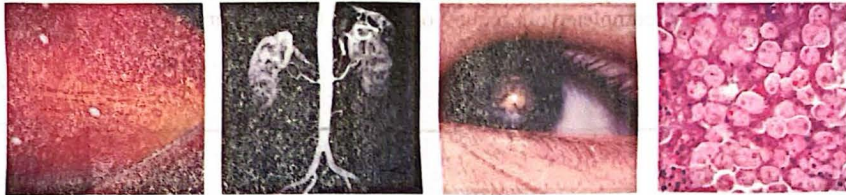
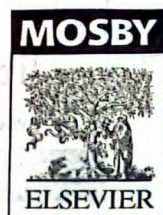


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8TH EDITION

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MOSBY'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY

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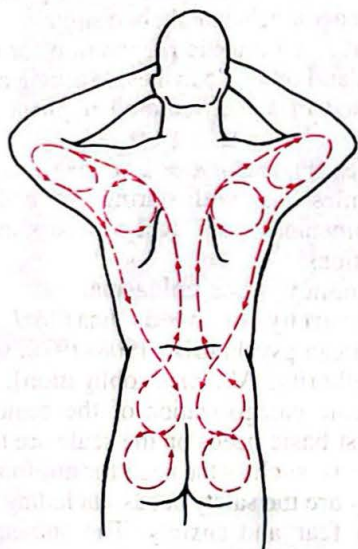
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reaction that is proportional to the active masses of the resulting substances.

massage¹ /mə'sāzh, mə'sāj/ [Fr, *masser*, to stroke], the manipulation of the soft tissue of the body through stroking, rubbing, kneading, or tapping, to increase circulation, to improve muscle tone, and to relax the patient. The procedure is performed either with the bare hands or through some mechanical means, such as a vibrator. The most common sites for massage are the back, knees, elbows, and heels. Care is taken not to massage inflamed areas, particularly of the extremities, because of the danger of loosening blood clots. Open wounds and areas of rash, tumor, or excessive sensitivity are avoided. Even if the extremities (legs) are not inflamed, they should not be massaged if the client has been immobilized for an extended period of time. The procedure is performed with the patient prone or on the side, comfortably positioned, with an emollient lotion or cream applied to the area to be massaged. The caregiver's hands are warm, and excessive pressure is avoided to prevent pain or injury. Kinds of massage are **cardiac massage**, **effleurage**, **flagellation**, **friction**, **frölement**, **pétrissage**, **tapotement**, and **vibration**.



Back massage pattern (Potter and Perry, 2007)

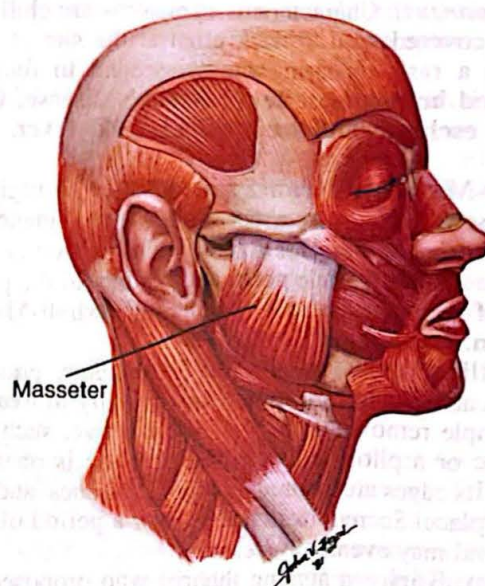
massage², a nursing intervention from the Nursing Interventions Classification (NIC) defined as stimulation of the skin and underlying tissues with varying degrees of hand pressure to decrease pain, produce relaxation, and/or improve circulation. See also **Nursing Interventions Classification**.

-massage, suffix meaning a "therapeutic kneading of the body": **electromassage**, **hydromassage**, **phonomassage**.

massage therapist, a person who performs massages to relieve pain and enhance healing.

massage therapy, the manipulation of the soft tissues of the body for the purpose of normalizing them, thereby enhancing health and healing. Massage therapy includes a number of methods, such as acupressure, classical Western massage, and shiatsu.

masseter /mə'sē'tər/ [Gk, one who chews], the thick rectangular muscle in the cheek that functions to close the jaw. It is one of the four muscles of mastication. The masseter is innervated by the masseteric nerve from the mandibular division of the trigeminal nerve.



