

## GLOSSARY

“On-Line Medical Dictionary”

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**Abrasion:** A superficial injury to the skin or other body tissue caused by rubbing or scraping resulting in an area of body surface denuded of skin or mucous membrane.

**Aphonia:** The inability to produce speech sounds.

**Apnea:** Cessation of breathing.

**Artery:** Blood vessel carrying blood away from the heart.

**Asphyxia:** A condition caused by inadequate intake of oxygen.

**Aspiration pneumonitis:** The act of inhaling vomit into the lungs which causes inflammation of the lung secondary to viral or bacterial infection.

**Autoerotic asphyxia:** A case of accidental asphyxia during autoerotic activity. (This is not a suicide or a homicide.) It is the practice of using strangulation to enhance the pleasure of masturbating. Annually it claims the lives of between 250 and 1,000 young American men (Garza-Leal & Landrom, 1991, Wesselius & Bally, 1983).

**Carotid artery:** A key artery located in the front of the neck that carries blood from the heart to the brain.

**Dysphagia:** Difficulty swallowing.

**Dysphonia:** Involves the muscles of the throat that control speech. Also called spastic dysphonia. It caused strained and difficult speaking and effortful speech.

**Dyspnea:** Shortness of breath. Difficult or laboured breathing.

**Ecchymosis:** A small hemorrhagic spot, larger than petechia in the skin or mucous membrane forming nonelevated, rounded or irregular, blue or purpish patch. (A bruise).

**Edema:** The presence of abnormally large amounts of fluid in the intercellular tissue spaces of the body, usually applied to demonstrable accumulation of excessive fluid in the subcutaneous tissues. Edema may be localized due to venous or lymphatic obstruction or to increased vascular permeability or it may be systemic due to heart failure or renal disease. (Swelling).

**Erythema:** A name applied to redness of the skin produced by congestion of the capillaries  
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which may result from a variety of causes, the aetiology or a specific type of lesion often being indicated by a specific term. (Red marks).

**Hemorrhage:** The escape of blood from the vessels, bleeding.

**Hemoptysis:** The expectoration of blood or of blood strained sputum (coughing or spitting up blood).

**Hyoid bone:** The bone at the base of the tongue.

**Hypoxia:** Reduction of oxygen supply to the tissue below physiological levels despite adequate perfusion of the tissue by blood. (Cf. Anoxia).

**Incontinence:** The inability to control excretory functions, as defecation (fecal incontinence) or urination (urinary incontinence).

**Laceration:** The act of tearing. A torn, ragged, mangled wound.

**Jugular Veins:** The veins in the neck which drain the brain, the face and neck into the brachiocephalic or subclavian veins.

**Larynx:** The voice box.

**Odynophagia:** Pain on swallowing.

**Petechia:** A pinpoint, nonraised, perfectly round, purplish red spot caused by intradermal or submucous hemorrhage.

**Pneumonia:** Inflammation of the lungs with consolidation.

**Pulmonary:** Pertaining to the lungs.

**Pulmonary emphysema:** Condition of the lungs characterized by increase beyond normal in the size of air spaces distal to the terminal bronchioles, either from dialation of the alveoli or from destruction of their walls.

**Sphincter:** A ringlike band of muscle fibres that constricts a passage or closes a natural orifice, also called musculus sphincter.

**Strangulation:** The act of strangling or the state of being strangled. (Medical) Inordinate compression or constriction of a part of the throat that causes a suspension of breathing, of the passage of contents, or of the circulation.

**Stridor:** The harsh sound heard on inhalation caused by air passing through a constricted passage (rasphy breathing).

**Subconjunctival:** Situated or occurring beneath the conjunctiva which is a clear membrane that coats the inner aspect of te eyelids and the outer surface of the eye.

**Subcutaneous:** Under the skin

**Subcutaneous emphysema:** The presence of air in the subcutaneous tissue.

**Thyroid cartilage:** The largest cartilage of the larynx consisting of two laminae fusing anteriorly at an acute angle in the midline of the neck. The point of fusion forms a subcutaneous projection known as the adam's apple.

**Trachea:** The windpipe. A fibrocartilaginous tube lined with mucous membrane passing from the larynx to the bronchi.

**Vein:** Blood vessel that returns blood from the microvasculature to the heart, walls thinner and less elastic than those of artery.