<http://www.cancerindex.org/medterm/medtm15.htm>

Introduction

This section aims to provide a reference list of abbreviations and acronyms that are frequently used within oncology. As well as many widely used medical abbreviations this text includes abbreviations that have meaning only within oncology, sub-specialities or even particular organisations. No definitive list of standard abbreviations exists therefore it is important to understand the context in which they have been used in. For example "PNET" usually refers to a type of brain tumour, however, within orthopaedic oncology the same abbreviation has been applied to a form of sarcoma. You may also find it useful to have access to a medical dictionary or text-book that contains a list of common abbreviations used within the wider field of medicine.

This list of has been compiled over a number of years and abbreviations have been collected from a wide range of sources including journal articles and conference presentations.

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List of Abbreviations

Shortcuts: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

5-FU 5-Fluorouracil (anti cancer drug)

6-MP 6-Mercaptopurine (anti cancer drug)

6-TG 6-Thioguanine (anti cancer drug)

AA Anaplastic Anaemia

ABC Advanced Breast Cancer

ABMT Autologous bone marrow transplant

ADR Adverse Drug Reaction

AE Adverse event

AFP Alphafetoprotein - eg. expressed by germ cell tumours and other cancers

AIDS Acquired immune deficiency syndrome

ALAT Alanine aminotransferase / alinine transaminase

ALCL Anaplastic Large-cell Lymphoma

ALL Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

ALT Alanine Aminotransferase

AMKL acute megakaryocytic leukemia

AML Acute Myeloid leukaemia

ANC Absolute neutrophil count

ANED Alive no evidence of disease

ANLL Acute non-lymphatic leukaemia

ARMS Alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma

ASR Age Standardised Rate (Incidence)

AUC Area under the curve

B-ALL B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia

BAER Brainstem Auditory Evoked Responce

BCC Basal Cell Carcinoma

BID / BD Twice a day (bis in die)

BM Bone Marrow

BM Blood Monitoring (eg for glucose)

BMJ British Medical Journal

BMR Basal Metabolic Rate

BMT Bone Marrow Transplant

BNF British National Formulary

BP Blood pressure

BRM Biological Response Modifier

BSA Body Surface Area

BSE Breast Self Examination

Bx Biopsy

C/O Complaining of

C/W Continue With

C1 - C7 Cervical vertebrae (spine eg. C7 = seventh cervical vertebra)

Ca Cancer; carcinoma

Ca Calcium

cALL Common ALL

CAT Computerised axial tomography (scan)

cc Cubic centimeter

CCF Congestive Cardiac Failure

CCR Continuous complete remission

CEA Carcinoembryonic Antigen (tumour marker)

CGH Comparative Genomic Hybridisation - cytogenetics method

CGL Chronic Granulocytic Leukaemia

cGy Centi Gray (unit of radiation)

CHF Congestive heart failure

CLL Chronic lymphocytic Leukaemia

cm centimeter - 0.01 meters

CML Chronic myeloid leukaemia

CMML chronic myelomonocytic leukemia

CMV Cytomegalo virus

CNS Central nervous system - the brain and spine

CPM Cyclophosphamide (anti cancer drug)

CPR Cardio pulmonary resuscitation

CR Complete remission / complete response

CRA Clinical Research Associate

CRC Colorectal carcinoma

CRF Case Report Forms

CRF Chronic renal failure

CRO Contract Research Organisation

CSF Cerebro spinal fluid

CSF Colony-stimulating Factor

CT Computerised axial tumography (scan)

CT Chemotherapy

CTC Common Toxicity Criteria

CTCL Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma

CTO Clinical Trials Office

CTX Clinical Trials Exemption

CUP Cancer of Unknown Primary / Carcinoma of Unknown Primary

CVA Cardiovascular Accident (stroke)

CVC Central venous catheters

CVP Central Venous Pressure

CXR Chest X-Ray

D/C Discharge

D/H Drug History

D/W Discussed With

DCIS Ductal Carcinoma In Situ - type of breast cancer

DDAVP Desmopressin test for urine osmolality

DDx Differential diagnosis

DFI Disease Free Interval

DFS Disease Free Survival - time without disease prior to relapse or last follow-up

