MED 135 Word List

Chapter 29

Andropause: Midlife changes in a male.

Arteriosclerosis: Hardening of the arteries caused by buildup of plaque, a deposit of fatty substances on the artery lining.

Cognitive Functioning: Awareness with perception, reasoning, judgment, intuition, and memory.

Cystitis: Inflammation of the bladder.

Dementia: Impairment of intellectual functioning that is progressive and interferes with normal activities.

Empathy: Ability to be objectively aware of and have insight into another’s feelings, emotions, and behaviors, and to be aware of the significance and meaning of these to the other person.

Geriatrics: The branch of medicine concerned with the problems of aging.

Gerontology: The scientific study of the problems associated with aging.

Hyperthermia: Body temperature above normal range; an unusually high fever.

Hypothermia: Extremely dangerous cold-related condition that can result in death if the individual does not receive care and if the progression of hypothermia is not reversed. Symptoms include shivering, cold skin, and confusion.

Incontinence: Uncontrollable loss of urine or feces.

Macular Degeneration: Degeneration of the macula area of the retina caused by aging; a leading cause of visual impairment in people older than 50 years, making it difficult to do fine work.

Nevus: A mole.

Pernicious Anemia: Chronic anemia caused by lack of hydrochloric acid in the stomach; weakness, fatigue, tingling of extremities, and even heart failure can result; vitamin B12 injections are the treatment for this condition.

Presbycusis: Progressive loss of hearing caused by the normal aging process.

Residual Urine: Amount of urine remaining in bladder immediately after voiding; seen with hyperplasia of the prostate.

Senile: Mental and physical weakness sometimes associated with aging.

Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA): Temporary interference with blood flow to brain; may last only a few moments or several hours; neurologic symptoms occur.

Chapter 30

Amblyopia: Disorder of the eye characterized by dimness of vision.

Amsler Grid: A grid of lines used in testing for macular degeneration.

Appendicular Skeleton: Skeleton that consists of the pectoral and pelvic girdles and the upper and lower extremities. The pelvic girdle attaches the upper extremities to the trunk.

Aseptic: Freedom from any infectious material; absence of microorganisms.

Auricle: The external ear; also called pinna.

Axial Skeleton: Consists of bones that lie around the center of the body.

Bariatrics: The branch of medicine that deals with prevention, control, and treatment of obesity.

Biopsy: Removal of a small piece of living tissue from an organ or other part of the body for microscopic examination to confirm or establish a diagnosis.

Bronchi: Bifurcates from the trachea into each lung that terminate in the bronchial tubes.

Bronchodilator: A drug that expands the bronchial tubes.

Carbuncle: Necrotizing infection of skin and tissue composed of a cluster of boils.

Closed Fracture: Uncomplicated fracture in which the bone does not break the skin.

Colonoscopy: Visual examination of the colon with a lighted scope.

Comedone: Blackhead; usually the result of blocked sebaceous glands caused by acne.

Demyelination: Destruction of the myelin sheath; often a factor in multiple sclerosis.

Dislocation: Displacement of a bone or joint from its normal position.

Dysuria: Painful or difficult urination.

Electrocochleography: Diagnostic tool used to help diagnose Meniere’s disease. It records the electrical activity of the inner ear in response to sound.

Emaciation: State of being extremely lean.

Erythema: Redness or inflammation of the skin or mucous membranes that is the result of dilatation and congestion of superficial capillaries.

External Respiration: Ventilation of the lungs when the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide takes place.

Frequency: Urinating frequently.

Furuncle: Localized, suppurative staphylococcal skin infection originating in a gland or hair follicle.

Hematuria: Abnormal presence of blood in urine, symptomatic of many disorders of the genitourinary system and renal diseases.

Hemoptysis: Spitting up of blood arising from the mouth, larynx, trachea, bronchi, or lungs characterized by a sudden attack of coughing with production of bloody sputum.

Immunoglobulin: Family of proteins capable of acting as antibodies, thereby protecting individuals from pathogenic microorganisms; also, antibodies produced by the cells of the immune response system.

Inhaler: Devices that deliver medication into the lungs and are most often used to treat asthma.

Internal Respiration: Passage of oxygen from the blood into the cells.

Lesion: Injury or wound, a circumscribed area of tissue that has been altered pathologically.

Lithotripsy: Procedure using shock waves directed at calculi to crush them.

Malabsorption: Inadequate absorption of nutrients from the intestinal tract.

Malaise: Discomfort, uneasiness, or indisposition often indicative of infection.

Morbid Obesity: Obesity so severe that it can result in serious diseases.

Nephrolithotomy: Incision into the kidney to remove stones.

Nitrogenous: Pertaining to waste products in the blood indicating kidney disease.

Nocturia: Excessive urination during the night.

Nystagmus: Continuous involuntary movement of the eyes.

Occluder: Instrument used to obstruct or close off vision or light.

Oliguria: Decrease in urine output.

Opticokinetic Drum Test: Test used to help diagnose nystagmus.

Otoscope: Instrument used to examine the external ear canal and tympanic membrane.

Paresthesia: A sensation of numbness, prickling, or heightened sensitivity.

Phacoemulsification: Treatment for cataracts. An ultrasonic device is used to disintegrate the cataract of the lens of the eye, which is then aspirated and remove.

Polyp: Tumor with a stem found in the nose, uterus, bladder, colon, or rectum.

Proteinuria: Protein in the urine.

Pyuria: Pus in the urine.

Rosacea: A chronic skin condition characterized by pustules, papules, erythema, and hyperplasia. Its cause is unknown.

Salicylates: Aspirin-type drugs that can cause ulcers because of their irritation to the gastrointestinal tract.

Spirometry: Test to measure the air capacity of the lungs.

Strabismus: Disorder of the eye in which optic axes cannot be directed to the same object (cross-eye).

Urgency: The need to urinate immediately.