

acetylcholine

a substance that relays impulses to the nervous system

acetylcholine receptor

a structure on a cell that can bind itself specifically to acetylcholine

achlorhydria

absence of hydrochloric acid in the stomach

acidosis

a condition in which the tissues of the body are too acid

acute-phase protein

proteins that increase in concentration during inflammation

amylase

an enzyme that can break down starch, mainly produced by the salivary glands and pancreas

antigen

a substance against which the immune system can form antibodies or make T-lymphocytes which can specifically react with this antigen

antinuclear antibodies (ANA)

antibodies which are targeted against components in the nucleus of the cell

apoptosis

programmed death of cells of the body without this leading to an inflammatory response

autoimmune disease

a disease believed to be caused by the immune system

biopsy

excision and microscopic examination of a piece of tissue

blepharitis

inflammation of the eyelid due to blockage of Meibomian glands openings

bronchitis

inflammation of the airways

bronchitis sicca

inflammation of the airways caused by dryness of the mucous membranes

Candida albicans

a single-cell fungus (yeast)

carpal tunnel syndrome

the complex of symptoms that occur as a result of compression of median nerve in the wrist

cevimeline

a drug with the effect of binding to the muscarinic M3-receptor, comparable to pilocarpine

chloroquine

the generic name of the drug Nivaquine®; see also hydroxychloroquine

coeliac disease

an immune-mediated disease of the small intestine, also known as sprue

colitis

inflammation of the large intestine; see also ulcerative colitis

complement

a collective name for certain proteins (complement factors) which play an important role in the immune system

corticosteroids

steroid hormones produced in the adrenal cortex

C-reactive protein (CRP)

an acute phase protein (see above) of which the

concentration is increased by inflammation

CREST syndrome

an autoimmune disease belonging to the systemic sclerosis ("scleroderma") group; the name is replaced now by the term limited systemic sclerosis; CREST is the abbreviation for 5 possible manifestations of the disease:

C: calcinosis (local calcium deposits in the skin)

R: Raynaud phenomenon

E: esophageal dysmotility (abnormal movements of the esophagus)

S: sclerodactily (thickening and tightening of the skin of the fingers)

T: teleangiectasia (small collections of dilated blood vessels on the skin)

anticentromer antibodies in the blood are another typical feature of the disease.

cryoglobulins

cryoglobulins are complexes of mainly antibodies which form a gel at low temperatures and can consequently make the blood thicker (more viscous)

cystitis

bladder inflammation (see also inflammation and infection)

cystoscopy

examination of the inside of the urinary bladder using a (flexible) viewing instrument (cystoscope)

dacryoadenitis

inflammation of the tear-producing (lacrimal) gland

diabetes mellitus

sugar diabetes

erythrocyte

red blood cell

ESR

erythrocyte sedimentation rate, a blood test to detect inflammation

etiology

the cause of a disease

exanthem

red rash

first-degree relative

the parents, brothers, sisters, or children of an

individual

fibromyalgia

a poorly understood disease with pain in the muscles, ligaments and tendons without signs of inflammation

focal lymphocytic sialoadenitis

inflammation of the salivary glands with local accumulation of lymphocytes around the ducts, a feature of Sjögren's syndrome

focus

a general term with a special meaning in the description of the histology of salivary gland biopsies: an accumulation of 50 or more lymphocytes

focus score

the number of foci (see focus) per 4 mm² in salivary gland tissue

gastritis

inflammation of the (mucous membrane lining the) stomach

glomerulonephritis

inflammation of the kidney filter system

glucose

sugar

heart block

decreased conduction speed in the heart resulting in a slow heart beat; it is a possible symptoms of neonatal lupus, a disease of the foetus or newborn caused by antibodies to SSA/Ro from the mother

haemoglobin

a colouring substance in the red blood cells; measurement of the concentration of haemoglobin in the blood is a test of the presence of anaemia

HLA

HLA is the abbreviation for Human Leukocyte Antigen, a reference to the white blood cells on which they were first discovered. They are also known as transplantation antigens because they play a role in the rejection of transplants.