DI Diabetes Incipidus

dl deciletre - 0.01 litres

DLBCL Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma

DLCL Diffuse large-cell lymphoma

DLS Date last seen

DLT Dose limiting toxicity - determined by phase 1 studies

DMC Data Monitoring Commitee

DNA Deoxyribonucleic acid

DNA Did Not Attend (clinic)

DNR Do Not Resusitate

DOA Dead on Arival

Dx Diagnosis

EBM Evidence-Based Medicine

EBV Epstein-Barr Virus

ECG Electrocardiogram - heart scan

EDTA ethylendiaminetetraacetic acid - used in measuring kidney function

EEG Electroencephalogram - brain scan

EFS Event Free Survival - time from diagnosis to defined events (eg relapse or deat

EJC European Journal of Cancer

EMC Extraskeletal Myxoid Chondrosarcoma

EMUO Early Morning Urine Osmolality (evaluating urine concentration)

ENT Ear nose throat

ESR Erythrocyte Sedimentation rate

ETS Environmental Tobacco Smoke

F/H Family history

FAB French American and British classification scheme for leukaemia

FBC Full Blood Count

FEV Forced expectorant volume (a lung test)

FFA For Further Appointment

FIGO Federation Internat. Gyn. Obst. (FIGO Gynaecological staging system)

FISH Flourescence in situ Hybridisation

FMTC Familial Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma

FNA Fine Needle Aspiration - a type of biposy using a thin needle (or FNAB)

FU Follow up

FVC Forced Vital Capacity

g gram - unit of weight

G-CSF Granulocyte colony stimulating factor promotes production of white blood cells

GA General Anaesthetic

GCP Good Clinical Practice (guidelines)

GCT Germ Cell Tumour

GCT Giant Cell Tumour Context: bone tumours

GFR Gromerular filtration rate

GI Gastrointestinal

GIST Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumours

GM-CSF Granulocyte and macrophage colony stimulating factor

GPR Good Partial Remission

GU Genito-urinary

GvHD Graft versus Host Disease

Gy Grays (units of radiation)

H&E Hematoxylin and Eosin (stain)

H/O History of

Hb Haemoglobin

HCC Hepatocellular Carcinoma

HCG Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin (hormone)

HCL Hairy Cell Leukaemia

HCO3 Bicarbonate

HD Hodgkin's Disease (lymphoma)

HD High dose

HDC High Dose Chemotherapy

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

HL-A Human Leukocyte Associated antigens (HL-A matching for BMT)

HNSCC Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

HNPCC Hereditary NonPolyposis Colorectal Cancer

HPV Human Papilloma Virus - implicated in some gynacological cancers

HR High risk

HRT Hormone replacement therapy

HTLV Human T-cell leukemia-lymphoma virus

I-131 Radioactive Iodine

ICD International Classification of Diseases (coding system)

ICDO International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (coding system)

ICF Intercellular fluid

ICU Intensive Care Unit

IL2 Interleukin2

IM Intramuscular - into a muscle

IMRT Intensity-Modulated Radiotherapy

INSS International Neuroblastoma Staging System

ITU Intensive Therapy Unit

IU International units

IV Intravenous - into a vein

IVP Intravenous Pyelogram - type of Xray after injection with iodine dye

JCO Journal of Clinical Oncology

K+ Potassium

kg Kilogram - a thousand grams

l liter - unit of volume

L1 - L5 Lumbar vertebrae 1 - 5 (spine eg. L1 = 1st lumbar vertebra)

LCH Langerhans cell histiocytocis

LCIS Lobular Carcinoma In Situ - type of breast cancer

LDH Lactic dehydrogenase -high levels correlate with tumour volume in some cancers

LMM Lentigo Maligna Melanoma

LMP Low Malignant Potential (context: ovarian tumours)

LN Lymph Node

LP Lumbar puncture

LVEF Left Ventricular Fjection Fraction - a heart function test

LVSF Left Ventricular Shortening Fraction - a heart function test

Lx Lumpectomy

m meter (unit of length)

M/H Medical history

MAB - mAb Monoclonal antibody

MDR Multi drug resistant

MDS Myelo dysplastic syndrome

MEN Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia - (familial) a.k.a. FMEN

mEq/l milliequivalent per liter

mets Metastases (where the tumour has spread to secondary sites)

Mg Magnesium

mg milligram - 0.001 gram

MI Miocardial Infarction

mIBG Radioactive Iodine Metaidobenzoguanidine (mIBG scans or mIBG therapy).

