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UN Panda's Concise Pocket Midwifery Dictionary



Dictionary

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4th Edition

JAYPEE

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DICTIONARY

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abacavir an anti-HIV drug

abasia inability to walk

abatement decrease in severity of symptoms or pain

ABC the mnemonic used for remembering the correct protocol, in order of priority, for cardiopulmonary resuscitation. A refers to airway, B to breathing and C to circulation

abciximab a human–murine monoclonal antibody that inhibits platelet aggregation, used in PTCA and unstable angina

abdomen that part of body lying between thorax and pelvis. For descriptive purposes, its area can be divided into nine regions **(Fig. 1)**. ***a. acute*** any abdominal condition urgently requiring treatment, usually surgical. ***a. pendulous***. a condition in which the anterior part of the abdominal wall hangs down over the pubis. ***a. scaphoid (navicular)*** a hollowing of the anterior wall so that it presents a concave rather than convex contour

abdominal incision a surgical cut made through the abdominal wall to allow access to internal organs, including during procedures such as a cesarean section (C-section), laparotomy (a general term for abdominal surgery), or other surgeries involving the abdomen

abdominal regions the nine regions of the abdomen artificially delineated by two horizontal and two parasagittal lines. The horizontal lines are tangent to the cartilages of the ninth ribs and iliac crests, respectively, and the parasagittal lines are drawn vertically on each side from the middle of the inguinal ligament. The regions thus formed are: (1) above—the right hypochondriac, the epigastric and the left hypochondriac; (2) in the middle—the right/left lateral or lumbar, umbilical, and (3) below—the right inguinal or iliac, the pubic or hypogastric, and the left inguinal or iliac **(Fig. 1)**

abdominal respiration A type of respiration caused by the contraction of the diaphragm and the elastic expansion and recoil of the abdominal walls

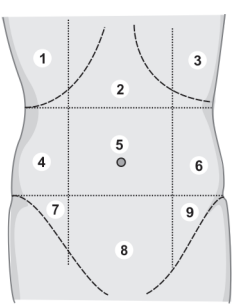

Fig. 1: Abdominal regions

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abdominoperineal pertaining to the abdomen and perineum. ***a. excision*** an operation performed through the abdomen and the perineum for the excision of the rectum or bladder. Often done as a synchronized operation by two surgeons, one working at each approach

abdominoplasty also known as a tummy tuck, is a cosmetic surgery procedure to remove fat and excess loose skin to improve the shape of the abdominal area

abdominoposterior in obstetrics, designating a fetus position in which the belly is forward

abducens drawing away

abduct to draw away from midline

aberration deviation from normal or usual

abetalipoproteinemia a congenital hereditary syndrome with absence of apolipoprotein B marked by acanthocytosis, ataxic neuropathy, retinitis pigmentosa, hypocholesterolemia and malabsorption

ablation removal or destruction, by surgical or radiological means, of neo-plasms or other body tissue

ABO blood group blood groups containing A, B, AB or no agglutinogen (O). AB group has no agglutinin or antibody and hence can receive blood of any group. Since O group has no agglutinogen, they can donate to any other group (universal donor) **(Table 1)**

Table 1: ABO system

Group	*Antigen present in red cell*	*Antibody present in plasma*
A	A	Anti-B
B	B	Anti-A
AB	A and B	None
O	A and B absent	Anti-A and Anti-B

ABO-incompatibility occurs in 1 in 200 pregnancies when mother is of blood group 'O' containing anti-A and anti-B, fetus is of A, B, or AB group, the maternal antibodies cross placenta to cause hemolysis of fetal RBC

abort to bring to premature end, especially a pregnancy

aborticide (1) the killing of an unborn fetus; (2) an agent that destroys the fetus and produces abortion

abortifacient any agent causing abortion, e.g., drugs like quinine, ergot and prostaglandins

abortion expulsion of product of conception from uterus before 20 weeks of gestation (viability). ***a. complete*** the product of conception is expelled in full, ***a. criminal*** cessation of pregnancy for reasons other than those permitted by law even when there is mental or physical danger to the child or mother without any medical approval, ***a. habitual*** spontaneous abortions occurring in three or more successive pregnancies, ***a. inevitable***

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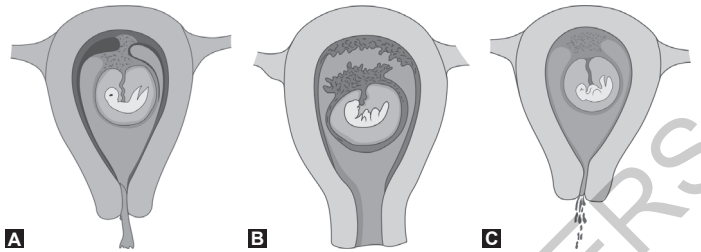

