

Associated conditions

Ulcerative Colitis

Chronic disease that currently has no permanent cure, but is treatable. It affects lining of the large bowel (colon) and back passage (rectum). This lining becomes inflamed and ulcerated - red and swollen. Frequent diarrhoea with loose stools and motions often mixed with blood and mucus. Some people may have abdominal pain and a low temperature. Other symptoms may include reddening of the eyes, joint pain, depression, loss of appetite, irritability and weight loss. No one knows the cause of this disease or why particular people develop it. Tests carried out may include Colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy and barium meal. (see page 10)

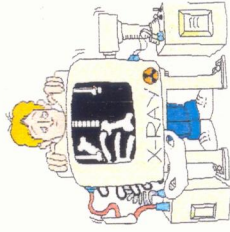
Crohn's Disease

Named after the doctor who first came to describe it, the cause is unknown. There is no permanent cure but symptoms can be controlled. It is a long-term inflammation of the lining of the gut. Leads to ulcers, abscesses and swellings in the bowel. Symptoms may include tiredness, listlessness, weight loss, abdominal pain and diarrhoea with mucous in the stool. It can affect any part of the digestive tract from the mouth to the back passage. The section between the small and large bowel is most frequently affected. Some patients have inflammation of the small intestine, which is then called Crohn's disease. Tests carried out may include small intestine biopsy, large bowel enemas (barium x-ray), colonoscopy and blood tests.

on a much lighter note....

Here are some unusual medical explanations which may amuse you...

- Artery The study of painting
- Bacteria Back door to the cafeteria
- Bowel A letter like a, e, i, o, u
- Cat scan Searching for kitty
- Cauterise Made eye contact with her
- Colic A sheep dog
- Coma Punctuation mark
- Enema Not a friend
- Labour pain Getting hurt at work
- Medical staff A doctor's cane
- Morbid A higher offer
- Pelvis Cousin of Elvis
- Post operative Letter carrier
- Prostate Flat on your back
- Secretion Hiding something
- Tablet Small table
- Tumor More than one more
- Urine Opposite to - you're out
- Varicose Nearby



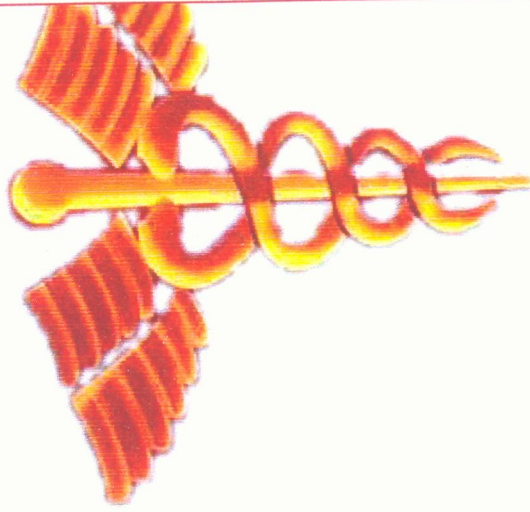
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Medical Terms



Stoma is a Greek word meaning mouth or opening

Stomostomy opening from the Colon

Stomostomy opening from the small intestine, usually terminal ileum.

Stomostomy primary tract diversion.

Small intestine large intestine

Small intestine last section of the small intestine

Small Intestine organs that make, store, transport and eliminate urine.

Stoma the rectum is left in place after surgery, the cut end may also be brought to the surface, this needs little attention.

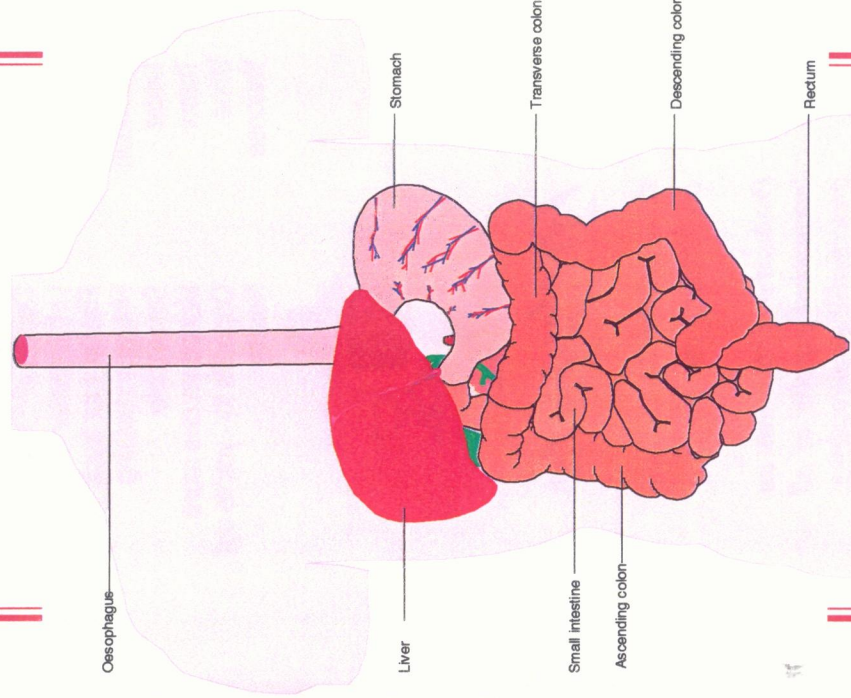
Stoma adhesive part of your stoma appliance or bag

Stoma guide for measuring the size and shape the stoma, which is then used to cut a flange or bag to the correct fit.

Stoma somebody who has a stoma.

For most people a visit to hospital is a journey into the unknown. One reason for this is the technical and medical language spoken so fluently by the staff you meet.

They are using these terms every day and you might not feel comfortable asking for explanations of every other word, so to help alleviate some of these fears we have put together some of the more frequently used terms in this 'Factsheet'.



Peristomal skin

The skin immediately surrounding the stoma

Retracted Stoma

A stoma that is below skin level.

Prolapse Stoma

Protrusion of stoma, possibly several inches from the body.

Pancaking

This is caused by a firmer stool staying on top of the stoma causing leakage.

Tests

Barium Meal

An oral barium suspension is taken, which allows x-rays of the digestive tract to be taken.

Barium Enema

A mixture of air and barium is introduced into the rectum so that the colon may be examined in detail and any evidence of ulceration or narrowing of the colon is seen and x-rays can be taken.

Colonoscopy

Under general anaesthetic or sedation a flexible fibre-optic tube is passed through the back passage and around the colon, allowing direct examination of the lining of the colon. Tiny portions of tissue (biopsy) may be taken for laboratory examination.

Sigmoidoscopy

Similar to the Colonoscopy, but a short metal tube is used.