

Adhesions: A [fibrous band](#) or [structure](#) by which [parts](#) abnormally adhere.

Aetiology: study of disease causes

Allodynia: ordinarily nonpainful [stimuli](#) evoke [pain](#) .

Anaesthesia: The loss of [feeling](#) or [sensation](#)

Analgesia: of insensitivity to [pain](#) , [even](#) though the [subject](#) is fully [conscious](#) .

Analgesia dolorosa (also analgesia algera or anaesthesia dolorosa): [Spontaneous pain](#) in a [body area](#) that [lacks sensation](#) .

Analgesic: an agent that brings about analgesia

Arachnoid: [lies within](#) the [vertebral canal](#) and surrounds the [spinal cord](#) and the [vertebral](#) portion of the [subarachnoid space](#)

. It [extends](#) from the [foramen magnum](#) to the S-2 vertebral level. Since the [spinal cord ends](#)

at the L-2 vertebral level, a wide [separation](#) occurs between the arachnoid and [pia mater](#)

, the [lumbar cistern](#) , filled with [cerebrospinal fluid](#) in which the [cauda equina](#) is suspended.

Arachnoid cyst A [fluid](#) -filled [cyst](#) lined with [arachnoid membrane](#) , frequently situated [near](#) the [lateral aspect](#) of the [fissure](#) of Sylvius; usually [congenital](#) in [origin](#)

. Synonym:

[leptomeningeal cyst](#)

.

Arnold Chiari malformation: Chiari I herniation of medulla and [cerebellar tonsils](#) , 4th ventricle in normal position, Chiari II herniation of medulla, tonsils,

[vermis](#)

, 4th ventricle at foramen magnum, myelomeningocele, aqueductal stenosis most likely to be [hydrocephalus](#)

, Chiari III further herniation, 4th ventricle below

[foramen](#)

[magnum](#)

,

[encephalocele](#)

or myelomeningocele

[associated](#)

with:

[agenesis of corpus callosum](#)

,

[syrinx](#)

Arteriovenous malformation: A tangled collection of [abnormal](#) [blood vessels](#) where there is an abnormal

[c](#)

[ommunication](#)

between the

[arterial](#)

and

[venous](#)

[systems](#)

, mostly

[congenital](#)

. Common

[sites](#)

include;

[skin](#)

,

[liver](#)

,

[brain](#)

,

[brainstem](#)

and

[spinal cord](#)

, where they may

[cause](#)

[headaches](#)

,

[seizures](#)

or

[bleeding](#)

(

[subarachnoid haemorrhage](#)

). Synonym: haemangioma

Aseptic meningitis A [meningeal](#) [reaction](#) in the [cerebrospinal fluid](#) sometimes occurring in the [absence](#) of an

infecting

[organism](#)

. It can be due to a

[virus](#)

,

[foreign](#)

[substance](#)

,

[diagnostic](#)

or

[therapeutic](#)

[procedure](#)

, or to a

[tumour](#)

Asymptomatic: Without obvious [symptoms](#) of [disease](#) .

Atrophy: A [wasting](#) away, a diminution in the [size](#) of a [cell](#) , [tissue](#) , [organ](#) or [part](#) .

Autoimmune A [condition](#) in which an individual's [immune system](#) [starts](#) reacting against his or her [own tissues](#)

, causing

[diseases](#)

such as

[lupus](#)

.

Autonomic nervous system not [under](#) [conscious](#) [control](#) , comprising two antagonistic [components](#)

, the

[sympathetic](#)

and

[parasympathetic nervous systems](#)

.

Regulates [key functions](#) including the [activity](#) of the [cardiac](#) ([heart](#)) [muscle, smooth muscles](#)

(e.g., of the

[gut](#)

), and

[glands](#)

. The autonomic

[nervous](#)

[system](#)

has two

[divisions](#)

: 1. Sympathetic nervous system:

[accelerates](#)

the

[heart rate](#)

, constricts

[blood vessels](#)

, and

[raises](#)

[blood pressure](#)

. 2. parasympathetic nervous system

[slows](#)

the

[heart rate](#)

,

[increases](#)

[intestinal](#)

and

[gland](#)

[activity](#)

, and

[relaxes](#)

[sphincter](#)

[muscles](#)

.