Figs. 2A to C: (A) Inevitable abortion; (B) Complete abortion; (C) Threatened abortion

a condition where cervix is fully dilated and abortion is invariable, ***a. missed*** retention of dead product of conception with regression of features of pregnancy ***a. therapeutic*** interruption of pregnancy for medical and psychological reasons, e.g., carriage of pregnancy harmful to mother's health, genetically diseased fetus unlikely to survive or likely to be grossly malformed, conception arising out of rape or contraceptive failure ***a. threatened*** a condition where bleeding is minimal and cervix is not dilated and abortion may or may not occur **(Figs. 2A to C)**

abortion incomplete in which, part of the product of conception has been passed but part (usually the placenta) remains in uterus **(Fig. 3)**

abortive poliomyelitis an early form of poliomyelitis, characterized clinically by relatively mild symptoms of upper respiratory infection, headache, gastrointestinal disturbances, nausea, and vomiting but which does not progress to involve the central nervous system. Definite diagnosis rests upon isolation of the virus and serologic reactions

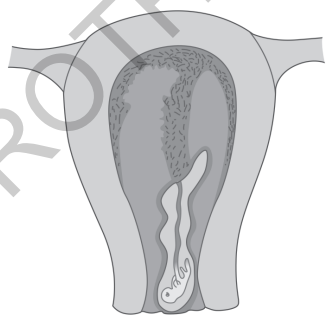

Fig. 3: Incomplete abortion

abortus the aborted fetus

abrachia absence of arms

abrachius an armless individual

abrasion rubbed or scrapped skin or mucous membrane

abreaction the reliving of a painful experience, with the release of repressed emotion

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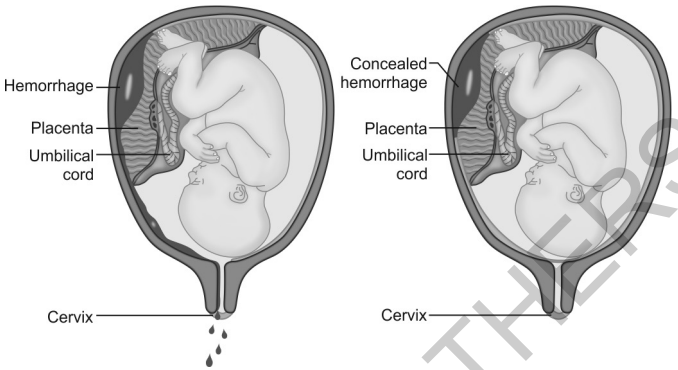

Fig. 4: Abruptio placentae

abruptio separation. ***a. placentae*** premature separation of placenta **(Fig. 4)**

abscess localized collection of pus; ***a. Bartholin's*** pus in Bartholin's gland near orifice of vagina ***a. pelvic*** in pouch of Douglas **(Fig. 5)**

absorbent able to take in or suck up and incorporate; a substance that absorbs or promotes absorption

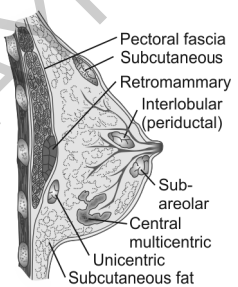

Fig. 5: Abscesses of breast

abstinence voluntary, self-denial or forbearance from indulgence of appetites especially from food, alcoholic drink or sex relations

abulia lack of willpower, initiative and drive

abuse misuse or excessive use

abusive head injury commonly called shaken baby syndrome resulting in traumatic brain injury infants and young children

acanthosis nigricans darkened, thickened patches of skin that develop around the groin, neck and axilla. Patches can sometimes be itchy and may indicate underlying disease

acarbia pronounced reduction in bicarbonate of the blood

acardia congenital absence of the heart, a condition sometimes presents in the parasitic members of conjoined twins

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acardiacus a conjoined twin parasitic on its mate or utilizing the placental circulation of its mate and having no heart

Acarus genus of small mites. ***a. scabiei*** (former term for *SARCOPTES SCABIEI*) the cause of scabies

acataphasia loss of the ability to express connected thought, resulting from a cerebral lesion

acceleration refers to a periodic rise in fetal heart rate from the baseline in response to stress of lowered oxygen availability or fetal movement

accessory extra or supplementary

acclimatization the ability of the body to adapt physiologically to changes in the environment. Taking exercise in a hotter climate than the body is used to will lead to increased sweating with lower sodium levels to cool the body, but which may lead to dehydration. Climbing, for example, at high altitude can produce altitude sickness with low oxygen levels in the blood, associated with increased cardiac output and respiratory effect. Athletes participating in sport events at international venues held in hot climates or at high altitudes will require training to adapt to the physiological adjustments that will affect athletic performance

accoucheur one who conducts delivery

accountable liable to be held responsible for a course of action. A qualified nurse has a duty of care according to law; in nursing, being accountable refers to the responsibility the qualified nurse takes for prescribing and initiating nursing care. Nurses are accountable to their patients, their peers and their employing authority, according to the Code of Nurses and Midwives

accreditation to officially recognize someone as having status or being qualified to perform activity or acknowledgement of a person's responsibility or achievement of something

accreta morbid attachment. ***a. placenta*** a placenta attached to uterine muscle due to deficiency of decidua basalis

accretion growth. The accumulation of deposits, e.g., of salts to form a calculus in the bladder. In dentistry the growth of tartar on the teeth

acculturation the process by which a person absorbs the beliefs, values, and customs of another culture, usually through direct contact, e.g., migrant resident in another country

ACE-inhibitors a group of drugs used in the treatment of hypertension. Their name, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, explains part of their mode of action, although it is thought that some of their other actions may also be important in reducing blood pressure

acet combining form denoting acid. From Latin *acetum*, vinegar

acetabuloplasty an operation performed to improve the depth and shape of the hip socket in correcting

