

Hospital Vocabulary

Welcome to day 3 of our vocabulary challenge! Today's theme is medical and hospital vocabulary, this was one of the most requested topics.

We'll start with a couple different places in the hospital - there's the **ER** which stands for emergency room, this is where the most urgent conditions are treated.



You can go there yourself or be brought in by **ambulance** if necessary. If you can't walk, they'll bring you in on a **stretcher / gurney**.



The **OR** stands for operating room, that's where they do surgery. Things in the OR have to be **sterile**, meaning free from bacteria.



Then there's the **ICU** meaning intensive care unit, where patients with the most serious conditions stay, with extra monitoring and help.



A number of tests can be done at the hospital. Some basic ones are measuring your temperature with a **thermometer** and checking your **blood pressure**.



It's also common to take a **blood sample** and **urine sample** and send them to the **laboratory** for analysis.

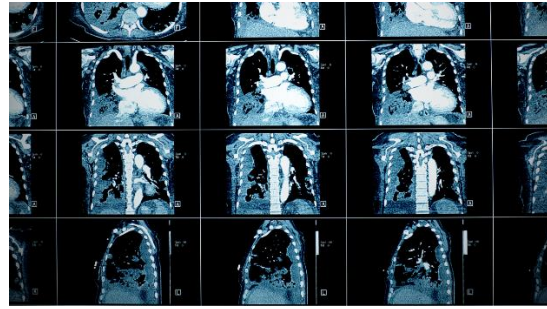


Some more advanced tools include:

An **ultrasound** uses sound waves to make an image, this is typically how they check the baby inside a pregnant woman.



An **X-ray** checks your bones. A **CT scan** is a more advanced type of X-ray, providing a more detailed image.



An **MRI** uses magnetic fields to form an image, especially of the brain. An **ECG/EKG** (electrocardiogram) tests your heart activity to detect any problems.



A **biopsy** is when they take out a little piece from inside your body, to check it for cancer.



Based on this information, the doctor makes a **diagnosis**, a conclusion about what's wrong, and then will offer **treatment**.

This could be **medicine** - some of the most common are **painkillers** (to reduce/eliminate pain) and **antibiotics** (to kill bacteria).

The medicine could be in the form of **pills** you swallow, a **shot** you receive, or **IV** medication that goes more continuously into your blood over time.



If you have a bad cut, you might need **stitches** to hold the skin together and help it heal. If you've broken your leg, you'll need a **cast**, a hard plaster covering around it to keep it stable until the bone heals.



You'll also need **crutches** or a **wheelchair** to help you get around.



Surgery is another possible solution to certain medical problems. There's **outpatient surgery** meaning you can go home the same day, and **inpatient surgery** meaning you stay overnight in the hospital.

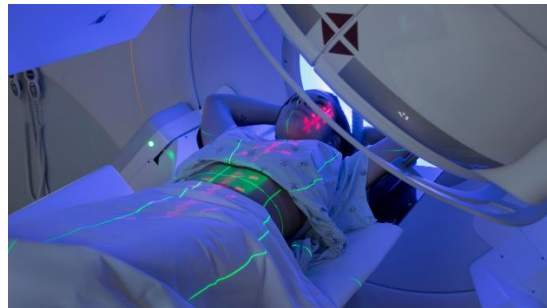
For some surgeries, you get **local anesthesia**, meaning a shot that makes you numb, it temporarily takes away the feeling in that part of the body. And for others you get **general anesthesia**, meaning medication that makes you completely unconscious. The medical professional in charge of this is called an **anesthesiologist**.



For problems that affect your bones and muscles, you might need **physical therapy** - sort of like exercise sessions with someone who helps you strengthen that part of the body.



To treat cancer, there's **chemotherapy** (strong medicine) and **radiation therapy** (using high-energy radiation to kill the cancer cells).



Someone whose kidneys are not working might need **dialysis**, where a machine cleans their blood - until they can maybe get a **transplant** (putting an organ from one person into another).



Someone who has had a limb (an arm or leg) **amputated**, meaning cut off due to disease or injury, can get a **prosthetic** arm or leg – one made of plastic or metal to allow them to use it in daily life.



Finally, when your hospital stay is over, you are **discharged**, meaning officially released.



Now you know a number of useful hospital words in English!

Tune in tomorrow for the next lesson in our 100-word challenge.

Learn 1000+ words in 1 month:

