**Integumentary System Glossary**

* **Acne** – inflammation of the sebaceous glands
* **Adipocytes** – cells specialized in accumulating and storing fats, grouped together in lobules and separated by connective tissue
* **Apocrine sweat glands** – found in the axillary and pubic regions of the body which produce oily liquid; when this liquid is digested by bacteria body odor is produced
* **Areolar connective tissue** – type of loose connective tissue that holds organs in place and attaches epithelial tissue to other underlying tissues
* **Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC)** - abnormal, uncontrolled growths or lesions that arise in the skin’s basal cells, which line the deepest layer of the epidermis
* **Biopsy (punch, shave, wedge)** – removal of a section or portion of living tissue to find the cause or extent of a disease
* **Boils (furuncles)** – tender inflamed areas of skin that contain pus
* **Ceruminous glands** – special exocrine glands found only in the dermis of the ear canals which produce cerumen (earwax)
* **Dermatitis** – Inflammation of the skin
* **Dermis** – middle layer of the skin composed of dense irregular connective tissue and areolar connective tissue
* **Diascopy** – used to determine if erythema in a lesion is due to blood in superficial vessels (vascular lesions) or is due to hemorrhaging
* **Eccrine sweat glands** – produce a secretion of water and sodium chloride in order to lower the body’s temperature
* **Eczema** – reddening and vesicle formation which leads to weeping and crusting
* **Epidermis** – top layer of skin
* **Epithelium** – one of the basic types of animal tissue that lines cavities and surfaces of blood vessels and organs in the body. Contains no blood vessels.
* **Eponychium (cuticle)** – layer of skin around the proximal and lateral edges of the nail that helps to seal and protect it from infection
* **Free edge** – distal end portion of the nail that grows beyond the edge of a toe or finger
* **Free nerve endings** – nerve endings which act primarily as pain receptors
* **Hair cortex** – middle layer of hair made up of the cells of the hair that give it its width
* **Hair cuticle** – outermost layer of hair made up of keratinocytes that force the hair outward from the skin
* **Hair follicle** – depression in the epidermal cells deep into the dermis that produces and holds hair
* **Hair medulla** – innermost layer of the hair made up of highly pigmented cells (not always present). When not present, the cortex extends to the center of the hair shaft
* **Hair nerve endings** – nerve endings that respond to changes in position of the hair
* **Hair root** – portion of the hair beneath the skin
* **Hair shaft** – portion of the hair found outside of the skin
* **Herpes** – inflammation of the skin or mucous membranes characterized by small blisters
* **Homeostasis** - the property of a system within an organism in which a variable like temperature is actively regulated to remain very nearly constant
* **Hypodermis (Subcutaneous Layer)** – layer beneath the skin attached to the dermis
* **Hyponychium (nail bed)** – layer of epidermis and dermis under the nail
* **Impetigo** – Superficial bacterial infection of the skin, usually caused by staphylococcus or streptococcus bacteria
* **Integument** – outer protective layer of an organism
* **Irregular connective tissue** – type of connective tissue in which fibers that are not arranged in parallel bundles. consists of mostly collagen fibers
* **Keratin** - the protein that protects epithelial cells from damage or stress
* **Keratinocytes** – epidermal cells that produce keratin
* **Langerhans’ cells** – dendritic cells of the skin that are active in the capture, uptake and processing of antigens
* **Lunula** – whitish crescent shape near the root of the nail
* **Meissner’s corpuscles** – egg-shaped capsules of connective tissue that sense quick touches, but not sustained touch
* **Melanin** – natural pigment found in organisms
* **Melanocytes** – melanin-producing located in the bottom layer of the skin’s epidermis
* **Melanoma** – type of cancer where pigment-producing cells that give color to the skin become cancerous.
* **Merkel cell cancer** – cancer of the cells that are connected to the nerve endings in the skin which are responsible for the sense of touch.
* **Merkel cells** - oval-shaped mechanoreceptors essential for light touch sensation and found in the skin of vertebrates
* **Nail body (plate)** – visible external portion of the nail
* **Nail matrix** – deep layer of tissue that surrounds the nail root
* **Nail root** – portion of the nail found under the skin
* **Pacinian corpuscles** – pressure receptors found deep in the dermis that respond to firm pressure and vibrations
* **Papillary Layer** – superficial layer of the dermis which contains the areolar connective tissue
* **Psoriasis** – scaly pink patches form on the elbows, knees, scalp and other parts of the body
* **Reticular Layer** – deeper layer of the dermis that contains the irregular connective tissue
* **Rosacea** – chronic inflammatory disease of the face where the skin becomes abnormally flushed
* **Scrapings** – use of a scalpel to scrap a sample off an infected area
* **Sebaceous glands** – exocrine glands found in the dermis that produce sebum
* **Sebum** – oily secretion which helps to waterproof and increase the elasticity of the skin. Also helps to lubricate and protect the cuticles of hairs as they pass through follicles
* **Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)** - an uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells arising in the squamous cells, which compose most of the skin’s upper layers
* **Sudoriferous glands** – exocrine glands found in the dermis that produce sweat
* **Tinea corporis, manus, and pedis (ringworm)** - ring-like lesions caused by fungal infection
* **Tzanck testing** – used to diagnose viral diseases such as herpes
* **Warts** – benign growths on the skin caused by an infection from human papillomavirus
* **Wood light (black light) testing** – used to diagnose and define the extent of lesions and infections