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congenital dislocation of the hip or in treating osteoarthritis of the hip

acetabulum a cup-shaped socket in the pelvic bone into which fits the head of femur

acetaminophen analgesic, antipyretic but with weak anti-inflammatory property, potentially hepatotoxic in large doses

acetate the salt of acetic acid

acetoacetic acid a ketone produced in liver from fat breakdown

acetonemia the presence of acetone bodies in the blood

acetone is a colorless inflammable liquid with a characteristic odor. Traces are found in the blood and normal urine. ***a. bodies*** ketones found in the blood and urine of uncontrolled diabetic patients and in acute starvation because of the incomplete breakdown of fatty and amino acids

acetonuria the presence of an excess quantity of acetone bodies in the urine, giving it a peculiar, sweet smell

acetylcholine is a neurotransmitter at cholinergic synapses, responsible for nerve transmission and muscle contraction

acetyl coenzyme an active form of acetic acid, to which carbohydrates, fats and amino acids not needed for protein synthesis are converted

acetylcysteine a mucolytic and antidote in acetaminophen overdose

achalasia failure of relaxation of a muscle sphincter causing dilatation of the part above, e.g., of the esophagus above the cardiac sphincter

acheilia congenital absence of the lips

Achilles Greek mythological hero who could be wounded only in the heel. ***a. tendon*** largest and strongest tendon of the body, formed by the union of gastrocnemius and soleus muscles at the lower end of the calf and inserts into calcaneus **(Fig. 6)**

achlorhydria absence of hydrochloric acid in gastric juice

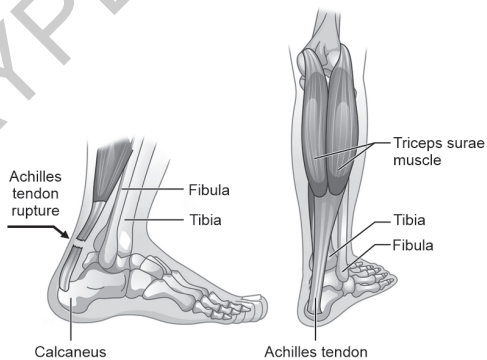

Fig. 6: Achilles tendon

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acholia lack of secretion of bile

acholuria deficiency or lack of bile in the urine

acholuric pertaining to acholuria. ***a. jaundice*** is a jaundice without bile in the urine

achondroplasia is an inherited condition in which there is early union of the epiphysis and diaphysis of long bones. Growth is arrested resulting in short stature

acid-base balance state of equilibrium between acids and bases of the body fluids; hydrogen (H^+) ion balance. Most of the end products of metabolic processes are acidic which needs to be converted to alkaline as they are required for cellular activities. The optimal pH level should be 7.35-7.45

acidemia accumulation of acid in the blood which causes change in pH, making it slightly alkaline; seen in hyperemesis gravidarum. ***fetal or neonatal a.*** may occur due to hypoxia which further leads to death

acid-fast not readily decolorized by acids after staining, e.g., tuberculosis bacilli and lepra bacilli

acidosis a condition arising from accumulation of acids or depletion of alkalies with decline in blood pH, can be metabolic acidosis (diabetic ketoacidosis, renal failure, lactic acidosis) or respiratory acidosis due to retention of carbon dioxide

acini cells specialized exocrine cells that are primarily found in glands such as the pancreas, salivary glands, and mammary glands. Their main function is to secrete digestive enzymes or other fluids

acinus a small sac-like dilatation particularly in a gland

acme the critical stage or crisis of a disease

acne an inflammatory disease of the skin with formation of papules or pustules involves face, back

acognosia a knowledge of remedies

acoustic relating to hearing or the perception of sound

acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) caused by HIV leading to T4 cell destruction, immunodeficiency and opportunistic infections

acrania lack of cranium

acrocephaly malformation of the head consisting in a high or pointed cranial vault due to premature closure of the sagittal, coronal and lambdoid sutures

acrocyanosis the slightly bluish, grayish discoloration of newborn's hands and feet within the first 24 hours of birth

acromioclavicular pertaining to the joint between the acromion process of the scapula and the lateral aspect of the clavicle

acromion the outward projection of the spine of the scapula, forming the point of the shoulder

acroparesthesia condition in which pressure on the nerves of the

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brachial plexus causes numbness, pain, and tingling of the hand and forearm

acrophobia extreme or irrational fear of height

acrosclerosis a combination of Raynaud's disease and scleroderma that affects the hands, feet, face or chest

acrosome the cap on head of spermatozoon, it contains enzymes for penetration into ovum

actin keratoses also known as Solar Keratoses rough patches of skin caused by sun exposure over a prolonged period

actinodermatitis inflammation of the skin due to the action of ultraviolet or X-rays

actinomyces a fungus, anaerobe causing actinomycosis of jaw, intestine and lungs

actinomycin an antineoplastic agent

activator a substance, hormone or enzyme that stimulates a chemical change, although it may not take part in the change. In chemistry, a catalyst. For example, yeast is the activator in the process by which sugar is converted into alcohol; the digestive secretions are activated by hormones to carry out normal digestion

active birth it is the technique of labor preparation and care in which the mother is encouraged to participate and make decisions during the progression of labor

