

Glossary

A

Absolute Granulocyte/Neutrophil Count - the number of white blood cells mature enough to fight infections

Afebrile - without fever

Anemia - a condition in which there is a decreased amount of hemoglobin due to a decreased number of red blood cells

Anesthesia - a process using medicines to put a patient into a sleep-like state, thereby eliminating the sensation of pain

Anesthetic - medication that dulls the pain sensation in the area it is injected into or puts the patient in a sleep state

Antacid - a drug that relieves heart burn or acid indigestion

Antibiotic - a drug used to fight bacterial infections

Antithymocyte - globulin (ATG) a drug used to fight graft versus host disease

Antifungal - a drug used to fight fungal infections

Antiviral - a drug used to fight viral infections

Apheresis - separating the blood into various components

Arterial Blood Gases (ABGs) - reports how much oxygen and carbon dioxide is carried by the arterial blood

Arterial Line (art line) - an IV-type catheter placed into an artery to monitor blood pressure and sample arterial blood

B

Bands - a form of less mature granulocyte that fights infection

Bacteria - small organisms that can cause an infection, germs

Biopsy - the removal of a small piece of tissue for microscopic examination

Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) - a waste product in the blood; used as a measurement of kidney function

Bronchoscopy - an examination of the large air passages in the lungs

Glossary, continued

C

CAT or CT Scan - computerized axial tomography; a three dimensional X-ray

Central Line (see Central Venous Catheter)

Central Venous Catheter - a small hollow tube inserted into blood vessels and used to painlessly draw blood and give medicines and fluids

Chest X-ray - examination of lungs using low-dose radiation to produce a picture

CMV (cytomegalovirus) - a virus that can cause infection in immunosuppressed people; it can affect the lungs or other organs

Coagulation - process where blood clots form

Corticosteroid - steroid hormones that are produced in the adrenal cortex

Creatinine - a waste product in the blood; used as a measure of kidney function

Culture - a process for identification of bacteria and other organisms in blood, sputum and other body fluids

Cyclosporin (CSA) - a drug used to prevent rejection

D

Detoxify - removal of toxic substances from the body

G

Diabetes - persistent high blood glucose levels

Dialysis - a process that filters impurities and excess fluids from the blood when the kidneys are not working well

E

Echocardiogram (echo) - a measurement of heart function and blood flow through the use of sound waves

Edema - swelling caused by too much fluid

Electrocardiogram (EKG) - a recording of the heart's electrical activity

Electrolytes - minerals in the blood such as potassium, sodium, etc., that must be maintained within a certain range to keep the body functioning well

Endotracheal (ET) - a tube placed through the mouth or nose into the windpipe or airway

Erythrocytes - another name for red blood cells

F

Febrile - with a fever

Glossary, continued

G

Granulocyte - a sub-type of white blood cells named because of the presence of granules in the cell. These cells protect the body against bacterial infection

Gut - stomach and intestines

H

Hematocrit - part of the blood occupied by red blood cells

Hemoglobin - the part of red blood cells that carries oxygen to tissues

Hematology - the medical specialty involved in the study and treatment of diseases related to the blood and blood-forming tissue

HEPA Filter - high efficiency particulate air filter used to provide clean air in transplant rooms

Herpes Virus - a group of viruses, one of which is herpes simplex virus

Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) - markers found on white blood cells and most body cells which is used for typing tissues of donor and recipient for compatibility

Hyperalimentation or "Hyperal" - an IV solution with a high nutritional content given in place of oral food intake when someone is unable to eat; also called total parenteral nutrition (TPN)

Hypertension - high blood pressure

I – K

Immune system - a network of cells and organs that work to defend the body against infection

Immunity - biological defenses to avoid infection or disease

Incentive Spirometer - a device or piece of equipment to aid the function of your lungs by having you breathe in deeply

Intake - volume of fluids going into the body

IgG - immune gamma globulin used to increase resistance to certain infections

IV, or Intravenous - directly into the vein
Irradiated Blood Products - treated with radiation to kill white cells that could attack other cells in your body

Intrathecal (IT) - an injection into the fluid of the spinal column

Intubated - having an endotracheal tube placed into the windpipe to assist a patient who has difficulty breathing

Glossary, continued

L

Lied Transplant Cooperative Care (LTCC)

- inpatient unit in the Lied Transplant Center. The patient rooms are located on the fifth floor; treatment is given in the Treatment Center

Lumbar Puncture (LP) - a needle is placed into the spinal column to obtain samples of spinal fluid; also called a spinal tap

Lymphoid Cells - blood cells that mature in the lymph tissue

Lytes - abbreviated version of electrolytes; see Electrolytes

M – N

Megakaryocytes - another word for platelets

Modified Protective Isolation (MPI) - a type of isolation where increased precautions are taken to protect the patient from infection

Muga Scan/Heart Scan - test that determines how the heart is functioning

Myeloid Cells - blood cells that mature in the bone marrow

O

Output - volume of fluid going out of the body

Oximeter - a device that clips to the finger or ear lobe and measures how much oxygen is being carried by the blood circulating in the body

P – Q

Perineal Care - special care of the skin and tissue in the genital and rectal areas

PET Scan - also called Position Emission Tomography, a medical imaging technique that monitors metabolic, or biochemical, activity in the brain and other organs by tracking the movement and concentration of a radioactive tracer injected in the bloodstream

Petechiae - a small dark purple or red spots under the skin caused by blood leaking out of the vessels; may indicate a low platelet count

Platelets - blood cells that helps prevent bleeding and help the blood to clot when vessels are broken

Pneumocystis Pneumonia (PCP) - a type of lung infection that may cause severe pneumonia in people with low resistance to infection

Potassium - mineral element in the body important for heart and muscle activity

Glossary, continued

Protocol - a plan of care or treatment

Pulmonary Function Test (PFT) - a study of how well the lungs are working, i.e., the amount of air you are breathing in and out

R

Red Blood Cells - cells in blood that carry oxygen to blood and tissues

Renal - pertaining to the kidney

Respirator/Ventilator - a machine that pushes air and extra oxygen into the lungs

S

Segs - a form of granulocyte mature enough to fight infection

Sepsis - the presence of organisms or infection in the blood

Septic Shock - the body's reaction to infection in the blood characterized by a dangerous drop in blood pressure and altered function of other organs

Shingles - painful lesions caused by a virus

Sodium - an electrolyte important for fluid balance

Spinal Tap (see Lumbar Puncture)

Steroid - a drug used in combination with other drugs to prevent and/or control graft versus host disease

Swan Ganz - a catheter (or thin tube) used to measure pressures within the heart and lungs

T

Thrush - yeast infection in the mouth and throat causing white patches

Titer - a special measurement of substance in blood or urine

TPN or Total Parenteral Nutrition (see Hyperalimentation (hyperal))

U - Z

Urinary Tract Infection - infection involving bladder, kidneys, or urethra

Ventilator (see Respirator)

Virus - a type of organism that invades cells and causes them to produce more virus, leading to an infection

White Blood Cell - a type of blood cell that helps fight infection