



Behçet's Syndrome Society

Common Terms and Definitions A - Z

A	
Acumen:	skill in a particular area
Analgesic:	something that lessens pain
Aneurysm:	when the wall of a blood vessel becomes weaker and bulges or swells at the point of weakness
Angiography:	is a type of X ray used to look at blood vessels. A contrast dye is injected into the area being looked at to help make the blood vessels easier to see
Anterior:	at the front of
Antibodies:	are proteins in the blood that destroy antigens. (See antigens) Antibodies are made by white blood cells to attack antigens as part of the body's immune system
Anticoagulant:	drug used to stop the blood clotting
Antigens:	a substance such as a virus or bacteria which the body's immune system sees as 'foreign'. The immune system produces antibodies to tackle the antigen
Anti TNF drugs:	a type of drug used to treat Behcet's. These drugs are often called biologics. They work by blocking the effects of TNF alpha, an inflammation substance in the blood produced in excessive amounts in some people with Behcet's. Examples of the drugs are infliximab (Remicaid), adalimumab (humira)
Aorta:	the main artery leading from the heart
Arteritis:	inflammation of arteries: arteriography A contrast dye is injected into an artery before taking scan images to make blood vessels easier to see
Arthralgia:	joint pains
Arthritides:	the name given to more than one arthritis

B	
Biologic drugs:	are produced from living organisms that contain protein from living cells. They reduce the immune system attacking the body by targeting particular cells or chemicals in the body's immune system. They are used to control disease over the long term. Examples of these drugs are infliximab, etanercept, and adalimumab
Biopsy:	removing a small amount of tissue for examination under a microscope
Biosimilar drugs:	is the name given to describe the newly approved drugs which are a version of the original biologic drug. They are produced by a different drug company following the expiry of the patent on the original biologic drug. Biosimilars cannot be an exact copy of the original biologic drug but they must still not alter how well the drug works or how safe it is. Examples Inflectra, Remsima = biosimilars for infliximab
Blood vessels:	are the tubes which blood travels in to and from parts of the body. The three main types are veins, arteries and capillaries
Bowels:	another name for the intestines
C	
Cardiology:	the study and treatment of the heart
Cardiothoracic:	to do with the heart and the lungs
Cessation:	when something stops
Chemotherapy:	treatment of a disease using chemical substances or drugs
Chronic:	a long lasting illness that lasts longer than six months possibly for the rest of a person's life
CNS:	Central Nervous System (see under N nervous system)
Colon:	the large intestine: colonoscopy examining the colon (bowel) with an endoscope
Congenital:	is an abnormality that is there before birth, sometimes called a birth defect

Corticosteroids:	also known as steroids reduce inflammation, can be taken as tablets, injections or directly into the vein (intravenously)
CRP:	C Reactive Protein a protein in the blood which is often measured, by a blood test, to check for signs of inflammation
Cytotoxic drug:	drugs that are often used to treat cancer by damaging or destroying cells. These drugs can be used in the treatment of Behcet's
D	
Deep Vein Thrombosis:	when a blood clot forms in one of the deep veins in the leg, but also in other parts of the body
Dermatology:	study of the skin and diseases of the skin
Dermatologist:	a doctor with specialised training in skin disorders
Detachment:	when something separates from a larger organ
Dialysis:	used as a method of artificial kidney function
Diffuse:	widespread
Distension:	stretching or swelling
Duodenum:	the first part of the small intestine
Dyspepsia:	acid indigestion
E	
Embolism:	blocking of an artery by a blood clot
Entity:	something that exists by itself and is separate from other things
Episiotomy:	surgical cut in the muscular area between the vagina and the anus made just before delivery of a baby to make the vaginal opening bigger
Erythema nodosum:	one of the skin symptoms associated with Behcet's. Red tender swellings under the skin usually seen on the shins and the lower legs during a flare up, may also be on the hips or under the arms, may leave permanently discoloured skin

ESR:	Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate a blood test used to look at levels of inflammation in the body
Exacerbation:	a worsening of the disease, often called a relapse or "flare up "
F	
Fatigue:	persistent physical or mental exhaustion that is more than normal tiredness
Femoral:	to do with the thigh
Fibrosis:	Scarring
Flatus:	gas from the stomach or bowels let out through the rectum, more commonly known as "wind"
Folliculitis:	swelling or inflammation around a hair follicle
Frank:	a term most often used with bleeding, this is bleeding that is visible to the human eye, whereas sometimes blood cannot be seen
Funduscopy:	a test to see inside the fundus, the furthest point at the back of the eye using an ophthalmoscope
G	
Gastroenterology:	the study and treatment of the stomach and the intestines (gut)
Gastroenterologist:	a doctor who is specially trained in the diagnosis and treatment of intestinal disorders
Gastrointestinal:	about the stomach and the intestines (guts)
Genetically predisposition:	this means that the genes you inherit from your parent's may make you more likely to have a particular condition
Gestational:	the time of pregnancy from conception until the baby is born
Glomerulonephritis:	inflammation of the blood filtering part of the kidneys
H	
Haemorrhage:	large amount of blood escaping from a burst blood vessel

