

CCHI Mini-Glossary Project Glossary #1 Subject: Cardiovascular System Language: English

#	English	Your Translation into:	Definition
1.	Cardiovascular		relating to the heart and the blood vessels
2.	Blood vessel		An elastic tube or passage in the body through which blood circulates
3.	Artery		a blood vessel that carries blood (usually with oxygen) away from the heart to the cells, tissues, and organs of the body
4.	Vein		a blood vessel that carries blood to the heart
5.	Aorta		the main artery of the body, supplying oxygenated blood to the circulatory system
6.	Atrium		a top chamber of the heart in which blood enters the heart
7.	Ventricle		a bottom chamber of the heart which pumps the blood out of the heart
8.	Valve		allows blood to flow through it in only one direction
9.	Cholesterol		a fat-like substance (lipid) that is found in certain foods and is also produced in the body (liver and intestines). The body needs some cholesterol to work properly. But high levels of cholesterol in the blood can block arteries and increase the risk of heart disease.
10.	Plaque		A deposit, build-up of fatty material, cellular waste products, calcium and other substances on the inner lining of an arterial wall.
11.	Atherosclerosis		a disease when arteries harden and become narrower due to the plaque.
12.	High blood pressure Syn. <u>Hyper</u> tension		in an adult as a blood pressure greater than or equal to 140 mm Hg systolic pressure or greater than or equal to 90 mm Hg diastolic pressure.



13.	Low blood pressure	generally when systolic blood pressure is less than 90
	Syn. <u>Hypo</u> tension	mm Hg or diastolic less than 60 mm H
14.	Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)	is arteriosclerosis of the inner lining of the blood vessels that supply blood to the heart.
15.	Angina (Angina Pectoris)	chest pain or discomfort that usually occurs with activity or stress. Angina is chest discomfort due to poor blood flow through the blood vessels in the heart.
16.	Palpitations	the feelings of having rapid, fluttering or pounding heart. Heart palpitations can be triggered by stress, exercise, medication or, rarely, a medical condition.
17.	Shortness of breath Syn. dyspnea	A sensation of not being able to get enough air; difficulty breathing
18.	Heart attack Syn. Myocardial infarction	Scarring or death of the heart due to the lack of oxygen. It occurs when the blood supply to part of the heart muscle itself the myocardium is severely reduced or stopped. The reduction or stoppage happens when one or more of the coronary arteries supplying blood to the heart muscle is blocked. This is usually caused by the buildup of plaque. The plaque can eventually burst, tear or rupture, creating a "snag" where a blood clot forms and blocks the artery. [The formation of an infarct, an area of tissue death due to a local lack of oxygen.]
19.	Cardiac arrest Syn. cardiopulmonary arrest	When the heart stops beating suddenly and respiration and other body functions stop as a result. Sudden cessation of heartbeat and pumping action of the heart, resulting in the loss of effective circulation.
20.	Blood clot Syn. Thromb	a thickened (coagulated) mass of blood formed by platelets, as within a blood vessel or at the site of an open wound.
21.	Embolism	a sudden blockage of an artery caused by a blood clot (embolus) that travels from other parts of the body (such as the leg). An embolism can get stuck in the brain, lungs, heart, or other area, leading to severe damage.
22.	Thrombolytic drug/therapy	Medications used to dissolve blood clots and limit the damage caused by the blockage of the blood vessel. Thrombolysis may be used to treat a heart attack or stroke.
23.	Anticoagulant Syn. Blood thinner	A class of drugs that prevent blood from clotting and help to keep existing blood clots from getting worse (e.g. Coumadin)
24.	Beta blocker	any of a group of drugs (as propranolol) that block the activity of a beta-receptor in order to decrease the heart rate and force of contractions and lower high blood pressure. Beta blockers are used especially to treat hypertension, angina, and ventricular and



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		supraventricular arrhythmias.
25.	Aneurysm	an abnormal blood-filled bulge of a blood vessel and especially an artery resulting from weakening (as from disease) of the vessel wall
26.	Stroke Syn. Cerebral vascular accident (CVA)	a condition when blood supply to the brain is interrupted, depriving the cells of oxygen and other nutrients. There are two types of stroke - those caused by blood clots in the brain and those that occur when blood vessels burst.
27.	Mini-stroke Syn. Transient ischaemic attack (TIA)	is caused by the temporary disturbance of blood supply to a restricted area of the brain, resulting in brief neurologic dysfunction that usually persists for less than 24 hours. It may be a warning sign of an imminent full-blown stroke.
28.	Heart murmurs	are most often caused by defective heart valves. A stenotic heart valve has a smaller-than-normal opening and can't open completely. A valve may also be unable to close completely. This leads to regurgitation, which is blood leaking backward through the valve when it should be closed. Murmurs also can be caused by conditions such as pregnancy, fever, thyrotoxicosis (a diseased condition resulting from an overactive thyroid gland) or anemia.
29.	Arrhythmia	any of a group of conditions in which the electrical activity of the heart is irregular or is faster or slower than normal. An irregular heart rate.
30.	Atrial fibrillation	an irregular and often rapid heart rate that commonly causes poor blood flow to the body. During atrial fibrillation, the heart's two upper chambers (the atria) beat chaotically and irregularly — out of coordination with the two lower chambers (the ventricles) of the heart. Atrial fibrillation symptoms include heart palpitations, shortness of breath and weakness.
31.	Ventricular fibrillation	a condition in which there is uncoordinated contraction of the ventricles. As a result, the heart fails to adequately pump blood; oxygen deficiency soon occurs, followed by unconsciousness within 20 to 30 seconds. The condition can often be reversed by the electric shock from a defibrillator.
32.	Defibrillator	A device that generates an electric charge (of various voltage) and delivers the shock through paddles or pads on the patient's chest.
33.	Resuscitate (v)	to revive, especially from apparent death or from unconsciousness