Masseter (Thibodeau and Patton, 2007)

masseteric nerve, a branch of the anterior trunk of the mandibular nerve that penetrates and supplies the masseter muscle.

mass fragment [L, *massa*, lump, *frangere*, to shatter], (in mass spectrometry) a degraded part of a molecule containing one or more charges.

mass hysteria [ME, *maieur*, great; Gk, *hysteria*, womb], an episode of psychogenic illness affecting a large group of individuals at the same time. Examples include the witchcraft trials of the 17th century and the irrational mass reaction to the 1938 radio show based on H.G. Wells' science-fiction novel, *War of the Worlds*. Also called **collective hysteria**, **epidemic hysteria**, **major hysteria**, **mass panic**, **mass psychogenic illness**.

massive lung collapse, a condition in which an entire lung or one of its lobes becomes airless, frequently as a result of an obstruction in a bronchus.

mass number (A), the sum of the number of protons and neutrons in the nucleus of an atom or isotope. See also **atomic number**.

mass panic, **mass psychogenic illness**. See **major hysteria**.

mass reflex, an abnormal condition, seen in patients with transection of the spinal cord, characterized by a widespread nerve discharge. Stimulation below the level of the lesion results in flexor muscle spasms, incontinence of urine and feces, priapism, hypertension, and profuse sweating.

■ **OBSERVATIONS:** A mass reflex may be triggered by scratching or other painful stimulus to the skin, overdistension of the bladder or intestines, cold weather, prolonged sitting, or emotional stress. Muscle spasms may be so violent as to propel the patient off a bed or stretcher.

■ **INTERVENTIONS:** Medications to reduce mass reflexes include diazepam, dantrolene, chlorthalidopoxide, and meprobamate. Hubbard baths and exercises in warm water also help. Occasionally chordotomy, rhizotomy, peripheral nerve transection, or tenotomy may be necessary.

■ **NURSING CONSIDERATIONS:** Nurses should avoid stimulating areas that trigger mass reflexes and should be prepared to accept them when they occur and to explain the cause to the patient. It is important to prevent decubitus ulcers and blad-

perceptual. See **perception.**

perceptual constancy /pəˈsepʻchōō-əl/ [L, *percipere*, to perceive, *cum*, together with, *stare*, to stand], (in Gestalt psychology) the phenomenon in which an object is seen in the same way under varying circumstances.

perceptual defect, any of a broad group of disorders or dysfunctions of the central nervous system that interfere with the conscious mental recognition of sensory stimuli. Such conditions are caused by lesions at specific sites in the cerebral cortex that may result from any illness or trauma affecting the brain at any age or stage of development. Impairment of mental activity, cognitive processes, and emotional responses may be diffuse, as occurs in organic mental disorders, such as the psychoses, delirium, and dementia, and in attention deficit disorder, or they may be manifested focally, as in aphasia, apraxia, epilepsy, disorders of memory, cerebrovascular disorders, and various intracranial neoplasms.

perceptual deprivation, the absence of or decrease in meaningful groupings of stimuli, which may result from a constant background noise or constant inadequate illumination.

perceptual monotony, a mental state characterized by a lack of variety in the normal pattern of everyday stimuli.

perchloromethane. See **carbon tetrachloride.**

Percodan, trademark for a fixed-combination medication containing aspirin and an opioid analgesic (oxycodone) used to treat moderate to severe pain.

Percogesic, trademark for a fixed-combination drug containing an antihistamine (phenyltoloxamine citrate) and an analgesic (acetaminophen) used to treat mild to moderate pain.

percolation /pəˈkələˈshən/ [L, *percolare*, to strain],
1. the act of filtering any liquid through a porous medium.
2. (in pharmacology) the removal of the soluble parts of a crude drug by passing a liquid solvent through it.

per con., abbreviation for the Latin phrase *per contra*, "the other side."

per contiguum, spreading from one body structure to a contiguous area.

per continuum, describing the spread of an inflammation or other disease process from one body part to another through continuous tissue.

percuss /pəˈkʊs/ [L, *percutere*, to strike hard], to perform percussion by striking, for example, the thoracic or abdominal wall, thereby producing sound vibrations that aid in diagnosis.