active transport movement of ions or molecules across cell membranes against concentration gradient utilizing ATP

actomyosin muscle protein complex; the myosin component acts as an enzyme which causes the release of energy

acuity sharpness. ***a. of hearing*** an acute perception of sound. ***a. of vision*** clear focusing ability

acupressure a system of complementary medicine in which points in body are stimulated to cure diseases

acupuncture a system of complementary medicine based on energy lines or meridians running from head to toe through which flow the positive and negative energy. Disequilibrium in energy flow causes disease. Application of fine needles to specific acupuncture points along meridians can rebalance the energy flow

acute developing rapidly and running a short course

acute renal failure sudden and severe renal compromise due to shock, drugs or infection

acute yellow atrophy a rare complication of pregnancy with rapid progressive atrophy of liver with 80% mortality

acyclovir antiviral used in herpes simplex

adactyly congenital absence of finger or toes

adaptation the ability to adjust to changing circumstances

addiction physiologic or psychological dependence on some agents or drug, usually psychotropic

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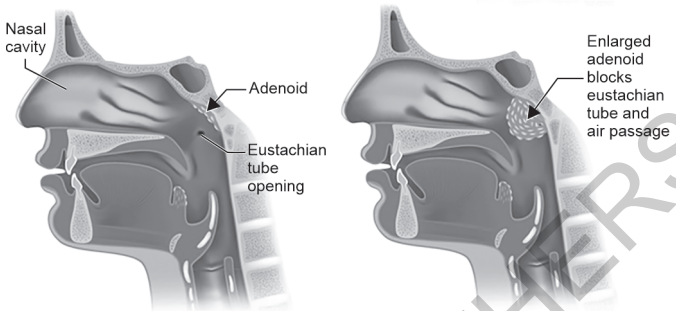

Fig. 7: Adenoid growth

Addison's disease deficiency disease of suprarenal cortex. There is waste, brown pigmentation of the skin and extreme debility. Also known as primary adrenal insufficiency or hypo-adrenalism

adduct to draw towards center or median line

adductor a muscle that draws a limb towards the midline of the body. The opposite of abductor

adenine one of the purine bases found in DNA

adenitis inflammation of gland

adenocarcinoma carcinoma from any glandular tissue

adenofibroma a tumor containing connective as well as glandular tissue

adenohypophysis anterior pituitary

adenoid pharyngeal tonsils or small lumps of tissue at the back of the nose, above the roof of the mouth. Part of the immune system. Only present in children and by the age of 7–8 years the adenoids start to shrink. They disappear by adulthood **(Fig. 7)**

adenoidectomy the surgical removal of adenoid tissue from the nasopharynx

adenoma benign tumor arising from gland

adenomyosis a condition in which the endometrium of the uterus breaks through the muscle wall of the uterus usually resulting in painful and profuse periods

adenopathy enlargement of any gland, especially those of the lymphatic system

adenosine a nucleoside consisting of adenine and D-ribose (a pentose sugar). ***a. triphosphate (ATP)*** is a compound containing three phosphoric acids. It is present in the cells and serves as a store for energy

adenovirus a virus of the Adenoviridae family. Many types have been

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isolated, some of which cause respiratory tract infections, while others are associated with conjunctivitis, epidemic keratoconjunctivitis or gastrointestinal infection

ADH antidiuretic hormone. Vasopressin

Adherent placenta that is tightly attached to the uterine wall and fails to get separated during third stage of labor

adhesion a fibrous band or structure joining parts to each other

adipocere a waxy substance formed during decomposition of body

adipocyte any cell that composes of fat tissue

adiposis obesity, fatty change in organ

adiposogenital dystrophy a condition occurring in adolescent boys with increased body fat accompanied by underdevelopment of the genitalia and altered secondary sexual characteristics caused by damage to the hypothalamus usually because of a tumor or infection. Also known as Frohlich's syndrome

adipsia absence of thirst

aditus an opening or passageway; often applied to that between the middle ear and mastoid antrum

adjuvant assisting or aiding in any remedy

ADL activities of daily living

Adler's theory is the theory that neuroses develop as a compensation for feelings of inferiority, either social or physical

adnexa appendages or accessory structures, uterine adnexa, the ovaries and fallopian tubes

adolescence the period of development from puberty to cessation of physical growth, i.e., 11–19 years

adrenal pertains to adrenal or suprarenal glands **(Fig. 8)**

adrenaline a secretion from adrenal medulla, acts as vasopressor

adrenergic pertaining to nerves that release the chemical transmitter nor-adrenaline in order to stimulate the muscles and glands they supply

adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) from anterior pituitary that stimulates adrenal cortex

adrenogenital relating to both the adrenal gland and the gonads. ***a. syndrome*** a condition of masculinization caused by overactivity of the adrenal cortex resulting in precocious puberty in the male infant and

