

ADENOCARCINOMA:

A cancerous tumour developing from the glandular component of any organ (particularly the prostate or kidney)

ANALGESIC:

A drug used to relieve pain

ANGIOMYOLIPOMA:

A benign tumour of the kidney which arises from blood vessels and fat; it may, if it grows large enough, there is a risk of rupture and cause bleeding into or around the kidney

ANTI-INFLAMMATORY:

A drug which reduces inflammation and helps to relieve pain; often used to treat prostatitis & the pain of kidney stones

AZOOSPERMIA:

The complete absence of sperms in ejaculated semen; one cause of male-factor infertility. Usually due to failure of production of sperms by the testis or to obstruction of the tubing along which sperms normally pass

BALANITIS:

Inflammation of the foreskin or the tip of the penis

BLADDER:

The midline, lower abdominal organ which stores urine prior to its expulsion via the urethra

BPH:

Benign prostatic hyperplasia; benign enlargement of the prostate gland, invariably seen with increasing age

BRACHYTHERAPY:

A type of radiotherapy where radioactive seeds are implanted directly into an organ, usually the prostate gland

BXO:

Balanitis xerotica obliterans; a scarring disease of the foreskin, of unknown cause, which results in a tight foreskin

CALCIUM OXALATE:

The commonest constituent of kidney stones and the type of stone which is most prone to recur

CALCULUS:

A stone, usually in the kidney or ureter, but may also occur on the prostate or bladder

CALYX:

The outermost part of the collecting system of the kidney where urine is first released for excretion

CATHETER:

A rubber or silicone tube passed into a hollow organ (usually the bladder) to drain its contents

CHEMOTHERAPY:

The use of drugs to treat cancer

CHORDEE:

A deformity of the penis which results in a bending on erection

CYSTITIS:

Inflammation of the internal lining of the bladder

CIRCUMCISION:

Surgical removal of the foreskin, usually performed for phimosis

CT:

Computerized tomography; a form of X-ray where slices are taken through the body to produce images at different levels

CYSTECTOMY:

Surgical removal of the bladder, usually for invasive cancer

CYSTOCELE:

Prolapse of the bladder into the vagina

CYSTOGRAM:

An X-ray of the bladder where dye is inserted into the bladder using a catheter

CYSTOSCOPY:

Inspection of the bladder using a telescope (either flexible or rigid) with an attached light source to illuminate the interior of the bladder

CYTOLOGY:

The study of individual cells, usually in the urine, to identify malignancy or other disorders

DILATATION:

Stretching or widening of an opening, usually the urethra or neck of the bladder

DIVERTICULUM:

An abnormal pouch leading off the cavity of a hollow organ; most commonly seen in the bladder

DRE:

Digital rectal examination; usually to feel the prostate gland

DYSURIA:

Painful passage of urine

EMBOLISATION:

Blocking the artery to an organ by introducing foam, coils or gel under X-ray control using a small catheter placed in the artery

ENURESIS:

Incontinence of urine at night usually considered synonymous with bedwetting

EPIDIDYMISS:

The sperm-carrying mechanism lying behind the testis which carries sperms from the testis to the vas deferens during ejaculation

EPIDIDYMITIS:

Inflammation/infection of the epididymis, often involving the testis as well (epididymo-orchitis)

ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION:

Impotence; the inability to obtain or maintain an erection sufficient for penetration and the satisfaction of both sexual partners

ESWL:

Extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy; shockwaves generated in water, focused and emitted through the body to fragment stones in the kidney or ureter

EXTRAVASATION:

Leakage of urine or surgical irrigation fluid outside the urinary tract

EXSTROPHY:

A congenital condition where the bladder remains on the surface of the lower abdomen open to the outside

FREQUENCY:

Passing urine too often, usually during the day

HAEMATOSPERMIA:

Blood in the semen during ejaculation

HAEMATURIA:

Blood in the urine

HYDROCELE:

An abnormal collection of fluid in the naturally-occurring sac which surrounds the testicle

HESITANCY:

Having to wait an abnormally long time for the flow of urine to start

IMMUNOTHERAPY:

Treatment of cancer by stimulating the natural immune response

INCONTINENCE:

Involuntary leakage of urine

IVU:

Intravenous urogram; an X-ray of the kidneys, ureters and bladder performed using an injection of dye into a vein in the arm

KIDNEY:

One of two paired organs (normally) which lie at the back of the abdomen, in front of the lower ribs, and filter the blood to produce urine

LASER:

Light amplification by the stimulated emission of radiation; an energy source for performing some types of urological surgery

LAPAROSCOPE:

A telescope with a light source and camera attached which is inserted into the abdominal cavity (through a small incision) to perform 'keyhole' surgery

LITHOTRIPSY:

Type of fragmentation of a stone; usually synonymous with ESWL

LITHOLAPAXY:

Crushing of a stone, usually in the bladder, to reduce it to fragments small enough to be passed spontaneously or removed through an endoscope

LYMPHADENECTOMY:

Surgical removal of lymph nodes to determine whether they are involved with cancer

METASTASIS:

A secondary tumour (remote from the original cancer) which has arisen by spread through the blood, the lymph system or by direct invasion

MRI:

Magnetic resonance imaging; a means of producing cross-sectional images of the body to characterise tissues by the way the electrons in the tissue move in response to a strong magnetic field

NEPHRON:

The microscopic filtering unit in the kidney which filters water and waste products from the blood

NOCTURIA:

Passage of urine at night

PHIMOSIS:

Tightness of the foreskin, either due to a scarring disease or as a result of a congenital abnormality

PARAPHIMOSIS:

Retraction of a tight foreskin which becomes “stuck” due to an inability to return it to its original position covering the head of the penis

POLYURIA:

Over-production of urine, usually at night; often occurs in the elderly due to poor water handling ability with increasing age

PROSTATE GLAND:

A chestnut-sized organ lying at the bottom of the bladder which produces chemicals to nourish sperms and facilitate their transport to the female uterus

PROSTATITIS:

Infection or inflammation of the prostate gland

PROSTHESIS:

An artificial implant used to replace any part of the body (e.g. a testicle)

PSA:

Prostate-specific antigen; a chemical released into the bloodstream by the prostate gland which may be raised in men with prostate cancer

SEMINAL VESICLE:

A sac lying behind the prostate gland which stores seminal fluid and sperms in preparation for ejaculation

TESTOSTERONE:

The main male hormone produced mainly by the testicles (and by the adrenal glands)

TNM:

A staging system for cancer which describes the extent of the primary tumour (T), the lymph nodes (N) and metastases (M)

UROTHELIAL CARCINOMA (aka TRANSITIONAL CELL CARCINOMA):

A malignant (cancerous) tumour arising from the internal lining of the urinary tract

TUR:

Transurethral resection, usually of the prostate gland (TURP) or of a tumour in the bladder (TURBT)

ULTRASOUND:

High-frequency sound waves used to reflect off tissues to determine their nature

URETER:

The thin, muscular tube which propels urine down from the kidneys to the bladder

URETEROSCOPY:

Inspection of the ureter (and/or kidney) using a telescope (either flexible or rigid) with an attached light source passed into the bladder and up the ureter towards the kidney

URETHRA:

The tube through which urine passes to the outside of the body from the bladder

URGENCY:

A sudden, irresistible desire to pass urine

VARICOCELE:

An abnormal collection of varicose veins above the testicle, usually on the left side

VAS DEFERENS:

A muscular tube which carries sperm from the epididymis into the urethra during ejaculation of semen