

Glossary

A

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

Acute - usually rapid onset, brief, not prolonged.

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 heartburn or acid indigestion.

Antibiotic - a drug used to fight bacterial infections.

Antibodies - a protein that is part of the body's immune system. Antibodies are produced in response to foreign tissues. Some antibodies are harmful to transplant patients and can cause them to reject organs they are "sensitized" to or incompatible with.

Antifungal - a drug used to fight fungal infections.

Antiviral - a drug used to fight viral infections.

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.

Aspergillosis - a fungal infection found in decaying vegetation and airborne dust.

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.

Glossary, continued

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.

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.

Chronic - prolonged, long-term, lasting a long time.

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 bodily fluids.

Crossmatch - the mixing of blood between donor and recipient to detect harmful antibodies.

Cyclosporin (CSA) - a drug used to prevent rejection.

D

Dehydraton - lack of water.

Detoxify - removal of toxic substances from the body.

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.

Glossary, continued

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.

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.

Histoplasmosis - fungal infection usually acquired by inhaling spores of fungus in soil dust and found in bird droppings.

Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) - marker 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.

Glossary, continued

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.

Immunization - administration of a vaccine to protect against communicable diseases.

Immune Globulin - an intravenous medication that helps protect the body from disease and prevents harmful antibodies from returning.

Immunosuppressive Medications - medications used to suppress the recipient's immune system and prevent rejection of the transplant.

Incentive Spirometer - a device or piece of equipment to aid the function of the lungs by having a person/patient breathe in deeply.

Intake - volume of fluids going into the body.

IV, or Intravenous - directly into the vein.

Irradiated Blood Products - treated with radiation to kill white cells that could attack other cells in the 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.

Kidney Biopsy - a procedure in which a needle is used to obtain small pieces of tissue from the kidney for examination under a microscope.

L

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.

Glossary, continued

M – N

Megakaryocytes - another word for platelets.

Modified Protective Isolation (MPI) - a type of isolation where increased precautions are taken to protect a 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 - small dark purple or red spots under the skin caused by blood leaking out of the vessels; may indicate a low platelet count.

Plasmapheresis - a procedure in which the plasma portion of the blood is removed along with harmful antibodies and replaced with a plasma-like substance.

Platelets - blood cells that help 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.

PRA (panel reactive antibodies) - a gauge to measure the amount of antibodies in the recipient. The higher the PRA, the more difficult it is to find a compatible organ for transplant.

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 a person/patient is breathing in and out.

Glossary, continued

R

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

Rejection - the body's response to foreign tissue such as a transplanted organ.

Renal - pertaining to the kidney.

Respirator - 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).

Stent - a small tube placed in the tube that connects the new kidney to the bladder.

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.

Toxoplasmosis - an infection caused by a parasite often found in cats that eat other small animals.

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

Glossary, continued

U – Z

Ureter - a small tube placed in the tube that connects the new kidney to the bladder.

Urinalysis - microscopic examination of a urine specimen done in the lab.

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

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

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.

