

## English for Doctors: Explaining Tests

<b>Adenosine triphosphate (ATP)</b>	chemical that provides energy to living cells
(to) <b>adhere to treatment / adherence</b>	to follow treatment as prescribed
<b>albuminuria</b>	presence of <i>albumin</i> (protein) in the urine, often an indicator of kidney disease
<b>alcohol wipe</b>	also called <i>antiseptic wipe</i> or <i>disinfectant wipe</i> ; small piece of cloth impregnated with alcohol to cleanse the skin
<b>aneurysm</b>	sac formed by local dilation of the wall of a blood vessel
<b>aneurysm clip</b>	metal clip placed over an <i>aneurysm</i> to seal the area of weakness
<b>angiogram</b>	an X-ray of the blood vessels after an injection of contrast medium.
<b>anuria</b>	complete suppression of urine production by the kidneys
<b>ascites</b>	accumulation of fluid in the abdominal cavity
<b>audiometry</b>	measurement of hearing
<b>auricle</b>	also called <i>pinna</i> ; external part of the ear
<b>Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine</b>	primary vaccine against tuberculosis
<b>barbiturate</b>	type of sedative drug
<b>barium swallow</b>	radiological procedure involving drinking liquid barium to outline the throat, oesophagus, and stomach
<b>baseline observation</b>	initial recording of vital signs which is used to compare subsequent recordings
<b>biopsy container</b>	also called <i>biopsy jar</i> , sterile receptacle used to transport a sample of a biopsy to the laboratory
<b>blood collecting tube</b>	sterile container which contains blood samples to be tested
<b>breast feeding</b>	feeding a baby directly from the breast
<b>butterfly cannula</b>	also called a <i>winged infusion set</i> ; small device which is inserted into a vein to take a blood sample

<b>calcium</b>	mineral which helps build strong bones and teeth, regulates muscle contractions and helps blood clot normally
<b>capillary blood sugar test</b>	blood glucose test performed by pricking the fingertip to place a drop of blood on a test strip
<b>cardiovascular</b>	relating to the heart and blood vessels
<b>cerebral angiogram</b>	radiological image of the arteries of the brain
<b>cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)</b>	fluid within the subarachnoid space of the brain
<b>cerumen</b>	<i>earwax</i> , waxy secretion of the external acoustic meatus
<b>cervical brush</b>	implement used to obtain cervical cells during a cervical smear test
<b>cervical smear</b>	also called <i>Papanicolaou</i> or <i>Pap smear</i> ; screening test which checks for cervical cancer
<b>chloride</b>	electrolyte which combines with sodium to maintain normal levels of water in the body
<b>cilia</b>	medical term meaning <i>eyelashes</i> and also <i>hairs</i> , e.g. in the ear
<b>cirrhosis</b>	chronic liver disease
<b>claustrophobia</b>	irrational fear of being shut in a confined space, the adjective form is <i>claustrophobic</i>
<b>computerised tomography (CT)</b>	also called <i>computed tomography</i> , radiographic imaging which takes pictures of 'slices' of body (2-D or two-dimensional images) organs and puts them back together as a single image
<b>contrast medium</b>	radiopaque substance which is injected to visualise internal organs
<b>colposcopy</b>	examination of the vagina and cervix using an endoscope
<b>dentures</b>	also called <i>false teeth</i> ; appliance of artificial teeth worn when natural teeth are lost
<b>diabetic nephropathy</b>	kidney disease seen in the later stages of diabetes
<b>diabetic retinopathy</b>	eye disease seen in later stages of diabetes
<b>diaphoresis</b>	medical term meaning <i>sweating</i> or <i>perspiration</i> ; excretion of fluid through the pores of the skin
<b>directly observed therapy (DOT)</b>	visual monitoring of a patient who self-administers their medication

<b>droplet infection</b>	infection caused by inhalation of airborne pathogens
<b>drug regime</b>	plan of the medication a patient takes
<b>drug-resistant</b>	describes an infection which cannot be treated by antibiotics
<b>dysfunction</b>	abnormal working of a body organ
<b>dysuria</b>	painful urination
<b>electroencephalogram (EEG)</b>	tracing of the electrical impulses of the brain
<b>Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)</b>	medical term <i>otolaryngology</i> ; branch of medicine which deals with disorders of the ears, nose or throat
<b>epilepsy</b>	disorder characterised by seizures caused by abnormal electrical discharges in the brain
<b>ethnic minority</b>	group that has different traditions from the majority of the population
<b>examination table</b>	table in a doctor's surgery used to support a patient while being examined
<b>(to) expectorate / expectoration</b>	to spit; eject mucus from the mouth
<b>faecal specimen container</b>	also <i>faecal specimen jar</i> , receptacle for a sample of faeces to be transported to a laboratory for testing
<b>fasting blood sugar</b>	glucose test taken after a patient has been fasting for a few hours
<b>finger prick</b>	procedure where a finger is pricked with a lancet to obtain a small drop of blood
<b>fistula</b>	permanent manufacture of a passage between two organs in the body, e.g. a vein and an artery
<b>glucometer</b>	portable monitor which measures blood glucose levels
<b>glucose tolerance test (GTT)</b>	test for diabetes which measures the body's response to being challenged by high sugar drinks
<b>glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c)</b>	test of the average level of blood sugar a person has over the past 2–3 months
<b>glycosuria</b>	presence of glucose in the urine
<b>grommets</b>	tubes inserted into the ear drum to drain the middle ear
<b>haematuria</b>	presence of blood in the urine