Hepatic:	anything to do with the liver: hepatitis, liver disease
Histological:	examination using a microscope
Hypertension:	high blood pressure
I	
Immune system:	the body's defence system. This is made up of different types of tissues and cells that protect the body against infections. The body recognises antigens 'foreign' to the body and makes antibodies to attack them. (see antibodies and antigens)
Immunosuppressants:	drugs that reduce inflammation, these drugs are used to treat a wide range of conditions. A side effect is that you become more prone to infection
Impaired:	not working as well as it could
Incidence:	how many people are diagnosed with the illness
Inflammation:	the way the body responds to irritation, infection or injury. Blood collects in infected areas causing reddening, swelling and pain
Intracranial hypertension:	increase in blood pressure within the skull
Intracranial venous sinus thrombosis:	disturbance of blood drainage from the brain leading to increased pressure in the brain
Intravenously:	A drug or other fluids given directly into a vein
Invasive:	a medical procedure which involves entry into the body either through surgery or by inserting any kind of medical instrument
JKL No Entries	
M	
Mandatory:	something that must be done, or is compulsory
Manifestations:	sign of illness
Meningitis:	inflammation of the lining of the brain
Meningoencephalitis:	inflammation within the brain
Morbidity:	how often an illness or disease happens in a specific area

MRI:	(Magnetic resonance imaging) a scan of internal organs using strong magnets and radio waves rather than X rays. A computer converts signals from the scanner into detailed images. There is no radiation involved in this test.
Mucosa:	the lining of various parts of the body, Oral mucosa means lining of the mouth
Mucocutaneous:	the skin lining of various entrances to the body, e.g. mouth, genitals and also linings within the body e.g. the guts
N	
Nervous system:	The central nervous system is the brain and the spinal cord working together. Peripheral Nervous system is the network of nerves which carry messages between the central nervous system and the rest of the body
Neurology:	study of the nervous system
Neurologist:	doctor who specialises in studying and treating diseases of the nervous system
Neuropathy:	damage to network of nerves
O	
Occlusion:	blockage forming within a blood vessel
Ocular:	to do with the eye
Oedema:	swelling caused by fluid
Ophthalmic:	to do with the eye: ophthalmology its treatment
Ophthalmologist:	doctor who specialises in studying and treating diseases of the eye
Osteoporosis:	brittle bones

P	
Paediatrics:	study and treatment of children and their diseases
Paediatrician:	doctor who specialises in treatment of children and their illnesses
Pathergy:	skin that is unusually sensitive to injury or irritation, e.g. needle used to prick skin, large bump may appear suggesting oversensitive reaction
Parenchymal:	the main part of an organ such as the brain or spinal cord rather than the structure that surrounds it
Pathology:	the study of disease its causes and how it develops
Perforation:	perforation can happen to any organ but is most usually associated with the bowel which can cause the contents of the bowel to leak into the abdomen causing infection
Peripheral Neuropathy:	this is when there is damage to the nerves in the extremities for example, the hands and the feet. Peripheral Neuropathy can cause muscle weakness, loss of balance, numbness, tingling, pins and needles or burning sensations. It can be caused by illness or as a side effect of some medicines
Peritonitis:	inflammation of the peritoneum which is the thin layer of tissue that lines the inside of the abdomen, often due to a perforation of the wall of the bowel
Phlebitis:	inflammation, redness swelling, pain in a vein
Posterior:	at the back of
Prevalence:	how many people are affected by the illness
Predisposition:	more likely to get something
Prognosis:	prediction of what might happen in the future, the likely progress of the disease
Pulmonary:	to do with anything related to the lungs and lung function. Pulmonary embolus occurs when a blood clot breaks off from somewhere in the body and

	travels to the lungs
R	
Recurrent:	something that happens again from time to time, or more frequently
Refractory:	an illness that does not respond to the usual first line of treatment
Relapse:	return of illness after a period when things had got better, often called a "flare up "
Remission:	a period of good health with few or no symptoms
Renal:	anything to do with the kidney
Rheumatologist:	a doctor with specialist training in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with diseases of the joints and muscles
Rupture:	wall of blood vessel which has become weak tears causing serious bleeding
S	
Spectrum:	the whole range of an illness
Stenosis:	where the lining of a blood vessel becomes narrower so less blood flows through it
Suppress:	prevent the symptoms or disease getting worse
Symptomatic:	signs of a particular illness
Syndrome:	the set of symptoms linked to a particular illness or group of illnesses
Synthetic:	synthetic medicines are made using chemicals
Systemic:	something which has an effect on the whole body, not just part of it. Systemic therapy means taking medicines by mouth (as tablets), or as injections or infusions
T	
Thrombophlebitis:	when there is inflammation in a vein near the surface of the skin, also caused by a blood clot. It

	usually happens in the lower leg but can also affect the surface veins in the arms, penis or breast
Thrombosis:	when clots form in blood vessels; thrombophlebitis, blood clot in a vein
Topical:	topical medicine is medicine usually put directly onto the skin in the area that is affected
Transient:	passes quickly, does not last long
U	
Ultrasound scan:	a painless test using high pitched sound waves to produce pictures of organs in the body
Uveitis:	is inflammation (swelling) of one of the layers of the eye called the uvea
V	
Vascular:	anything to do with blood vessels: vasculitis is inflammation in veins and arteries
Vasculitis:	inflammation in any vein. In Behcet's inflammation can occur in arteries and veins
Venous sinus:	one of the sinuses in the brain; venous sinus thrombosis, when a blood clot is in the brain's venous sinus

Please let us know if you spot any other words that should be added to this list
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