

HLA Word Definitions

Word	Definition
ESRD	End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). Stage of kidney damage that requires dialysis or kidney transplantation to maintain life. Another term for permanent kidney failure.
Dialysis	Cleansing the body of unwanted toxins, waste products and excess fluid by filtering them from the blood.
Nephrologist	Doctor specializing in kidney disorders.
Hemodialysis	Removal of excess fluids and waste products by passage of blood through an artificial kidney.
Peritoneal	A form of dialysis in which the lining of the abdomen, the peritoneal membrane, acts as a natural filter.
CAPD	Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD). A form of dialysis in which dialysate drains into and out of the peritoneal cavity by gravity several times a day.
CCPD	Continuous Cycling Peritoneal Dialysis (CCPD). A form of dialysis that uses a cycling machine to infuse and drain dialysate from the peritoneal cavity several times during the night while the patient sleeps.
Transplant	To transfer an organ, tissue, etc. from one person to another.
Vascular Access	A pathway to the bloodstream. Accesses for hemodialysis are fistulas, grafts and catheter. Access to the peritoneal cavity for peritoneal dialysis is a catheter.
Fistula	The surgical joining of an artery and a vein so that the vein enlarges due to the flow of arterial blood. A fistula is a type of access, also known as an arteriovenous fistula.
Graft	In dialysis, surgical placement of a material between an artery and vein to create a circulatory access for hemodialysis.
Catheter	A catheter is a tube inserted into a vein in your neck, chest, or leg near the groin for hemodialysis. It has two chambers to allow a two-way flow of blood. A catheter is implanted in the abdomen for peritoneal dialysis.
Dialysate	Solution containing water and chemicals (electrolytes) that passes through the membrane in dialysis to remove excess fluids and wastes from the blood, also called "bath."

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KT/V	A measure that indicates how well waste products have been removed by dialysis treatment. K = dialyzer clearance. T = time. V = volume of water a patient's body contains. The formula is clearance multiplied by time, divided by volume.
BUN	Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN). Combination of waste products (nitrogen and urea) in the blood normally excreted by the kidneys.
URR	Urea Reduction Ratio (URR). Percentage based on how much blood urea nitrogen (BUN) was removed during a dialysis treatment. Indicates how effectively urea and other waste products have been removed.
Creatinine	One of the many waste products in the blood produced by normal tissue breakdown and removed by the kidneys, or by dialysis in patients with renal failure.
Clearance	The rate that waste products in the blood are removed through dialysis expressed in milliliters/minute.
Blood Pressure	Pressure blood exerts on the walls of the blood vessels. This is expressed in two numbers, such as 120/80. The systolic (top) number is the pressure when the heart is contracting. The diastolic (bottom) number is the pressure when the heart is at rest.
Dry Weight	The weight of a dialysis patient when excess fluid has been removed. Also known as "ideal weight".
Sodium	Element found in the body that helps regulate the body's fluid content.
Potassium	An element needed by the body for normal muscle, nerve function and cell maintenance.
Phosphorus	An element necessary for normal body functions, especially bone formation.
Calcium	Element found in the body that is important for bone growth and formation, blood clotting, nerve and muscle functioning and the activation of certain enzymes.