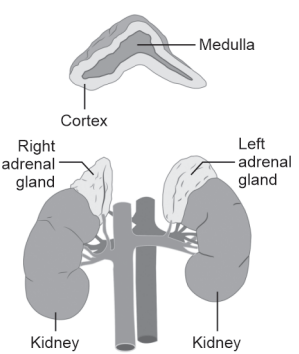

Fig. 8: Adrenal gland

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masculinization in the female. Both sexes are liable to Addisonian crisis

adrenolytic a drug that inhibits the stimulation of the sympathetic nerves and the activity of the adrenaline

adsorbent a substance that has the power of attracting gas or fluid to itself, e.g., charcoal

adsorption the power of certain substances to attach gases or other substances in solution to their surface and so concentrate them there. This is made use of in chromatography

adulteration addition of an impure, cheap or unnecessary ingredient to cheat with, cheapen or falsify a preparation

advance life support (ALS) resuscitation techniques used during a cardiac arrest that follows on from basic life support. They include defibrillation and the administration of appropriate drugs

advance trauma life support (ALS) a set of protocols recommended for used by doctors and paramedics when dealing with seriously injured people at the scene of an accident. The immediate treatment of shock from reduced blood volume by the infusion of fluids is an integral component of the life support regime

adventitia the outer coat of an artery and vein

advocacy the process whereby a nurse or healthcare professional provides a patient and/or the family with information to enable them to make informed decisions relating to the care situation. The nurse is then able to support the patient's decision vis-à-vis other professionals and to incorporate the informed decision into care planning

A-EQUIP a model of clinical supervision for midwives. Abbreviation for advocating for education and quality improvement

aeration supplying with air. Used to describe the oxygenation of blood which takes place in the lungs

aerobe organism requiring oxygen for survival

aeropathy commonly called 'the bends' (decompression sickness)

aerophagia excessive swallowing of air

aerophagy the excessive swallowing of air

aerosol suspension of liquid or solid particles (drugs) in a gas for inhalation

afebrile without fever

affect pertaining to emotional tone or feeling

affection (1) a morbid condition or disease state; (2) a warm feeling for someone or something

afferent towards the center, e.g., afferent nerve fibers carrying information from periphery to center

affiliation the judicial decision about the paternity of a child with a view to the issue of a maintenance order

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affinity in chemistry, the attraction of two substances to each other, e.g., hemoglobin and oxygen

afibrinogenemia absence of fibrinogen in blood causing bleeding as in DIC

aflatoxin toxin produced by ***Aspergillus flavus*** infecting groundnut seeds causing hepatic malignancy

African tick fever disease caused by a spirochaete, *Borrelia duttonii*. Transmitted by ticks

afterbirth term used for delivery of placenta and membranes

afterimage a visual impression that remains briefly after the cessation of sensory stimulation

afterpains painful uterine contractions occurring after fetal delivery

AGA abbreviation for "Appropriate for Gestational Age", when a newborn's birth weight is within the 10th–90th percentile expected for that length gestation

agammaglobulinemia a condition in which there is a lack of gammaglobulin in the blood. The patients are therefore susceptible to infections because of an inability to form antibodies

agar used in culture media extracted from red algae

ageism the systematic discrimination against people on the grounds of age, based on stereotyping of the elderly as helpless, infirm, confused, requiring healthcare and supportive social services

agenesis failure of a structure to develop properly

ageusia absence of taste sensation

agglutination collecting into clumps, particularly of cells suspended in a fluid and of bacteria affected by specific immune serum. ***a. test*** means of aiding diagnosis and identification of bacteria. If serum containing known agglutinins meets the specific bacteria, clumping will take place. ***a. cross*** a simple test to decide the group to which blood belongs **(Fig. 9)**

agglutinin antibody which aggregates a particulate antigen (agglutinogen) present in sample or on cells

aggregation the massing together of materials, as in clumping. ***a. familial*** the increased incidence of cases of a disease in a family compared with that in control families. ***a. platelet*** the clumping together of platelets, which may be induced by a few agents, such as thrombin and collagen

agnathia absence of jaw

agnosia inability to recognize the sensory inputs

agonist a drug that acts on receptor in a manner like naturally occurring substance

agoraphobia fear of being in situations where escape might be difficult, or help might not be available if things go wrong

agranulocytosis reduction in number of granulocytes (neutrophils, monocytes, eosinophils) usually drug-induced

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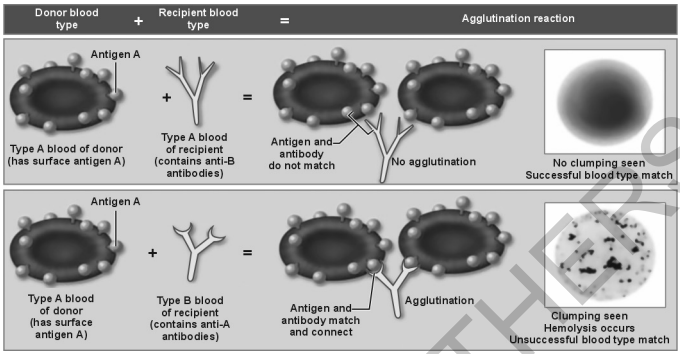

