

Capitolo 7

Acronimi ed abbreviazioni

Introduzione

“The patient went from the ER to the OR and then to the ICU”.

Indubbiamente il lessico dei medici è ricco di abbreviazioni, tanto che gli operatori della sanità di lingua italiana e inglese adoperano perlomeno dieci abbreviazioni per minuto (questa è una statistica fatta in casa, per favore non citatela). Questa alta prevalenza ci ha spinto a considerare le abbreviazioni in medicina come una dilagante epidemia.

Vi sono diversi tipi di abbreviazioni:

- abbreviazioni dirette;
- abbreviazioni immediate;
- abbreviazioni che espandono il termine;
- abbreviazioni che risparmiano energia;
- abbreviazioni a doppio senso;
- abbreviazioni che espandono la mente.

Le abbreviazioni dirette sono quelle in cui esiste un'equivalenza di termini tra l'italiano e l'inglese; in questi casi non ci sono difficoltà. È necessario solo invertire l'ordine delle parole, identificare le abbreviazioni ed impararle. Vediamo alcuni esempi così che possiate godere delle cose semplici della vita... fino a che potete!

HRT	Hormone replacement therapy
LVOT	Left ventricle outflow tract
ASD	Atrial septal defect
VSD	Ventricular septal defect
TEE	Transesophageal echocardiography
LDA	Left anterior descending artery
ACE	Angiotensin converting enzyme

Le abbreviazioni immediate sono impiegate più frequentemente per farmaci e sostanze chimiche il cui nome possiede tre o quattro sillabe di troppo. Le chiamiamo immediate perché in genere sono le stesse in diverse lingue. Vediamo un esempio:

CPK Creatin phosphokinase

Di seguito riportiamo alcuni esempi di abbreviazioni largamente impiegate nella lingua inglese, ma in genere utilizzate nella loro forma esplicita in altre lingue. Siccome la lingua è in continuo cambiamento, siamo sicuri che questi termini possano avere un'abbreviazione nelle diverse lingue; tuttavia, vengono perlopiù impiegati nella loro forma esplicita.

NSCLC Non-small-cell lung cancer

PBSC Peripheral blood stem cells

Esiste un altro gruppo di abbreviazioni che possiamo chiamare “che risparmiano energia”. Queste sono abbreviazioni che in molte lingue vengono mantenute nella forma inglese, per cui quando vengono espanse la prima lettera di ciascuna parola non combacia con l'abbreviazione. Le possiamo chiamare “abbreviazioni che risparmiano energia” in quanto non è così difficile arrivare all'abbreviazione “nazionale” di questi termini. In questi esempi, possiamo notare che la maggior parte dei nomi degli ormoni vengono abbreviati con sigle che risparmiano energia:

FSH Follicle-stimulating hormone

TNF Tumor necrosis factor

PAW Pulmonary arterial wedge

Esiste un altro tipo di abbreviazioni che chiamiamo “a doppio senso”. In questi casi un'abbreviazione si riferisce a due differenti termini. Il contesto aiuta, ovviamente, nell'individuare il significato reale; tuttavia è importante fare particolare attenzione in quanto un errore interpretativo può portare a situazioni anche imbarazzanti:

- PCR
 - Polymerase chain reaction
 - Plasma clearance tests

- HEV
 - Human enteric virus
 - Hepatitis E virus

- PID
 - Pelvic inflammatory disease
 - Prolapsed intervertebral disc
- CSF
 - Colony-stimulating factor
 - Cerebrospinal fluid

Le abbreviazioni più divertenti sono quelle in cui la pronuncia dell'acronimo ricorda una parola che non ha nessuna relazione con il significato dell'abbreviazione. Noi chiamiamo questo gruppo "le abbreviazioni che espandono la mente".

Il *cabbage* in inglese è un ortaggio dotato di proprietà gasogenica; tuttavia quando un chirurgo dice "this patient is a clear candidate for cabbage", non indica che cosa il paziente debba mangiare, ma piuttosto sta suggerendo il tipo di chirurgia a cui il paziente debba essere sottoposto che è quella del CABG (*coronary artery bypass grafting*).

Se vi capitasse di camminare lungo un corridoio e sentire un oncologo affermare "I think your patient needs a chop", ci si potrebbe domandare se sia possibile che una nuova terapia possa consistere in una bistecca di maiale o di agnello. Invece, si riferisce allo schema di polichemioterapia CHOP, costituita da ciclofosfamide, idrossidaunomicina, oncovina e prednisone.

Ci sono ancora molte altre abbreviazioni e molte altre ci saranno in futuro. Di sicuro la professione medica ci terrà impegnati nell'inseguire tutte le sue incursioni nella creatività linguistica.

Indipendentemente dal tipo di abbreviazione che avrete di fronte vi diamo tre suggerimenti:

1. Identificate le abbreviazioni più frequenti;
2. Leggete le abbreviazioni nei vostri elenchi;
3. Iniziate con gli elenchi delle abbreviazioni della vostra sottospecialità.

Identificate le abbreviazioni più comuni. Identificate le abbreviazioni più comuni nella vostra specialità e nel gergo ospedaliero e scriveteli in una vostra lista personale. Per esempio, se siete radiologi, fate una lista delle abbreviazioni che includono termini come CXR (*chest X-ray*) e UKB (*ureter, kidneys and bladder*), e una seconda lista di abbreviazioni come OR (*operative room*) e NICU (*neonatal intensive care unit*).

Leggete le abbreviazioni nei vostri elenchi. Leggete le abbreviazioni dei vostri elenchi in maniera naturale; tenete a mente che essere capaci di riconoscere delle abbreviazioni scritte potrebbe non essere sufficiente. Da questo punto di vista ci sono tre tipi di abbreviazioni:

1. Abbreviazioni di cui fare lo spelling.
2. Abbreviazioni da leggere (acronimi).
3. Abbreviazioni in parte da leggere e in parte di cui fare lo spelling.

Nessuno capirebbe un'abbreviazione di cui va fatto lo spelling se letta e nessuno capirebbe un'abbreviazione letta se ne viene fatto lo spelling. Cerchiamo di chiarire questo punto con un esempio. LAM sta per linfangiomatosi e deve essere letto *lam*. Nessuno vi capirebbe se invece di dire *lam* voi faceste lo *spelling* L-A-M.

Per tale ragione non fate lo spelling di un' "abbreviazione da leggere" e non leggete un' "abbreviazione che necessita spelling".

