

# PASSMEDICAL GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

**GENE** - is a sequence of DNA, which codes for proteins (these are the building blocks of life).

**MUTATION** - Is a change in the normal sequence of a gene during the replication process, resulting in a change in the function of the protein coded for.

**CARRIER** - A person who carries an abnormal gene or infectious organism but does not show pathological signs themselves.

**HEREDITARY DISEASE** - A disease which is inherited genetically and can be passed on to offspring.

**PROGNOSIS** - the forecast or probable outcome of a disease or condition.

**DIAGNOSIS** - An evaluation of a patient's symptoms and interpretation of relevant tests to determine the existence of a disease or condition.

**THORAX** - The area of the body between the neck and the abdomen.

**ABDOMEN** - The area of the body between the chest and the pelvis.

**BMI** - Body Mass Index is used as a rough indicator of the fat content of the body.

**NHS** - The National Health Service dental care is provided in both hospital/ community/ general dental services.

**LOCAL ANESTHESIA** - Is a definition used to describe the method of creating temporary paresthesia of the selected area with using a local anesthetic agent. This is commonly administered via a local injection to the site of operation

without the loss of consciousness. Commonly abbreviated to LA.

**GENERAL ANESTHESIA** - Is usually performed in hospitals as opposed to dental practices. This results in the general loss of consciousness.

**TUMOUR** - This is an abnormal and uncontrolled cellular growth of a certain part of the human body. There are many different types of tumours, which can either be malignant or benign.

**INFECTION** - An infection is growth of pathogenic microorganisms in the body, whether or not body function is impaired.

**DISEASE** - Disease is any change from a state of health resulting in impaired body function. The disease state is associated with symptoms such as fever, pain, aches etc., due to failure of immune system to control in the first round of the growth of infectious agent (s).

**HEPATITIS B** - A fluid borne virus which causes inflammation of the liver.

**HIV** (Human Immune-Deficiency Virus) - A fluid borne virus which compromises the immune system by infecting and destroying components of the immune system e.g. T-lymphocytes.

**BONE MARROW** - The part of the body where blood cells are produced in adults

**AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE** - A term encompassing conditions where the body's immune system attacks its own cells.

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