

GLOSSARY OF IMPORTANT TERMS

Abdomen - The portion of the body located between the chest and the pelvis. Contains the stomach, lower part of the esophagus, small and large intestines, liver, gallbladder, spleen, pancreas and bladder.

Acetaminophen - A type of medication used to relieve pain and fever (e.g., Tylenol).

Acute illness - Acute refers to the short-term, initial stage of infection.

Adipose tissues - Fatty tissues.

Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) - A protein produced by cancerous liver cells.

Anemia - Condition in which there is a reduction in the number of circulating red blood cells, usually resulting in a decrease in the amount of oxygen in the blood.

Antibody - A molecule produced by the immune system in response to a foreign body such as a virus or bacteria. Antibodies circulate in the blood to protect against infection.

Antigen - A foreign substance that the body's immune system identifies as potentially harmful.

Ascites - Fluid accumulation in the abdomen.

Asymptomatic - Without symptoms or signs of illness.

Autoimmune - A condition in which the body produces antibodies against normal parts of the body to such an extent as to cause tissue injury.