ml millilitre 0.001 liter

MM Malignant Melanoma

mM millimole

mm millimeter - 0.001 meters

MM Malignant Myelanoma

MM Multiple Myeloma

mOsm milliosmole

MPNST Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumour

MPO Medical and Pediatric Oncology (journal)

MRI Magnetic resonance imaging (scan)

MRT Malignant Rhabdoid Tumour

MSSU Mid stream specimen urine

MTD Maximum tolerated dose - phase 1 studies

MTX Methotrexate (anti cancer drug)

MUD Matched Urelated Donor - for bone marrow transplant

Mx Mastectomy

N/V Nausea and vomiting

Na+ Sodium

NAD No Abnormality Detected

NBCCS Nevoid basal cell carcinoma syndrome

NBM Nil by mouth

NED No evidence of disease

ng nanogram - 0.000000001 gram

NHL Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma

NK Natural Killer cells (large lymphocytes, part of the immune system)

NK Not known

NM Nodular Melanoma

NMR Nuclear magnetic resonance (scan)

NMSC Non Melanoma Skin Cancer

NOS Not otherwise specified (see ICDO)

NPC Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma

NRSTS Non-Rhabdomyosarcoma Soft Tissue Sarcoma

NSCLC Non-small cell lung cancer

NSE Neuron-Specific Enolase - a neural marker

NSR Non significant result

NSR Normal Sinus Rhythem

O/E On Examination

ONB Olfactory Neuroblastoma

OS Overall Survival

OS Osteogenic sarcoma (context bone tumours)

PBSC Peripheral Blood Stem Cell (see PBSCT)

PBSCH Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Harvest

PBSCR Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Rescue (transplant)

PBSCT Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplant

PD Progressive disease

PDQ Physician's Data Query (CancerNet)

PET Positron Emmission Tomography- a scan after a small radioactive injection.

PET Pancreatic Endocrine Tumor

PFS Progression Free Survival

pg picogram - 0.000000000001 gram

pH hydrogen-ion concentration - acid / alkaline

PH Past History

PLB Primary Lymphoma of Bone

PNET Primitive neuroectodermal tumour Context: CNS tumours

PNET Peripheral neuroectodermal tumour Context: Bone tumours - see Ewing's tu

PNS Peripheral nervous system - nervous system outside the brain and spine.

PR Partial Responce / Partial Remission

PR per rectum

prn as required

prn whenever necessary (pro re nata)

PSA prostate-specific antigen - PSA test used in screening for prostate cancer

PUD Peri-Urethral Diathermy (associated with superficial bladder cancer)

QALY Quality-Adjusted Life Year

qid Four times a day (quater in die)

QoL Quality of Life

RBC Red blood cell / red blood count

RCC Renal Cell Carcinoma

RCT Randomised Controlled Trial

RFS Relapse free survival - Time from diagnosis to relapse or death.

RIGS Radioimmunoguided surgery

RMS Rhabdomyosarcoma

RNA ribonucleic acid

RT Radiotherapy

RTPCR Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction

Rx Treatment

SA Surface area (see BSA)

SAE Serious Adverse Event

SC Subcutaneous

SCC Squamous Cell Carcinoma

SCLC Small cell lung cancer

SD Stable Disease

SDV Source Data Verification

SGOT Serum glutamic oxalacetic transaminase - a liver function test

SGPT Serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase - a liver function test

SH Social history

SHO Senior House Officer

SIADH Syndrome of Inappropriate Antidiuretic Hormone

SNP Single Nucleotide Polymorphism

SOB Short of breath

SSM Superficial Spreading Melanoma

T1 - T12 Thoracic vertebrae 1-12 (spine eg. T10 = tenth thoracic vertibra)

TAMs tumour-associated macrophages

TBI Total body irradiation

TCC Transitional Cell Carcinoma (usually bladder cancer)

TCP Thrombocytopenia

tds / tid Three times a day (ter in die)

TNF Tumour Necrosis Factor

TNM Staging system - primary tumour

TPN total parenteral nutrition

TRK Transketolase

U&Es Urea and Electrolites

UA Urine analysis

ug microgram - 0.000001 gram

ULN Upper Limits of Normal

URTI Upper respiratory tract infection

US Ultasound (scan)

UTI Urinary Tract Infection

UVR Ultra Violet Radiation

VEF Ventricular ejection fraction (tests lung function)