La maggior parte delle abbreviazioni sono abbreviazioni che necessitano spelling, scritte con un ordine delle lettere che le rende quasi impronunciabili. Pensate per esempio a COPD (*chronic obstructive pulmonary disease*) e tentate di leggerne l'abbreviazione non adoperate la "forma esplicita (*chronic obstructive pulmonary disease*) di una classica abbreviazione come questa perché suonerebbe terribilmente innaturale.

Alcune abbreviazioni sono diventate acronimi e per questo devono essere lette. L'ordine stesso delle loro lettere ci permette di leggerle. LAM appartiene a questo gruppo.

Il terzo gruppo è costituito da abbreviazioni come CPAP (*continuous positive airway pressure*) che deve essere pronunciato *C-pap*. Se voi ne fate lo spelling C-P-A-P nessuno vi capirà.

Rivedete l'elenco delle abbreviazioni della vostra sottospecialità. Rivedete quanti più elenchi di abbreviazioni possibile della vostra specialità e ripetetele fino a che non acquistate familiarità con il significato e con la pronuncia.

Frasi comuni contenenti abbreviazioni

In questa parte riportiamo alcune frasi d'uso comune in lingua inglese contenenti abbreviazioni, seguite dalle definizioni delle abbreviazioni utilizzate.

Generale

Frasi:

- A 40-year-old man visited our hospital, and was diagnosed as having Felty's syndrome because of splenomegaly and pancytopenia as well as definite RA.
- MCV, MCHC, LDH, ANA and RF values are normal.
- The platelet and WBC counts exceeded their normal ranges. He was diagnosed as suffering from ... (ITP, CMML, AML, CML). Two months after, he received a BMT.
- Foreign bodies display a variable signal intensity on both T1- and T2-weighted images. MR shows an inflammatory response while CT can show the retained foreign body. US evaluation could be useful in selected patients.
- COPD is a risk factor in the development of TB.
- Cholera can be diagnosed by the presence of CTX in stools.
- A 16-year-old female suffering from fever, chills, rash and presenting multiple nodular opacities in CXR was diagnosed as having ... (RMSF, BPF, DGI).
- An ECG was obtained, and showed ... (RBBB, LBBB, APCs, VPCs, AF, VF).
- He is actually under treatment with ACEI. Ten years ago he was treated with PTCA because of the three AMI he had suffered.
- RA and SSc are more common in females.
- PCP and PML are two of the complications that can be suffered by AIDS patients.
- Cutaneous manifestations of SLE can be divided into SCLE (acute) and DLE (chronic).

Definizioni:

ACEI	Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor
AF	Atrial fibrillation
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

AMI	Acute myocardial infarction
AML	Acute myeloid leukemia
ANA	Antinuclear antibodies
APCs	Atrial premature complexes
BMT	Bone marrow transplantation
BPF	Brazilian purpuric fever
CML	Chronic myeloid leukemia
CMML	Chronic myelomonocytic leukemia
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CT	Computed tomography
CTX	Cholera toxin
CXR	Chest X-ray
DGI	Disseminated gonococcal infection
DLE	Discoid lupus erythematosus
ECG	Electrocardiogram
ITP	Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
LBBB	Left bundle branch block
LCA	Left coronary artery
LDH	Lactate dehydrogenase
MCHC	Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration
MCV	Mean corpuscular volume
MR	Magnetic resonance
PCP	<i>Pneumocystis carinii</i> pneumonia
PE	Pulmonary embolism
PML	Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
PTCA	Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty
RA	Rheumatoid arthritis
RBBS	Right bundle branch block
RF	Rheumatoid factor
RMSF	Rocky mountain spotted fever
SCLE	Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus
SLE	Systemic lupus erythematosus
SSc	Systemic sclerosis
TB	Tuberculosis
US	Ultrasonography
VF	Ventricular fibrillation
VPCs	Ventricular premature complexes
WBC	White blood cell

Pneumologia

Frasi:

- Two measurements of lung volume can be used for respiratory diagnosis: RV and TLC.
- Thoracotomy is used to biopsy lesions that are too deep to vital structures for removal by VATS.
- HP is a term used for extrinsic allergic alveolitis.
- Life span for both female and male CF patients is similar (more or less 28 years)
- The ILDs are not caused by any defined infectious agents.
- About half of the patients with DVT have PTE.
- The narrowing of the upper airways during sleep predisposes to OSA.
- ARDS is characterized by increased permeability of the alveolar capillary barrier.

Definizioni:

ARDS	Acute respiratory distress syndrome
CF	Cystic fibrosis
DVT	Deep venous thrombosis
HP	Hypersensitivity pneumonitis
ILDs	Interstitial lung disease
OSA	Obstructive sleep apnea
PTE	Pulmonary thromboembolism
RV	Residual volume
TLC	Total lung capacity
VATS	Video-assisted thoracic surgery

Nefrologia

Frasi:

- The causes of ARF, RPRF, and CRF, although affecting the same organ, are different.
- ATN is typically induced by ischemia or nephrotoxins.
- The classic pathologic correlate of RPGN is crescent formation involving most glomeruli.
- Other glomerulopathies are MPGN, MCD and FSGS.
- Pathogenesis of RVT is not always clear, and its clinical manifestations depend on the severity of its occurrence.

- › Renal failure is common in HUS and TTP.
- › There are multiple forms of RTA, a disorder of renal acidification.

Definizioni:

ARF	Acute renal failure
ATN	Acute tubular necrosis
CRF	Chronic renal failure
FSGS	Focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis
HUS	Hemolytic uremic syndrome
MCD	Minimal change disease
MPGN	Membranoproliferative glomerulopathies
RPGN	Rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis
RPRF	Rapidly progressive renal failure
RTA	Renal tubular acidosis
RVT	Renal vein thrombosis
TTP	Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura

Gastroenterologia

Frasi:

- › Ulcers can be more accurately detected using EDG rather than using GI X-ray examination.
- › GU and DU are the major forms of peptic ulcer; these two terms include ulcers caused by NSAIDs and the ZES.
- › 5% of patients with CD or UC (the major groups of chronic IBD) will have one or more relatives affected.
- › One of the methods to reduce the pressure in the portal venous system in cirrhotic patients is the TIPS.

