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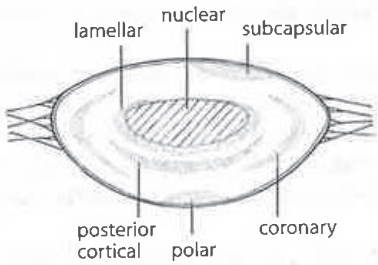
cat·a·ract (kăt′ə-răkt′) *n.* Opacity of the lens or capsule of the eye, causing impairment of vision or blindness. —**cat′a·rac′tous** (-răk′təs) *adj.*



cataract

location in the lens of different types of cataracts

cat·a·rac·to·gen·ic (kăt′ə-răk′tə-jĕn′ĭk) *adj.* Relating to or having the ability to produce a cataract.

ca·tarrh (kə-tär′) *n.* Inflammation of mucous membranes, especially of the nose and throat. —**ca·tarrh′al** *adj.*

catarrhal gastritis *n.* Gastritis with excessive secretion of mucus.

catarrhal inflammation *n.* An inflammatory process that occurs in mucous membranes and is characterized by increased blood flow to the mucosal vessels, edema of the interstitial tissue, enlargement of the secretory epithelial cells, and profuse discharge of mucus and epithelial debris.

cat·a·stal·sis (kăt′ə-stôl′sĭs, -stăl′-) *n.* A downward wave of contraction occurring in the gastrointestinal tract during digestion.

cat·a·stal·tic (kăt′ə-stôl′tĭk, -stăl′-) *adj.* Restricting or inhibitory; restraining.

cat·a·stroph·ic reaction (kăt′ə-strŏf′ĭk) *n.* Disorganized behavior due to a severe shock or threatening situation with which the person cannot cope.

cat·a·to·ni·a (kăt′ə-tō′nē-ə) *n.* An abnormal condition often associated with schizophrenia and variously characterized by stupor, stereotypy, mania, and either rigidity or extreme flexibility of the limbs. —**cat′a·ton′ic** (-tŏn′ĭk) *adj.*

catatonic rigidity *n.* Rigidity associated with catatonic psychotic states in which muscles exhibit flexibilitas cerea.

catatonic schizophrenia *n.* A type of schizophrenia characterized by marked disturbances in activity resulting in either generalized inhibition or excessive activity.

cat·a·tri·cro·tism (kăt′ə-trī′krə-tĭz′əm) *n.* A condition of the pulse marked by three expansions of the artery following the main beat and producing three upward notches on the downstroke of a pulse tracing. —**cat′a·tri·crot′ic** (-trī-krŏt′ĭk) *adj.*

cat-cry syndrome *n.* See **cri-du-chat syndrome.**

cat·e·chol (kăt′ĭ-kôl′, -kōl′) *n.* See **pyrocatechol.**

cat·e·cho·la·mine (kăt′ĭ-kō′lə-mēn′, -kô′-) *n.* Any of a group of amines composed of a pyrocatechol molecule and the aliphatic portion of an amine that have important physiological effects as neurotransmitters and hormones, such as epinephrine, norepinephrine, and L-dopa.

cat·er·pil·lar flap (kăt′ər-pĭl′ər, kăt′ə-) *n.* A tubed flap that is transferred end-over-end in stages from the donor area to a distant recipient area. Also called *waltzed flap.*

cat·gut (kăt′gŭt′) *n.* A tough, thin cord made from the treated and stretched intestines of certain animals, especially sheep, and used for surgical ligatures.

ca·thar·sis (kə-thär′sĭs) *n., pl.* **-ses** (-sēz) **1.** Purgation. **2.** A psychological technique used to relieve tension and anxiety by bringing repressed feelings and fears to consciousness. **3.** The therapeutic result of this process; abreaction.

ca·thar·tic (kə-thär′tĭk) *adj.* Inducing catharsis; purgative. —*n.* An agent for purging the bowels, especially a laxative.

ca·thec·tic (kə-thĕk′tĭk) *adj.* Of or relating to cathexis.