<b>hearing aid</b>	implement which amplifies sound for people with a hearing loss
<b>helix</b>	rim of cartilage around the outer ear
<b>histology</b>	study of the structure and function of tissues
<b>hydrocephalus</b>	abnormal expansion of cavities within the brain caused by accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid
<b>hydrocephalus shunt</b>	passage between two natural channels in the body
<b>hypoglycaemic attack</b>	also called a <i>hypo</i> ; sudden drop in blood glucose levels in diabetes
<b>ion</b>	electrically charged atom
<b>International Normalised Ratio (INR)</b>	test which measures the time it takes for blood to clot
<b>intimate procedures</b>	procedures that might be embarrassing for patients, e.g. <i>cervical smear tests</i>
<b>intrahepatic malignancy</b>	cancer in the bile duct
<b>joint replacement</b>	surgical replacement of a joint with an artificial prosthesis
<b>ketonuria</b>	presence of <i>ketones</i> in the urine
<b>laparoscopic nissen fundoplication</b>	operation to treat gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, in which the top part of the stomach is wrapped around the lower oesophagus
<b>lancet</b>	small, pointed two-edged blade
<b>latent</b>	dormant or concealed
<b>log book</b>	book to record information, e.g. who has used equipment and on what date
<b>lumen</b>	inner open space of a tubular organ
<b>Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)</b>	use of a magnetic field and low-energy radio waves to take images of the soft tissues of the body
<b>Mantoux test</b>	test for TB in which a small amount of tuberculin is injected under the skin
<b>microbiologist</b>	specialist in the study of microorganisms
<b>mid-stream urine specimen (MSU)</b>	urine sample collected after voiding a small amount of urine first
<b>myelogram</b>	X-ray examination which uses a contrast medium to detect diseases of the spinal cord.

<b>needle</b>	sharp instrument used to pierce the skin to give an injection
<b>nodule</b>	small knot-like protuberance, the adjective form is nodular, e.g. <i>nodular cirrhosis</i>
<b>oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT)</b>	screening test for diabetes using challenges of high sugar drinks
<b>oliguria</b>	diminished urine output relating to fluid intake
<b>otitis media</b>	middle ear infection behind the eardrum
<b>pH</b>	figure which expresses the acidity and alkalinity of a substance
<b>pH balance</b>	level of acid and alkali in the blood in which the body functions best
<b>pacemaker</b>	small electrical device implanted in the chest to help regulate heart beats
<b>penetrating injury</b>	injury which enters the body
<b>perineal</b>	describes the area between the urogenital and rectal areas
<b>phosphate</b>	a salt which is found throughout the body especially teeth and bones
<b>plaster</b>	also called <i>bandaid</i> : small adhesive dressing which is placed over a small wound, e.g. a cut
<b>pre-cancerous</b>	describes a lesion which may become malignant in time
<b>prescribed medication</b>	medication which has been ordered by the doctor
<b>primary care</b>	initial medical treatment usually given by a GP
<b>prothrombin</b>	plasma protein involved in blood coagulation
<b>prothrombin time</b>	test which determines the clotting tendency of blood
<b>pyuria</b>	presence of pus in urine
<b>(to) retch / retching</b>	to try to vomit without actually bringing anything up
<b>saliva</b>	liquid secreted by mucous membrane glands which help in the chewing of food
<b>(to) self-administer</b>	to administer a medication to oneself, e.g. insulin injections
<b>serum electrolytes</b>	compounds in the blood which can conduct an electrical charge
<b>sodium</b>	electrolyte which maintains the balance of water in the body

<b>specific gravity</b>	weight of a liquid, e.g. urine in relation to water
<b>statutory</b>	describes something enacted by a law
<b>stereocilia</b>	hairs in the inner ear which help with hearing and balance
<b>supplement</b>	something added to food to improve nutrition
<b>swab</b>	small piece of cotton or gauze on a stick used to take a sample of cells.
<b>syringe</b>	instrument for introducing or withdrawing fluid from the body
<b>Theatre Sterile Supply Unit (TSSU)</b>	area of the hospital which decontaminates contaminated equipment
<b>test strip</b>	small piece of reagent strip which indicates the presence of a substance
<b>therapeutic range</b>	dose of a drug which achieves the optimal effect
<b>three-dimensional (3-D)</b>	describes an image which appears to be lifelike, because it has height, width and depth
<b>tourniquet</b>	device which compresses a limb to stop the flow of blood temporarily
<b>tympanic membrane</b>	medical term meaning <i>eardrum</i> : thin membrane in the inner ear which vibrates in response to sound waves
<b>urea</b>	end product of nitrogen metabolism which is excreted in urine
<b>Urea and Electrolytes (Us &amp; Es)</b>	biochemistry test which helps to assess kidney function
<b>urinalysis</b>	also called <i>urine dip</i> : examination of urine to detect abnormalities
<b>vitamin K</b>	fat-soluble vitamin which plays an important role in blood clotting
<b>voluntary</b>	describes something which is done without coercion
<b>X-ray</b>	images of the tissues of the body; bones absorb the most radiation so they appear white, whereas air-filled organs like the lungs absorb the least amount of radiation, so they appear black