Definizioni:

CD	Crohn disease
DU	Duodenal ulcer
EGD	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy
GI	Gastrointestinal
GU	Gastric ulcer
IBD	Inflammatory bowel disease
NSAIDs	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
TIPS	Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt
UC	Ulcerative colitis
ZES	Zollinger-Ellison syndrome

Elenchi di abbreviazioni

Sebbene dovrete fare voi stessi la vostra lista personale di abbreviazioni, noi abbiamo creato diversi elenchi per specialità. Per iniziare, verificate se l'elenco della vostra specialità è inclusa; in caso contrario, iniziate a scriverne una vostra. Siate pazienti... questo compito potrebbe durare fino alla fine della vostra carriera.

Elenco generale

5FU	5-Fluorouracil
α 1AT	α 1-Antitrypsin
ABPA	Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis
ACE	Angiotensin-converting enzyme
aCL	Antibodies to cardiolipin
ACTH	Adrenocorticotropic hormone
ADH	Antidiuretic hormone
ADPKD	Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease
AF	Atrial fibrillation
AFP	Alpha fetoprotein
AJCC	American Joint Cancer Commission
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase
AML	Acute myeloid leukemia
ANA	Antinuclear antibodies
APCs	Atrial premature complexes
APUD	Amine precursor uptake and decarboxylation system
ARDS	Acute respiratory distress syndrome
ARF	Acute renal failure
AS	Ankylosing spondylitis
AST	Aspartate aminotransferase
ATN	Acute tubular necrosis
AVP	Arginine vasopressin
BAL	Bronchoalveolar lavage
BCC	Basal cell carcinoma
BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Guérin
BMT	Bone marrow transplant
BP	Bullous pemphigoid
BPF	Brazilian purpuric fever
CBD	Common bile duct

CCK	Cholecystokinin
CD	Crohn disease
CEA	Carcinoembryonic antigen
CF	Cystic fibrosis
CML	Chronic myeloid leukemia
CMML	Chronic myelomonocytic leukemia
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CP	Cicatricial pemphigoid
CRF	Chronic renal failure
CRH	Corticotropin-releasing hormone
CSF	Colony stimulating factor
CT	Computed tomography
CTX	Cholera toxin
CUPS	Cancer of unknown primary site
CWP	Coal workers' pneumoconiosis
CXR	Chest X-ray
DCIS	Ductal carcinoma in situ
DLE	Discoid lupus erythematosus
DGI	Disseminated gonococcal infection
DH	Dermatitis herpetiformis
DISH	Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis
DRA	Dialysis-related amyloidosis
DRE	Digital rectal examination
DU	Duodenal ulcer
DVT	Deep venous thrombosis
EBA	Epidermolysis bullosa acquisita
EBV	Epstein Barr virus
ECG	Electrocardiogram
EGD	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy
ERCP	Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
ESRD	End-stage renal disease
FAP	Familial amyloid polyneuropathies
FEV1	Forced expiratory volume in one second
FMF	Familial Mediterranean fever
FSGS	Focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis
FSH	Follicle-stimulating hormone
GBM	Glomerular basement membrane
GCT	Germ cell tumor
GFR	Glomerular filtration rate
GGT	γ -Glutamyltranspeptidase, γ -glutamyltransferase
GH	Growth hormone

GHRH	Growth hormone-releasing hormone
GI	Gastrointestinal
GIP	Gastrin inhibitory peptide
GU	Gastric ulcer
HBV	Hepatitis B virus
hCG	Human chorionic gonadotropin
HCV	Hepatitis C virus
HIVAN	Human immunodeficiency virus-associated nephropathy
HOA	Hypertrophic osteoarthropathy
HP	Hypersensitivity pneumonitis
HPV	Human papilloma virus
HRT	Hormone replacement therapy
HSC	Hematopoietic stem cell
HUS	Hemolytic uremic syndrome
IBD	Inflammatory bowel disease
IBS	Irritable bowel syndrome
IL	Interleukin
ILDs	Interstitial lung disease
IPSID	Immunoproliferative small intestinal disease (Mediterranean lymphoma)
ITP	Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
JN	Juvenile nephronophthisis
LA	Lupus anticoagulant
LBBB	Left bundle branch block
LCDD	Light chain deposition disease
LDH	Lactate dehydrogenase
LES	Lower esophageal sphincter
LH	Luteinizing hormone
LIP	Lymphoid interstitial pneumonitis
MAC	Mycobacterium avium complex
MALT	Mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue
MCD	Medullary cystic disease
MCD	Minimal change disease
MCHC	Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration
MCTD	Mixed connective tissue disease
MCV	Mean corpuscular volume
MEN1	Type 1 multiple endocrine neoplasia
MPGN	Membranoproliferative glomerulopathies
MR	Magnetic resonance
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
NSAIDs	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

NUD	Non-ulcer dyspepsia
OA	Osteoarthritis
OCG	Oral cholecystography
ODTS	Organic dust toxic syndrome
OSA	Obstructive sleep apnea
PAH	Primary alveolar hypoventilation
PAN	Polyarteritis nodosa
PAP	Pulmonary alveolar proteinosis
PBC	Primary biliary cirrhosis
PCI	Prophylactic cranial irradiation
PCP	Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia
PDR	Physicians' desk reference (vademecum)
PEG	Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy
PF	Pemphigus foliaceus
PG	Pemphigoid gestationis
PIF	Prolactin inhibitory factor
PML	Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
PNET	Peripheral primitive neuroectodermal tumor
PRA	Plasma renin activity
PRL	Prolactin
PSA	Prostate-specific antigen
PsA	Psoriatic arthritis
PTC	Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography
PTE	Pulmonary thromboembolism
PTH	Parathyroid hormone
PV	Pemphigus vulgaris
RA	Rheumatoid arthritis
RBBB	Right bundle branch block
RBC	Red blood cell
RF	Rheumatoid factor
RMSF	Rocky mountain spotted fever
RPGN	Rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis
RPRF	Rapidly progressive renal failure
RTA	Renal tubular acidosis
RV	Residual volume
RVT	Renal vein thrombosis
SBC	Secondary biliary cirrhosis
SBP	Systolic blood pressure
SCC	Squamous cell carcinoma
SCID	Severe combined immunodeficiency
SCLE	Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus
SI	Serum iron

