



## Medical Jargon Explained

As your diagnosis and treatment can often occur very quickly, there will be a lot of information to take in from the doctors and nurses in very short time. Medical jargon (terms) can be very confusing and there'll be a lot to understand and remember about your treatment. Below are just some of the terms you're likely to come across.

**LOCAL ANAESTHETIC** is a medical term used to describe how a cream or injection can be used to cause temporary numbness in a specific area of the body during certain tests or procedures.

**GENERAL ANAESTHETIC** is a medical term used to describe how specialist doctors use drugs to put you to sleep during an operation.

**A BIOPSY** involves the removal of a piece of tissue or fluid. It is generally obtained at the time of surgery. Once removed, cancer experts microscopically examine the tissue or fluid. This is how the experts make a clear diagnosis.

**CANCER** is a general term used to describe many malignant growths, in many parts of the body.

**CHEMOTHERAPY** is a general term used to describe a large group of cancer killing drugs. These will be prescribed by a Cancer Specialist and will be specific to you alone.

**CONSENT** is a written or verbal agreement that you or your parents will be asked to give before certain investigations or treatments.

**CYTOLOGY** refers to the microscopic examination of abnormal cells. This process allows scientists to identify the type and extent of the cancer involved.

**DIAGNOSIS** is the medical term given to any illness that has been identified following a full medical investigation of symptoms and specific test results.

**TUMOUR** is a medical term used to describe a lump or growth that may or may not be a cancer. Doctors describe tumours as being either malignant or benign.

**MALIGNANT TUMOUR** is a lump or growth that following investigation is considered by experts to be life threatening cancers.

**BENIGN TUMOUR** describes a lump or growth that following investigation is proven to be non-threatening, therefore not cancer.

**PROGNOSIS** is a medical term used by Specialists to describe how your cancer is most likely to affect you in the future?

**PROTOCOL** is the term given to a cancer treatment plan specific to you.

**PRIMARY CANCER** is a term used to describe the original site or location of cancer cells.

**SECONDARY CANCER** is a term used to describe a cancer that has spread from the original site to other areas of the body.

**INFERTILITY** is the inability to get pregnant or make a woman pregnant.

**SPERM BANKING** is the process by which human sperm is reserved and frozen for future use.

**EGG FREEZING** is the process by which women can have eggs surgically removed and frozen for future use.

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