

## Medical Terminology

**ABG's:** arterial blood gases. Blood drawn from an artery used to measure the amount of oxygenated blood.

**Ablation:** electric current or radio- frequency energy can be used via a catheter to destroy the extra pathways in the heart which are causing tachycardia (fast heart rate).

**ACE Inhibitors:** drugs used to dilate blood vessels and make it easier for the heart to pump blood.

**Analgesic:** medication given to stop pain

**Angiogram:** an x-ray of the hearts blood vessels assisted by an x-ray dye (contrast) injected through a catheter.

**Anticoagulant:** a medication given to help prevent blood clots from forming

**Aorta:** The main artery coming off the heart which carries blood from the heart to the body.

**Aortic Stenosis:** a narrowing of the aorta which restricts oxygenated blood from pumping out of the left ventricle into the body.

**Aortic valve:** The valve between the left ventricle and the aorta

**Arrhythmia:** out of rhythm - the heart is beating too fast, too slowly, or irregularly.

**Artery:** a blood vessel that carries oxygenated blood (red blood) from the heart out to the body

**Atresia:** blocked or missing

**Atria:** plural of atrium. The left atrium pumps oxygenated blood into the left ventricle. The right atrium pumps deoxygenated blood into the right ventricle.

**Atrium:** an upper chamber of the heart where blood collects before passing to the ventricle.

**Balloon dilation:** using a tube (catheter) to reach the narrow (stenosed) part of the heart and making it bigger by inflating a balloon on the end of the catheter

**Balloon septostomy:** a tube (catheter) is put into the heart and a balloon inflated on the end of it to make a hole, or increase the size of a hole, in the wall (septum) of the heart.

**Banding:** Making the pulmonary artery narrower with a band to reduce blood flow to the lungs.

**Beta Blockers:** help block high levels of adrenaline in the blood stream to help improve strength of heart muscle.

**Bicuspid:** (of a valve) having two cusps, or leaflets

**Biopsy:** removal of a small piece of tissue for examination

**Blue blood:** blood which is returning from the body to the heart and so pumped to the lungs, where it will pick up oxygen and become red blood.

**Bradycardia:** slow heart beat

**Bronchiolitis:** infection of the small breathing tubes in the lungs

**BT Shunt:** Blalock-Taussig shunt. A hollow tube that connects the aorta to the pulmonary artery.

**Bypass:** using a machine to bypass the heart and lungs during surgery.

**Candida:** a fungal infection

**Captopril (Capoten):** a drug used to treat high blood pressure and heart failure. It decreases certain chemicals that tighten the blood vessels, so blood flows more smoothly and the heart can pump blood more efficiently.

**Cardiac:** relating to the heart

**Cardiac catheter:** a tube which is put into the heart via a vein. It is used to help diagnosis, by measuring pressures very accurately, or can treat a problem such as widening an artery, or closing a hole

**Cardiologist:** doctor who specializes in the heart.

**Cardiomyopathy:** a disease of the heart muscle

**Chest tube:** hollow, flexible drainage tubes used to drain away fluid, blood or air and allow full expansion of the lungs.

**CT scan or CAT scan:** Computed Axial Tomography. A scan which uses computers to generate a three-dimensional image.

**Congenital:** describes a condition which is present at birth

**CPAP:** Constant Positive Airway Pressure: a deliverance of air into the lungs keeping small airways open, used especially before completely off ventilation.

**Cyanosis:** a blue color of the skin due to not enough oxygen in the blood stream.

**Digoxin:** a medicine given to increase the strength, or slow down the rate, of the contraction of the heart.

**Dilated cardiomyopathy:** a condition in which the heart becomes enlarged and weak, sometimes because of a virus

**Diuretics:** medications that help the kidneys pass more water, so reducing excess fluid in the organs, especially the lungs.

**Duocal:** a food supplement to help children gain weight faster

**ECG or EKG:** short for electrocardiogram - for measuring the electrical activity of the heart

**Echo:** short for echocardiogram - an image of the heart created by using high frequency sound waves.

**ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation):** a by-pass machine which can be used to support the heart so that it can be rested after surgery, or during a viral illness for example

**Edema:** swelling from build up of extra fluid.

**EEG:** a print-out of the electrical activity in the brain

**Enalapril (Vasotec):** a drug given to lower blood pressure and to prevent and treat heart failure.

**Endocarditis:** an infection of the lining of the heart

**Esophagus:** the digestive tube that begins in the back of the oral cavity and extends down to the stomach.

**Gastric tube (g-tube):** a soft flexible tube that is placed through the skin into the stomach.

**Glenn Shunt:** The superior vena cava, bringing blood back to the right side of the heart, is connected to the pulmonary artery, so taking blood directly to the lungs, and bypassing the right ventricle.

**Heart murmur:** a murmur is a sound made by blood moving round the heart: sometimes but not always this could be caused by a heart defect.

**Heart Block:** the hearts electrical impulses are delayed or do not pass from the uppers chambers to the lower chambers.