SIADH	Syndrome of inappropriate secretion of antidiuretic hormone
SLE	Systemic lupus erythematosus
SPB	Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
SSc	Systemic sclerosis
SVCS	Superior vena cava syndrome
TB	Tuberculosis
TBB	Transbronchial biopsy
TGF β	Transforming growth factor β
TIBC	Transferrin iron-binding capacity
TIPS	Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt
TLC	Total lung capacity
TNF	Tumor necrosis factor
TRH	Thyrotropin-releasing hormone
TSH	Thyroid-stimulating hormone
TTA	Transtracheal aspiration
TTP	Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura
UC	Ulcerative colitis
US	Ultrasonography
VATS	Video-assisted thoracic surgery
VC	Vital capacity
VF	Ventricular fibrillation
VIP	Vasoactive intestinal peptide
VPCs	Ventricular premature complexes
WBC	White blood cell
WDHA syndrome	Watery diarrhea, hypokalemia and achlorhydria (Verner-Morrison)
ZES	Zollinger-Ellison syndrome

Elenchi per specialità

Anamnesi clinica

AC, a.c.	<i>Ante cibum</i> (before a meal)
ADR	Adverse drug reaction
AVPU	Alert, responsive to verbal stimuli, responsive to painful stimuli, and unresponsive (assessment of mental status)
BID, b.i.d.	<i>Bis in die</i> (twice a day)
BP	Blood pressure

CC	Chief complaint
DM	Diastolic murmur
DNR	Do not resuscitate
DOA	Dead on arrival
DRE	Digital rectal examination
DTR	Deep tendon reflex
IV, i.v.	Intravenous
LUQ	Left upper quadrant (of abdomen)
NPO	Nil per os (nothing by mouth, U.S.)
OD	Oculus dexter (right eye), overdose
PCA	Patient-controlled analgesia
PO, P.O.	<i>Per os</i> (by mouth, orally)
POMR	Problem-oriented medical record
ppm	Parts per million
PRE	Progressive-resistance exercise
p.r.n.	<i>Pro re nata</i> (according to circumstances, may require)
PT	Physical therapy/therapist
RDA	Recommended daily allowance
RLL	Right lower lobe (of lung)
RLQ	Right lower quadrant (of abdomen)
RML	Right middle lobe (of lung)
RUL	Right upper lobe (of lung)
RUQ	Right upper quadrant (of abdomen)
SM	Systolic murmur
SOAP	Subjective, objective, assessment, and plan (used in problem-oriented records)
SQ	Subcutaneous
TPN	Total parenteral nutrition
VR	Vocal resonance

Anatomia

ACL	Anterior cruciate ligament of the knee
CBD	Common bile duct
CN	Cranial nerve
CNS	Central nervous system
DRUJ	Distal radioulnar joint
ECU	Extensor carpi ulnaris
EEL	External elastic lamina
ITB	Iliotibial band
IVC	Inferior vena cava

LCL	Lateral collateral ligament
MCL	Medial collateral ligament
MCP	Metacarpophalangeal
MTP	Metatarsophalangeal
NA	Nomina anatomica
PCL	Posterior cruciate ligament
RAS	Reticular activating system
RCL	Radial collateral ligament
RDPA	Right descending pulmonary artery
SCM	Sternocleidomastoid muscle
ST	Scapulothoracic
TFCC	Triangular fibrocartilage complex
TMJ	Temporomandibular joint
TMT	Tarsometatarsal
UCL	Ulnar collateral ligament
UPJ	Ureteropelvic junction

Biochimica e genetica

5-HT	5-Hydroxytryptamine
AA, aa	Amino acid
ACH, Ach	Acetylcholine
ACP	Acyl carrier protein
Ado	Adenosine
ADP	Adenosine 5c-diphosphate
ALA	Aminolevulinic acid
AMP	Adenosine monophosphate
ATP	Adenosine 5c-triphosphate
ATPase	Adenosine triphosphatase
CoA	Coenzyme A
DM	Dopamine
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
GABA	γ -Aminobutyric acid
LT	Leukotrienes
NAD	Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide
PABA	<i>p</i> -Aminobenzoic acid
PBG	Porphobilinogen
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PK	Pyruvate kinase
PP	Pyrophosphate
PRPP	5-Phospho-D-ribose 1-pyrophosphate

RIP	Radioimmunoprecipitation
RIST	Radioimmunosorbent test
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
RNP	Ribonucleoprotein
RT-PCR	Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction
UDP	Uridine 5c-diphosphate

Cardiologia, chirurgia cardiaca e vascolare

AAA	Abdominal aortic aneurysm
AF	Atrial fibrillation
AFORMED phenomenon	Alternating failure of response, mechanical, to electrical phenomenon depolarization of the heart
AH interval	Atrium-His interval
ALS	Advanced life support
AMI	Acute myocardial infarction
AN interval	Atrial deflection and the nodal potential
APSAC	Anisolated plasminogen streptokinase activator complex, for myocardial infarction
AR	Aortic regurgitation
AS	Aortic stenosis
A-V	Arteriovenous
AV	Atrioventricular
AVM	Arteriovenous malformation
aVF, aVL, aVR	Augmented electrocardiographic leads from the left foot, left arm, and right arm, respectively
CABG	Coronary artery bypass grafting
CAD	Coronary artery disease
CK	Creatine kinase
CK-MM,	Creatine kinase isoenzymes
CK-BB, CK-MB CPK	Creatine phosphokinase
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
cTnT	Cardiac-specific troponin T, in myocardial infarction
CVP	Central venous pressure
DA	Ductus arteriosus
ECMO	Extracorporeal-membrane oxygenation
ECG	Electrocardiogram
EKG	Electrocardiogram
HOMC	Hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy
HV	His-ventricular conduction time

ICD	Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator
LVET	Left ventricular ejection time
LVOT	Left ventricle outflow tract
MASS	Mitral valve prolapse, aortic anomalies, skeletal changes, and skin changes
MAT	Multifocal atrial tachycardia
MI	Myocardial infarction
MR	Mitral regurgitation
MS	Mitral stenosis
MVP	Mitral valve prolapse
PAPVR	Partial anomalous pulmonary venous return
PCWP	Pulmonary capillary wedge pressure
PEA	Pulseless electrical activity
PPPPPP	Pain, pallor, paresthesia, pulselessness, paralysis, prostration (the symptom complex of acute arterial occlusion)
PTCA	Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty
RVOT	Right ventricle outflow tract
S-A	Sinatrial
TAPVC	Total anomalous pulmonary venous connection
TED	Thromboembolic disease
WPW	Wolff-Parkinson-White disease

Chirurgia generale

D&C	Dilation and curettage
D&E	Dilation and evacuation
LEEP	Loop electrocautery excision procedure
TEP	Tracheoesophageal puncture

