

# Glossary

## A

### **Abdomen**

That part of the body that contains the stomach, bowel and other digestive organs.

### **Abscess**

A localised collection of pus.

### **A.C.E.**

#### *Antegrade Colonic/Continence Enema*

A method of washing out the large bowel, through an opening on the tummy, whilst sitting on the toilet.

### **Acute**

Short-term or sudden.

### **Adhesions**

Internal growth of scar tissue following surgery.

### **Agensis**

Absence, failure of formation, or imperfect development of any part.

### **Alimentary Tract**

This tract stretches from the mouth to the anus.

### **Analgesics**

Pain relievers e.g. paracetamol.

### **Anastomosis**

The surgical joining of two ends of a healthy bowel.

### **Anoplasty**

Surgical repair of anus.

### **Anorectal**

Area of anus and rectum.

### **Antibodies**

Proteins in the bloodstream which react against foreign substances.

### **Anus**

The outlet of the back passage.

### **Appliance**

The pouch or bag worn over a stoma.

### **Atresia**

Absence of an opening.

## B

### **Barium**

A white chalk-like substance enabling visualisation of the digestive tract on x-rays.

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### Barium enema

A liquid substance of barium sulphate introduced into the bowel via the anus.

### Barium meal

In this case the liquid substance (see above) is drunk.

### Benign

Non malignant.

### Biopsy

Removal of a small piece of tissue for examination.

### Bladder

The sack which holds urine before it is passed out of the body.

### Bowel

Another name for the intestines. The small bowel consists of the duodenum, jejunum and ileum; the large bowel the colon and rectum.

## C

### Cardiovascular

The heart and blood vessels.

### Catheter

A tube, which when inserted allows fluid to flow out of the body automatically.

### Chemotherapy

Treatment using drugs.

### Chronic

Long term or slow.

### Chyme

The liquidised food which the stomach passes on to the small intestine for digestion.

### Cliitoris

A female's small sexually sensitive organ at the front of the vulva.

### Colectomy

Surgical removal of the colon.

### Colitis

Inflammation of the colon.

### Colon

The large bowel or intestine.

### Colostomy

Surgical opening into the colon.

### Conduit

A tunnel or tube which may be made surgically from the bowel.

### Congenital

Present or existing at the time of birth e.g. deformity or disease.

### Crohn's Disease

A type of inflammatory disease of the alimentary tract.

**Cystectomy**

Removal of part, or all, of the urinary bladder.

**Cystoscopy**

An examination of the bladder using a cystoscope (a telescope which enables the doctor to see inside the bladder).

**Cytology**

The study of cells — our body is made up of minute cells.

**D****Defaecation**

Evacuation of faeces.

**Dehydration**

The result of excessive water loss. It may result from inadequate fluid intake, vomiting or other conditions.

**Diarrhoea**

Abnormal frequency and looseness of stools.

**Dilated**

Swollen, enlarged, stretched, larger than normal.

**Dilator**

An instrument used to enlarge an opening e.g. anus.

**Distal**

Furthest away from (e.g. from the mouth).

**Diversion**

Departure from normal course.

**Diverticular**

Abnormal pouches or pockets occurring in the digestive tract.

**E****Ectomy**

Removal of.

**Ectopic**

Out of the normal place or position.

**Electrolytes**

One of the normal components of body fluid.

**Endoscopy**

An inspection of any hollow organ using an endoscope (an instrument like a telescope to look inside the body).

**Enteritis**

Inflammation of the intestine.

**Enterocolitis**

Inflammation of the intestinal tract (small and large bowel).

**Excoriation**

Red raw skin. Usually excoriation is the result of mechanical abrasion, faecal or urine burn.



### F-G

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#### **Faeces**

Body waste discharged through the anus, bottom or stoma.

#### **Febrile**

Feverish, having a high temperature.

#### **Fissure**

A crack or split in the skin, usually in the anal area.

#### **Fistula**

An abnormal channel between one hollow organ and another, or the skin.

#### **Flatus**

Wind, gas.

### H

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#### **Haemorrhoids**

Swollen veins in the area of the anus (piles).

#### **Hernia**

Protrusion or bulging of a loop of intestine through an abnormal gap or weakness in the muscle.

#### **Haemorrhage**

Bleeding.

#### **Histology**

Science of the minute structure of the tissues of the body.

#### **Hydronephrosis**

Enlargement of one or both kidneys, caused by urine that has not passed freely.

#### **Hypoallergenic**

A material (e.g. an adhesive) with minimal risk of allergy.

#### **Hypoganglionosis**

Characterised by an absence of ganglion (nerve) cells in the bowel. It can also be known as intestinal neuronal dysplasia.

### I

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#### **I.B.D.**

##### *Inflammatory Bowel Disease*

Includes Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis

#### **Ileoanal pouch**

A surgical operation where the colon is removed and an internal pouch is made from the ileum and attached to the anus

#### **Ileostomy**

Surgical opening into the ileum

#### **Ileum**

The lower part of the small intestine

**Immunosuppressive Drugs**

Drugs given to damp down the body's response to a transplant and prevent rejection.

