**Glossary of Medical Terms**

Abrasion: an area of the body surface denuded of skin or mucous membrane by a scrape.

Alopecia : hair loss - traumatic alopecia is hair loss secondary to being pulled or yanked out.

Aneurysm: a weakness in the wall of a blood vessel causing an outpouching and increased risk for rupture.

Arachnoid membrane: the middle of 3 membranes covering the brain (between the dura and the pia mater).

Attenuation: narrowing or wearing away of the tissue.

Bone: regions or areas of long bones each derived from a separate growth center.

1. Epiphysis - the end
2. Methaphysis - between the end (above) and the shaft.
3. Diaphysis - the shaft
4. Periosteum - a thick fibrous membrane covering the entire bone surface.

Bones: a. Tibia, fibula - lower leg bones

1. Femur - thigh
2. Humerus - upper arm
3. Ulna - lower arm
4. Radius - lower arm

Bone Scan: (radionuclide scan) - a radiologic study involving injection of radioactive agents in small amounts into the blood stream. Accumulation of these agents can be seen at sites of injury or inflammation.

Burn: Stages of severity:

1st degree - superficial scorching or painful redness of the skin like a sunburn (partial thickness)

2nd degree - blister formation (partial thickness)

3rd degree - destruction of deeper layers of skin; grafting needed to permit healing (full thickness)

Concussion A jostling of the brain’s soft matter, often leaving one dazed or unconscious. Recovery is complete, leaving only a cut or bruise on the scalp.

Condyloma accuminatum: venereal warts caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

Contusion More serious bruising of the brain, often involving unconsciousness for days or weeks.

CT scan: (Cat scan) computerized axial tomography. A computerized diagram of internal structures of the body.

Dermis: middle layer of skin including hair follicles and sweat glands.

Depressed (fracture): fracture of skull resulting in a segment of bone being pushed inward toward the brain.

Differential diagnosis: the determination of which one of two or more diseases or conditions a patient is suffering from, by systemically comparing and contrasting their clinical findings.

Distal: remote; farther from any point of reference, opposed to proximal.

Dry cupping: the Oriental practice of hearing glass jars and placing them in an inverted position on the skin to heal the sick. Leaves circular burns on skin with central clearing.

Duodenum: the first portion of the small intestine from the stomach to the jejunum.

Dura: the thick, fibrous outermost covering of the brain and spinal cord.

Ecchymosis: a small herrhagic spot, larger than a petechia, in the skin or mucous membrane forming a nonelevated, rounded or irregular blue or purplish patch. Black and blue mark “Bleeding into skin.”

Edema: the presence of abnormally large amounts of fluid in the intercellular tissue spaces of the body; usually applied to demonstrable accumulation of excessive fluid in the subcutaneous tissues. Swelling of soft tissue.

Enuresis: involuntary passage of urine(nighttime enuresis - bedwetting).

Encopresis: involuntary passage of feces; soiling.

Epidermis: outermost surface layers of cells of the skin.

Erythema: redness, irritation.

Fimbriated: finger-like projections - fringed processes causing a scalloped appearance.

Fissure: superficial break in the skin that generally heals without scarring.

Fontanelle: a membranous interval at the angle of the cranial bones of the infant, the “soft spot” on top of infant’s head, often depressed when child is severely dehydrated.

Fossa navicularis: a depression in the tissues between the hymenal ring and the posterior fourchette.

Fracture (to break)

1. Simple f: - uncomplicated
2. Compound f: - an open wound of soft tissues which connects directly to fracture site.
3. Comminuted f: - bone is broken into a number of pieces
4. Spiral f: - one in which the line of break runs obliquely up one side of the bone (as in a spiral staircase). (oblique f.)
5. Torus f: - a folding, bulging or buckling fracture.
6. Greenstick f: - oblique fracture such as occurs with bending a green (fresh) stick so that the side opposite fractures longitudinally.
7. Stellate f: - star-shaped f. - used to describe a skull fracture from a direct blow with a small point of impact.
8. Transverse f: - straight across secondary to direct blow.

Hemophilia: a hereditary hemorrhagic tendency sue to deficiency of coagulation factor VIII, and characterized by spontaneous or traumatic subcutaneous an intra-muscular hemorrhages; bleeding from the mouth, gums, lips and tongue.

Hemorrhage: the escape of blood from vessels; bleeding. Small hemorrhages are classified according to size as petechiae (very small), purpura (up to 1 cm), and eccymoses (larger).

Hemorrhoid: a dilated vein forming an outpouching or bulge just under the surface of the skin.

Hemothorax: bleeding into the chest cavity causing compression of the lung.

Hemotoma: a massive, localized accumulation of blood, usually clotting in an organ, space, or tissue, due to a break in the wall or a blood vessel.

History of present illness: (HPI) the pertinent history of the most recent events associated with the patient’s chief complaint.

Hydrocephalus: excessive accumulation of fluid around the brain and in the ventricles (water on the brain).

Hymen: membranous tissue partially covering the opening into the vagina.

Hyphema: blood in the anterior chamber of the eye.

