

THE TERMS TO KNOW

- **Acromegaly:**

Abnormal growth due to excessive production of growth hormone after growing age, the internal organs and body extremities alone grow large and affected persons have large hands, feet and jawbones.

- **Antidiuretic hormone:**

The hormone of the posterior pituitary, promotes the reabsorption of water in renal tubules

- **Aqueous humour:**

The fluid present in the anterior chamber of the eye i.e. between the cornea and the iris

- **Axon:**

A long, thin fibre that carries nerve, impulse away from the cell body of a neuron

- **Calcitonin:**

The thyroid gland produces another hormone called calcitonin. It decreases the level of calcium ions in blood and promotes the absorption of calcium from blood into bones

- **Cell body:**

The part of the nerve cell that contains nucleus

- **Cerebellum:**

The part of the hindbrain; controls muscle movements

- **Cerebral hemisphere:**

The divisions of the cerebrum of the brain

- **Cerebrospinal fluid:**

The fluid in the ventricles of the brain and in the central canal of the spinal cord

- **Cerebrum:**

The largest part of the forebrain, controls many sensory and motor functions

- **Choroid:**

A muscular ring formed by the bending of the choroid behind the cornea of the eye

- **Cochlea:**

Inner ear consists of three parts ie vestibule, semicircular canals and cochlea

- **Colour blindness:**

Genetic disorders in which person fails to recognize the basic colours

- **Cones:**

The photosensitive cells in the retina of the eye, sensitive to bright light and so distinguish different colours

- **Cornea:**

The transparent part of sclera that forms in the front of the eye through which light enters

- **Cranial nerve:**

Nerves that arise from or lead to the brain

- **Dendrite:**

Short, branched projections of neuron's cell body, transmits nerve impulse towards cell body

- **Diabetes mellitus:**

More than normal level of glucose in blood: a condition caused by insufficient concentration of insulin in blood

- **Dwarfism:**

Less than normal body growth: a condition caused when growth hormone is insufficient during the growing age

- **Ear drum:**

Tympanic membrane, a membrane stretched across the inner end of the auditory canal of the ear

- **Effector:**

The parts of the coordination system that respond when stimulated by nerve impulses or hormones

- **Endocrine gland:**

A ductless gland, produces and secretes hormones

- **Epilepsy:**

A nervous disorder characterized by recurrent unprovoked seizures (convulsions)

- **Epinephrine:**

See Adrenaline

- **Estrogen:**

A hormone secreted by the ovaries, promotes development of female secondary sex characteristics and regulates the reproductive cycle

- **Eustachian tube:**

The tube between middle ear and the nasal cavity that equalizes the pressure on both sides of the ear drum

- **Exocrine gland:**

A gland that discharges its secretion into a duct

- **Ganglion:**

The aggregation of the cell bodies of neurons

- **Grey matter:**

The nervous tissue containing cell bodies and nonmyelinated processes of the neurons

- **Hormone:**

A substance that is secreted by an endocrine gland directly into blood and that produces a specific effect on a particular tissue

- **Hypermetropia:**

The condition in which a person is not able to see near objects clearly, happens when the eyeball shortens and image is formed behind the retina

- **Hypothalamus:**

The part of the forebrain below the thalamus, controls body temperature blood pressure and emotion

- **Insulin:**

The hormone produced by the Islets of Langerhans lowers the blood glucose level

- **Interneuron:**

The neurons present in the brain and spinal cord

- **Iodopsin:**

A pigment present in the cones of the retina

- **Iris:**

A muscular ring formed by the bending of the choroid behind the cornea of the eye.

