MED 121 Word list

Chapter 2

Endorphin: One of a group of naturally occurring substances, produced by the central nervous system, that reduce the perception of the pain.

Enkephalin: Substance produced in the brain that acts opiate-like and produces analgesia.

Med 121 Word list

Chapter 3

Adjuvant analgesics: Any drug whose primary purpose is not generally used or prescribed for pain but can also serve as an analgesic for some pain conditions.

Cordotomy: Surgical division of one or more of the lateral nerve pathways emerging from the spinal cord to relieve pain.

Endorphin: One of a group of naturally occurring substances, produced by the central nervous system, that reduce the perception of pain.

Enkephalin: Substances produced in the brain that acts opiate-like and produces analgesia.

Hypophysectomy: Removal of the pituitary gland.

Intrathecal: Within the spinal canal or a sheath.

Neuromodulator: Alteration in function or status in response to a stimulus of the nerve.

Neuropathic pain: Discomfort that originates in peripheral nerves of the central nervous system rather than from damage in organs or tissues.

Neurotomy: Division or dissection of a nerve.

Neurotransmitter: Substance produced and released by one neuron that travels across a synapse, exciting or inhibiting the next neuron in the neural pathway.

Nociceptive pain: Pain from tissue damage: may be sharp, dull, or aching but does not follow a nerve distribution

Nonopioids: Nonopium drugs; formerly referred to as nonnarcotic; include such drugs as acetaminophen and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

Opioids: Any synthetic or natural narcotic that relieves pain, with morphine like activity.

Prostaglandins: Class of chemically related fatty acids present in many body tissues and having the ability to stimulate smooth muscle contractions, lower blood pressure, and regulate or influence many other body functions.

**MED 121 Word list**

**Chapter 4**

Anorexia: Loss of appetite for food.

Antipruritic: Agent that prevents or relieves itching.

Antipyretic: Drug of agent that reduces a fever.

Arthralgia: Pain in a joint.

Enanthems: Mucous membrane eruption.

Exanthems: Any eruption or rash of the skin (not the mucous membrane). Term often used to describe childhood or infectious rashes.

Leukopenia: Abnormal decrease in the number of circulating white blood cells.

Myalgia: Muscle pain or tenderness.

Orchitis: Inflammation of the testes.

Rhinitis: Inflammation of the nasal mucous membrane.

Scotomata: Temporary, island-like, blind gaps in the visual field.

Spirochete: Member if an order of microorganisms that have a slender, spiral shape.