |
| QUS     | Quantitative ultrasound |
| RI      | Resistivity index |
| RTU     | Real-time ultrasound |
| SVU     | Society for Vascular Ultrasound |
| TAUS    | Transabdominal ultrasonography |
| TEE     | Transesophageal echocardiography |
| TGC     | Time-gain compensation |
| THI     | Time harmonic imaging |
| TRUS    | Transrectal ultrasound |
| TULIP   | Transurethral ultrasound-guided laser-induced prostatectomy |
| TUS     | Transabdominal ultrasound |
| ULTIMA  | Ultrasound imaging with an intelligent 2D array |
| US      | Ultrasound, ultrasonography |
This section presents common sentences containing abbreviations, followed by the definitions of the abbreviations used.

Sentences:

- A 40-year-old man was diagnosed with Felty’s syndrome because he had splenomegaly and pancytopenia as well as definite RA.
- MCV, MCHC, LDH, ANA, and RF values are normal.
- The platelet and WBC counts exceeded their normal ranges. He was diagnosed with … (ITP, CMML, AML, CML). Two months later, he received a BMT.
- Foreign bodies display variable signal intensity on both T1- and T2-weighted images. MR shows an inflammatory response while CT can show the retained foreign body. US evaluation could be useful in selected patients.
- COPD is a risk factor for TB.
- Cholera can be diagnosed by the presence of CTX in the stool.
- A 16-year-old girl with fever, chills, rash, and multiple nodular opacities on CXR was diagnosed with … (RMSF, BPF, DGI).
- An ECG showed … (RBBB, LBBB, APCs, VPCs, AF, VF).
- He is currently under treatment with ACEI. Ten years ago he underwent PTCA after three AMIs.
- RA and SSc are more common in females.
- PCP and PML are two of the complications that can affect AIDS patients.
- Cutaneous manifestations of SLE can be divided into SCLE (acute) and DLE (chronic).
- The key to the diagnosis of septic arthritis is joint aspiration. Septic joint fluid is opaque and has a WBC count greater than 100,000.
- Clinical signs of skeletal metastases include hypercalcemia and the syndrome known as HPO.
- Prolonged morning stiffness helps to distinguish a truly inflammatory arthritis such as RA from non-inflammatory arthritides such as OA.
- The typical attack of acute gouty arthritis is a painful monoarthritis, most often in the first MTP joint (podagra).
- Scaphoid fractures exhibit a high rate of non-union and AVN.
- Water is arbitrarily assigned a value of 0 HU.
- MRI is the imaging modality of choice for the CNS.
- The aorta is normally visible on PA and lateral chest radiographs.
- Generally, a PT of below 15 s, a PTT within 1.2 times control, and a platelet count greater than 75,000/ml will be acceptable.
• TIPS is a relatively new technique for the treatment of patients with portal hypertension.
• To rule out the presence of DVT, a lower extremity ultrasound examination should be performed.
• Approximately 1% of cardiac muscle cells, including those in the SA and AV nodes, are autonomic.
• In the chronic form of mitral regurgitation, clinical monitoring focuses on the evaluation of left ventricular function, with treatment of CHF.
• The RCA supplies the right ventricle and the AV node.
• The LCA divides into the anterior descending and circumflex arteries.
• In the ARDS, an increase in capillary permeability occurs.
• SOB can usually be attributed to one of two fundamental categories of disease, cardiac or pulmonary.
• In patients with documented DVT or PE in whom anticoagulation is contraindicated, percutaneous placement of an IVC filter in the angiography suite may be warranted.
• The azygos vein provides venous drainage into the SVC.
• NHL carries a less-favorable prognosis than Hodgkin’s disease.
• There is a strong association between thymoma and MG.
• Neurofibromas and schwannomas are more common in patients with NF-1.
• KS remains the most common malignancy in HIV disease and constitutes an AIDS-defining illness.
• LIP is an AIDS-defining illness in children.
• One of the classic differential diagnoses in radiology is that of the SPN.
• The SMA supplies the bowel between the duodenojejunal junction and the splenic flexure of the colon.
• CT scanning has replaced DPL for detecting and evaluating free fluid within the abdominal cavity.
• The pelvis joins the ureter at the UPJ, a common site of obstruction.
• The higher incidence of UTIs in young women is attributed to the relatively short female urethra.
• When an ACE inhibitor is administered, glomerular filtration is reduced.
• Intrinsic renal causes of acute renal failure include ATN and acute glomerulonephritis.
• A clue to the prerenal nature of the failure is contained in the ratio of serum BUN to creatinine.
• The standard screening mammogram includes two views of each breast: the CC view and the MLO view.
• Hydrocephalus is called obstructive when there is a blockage of normal flow of CSF.
• Fetal growth is assessed by measurement of abdominal circumference, which is important in detecting IUGR.
• The transitional zone represents the site of BPH.
• Strokes are sometimes preceded clinically by so-called TIs.
• The most common location of stroke is in the MCA distribution.
- ACA occlusion may cause contralateral foot and leg weakness.
- A small infarction in some portions of the PCA territory may have catastrophic consequences.
- HMD is the most common cause of neonatal respiratory distress.
- An important complication of long-term ventilatory support is BPD.
- TTN occurs when there is inadequate or delayed clearance of the fluid at birth, resulting in a “wet lung.”
- EA and TEF both result from anomalies in the development of the primitive foregut.
- NEC occurs primarily in premature neonates exposed to hypoxic stress.
- DDH is suspected clinically in newborns with a breech presentation.
- PVL is the result of prenatal or neonatal hypoxic-ischemic insult.
- An AVM is a congenital lesion resulting from persistent fetal capillaries.

