

Language and terminology

1 Anatomical directions



Using the anatomical position as a reference, complete the following statements:

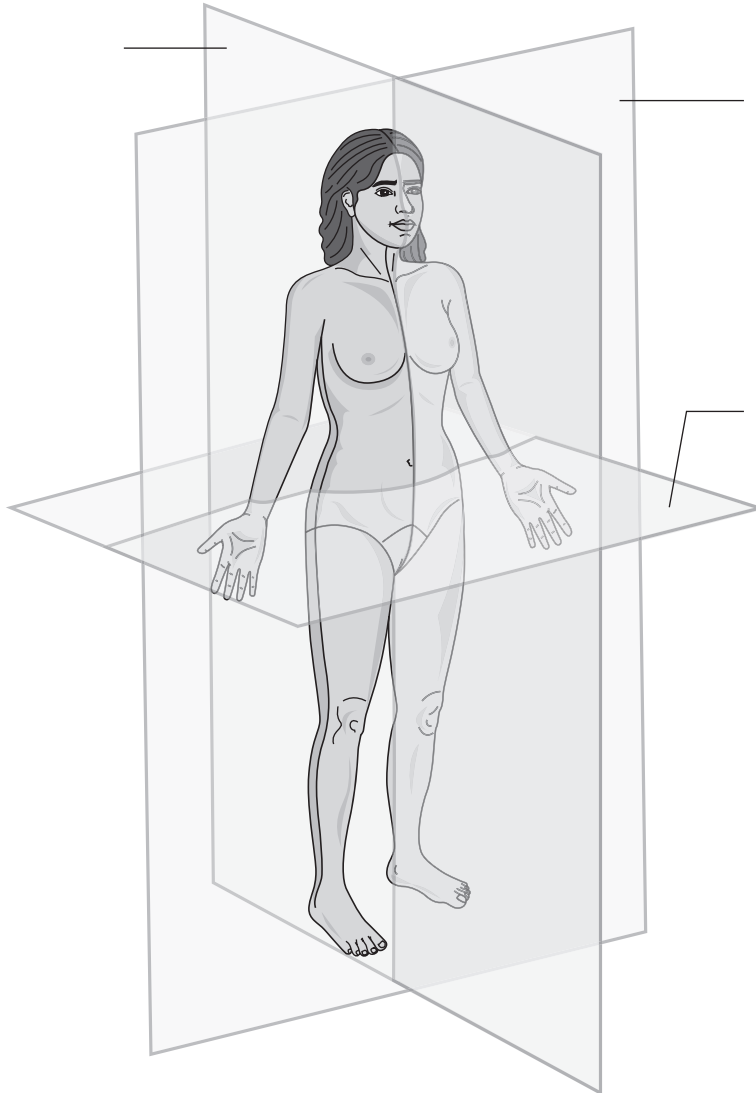
- (a) The hand is _____ to the elbow.
- (b) The elbow is _____ to the hand.
- (c) The ears are _____ to the nose.
- (d) The kneecap is on the _____ surface of the body.
- (e) The cervical vertebrae are _____ to the lumbar vertebrae.
- (f) The sternum is _____ to the armpit.
- (g) The buttocks are on the _____ surface of the body.
- (h) The bones are _____ to the muscles.
- (i) The epidermis is _____ to the dermis.

2 Planes

2



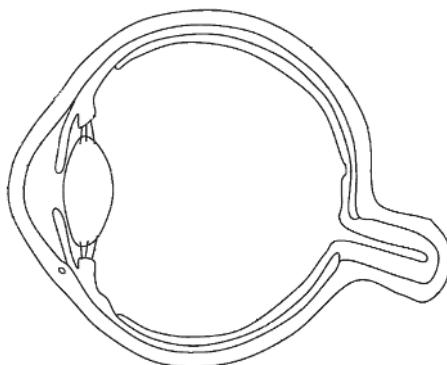
(a) Label the three planes on the following diagram:



Source: Peate and Nair (2021) / Reproduced with permission of John Wiley & Sons.

(b) Identify the planes through which the following structures have been cut to produce the sections shown.

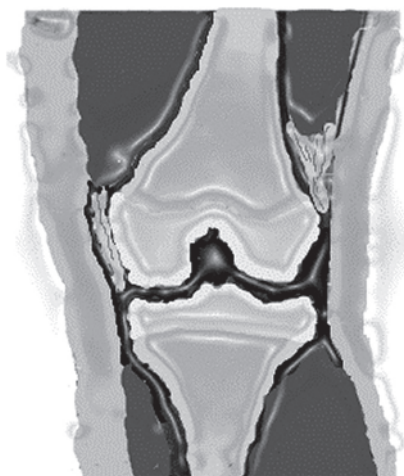
I. Eye, _____ section.



