

KEY TO UNDERSTANDING MEDICAL WORDS

ROOTS

BIO	Life	HEM	Blood
CARDI	Heart	KERAT	Cornea
CEPHAL	Head	LEUC	White
CHOLE	Bile	MY	Muscle
CHONDR	Cartilage	OPHTHALM	Eye
COST	Rib	OSS or OSTE	Bone
CRANI	Skull	OT	Ear
CYST	Sac	PED	Feet
DERM	Skin	PNEUM	Lung
ENCEPHAL	Brain	PROCT	Anus
ENTER	Intestine	PSYCH	Mind
GASTER	Stomach	PY	Pus
GYNEC	Woman	RHIN	Nose

MEDICAL RECORD ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Use or Example</u>
a.	artery	popliteal, a. inj.
A	area, anterior	bruise a. rt. arm
Ab., ab	abortion, antibody	i one prev. Ab.
Abd., abd.	abdomen, abdominal	pain in abd.
ABP	arterial blood pressure	ABP 130/80
abs	absent	lt. A/J abs
a/c, a.c.	on Rx means before meals	pills i a/c
acc.	accident	his. of previous acc.
accom.	accommodation	adjust eye lens to distance
A.D.	right ear	A.D. hearing loss
add.	adductor, or adduction	pect. maj. add. weak
ad lib	as desired	food ad lib
adm.	admission	K.U.B. on adm.
ADT	a placebo	simulated med.
A/G, A.G.	Albumin/globulin ratio (in blood)	A/G normal
A/J	ankle jerk	A/J neg.
alb.	albumin	alb. normal
alc., alcho.	alcohol	alc. neg.
AlcR	alcohol rub	Alc. R. to body
alt.	alternate	alt. bed position
A.M.	morning	A.M. care
amb.	ambulatory (up & about)	pt. not amb.
amt.	amount	amt. of alc. in blood
ann. fib.	annulus fibrosus (in intervertebral disc)	ann. fib. intact
ant.	anterior	pain ant. knee
ante	before	before meals
A.P.	anterior and posterior	Alc R. A.P. rt. leg
Ap	antero-posterior	AP spine x-ray
Approx.	approximately	approx. 500 cc V.C.
aq.	water	no aq.
art.	artery, arterial	cor. art. inj.
A.S.	left ear (in ear exam)	purulent discharge A.S.
Ax.	axilla, axillary	Ax T.
A.Z.	Asheim-Zondek test (for pregnancy)	A.Z. pos.

MEDICAL RECORD ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Use or Example</u>
B.	bath	bowl B.
Bab.	Babinski sign	rt. Bab. neg.
BaEnema, Ba En, BE	Barium enema	BE in P.M.
Bas.	basal, basilar	Bas. skull inj.
Baso.	basophile	in blood (white cell) count
Bic.	biceps	lac. over rt. Bic.
b.i.d.	twice a day (bis in diem)	ADT b.i.d.
bk.	back	Alc. R. to bk.
blad.	bladder	blad. dis.
bld.	blood	bld. sugar pos.
B.M.	bowel movement	B.M. A.M.
BMR	basal metabolism test (rate)	BMR +20
B/P, B.P.	blood pressure	B.P. 125/80
Brach.	brachial	Brach. pain
BRP	bathroom privileges	BRP 3 x day
BSP	bromsulphalein test	BSP 3.5%
BUN	blood urea nitrogen	BUN ordered
c	con, cum - meaning "with"	bed rest c traction
C.	centigrade	T. 55° C.
C-1-X11	1st to 12th cranial nerve	C-V involv.
Ca	cancer, or carcinoma	Ca bone
ca.	about	pain ca elbow
Cal.	calorie, calories	1500 Cal. diet
Calc.	calcium	bld. Calc. decr.
caps.	capsule	caps. i 111 daily
car.	carotid	car. art.
card.	cardiac	card. status stable
Cauc.	caucasian	WDWN Cauc., F.
CBC	complete blood count	lab. for CBC
cc, c.c.	cubic centimeters	20 cc Sa sol.
C.C.	chief complaint	C.C.: abd. pain
C.D.	contagious disease (ward)	C.D. treatment
C.E.	cardiac enlargement	C.E. 111 F. rt.
Cerv.	cervix, or cervical	Cerv. firm
cf.	compare	cf. ears
ch.	chest	strapping of ch.
chlor.	chlorides	bld. chlor. increased
C.I.	color index (of blood)	C.I. 0.85
Cl.	chloride	Cl. bld. test