- **Islets of Langerhans:**

Groups of endocrine cells present in pancreas: secrete hormones insulin and glucagon

- **Medulla oblongata:**

Part of the hindbrain, on the top of the spinal cord controls breathing, heart rate, blood pressure and many reflexes

- **Meninges:**

Three layers around the brain and the spinal cord protect them and provide nutrients and oxygen through their capillaries

- **Mixed nerve:**

The nerves containing axons of both the sensory and motor neurons

- **Motor nerve:**

The nerves which contain the axons of motor neurons only

- **Myelin sheath:**

The insulating sheath around the axons of some neurons

- **Myopia:**

The condition in which a person is not able to see distant objects clearly happens due to elongation of the eyeball and image is formed in front of the retina

- **Nerve:**

The union of several axons that are enveloped by a covering made of lipid

- **Nerve impulse:**

Nerve cell, the unit of the nervous system; able to conduct nerve impulses

- **Neuron:**

Nerve cell the unit of the nervous system, able to conduct nerve impulses

- **Nodes of Ranvier:**

The non-myelinated points between the areas of myelin on the axons of neurons

- **Optic disc:**

Blind spot a point on the retina of the eye where the optic nerve enters the retina, no photosensitive cells exist at this point

- **Oxytocin:**

The hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary, stimulates the contraction of uterus walls in females for child birth; necessary for ejection of milk from the breasts

- **Paralysis:**

Complete loss of function by one or more muscle groups due to damage in the nervous system

- **Parathormone:**

Hormone of the parathyroid glands, increases the level of calcium ions in the blood

- **Parathyroid:**

The endocrine glands located on the posterior sides of the thyroid gland secrete parathormone

- **Pituitary:**

The endocrine gland attached to the hypothalamus that controls many other endocrine glands in the body

- **Pons:**

Part of the hindbrain present on top of the medulla, assists the medulla in controlling breathing and serves as a connection between the cerebellum and the spinal cord

- **Progesterone:**

Ovaries secrete estrogen and progesterone, which are responsible for the development of female secondary characters such as the development of breast etc

- **Pupil:**

The opening in the centre of the iris of the eye

- **Receptor:**

The organs, tissues or cells which detect particular type of stimuli

- **Reflex arc:**

The nerve pathway over which the nerve impulses travel in a reflex action

- **Retina:**

The innermost and the sensitive layer in the eye

- **Retinene:**

Breakdown product of rhodopsin.

- **Rhodopsin:**

A pigment present in the rods of the retina

- **Rods:**

The photosensitive cells present in the retina of the eye; sensitive to dim light

- **Schwann cells:**

The supporting cells around neurons, form the myelin sheath

- **Sclera:**

The tough, white outer layer of the eye

- **Semicircular canals:**

The three bony canals present posterior to the vestibule in the inner ear

- **Sensory nerve:**

The nerves which contain only the axons of sensory neurons

- **Somatotropin:**

Growth hormone A hormone of the anterior pituitary, promotes the growth of the body

- **Spinal nerve:**

The nerves which arise from the spinal cord

- **Suspensory ligament:**

The ring that attaches the lens of the eye to the ciliary muscles

- **Testosterone:**

The male sex hormone secreted by testis: stimulates the development of male reproductive system and the male secondary sex characteristics

- **Thalamus:**

The part of the forebrain, serves as a relay centre between various parts of the brain and spinal cord

- **Thyroid:**

The endocrine gland located in front of the trachea, secretes hormones thyroxin and calcitonin

- **Thyroid-stimulating-hormone:**

A hormone secreted by the adenohypophysis of the pituitary gland that regulates the formation and secretion of thyroid hormone also called thyrotropic hormone thyrotropin. TSH

- **Thyroxin:**

The hormone of the thyroid gland increases the breakdown of food and release of energy also responsible for the growth of body

- **Tympanum:**

Tympanic membrane See Ear drum

- **Vasopressin:**

Antidiuretic hormone, the hormones secreted by the posterior pituitary responsible for the reabsorption of water from renal tubules of the nephron

- **Vestibule:**

Part of the inner ear helps to maintain balance of the body

- **Vitreous humour:**

The fluid present in the posterior chamber of the eye ie between the iris and retina