II. Spinal cord, _____ section.



III. Knee joint, _____ section.



IV. Heart, _____ section



3 Anatomical regions and areas



Complete the following table with the corresponding anatomical term or the region or area the term describes:

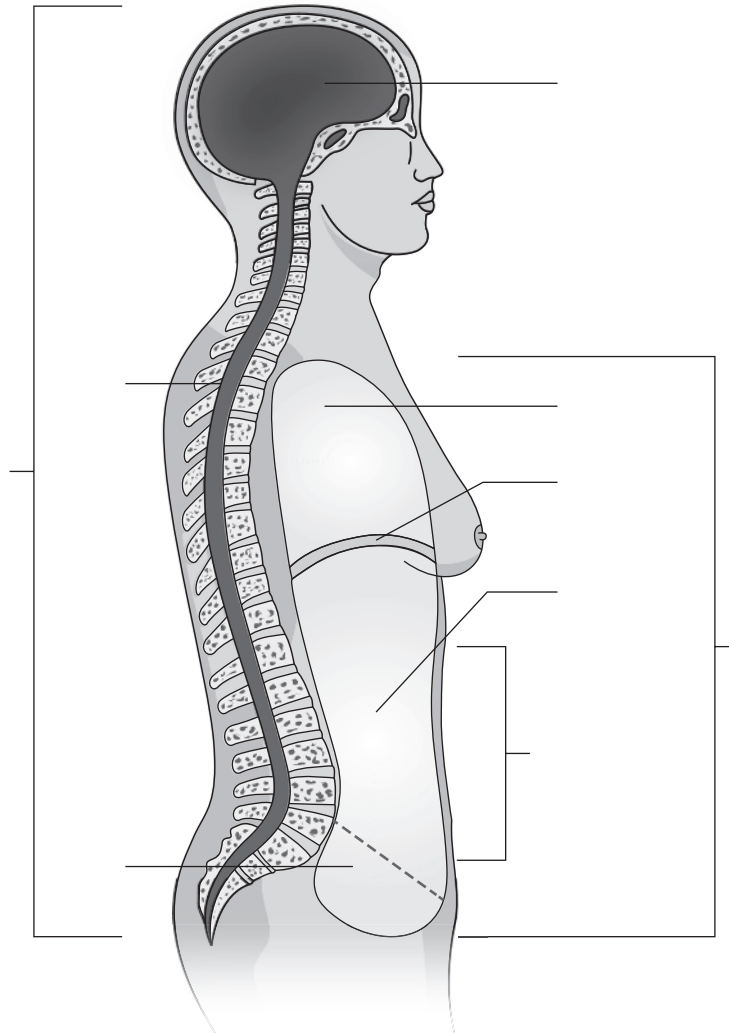
Region or area	Anatomical term
Head	
	Occipital
Eyes	
	Popliteal
Spinal column/backbone	
	Perineal
Fingers	
	Brachial
Neck	
	Carpal
Feet	
	Pectoral
Mouth	
	Inguinal
Nose	
	Cubital
Navel	
	Gluteal
Ribs	
	Plantar
Kneecap	
	Femoral
Pubis	
	Mammary
Armpit	

4 Body cavities

6



Colour and label the body cavities on the following diagram:



Source: Peate and Nair (2021) / Reproduced with permission of John Wiley & Sons.

5 Combining terms



Select the appropriate root and prefix from the boxes below to create terms with the meanings given in the table. Each root and prefix can only be used once.

- (a) Lower than normal blood pressure
- (b) A slowed heart rate
- (c) Inside the spinal canal
- (d) An increased rate of breathing
- (e) Lack of oxygen
- (f) Small cells
- (g) Drinking a lot
- (h) A sense of unease, anxiety or unhappiness
- (i) Abnormally high rate and depth of breathing
- (j) Between cells

Prefixes

Hyper-
Hypo-

Poly-
Tachy-

Brady-
Intra-
Inter-
An-
Dys-
Micro-

Roots

cardia
cytic

oxia
dipsia

phoria
ventilation
pnoea
thecal
cellular
tension

6 Word scramble

8



Time yourself to unscramble these words.

Scrambled	Answer
GEPASTHONEIS	
ADIPITICHO	
RECTEAOBANIX	
IONACLOSMO	
POSONSIRG	
SEAQLUEE	

7 Definitions



For the following terms, underline the root and then give the meaning of the term:

Term	Meaning
Haemostasis	
Hyperalgesia	
Acidosis	
Vasospasm	
Endometriosis	
Cystitis	
Atherosclerosis	
Pericarditis	
Cytotoxic	
Thrombocytopenia	

8 Procedures

9



Match the procedures with their suffixes, then complete each suffix with a root word to create an example of a specific procedure.