Baricity The [weight](#) of one [substance](#) compared to the weight of an [equal](#) [volume](#) of another substance at the

[same](#)

[temperature](#)

.

Calcification: The [process](#) by which [organic](#) [tissue](#) [becomes](#) hardened by a [deposit](#) of [c](#)

[alcium](#)

[salts](#)

[within](#)

its

[substance](#)

.

Calcify: To [deposit](#) or [lay down](#) [calcium](#) [salts](#), as in the [formation](#) of [bone](#).

Carpal tunnel syndrome [disturbance](#) of [median](#) [nerve](#) [function](#) in the [wrist](#) as the nerve

[passes](#)

[through](#)

the

[carpal](#)

[tunnel](#)

.

Cauda Equina: A [bundle](#) of [spinal nerve roots](#) which [arise](#) from the [termination](#) of the [spinal cord](#)
[proper](#)

, it comprises the roots of all the [spinal nerves](#) below L1.

Cauda Equina Syndrome: A [clinical syndrome](#) characterised by [dull pain](#) in the lower [back](#)

and [upper buttock region](#)

, [analgesia](#)

in the [buttocks](#)

, [genitalia](#)

(or [thigh](#)

), accompanied by a [disturbance](#)

of [bowel](#)

and [bladder function](#)

Central nervous system: [brain](#) , [cranial nerves](#) and [spinal cord](#) . It does not include [muscles](#) or [peripheral nerves](#)

Acronym: CNS

Central nervous system depressants: A very loosely defined [group](#) of [drugs](#) that tend to [reduce](#)

the [activity](#) of the [central nervous system](#)

. The [major groups included](#)

here are [ethyl alcohol](#)

,
[anaesthetics](#)

, hypnotics and sedatives,

[narcotics](#)

, and

[tranquillising agents](#)

(

[antipsychotics](#)

and antianxiety

[agents](#)

).

Clinical syndrome: [represents](#) a typical [constellation](#) of [physical](#) (and [laboratory](#)) [findings](#) that may be seen as

[part](#)

of a

[primary](#)

[disease](#)

[process](#)

.

Clinical trial: [Research study](#) conducted with [patients](#), usually to evaluate a new [treatment](#) or

[drug](#)

.

Cerebrospinal axis: The [central nervous system](#); the [brain](#) and [spinal cord](#).

Cerebrospinal fluid: A clear, colourless [fluid](#) that [fills](#) the [ventricles](#) of the [brain](#) and the [central canal](#)

of the

[spinal cord](#)

.

Cerebral ventricles: fluid-filled spaces in the brain

Cervical: Pertaining to the [neck](#) or to the neck of any [organ](#) or [structure](#).

Chemolysis: The dissolving of the [nucleus pulposus](#) of a displaced [intervertebral disk](#), usually by the

[direct](#)

[injection](#)

of a

[proteolytic enzyme](#)

, especially

[chymopapain](#)

, into the

[diseased](#)

disk.

Chiari: see Arnold Chiari malformation

Collagen: The [protein substance](#) of the [white fibres](#) ([collagenous](#) fibres) of [skin](#), [tendon](#)

,

[bone](#)

[cartilage](#)

and all other

[connective tissue](#)

. Collagenous= pertaining to collagen, forming or producing collagen.

Commensal: living within the body, as part of the normal flora.

Connective tissue: less specialised tissue that is [rich](#) in [extracellular matrix](#) ([collagen](#) , [proteoglycan](#)

etc.) and that surrounds other more highly

[ordered](#)

[tissues](#)

and

[organs](#)

. **Contiguous:** [Adjacent](#) or in [actual contact](#) .

Dermatome: ☐ (adj. **Dermatomal**) the area of the skin supplied by a spinal nerve.

Diabetic neuropathy: [Long](#) standing or [poorly](#) controlled [diabetes](#) can [cause permanent peripheral](#)

and

[autonomic](#)

[nerve](#)

[dysfunction](#)

known as

[diabetic](#)

[neuropathy](#)

. **Diaphoresis:** [Perspiration](#) , especially [profuse](#) perspiration. Synonym: [sudoresis](#) .

Discectomy: [Excision](#) , in [part](#) or [whole](#) , of an [intervertebral disk](#) . Synonym: [discotomy](#) .