VM-26 Teniposide (anti cancer drug)

VMA Vanillylmandelic Acid

VP-16 Etoposide (anti cancer drug)

WBC White blood cell count

WCC White cell count

WM Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia

XRT Radiotherapy (external)

YST Yolk sac tumour - (aka. germ cell tumour)

List of Acronyms of Cancer Organisations

Shortcuts: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

AACR American Association for Cancer Research

ABPI Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

ABTA American Brain Tumour Association

ACDM Association for Clinical Data Management

ACRPI Association of Clinical Research for the Pharmaceutical Industry

ACS American Cancer Society

AIOM Italian Association for Medical Oncology

AIRO Associazione Italiana di Radioterapia Oncologica

AJCC American Joint Committee on Cancer

ASCO American Society of Clinical Oncology

ASH American Society for Hematology

ASTRO American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology

BACR British Association for Cancer Research

BASO British Association of Surgical Oncologists

BMA British Medical Association

BNLI British National Lymphoma Investigation

BOA British Oncology Association

BODMA British Oncology Data Managers Association (UK)

CALGB Cancer and Leukemia Group B (USA)

CCG Children's Cancer Group (USA)

CCRG Children's Cancer Research Group (Oxford, UK)

CCS Canadian Cancer Society

COG Children's Oncology Group (USA)

COS Canadian Oncology Society

CRC Cancer Research Campaign (UK)

CSM Committee on Safety of Medicines (UK)

EACR European Association for Cancer Research

EANO European Association for NeuroOncology

EBMT European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation

ECOG Eastern Cooperative Group (USA)

EOI European Osteosarcoma Intergroup

EORTC European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer

ESO European School of Oncology

ESTRO European Society for Therapeutic Radiation and Oncology

FDA Food and Drug Administration (USA)

FECS Federation of European Cancer Societies

GMC General Medical Council (UK)

GPOH Gesellschaft fur Padiatrische Onkologie und Hamatologie (German Paed. Onc Group)

IACR International Association of Cancer Registries

IARC International Agency for Research on Cancer

IASLC International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer

ICARE International Cancer Alliance for Research and Education (ICARE)

ICCCPO International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organisations

ICCG International Collaborative Cancer Group

ICCPO Icelandic Childhood Cancer Parent Organisation

ICH International Conference on Harmonization (GCP)

ICRF Imperial Cancer Research Fund (UK)

IESS Intergroup Ewing's Sarcoma Study (USA)

IMF International Myeloma Foundation

INFA International Neurofibromatosis Association

IPSO International Society of Pediatric Surgical Oncology

ISNCC International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care

IWMF International Waldenstrom's Maroglubulinemia Foundation

LREC Local Research Ethics Committee (UK)

LRF Leukaemia Research Fund (UK)

LRFA Lymphoma Research Foundation of America

MCA Medicines Control Agency (UK)

MRC Medical Research Council (UK)

MREC Multi-centre Research Ethics Committee (UK)

NAACCR North American Association of Central Cancer Registries

NABCO National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations

NCCF National Childhood Cancer Foundation (USA)

NCI National Cancer Institue (USA)

NCIC National Cancer Institute of Canada

NCRA National Cancer Registrars Association (USA)

NECCR North of England Children's Cancer Research Unit

NKCA National Kidney Cancer Association (USA)

NNFF National Neurofibromatosis Foundation (USA)

NORD National Organization for Rare Disorders (USA)

NRCT National Registry of Childhood Tumours (UK) held by the CCRG at Oxford

OECI Organization of European Cancer Institutes

ONS Oncology Nursing Society (USA)

PONF Paediatric Oncology Nurses Forum (UK)

SCTN Scottish Cancer Therapy Network

SEER Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (USA)

SFOP French Paediatric Oncology Scociety

SGDM Study Group on Data Management (EORTC)

SGO Society of Gynecologic Oncologists

SIOP International Society of Paediatric Oncology

SNLG Scottish and Newcastle Lymphoma Group

SPOHNC Support for People with Oral and Head and Neck Cancer

SWOG Southwest Oncology Group (USA)

UICC Union Internationale Contre le Cancer - International Union Against Cancer

UKACR UK Association of Cancer Registeries

UKCCCR UK Coordinating Committee for Cancer Research

UKCCRG UK Children's Cancer Research Group (Oxford)

WHO World Health Organisation