Making an opening to the outside from a structure or organ

-otomy

Viewing the inside of a structure or organ

-ectomy

Cutting into a structure or organ

-oscopy

Removing a structure or organ

-ostomy

9 Abbreviations



Write the following instructions out in full, without abbreviations:

(a) Tx Bactrim DS tabs po bid, pc. 1st dose stat.

(b) Hx recurrent UTI, pain on PU, BMI 32.

(c) Hx Hyperemesis gravidarum (Primigrav). Tx Ondansetron 6 mg po tid.

(d) BP 160/90, HR 131, RR 19.

(e) NSAID PRN

10 Concise language

10



In the brackets, write the correct terms for the conditions described in the highlighted text.

- (a) The patient had an **elevated heart rate** (), but abnormally **low blood pressure** (). The skin was pale, suggesting narrowing of the blood vessels () and **urine output over the previous 12 hours had been extremely low** ().
- (b) Before starting any treatment for **excessive mucus discharge from the nose** (), it is important to check for **inflammation of the mucous membranes of the nose** (), **or of the skin around the nose** (), to help determine whether the problem is due to a **microscopic invader spread from another person** (), or a **hypersensitive immune response to something in the environment** ().
- (c) Cancer chemotherapy usually involves the use of drugs that are **poisonous to living cells** (). Many kill the cells while they are undergoing division involving **duplicating all their genetic material and splitting in two, giving a complete copy of the genetic material to each new cell** (). Because these drugs act while the cell is dividing, they tend to have the **most damaging effect on the specialised collections of cells** () of the body that divide rapidly, **such as skin, hair follicles and gut linings**, and less effect on those that divide more slowly, **such as cells of the nervous system** ().

11 Prefixes and suffixes



Use the clues and their prefixes/suffixes to complete the terms.

(a) Irrational feeling of mistrust and persecution:	para___
(b) Endocrine gland:	para___
(c) Healthcare professional skilled in emergency care:	para___
(d) Paralysis of the legs and lower body:	para___
(e) Organism living in or on another organism:	para___
(f) Pain on urination:	___uria
(g) Blood in the urine:	___uria
(h) Production of a large volume of urine:	___uria
(i) Abnormally high level of calcium in the urine:	___uria

(j) Presence in the urine of the oxygen-carrying protein normally found in muscle:	___uria
(k) Medical specialisation dealing with the heart:	cardio___
(l) Return of a heart in arrhythmia to normal rhythm:	cardio___
(m) Record of electrical activity of the heart from the body surface:	___cardio___
(n) Disease of the heart muscle:	cardio___
(o) Increased heart rate:	___cardia
(p) Increased levels of ketone bodies in blood:	___osis
(q) Blood pH below the normal range:	___osis
(r) Death of cells:	___osis
(s) Blue colouration of skin or mucous membranes:	___osis
(t) Too much iron in the body:	___osis

12 Common suffix



Complete the following puzzle using the same suffix in each term:

Condition causing widespread pain in muscles and other soft tissues

A longing for times and places in the past

Pain in the long bones of the foot

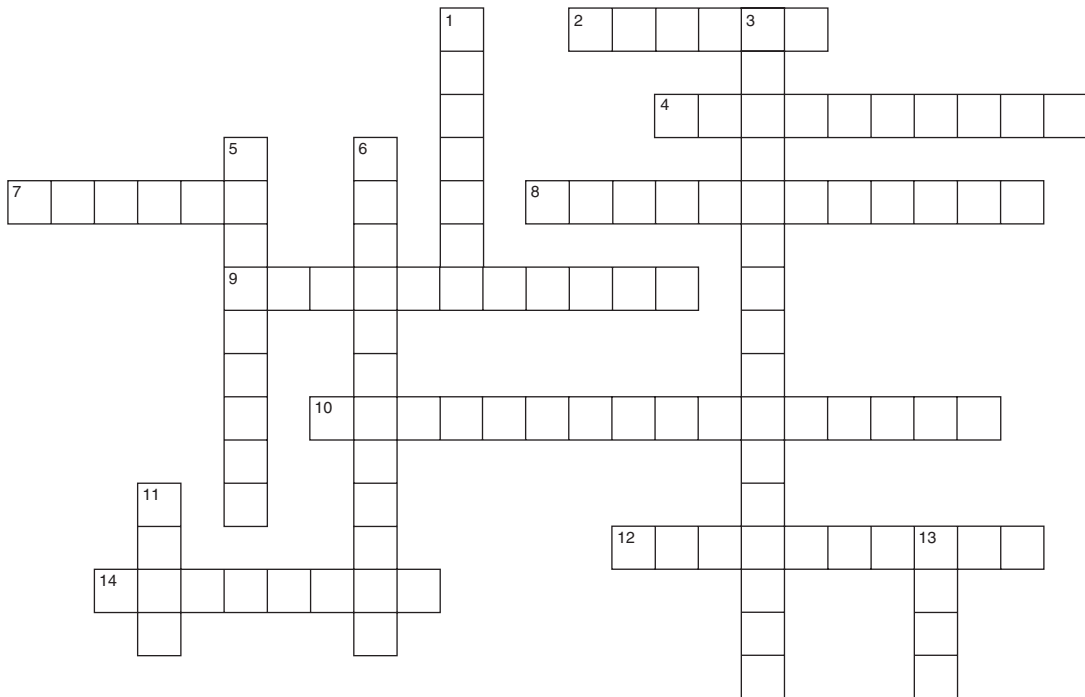
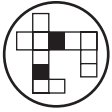
Joint pain

