

A

Abdominopelvic quadrant: the abdominopelvic cavity is divided into 4 localised quadrants.

Abdominopelvic region: the abdominopelvic cavity is divided into 9 localised regions.

Adenosine triphosphate: an adenosine molecule with three attached phosphate molecules; when ATP is broken down 'energy' is released and used by cells and tissues to function.

Adipose tissue: fatty tissue, containing adipocytes (or fat cells).

Afferent arteriole: a small artery carrying blood into the glomerulus of a nephron.

Allele: an alternative form of a gene.

Alveoli: small air filled sacs located deep inside the lungs, where gas exchange between the air and blood occurs.

Anatomical position: when a person is standing upright, with their head facing forward, feet forward, hands by their sides and palms facing forward.

Anatomy: scientific discipline that investigates the structure of body parts and how they relate to each other.

Anterior: a directional term meaning closer to the front of the body.

Antibody mediated immunity: immunity that is activated by antibodies and conferred by B cells.

Antigen: a foreign substance that can go on to elicit immunity in the body.

Antiport: the movement of two different ions or molecules in the opposite direction across a plasma membrane, via a carrier/channel protein.

Appendix: a small tube connected to the large intestine, it is a redundant part of the digestive system.

Artery: a blood vessel that carries blood away from the heart.

Atrioventricular (AV) valve: a valve located in between the atrium and ventricle; prevents backflow of blood from ventricle to atrium.

Atrium: superior heart chambers – right or left.

Autonomic: the involuntary division of the peripheral nervous system which innervates smooth muscle, cardiac muscle or glands.

Autopsy: an examination of the organs of a dead body to determine the cause of death or to study the changes caused by disease.

Autosomal: a chromosome that is not a sex chromosome.

Axon: a nerve fiber extending from the cell body of a neuron.

B

Bacteria: a microorganism typically made of one cell.

Basal metabolic rate: the minimum energy expenditure required to support metabolism in an awake, rested person following a good night's sleep and 12 hours of fasting at a room temperature of 22-23°C.

Biopsy: the process of removing tissue samples from patients surgically or with a needle for diagnostic purposes.

Body Mass Index (BMI): a standard for assessing body weight; can be calculated by dividing a person's weight in kilograms by the square of his or her height in meters.

Bronchi: the trachea divides into a left and right bronchi (or primary bronchi) each of which extend into one lung.

Bronchioles: the bronchi, which extend down into each lung, continue to branch giving rise to bronchioles and finally the terminal bronchioles.

C

Calorie: the heat (energy) necessary to raise the temperature of 1g of water 1°C.

Calyx: a funnel shaped structure into which the tips of the renal pyramids project.

Capillary: the smallest and most common blood vessel type; gas and nutrient exchange occurs across the walls of the capillaries.

Carbohydrate: a macromolecule consisting of many monosaccharides (or sugars).