**COMMON MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS**

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To discuss a therapeutic regimen with a physician you must speak his language. The terminology that will confront you in the patient care areas is different from that to which you have previously been exposed. A typical conversation you might hear at the patient's bedside would go something like, " I hear an S-2 and S-4 with no split sounds or opening snap. Since there has been no history of dyspnea and the ASO was negative, I suspect an ASD or VSD, but we will not know for sure until after the results of the cath." An admission order written by the physician might read "up ad lib, ADA diet (2000 cal), S&A, MOM 30 ml, hs, pm. Lab tests as follows: CBC, Crit., Amylase, CPK, PBI, Blood Gases, BUN, Creatinine, LDH, SGOT, SGPT and Lytes." The language of the physician is oriented toward disease, diagnostic tests and treatment.

The most commonly encountered abbreviations and terminology will be helpful to you as a reference source. If you are not familiar with a term that is used, you should consult a medical dictionary or ask the physician.

**Abbreviations**

Abbreviation Explanation

ABE Acute bacterial endocarditis

ABS Admitting blood sugar

ADA American Dietetic Association

AF Acid Fast

ad lib As desired

A/G Albumin-globulin ratio

AHCA Agency for Healthcare Administration

AMA Against Medical Advice

AK Above knee amputation

A.L.T. Alanine Aminotransferase (formerly called SGPT)

Amb Ambulant

Ant Anterior

ANA Antinuclear antibody

ASCVD arteriosclerotic vascular disease ([arteriosclerosis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arteriosclerosis))

ASD Atrial septum defect

ASHD Arteriosclerotic heart disease

ASO Antistreptolysin 0

A.S.T. Aspartate Aminotransferase (formerly SCOT)

AV Atrioventricular

BBB Bundle branch block or blood brain barrier

BBT Basal body temperature

BE Barium enema

BJ Bone and joint

BKA Below knee amputation

BM Bowel movement

BMR Basal Metabolic rate

BP Blood pressure

BRP Bathroom privileges

BS Breath sounds or bowel sounds

BSA Body surface area

BSP Bromsulphalein

BUN Blood urea nitrogen

BW Body weight

Bx Biopsy

Ca Carcinoma

Cal Calorie

C and S Culture and sensitivity

CBC Complete blood count

CC Chief complaint

Ceph Floc Cephalin Flocculation

CFT Complement fixation test

CHF Congestive heart failure

CHO Carbohydrate

chr Chronic

c/o Complains of

CNS Central nervous system

COLD Chronic obstructive lung disease

CONG Congenital

COPD Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

CPK Creatinine phosphokinase

CSF Cerebrospinal fluid

CST Convulsive shock therapy

CT Circulation time

CV Cardiovascular

CVA Cerebrovascular accident

CVD Cardiovascular disease

CVP Central venous pressure

D/C Discontinue

D and C Dilation and curettage

Derm Dermatology

diff Differential blood count

DM Diabetes mellitus

DOA Dead on arrival

DOE Dyspnea on exertion

DTR Deep tendon reflex

DQA Division of Quality Assurance

DX Diagnosis

ECG Electrocardiogram

ECT Electroconvulsive therapy

EEG Electroencephalogram

EENT Eye, ear, nose and throat

EKG Electrocardiogram

eg For example

EMG Electromyography

EPS Extra pyramidal syndrome

ER Emergency room

ESR Erythrocyte sedimentation rate

EST Electroshock therapy

Ext Extremities

FBS Fasting blood sugar

F and R Force and rhythm of pulse

FH Family history

Fld Fluid

FRC Functional residual capacity

FTA Fluorescent treponemal antibody

FUO Fever of undetermined origin

Fx Fracture

GB Gallbladder

Gc Gonorrhea

GFR Glomerular filtration rate

GI Gastrointestinal

G-6-PD Glucose-6 phosphate dehydrogenase

GSW Gun shot wound

GTT Glucose tolerance test

GU Genitourinary

GYN Gynecology

H Hypodermic

h Hour

Hb Hemoglobin

HCT Hematocrit

HCVD Hypertensive cardiovascular disease

Hgb Hemoglobin

H and P History and physical

HPI History of present illness

HT Height

HTVD Hypertensive vascular disease

Hx History

ICS Intercostal space

ICU Intensive care unit

I and D Incision and drainage

I and 0 Input and output

IM Intramuscular

Imp Impression

inf Inferior

int Interval

Int Med Internal medicine

IOP Intraocular pressure

IP Intraperitoneal

IPPB Intermittent positive pressure breathing

IV Intravenous

IVP Intravenous pyelogram

IVT Intravenous transfusion

JVD Jugular Venous distention

K Potassium

Kg Kilogram

KO Keep open

KUB Kidney, ureter, bladder

KVO Keep vein open

lat Lateral

L and A Light and accommodation (of pupils)

