WELLNESS WORKSHEET 115
Testing Your Knowledge of Medispeak

You can avoid communication problems with your physician by becoming fluent in some basic medical terminology. Begin by testing yourself on the following useful terms.

1. Adipose
   a. Fatty
   b. Additional X rays
   c. Totaling the bill

2. Ambulatory
   a. Transported by ambulance
   b. Able to walk
   c. Unable to walk

3. Analgesic
   a. Painkiller
   b. Rectal medicine
   c. Antibiotic

4. Antipyretic
   a. Bleeding gums
   b. Antacid
   c. Fever reducer

5. Atrophy
   a. Prize for best patient
   b. Weight loss
   c. Shrinkage of muscle or other tissue

6. Benign
   a. Noncancerous
   b. Fast-growing
   c. Cancerous

7. Congenital
   a. Friendly disposition
   b. A disorder of the genitals
   c. Condition present at birth

8. Contraindicated
   a. Recommended
   b. To be avoided
   c. Makes no difference

9. Dermatitis
   a. Tight skin
   b. Inflammation of the skin
   c. Numbness of the skin

10. Edema
    a. Swelling
    b. Pertaining to an enema
    c. Bruising

11. Etiology
    a. The study of eating
    b. The study of nutrition
    c. Pertaining to the causes of disease

12. Febrile
    a. High in fiber
    b. Feverish
    c. Weak

13. Hematoma
    a. Bruise
    b. Broken toe
    c. Iron deficiency

14. Hemorrhage
    a. Bleeding
    b. Pertaining to hemorrhoids
    c. Old blood

15. Idiopathic
    a. Of lower intelligence
    b. Not able to walk a straight line
    c. Of unknown cause

16. Lesion
    a. Any sore or wound
    b. A group of health practitioners
    c. Relief from stress

17. Negative test result
    a. The patient has a disorder
    b. The patient doesn’t have the disorder
    c. The patient died

18. Parenteral
    a. Disease inherited from parents
    b. Medicine given by parents
    c. Medicine given by injection

(over)
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19. Prognosis
   a. Disease of the nose
   b. A chronic condition
   c. Expected outcome of a disease

20. Pruritis
   a. Infection producing pus
   b. Itching
   c. Of highest purity

21. Psychogenic
   a. Of unsound mind
   b. Having an emotional origin
   c. Having a genetic origin

22. Q.I.D.
   a. Take four times a day
   b. Take for four days
   c. “Quit if disagreeable”

23. Sepsis
   a. Infection
   b. Cleanliness
   c. Waste removal

24. Sequela
   a. Aftereffect of a disease
   b. Quiet atmosphere
   c. Food poisoning

Answers

1. a  2. b  3. a  4. c  5. c  
6. a  7. c  8. b  9. b 10. a  
11. c  12. b  13. a  14. a 15. c  
16. a  17. b  18. c  19. c 20. b  
21. b  22. a  23. a  24. a 25. c  
26. b  27. c  28. a  29. b 30. a  

Scoring

24–30 You’re already well versed in medispeak, and because of that you rarely misunderstand your physician’s explanations or instructions.

12–23 You’re on your way to fluency, but you still need some assistance. That’s why you often ask your physician to explain the words you are unfamiliar with, even though it sometimes makes you feel uncomfortable.

0–11 You need to invest in a medical dictionary for laypeople—and use it. Only then will you be able to change your feelings of intimidation to those of self-confidence.