Fig. 9: Agglutination test

agraphia impaired ability to write

ague malaria

AID artificial insemination of a woman with donor semen

AIH artificial insemination of a woman with her partner's semen

ailment any minor disorder of the body

air hunger a form of dyspnea in which there are deep sighing respirations, characteristic of severe hemorrhage or acidosis

airway (1) mechanical device used to secure air passage; (2) the passage through which air enters in the lungs

akinesia loss of muscle power. This may be the result of a brain or spinal cord lesion or, temporarily, or anesthesia

akinetic relating to states or conditions where there is lack of movement

ala wing, e.g., sacral ala

alalia loss or impairment of the power of speech due to muscle paralysis or a cerebral lesion

alacrima absence or reduction of tear production

alanine an amino acid formed by the ingestion of dietary protein. ***a. transaminase (ALT)*** a transaminase found in plasma and the liver which catalyses' the two parts of the alanine cycle

albinism congenital absence of body pigmentation—partial or complete (hair, skin, eyes)

albino a person affected with albinism

albumin the major plasma protein responsible for plasma colloidal osmotic pressure

albuminuria passage of albumin in urine normally <30 mg/24 hours

albuterol a beta agonist used in bronchial asthma

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alcohol organic compounds containing OH group. ***a. ethyl*** the commonly consumed alcohol, excess consumption causing liver damage, neuropathy and cardiomyopathy. Ingestion during the first trimester can cause fetal damage. ***a. methyl*** industrial spirit, accidental ingestion causes fatal acidosis and blindness

aldeslukin recombinant interleukin 2 used in treatment of metastatic renal cancer

aldosterone mineral corticoid from adrenal cortex, essential for sodium and water retention in body and potassium excretion

aldosteronism an excess secretion of aldosterone caused by an adrenal neoplasm. The serum potassium is low, and the patient has hypertension and severe muscular weakness

alendronate a bisphosphonate used for treatment of osteoporosis

alesthesia experiencing a sensation away from site of its occurrence

aleukemia an acute condition in which there is an absence or deficiency of white cells in the blood

Alexander technique a process of psychophysical postural re-education. Body posture is believed to affect physical, and psychological wellbeing and the postural re-education process aims to assist individuals in monitoring how they consciously use their bodies to promote good health

alexia inability to understand written language due to cerebral lesion

alfentanil opioid analgesic derived from fentanyl

alginate derivative of alginic acid used as absorbent in dressing and for dental impression

algorithm step-by-step method of solving a problem

alienation a feeling of estrangement or separation from others or from self. A symptom of schizophrenia. Sufferers often believe that they are under the control of someone else

alimentary relating to the system of nutrition. ***a. canal*** alimentary tract. The passage through which the food passes, from mouth to anus. ***a. system*** the alimentary tract together with the liver and the other organs concerned in digestion and absorption

alkali any compound with pH more than 7, turning red litmus blue, form soap in combination with fatty acids

alkaline phosphatase an enzyme secreted by liver, formed in bone and by neutrophils

alkaloid nitrogenous organic compounds of plants like morphine, atropine

alkalosis base excess in body with loss of hydrogen ions, can be respiratory (excess CO_2 washout) or metabolic (excess H^+ loss)

alkaptonuria a condition in which urine darkens on standing and there is arthritis

allantois membranous sac projecting from ventral surface of embryo that helps to form placenta

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allele one of the two or more forms of a gene at corresponding sites (loci) on homologous chromosomes defining a characteristic

allelomorph allele

Allen test is used to test the blood supply to the hand, specifically the patency of the radial and ulnar arteries. It is performed prior to radial arterial sampling or cannulation

allergic rhinitis a common condition where there is inflammation of the inside of the nose caused by an allergen such as pollen, dust, mould or animal skin

allograft an organ or tissue transplanted from one person to another of a dissimilar genotype but of the same species. ***a. nonviable*** skin, taken from a cadaver, which cannot regenerate. ***a. viable*** living tissue transplanted

alloimmunization the immune response to donated blood, bone marrow or transplanted organ; rhesus-negative pregnant women with a rhesus-positive fetus can become alloimmunized following a sensitizing event, e.g., antepartum hemorrhage or miscarriage, through the development of antibodies that target the foreign material, causing hemolytic disease of the newborn

allopathy the practice of conventional medicine, i.e., with drugs having opposite effects to the symptoms

alopecia baldness, can be patchy, male pattern, total or universal (entire body)

alopurinol xanthine oxidase inhibitor used in gout

alpha-fetoprotein a plasma protein produced by fetal liver; level increased in hepatocellular carcinoma and germ cell tumors; amniotic fluid. AFP is raised in neural tube defect

alteplase a tissue plasminogen activator used in thrombolysis of acute MI and thrombotic stroke

alternative medicine a form of medicine differing from conventional healthcare. Consists of a range of treatments essentially based upon a holistic approach to health and wellbeing, including homeopathy, aromatherapy, hypnosis, acupuncture and others. These therapies fall into three categories: Touch and movement, medicinal and psychological

altruism a sense of unconditional concern for the welfare of others

alum a local astringent and styptic, also used as adjuvant in vaccines and toxoids

alveolus a sac-like dilatation

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive form of neuronal degeneration in the brain and the most common cause of dementia in people of all ages. It is more common in older than younger people and is not just a form of presenile dementia, as was originally thought. The degeneration of neurons is accompanied by changes in the brain's biochemistry. Now, there is no cure for Alzheimer's