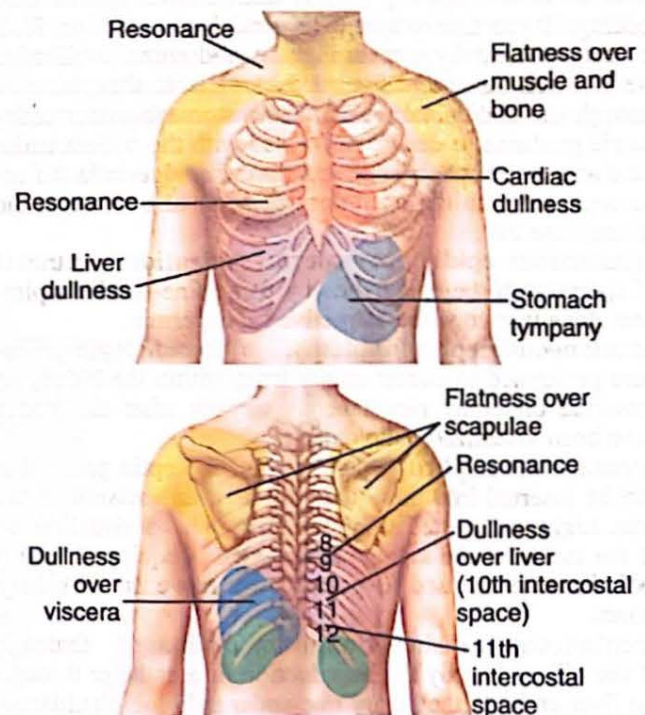
percussion /pəˈkʊʃ-ən/ [L, *percutere*, to strike hard], a technique in physical examination of tapping the body with the fingertips or fist to evaluate the size, borders, and consistency of some of the internal organs and to discover the presence of and evaluate the amount of fluid in a body cavity. **Immediate or direct percussion** is percussion performed by striking the fingers directly on the body surface. **Indirect, mediate, or finger percussion** involves striking a finger of one hand on a finger of the other hand (normally the second phalanx of the third digit) as it is placed over the organ. See also **cupping** and **vibrating**; **percussor**, **pleximeter**. —**percuss**, *v.*, **percussible**, *adj.*

percussor /pəˈkʊs-ər/ [L, a striker], a small hammerlike diagnostic tool having a rubber head that is used to tap the body lightly in percussion. Also called **plexor**. See also **percussion**.

percutaneous /pəˈkyōōtāˈnē-əs/ [L, *per* + *cutis*, skin], performed through the skin, such as a biopsy; aspiration of fluid from a space below the skin with a needle, catheter, and syringe; or instillation of a fluid in a cavity or space by similar means.



Percussion: direct (top) and indirect (bottom)
(Wilson and Giddens, 2001)



Percussion: normal notes over the anterior (top), and posterior (bottom), chest and upper abdomen
(Harkreader and Hogan, 2007)



Percussor (Wilson and Giddens, 2005)

percutaneous absorption, the process of absorption through the skin from topical application.

percutaneous catheter, a catheter inserted through the skin rather than through an orifice, such as a central venous catheter or one used for hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis.

percutaneous catheter placement, a technique in which an intracatheter is introduced through the skin into an artery and placed at a site or structure to be studied by selective angiography and other diagnostic procedures. The puncture site is infiltrated with a local anesthetic before insertion of the catheter. A special needle is inserted into the artery, and a long, flexible, spring guide is passed through the needle for approximately 15 cm. The needle is then removed, the catheter is advanced to the desired position, and the guide is withdrawn. The catheter is withdrawn at the end of the procedure.

percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), the management of coronary artery occlusion by any of various catheter-based techniques, such as percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, atherectomy, angioplasty using the excimer laser, and implantation of coronary stents and related devices.

percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG), the creation of a new opening in the stomach for enteral tube feedings. It can also be used for gastric decompression. PEG is accomplished by puncturing the abdominal wall after the stomach has been distended. A tube is then inserted through the abdominal wall into the stomach under endoscopic guidance. It can be performed with the patient under local anesthesia or moderate sedation or analgesia in the endoscopic suite, in the operating room, or at bedside in the critical care unit.