cath·e·ter (kăth′ĭ-tər) *n.* A hollow, flexible tube inserted into a body cavity, duct, or vessel to allow the passage of fluids or distend a passageway; its many uses include the diagnosis of heart disorders when inserted through a blood vessel into the heart.

catheter embolus *n.* A coiled worm-shaped aggregate of platelets and fibrin that develops on the catheter or the guide wire used in vascular catheterization.

cath·e·ter·ize (kăth′ĭ-tə-rīz′) *v.* To introduce a catheter into. —**cath′e·ter·i·za′tion** (-rĭ-zā′shən) *n.*

ca·thex·is (kə-thĕk′sĭs) *n., pl.* **-thex·es** (-thĕk′sēz) Concentration of emotional energy on an object or on an idea.

cath·ode ray (kăth′ōd′) *n.* **1.** A stream of electrons emitted by the cathode in electrical discharge tubes. **2.** One of the electrons that is emitted in a stream from a cathode-ray tube.

cat·i·on (kăt′ī′ən) *n.* An ion or group of ions having a positive charge and characteristically moving toward the negative electrode in electrolysis.

cation exchange *n.* A chemical process in which cations of like charge are exchanged equally between a solid, such as zeolite, and a solution, such as water.

cation-exchange resin *n.* An insoluble organic polymer having negatively charged radicals attached to it that can attract and hold cations in a surrounding solution.

CAT scan (kăt) *n.* An image produced by a CAT scanner. Also called *CT scan.*

CAT scanner *n.* A device that uses computerized axial tomography to produce cross-sectional views of an internal body structure. Also called *CT scanner.*

cat scratch disease *n.* An infectious disease that may follow the scratch or bite of a cat, producing localized inflammation of lymph nodes and a low-grade fever. Also called *benign inoculation lymphoreticulosis, cat scratch fever.*

cau·da (kô′də) *n., pl.* **-dae** (-dē′) A tail or taillike structure, or a tapering or elongated extremity of an organ or other part.

cau·dad (kô′dăd′) *adv.* Toward the tail or posterior end of the body; caudally.

cauda e·qui·na (ĭ-kwī′nə) *n.* The bundle of spinal nerve roots running through the lower part of the subarachnoid space within the vertebral canal below the first lumbar vertebra.