Dermatologia

BCC	Basal cell carcinoma
BP	Bullous pemphigoid
CP	Cicatricial pemphigoid
DEL	Discoid lupus erythematosus
DH	Dermatitis herpetiformis
EBA	Epidermolysis bullosa acquisita
PF	Pemphigus foliaceus
PG	Pemphigoid gestationis

PsA	Psoriatic arthritis
PTK	Phototherapeutic keratectomy
PUPPP	Pruritic urticarial papules and plaques of pregnancy
PUVA	Psoralen plus ultraviolet A irradiation
PV	Pemphigus vulgaris
SCLE	Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus
TAD	Transient acantholytic dermatosis
TEN	Toxic epidermal necrolysis

Ematologia e immunologia

AC	Anticoagulant
ACT	Activated clotting time
Ag	Antigen
ADH	Alcohol dehydrogenase
AHF	Antihemophilic factor A
ALL	Acute lymphocytic leukemia
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase
AP	Alkaline phosphatase
APTT	Activated partial thromboplastin time
AST	Aspartate aminotransferase
ATL	Adult T-cell leukemia
ATL	Adult T-cell lymphoma
BUN	Blood urea nitrogen
CBC	Complete blood count
CD	Cluster of differentiation
CGD	Chronic granulomatous disease
CGL	Chronic granulocytic leukemia
CML	Chronic myelocytic leukemia
CRP	C-reactive protein
DIC	Disseminated intravascular coagulation
ESR	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate
FAB	French-American-British classification system
FEL	Familial erythrophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis
FMLH	Familial hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis
G-CSF	Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor
GOT	Glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase
GPT	Glutamic-pyruvic transaminase
GVHR	Graft versus host reaction

Hb	Hemoglobin
Hct	Hematocrit
HDL	High-density lipoprotein
HGF	Hematopoietic growth factor
HLA	Human leukocyte antigen (major histocompatibility complex in humans)
HMWK	High molecular weight kininogen
IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG, IgM	Immunoglobulins
IFN	Interferon
IL	Interleukin
INR	International normalized ratio
ITP	Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
LAD	Leukocyte adhesion deficiency
LDH	Lactate dehydrogenase
LDL	Low-density lipoprotein
LET	Leukocyte esterase test
MCH	Mean corpuscular hemoglobin
MCHC	Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration
MCV	Mean corpuscular volume
MGUS	Monoclonal gammopathy of unknown significance
MHC	Major histocompatibility complex
NK cells	Natural killer cells
PCH	Paroxysmal cold hemoglobinuria
PDLL	Poorly differentiated lymphocytic lymphoma
PNH	Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria
PNP	Platelet neutralization procedure
PPCA	Proserum prothrombin conversion accelerator
PT	Prothrombin time
PTA	Plasma thromboplastin antecedent
PTT	Partial thromboplastin time
rbc	Red blood cell
RBC	Red-cell blood count
REAL	Revised European-American classification of lymphoid neoplasms
SPCA	Serum prothrombin conversion accelerator
TIBC	Total iron binding capacity
VHDL	Very high density lipoprotein
VDL	Very low density lipoprotein
VMA	Vanillylmandelic acid
WBC	White-cell blood count

Endocrinologia e metabolismo

AASH	Adrenal androgen-stimulating hormone
ABP	Androgen binding protein
ACE	Angiotensin-converting enzyme
ACTH	Adrenocorticotropic hormone
ADH	Antidiuretic hormone
ANP	Atrial natriuretic peptide
APECED	Autoimmune polyendocrinopathy-candidiasis-ectodermal dystrophy
APUD	Amine precursor uptake and decarboxylation
AS	Alport syndrome
AVP	Arginine vasopressin
BMI	Body mass index
BMR	Basal metabolic rate
BSA	Body surface area
CCK	Cholecystokinin
CDs	Chondrodysplasias
CRF	Corticotropin-releasing factor
CRH	Corticotropin-releasing hormone
DHEA	Dehydroepiandrosterone
DKA	Diabetic ketoacidosis
DM	Diabetes mellitus
EB	Epidermolysis bullosa
EDS	Ehlers-Danlos syndrome
FCHL	Familial combined hyperlipidemia
FFM	Fat-free body mass
FHH	Familial hypocalciuric hypercalcemia
FRC	Functional residual capacity
FSH	Follicle-stimulating hormone
GH	Growth hormone
GHRH	Growth hormone-releasing hormone
GnRH	Gonadotropin-releasing hormone
GTHR	Generalized thyroid hormone resistance
HAIR-AN	Hyperandrogenism, insulin resistance, syndrome and acanthosis nigricans syndrome
HCP	Hereditary coproporphyrria
HCS	Human chorionic somatomammotropic hormone
HEP	Hepatoerythropoietic porphyria
HVA	Homovanillic acid
IAP	Intermittent acute porphyria

IDDM	Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
IGF	Insulin-like growth factor
IUD	Intrauterine device
IVF	In vitro fertilization
LATS	Long-acting thyroid stimulator
LCAT	Lecithin cholesterol acyltransferase
LH	Luteinizing hormone
MEN	Multiple endocrine neoplasia
MRF	Melanotropin-releasing factor
MS	Marfan syndrome
MTC	Medullary thyroid carcinoma
NIDDM	Non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
NPD	Niemann-Pick disease
OBLA	Onset of blood lactate accumulation
OI	Osteogenesis imperfecta
PCT	Porphyria cutanea tarda
PHP	Panhypopituitarism
PIF	Prolactin inhibitory factor
PKU	Phenylketonuria
POCD	Polycystic ovary disease
POMC	Pro-opiomelanocortin
PRA	Plasma renin activity
PRF	Prolactin-releasing factor
PRL	Prolactin
PTH	Parathyroid hormone
SES	Sick euthyroid syndrome
SIADH	Syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone

Farmacologia

ACEI	Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor
AZT	Azidothymidine
CDCA	Chenodeoxycholic acid
DMARD	Disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs
MAOI	Monoamine oxidase inhibitors
MPD	Maximum permissible dose
MRD, mrd	Minimal reacting dose
MS	Morphine sulfate
NSAID	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug
SSRI	Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor

Gastroenterologia

APC	Adenomatous polyposis coli
CD	Crohn disease
DU	Duodenal ulcer
GI	Gastrointestinal
LES	Lower esophageal sphincter
LFT	Liver function test
ERCP	Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
ERS	Endoscopic retrograde sphincterotomy
FEES	Fiberoptic endoscopic examination of swallowing
GERD	Gastroesophageal reflux disease