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34.	Tachycardia	a fast heart rate. Rapid heart beating in the ventricles can be life-threatening.
35.	Implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD)	a small device that is implanted under the skin, most often in the shoulder area just under the collarbone. An ICD senses the rate of the heartbeat. When the heart rate exceeds a rate programmed into the device, it delivers a small electrical shock to the heart to slow the heart rate.
36.	Bradycardia	is a heart rate that's "too slow," it is caused by problems in the AV node. A heartbeat of less than 60 beats per minute can cause fatigue, dizziness, light- headedness or fainting.
37.	Pacemaker	a medical device which uses electrical impulses, delivered by electrodes contacting the heart muscles, to regulate the beating of the heart. The primary purpose of a pacemaker is to maintain an adequate heart rate
38.	EKG (ECG) = electrocardiogram	Process of recording the electricity flowing through the heart and thus the rhythm of the heartbeat.
39.	ECHO = echocardiogram	the ultrasound of the heart". Pulses of high-frequency sound waves are transmitted into the chest, and echoes returning from the valves, chambers, and surfaces of the heart are electronically recorded. This procedure can show the structure and movement of the heart.
40.	Exercise stress test	helps a doctor find out how well the patient's heart handles work. During this test a patient walks on a treadmill or pedals a stationary bicycle while hooked up to equipment that monitors the heart. As the body works harder during the test, it requires more oxygen, so the heart must pump more blood. The test can show if the blood supply is reduced in the arteries that supply the heart.
41.	Nuclear stress test <i>Syn.</i> nuclear imaging, perfusion imaging	a diagnostic procedure used to show how well the heart is supplied (perfused) with blood at rest and under stress. It shows areas of the heart that have reduced blood supply due to narrowing of coronary arteries. A small amount of radioactive tracer (isotope thallium) is used to show the heart muscle.
42.	Cardiac catheterization (cardiac cath)	A thin, flexible tube is introduced into a vein or artery and is guided into the heart for purposes of detecting pressures and patterns of blood flow. Contrast dye can also be injected and x-ray films made (angiography).
43. © •	Angioplasty	A wire is passed through the diseased coronary artery, to beyond the area of coronary artery that is being worked upon. Over this wire, a balloon catheter is passed into the segment that is to be opened up. The

44.	Stent	end of the catheter contains a small folded balloon.When the balloon is hydraulically inflated, itcompresses the plaque and stretches the artery wallto expand. At the same time, if an expandable wiremesh tube (stent) was on the balloon, then the stentwill be implanted to support the new stretched openposition of the artery from the inside.a tiny tube of plastic or metal mesh placed inside ablood vessel or other duct to keep it open. When astent is placed into the body, the procedure is calledstenting. Most of the time, stents are used to treatconditions that result when arteries become narrowor blocked. The devices are also used to unblock andkeep open other tube-shaped structures in the body,
45.	Graft	including the bile ducts, the ureters, and bronchi. a piece of tissue or an organ transplanted from a donor or from the patient's own body to an area of the body needs the tissue.
46.	<b>Coronary artery bypass</b> grafting (CABG) <i>Syn.</i> Bypass surgery	Surgery (usually minimally invasive) when vessels grafts, consisting of veins or arteries taken from other parts of the body, are connected to existing coronary arteries to detour around blockages in the coronary arteries and keep the heart (myocardium) supplied with oxygenated blood.
47.	Cardiac ablation	A procedure that can correct heart rhythm problems (arrhythmias). Ablation typically uses catheters — long, flexible tubes inserted through a vein in your groin and threaded to your heart — to correct structural problems in your heart that cause an arrhythmia. Cardiac ablation works by scarring or destroying tissue in your heart that triggers an abnormal heart rhythm. In some cases, ablation prevents abnormal electrical signals from traveling through your heart and thus stops the arrhythmia.
48.	Deep venous thrombosis (DVT) Syn. Deep vein thrombosis	a condition in which a blood clot forms in a vein that is deep inside the body. DVT mainly affects the large veins in the lower leg and thigh. The clot can block blood flow and cause swelling and pain.
49.	Varicose veins	enlarged veins that are swollen and raised above the surface of the skin. They can be dark purple or blue, and look twisted and bulging. Varicose veins are commonly found on the backs of the calves or on the inside of the leg. They develop when valves in the veins that allow blood to flow toward the heart stop working properly. As a result, blood pools in the veins and causes them to get larger.