Discitis: [Inflammation](#) of an [intervertebral disk](#) or disk [space](#) which may [lead](#) to disk [erosion](#) .

Discogram: an investigation imaging the intervertebral disc by injection of dye and X-ray.

Dura: [dura mater](#) .

Dural sac: = thecal sac; contains the three meningeal layers

Dural tear: a frequent, usually inconsequential, complication of lumbar laminectomy, occurring in perhaps as many as 1 in 20 lumbar stenosis decompression operations. Only a very small number of these require intervention. ☐

Dysaesthesia: An unpleasant [abnormal sensation](#) , whether [spontaneous](#) or evoked.

Dystonia: Disordered [tonicity](#) of [muscle](#) .

Encapsulated: wholly confined to a [specific area](#) , surrounded by a [capsule](#) . [Localised](#) .

Encephalopathy: Any [degenerative disease](#) of the [brain](#) .

Endoneural: Having to do with a [nerve](#) .

Epidural : [within](#) the [spinal canal](#) , on or [outside](#) the [dura mater](#) ; [synonyms](#) [extradural](#)

and

[peridural](#)

. **Epidural fibrosis:** scar tissue in the space outside the dural sac; [synonyms:](#) [peridural](#); [extradural](#)

Failed Back Surgery Syndrome: synonym: Post laminectomy syndrome; recurrent back/leg pain after surgery.

Fascia: The [flat layers](#) of [fibrous tissue](#) that [separate](#) different layers of [tissue](#) .

Fibrin: The [insoluble protein formed](#) from [fibrinogen](#) by the [proteolytic action](#) of [thrombin](#) during [normal](#)

[clotting of blood](#) ;
[forms](#) the [essential portion](#) of the [blood clot](#) .

Fibrinolytic: causing the [dissolution](#) of [fibrin](#) by [enzymatic action](#)

Fibrosis: The [formation](#) of [fibrous tissue](#) , [fibroid](#) or [fibrous degeneration](#) the [term](#) usually [refers](#)

to [tissue](#) laid [down](#) at a [wound site](#) [well](#) [vascularised](#) at [first](#) ([granulation tissue](#)) but later [avascular](#) and dominated by [collagen](#) [rich](#) [extracellular matrix](#) , forming a [scar](#) .

Foramen (pl. foramina): A [small opening](#) , [perforation](#) , or [orifice](#) ; a [fenestra](#) .

Granuloma: [Chronic inflammatory lesion](#) characterised by [large numbers](#) of [cells](#) of various

[types](#)

(

[macrophages](#)

,

[lymphocytes](#)

,

[fibroblasts](#)

,

[giant](#)

[cells](#)

), some degrading and some repairing the

[tissues](#)

.

Hemiparesis: weakness on one side of the body

Herniation: Bulging of [tissue](#) [through](#) an [opening](#) in a [membrane](#) , [muscle](#) or [bone](#) .

Hydrocephalus: [dilatation](#) of the [cerebral](#) [ventricles](#) , most often occurring [secondarily](#) to [obstruction](#)

of the

[cerebrospinal fluid](#)

pathways and accompanied by an

[accumulation](#)

of

[cerebrospinal](#)
[fluid](#)

[within](#)

the

[skull](#)

, the fluid is usually

[under](#)

increased

[pressure](#)

, but occasionally may be

[normal](#)

or nearly so.

Hyperaesthesia: A [neurologic symptom](#) where there is an unusual increased or altered [sensitivity](#)

to

[sensory](#)
[stimuli](#)

.

Hyperbaric: Characterised by greater than [normal](#) [pressure](#) or [weight](#) , applied to [gases](#) [under](#)

greater than

[atmospheric](#)

pressure, as hyperbaric

[oxygen](#)

or to a
[solution](#)
of greater
[specific gravity](#)
than another taken as a
[standard](#)
of
[reference](#)

.
Hyperthyroidism: excessive thyroid activity causing increased [metabolic rate](#) , [enlargement](#)
of the
[thyroid gland](#)
, rapid
[heart rate](#)
,
[high blood pressure](#)
and various
[secondary](#)
[symptoms](#)

.
Hypothyroidism: A [deficiency](#) of [thyroid activity](#) .

