

Abnormal uterine bleeding See Dysfunctional uterine bleeding.

Abrasions Partial-thickness denudations of an area of integument, generally resulting from falls or scrapes.

Absence seizure (petit mal seizure) A type of generalized seizure characterized by a sudden brief cessation of all motor activity accompanied by a blank stare and unresponsiveness.

Abstinence Voluntarily going without drugs.

Achalasia Absence of peristalsis of the esophagus and high gastroesophageal sphincter pressure resulting in dilation and loss of tone in the esophagus.

Acidosis The condition where the hydrogen ion concentration increases above normal (reflected in a pH below 7.35).

Acids Release hydrogen ions in solution

Acne Disorder of the pilosebaceous (hair and sebaceous gland) structure resulting in eruption of papules or pustules.

Acoustic neuroma or schwannoma Benign tumor of cranial nerve VIII.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) A specific group of diseases or conditions which are indicative of severe immunosuppression related to infection with the human immunodeficiency virus.

Acquiredimmunity See active immunity

Acromegaly Extremely large bones caused by excessive growth hormone.

Actinic keratosis Also called senile or solar keratosis, this is an epidermal skin lesion directly related to chronic sun exposure and photodamage.

Active immunity Production of antibodies or development of immune lymphocytes against specific antigens.

Active transport Movement of molecules across cell membranes and epithelial membranes against a concentration gradient; requires energy.

Acute coronary syndromes A general term used to describe the effects of coronary heart disease, including angina and myocardial infarction

Acute gastritis A benign, self-limiting disorder associated with ingestion of gastric irritants such as aspirin, alcohol, caffeine, or foods contaminated with certain bacteria.

Acute illness Rapid, relatively short-term response to a disease.

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) Abnormal proliferation of lymphoblasts in the bone marrow, lymph nodes, and spleen; the most common type of leukemia in children and young adults.

Acute myeloblastic leukemia (AML) Uncontrolled proliferation of myeloblasts (granulocyte precursors) and hyperplasia of bone marrow and the spleen; the most common acute leukemia in adults.

Acute myocardial infarction (AMI) Necrosis (death) of myocardial cells.

Acute pain Usually temporary, localized, and has a sudden onset. Pain that lasts for less than 6 months and has an identified cause is classified as acute pain. It most often results from tissue injury from trauma, surgery, or inflammation.

Acute renal failure Abrupt onset of renal failure, often reversible.

Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) Noncardiac pulmonary edema and progressive refractory hypoxemia.

Acute tubular necrosis (ATN) A syndrome of abrupt and progressive decline in tubular and glomerular function.