

APPENDIX

Definition of Medical Term

Arthralgia	The presence of painful joints in the absence of frank arthritis.
Ascites	Accumulation of fluid in the peritoneal cavity. Peritoneum is the membrane that forms the lining of the abdominal cavity - it covers most of the intra-abdominal organs.
Circumoral cyanosis	Blue tint to the skin surrounding the lips, but not on the lips.
Conjunctival injection	Red eyes characterized by dilated blood vessels causing the appearance of redness on the surface of the eye.
Ecchymosis	Bruise caused by injury. It can be seen in patients with platelet or coagulation disorders.
Epistaxis	Nose bleeding.
Gastrointestinal bleeding	Bleeding of the digestive tract.
Leucopenia	Low white blood count.
Haematemesis	The vomiting of fresh red blood. The source is generally the upper gastrointestinal tract.
Haematuria	Appearance of blood in the urine.
Haemoconcentration	An increase in the concentration of cellular elements in the blood, resulting from loss of plasma.
Haemorrhage	Medical term meaning bleeding.
Haemostasis	Refers to a process whereby bleeding is halted in most animals with a closed circulatory system.
Hematocrit	Erythrocyte volume fraction, i.e. the percentage of the volume of a blood sample occupied by red blood cells.
Hepatomegaly	Enlargement of the liver (swelling).

Hess test	Synonymous with Tourniquet Test. In this test the intracapillary pressure is raised by occluding veins with a tourniquet. A positive test is indicated if petechiae develop - in general this occurs in patients with thrombocytopaenia, small vessel abnormality and impaired platelet function - but it may also occur in normal individuals.
Hypoproteinemia	Abnormally low level of protein in the blood; can indicate inadequate diet or intestinal or renal disorders.
Hypotension	Abnormally low blood pressure. It is often associated with shock, though not necessarily indicative of it.
Lymphadenopathy	Enlargement of lymph nodes and when inflammation occurs within the node it is called lymphadenitis.
Melaena	The passage of black tarry motions per rectum (dark black faeces). It is often caused by hemorrhage in the stomach or duodenum (upper gastrointestinal tract), for example by a peptic ulcer.
Menorrhagia	Abnormally heavy and prolonged menstrual periods.
Myalgia	Muscle pain.
Petechiae	Pinpoint-sized hemorrhages of small capillaries in the skin or mucous membranes.
Pharyngeal injection	Swelling of pharynx or throat
Pleural effusion	Medical condition where fluid accumulates in the pleural cavity which surrounds the lungs, making it hard to breathe.
Retro-orbital pain	Pain behind the eyes.
Thrombocytopenia	Presence of relatively few platelets in blood.
Tourniquet test	Refer to Hess Test.
Tonsillar injection	Enlargement of tonsils. Tonsils are areas of lymphoid tissue on either side of the throat