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<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Use or Example</u>
clav.	clavicle	frac. rt. clav.
cm.	centimeter	index finger 7.5 cm.
comm.	communicable	comm. disease
CNS	central nervous system	CNS neg.
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide	CO ₂ output
Coc.	coccygeal	Coc. frac.
comb.	combine, combination	comb. heat and motion
comf.	comfortable	made comf.
comp.	compound, compress	comp. frac. lt. leg
cons.	consultation	neuro. cons. neg.
cont.	continue, containing, continuous	cont. I. V.
contrib.	contributory	pre-existing inj. non-contrib.
cpd.	compound	cpd. frac.
CR	cardiorespiratory system	CR sys. pos.
cran.	cranial	cran. bld. supply
Cr. Ns.	cranial nerves	Cr. Ns. 111 pinched
C.S.	central service	C.S. supply
CSF	cerebrospinal fluid	CSF pos.
C-V	cardiovascular	C-V neg
CVA	cost-vertebral angle	fluid, rt CVA
CVA	cerebrovascular accident (stroke)	CVA at home
Cysto	cystoscopy	to cysto for bladder study
D & C	dilatation & curettage	D & C 6 mo. prev.
dehyd.	dehydrated	Cauc. M. dehyd.
depr.	depressed	bone frac. depr.
dept.	department	Acct. dept.
decr.	decrease, decreased	decr. resp.
diff.	differential (blood count)	diff. abnorm.
dil.	dilute, diluted	2 oz. Sa. dil. c water
dim.	diminish, diminished	pulse dim.
dis.	disease	infect. dis.
dist.	distilled (water)	10 oz. dist. aq.
dist.	distal	dist. Hd. fem.
DOA	dead on arrival	pt. DOA 10:30 P.M.
Dors.	dorsal	Dors. back sprain
D.P.	dorsalis pedis (pulse)	D.P. felt on rt. only

MEDICAL RECORD ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Use or Example</u>
Dr.	Doctor	
DTR's	deep tendon reflexes	DTR's normal
ECG	electrocardiogram	ECG neg.
EEG	electroencephalogram	EEG neg.
EENT	eye, ear, nose & throat	EENT neg.
EKG (German)	electrocardiogram	EKG inconclusive
Elev.	elevated	Keep leg elev.
En.	enema	En A.M.
ENT	ear, nose & throat	ENT neg.
EOM	extraocular muscles, equal ocular movements	EOM pos.
EOM	external otitis media	EOM diag.
Eos.	eosinophiles	Eos. normal
ESR	erythrocyte sedimentation rate	ESR normal
ess.	essentially	examination ess. neg.
excess.	excessive	excess. sweating
ext.	external	ext. genitalia
extr.	extremities, extremity	upper extr.
extens.	extension, extensor	lac. extens. muscle
F.	finger(s)	iiF. from elbow
F.	in history, can mean either female or father	
F.	fahrenheit (temperature)	98.6° F
fem.	femoral, femur	fem. a.
F.H.	family history	F.H. neg.
flac.	flaccid	biceps flac.
flex.	flexor, flexion	flex. of biceps weak
fl. oz.	fluid ounces	8 fl. oz., aq.
fl.	fluids	replace fl.
Fo.	fomentation	Fo. to lt. arm
Ft.	foot, or feet	frac. rt. ft.
Fr., Frx., Fx., or frac.	fracture	frac. lt. clav.
G. or gm.	gram or grams	pt. received 60 gm. Zn Oint.
G.B.	gall bladder	G.B. stones
gen. or genl.	general	gen. health