Iatrogenic: Induced inadvertently by the [medical treatment](#) or [procedures](#) or activity of a [physician](#)

. synonym: nosocomial

Idiopathic: unknown cause

Inflammation: A [localised protective response](#) elicited by [injury](#) or destruction of [tissues](#) ,
which

[serves](#)

to destroy,

[dilute](#)

or

[wall](#)

off (

[sequester](#)

) both the

[injurious](#)

[agent](#)

and the injured tissue.

It is characterised in the [acute](#) form by the classical [signs](#) of [pain](#) ([dolor](#)), [heat](#) ([calor](#)),
redness (

[rubor](#)

),

[swelling](#)

(

[tumour](#)

) and loss of

[function](#)

(

[functio laesa](#)

).

Intervertebral: Situated between two [contiguous](#) [vertebrae](#) .

Intervertebral disc: The [intervertebral](#) [discs](#) or [nucleus](#) [pulposus](#) are fibro- [cartilaginous](#) and

[lie](#)

between the

[vertebral](#)

[bodies](#)

in the

[spine](#)

.

Intracranial pressure: The [pressure](#) the [cerebrospinal fluid](#) exerts on the [brain](#) .

Laminectomy: [surgical](#) [procedure](#) including removal of a [portion](#) of the [bone](#) comprising a [vertebra](#)

.

Leptomeninges The two [delicate](#) [layers](#) of the [meninges](#) , the [arachnoid mater](#) and [pia](#) [mater](#)

(

[vs](#)

. The tough

[pachymeninx](#)

or

[dura mater](#)

), considered together; by this

[concept](#)

, the

[arachnoid](#)

and

[pia](#)

are two

[parts](#)

of a

[single](#)

layer, much like the

[parietal](#)

and

[visceral layers](#)

of a

[serous membrane](#)

or

[bursa](#)

; although separated by the

[subarachnoid space](#)

they are connected

[via](#)

the arachnoid trabeculae and become

[continuous](#)

where the

[nerves](#)

and

[filum terminale](#)

exit the

[subarachnoid](#)

[space](#)

(the

[cerebrospinal fluid](#)

-filled space bounded by the leptomeninges).

Localised: A [disease](#) found only in the [original site](#), with no [spread](#) to other [organs](#).

Loculation: 1. A [loculate region](#) in an [organ](#) or [tissue](#), or a loculate [structure](#)

Lumbar: Pertaining to the [loins](#), the [part](#) of the [back](#) between the [thorax](#) and the [pelvis](#).

Lymphatic system: The [tissues](#) and [organs](#) (including the [bone marrow](#), [spleen](#), [thymus](#) and

[lymph nodes](#)

) that

[produce](#)

and

[store](#)

[cells](#)

that fight

[infection](#)

and the

[network](#)

of

[vessels](#)

that carry

[lymph](#)

. Lymph is an almost colourless

[fluid](#)

that

[bathes](#)

[body](#)

[tissues](#)

and is found in the

[lymphatic vessels](#)

Meninges: The surrounding [membranes](#) the [brain](#) and [spinal cord](#). There are three [layers](#):

[dura mater](#)

(outer),

[arachnoid](#)

membrane (
[middle](#)

) and the
[pia mater](#)

(
[inner](#)

layer).

Meningism: The [symptoms](#) and [signs](#) of [meningeal irritation](#)

Meningitis: [Inflammation](#) of the [meninges](#) .

Mononeuropathy: [Disorder](#) involving a [single nerve](#) .

Mononeuropathy multiplex: [inflammation](#) of several [nerves](#) usually in unrelated [portions](#) of the
[body](#)

Myelogram: [diagnostic procedure](#) where a [radiopaque contrast dye](#) is [injected](#) into the [spinal canal](#)

Myoclonus: Twitching or [spasm](#) of a [muscle](#) or a [group](#) of muscles.

Myelomalacia: Softening of the [spinal cord](#) .

Myelopathy Any [disease](#) affecting the [spinal cord](#) .

Myopathy: Any [disease](#) of a [muscle](#) .