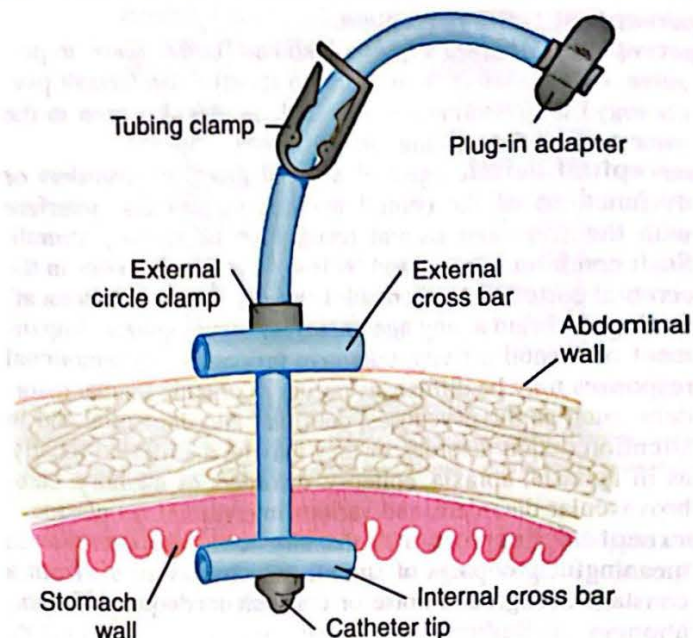
percutaneous epididymal sperm aspiration, retrieval of sperm from the epididymis by using fine-needle aspiration, done in men with obstructive azoospermia.

percutaneous nephrolithotomy, a urologic procedure performed to extract stones from within the kidney or proximal ureter by percutaneous surgery after the stones have been visualized radiologically.

percutaneous nephroscope, a thin fiberoptic probe that can be inserted into the kidney through an incision in the skin. Light transmitted along the fibers allows visualization of the inside of the kidney. The device is equipped with a tool that can be used to grasp and remove small kidney stones.

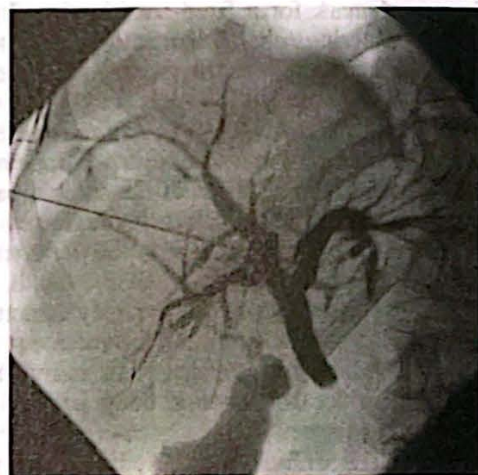
percutaneous transhepatic biliary drainage, drainage of the biliary tree by the introduction of a catheter through the liver and into the biliary tree under radiologic guidance. Also called **percutaneous transhepatic cholangio-drainage**.

percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography (PTC), the radiographic examination of the structure of the bile



Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube

(Black and Hawks, 2005)



Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiogram showing the biliary system

(Kowalczyk and Mace, 2009/Courtesy Ohio State University Medical Center)

ducts. A contrast medium is injected through a needle passed directly into a hepatic duct.

percutaneous transluminal angioplasty (PTA), a procedure for dilating blood vessels in the treatment of peripheral artery disease. Under fluoroscopic guidance a balloon-tipped catheter is inserted into a stenotic artery and the balloon is inflated. The inflated balloon may dilate the artery by stretching its elastic fibers or by flattening accumulation of plaque. See also **percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty**.

percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA), a technique in the treatment of atherosclerotic coronary heart disease and angina pectoris in which some plaques in the arteries of the heart are flattened against the arterial walls, resulting in improved circulation. The procedure involves threading a catheter through the vessel to the