Hunner's ulcer (or lesion)

a lesion in the bladder that can occur in interstitial cystitis (bladder pain syndrome); the name is misleading as it is not an ulcer; the prevalence is severely underestimated while the presence has

major impact on treatment

hydroxychloroquine

the generic name for the drug Plaquenil®

hypergammaglobulinemia

an excessive concentration of immunoglobulins (“antibodies”) in the blood

hyperthyroidism

overactive thyroid

hypothyroidism

underactive thyroid

hyperventilation

breathing too rapidly and/or too deeply, resulting in too much carbon dioxide being breathed out and an increased of the pH in the body

hyperviscosity

an increase in the viscosity (thickening or stickiness) of the blood

immune complex

a complex or cluster of antibodies, antigen and complement

intrinsic factor

a protein (glycoprotein) formed by the stomach that is necessary for the absorption of vitamin B12 in the small intestine

IgA

a class of antibodies that is supposed to protect the mucous membranes of the body

IgE

a class of antibodies that may increase in number in certain allergic reactions

IgG

a class of antibodies found in high concentration in the blood and can penetrate all body tissues

IgM

a class of antibodies mainly present in the blood

immunoglobulins

a general name for antibodies without indicating what the antibodies are targeted against

incidence

the number of new cases of a disease per year; see also prevalence

infection

the dissemination of microbial agents such as bacteria and viruses in the body; many infections have a subclinical (no signs of disease) course while other cause disease

inflammation

the body’s reaction to tissue damage, classically consisting of pain, redness, swelling, increased (local or general) temperature and loss of function; inflammation has many different causes such as physical or chemical trauma, radiation, immune reaction or infection

interstitial cystitis (bladder pain syndrome)

a chronic inflammation of the urinary bladder; the symptoms are similar to bladder inflammation due to a bacterial infection of the bladder (“cystitis”); the cause of interstitial cystitis is unknown

interstitial nephritis

inflammation of the kidney tubules

irritable bowel syndrome

also known as “spastic colon” or “mucous colitis”, a condition with recurrent abdominal pain with constipation and/or diarrhoea

keratoconjunctivitis sicca

inflammation of the front of the eye (conjunctiva and cornea) which also forms part of Sjögren’s syndrome

leukopenia or leukocytopenia

a decrease in the number of white blood cells

lip biopsy

excision and microscopic examination of small salivary glands from the inside of the lip

lissamine green

a dye which can be use for eye tests instead of rose bengal

livedo reticularis

mottled discoloration of the skin; a possible symptom of antiphospholipid syndrome

lung embolism

also called pulmonary embolism; thrombosis in a blood vessel of the lungs

lupus anticoagulant

an antiphospholipid antibody which can cause thrombosis

lymphocytic interstitial pneumonitis (LIP)

inflammation of the lungs in which lymphocytes accumulate around the small airways

lymphocytes

specific white blood cells, which may be subdivided *e.g.* as B-lymphocytes and T-lymphocytes

maculopathy

a disorder of the retina which may be caused, for example, by long-term overdosing with (hydroxy)chloroquine

MALT lymphoma

a lymphoma caused by lymphocytes in or near mucous membranes (MALT = mucosa associated lymphoid tissue)

MCTD

an autoimmune disease (abbreviation for mixed connective tissue disease), a variant of systemic lupus erythematosus