MEDICAL RECORD ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Use or Example</u>
genit.	genitalia	inflamed genit.
G.I.	gastro-intestinal	G.I. series neg.
gluc.	glucose	urine neg. for gluc.
gr.	grains (dosage)	pentobarbitol gr. iss h.s.
grav.	gravid	pt. grav. i.
gt, gtt.	drop, drops	2 gtt. t.i.d.
G.U.	genito-urinary	G.U. sys. normal
Gyn.	gynecology, gynecological, gynecologist	request Gyn. consult.
h.	hour (as g.h.)	B/P q.h.
H.	hypodermic	m.s. gr. 1/4 per. H.
HCL	hydrochloric acid	HCL dilute c aq.
H & C	hot and cold	H & C to back
Hd.	head	lac. of Hd.
hern.	herniated	hern. ann. fib. L4-5
hg. or hbg.	hemoglobin	hg. normal
hist.	history	hist. non contrib.
Hr.	hour	q 2 Hr.
H.S. or h.s.	hour of sleep	1 cap. at H.S.
Ht.	height or heart	Ht. normal
hyst.	hysterectomy, or hysteria	hyst. 5 yrs ago
I	radioactive iodine	I ¹³¹ shows 20% uptake
i, ii, iii	1, 2, 3, etc.	Para ii
i.d.	in diem (during the day)	visitors i.d.
in.	inch	60 in.
inj.	injured	lt. leg inj. in fall
int.	internal	int. organs
involv.	involved	Pt. involv. in fight
I.M.	intramuscular (injection)	i ml. B ₁₂ I.M.
irreg.	irregular	resp. irreg.
irrig.	irrigate, irrigation	irrig. O.D.
I.V.	intravenous	I.V. ordered
IVD	intervertebral disc	IVD L4-5
IVP	intravenous pyelogram	IVP requested
IVU	intravenous urogram	IVU completed
Jt.	joint	frac. elbow Jt.
K.	potassium	check K. level

MEDICAL RECORD ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Use or Example</u>
K.	kidney	lt. K. infected
KJ	knee jerk	lt. KJ present
KUB	kidney, ureter, bladder (x-ray)	KUB normal
L.	can variously mean liver, liter, left, lower, light, lumbar (depending on context)	10 L.
L & A	light and accommodation (reflexes of pupil)	L & A normal
lab.	laboratory	tissue spec. to lab.
lac.	laceration	lac. lt. hand
lacr.	lacrimal	lacr. probe ordered
lact.	lactic acid, lactate, lactating	lac. abd.
lam.	laminectomy	lam. L4-5
lap.	laparotomy	lap. recommended
lat.	lateral	pain rt. lat. ch.
lav.	lavatory	lav. privileges denied
lb.	pound	20 lb. traction to neck
L.E.	can mean lupus erythematosus, or lower extremities	L.E. diagnosed
leuc.	leucocytes (in blood)	leuc. normal
lg.	leg or large	lac. lt. lg.
lig.	ligament	torn lig. rt. knee
liq.	liquid	liq. only
L.L.E.	left lower extremity	L.L.E. hot
L. lat.	left lateral	L. Lat. chest
LOA	left occip. anterior obstetrics	LOA present
LOP	left occipital posterior	LOP present
L.P.	lumbar puncture	L.P. recommended
L.S.	lumbrosacral	L.S. strain
LSK	liver, spleen & kidneys	LSK normal
Lt., lt.	light, or left	sprain lt. hip
L.U.E.	left upper extremity	L.U.E. ampt.
lumb.	lumbar	lumb. reflexes
L & W	living and well	M. l & w