Narcotics: Originally, [agents](#) that caused [somnolence](#) or induced [sleep](#) ; now, any [derivative](#) , [natural](#) or
[synthetic](#)

, of
[opium](#)

or
[morphine](#)

or any
[substance](#)

that has their
[effects](#)

Neurogenic: Arising from or caused by the [nervous system](#) .

Neuroimmunomodulation: a complex interaction between the nervous system and the immune system. □

Neuropathic: [functional disturbances](#) and/or [pathological changes](#) in the [peripheral nervous system](#) .

Neurotransmitter: Any of a [group](#) of [substances](#) that are released on [excitation](#) from the [axon terminal](#)

of a
[presynaptic](#)

[neuron](#)

of the central or

[peripheral nervous system](#)

and

[travel](#)

across the

[synaptic cleft](#)

to either

[excite](#)

or

[inhibit](#)

the

[target](#)

[cell](#)

. E.g.

[acetylcholine](#)

,

[noradrenaline](#)

,

[adrenaline](#)

,

[dopamine](#)

,

[glycine](#)

, γ aminobutyrate,

[glutamic acid](#)

,

[substance P](#)

,

[enkephalins](#)

,

[endorphins](#)

and

[serotonin](#)

.

Oedema: abnormally [large](#) [amounts](#) of [fluid](#) in the [intercellular](#) [tissue](#) [spaces](#) of the [body](#)

, may be

[localised](#)

, due to

[venous](#)

or

[lymphatic](#)

[obstruction](#)

or to increased

[vascular](#)

[permeability](#)

or it may be

[systemic](#)

due to

[heart failure](#)

or

[renal](#)

[disease](#)

.

Collections of oedema [fluid](#) are designated according to the [site](#) , for example [ascites](#) ([peritoneal cavity](#)

),

[hydrothorax](#)

(

[pleural cavity](#)

) and

[hydropericardium](#)

(

[pericardial sac](#)

).

[Massive](#)

[generalised](#)

oedema is called

[anasarca](#)

.

Optochiasmic: in the region of the optic chiasm, the crossover point of the two optic nerves from the back of the eyes.

Osteoporosis: A [reduction](#) in the [amount](#) of [bone mass](#) , leading to [fractures](#) after [minimal trauma](#)

.

Pachymeningitis: [Inflammation](#) of the [dura mater](#) or outer [membrane](#) of the [brain](#) .

Paraesthesia: an [abnormal](#) sensation, as [burning](#) , prickling, [formication](#) , etc.

Paresis: weakness (cf. Paralysis= total loss of power)

Paraparesis: weakness in the lower part of the body

Percutaneous: Performed [through](#) the [skin](#) , as [injection](#) of radiopaque [material](#) in [radiological examination](#)

or the removal of

[tissue](#)

for

[biopsy](#)

accomplished by a

[needle](#)

.

Perineural: surrounding a nerve

Peripheral nerves: The [nerves](#) [outside](#) of the [brain](#) and [spinal cord](#) , including the [autonomic](#) , [cranial](#) , and [spinal nerves](#)

Pia: The [delicate](#) and highly [vascular](#) [membrane](#) immediately [investing](#) the [brain](#) and [spinal cord](#)

Polyneuropathy: A [disease](#) [process](#) involving a [number](#) of [peripheral](#) [nerves](#) .

Prolapse: The [falling down](#) or sinking, of a [part](#) or [viscus](#) , [prolapsed](#) .

Prolapsed disc: [abnormal](#) [protrusion](#) (bulging), [herniation](#) or [prolapse](#) of a [vertebral](#) [disc](#) from its [normal](#) [position](#) in the vertebral [column](#)

. The displaced disc may exert [force](#) on a nearby [nerve](#) [root](#)

Prognosis: [forecast](#) of the probable outcome of an [attack](#) or [disease](#)

Pseudomeningocele: an extension of the subarachnoid space into the soft tissue surrounding the central nervous system. Unlike meningocele, pseudomeningocele is cerebrospinal fluid not bounded or confined by a biological membrane.