Malattie infettive

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
CSD	Catscratch disease
FIA	Feline infectious anemia
HIV-1	Human immunodeficiency virus-1
MOTT	Mycobacteria other than Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex
PMC	Pseudomembranous colitis
PML	Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
SBE	Subacute bacterial endocarditis
STD	Sexually transmitted disease
STORCH	Syphilis, toxoplasmosis, other infections, rubella, cytomegalovirus infection, and herpes simplex (fetal-infections that can cause congenital malformations)
TB	Tuberculosis
TORCH	Toxoplasmosis, other infections, rubella, cytomegalovirus syndrome infection, and herpes simplex
TSS	Toxic shock syndrome
UTI	Urinary tract infection

Medicina interna

ACLA	Anticardiolipin lupus anticoagulant
ADL	Activities of daily living
ANA	Antinuclear antibody

ANCA	Antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody
ANF	Antinuclear factor
APS	Antiphospholipid antibody syndrome
AS	Ankylosing spondylitis
CREST	Calcinosis, Raynaud's phenomenon, esophageal motility disorders, sclerodactyly, and telangiectasia
DLE	Discoid lupus erythematosus
DVT	Deep venous thrombosis
EP	Endogenous pyrogen
FUO	Fever of unknown origin
HHIE-S	Hearing handicap inventory for the elderly
IM	Internal medicine
LE	Lupus erythematosus
PUO	Pyrexia of unknown (or undetermined) origin
RA	Rheumatoid arthritis
SLE	Systemic lupus erythematosus

Microbiologia

AFA fixative	Alcohol, formalin, and acetic acid used for the fixation of certain parasites
AFB	Acid-fast bacillus
ASO	Anti-streptolysin O
BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Gu_rin
CFU	Colony-forming unit
CMV	Cytomegalovirus
DPT	Diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (vaccine)
DTaP	Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis vaccine
EBV	Epstein-Barr virus
EHEC	Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EPEC	Enteropathogenic Escherichia coli
FTA-ABS	Fluorescent treponemal antibody absorption
GLC	Gas-liquid chromatography
HACEK group	A group of Gram-negative bacteria (<i>Haemophilus spp.</i> , <i>Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans</i> , <i>Cardiobacterium hominis</i> , <i>Eikenella corrodens</i> , <i>Kingella kingae</i>)
HBcAg	Hepatitis B core antigen
HBsAg	Hepatitis B e antigen
HBIG	Hepatitis B immune globulin

HBsAg	Hepatitis B surface antigen
HBV	Hepatitis B virus
HCV	Hepatitis C virus
HDV	Hepatitis D virus
HEV	Hepatitis E virus
HGV	Hepatitis G virus
HPV	Human papilloma virus
HSV	Herpes simplex virus
HTLV-III	Human T-cell lymphotropic virus type III (HIV-I virus)
LAV	Lymphadenopathy-associated virus
MAI	Mycobacterium avium-intracellulare
MID	Minimal infecting dose
PPLO	Pleuropneumonia-like organisms
SK	Streptokinase
TNTC	Too numerous to count (usually cells in a urine specimen)
VDRL	Venereal Disease Research Laboratories
VZV	Varicella-zoster virus

Nefrologia

ADPKD	Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease
ALG	Antilymphocyte globulin in renal transplantation
ANA	Antinuclear antibody
ANCA	Antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies
ARF	Acute renal failure
ASO	Antistreptolysin O antibody titer
ATN	Acute tubular necrosis
BUN	Blood urea nitrogen
CAPD	Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis
CAVHD	Continuous arteriovenous hemodiafiltration
CCPD	Continuous cyclic peritoneal dialysis
CRF	Chronic renal failure
CVVHD	Continuous venovenous hemodiafiltration
DRA	Dialysis-related amyloidosis
EMC	Essential mixed cryoglobulinemia
ERBF	Effective renal blood flow
ERPF	Effective renal plasma flow
ERT	Estrogen replacement therapy
ESRD	End-stage renal disease
FF	Filtration fraction

FSGS	Focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis
GBM	Glomerular basement membrane
GFR	Glomerular filtration rate
GN	Glomerulonephritis
HIVAN	Human immunodeficiency virus-associated nephropathy
HSP	Henoch-Schænlein purpura
HUS	Hemolytic-uremic syndrome
IPD	Intermittent peritoneal dialysis
IVP	Intravenous pyelogram
JN	Juvenile nephronophthisis
LCDD	Light chain deposition disease
MCD	Medullary cystic disease
MDRD	Modification of diet in renal disease
MPGN	Membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis
MSK	Medullary sponge kidney
NDI	Nephrogenic diabetes insipidus
NSAID	Nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug
PRA	Plasma renin activity
RBF	Renal blood flow
RPF	Renal plasma flow
RPGN	Rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis
RPRF	Rapidly progressive renal failure
RTA	Renal tubular acidosis
RVT	Renal vein thrombosis
TBM	Thin basement membrane disease
URR	Urea reduction ratio

Neurologia

AD	Alzheimer disease
ADEM	Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis
ADNFLE	Nocturnal frontal lobe epilepsy
AGM	Awakening grand mal
AHL	Acute hemorrhagic leukoencephalitis
ALS	Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
ANS	Autonomic nervous system
AVED	Ataxia with vitamin E deficiency
AVM	Arteriovenous malformation
BAEP	Brainstem auditory evoked potential
BBB	Blood-brain barrier
BMD	Becker muscular dystrophy

BSE	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
CADASIL	Cerebellar autosomal dominant arteriopathy with subcortical infarcts
CCD	Central cord disease
CIPD	Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy
CJD	Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
CNS	Central nervous system
CSF	Cerebrospinal fluid
CSFP	Cerebrospinal fluid pressure
CVA	Cerebrovascular accident
DMD	Duchenne muscular dystrophy
DOMS	Delayed onset muscle soreness
ECS	Electrocerebral silence
EEG	Electroencephalogram
EMG	Electromyogram
ENG	Electronystagmography
EPMR	Epilepsy progressive with mental retardation
EP	Evoked potential
FAP	Familial amyloid polyneuropathy
FSP	Familial spastic paraplegia
GABA	c-Aminobutyric acid
GBS	Guillain-Barr_ syndrome
HD	Huntington disease
ICP	Intracranial pressure
ILAE	International league against epilepsy
INO	Internuclear ophthalmoplegia
JME	Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy
LEMS	Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome
LTM	Long-term memory
MAOS	Monoamine oxidase inhibitors
MD	Muscular dystrophy
ME	Myalgic encephalomyelitis
MELAS	Mitochondrial myopathy, encephalopathy, lactic acidosis, and stroke-like episodes (one of the mitochondrial disorders)
MERRF	Myoclonic epilepsy with ragged red fiber myopathy (one of the mitochondrial disorders)
MG	Myasthenia gravis
MJD	Machado-Joseph disease
MS	Multiple sclerosis
MSA	Multiple system atrophy
NARP	Neuropathy, ataxia, retinitis pigmentosa syndrome