MEDICAL RECORD ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Use or Example</u>
lymphs	lymphocytes (in blood)	lymphs. normal
m.	minims (1/16th of fluid dram)	10 m. Hcl
M.	in history, means male or mother	WDWN M.
M.	meter	M. stomach tube
Macro.	macrocytic, macroscopic	cyst of macro. proportion
max.	maximum, or maxillary	lt. max. pain
mcg. or mcgm.	microgram	8 mcg. B ₁₂ O.D.
MCH	mean corpuscular hemoglobin	MCH 30
MCHC	mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration	MCHC 35%
MCV	mean corpuscular volume	MCV 90 cu. micro
med.	medial	med. aspect lt. arm
mEq./L	milliequivalents (mEq./L -per liter)	Na.-121 mEq./L
mg. or mgm.	milligrams	410 mg. arsthinol q.d.
micro.	microcytic, microscopic	WBC micro
min.	minimal, or minimum	min. back again
ml.	milliliter (approximately 1 cc.)	1 ml. camphor in oil
mm.	muscles	im. prn. abd. mm. firm
MN	mononuclears (leucocytes)	MN normal
Mod.	moderate, moderately	mod. curve. spine
monos.	monocytes (in blood)	monos. normal
M.S.	multiple sclerosis	R/O M.S.
m.s.	morphine sulphate	m.s. ordered
Ms	murmurs	Ms present
Mss	massage	mss to back
M.T.	muscles and tendons	M.T. intact
multip.	multiparous (more than one child delivered at one birth)	Multip. delivery
musc.	muscle, muscles, muscular	Pt. has musc. spasm
M.T.	membrane tympani (ear drum)	rt. M.T. neg.

MEDICAL RECORD ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Use or Example</u>
PBI	protein-bound iodine	PBI 5.5
p/c, p.c.	after meals	bed rest p/c
PCV	packed cell volume (of blood)	PCV elevated
pdr.	powder	dusting pdr.
P.E.	physical examination	P.E. within normal limits
ped.	pediatrics	ped. service
PEG	pneumoencephalogram	PEG in P.M.
Per.	perineal	inflamed Per.
pen.	penicillin	pos. to pen.
P.F.	push fluids	P.F. to 2,000 ml.
pH	acidity value of blood or urine	pH 7.0
P.H.	past history or personal history	P.H. not remarkable
physio.	physiotherapy, physical therapy	physio. ordered
P.I.	present illness	P.I.: backache
p ¹³¹	radioactive phosphorus	p ¹³¹ test
P.M.	afternoon	schedule P.M. x-ray
PMN	polymorphonuclear (leucocytes)	PMN normal
pneu.	pneumo, pneumonia	pneu. 2 yrs. ago
po	per oral (by mouth)	penicillin po.
P.O.	post-operative	3 weeks P.O. care
polys.	polymorphonuclear (leucocytes)	polys. increased
pos.	positive	pos. lt. Laseques sign
post.	posterior	post. x-ray spine
pot. or potass.	potassium	test for pot. distribution in body fluids
pre-op	preoperative	order pre-op workup
prev.	previous	prev. hist. of diabetes
primip.	primiparous (first pregnancy, no prior pregnancies)	Pt. in primip.
P.R.N.	therapy in dosage, means as required, when necessary, as needed	medication P.R.N.
pron.	pronator, pronation	restricted pron.

MEDICAL RECORD ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Use or Example</u>
pros.	prostate, prostatic	pros. normal
prox.	proximal	prox. end of tibia
PSP	phenolsulfonphthalein test	PSP in P.M.
Pt., pt.	patient	Pt. admitted
P.T.	physiotherapy, physical therapy	to P.T. for exercises
P.T.	posterior tibial artery pulse	P.T. pulse weak
Pwd.	powder	apply Pwd.
Px.	physical examination	Px. ordered
q.q.	every	q A.M.
q.d.	every day	10 fl. oz. q.d.
q.n.	every night	alcR. back q.n.
q.2.h.	every two hours	medication q.2.h.
q.i.d.	four times a day	amb. 4 q.i.d.
q.n.s.	quantity not sufficient	blood q.n.s. (for testing)
q.s., qs.	quantity sufficient	specimen q.s. (when not measured)
qts. (handwriting corruption)	drops	3 qts. o.d. for 3 d.
q.v.	as much as you wish	liq. q.v.
R.	right, rub	alc. R. to lt. shoulder
R., (R)	rectal (temperature)	T. per R.
rad.	radial	rad. nerve
RBC	red blood cells	RBC's decreased
rect.	rectum, rectal, rectis (muscle)	rect. muscle spasm
rehab.	rehabilitation	rehab. started
resp.	respiratory, respiration	resp. shallow
Rh	Rh factor of blood	Rh negative
R/O	rule out	R/O IVD
ROA	right occiput anterior	ROA presentation
ROP	right occiput posterior (obstetrics)	ROP presentation
s	sine (without)	Fo. s hot compress
Sa.	saline	Sa. solution