Definitions:

ACA Anterior cerebral artery
ACE Angiotensin-converting enzyme
ACEI Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor
AF Atrial fibrillation
AIDS Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AMI Acute myocardial infarction
AML Acute myeloid leukemia
ANA Antinuclear antibodies
APCs Atrial premature complexes
ARDS Acute respiratory distress syndrome
ATN Acute tubular necrosis
AV Atrioventricular
AVM Arteriovenous malformation
AVN Avascular necrosis
BMT Bone marrow transplantation
BPD Bronchopulmonary dysplasia
BPF Brazilian purpuric fever
BPH Benign prostatic hyperplasia
BUN Blood-urea nitrogen
CC Craniocaudal
CHF Congestive heart failure
CML Chronic myeloid leukemia
CMML Chronic myelomonocytic leukemia
CNS Central nervous system
COPD Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CSF Cerebrospinal fluid
CT Computed tomography
CTX Cholera toxin
CXR Chest X-ray
DDH Developmental dysplasia of the hip
DGI  Disseminated gonococcal infection
DLE  Discoid lupus erythematosus
DPL  Diagnostic peritoneal lavage
DVT  Deep venous thrombosis
EA   Esophageal atresia
ECG  Electrocardiogram
HIV  Human immunodeficiency virus
HMD  Hyaline membrane disease
HPO  Hypertrophic pulmonary osteoarthropathy
HU   Hounsfield units
ITP  Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
IUGR Intrauterine growth retardation
IVC  Inferior vena cava
KS   Kaposi’s sarcoma
LBBB Left bundle branch block
LCA  Left coronary artery
LDH  Lactate dehydrogenase
LIP  Lymphocytic interstitial pneumonitis
MCA  Middle cerebral artery
MCHC Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration
MCV  Mean corpuscular volume
MG   Myasthenia gravis
MLO  Mediolateral oblique
MR   Magnetic resonance
MRI  Magnetic resonance imaging
MTP  Metatarsophalangeal
NEC  Necrotizing enterocolitis
NF-1 Neurofibromatosis type 1
NHL  Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
OA   Osteoarthritis
PA   Posteroanterior
PCA  Posterior cerebral artery
PCP  *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia
PE   Pulmonary embolism
PML  Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
PT   Prothrombin time
PTCA Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty
PTT  Partial thromboplastin time
PVL  Periventricular leukomalacia
RA   Rheumatoid arthritis
RBBB Right bundle branch block
RCA  Right coronary artery
RF   Rheumatoid factor
RMSF Rocky mountain spotted fever
SA   Sinoatrial
| Abbreviation | Full Form |
|--------------|-----------|
| SCLE         | Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus |
| SLE          | Systemic lupus erythematosus |
| SMA          | Superior mesenteric artery |
| SOB          | Shortness of breath |
| SPN          | Solitary pulmonary nodule |
| SSc          | Systemic sclerosis |
| SVC          | Superior vena cava |
| TB           | Tuberculosis |
| TEF          | Tracheoesophageal fistula |
| TIA          | Transient ischemic attack |
| TIPS         | Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunting |
| TTN          | Transient tachypnea of the newborn |
| UPJ          | Ureteropelvic junction |
| US           | Ultrasonography |
| UTI          | Urinary tract infection |
| VF           | Ventricular fibrillation |
| VPCs         | Ventricular premature complexes |
| WBC          | White blood cell |