Burning pain caused by nerve damage

Painkiller

13 Crossword

12



Across

- 2. Directional term meaning 'towards the middle'
- 4. Disease caused by medical intervention
- 7. Lying face up
- 8. Worsening of an illness
- 9. Between ribs
- 10. Physiological control of body temperature
- 12. Disease acquired at a hospital
- 14. Concerning the head

Down

- 1. Condition that continues over an extended period
- 3. Hardening of the arteries
- 5. The cause of a disease
- 6. Higher-than-normal body temperature
- 11. An ophthalmic preparation should be put in the ____
- 13. Suffix meaning inflammation

14 Find the errors



The following passage contains several errors for you to find and correct:

The patient was admitted with significant abdominal pain, and a prognosis of appendicitis was made. Surgery was performed to remove the inflamed appendix (an appendostomy). Recovering in the ward, the patient was given algesic medication to control any postoperative pain, administered by means of a patient-controlled delivery system. The nurse noted on the chart that pain control was to be administered STAT, meaning as and when needed by the patient.

Multiple-choice questions

15. The anatomical position:
 - A. is the position patients are placed in for examination
 - B. has arms extended to the side with palms facing forwards
 - C. has head turned to one side
 - D. depends on the position of the patient
16. When referring to structure a on the body trunk, which is higher up and closer to the midline of the body than structure b, the correct terminology would be:
 - A. Structure a is posteromedial to structure b
 - B. Structure a is anterior to structure b
 - C. Structure a is superomedial to structure b
 - D. Structure a is inferomedial to structure b
17. A patient has sustained a fracture of the tibia close to the ankle. This would be described as:
 - A. the distal end of the tibia
 - B. the proximal ankle
 - C. the deep tibia
 - D. the origin of the tibia
18. A frontal plane divides the body into:
 - A. equal right and left halves
 - B. upper and lower halves
 - C. front and back halves
 - D. None of the above
19. The urinary bladder is located in the:
 - A. dorsal cavity
 - B. thoracic cavity
 - C. abdominal cavity
 - D. pelvic cavity

- 20.** The term bacteraemia means:
- A. abnormal composition of blood
 - B. a type of bacteria
 - C. bacteria in the blood
 - D. None of the above
- 21.** A person is having the interior wall of the urinary bladder visualised using an instrument placed inside the bladder. This procedure would be called a:
- A. cystotomy
 - B. cytology
 - C. cystoscopy
 - D. cystectomy
- 22.** A patient is brought into hospital suffering from agonising abdominal pain that started about an hour before arrival. This pain would be described as:
- A. severe and acute
 - B. chronic and acute
 - C. intense and chronic
 - D. acute on chronic
- 23.** A young patient is diagnosed with a condition known as juvenile idiopathic arthritis. This means that the condition involves:
- A. inflammation of soft tissues, occurs in childhood and is caused by medical treatment
 - B. inflammation of the joints and immature behaviour and has no identifiable cause
 - C. inflammation of the arteries and reduced intelligence and occurs in childhood
 - D. inflammation of the joints, occurs in childhood and has no identifiable cause
- 24.** When communicating with patients and colleagues, acronyms and abbreviations should be used:
- A. as often as possible, to save time
 - B. only when you know it will be understood by the listener/reader
 - C. to show you are a qualified healthcare professional
 - D. to maintain secrecy when talking about patients