

GLOSSARY (Vol. 2)

Absorbed dose	Energy released in tissue during radiotherapy, measured in gray (Gy).
Accidental	Unexpected discovery of asymptomatic tumor detected on routine examination or other diagnostic investigation.
Adenocarcinoma	Glandular cell cancer.
Adjuvant	Treatment of suspected, but unconfirmed, disease.
Adjuvant therapy	Use of another form of treatment in addition to the primary treatment.
Age-matched	Selection of a control group, for statistical analysis, with the same age distribution as the patient group.
Anaplastic	Very poorly differentiated immature tumor, often with rapid course.
Anastomosis	Connection.
Angiography	X-ray of vessels using contrast substance.
Anterolateral	In front and to one side.
Ascites	Accumulation of fluid in the peritoneal cavity.
Benign	Non-malignant.
Bilateral	On both sides.
Biopsy	Removing a piece of tissue for examination, eg, by surgical excision.
Boost	Extra radiation dose delivered to a smaller region of the radiation field, eg, to the primary tumor site.
Brachytherapy	Treatment whereby a radioactive source, which is sealed in a container, is placed directly on or in the patient.
Bulky	Comprehensive, large, ie, referring to a tumor.
Cataract	Opacity of the lens of the eye.
Clonogenous	Several cells, all arising from the same mother cell.
Compartment	Enclosed anatomic "section", eg, a muscle inside its membrane. Of major importance in treating sarcomas.
Cone-down	Radiotherapy term, meaning that the field is reduced so a booster dose can be delivered to a smaller target field.
Consensus	Agreement, eg, on treatment methods.
Conservative	Cautious, preserving; eg, pertaining to surgery.
Continuity	Continuous. A state of holding together. A tumor can grow "per continuitatem".
Cordectomy	Surgical removal of a vocal cord.
Curative	Aimed at curing.
Curettage	Scraping of endometrium.
Differentiation grade	The maturity grade of tumor tissue. Well-differentiated tumor; rather large similarity to normal healthy tissue. Poorly differentiated tumor; looks immature, little or no similarity to healthy tissue. Moderately differentiated tumor refers to the middle group. Well-differentiated tumors often have a slower course and better prognosis than poorly differentiated tumors.
Distal	Position farthest from the center, from a medial line, or from the trunk of the body.
Dumping	Rapid emptying of the contents of the stomach, or that which replaces the stomach following surgery. Too much blood flows to the intestines, leading to blood deficiency in the brain, and resulting in a fainting sensation.
Duration	Continuance in time.
ECOG	Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group.
Edema	Swelling due to excessive tissue fluid.
Elective	Selected, ie, planned surgery in contrast to acute surgery.
En bloc	Removal of the tumor as a whole without opening the capsule.
Encephalopathy	Organic brain damage.
Endometrium	Mucous membrane lining the inner surface of the uterus.
Enteritis	Intestinal inflammation.
EORTC	European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer.
Erythrodermia	Abnormal redness of the skin related to disease.
Ethmoidal cells	Cellular cavities in the ethmoid bone.

Etiology	Cause of disease.
Exophytic	Cauliflower-like growth, bulging with a tendency toward central necrosis.
External	Outer.
Extirpate	To remove or destroy completely.
Extracapsular	Outside the capsule.
Extremities	Arms and legs.
Fascia	Fibrous membrane covering, supporting, and separating muscles.
Fertility	Quality of being productive.
FIGO	Federation International de Gynecologie et Obstetric.
Fractionation	Dose distribution, ie, radiation dose per treatment and treatment frequency.
Fundus uteri	Upper part of the uterus.
Glossectomy	Surgical excision of the tongue (glossa).
GOG	Gynecological Oncology Group.
Histopathologic	Microscopic tissue diagnosis.
Hyperfractionation	Radiotherapy with increased number of fractions (treatment occasions), but with reduced fractionation dose, compared to standard radiotherapy treatment, eg, two or three radiotherapy treatments per day instead of one.
Implantation	Tumor cells that break loose, eg during surgery, to settle and grow in other tissue.
Indicated	Called for.
Induction treatment	Treatment that introduces a series of several different treatment modalities.
Inextirpable	Not able to be extirpated; ineradicable.
Infiltration	Invasion of, eg, tumor cells into other tissue.
Interstitial	Treatment where the radiation source is placed direct into the tissue, eg, radioactive needles inserted in a tumor.
Intracavitary	Inside a cavity of the body, eg, radiotherapy where sealed radiation sources are placed in the cavity of the uterus.
Intraoral	Placed in the oral cavity.
Ischemia	Oxygen deficiency.
Laryngectomy	Surgical excision of the larynx.
Lateral	To the side.
Linear accelerator	Type of treatment apparatus for external radiotherapy.
Lumpectomy	Surgical removal of a tumor, eg, from the breast.
Lymphatic drainage	Withdrawal of lymph fluid via the lymph channels.
Lymphoepithelioma	Malignant tumor originating in a type of mucous membrane cell.
Malabsorption	Inability to adequately absorb nutrients from the intestinal tract, due to intestinal damage.
Malignant	Virulent.
Malignant lymphoma	Malignant tumor arising from lymphocytes (type of white blood cells).
Mastectomy	Surgical removal of the breast.
Medial	Pertinent to the middle.
Mediastinum	Connective tissue space between the lungs.
Modality	Treatment method.
Morbidity	State of being diseased.
Mortality	State of being mortal. Death rate.
Mucositis	Inflammation of mucous membrane; eg, caused by ionizing radiation.
Multidisciplinary	Several disciplines together.
Mutilating	Disfiguring.
Myometrium	Muscular wall of the uterus.
Neck-dissection	Surgical removal of the lymph glands in the neck, laterally or bilaterally.
Necrosis	Death of tissue.
Neoadjuvant	Treatment of suspected, but unconfirmed, tumor diffusion, given prior to other tumor treatment, eg, surgery.
Occult	Subclinical = presence of tumor cells that are so few they are undetectable by current diagnostic methods.
Orbit	Eye socket.
Packing	Method of placing radiation sources for intracavitary treatment, eg, in the uterus.

