

Culture Advantage
Anatomy and Medical Terminology for Interpreters

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ENDOCRINE SYSTEM TERMINOLOGY

AODM	Adult-onset diabetes, former term for Type 2 diabetes.		Hemoglobin A1C	Measures a person's average blood glucose level over the past 2 to 3 months
Gland	A group of cells that releases hormones into the blood stream		Estrogen	is a female hormone produced by the ovaries
Endocrine system	The system of glands that release their secretions (hormones) directly into the circulatory system.		Serotonin	Controls mood, appetite, and sleep
Hormones	Chemical messengers of the body that affect processes such as growth, metabolism, reproduction, etc.		Metabolism	The process that breaks down food into energy that the body needs for breathing, digesting, blood circulation,, regulating temperature, etc.
Epinephrine (or adrenaline)	Regulates the "Fight-or-flight response"		Melatonin	Causes drowsiness
Antidiuretic hormone	Retains water in the kidneys		Thyroxine	Increases metabolism
Gastrin	Secretion of gastric acid in the stomach		Testosterone	Produced by the testes for the maturation of sex organs
Glucagon	Produced by the pancreas, increases blood glucose level		Sex hormones	estrogenic (female sex hormones) or androgenic (male sex hormones)
Diabetes Mellitus	Diabetes is a disease in which levels of blood glucose, also called blood sugar, are above normal because of insufficient insulin, or body is unable to use insulin efficiently.		Steroids	Hormones produced by the adrenal glands. Usually refers to synthetic steroid medications to fight stress associated with illnesses and injuries. They reduce inflammation and

			affect the immune system.
Growth hormone	Produced by the pituitary	Oxytocin	Stimulates contraction of the uterus and release of breast milk
Insulin	Produced by the pancreas, regulates blood sugar. Hormone that helps the glucose get into the cells to give them energy.	HRT or hormone replacement therapy	Refers to a woman taking supplements of hormones such as estrogen alone or estrogen with another hormone called progesterone (progestin in its synthetic form).
Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)	A medical emergency with extremely high blood glucose levels and accumulation of ketones in the blood and urine	Ketone	a chemical produced when there is a shortage of insulin in the blood and the body breaks down body fat for energy. (acetone)
Type 1 Diabetes	Pancreas produces little or no insulin. Person must take insulin shots.	Type 2 Diabetes	The pancreas is usually producing enough insulin, but for unknown reasons the body cannot use the insulin effectively.
Gestational Diabetes	Diabetes that develops during pregnancy.	Endocrinopathy	Disease of the endocrine system

ANATOMIC-RELATED TERMS

Pituitary	Located at the base of the brain, controls all glands in the endocrine system. Master gland.	Adrenal glands	Located above the kidneys. Produce steroid hormones. Secrete epinephrine, for the “fight or flight response”
Thyroid	Located in the neck below the larynx (voicebox), regulates metabolism. Thyroid hormone affects heart	Pancreas	Located behind the stomach. Secretes pancreatic juices for digestion, and insulin and glucagon.

	rate, blood pressure, body temperature, and weight.			
Parathyroid	A gland that regulates calcium, located behind the thyroid gland in the neck		Ovaries	Located on both sides of the uterus. Produce estrogen and progesterone hormones
Thymus	Located in the upper part of the chest and produces T-lymphocytes (white blood cells that fight infections and destroy abnormal cells).		Testes	Located in a pouch that hangs suspended outside the male body (scrotum). Produce sperm and the male hormone, testosterone.

PREFIX, ROOT WORD, SUFFIX

acromegaly	Acro -extremities	Megaly -enlarged	Symptom of excessive growth hormone (GH) in the body.
angiopathy	Angio –blood vessel	Pathy -disease	Disease of the blood vessels (arteries, veins, and capillaries) that occurs when someone has diabetes for a long time.
diabetologist	Diabeto -diabetes	Logist –one who studies	A doctor who specializes in treating people who have diabetes.
diuretic	Di –through or across	Uresis –urine	Excessive production of urine
endocrinologist	endocrine	Logist –one who studies	A doctor who specializes in treating people with endocrine disorders.
hypoglycemia	Hypo-low Glyc -sugar	Emia – blood condition	Low blood sugar
hyperglycemia	Hyper –high Glyc -sugar	Emia –blood condition	High blood sugar
hypothyroidism	Hypo – low Thyroid	Ism – condition or disease	When the thyroid gland does not produce enough thyroid hormone to meet the body's needs. Without enough thyroid hormone, many of the body's functions slow down.
hyperthyroidism	Hyper –high thyroid	Ism-condition or disease	A disorder that occurs when the thyroid gland makes more thyroid hormone than the body needs. It is sometimes called thyrotoxicosis.
lipodystrophy	Lipo-fat Dys –difficult or	Trophy - growth	An abnormal condition of the fatty tissue underneath the skin, may be

	abnormal		related to repeated injections.
gastroparesis	Gastro - stomach	Paresis –weakness or slight paralysis	Neuropathy that affects the stomach. Digestion of food may be incomplete or delayed.
gastropathy	Gastro - stomach	Pathy –disease or disorder	A disorder that affects the stomach.
glycosuria	Glycol -sugar	Uria -urine	Glucose in the urine.
polyuria	Poly -many	Uria - urine	Excessive urination
polyphagia	Poly -many	Phagia –hunger or eating	Excessive hunger
polydipsia	Poly -many	Dipsia -thirst	Excessive thirst; may be a sign of diabetes.
neuropathy	Neuro- nerves	Pathy - disease	Disease of the nervous system that affects people with diabetes.
neurogenic bladder	Neuro -nerves	Genic- producing	Loss of bladder control caused by damage to the nerves controlling the bladder.
podorthist	Ped – feet Ortho –to make straight	Ist - specialist	Specializes in fitting shoes for people with disabilities or deformities
podiatrist	Pod –feet Dia -across	Ist - specialist	A doctor who specializes in foot disorders
retinopathy	Retino –retina of the eye	Pathy -disease	Damage to the small blood vessels in the retina. Loss of vision may result.

EXPLAIN THE FOLLOWING TERMS

Type 1 Diabetes	Oxytocin
Type 2 Diabetes	Testosterone
Gestational Diabetes	Diuretic
Hypothyroidism	Epinephrine
Hyperthyroidism	Insulin
Endocrinologist	Glucagon
Diabetologist	Retinopathy
Pedorthist	Neuropathy
Lipodystrophy	Acromegaly
Steroid	Growth hormone
Hormone	HbA1C
Ketones	Thymus

RESOURCES

Medical Dictionary http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mplusdictionary.html
Medical Encyclopedia http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/encyclopedia.html
Medline Plus Word Parts http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/appendixa.html
National Cancer Institute http://www.cancer.gov/dictionary/
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases http://www2.niddk.nih.gov/
Wikipedia Root Words, Prefixes http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_medical_roots