



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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