Palliative	Supportive, symptom-relieving non-curative treatment.
Palpable	Perceptible by touch.
Papilla circumvallatae	One of the large papillae near the base on the dorsal aspect of the tongue, located approximately 2/3 of the length of the tongue, from the tip.
Para-aortal	Located near, beside the aorta.
Parapharyngeal	Area along side of the pharynx. Nerve and vessel are located in the parapharyngeal space.
Penetrate	To enter. Pierce.
Perineum	Pelvic floor, particularly the region between the genital organ and anus.
Placebo	“Sugar pill”, ie, inactive-substance.
Plaque	Patch, coating, eg, redness, thickening of the skin from skin lymphoma.
Plasmocytoma	Malignant tumor arising from lymphocytes (a type of white blood cells).
Pneumonitis	Inflammation of the lung, particularly swelling of tissue between the pulmonary alveoli eg, caused by ionizing radiation.
Post	After.
Potentiate	Increase potency, strengthen.
Pre	Before.
Progress	Grow, advancement of tumor disease.
Prophylactic	Preventive.
Prostatectomy	Surgical removal of the prostate.
Radical	Definitive, curative treatment.
Radiotherapist	Physician, specialist in radiotherapy, in Sweden, oncologist.
Randomize	Statistical method, ie, patients from a well-defined group are randomly assigned to two or more treatment alternatives.
Relapse	Recurrence, eg, return of tumor after a disease-free period.
Regression	Return toward a former state, eg, shrinkage of a tumor.
Remission	Return toward a former state, eg, shrinkage of a tumor. Used in expressions such as complete remission (disappearance of a tumor), and partial remission (disappearance of at least half of a tumor).
Repopulation	Cell growth after cell damage. eg, growth of tumor cells following radiotherapy, and new tumor cells replace those killed by radiotherapy.
Resectable	Able to be removed by surgical means.
Response	Reply.
RTOG	Radiation Therapy Oncology Group.
Salvage surgery	Type of surgery for large primary tumors or recurrent tumors.
Second look	Second surgical intervention following primary surgery and subsequent, eg, chemotherapy, to evaluate treatment effects and, if possible, remove any residuals.
Sensitizing	Sensitivity-increasing, ie, by adding a substance, the sensitivity to, eg, radiotherapy can be increased.
Sequela	Remaining side effects of treatment, eg, scars.
Significant	Statistical term indicating the mathematical confirmation that a demonstrated difference is “true” and not a result of chance.
Solitary	Single, delimited metastasis.
Sphenoidal	Pertaining to the nasal sinuses, sphenoidal sinus.
Sphincter	Circular constricting muscle, eg, for bladder and intestine.
Split-course	Split treatment, ie, a longer break is made in the treatment series.
Squamous cell carcinoma	Cancer arising from squamous cells, ie, epithelial cells, eg, in skin, oral cavity, throat, lung, etc.
Staging laparotomy	Operation, opening the abdomen to determine a tumor’s stage.
Stereotactic	Intervention using biplane x-ray monitoring.
Stripping	Stripping vocal cords, ie, the outer cell layer is removed. The method is sometimes used to treat cancer in situ.
Submentally	Under the chin.
Supraclavicular fossa	Depression above the clavicle.
Supraglottic	Upper part of larynx, above glottis (sound-producing).
SWOG	South West Oncology Group.
Target volume	Volume targeted, ie, defined region of tissue at which radiation is directed.

Thyroid	Thyroid gland, a gland of internal secretion in the neck.
Toxicity	Extent, quality, or degree of being poisonous, used to describe side effects.
Vaginal cylinder	Cylinder-shaped capsule for sealed radiation sources used for vaginal radiotherapy.
Vaginal mucosa	Mucous membrane of the vagina.
Vallecula	Crevice between epiglottis and base of the tongue.