

Comprehensive List: Medical vs Non-Technical Terms

Medical Term	Layperson Equivalent
Hypertension	High blood pressure
Hypotension	Low blood pressure
Pyrexia	Fever
Dyspnoea	Shortness of breath
Myocardial infarction	Heart attack
Cerebrovascular accident	Stroke
Hyperglycaemia	High blood sugar
Hypoglycaemia	Low blood sugar
Oedema	Swelling
Haematuria	Blood in urine
Analgesia	Pain relief
Pruritus	Itchy skin
Constipation	Difficulty passing stools
Diarrhoea	Loose or watery stools
Nausea and emesis	Feeling sick and vomiting
Fracture	Broken bone
Contusion	Bruise
Erythema	Redness of the skin
Epistaxis	Nosebleed
Syncope	Fainting or passing out
Malaise	General feeling of discomfort
Lesion	Abnormal tissue or sore
Benign	Not cancerous
Malignant	Cancerous

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Biopsy	Tissue sample
Intravenous (IV)	Through the vein
Subcutaneous	Under the skin
Intramuscular	Into the muscle
Tachycardia	Fast heartbeat
Bradycardia	Slow heartbeat
Arrhythmia	Irregular heartbeat
Cyanosis	Bluish skin due to lack of oxygen
Jaundice	Yellowing of the skin or eyes
Ulcer	Open sore
Abscess	Pocket of pus
Sepsis	Blood infection
Anemia	Low red blood cell count
Thrombocytopenia	Low platelet count
Hyperlipidemia	High cholesterol
Osteoporosis	Weak or brittle bones
Arthritis	Joint inflammation
Carcinoma	Type of cancer
Metastasis	Spread of cancer
Prognosis	Expected outcome
Diagnosis	Identification of a condition
Chronic	Long-lasting
Acute	Sudden and severe
Remission	Period when symptoms lessen
Relapse	Return of symptoms

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Palliative care	Comfort care
Rehabilitation	Recovery therapy
Radiology	Imaging tests
MRI	Detailed body scan
CT scan	Detailed X-ray
Ultrasound	Imaging using sound waves
X-ray	Imaging using radiation
Endoscopy	Camera test inside the body
Colonoscopy	Camera test of the colon
Gastroscopy	Camera test of the stomach
Laparoscopy	Minimally invasive surgery
Chemotherapy	Cancer treatment with drugs
Radiotherapy	Cancer treatment with radiation
Immunotherapy	Cancer treatment boosting immune system
Vaccine	Shot to prevent disease
Immunization	Protection against disease
Allergy	Reaction to a substance
Asthma	Breathing difficulty
Diabetes mellitus	High blood sugar disease
Depression	Persistent sadness
Anxiety disorder	Excessive worry
Schizophrenia	Mental disorder with hallucinations
Bipolar disorder	Mood swings disorder
Dementia	Memory loss disorder
Alzheimer's disease	Type of dementia

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Parkinson's disease	Movement disorder
Epilepsy	Seizure disorder
Stroke	Brain attack
Heart failure	Heart can't pump well
Coronary artery disease	Narrowing of heart arteries
Atherosclerosis	Hardening of arteries
Pulmonary embolism	Blood clot in lung
COPD	Lung disease causing breathing difficulty
Pneumonia	Lung infection
Hepatitis	Liver inflammation
Cirrhosis	Liver scarring
Kidney failure	Kidneys stop working
Urinary tract infection	Bladder infection
Prostate enlargement	Enlarged prostate
Menopause	End of menstrual periods
Infertility	Inability to have children
Erectile dysfunction	Trouble getting an erection
Sexually transmitted infection	Infection spread by sex
HIV/AIDS	Virus that weakens immune system
Obesity	Very overweight
Malnutrition	Poor nutrition
Dehydration	Not enough water in the body
Anaphylaxis	Severe allergic reaction
Trauma	Serious injury
Sprain	Stretched or torn ligament

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Strain	Stretched or torn muscle
Burn	Skin damage from heat
Laceration	Deep cut