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EDITION

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Taber's[®] CYCLOPEDIA MEDICAL DICTIONARY

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PHILADELPHIA

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ity between the lips and cheeks, and the teeth and gums.

v. of nose The anterior part of the nostrils, containing the vibrissae.

v. of pharynx The space surrounded by the soft palate, base of the tongue, and the palatoglossal and palatopharyngeal arches.

v. of vagina An almond-shaped space between the lines of attachment of the labia minora. The clitoris is situated at the superior angle; the inferior boundary is the fourchette. The vestibule is approx. 4 to 5 cm long and 2 cm in greatest width when the labia minora are separated. Four major structures open into the vestibule: the urethra anteriorly, the vagina into the midportion, and the two secretory ducts of the glands of Bartholin laterally. The mucous membrane is stratified squamous epithelium. SEE: Bartholin's gland; vagina; vestibular bulb.

vestibuloplasty (vēs-tīb'ū-lō-plās'tē) [**v.** + Gr. *plassein*, to mold] Plastic surgery of the vestibule of the mouth.

vestibulotomy (vēs-tīb'ū-lōt'ō-mē) [**v.** + Gr. *tome*, incision] Surgical incision into the vestibule of the inner ear.

vestibulourethral (vēs-tīb'ū-lō-ū-rē'thrāl) [**v.** + Gr. *ourethra*, urethra] Rel. to the vestibule of the vagina and urethra.

vestibulum (vēs-tīb'ū-lūm) *pl.* **vestibula** [L.] Vestibule.

vestige (vēs'tij) [L. *vestigium*, footstep] A small degenerate or incompletely developed structure that has been more fully developed in the embryo or in a previous stage of the species.

vestigial (vēs-tij'ē-āl) Of the nature of a vestige. SYN: rudimentary.

vestigium (vēs-tij'ē-ūm) *pl.* **vestigia** [L., a footstep] Vestige.

veterinarian (vēt'ēr-i-nār'ē-ān) One who is trained and licensed to practice veterinary medicine and surgery.

veterinary (vēt'ēr-i-nār'ē) 1. Pert. to animals, their diseases, and their treatment. 2. A veterinarian.

VF ventricular fibrillation; vocal fremitus.

V.H. viral hepatitis.

via (vē'ā, vī'ā) *pl.* **viae** [L.] Any passage in the body such as nasal, intestinal, or vaginal.

viability (vī'ā-bil'itē) [L. *vita*, life, + *habilis*, fit] The capacity for living, growing, developing, or surviving. It is used, for example, in reference to a premature fetus once it reaches a certain size or gestational age, or in determining the likelihood that an injured limb or transplanted organ will survive or flourish. **viable**, *adj.*

Viagra The trade name for sildenafil citrate, a medication used for erectile dysfunction. Its use is contraindicated in patients taking nitrates in any form owing to the risk of death.

vial (vī'āl) [Gr. *phiale*, a drinking cup] A small glass bottle for medicines or chemicals.

multiple-dose v. A container that holds more than one dose of a medication.

CAUTION: Contamination of multiple-dose vials may occur when health care providers fail to follow standard precautions or sterile procedures. Multiple-dose vials should be stored at temperatures specified by the manufacturer or pharmacist and be discarded when or if contamination is suspected or after the expiration date on the vial.

single-dose v. A container that holds enough medication for one patient's immediate needs. Single-dose vials should not be reused or refilled.

viator (vī'ā-tōr) An individual, usually one with a terminal illness, who sells rights to his or her insurance policy in exchange for an antemortem benefit collection.

vibex (vī'bēks) *pl.* **vibices** [L. *vibix*, mark of a blow] A narrow linear mark of hemorrhage into the skin.

vibration (vī-brā'shūn) 1. A to-and-fro movement. SYN: oscillation. 2. Therapeutic shaking of the body, a form of massage. It consists of a quick motion of the fingers or the hand vertical to the body or use of a mechanical vibrator. Chest wall vibration is a component of pulmonary hygiene; it improves respiratory function in patients with chronic obstruction lung disease, and can be used as an adjunctive treatment for pneumonia when it is used with postural drainage.

vibrative (vīb'rā-tīv) 1. Vibratory. 2. Indicating sound produced by vibration of parts of the respiratory tract as air passes through.

vibrator (vī'brā-tor) [L. *vibrator*, a shaker] A device that produces rapid to-and-fro movements in the body or one of its parts. In health care, vibrators are used in hearing aids and middle ear implants; in pulmonary hygiene to assist in clearing secretions or to stimulate diaphragmatic movement; in patients with sexual dysfunction (e.g., patients with spinal cord injuries affecting orgasm, or other orgasmic difficulties); or in the relief of muscle contraction in some patients with neurological deficits.

whole body v. Exposure of the entire body to vibration as would occur in occupations such as truck and tractor drivers, jackhammer operators, helicopter pilots, and construction workers using various vibration-producing tools. Such exposure may produce diseases of the peripheral nerves, prostatitis, and back disorders.