

Appendix B.—Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

Glossary of Terms

- Accuracy:** The number of correct test results divided by the total number of tests performed. Diagnostic accuracy may vary with the prevalence of the disease in the population.
- Aneurysm:** A permanent abnormal blood-filled dilation of a blood vessel resulting from disease of the vessel wall.
- Arterial lumen:** The cavity of a tubular organ.
- Arteriography:** Visualization of an artery using photographs made with X-rays after the injection of radiopaque (impervious to the rays) material into the bloodstream.
- Atherosclerosis:** A chronic disease characterized by the deposition of fatty substances in the inner layer of the arteries.
- Bruit:** A sound or murmur heard in an organ, especially an abnormal one.
- Carotid bifurcation:** The division into two branches of the principal artery in the neck.
- Cerebral infarction:** An area of dead tissue in the cerebrum caused by a deficiency of blood due to functional constriction or actual obstruction of a blood vessel.
- Cerebrovascular disease:** A disease affecting or pertaining to the blood vessels of the cerebrum or brain.
- Cholesterol:** A steroid alcohol present in animal cells and body fluids, important in physiological processes, and implicated experimentally as a factor in arteriosclerosis.
- Digital subtraction angiography (DSA):** A radiologic tool used for the diagnosis of conditions pertaining to the internal structure of blood vessels. The procedure involves injecting a contrast medium into the veins and then monitoring the change of the medium as it passes through the veins. The computer subtracts the images before the injection from the images after the injection to attain a numerical representation of the arterial structure.
- Diplopia:** A vision disorder in which two images of a single object are seen because of unequal action of the eye muscles (also called “double vision”).
- Doppler device:** A radar-like device used to measure the velocity of blood flow through the arteries.
- Duplex scanning:** The combination of the B-scan and the Doppler device. Using this method both the image of the blood vessel and the flow pattern at a given location can be determined.
- Effectiveness:** Same as efficacy except that it refers to “. . . average or actual conditions of use.”
- Efficacy:** The probability of benefit to individuals in a defined population from a medical technology applied for a given medical problem under ideal conditions of use.
- Endarterectomy:** Surgical removal of the inner layer of an artery when thickened and obstructed.
- Energy subtraction:** Using digital subtraction angiography to show changes in the contrast appearance of the artery at varying X-ray intensities.
- Fibrin:** A white insoluble protein formed from fibrinogen during the clotting of blood.
- Hemorrhagic:** Of or pertaining to a copious discharge of blood from the blood vessels.
- Microemboli:** A microscopic abnormal particle circulating in the blood.
- Noninvasive technique:** A diagnostic method that does not involve the penetration (by surgery or hypodermic needle) of the skin.
- Occlusion:** The blocking off or obstruction of blood flow through a vessel.
- Prior orbital ultrasonography:** A diagnostic technique using ultrasonic waves to examine the orbit or the eye socket.
- Peristalsis:** Successive waves of involuntary contraction passing along the walls of the intestine or other hollow muscular structure and forcing the contents onward.
- Platelet:** A disk-shaped structure found in the blood of all mammals. It is known for its role in blood coagulation.
- Prophylaxis:** Measures designed to preserve health (as of society) and prevent the spread of disease.
- Real-time ultrasound (B-scan):** A device used to measure the anatomical structure of vessels by vibrations of the same physical nature of sound, but with frequencies above the range of human hearing.
- Risk:** A measure of the probability of an adverse or untoward outcome and the severity of the resultant harm to health of individuals in a defined population and associated with use of a medical technology applied for a given medical problem under specified conditions of use.
- Safety:** A judgment of the acceptability of risk in a specified situation.
- Sensitivity:** The number of positive test results divided by the number of patients that actually have the disease.
- Specificity:** The number of negative test results divided by the number of patients that actually have the disease.
- Stenosis:** A narrowing or constriction of a bodily passage or orifice.

Stroke: A condition caused by sudden lesions in the blood vessels of the brain. The lesions could be caused by hemorrhage, embolism or thrombosis. This condition is often followed by permanent neurological damage.

Temporal subtraction: Using digital subtraction angiography to show changes in the contrast appearance of the artery over time.

Transient ischemic attacks: A deficiency of blood in a part of the body, due to functional constriction or actual obstruction of a blood vessel.

Ulcerated plaques: Breaks in the yellowish plaque which is formed within the intima and inner media (innermost and middle coats of the blood vessels) of large and medium-sized veins.

Yield rates: The numbers of lesions found per population screened.

Glossary of Acronyms

DSA	digital subtraction angiography
DHHS	-- Department of Health and Human Services
TIA	- transient ischemic attacks
CT scan	— computer axial tomography
DRG	- diagnosis related group
R&D	- research and development