**Heparin:** a drug given directly into a vein which thins the blood when there is a danger of clotting (an anticoagulant)

**Homograft:** putting in human tissue - such as a valve or artery.

**Hypertension:** high blood pressure.

**Hypertrophy:** the heart muscle is thickened

**Hypoplasia or Hypoplasty:** failure of an organ or body part to grow and develop fully.

**ICD (implantable cardiac defibrillator):** An electronic device installed inside the chest to provide an electrical "shock(s)" to the heart to stop an abnormal fast heart rhythm and return the heart to a normal rhythm.

**Immunosuppression:** to reduce to body's ability to protect itself against infection and foreign substances.

**INR test:** a blood test to measure how fast the blood clots, used to adjust the amount of anticoagulant prescribed.

**Intubation:** the placement of a tube through the nose or mouth into the trachea to facilitate mechanical

ventilation.

**IV antibiotics:** (Intra-Venous) antibiotics directly into the blood

**IV drugs:** drugs given directly into the blood stream

**Kidney dialysis:** used to take impurities from the blood when the kidneys are not working properly

**MAPCAs:** Multi aortopulmonary arteries. A number of additional arteries come from the aorta and supply the lungs with blood.

**Mechanical Ventilator:** a machine used to supply a controlled flow of oxygen and air into the lungs.

**Meningitis:** an infection of the lining of the brain.

**NG tube:** a hollow, flexible tube inserted into the nose down through the esophagus into the stomach used for feeding or medication administration.

**Oxygen:** sometimes used as a medication to help increase the amount of oxygen in the blood stream and to reduce the heart's workload.

**Pacemaker:** a small battery-powered implantable device placed under the skin and joined to the heart by pacing wires, which electrically stimulates the heart to contract and pump blood throughout the body.

**Pacing box or External pacer:** a medical device designed to regulate the electrical activity of the heart. It either stimulates or regulates the hearts electrical activity when the rate is not fast enough.

**PCTU:** Pediatric Cardiothoracic Unit

**PDA:** Patent Ductus Arteriosus - a blood vessel that connects the pulmonary artery to the aorta and allows red (oxygenated) blood to return from the aorta back to the lungs.

**PICU:** Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

**Pericarditis:** Inflammation of the pericardium, which is the sac-like covering of the heart.

**Pericardial effusion:** An accumulation of fluid in the pericardial sac, the outer covering of the heart, which can be drawn off using a needle, or drained using diuretics.

**PLE (protein-losing enteropathy):** a loss of protein molecules from the blood serum into the intestinal tract which can lead to a significantly depleted concentration of serum protein in the blood stream. A low concentration of serum protein can lead to the inability to maintain fluid within the vascular space causing diarrhea, swelling of the abdomen and legs.

**Pneumonia:** infection of the lung

**Prophylactic:** describes a medicine or procedure intended to prevent illness.

**Prostaglandin:** a drug used to keep the ductus arteriosus from closing.

**Pulmonary:** to do with the lungs

**Pulmonary artery:** the blood vessel that takes blood from the heart to the lungs

**Pulmonary hypertension:** high blood pressure in the arteries that supply the lungs.

**Pulmonary stenosis:** a narrowing of the pulmonic valve

**Ross Procedure:** replacing the child's aortic valve with his or her own pulmonary valve.

**RSV:** (respiratory syncytial virus) a virus that causes bronchiolitis

**Red blood:** blood which has picked up oxygen from the lungs and travels through the left side of the heart to be pumped around the body.

**Sats:** short for saturation levels (of oxygen in the blood).

**Septum:** the wall between the left and right chambers of the heart.

**Shunt:** a natural or artificially created passageway that redirects the circulation of blood or cerebral spinal fluid.

**Situs inversus:** a mirror image arrangement of the organs, so that the heart and stomach are on the right and the liver and spleen on the left.

**Stenosis:** Narrowing

**Stent:** a short, metal mesh tube. Using balloon dilation this is expanded into a narrow artery to hold it open.

**Sternum:** the breast bone

**Supraventricular Tachycardia: SVT.** A very fast heart beat

**Tachycardia:** fast heart beat

**TCPC:** Total Cavo Pulmonary Connection - a surgical procedure that connects blood returning from the body directly to the pulmonary arteries, bypassing the right side of the heart.

**TPN:** (total parenteral nutrition) IV feeding that provides a patient with all the fluid and essential nutrients when they are unable to feed by mouth

**Trachea:** windpipe

**Tracheotomy:** a hole cut into the windpipe to help breathing

**Tricuspid valve:** the valve between the right atrium and right ventricle which has three cusps.

**Tube feed:** the baby's feed is given through a tube in the nose directly into the stomach - this is so that breathless babies can get enough food.

**Vein:** a blood vessel that carries un-oxygenated blood (blue blood) from the body back to the heart

**Ventricles:** pumping chambers of the heart – the left ventricle pumps blood out to the body and the right ventricle pumps blood to the lungs

**WBC:** (white blood cells) the cells in the body that help fight infection