Radiculopathy: the [radicular](#) nerve (nerve [root](#)) is [compressed](#) by the [prolapsed disk](#) is referred to as a radiculopathy. This [problem](#) tends to occur most commonly in the [cervical](#) and [lumbar](#) [spine](#)

Raynaud's Phenomenon: a condition causing abnormal response to cold in the extremities causing pallor, pins and needles and pain, followed by redness.□

Regional anaesthesia: [Use](#) of [local anaesthetic](#) solution(s) to [produce](#) [circumscribed](#) [are](#) [as](#) of loss of [sensation](#) ; a [generic](#) [term](#) including

[conduction](#)

,
[nerve block](#)

,
[spinal](#)

,
[epidural](#)

,
[field block](#)

,
[infiltration](#)

, and

[topical anaesthesia](#)

.
Rheumatology: branch of medicine dealing with arthritis and related conditions

Rhinosinusogenic: originating from chronic infection in the nose/nasal sinuses

Sacral: of or pertaining to the [sacrum](#) ; in the [region](#) of the sacrum.

Sacrum: The [triangular](#) -shaped [bone](#) [lying](#) between the 5th [lumbar](#) [vertebra](#) and the [coccyx](#)

(tailbone).

It consists of 5 [vertebrae](#) fused together and it [articulates](#) on each [side](#) with the [bones](#) of the

[pelvis](#)

(

[ilium](#)

), forming the

[sacroiliac](#)

[joints](#)

.
Saddle anaesthesia: loss of sensation in [buttocks](#) , [perineum](#) , and [inner](#) [surfaces](#) of the thighs.

Stenosis: Narrowing or [stricture](#) of a [duct](#) or [canal](#) . Spinal stenosis: An [abnormal](#) narrowing of the

[spinal](#)

[canal](#)

or lateral foramina (through which nerve roots runs) that may be either

[congenital](#)

or

[acquired](#)

.
Subarachnoid haemorrhage: bleeding into the subarachnoid space; often due to a ruptured cranial aneurysm

Subarachnoid space: [space](#) between the arachnoid and [pia mater](#) , traversed by [delicate](#) [fibrous](#)

trabeculae and filled with

[cerebrospinal fluid](#)

. Large
[blood vessels](#)
supplying the brain and
[spinal](#)
[cord](#)
[lie](#)
in the
[subarachnoid](#)
space.

Syringomyelia [Syrinx](#) , [congenital](#) : 90% [associated](#) with Arnold-Chiari; [acquired](#) : [trauma](#)
,
[tumour](#)
,
[infection](#)
,
[haemorrhage](#)
, etc.

Sudomotor: [autonomic](#) ([sympathetic](#)) [nerves](#) that [stimulate](#) the [sweat glands](#) to [activity](#) .
Symptoms: [manifestations](#) of [disease](#) and [pathological conditions](#) , which may occur in
various diseases and different
[organs](#)

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: an autoimmune condition causing a wide variety of
symptoms throughout the body and often associated with a butterfly-shape facial rash. More
common in women.

Sweet's syndrome: [rare condition](#) characterised by [red - brown plaques](#) and [nodules](#) ,
frequently
[painful](#)
occurring primarily on the
[head](#)

,
[neck](#)
and
[upper](#)
extremities.

The [patients](#) will also have [fever](#) and increased [white blood cell counts](#) ([neutrophils](#)). In
approximately 10% of the
[patients](#)
there is an
[associated](#)
[malignancy](#)
, most commonly
[acute](#)
nonlymphocytic
[leukaemia](#)

.
The [idiopathic](#) form (unknown [cause](#)) of [Sweet's syndrome](#) is seen more often in [fema](#)

[les](#)
[following](#)

a

[respiratory](#)
[tract](#)
[infection](#)

.

Tarlov's cyst: A [perineural](#) [cyst](#) found in nerve roots of the lower [spinal cord](#)

Tinnitus, ringing, buzzing, [roaring](#) , [clicking](#) , etc. in the [ears](#) .

Theca: A [sheath](#) ; a [case](#) , a capsule; thecal sac= dural sac

Thoracic: Pertaining to or affecting the [chest](#) . (thorax)

Tonicity: [normal](#) [tension](#) of [tissues](#) ; in [muscle](#) , it is [active](#) [resistance](#) to [stretch](#)

Vertigo: An [illusion](#) of [movement](#) , a [sensation](#) as if the [external](#) [world](#) were [revolving](#)
around the

[patient](#)

(

[objective](#)

vertigo) or as if he himself were revolving in

[space](#)

(

[subjective](#)

vertigo).