**Imperforate**

Without an opening.

**Intussusception**

A condition in which one part of the bowel slips into another part, causing intestinal obstruction.

**Irrigation**

An enema or a wash out.

**Ischaemia**

Deficiency of blood supply to a certain area.

**I.V.P.***Intravenous Pyelogram*

Dye is injected into the veins, which allows the kidneys, ureters and bladder to be seen on x-ray.

## J-K

**Jejunostomy**

A surgical opening made in the jejunum (part of the small bowel).

## L

**Laparotomy**

An incision into any part of the abdominal wall; often used for exploratory purposes.

**Lumbosacral**

Area of the lower spine.

## M

**Malabsorption**

Inability to absorb nutrients in the small intestine.

**Malignant**

Resistant to treatment; occurring in severe form; cancerous.

**Meconium**

The first bowel motion which is usually dark poo after birth.

**Megacolon**

Enlarged colon.

**Methylcellulose**

Used as a bulking agent to relieve constipation.

**Micturition**

Evacuation of urine.

**Mucosa**

Lining of alimentary tract (digestive system).

**Mucus Fistula**

An opening made in the abdomen to bring the non-functioning part of the bowel onto the surface.

## Glossary

### Mucus

Fluid secreted from cells or glands that moisten membranes.

## N

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### Nasogastric Tube

A tube inserted through the nose or mouth and down into the stomach. Used to protect the bowel after intestinal surgery or for feeding.

### Necrosis

Dead tissue.

### Neonate

A newborn baby in the first two weeks of life.

## O

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### Oedema

Swelling due to accumulated fluid.

## P-Q

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### Panproctocolectomy

Removal of colon, rectum and anus.

### Perforation

An abnormal opening in the bowel which allows the contents to spill into the normally sterile abdominal cavity.

### Perineum

The space between the anus and the sexual organs.

### Peristalsis

A squeezing rhythmic movement found in the alimentary canal and the ureters in the urinary tract.

### Peristomal

Area surrounding the stoma.

### Peritoneum

Membrane lining the inside of the peritoneal cavity.

### Peritonitis

Inflammation of the peritoneum.

### Pre-med

Pre-medication, medicine given before going to the operating theatre, to relax and make someone sleepy.

### Proctocolectomy

Removal of rectum and colon.

### Prognosis

The possible progress of the disease or condition.

### Prolapse

The bowel slides out further thus increasing the length of the stoma.



**Proteins**

Body-building nutrients found for example in meat, fish, eggs, cheese and lentils.

**Proximal**

Closest to (e.g. to the mouth).

## R

**Radiotherapy**

Treatment using x-rays.

**Rectum**

The back passage.

**Reflux**

Backward flow of liquid.

**Relapse**

Return of disease activity.

**Remission**

A lessening of disease activity.

**Renal**

Of the kidneys.

**Renal Failure**

The kidneys normally filter the blood and remove waste. This does not occur when the kidneys are not working correctly.

**Renal Transplants**

A suitable donor kidney is placed inside the abdomen of someone whose kidneys do not work. The donor kidney then produces urine and filters the body's waste away.

**Resection**

Surgical removal or excision.

**Retraction**

The bowel is drawn back thus reducing the length of the stoma and making it flush (flat) to the skin.

**Revision**

Surgical relocation of the stoma to a new position or reconstruction of the stoma at the present site

## S-T

**Sigmoid**

S-shaped part of the colon above the rectum.

**Sigmoidoscopy**

Visual examination of the rectum and lower part of the sigmoid colon with a sigmoidoscope.

**Sinus**

Tract or cavity.

**Skin Barriers**

Preparations that are applied to the skin as a protective layer, to prevent damage occurring. All are non-greasy and do not compromise the adhesion of appliances.

**Skin Protective Wafers**

These can be used to protect the skin around the stoma. Also available in rings and washers.

## Glossary

### Sphincter

A ring like muscle that is able to open and close. Bladder and bowel control depend upon effective sphincter control.

### Stenosis

Narrowing of a passage or opening.

### Stoma

The opening part of the bowel visible on the surface of the abdomen after surgery.

### Suppositories

Medication inserted via the rectum.

### Supra pubic

Above the pubic bone on the tummy.

### Sutures

Stitches in the wound.

## U

### Ureter

Tube leading from the kidney to the bladder.

### Urethra

The tube leading from the bladder to the exterior.

### Urinary Tract

The system in the body comprised of the kidneys, ureters, bladder and urethra.

### UTI

*Urinary Tract Infection*

### Urine

Amber fluid excreted by the kidneys passing urine (wee).

### Urodynamics

The study of the act of voiding (passing wee) and function of the urinary system in motion.

### Urostomy

Urinary diversion onto abdominal wall. Urine is collected in a drainable bag or appliance which is attached to the skin.

### Urogenital

Area of urinary and genital organs.

### Urorectal

Area of anus and rectum.

## V-W-X-Y-Z

### Vertebrae

Bones of the spine.

### Villi

Hair-like projections on the surface of a mucous membrane such as that of the intestine.

### Vitamins

Essential Nutrients.