LBBB Left bundle branch block

LCM Left costal margin

LBCD Left border cardiac dullness

LDH Lactic acid dehydrogenase

LE Lupus erythematosus

LLQ Left lower quadrant

LMD Local medical doctor

LMP Last menstrual period

LOA Leave of absence

LUQ Left upper quadrant

LP Lumbar puncture

LVH Left ventricular hypertrophy

L and W Living and well

MCH Mean corpuscular hemoglobin

MCV Mean corpuscular volume

Med Medicine

MH Menstrual history

MI Myocardial infarction

rnm Millimeter

MOM Milk of magnesia

MRXI May repeat times one

MS Mitral stenosis or multiple schlerosis or morphine sulfate

MSE Mental status examination

MMSE Mini Mental Status Exam

N Normal

NB Newborn

Neg Negative

NM Neuromusclar

NG Nasogastric tube

NOS Not Otherwise Specified (used as part of a diagnosis)

NPN Nonprotein nitrogen

NPO Nothing by mouth

N/S Normal saline

NSR Normal sinus rhythm

NTP Normal temperature and pressure

NTG Nitroglyercin

NYD Not yet diagnosed

OB Obstetrics

OB-GYN Obstetrics and gynecology

OOB Out of bed

OR Operating room

OT Occupational therapy

P Pulse

p After

PAC Premature atrial contraction

P and A Percussion and auscultation

Para 1 Having bom one child

PAT Paroxysmal atrial tachycardia

PBI Protein - bound iodine

PCV Packed Cell Volume

PCO**2** Carbon dioxide partial pressure

PE Physical examination

PM Post mortem

PHC Post hospital care

PMH Past medical hospital

##### PI Present illness

PID Pelvic inflammatory disease

PO By mouth

Post Op Post operative

PP Post partum

PPD Purified protein derivative of tuberculin

PPT Partial prothrombin time

PRA Plasma renin activity

Pre Op before surgery

P and R Pulse and respiration

PRN When necessary

##### Prog Prognosis

Ps Posterior

PSP Phenosulfonphthalein

Pt Patient

PT Physical therapy

PVC Premature ventricular contraction

qd Every day

qh Every hour

qod Every other day

R Right

RA Agglutinins or right atrium

RBBB Right bundle branch block

RBC Red blood cell

RHD Rheumatic heart disease

RLQ Right lower quadrant

R/O Rule out

ROM Range of motion exercise

RPF Renal plasma flow

RR Recovery room

ROS Review of systems

RV Right ventricle

RVH Right ventricular hypertrophy

RUQ Right upper quadrant

Rx Treatment

s Without

S-A Sino-atrial

SBE Subacute bacterial endocarditis

SC Subcutaneous

SGOT Serum glutamic oxalacetic transaminase

SGPT Serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase

SH Social history

Sig Let it be labeled

SOB Shortness of breath

s/p Status Post

Sp gr Specific gravity

SR Sedimentation rate

STAT At once

STS Serologic test for syphilis

sup Superior

Sx Symptoms

T Temperature

T and A tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy

TB Tuberculosis

TBW Total body water

TCA's Tricyclic antidepressants

TIBC Total iron binding capacity

TP Total protein

TPN Total parenteral nutrition

TPR Temperature, pulse and respiration

TUR Transurethral resection

TV Trial visit

Tx Treatment

URI Upper respiratory infection

UTI Urinary tract infection

VC Vital capacity or vena cava

VD Venereal disease

VDH Valvular disease of heart

VDRL Venereal disease research laboratory

VF Visual field

vis Namely

VMA Vanilmandelic acid

VP Venous pressure

VS Vital signs

VSD Ventricular septal defect

WBC White blood cells

WNL Within normal limits

Wt Weight