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interstitial fluid *n.* The fluid in spaces between the tissue cells.
interstitial gastritis *n.* Inflammation of the stomach involving the submucous and muscle coats.
interstitial giant cell pneumonia *n.* See **giant cell pneumonia.**
interstitial growth *n.* Growth originating in different centers within a structure or an area, characteristic of tissues formed of nonrigid materials.
interstitial hernia *n.* A hernia in which the protrusion is between any two of the layers of the abdominal wall.
interstitial keratitis *n.* See **parenchymatous keratitis.**
interstitial lamella *n.* One of the lamellae of partially resorbed osteons occurring between newer, complete osteons. Also called *ground lamella, intermediate lamella.*
interstitial nephritis *n.* Nephritis in which the interstitial connective tissue is chiefly affected.
interstitial neuritis *n.* Inflammation of the connective tissue framework of a nerve.
interstitial plasma cell pneumonia *n.* See **pneumocystosis.**
interstitial pregnancy *n.* See **intramural pregnancy.**
interstitial tissue *n.* See **connective tissue.**
in·ter·sti·ti·um (ĭn′tər-stĭsh′ē-əm) *n.* An interstice.
in·ter·tar·sal joint (ĭn′tər-tär′səl) *n.* See **tarsal joint.**
in·ter·trans·verse muscle (ĭn′tər-trănz-vûrs′, -trănz′-vûrs′) *n.* Any of the paired muscles between the transverse processes of adjacent vertebrae, designated anterior and posterior muscles in the cervical region, lateral and medial in the lumbar region, and single in the thoracic region.
in·ter·tri·go (ĭn′tər-trī′gō′) *n.* Dermatitis occurring between folds or juxtaposed surfaces of the skin and caused by sweat retention, moisture, warmth, and the overgrowth of resident microorganisms.
in·ter·tro·chan·ter·ic crest (ĭn′tər-trō′kən-tĕr′ĭk, -kăn) *n.* The rounded ridge that connects the greater and the lesser trochanter of the femur and that marks the junction of the neck and shaft of the bone.
intertrochanteric line *n.* A rough line that separates the neck and shaft of the femur anteriorly. Also called *spiral line.*
in·ter·tu·ber·cu·lar plane (ĭn′tər-tōō-bûr′kyə-lər) *n.* An Addison's clinical plane passing horizontally through the iliac tubercles and usually cutting the fifth lumbar vertebra. Also called *intertubercular line.*
in·ter·u·re·ter·ic fold (ĭn′tər-yŏŏr′ĭ-tĕr′ĭk) *n.* A fold of mucous membrane extending from the orifice of the ureter of one side to that of the other side. Also called *Mercier's bar.*
in·ter·val (ĭn′tər-vəl) *n.* **1.** A space between two objects, points, or units. **2.** The amount of time between two specified instants, events, or states.
interval phase *n.* Ovulation.
in·ter·ve·nous tubercle (ĭn′tər-vē′nəs) *n.* A projection on the wall of the right atrium of the heart between the orifices of the venae cavae.
in·ter·ven·tion (ĭn′tər-vĕn′shən) *n.* Interference so as to modify a process or situation. —**in′ter·vene′** (ĭn′-tər-vēn′) *v.*
in·ter·ven·tric·u·lar foramen (ĭn′tər-vĕn-trĭk′yə-lər) *n.* The short, often slitlike passage that on both the left and the right sides connects the third ventricle in the diencephalon with the lateral ventricle in the cerebral hemisphere. Also called *Monro's foramen, porta.*
interventricular septum *n.* The wall between the ventricles of the heart.
in·ter·ver·te·bral (ĭn′tər-vûr′tə-brəl, -vûr-tē′-) *adj.* Located between vertebrae.
intervertebral disk *n.* Any of the disks between the bodies of adjacent vertebrae. Also called *intervertebral cartilage.*

intervertebral disk
profile of lumbar intervertebral disks

intervertebral foramen *n.* Any of the openings into the vertebral canal bounded by the pedicles of adjacent vertebrae above and below, the vertebral bodies in front, and the articular processes behind.
intervertebral vein *n.* Any of numerous veins accompanying the spinal nerves, emptying in the neck into the vertebral vein, in the thorax into the intercostal vein, and in the lumbar and sacral regions into the lumbar and sacral veins.
in·ter·vil·lous lacuna (ĭn′tər-vĭl′əs) *n.* One of the spaces in the placenta that contain maternal blood and into which the chorionic villi project.
intervillous space *n.* Any of the spaces between placental villi containing maternal blood.
in·tes·ti·nal (ĭn-tĕs′tə-nəl) *adj.* Of, relating to, or constituting the intestine.
intestinal anastomosis *n.* See **enteroenterostomy.**
intestinal angina *n.* See **abdominal angina.**
intestinal artery *n.* See **jejunal artery.**
intestinal atresia *n.* Congenital absence or closure of the lumen of the small intestine involving the ileum, jejunum, or duodenum.
intestinal digestion *n.* The part of digestion carried on in the intestine, affecting all foodstuffs, including starches, fats, and proteins.
intestinal emphysema *n.* A condition marked by gas cysts in the intestinal mucous membrane, sometimes causing intestinal obstruction. Also called *pneumatosis cystoides intestinalis.*
intestinal fistula *n.* A tract leading from the lumen of the bowel to the exterior. Also called *fecal fistula, stercoral fistula.*
intestinal gland *n.* Any of the tubular glands in the mucous membrane of the small and large intestines. Also called *intestinal follicle, Lieberkühn's crypt, Lieberkühn's follicle.*
intestinal lipodystrophy *n.* See **Whipple's disease.**