	(one of the inherited mitochondrial disorders)
NPH	Normal-pressure hydrocephalus
NREM	Non-rapid eye movement
OBS	Organic brain syndrome
PLS	Primary lateral sclerosis
PROMM	Proximal myotonic myopathy
PTSD	Posttraumatic stress disorder
PVS	Persistent vegetative state
REM	Rapid eye movements
SAH	Subarachnoid hemorrhage
SCA	Spinocerebellar ataxia
SCCD	Subacute cortical cerebellar degeneration
SEP	Somatosensory evoked potential
SER	Somatosensory evoked response
SSPE	Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis
SSRI	Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor
TCA	Tricyclic antidepressant
TIA	Transient ischemic attack
TMB	Transient monocular blindness
VEP	Visual evoked potential

Odontoiatria

DEJ	Dentinoenamel junction
DMF	Decayed, missing, and filled (permanent teeth caries index)
DMFS	Decayed, filled, or missing tooth surfaces
DMFT	Decayed, missing, or filled teeth
FDI	Fédération Dentaire Internationale; a system of identifying nomenclature teeth
GPI	Gingival-periodontal index
PI	Periodontal index

Oftalmologia

AC/A	Accommodative convergence \pm accommodation ratio
ARN	Acute retinal necrosis
DCG	Dacryocystography

DUSN	Diffuse unilateral subacute neuroretinitis
EOG	Electrooculography
ERG	Electroretinogram
LE	Left eye
PORN	Progressive outer retinal necrosis
RE	Right eye
TRIC	Trachoma and inclusion conjunctivitis

Oncologia

AGCUS	Atypical glandular cells of undetermined significance
ASCUS	Atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance
CEA	Carcinoembryonic antigen
CIS	Carcinoma in situ
CMV	Cisplatin, methotrexate, and vinblastine (a cancer drug combination treatment)
CUPS	Cancer of unknown primary site
HGSIL	High-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
LGSIL	Low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
MFH	Malignant fibrous hystiocytoma
PNET	Primitive neuroectodermal tumors
TAF	Tumor angiogenic factor staging
TNM	Tumor-node-metastasis

Ortopedia

ABC	Aneurysmal bone cyst
A-E	Above-the-elbow (amputation)
A-K	Above-the-knee (amputation)
ALPSA	Anterior labroligamentous periosteal sleeve avulsion
B-E	Below-the-elbow (amputation)
BHAGL	Bony humeral avulsion of glenohumeral ligament
B-K	Below-the-knee (amputation)
CPPD	Calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate deposition
CTD	Cumulative trauma disorders
DISH	Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis
DISI	Dorsal intercalated segmental instability
EDM	Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia

GLAD	Glenolabral articular disruption
HAGL	Humeral avulsion of glenohumeral ligament
HNP	Herniated nucleus pulposus
HOA	Hypertrophic osteoarthropathy
ITOH	Idiopathic transient osteoporosis of the hip
MAST	Military antishock trousers
OCD	Osteochondritis dissecans
OI	Osteogenesis imperfecta
OSMED	Otospondylomegaepiphyseal dysplasia
PVNS	Pigmented villonodular synovitis
RSD	Reflex sympathetic dystrophy
SAPHO syndrome	Synovitis, acne, pustulosis, hyperostosis, and osteitis
SCFE	Slipped capital femoral epiphysis
SEDC	Spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia congenita
SLAC	Scapholunate advanced collapse
SLAP	Superior labrum, anterior-posterior (lesion of the glenoid labrum)
TMJ	Temporomandibular joint
TOS	Thoracic outlet syndrome

Ospedale

CCU	Coronary care unit
CCU	Critical care unit
ECU	Emergency care unit
EMS	Emergency medical service
ER	Emergency room
ICF	Intermediate care facility
ICU	Intensive care unit

Ostetricia e ginecologia

AFP	α -Fetoprotein
AID	Artificial insemination donor
AIH	Artificial insemination (homologous)
CIN	Cervical intraepithelial neoplasia
CHL	Crown-heel length
CRL	Crown-rump length
DES	Diethylstilbestrol

GIFT	Gamete intrafallopian transfer
HCG	Human chorionic gonadotropin
HRT	Hormone replacement therapy
IUCD, IUD	Intrauterine contraceptive device
IUI	Intrauterine insemination
LFT	Left frontotransverse position
LMA	Left mentoanterior position
LMP	Left mentoposterior position
LMT	Left mentotransverse position
LOT	Left occipitotransverse position
LSA	Left sacroanterior position
LSP	Left sacroposterior position
LST	Left sacrotransverse position
MP	Mentoposterior position
MPC	Mucopurulent cervicitis
OA	Occipitoanterior position
OB/GYN	Obstetrics and gynecology
PID	Pelvic inflammatory disease
PMS	Premenstrual syndrome
RFP	Right frontoposterior position
RFT	Right frontotransverse position
RMA	Right mentoanterior position
RMP	Right mentoposterior position
RMT	Right mentotransverse position
ROA	Right occipitoanterior position
ROP	Right occipitoposterior position
ROT	Right occipitotransverse position
RPO	Right posterior oblique (a radiographic position)
RSA	Right sacroanterior position
RSP	Right sacroposterior position
RST	Right sacrotransverse position
SP	Sacroposterior position
VACTERL syndrome	Abnormalities of vertebrae, anus, cardiovascular tree, trachea, esophagus, renal system, and limb buds (associated with administration of sex steroids during early pregnancy)

Otorinolaringoiatria

ABG	Air-bone gap in otoscopy (conductive hearing loss)
ABR	Auditory brainstem response
ART	Acoustic reflex threshold

BSER	Brainstem evoked response
CIC	Completely in the canal hearing aid
ENT	Ears, nose, and throat
NUG	Necrotizing ulcerative gingivitis
OAE	Otoacoustic emission
SISI	Small increment sensitivity index (test for cochlear damage)