Meibomian glands

the Meibomian glands are situated in the eyelids and produce oily secretions which combat evaporation of tear fluid, for example; blockage of the Meibomian glands can result in blepharitis (see above)

monocytes

specific white blood cells; monocytes may undergo changes and migrate to the tissue, so-called macrophages; they play an important role in ingesting and breaking down particles such as bacteria which are then offered to lymphocytes; they also play a role in inflammatory reactions

monoclonal

antibodies are described as monoclonal if they are derived from identical B-lymphocytes; high concentrations of monoclonal antibodies may occur in Sjögren's syndrome and some malignant diseases such as Waldenström's macroglobulinemia and multiple myeloma

muscarinic receptor

one of the acetylcholine receptors, found *e.g.* in salivary and lacrimal glands

myasthenia gravis

an autoimmune disease which is caused by antibodies to the nicotine receptor for acetylcholine on skeletal muscles

myositis

inflammation of muscles

nerves

facial nerve: the 7th cranial nerve

trigeminal nerve: the three-branch nerve, the 5th cranial nerve

NSAID

a collective name for certain anti-inflammatory drugs; an abbreviation for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs that indicates that they do not contain corticosteroids

oligoclonal

the presence of several monoclonal groups of antibodies; see also monoclonal and polyclonal

osteoporosis

loss of density and structure of bony tissue; the effect of various risk factors accumulate; examples of risk factors for osteoporosis are:

- having family members with osteoporosis
- vitamin D deficiency (very common !!)
- insufficient intake of calcium
- old age
- smoking
- excessive alcohol consumption
- inactivity
- menopause
- using corticosteroids
- having a disease such as hyperthyroidisms, celiac disease, inflammatory disease such as rheumatoid arthritis or inflammatory bowel disease and mastocytosis

pancreas

a gland that lies behind the stomach and secretes enzymes involved in digestion

pancreatitis

inflammation of the pancreas

parotid gland

the large salivary gland situated in front of each ear

parotitis

inflammation of the parotid salivary glands

polyclonal

the presence of a group of antibodies derived from many lymphocytes (the normal situation)

polymyositis

a disease in which several muscles are inflamed; it can also form part of a generalised autoimmune disease

prevalence

the part or percentage of the population in which a specific disease occurs; see also incidence

Raynaud phenomenon

a condition in which the hands and/or feet turn to white-blue in the cold and often to turn red when they warm up

retina

lining of the interior of the eye

retinopathy

disorder of the retina

rheumatoid factor

an autoantibody (usually of the IgM class) to the Fc part of IgG; see chapter 15

rose bengal dye

a red dye that colours cells of the eye that are not covered by mucin

saliva flow

the amount of saliva produced in 15 minutes

sarcoidosis

Besnier-Boeck disease

Schirmer test

an eye test that measures the quantity of tear fluid produced in 5 minutes; see chapter 12

scintigram

an investigation to measure the function of an organ through the uptake and elimination of a radioactive tracer substance

scleroderma

an autoimmune disease in which the skin becomes tighter; lung, kidney and intestinal disorders may also occur; see systemic sclerosis and CREST syndrome

second degree relative

grandparent, aunt / uncle or grandchild

sensitivity

a term used in relation to a specific test to show how many (part or percentage) of the people with a specific disease have an abnormal test result (see also specificity)

specificity

a measurement in relation to a specific test to show how many (part or percentage) of the people who do not have a specific disease have a normal test result

STAT

Signal Transducers and Activators of Transcription (see chapter 3)

systemic sclerosis ("scleroderma")

a heterogenous group of diseases in which the skin becomes tighter; lung, kidney and intestinal disorders may also occur; examples are limited (CREST syndrome, morphea) and generalized systemic sclerosis

thymus

an organ in which the T-lymphocytes grow, mature and unsuitable T-lymphocytes are eliminated

thrombocytes

blood platelets

thrombosis

clot in a blood vessel; has many causes and antiphospholipid antibodies are one of them

ulcerative colitis

chronic inflammation of the lining of the large intestine with ulceration

uveitis

inflammation of the uvea (choroid and iris of the eye); if the iris alone is inflamed, it is described as anterior uveitis or iridocyclitis

vasculitis

inflammation of blood vessels; the clinical consequence of vasculitis depends on the type (arteries or veins) and size of the vessels

xerophthalmia

dry eyes

xerostomia
dry mouth