

## GLOSSARY

**Absolute neutrophil count (ANC):** The number of special white blood cells that fight infection. Normally should be more than 500 before discharge from the hospital.

**Acute:** Having severe symptoms and a short course.

**Afebrile:** Having a normal temperature.

**Alopecia:** The loss of hair, a common side effect of chemotherapy and total body radiation.

**Anaphylaxis:** An acute allergic reaction causing shortness of breath, rash, wheezing, and possibly low blood pressure.

**Anemia:** A low number of red blood cells in the blood stream, resulting in insufficient oxygen to the tissues and organs. Patients may feel weak, tired or short of breath, and appear pale.

**Antibiotics:** A medicine that kills bacteria in the body, used to prevent or treat bacterial infection.

**Antiemetic:** A medication used to control nausea and vomiting.

**Ascites:** Accumulation of fluid in the abdomen.

**Bacteria:** A type of germ that can cause infection.

**Biopsy:** A small piece of tissue or skin is removed and examined under a microscope to diagnose GVHD, unusual infections or other complications.

**Bronchoscopy:** A procedure that examines the lungs with a telescope-like tube.

**Complete Blood Count (CBC):** Blood test to measure the number of red cells, white cells, and platelets in the blood.

**Central Venous Catheter (CVC):** An IV tube placed into a large vein that leads to the heart. The catheter is usually put in before the treatment starts, and is used to give medicines, fluids, nutrition, transfusions and for taking blood samples.

**Chemistry profile:** A blood sample that analyzes the chemicals in the blood including liver function tests.

**Chemotherapy:** Medicines used to treat cancer. Some of the sides effects of these drugs are nausea, vomiting, infection (due to low white cell counts), anemia (due to low red cell counts), and bleeding (due to low platelet counts).

**Chronic:** A persistent problem lasting a long time.

**Clinical Trial:** A study to determine the effectiveness of a drug or treatment.

**Colony Stimulating Factor:** Proteins that stimulate the production of certain types of blood cells. Examples are Neupogen (G-CSF) or Neulasta (GM-CSF), which stimulate the white blood cells to grow.

**Colonoscopy:** A procedure that examines the lower GI tract with a small telescope-like tube that is inserted through the rectum.

**CT-Scan:** A three dimensional x-ray, also called a CAT scan.

**Cultures:** Samples of blood, urine and stool and swabs of the throat, nose and sores which are sent to the laboratory to be checked for infection.

**Edema:** Abnormal accumulation of fluid. Swelling may occur in the legs, arms, lungs and abdomen.

**EKG:** A painless test to determine a patient's heart rhythm.

**Electrolyte:** A mineral found in the blood stream that must be maintained within a certain level to prevent organ malfunction. Electrolytes include:

- A. Potassium: Helps the heart maintain a healthy pattern of beating. Too little or too much potassium may cause heart rate or rhythm problems.
- B. Magnesium: Helps the muscles of the body function properly. Too little magnesium may cause seizures, muscle cramping and weakness.
- C. Calcium: Helps maintain bone strength, metabolism, nerve and muscle function and blood coagulation. Too much calcium may cause confusion and tiredness. Too little calcium may cause muscle cramping and seizures.

**Emesis:** Vomiting

**Fever:** A higher body temperature than normal temperature. May also be referred to as febrile. Your doctor needs to be notified of fever over 100.5 °F.

**Fungus:** A mold or yeast that can cause an infection in the body, especially in the immunocompromised patient. Antifungal medications are used to prevent and treat these infections.

**GI tract (gastro-intestinal):** A system of the body that refers to the esophagus, stomach and intestines.

**Granulocyte:** A type of white blood cells that protects the body against bacterial infections.

**Hemoglobin:** The part of each red blood cell that carries oxygen to the rest of the body.

**Hepatosplenomegaly:** An enlargement of the liver (hepato) and spleen.

**Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV):** A type of virus whose infection produces small, painful, fluid-filled blisters on the skin, lips, mouth, and genitals. This infection is common in the immunocompromised patient.

**Immunosuppression:** A decreased immune defense against infection caused by the effects of chemotherapy and total body irradiation. Patients are said to be immunocompromised.

**Immune System:** The body's system of defense against infection or disease.

**Intravenous (IV):** In to a vein. Many medications are administered IV during transplant.

**Irradiation:** See radiation therapy.

**Jaundice:** Yellowing of the eyes/skin. A sign that the liver is not functioning properly.

**Leukocyte:** A white blood cell.

**Lymphocyte:** One type of white blood cell that helps protect the body from invading organisms that cause infection.

**Metastatic:** Spread of disease from the organ or tissue of origin to another part of the body.

**Methoxsalen:** A drug that sensitizes cells to light

**Mucositis:** Mouth sores.

**NPO:** Nothing to eat or drink.

**Pancytopenia:** A deficiency of all blood cells (red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets)

**Platelets:** Blood cells made in the bone marrow that clot the blood and stop bleeding.

**Protocol:** The total plan of care for the patient including the schedule of treatments and tests.

**Radiation Therapy:** A treatment using radiation to help eliminate cancerous cells from the body. It also suppresses the immune system so it will not reject new stem cells from another individual.

**Recurrence (or Relapse):** When cancer or another disease comes back.

**Red blood cells (RBC):** Blood cells made in the bone marrow that carry oxygen from the lungs throughout the body.

**Regimen:** A plan of treatment.

**Remission:** When no signs of disease (cancer) are present.

**Steroid:** A drug used to prevent and control inflammation, allergic reactions, and graft versus host disease.

**Stomatitis:** Mouth sores.

**Subcutaneous:** The layer of tissue beneath the skin. This is how growth factor and other injections are given.

**Tissue:** A group of similar cells (such as skin, liver, and bone marrow) that perform a specific job.

**Tumor:** Uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells in a tissue or organ.

**Ultrasound:** A technique for taking pictures of the internal organs or other structures using sound waves.

**White blood cells (WBC):** Blood cells made in the bone marrow that fight infection.