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disease, but medication is available to help relieve some of the symptoms

amalgam is a compound of mercury and other metals. ***a. dental*** now rarely used for filling teeth

amantadin antiviral agent against influenza A; also, dyskinetic agent used in Parkinsonism

amastigote the intracellular non-flagellated stage of hemoparasite *Leishmania*

amaurosis blindness without an apparent cause

ambenonium a cholinergic agent used to treat muscular weakness of myasthenia gravis

ambidextrous equally skillful with either hand

ambient surrounding or prevailing

ambivalence the existence of contradictory feelings towards an object, commonly of love and hate for another person. If these feelings occur to a marked degree, they lead to psychological disturbance

amblyopia dimness of vision without detectable organic lesion of eye

amblyoscope an instrument for training amblyopic eye to take part in vision and for increasing fusion of the eyes

Ambu bag is a hand operated, self-reinflating bag used during resuscitation. It is connected by tubing and nonrebreathing valve to a face mask or endotracheal tube and is used for artificial ventilation **(Fig. 10)**

ambulant able to walk

ambulatory having the capacity to walk ***a. treatment*** or care health services provided on an outpatient or day care basis

amebiasis infection with ameba especially histolytica producing dysentery and liver abscess

ameboma a tumor-like growth in intestine in amebiasis

amelia congenital absence of limb

amelioration improvement of symptoms; a lessening of the severity of a disease

ameloblast a cell that forms enamel of tooth

amenorrhea absence of menstruation

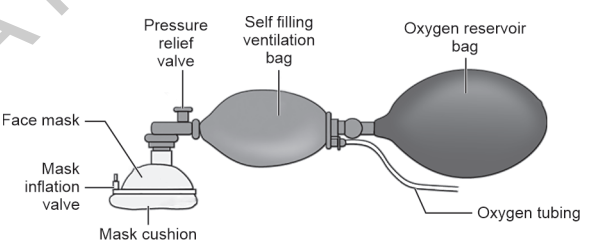

Fig. 10: Ambu bag

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Ames test a biological assay to assess the mutagenic potential of chemical compounds. A positive test indicates that the chemical is mutagenic and therefore may act as a carcinogen, since cancer is often linked to mutation

ametropia condition of eye in which image fails to be focused on retina

amifostine a chemoprotectant used to prevent renal toxicity of cisplatin

amikacin aminoglycoside antibiotic active against aerobic gram-negative bacilli causing UTI and other infections

amino acid protein constituents essential for nutrition. Essential amino acids are threonine, lysine, methionine, valine, phenylalanine, leucine, tryptophan, isoleucine, and histidine

aminocaproic acid a plasmin inhibitor used in bleeding

aminophylline bronchodilator used in asthma

amitosis multiplication of cells by simple division or fission

amlodipine calcium channel blocker used in hypertension

ammonia a colorless gas of pungent odor produced from protein breakdown in intestine, converted to urea in liver

amnesia partial or complete loss of memory. ***a. anterograde*** loss of memory of events that have taken place since an injury or illness. ***a. retrograde*** loss of memory for events prior to an injury. It often applies to the time immediately preceding an accident

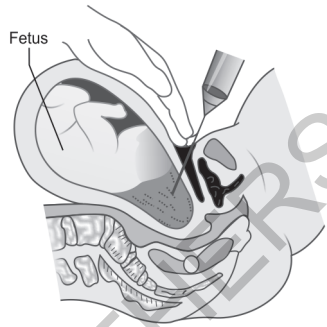

Fig. 11: Amniocentesis

amniocentesis transabdominal or trans-cervical puncture of amniotic sac to obtain amniotic fluid for analysis of alpha-fetoprotein (neural tube defect) and genetic analysis, bilirubin level, L:S ratio, etc. (fetal maturity) **(Fig. 11)**

amniocyte fetal cells that shed off from fetal skin, urinary and respiratory tract and seen in the amniotic fluid; they can be isolated or multiplied with the help of various techniques, such as FISH and PCR

amniography radiography of the gravid uterus

amnion the innermost membrane covering fetus **(Fig. 12)**

amnioscope an endoscope introduced through cervix to visualize fetus

amniotic pertaining to the amnion. ***a. fluid*** the albuminous fluid

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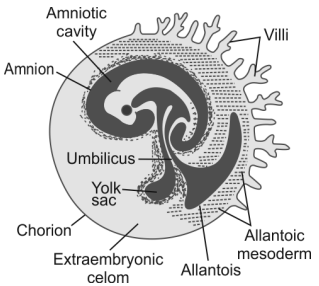

Fig. 12: Amnion

contained in the amniotic sac. Liquor amnii

amniotic band syndrome fetal malformations that occur due to stranded bands of amnion that causes strangulation of fetal parts in utero. These defects include limb defects, craniofacial defects, clubbed feet, and visceral defects

amniotic fluid also called liquor amni, surrounds fetus, formed from fetal urine, GI secretions and placental secretions. The amount varies from 500 to 1,500 mL at term

amniotic fluid embolism entry of amniotic fluid to maternal circulation via placental sinuses causing collapse and shock

amniotomy the artificial rupture of amniotic membranes when an amnio-hook or other rupturing device is introduced into the vagina and a small tear is made in the membranes **(Fig. 13)**

amorphous without definite shape. The term may be applied to fine powdery particles, as opposed to crystals