MEDICAL RECORD ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Use or Example</u>
Sed. rate	sedimentation rate of blood	Sed. rate 8 mm./hr.
sem. ves.	seminal vesicles	inflammation of sem.
sens.	sensory, sensation	sens. to pin prick neg.
sero. or serol.	serology, serological	sero. test normal
SGO-T	serum glutamic oxalacetic transaminase (test)	SGO-T 110
SGP-T	serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase	SGP-T 80
skel.	skeletal	skel. mm. intact
sibs.	siblings	3 sibs. 1 & w
sig.	take (on prescription)	sig. ii czps. P.R.N.
sl.	slight, slightly	pt. sl. dizzy
SLR	straight-leg raising (test)	SLR neg. on rt.
sod.	sodium	low sod. diet
S.O.S.	when necessary	hot compresses S.O.S.
sp.	spine, spinal	x-ray sp.
sp. cd.	spinal cord	sp. cd. severed
spec.	specimen	urine spec. to lab.
sp. fl.	spinal fluid	sp. fl. cloudy
spg.	sponge	spg. bath
sp. gr.	specific gravity	sp. gr. 1.006
spin.	spine, spinal, spinous	pain over C7 spin. process
S.R.	sedimentation rate	S.R. norm
ss	one-half	ml. ss h.s.
s.s.	soap suds	s.s. En.
SSE	soap suds enema	SSE in A.M.
stat.	immediately, at once	I.V. stat.
stom., st.	stomach	dist. st.
S.T.S.	serological test for syphilis	S.T.S. neg.
subcut.	subcutaneous	subcut. injection
sulf.	sulfate	M. sulf. forbidden
sup.	superior	sup. orbital fissure
supin.	supination	supin. rt. arm restricted
surg.	surgery	card. surg.
sys.	system	respiratory sys.
T.	temperature	T. normal

MEDICAL RECORD ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Use or Example</u>
T & A	tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy	T & A at 13 yrs. of age
tab.	tablet	aspirin tab. P.R.N.
talc.	talcum	talc. rub P.M.
T.A.T.	tetanus antitoxin	T.A.T. given
T.F.	tuning fork	T.F. test pos. for A.D.
thor.	thorax, thoracic	3rd thor. Vert.
thromb.	thrombosis	coronary thromb.
t.i.d.	three times a day	2 caps. t.i.d.
T.M.	tympanum membrani (ear drum)	T.M. punctured
TPR	temperature, pulse, respiration	TPR normal
uln.	ulnar	frac. distal 3rd uln.
upper G.I.	upper gastrointestinal (as in series of x-rays)	upper G.I. pos.
Vag.	vaginal	Vag. exam neg.
V.C.	vital capacity	V.C. 4000 cc.
V.D.	venereal disease	R/O V.D.
VDRL	serologic test for venereal disease (venereal disease research laboratory)	VDRL pos.
vent.	ventral	bruise vent. surf. abd
VI	volume index	VI 3.1 L./min./sq.M.
V.I.	vaginal irrigation	V.I. daily A.M.
vol.	volume	pulm. res. vol. 1.0-1.5 L.
WBC	white blood count	WBC normal
w.d., WD	well developed	w.d.m.
wh. ch.	white child, wheel chair	use of wh. ch. OK
w.n., WN	well nourished	w.n.f.
w.m., WM	white male	40 yr. old w.m.
w.f., WF	white female	21 yr. old w.f.
wt.	weight, weigh	wt. A.M.
X	times	3 X q.d.