Pediatria

BIDS	Brittle hair, impaired intelligence, decreased fertility, and short stature
CDH	Congenital dislocation of the hip
DDH	Developmental dysplasia of hip
LEOPARD syndrome	Lentiginos, electrocardiographic abnormalities, ocular hypertelorism, pulmonary stenosis, abnormalities of genitalia, retardation of growth, and deafness
SBS	Shaken baby syndrome
SIDS	Sudden infant death syndrome

Pneumologia

A-aO ₂	difference Alveolar-arterial oxygen partial pressure difference
ABG	Air-bone gap
ABG	Arterial blood gas
ABPA	Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis
ACMV	Assist control mode ventilation
ALI	Acute lung injury
ARDS	Adult respiratory distress syndrome
ARF	Acute respiratory failure
Auto-PEEP	Auto-positive end-expiratory pressure
BAL	Bronchoalveolar lavage
BALT	Bronchus-associated lymphoid tissue
BiPAP	Bilevel positive airway pressure
BOOP	Bronchiolitis obliterans with organizing pneumonia
BPF	Bronchopleural fistula
BVM	Bag-valve-mask device
CF	Cystic fibrosis

CFTR	Cystic fibrosis transmembrane regulator
CO	Cardiac output
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPAP	Continuous positive airway pressure
CPPB	Continuous positive pressure breathing
CSA	Central sleep apnea
CWP	Coal workers' pneumoconiosis
DIC	Disseminated intravascular coagulation
DLCO	Diffusing capacity of the lung for carbon monoxide
2,3-DPG	2,3-Diphosphoglycerate
DVT	Deep venous thrombosis
ECHO	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation
ERV	Expiratory reserve volume
FEF	Forced expiratory flow
FEF _n ±n%	Forced expiratory flow between n% and n% of the vital capacity
FET	Forced expiratory time
FEV 1	Forced expiratory volume in 1 second
FIO ₂	Fractional concentration of inspired O ₂
FRC	Functional residual capacity
FVC	Forced vital capacity
HFV	High-frequency ventilation
HP	Hypersensitivity pneumonitis
HRCT	High-resolution CT
IC	Inspiratory capacity
ILD	Interstitial lung disease
IMV	Intermittent mandatory ventilation
IPC	Intermittent pneumatic compression
IPF	Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
IPPV	Intermittent positive pressure ventilation
IRV	Inspiratory reserve volume
MBC	Maximum breathing capacity
MEP	Maximum expiratory pressure
MIP	Maximum inspiratory pressure
MMFR	Maximal midexpiratory flow rate
MOF	Multiple organ failure
NEEP	Negative end-expiratory pressure
NO	Nitric oxide
ODTS	Organic dust toxic syndrome
OSA	Obstructive sleep apnea
PAH	Primary alveolar hypoventilation
PAP	Pulmonary alveolar proteinosis

PAP	Pulmonary arterial pressure
PAV	Proportional assist ventilation
PCV	Pulmonary vascular resistance
PCWP	Pulmonary capillary wedge pressure
PEEP	Positive end-expiratory pressure
PEFR	Peak flowmeter
PEFR	Peak expiratory flow rate
PF	Pleural fluid
PFT	Pulmonary function test
PIOPED	Prospective investigation of pulmonary embolism diagnosis
PMF	Progressive massive fibrosis
PNPB	Positive-negative pressure breathing
PPV	Positive pressure ventilation
PSB	Protected double-sheathed brush
PSV	Pressure-support ventilation
PTE	Pulmonary thromboembolism
Ptp	Transpulmonary pressure
PVR	Pulmonary vascular resistance
RQ	Respiratory quotient
RV	Residual volume
SIMV	Synchronized intermittent mandatory ventilation
TBB	Transbronchial biopsy
TLC	Total lung capacity
TTA	Transtracheal aspiration
VA	Alveolar ventilation
VATS	Video-assisted thoracic surgery
VC	Vital capacity
Vt	Tidal volume
VTE V	venous thromboembolism

Politica sanitaria, assistenza sanitaria

ABN	Advance beneficiary notice
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ALD	Assistive listening device
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; previously known as the Communicable Disease Center
DALYs	Disability-adjusted life years

FDA	Food and Drug Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
NIH	National Institutes of Health (US Public Health Service)
PRN	Peer-review organization
QC	Quality control
USPHS	United States Public Health Service

Psichiatria

ADD	Attention deficit disorder
ADHD	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
CA	Chronological age
DSM-IV	Diagnostic and statistical manual (an American Psychiatric Association publication that classifies men- tal illnesses)
DT	Delirium tremens
ECT	Electroconvulsive therapy
IQ	Intelligence quotient
MA	Mental age
OCD	Obsessive compulsive disorder
SAD	Seasonal affective disorder
STM	Short-term memory

Radiologia

DTPA	Diethylene triamine pentaacetic acid (a binding sub- stance for both Gd and 99m-Tc)
ALARA	As low as reasonably achievable (radiation dosages)
AMBER	Advanced multiple-beam equalization radiography
BE	Barium enema
CT	Computed tomography
DICOM	Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (a joint standard of the American College of Radiology and National Equipment Manufacturers' Association)

DSA	Digital subtraction angiography
EBT	Electron beam tomography
FSE	Fast spin echo (a magnetic resonance sequence)
Fr	French scale (catheters)
GRASS	Gradient-recalled acquisition in the steady state (a magnetic resonance sequence)
GRE	Gradient echo imaging (a magnetic resonance sequence)
HRCT	High-resolution computed tomography
IVU	Intravenous urogram
LAO	Left anterior oblique position
LPO	Left posterior oblique position
MIP	Maximum intensity projection
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
PACS	Picture archive and communication system (a computer network for digitized radiological images and reports)
PET	Positron emission tomography
PTA	Percutaneous transluminal angioplasty
PTHC, PTC	Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography
RAO	Right anterior oblique
SE	Spin echo (a magnetic resonance sequence)
SNR	Signal-to-noise ratio
SPECT	Single photon emission computed tomography
STIR	Short tau inversion recovery imaging (a magnetic resonance sequence)
TE	Echo time (in magnetic resonance spin echo pulse sequences)
TIPS	Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt
TR	Repetition time
UGI	Upper gastrointestinal series
VCUG	Voiding cystourethrogram
XR	X-ray

Urologia

BPH	Benign prostatic hyperplasia
ESWL	Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy
GU	Genitourinary
PIN	Prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia
PSA	Prostate-specific antigen
SUI	Stress urinary incontinence