amoxapine an antipsychotic agent

amoxicillin semisynthetic derivative of ampicillin, a broad-spectrum antibiotic

amphetamine sympathomimetic amine, a CNS stimulant

amphoric sound resembling that made by blowing across neck of a bottle

amphotericin B antifungal antibiotic, effective also against *Leishmania*

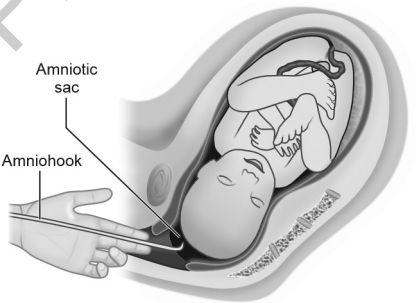

Fig. 13: Amniotomy

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Appendices

Appendix 1

Abbreviations Used in Prescriptions

Abbreviation	*Latin*	*English*
a.c.	Ante cibum	Before food
ad lib.	Ad libitum	To the desired amount
b.d. or b.i.d.	Bids in die	Twice a day
c.	Cum	with
o.m.	Omni mane	Every morning
o.n.	Omni nocte	Every night
p.c.	Post cibum	After food
p.r.n.	Pro re nata	Whenever necessary
q.d.	Quaque die	Everyday
q.d.s.	Quaque die sumendum	Four times a day
q.i.d.	Quarter in die	Four times a day
q.q.h.	Quarter quaque hora	Every four hours
R	recipe	Take
s.o.s.	Si opus sit	If necessary
Stat.	statim	At once
t.d.s.	Ter die sumendum	Three times a day
t.i.d.	Ter in die	Three times a day

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Appendix 2

Abbreviations for Diseases, Investigations and Procedures

AC	Air conduction
AFB	Acid fast bacillus
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase
ANA	Antinuclear antibodies
ANF	Antinuclear factor
APB	Atrial premature beat
AR	Aortic regurgitation
ARF	Acute rheumatic fever
AS	Aortic stenosis
ASD	Atrial septal defect
ASO	Antistreptococcal "O" titer
AST	Antistreptozyme titer Aspartate transaminase
ATT	Anti-tubercular treatment
AVM	Arteriovenous malformation
BC	Bone conduction
BPH	Benign hypertrophy of prostate
CABG	Coronary artery bypass grafting
CAD	Coronary artery disease
CHF	Congestive heart failure
CMV	Closed mitral valvotomy, cytomegalovirus
CNS	Central nervous system
COPD	Chronic obstructive lung disease
CP	Creative protein
CPK	Creatine phosphokinase
CT	Computerized tomography
Cx	Circumflex
DAT	Differential agglutination test
DCM	Dilated cardiomyopathy
DIC	Disseminated intravascular coagulation
DLC	Differential leukocyte count

Contd...

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Contd...

ECE	Extracapsular cataract extraction
ECT	Electroconvulsive therapy
EF	Ejection fraction
ELISA	Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay
ERCP	Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
FEV	Forced expiratory volume
FVC	Forced vital capacity
G6PD	Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase
HAV	Hepatitis A virus
HBcAg	Hepatitis B core antigen
HBsAg	Hepatitis B surface antigen
HBV	Hepatitis B virus
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HOCM	Hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy
HSV	Herpes simplex virus
ICCE	Intracapsular cataract extraction
ICCU	Intensive coronary care unit
ICT	Intracranial tension
ICU	Intensive care unit
IHD	Ischemic heart disease
INO	Internuclear ophthalmoplegia
ITP	Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
JVP	Jugular venous pressure
LA	Left atrium
LAD	Left anterior descending artery
LDH	Lactate dehydrogenase
LIMA	Left internal mammary artery
LMN	Lower motor neuron
LP	Lumbar puncture
LV	Left ventricle
LVEDP	Left ventricular end-diastolic pressure
LVEDV	Left ventricular end-diastolic volume

Contd...

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Contd...

LVH	Left ventricular hypertrophy
MCP	Metacarpophalangeal joint
MDM	Mid-diastolic murmur
MND	Motor neuron disease
MR	Mitral regurgitation, mental retardation
MRCP	Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography
MS	Mitral stenosis
MTP	Metatarsophalangeal joint, medical termination of pregnancy
MVI	Multivitamin infusion
MVP	Mitral valvuloplasty, mitral valve prolapses
NMR	Nuclear magnetic resonance
NSAID	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
OS	Opening snap
PaO_2	Partial pressure of oxygen
PCWP	Pulmonary capillary wedge pressure
PDA	Patent ductus arteriosus
PIP	Proximal interphalangeal joint
PKP	Penetrating keratoplasty
PNH	Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria
PS	Pulmonary stenosis
RA	Right atrium
RIND	Reversible ischemic neurologic deficit
RK	Radial keratotomy
RV	Right ventricle
SAH	Subarachnoid hemorrhage
SBE	Subacute bacterial endocarditis
SCAT	Sheep cell agglutination test
SGOT	Serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase
SGPT	Serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase
TB	Tuberculosis
TCA	Transient ischemic attack
TGV	Transposition great vessels

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Contd...

TIPS	Transjugular intrahepatic portohepatic shunting
TLC	Total leukocyte count
TOF	Tetralogy of Fallot
TR	Tricuspid regurgitation
TS	Tricuspid stenosis
TTP	Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura
UMN	Upper motor neuron
VPB	Ventricular premature beat
VSD	Ventricular septal defect

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