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Taber's CYCLOPEDIC MEDICAL DICTIONARY

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may go through a grieving period. The nurse can assist by suggesting alternative ways the mother can be nurturing to her infant. The nurse can also assist the patient with engorgement by instructing her to wear a supporting bra and to pump the breasts lightly to relieve some of the pressure but not to empty them. Ice packs and mild analgesics may be taken to relieve discomfort.

ablate (ăb-lāt′) [L. *ablatus,* taken away] To remove.

ablatio (ăb-lā′shē-ō) [L., carrying away] Ablation, removal, detachment.

a. placentae Abruptio placentae.

a. retinae Detachment of the retina. SEE: *retina*.

ablation (ăb-lā′shŭn) [L. *ab,* from, + *latus,* carried] Removal of a part, pathway, or function by surgery, chemical destruction, electrocautery, or radiofrequency.

endometrial a. Removal or destruction of the whole thickness of the endometrium and some superficial myometrium. The purpose is to remove all of the endometrial glandular material. This is done to treat benign disturbances of menstrual bleeding in women who do not wish to preserve fertility. Ablation may be done by use of the following: *Laser or electrosurgical*: YAG laser or high-powered "rollerball" electrocoagulation is used to destroy the uterine endometrium and 2 to 3 cm of myometrium. *Thermal*: A balloon catheter containing a heating element that delivers temperatures to 188°F (87°C) and a controller that monitors, displays, and regulates pressure, time, and temperature is used for heat-mediated endometrial destruction.

radiofrequency a. Ablation in which an electrode delivers a low-voltage, high-frequency current to cauterize and destroy abnormal tissues. Destruction of electrical conduction pathways in the heart with an intracardiac catheter removing the abnormal conducting tissues has been used to treat Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome, atrioventricular reentrant tachycardia, and other cardiac arrhythmias.

ABLEDATA (ā′bul-dā-tah) A searchable Internet database of assistive technology information maintained by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the U.S. Department of Education. The website address is www.abledata.com.

ablepharia (ăb-lĕ-fā′rē-ă) [Gr. *a-,* not, + *blepharon,* eyelid] Congenital absence of or reduction in the size of the eyelids. **ablepharous** (ă-blĕf′ă-rŭs), *adj.*

ablution (ăb-lū′shŭn) A cleansing or washing.

abnormal (ăb-nor′măl) [L. *ab,* from, + *norma,* rule] **1.** Diverging from a known standard or mean. SYN: *aberrant*. **2.** Exceptional. **3.** Unexpected.

Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale test ABBR: AIMS test. A system used to assess abnormal involuntary movements, such as hand tremors or rhythmic movements of the tongue and jaw, that may result from the long-term administration of psychotropic drugs. The test is often given before patients are started on antipsychotic drugs and then readministered periodically to monitor side effects.

abnormality (ăb″nor-măl′ĭ-tē) Deviation from the normal. SYN: *aberration*.

aborad (ăb-ō′răd) [L. *ab,* from, + *oris,* mouth] Away from the mouth.

aboral (ăb-ō′răl) Opposite to, or away from, the mouth.

abort (ă-bort′) [L. *abortare,* to miscarry] **1.** To expel an embryo or fetus prior to viability. **2.** To arrest the progress of disease. **3.** To arrest growth or development. **4.** To discontinue an effort or project before its completion.

abortifacient (ă-bor-tĭ-fā′shĕnt) [L. *abortio,* abortion, + *facere,* to make] Anything used to cause or induce an abortion. Examples of abortifacients include prostaglandins, among other agents.

abortion (ă-bor′shŭn) [L. *abortio*] The spontaneous or induced termination of pregnancy before the fetus reaches a viable age. The legal definition of viability—usually 20 to 24 weeks—differs from state to state. Some premature neonates of fewer than 24 weeks or 500 g are viable. Symptoms of spontaneous abortion include abdominal cramps and vaginal bleeding, sometimes with the passage of clots or bits of tissue.

ETIOLOGY: Among the most common spontaneous causes are faulty development of the embryo, abnormalities of the placenta, endocrine disturbances, acute infectious diseases, severe trauma, and shock. Other causes include problems related to the uterus, genetic factors, immunologic factors, and use of certain drugs.

PATIENT CARE: Assessment includes monitoring vital signs, fluid balance, and abortion status and progress. Historical data must include duration of pregnancy; Rh status; and time of onset, type, and intensity of abortion symptoms. Character and amount of vaginal bleeding are noted, and any passed tissue (embryonic or fetal) is preserved for laboratory examination. The patient is evaluated for shock, sepsis, and disseminated intravascular coagulation.

The patient's knowledge of her condition and any misconceptions are determined, and appropriate written and verbal information is provided. The patient's psychological status is assessed. A health care professional remains with

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