Medical language

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each medical word.

Word | Test | Procedure | Condition | Effect

1 biopsy [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 anaesthesia [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 inflammation [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 scan [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 side effect [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 stitches [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 blood test [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 swelling [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 She had biopsy of the tissue. _____
2 He received anaesthesia of before surgery. _____
3 The area showed inflammation of. _____
4 She had scan of her chest. _____
5 He experienced side effect from the medicine. _____
6 The wound needed stitches of. _____
7 She had blood of test done. _____
8 There was swelling of around the joint. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For removing a small tissue sample for testing: biopsy / massage.
2 For medicine given to prevent pain during surgery: anaesthesia / vitamin supplement.
3 For redness, heat and swelling caused by injury or infection: inflammation / healing.
4 For an image taken to examine inside the body: scan / photograph.
5 For an unwanted result of taking medicine: side effect / main benefit.
6 For thread used to close a wound: stitches / bandage alone.

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4 Complete the reports with words from the box.

anaesthesia | biopsy | blood test | inflammation | scan | side effect | stitches | swelling

Report A: The surgeon performed a 1 _____ under local
2 _____ to remove a small tissue sample.
Report B: A 3 _____ revealed low iron levels, while a chest
4 _____ showed no serious problems.
Report C: The wound required several 5 _____, and mild
6 _____ was expected during recovery.
Report D: The medicine caused an unpleasant 7 _____, and the joint
showed signs of 8 _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Understanding medical test results

Patients often find medical terminology confusing, particularly when interpreting the results of a scan, blood test or biopsy without professional guidance. Terms such as inflammation or swelling may sound alarming out of context, even when they describe an expected and manageable part of healing. Doctors increasingly recognise the importance of explaining results in plain language, avoiding unnecessary technical jargon that can cause needless anxiety. Some clinics now provide written summaries alongside verbal explanations, helping patients process complex information more effectively, particularly when a diagnosis carries emotional weight or requires follow-up decisions about treatment.

1 What do patients often find confusing? _____

2 Give an example of terms that may sound alarming out of context. _____

3 What do doctors increasingly recognise the importance of? _____

4 What do they try to avoid? _____

5 What do some clinics now provide alongside verbal explanations? _____

6 When is this especially helpful, according to the text? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 A small tissue sample was removed for testing. BIOPSY _____

2 She was given medicine to prevent pain during surgery. ANAESTHESIA _____

3 The area became red and swollen. INFLAMMATION _____

4 The medicine caused an unwanted reaction. SIDE EFFECT _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of how doctors could explain medical results more clearly to patients. Include specific suggestions.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Test 2 Procedure 3 Condition 4 Test 5 Effect 6 Procedure 7 Test 8 Condition

2 Corrections

1 had a biopsy 2 received anaesthesia 3 showed inflammation 4 had a scan
5 experienced a side effect 6 needed stitches 7 had a blood test 8 swelling around the joint

3 Suitable descriptions

1 biopsy 2 anaesthesia 3 inflammation 4 scan 5 side effect 6 stitches

4 Reports

1 biopsy 2 anaesthesia 3 blood test 4 scan 5 stitches 6 swelling 7 side effect 8 inflammation

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Medical terminology, particularly when interpreting results without professional guidance.
2 Inflammation or swelling.
3 Explaining results in plain language.
4 Unnecessary technical jargon that can cause needless anxiety.
5 Written summaries.
6 When a diagnosis carries emotional weight or requires follow-up decisions about treatment.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 She had a biopsy. 2 She was given anaesthesia.
3 The area showed inflammation. 4 The medicine caused a side effect.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.