

CONSOLIDATED GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Proposed lay term
Agranulocytosis	Severe reduction in number of white blood cells which makes infections more likely
Alopecia	Hair loss
Amenorrhoea	Absence of menstrual periods
Anaemia	Reduction in red blood cells which can make the skin pale and cause weakness or breathlessness
Anaphylactic, anaphylactoid reaction	Serious allergic reaction which causes difficulty in breathing or dizziness
Angina pectoris	Chest pain
Angioedema, angioneurotic oedema	Serious allergic reaction which causes swelling of the face or throat
Anorexia	Loss of appetite
Aplastic anaemia	Severe reduction in blood cells which can cause weakness, bruising or make infections more likely
Arrhythmia	Irregular heart beat
Arthralgia	Joint pain
Aspartame aminotransferase increased, alanine aminotransferase increased, LFT increased	Blood tests which show changes in the way the liver is working
Asthenia	Feeling of weakness
Ataxia	Difficulty in controlling movements
Bradycardia	Slower heart beat
Bronchoconstriction, bronchospasm	Difficulty in breathing or wheezing
Cardiac failure, heart failure	Heart problems which can cause shortness of breath or ankle swelling
Cerebrovascular accident	Stroke
Colitis	Inflammation which causes abdominal pain or diarrhoea
Convulsion or seizure	Fit
Deep vein thrombosis / venous thromboembolism (VTE)	Blood clot, usually in a leg, which causes pain swelling or redness
Diplopia	Double vision
Dysarthria	Difficulty in speaking
Dysmenorrhoea	Painful periods
Dyspepsia	Indigestion
Ectopic pregnancy	Pregnancy outside the womb which can cause severe pain, bleeding or collapse
Electrocardiogram QT prolonged	Abnormal ECG heart tracing
Emotional lability	Mood swings
Enuresis	Bedwetting

Epistaxis	Nosebleed
Haemorrhage	Bleeding
Haemorrhoids (Piles)	Swelling of blood vessels around the back passage
Hyperhidrosis	Increased sweating
Haemolytic anaemia	Reduction in red blood cells which can make the skin pale yellow and cause weakness or breathlessness
Hypo/hyperkalaemia	Hypokalaemia: low blood levels of potassium which can cause muscle weakness, twitching or abnormal heart rhythm Hyperkalaemia: high levels of blood potassium which can cause abnormal heart rhythm
Hypo/hypernatraemia	Hyponatraemia: low blood levels of sodium which can cause tiredness and confusion, muscle twitching, fits and coma Hypernatraemia: high levels of blood sodium which can cause confusion, muscle twitching or abnormal heart rhythm
Hypomania	Feeling over-excited
Hypo/hypertension	Low/high blood pressure
Hypo/hyperthyroidism	Hypothyroidism: Underactive thyroid gland which can cause tiredness or weight gain Hyperthyroidism: Overactive thyroid gland which can cause increased appetite, weight loss or sweating
Insomnia	Difficulty in sleeping
Jaundice	Yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes caused by liver or blood problems
Mania	Feeling elated or over-excited, which causes unusual behaviour
Myalgia	Muscle pain
Myocardial infarction	Heart attack
Myopathy	Pain or weakness in muscles
Nausea	Feeling sick
Nephritis	Inflammation of the kidney which can cause swollen ankles or high blood pressure
Palpitations	Feeling your heartbeat

Orthostatic hypotension/postural hypotension	A fall in blood pressure on standing up which causes dizziness, light-headedness or fainting
Pancreatitis	Inflammation of the pancreas, which causes severe pain in the abdomen and back
Pancytopenia	Severe reduction in blood cells which can cause weakness, bruising or make infections more likely
Paraesthesia of extremities	Tingling or numbness in the hands or feet
Parkinsonism	Tremor, stiffness and shuffling
Periorbital oedema	Swelling around the eyes
Peripheral neuropathy	A disorder of the nerves which can cause weakness, tingling or numbness
Peripheral oedema	Swelling of the ankles, feet or fingers
Pneumonitis	Inflammation of the lungs which causes breathlessness, cough and raised temperature
Prostatism	An enlarged prostate gland which causes difficulty in passing urine in men
Pruritis	Itching
Pulmonary embolism	Blood clot in the lungs which causes chest pain and breathlessness
Pulmonary fibrosis	Scarring of the lungs which causes shortness of breath
Pyrexia	Fever
Raynaud's phenomenon	Poor blood circulation which makes the toes and fingers numb and pale
Rhabdomyolysis	Abnormal muscle breakdown which can lead to kidney problems
Rhinitis	Swelling and irritation inside the nose
Somnolence	Sleepiness
Stevens-Johnson Syndrome	Serious illness with blistering of the skin, mouth, eyes and genitals
Syncope	Fainting
Systemic lupus erythematosus	Allergic condition which causes joint pain, skin rashes and fever
Tachycardia	Faster heart beat
Tardive dyskinesia	Uncontrollable movements of mouth, tongue and limbs
Thrombocytopenia	Reduction in blood platelets, which increases risk of bleeding or bruising
Tinnitus	ringing in the ears
Torsades de pointes (also ventricular arrhythmias)	Life-threatening irregular heart beat
Toxic epidermal necrolysis	Serious illness with blistering of the

	skin
Tremor	Shaking
Uveitis	Inflammation of the eye which causes pain and redness
Vasculitis	Inflammation of blood vessels, often with skin rash
Ventricular fibrillation	Life-threatening irregular heartbeat
Vertigo	A feeling of dizziness or "spinning"