Hypopigmentation: abnormally dimished pigmentation, as distinct from complete loss of pigment.

Infarction: tissue death resulting from interruption of blood supply.

Inflammation: localized redness, warmth and swelling of tissues secondary to trauma or infection.

Impetigo: a bacterial skin infection, usually caused by Strep or Staph, that causes circular crested lesions with or without blister formation. Can be confused with abusive cigarette burns.

Intradermal hemorrhage: bleeding within the skin; doesn’t blanch with pressure.

Types of intradermal hemorrhage:

1. Petechia - a round, discrete hemorrhage area less that 2 mm (or 3/22”).
2. Purpura - a discrete hemorrhage larger that petechiae - generally occurs in groups. They do not elevate the skin or mucosa (bruises).
3. Ecchymosis - a hemorrhage area larger than (a) above (a “bruise”).

Jejunum: that portion of the small intestine which extends from the duodenum to the ileum.

Lab tests: a. partial thromboplastin time (PTT).

1. prothrombin time (PT) measure of clotting factors circulating in the blood.
2. platelet count - measure of the cellular component of blood involved in clotting (PT, PTT)
3. urine analysis (UA) - examination of urine.
4. complete blood count (CBC) - measure of white and red cellular components in blood.
5. GC (Gonorrhea cultures) - anal, vaginal, oral
6. VDRL/RPR - blood test for syphilis
7. Chlamydia (culture) - a culture for sexually transmitted organism.

Labia majora: large lips covering the genitalia an protecting the hymen from trauma

Labia minora: smaller lip between the labia majora and hymen

Laceration: a torn, ragged, mangled wound. A cut

Lesion: loosely used to mean virtually any mark, scar, bump, etc.

Meatus: the external opening of a canal (as in urethral meatus).

Meninges: the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.

Mesentery: a membranous fold attaching various organs to the body wall in the abdomen. Commonly used with specific reference to the peritoneal fold attaching the small intestine to the back of the body wall.

Mongolian spots: a flat hyperpigmented focal birthmark, often mistaken for bruising-found on buttocks, lower back and shoulders of newborns. Infants - present in 90% of Black and Asian babies, 50% of Hispanic babies, and 10% of white infants - can last up to three years of age.

Moxibustion: the Oriental and Asian healing practice of placing burning pieces of yarn or balls of the Moxa herb on the skin. Leaves deep circular burns on skin.

MRI scan: magnetic resonance imaging - use of a powerful magnetic field to image internal body structures.

Notch: a V or U- shaped defect in the tissue representing a healed transection.

Ossification: the formation of bone or of a bony substance; the conversion of fibrous tissues or of cartilage into bone or bony substances.

Ostegenesis imperfecta: an inherited condition, usually transmitted as an autosomal dominant trait, in which the bones are abnormally brittle and subject to fractures.

Osteomyelitis: inflammation of bone caused by an infection. It may remain localized or may spread through the bone to involve the narrow, cortex, cancellous tissue and periosteum. (Bone infection).

Osteoporosis: reduction in the quantity of bone, seen most commonly in the elderly.

Pathognomonic: specifically distinctive or characteristic of a disease or parthologic condition; a sign or symptom on which a diagnosis can be made.

Perineum: the space between the anus and the scrotum or vagina.

Periosteal elevation: elevation (raising) of the fibrous covering (periosteum) of the bone displacing it from the underlying bone by one of several processes which usually involve hemorrhage into the newly created space.

Pneumothorax: a hole in the lung tissue allowing air to escape the lung and fill the chest cavity - compressing the lung.

Posterior fourchette: tissue just posterior to the fossa navicularis on the perineum.

Proximal: nearest; closer to any point of reference opposed to distal.

Purtscher retinopathy: retinal hemorrhages alone - without associated intracranial injury.

Redundant (hymen): excessive tissue which folds onto itself obliterating any view of the hymen.

Reference terms: Anterior - toward front

Posterior - toward back

Lateral - toward side

Medial - toward middle or mid-line

Proximal - near (near trunk)

Distal - far (relative to proximal)

Occipital - back of head

Temporal - side of head

Frontal - front of head

Supine - lying on the back

Prone - lying on the abdomen

Retina: the innermost of the three linings of the eyeball, surrounding the vitreous body and continous posteriorly with the optic nerve. Inner surface of the back of the eyeball.

Retinal hemorrhage: bleeding from the inner lining of the eye.

Review of systems: (ROS) a history including all pertinent positives and negatives relating to each body system.

Rugae: folds or puckers of skin - as around the anal opening or on the surface of the mature scrotum.

Scapula: the flat, triangular bone in the back of the shoulder, the shoulder blade.

Sclera: the tough white outer layer of the eyeball, covering approximately the posterior five-sixths of its surface.

Subarachnoid space: the space between the arachnoid the pia mater. Coverings of the brain.

Subdural hemotoma: a collection of blood within the outer covering of the brain often produced by a blow to the head or violent shaking. This is life threatening and frequently leads to disabling permanent damage, such as vision loss, blindness, motor deficits, seizures, developmental delays and cerebral palsy.