The ABCs of CVTs

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Have you ever thought about how many acronyms we use on a daily basis? Some we know by heart, but other definitions remain a bit fuzzy. Knowing the meaning behind the acronyms can help our memory and understanding of the terms. So, go ahead, get your geek on!

ACT  Activated clotting time is a test of coagulation commonly used to monitor anticoagulation administration for procedures that require intense anticoagulant therapy (like high-dose heparin during dialysis).
AD  Auris dextra or right ear
ALS  Advanced life support is a generic term for the type of resuscitative efforts that may include defibrillation, airway intubation, drugs and open chest heart massage.
ARDS  Acute respiratory distress syndrome is a life-threatening lung condition characterized by fluid accumulation in the lungs that prevents oxygen from getting to into the blood.
AS  Auris sinistra or left ear
AU  Aures unitas means both ears together or aures uterque means each ear.
BAL  Bronchial alveolar lavage is the aspiration or removal of cells and fluid from the bronchi after flushing sterile saline through a bronchoscope.
BID  Bis in die or twice a day
BLS  Basic life support refers to the type of resuscitative efforts following cardiac and/or respiratory arrest that usually include external chest compressions and assisted ventilation. The intervention is considered noninvasive.
BMBT  Buccal mucosal bleeding time is a test to measure platelet function. It may be prolonged in diseases such as ITP or von Willebrand’s disease.
CNS  Central nervous system refers to the brain and spinal cord.
CPR  Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is an emergency procedure using chest compressions and manual ventilation to restore circulation and respirations after a cardiac arrest. It is the essential component of basic and advanced life support.
CRI  Constant rate infusion is the continuous infusion of drugs, fluids or nutrition usually administered by way of a fluid pump or syringe pump. It usually refers to the infusion of medications that are short acting but are being utilized to maintain constant levels in circulation.
CT  Computed tomography is a planar imaging modality using X-rays.
CVP  Central venous pressure is a direct measurement via manometer or transducer of pressure being exerted by blood in the right atrium or vena cava.
DC  Discontinue
DIC  Disseminated intravascular coagulation is a bleeding disorder caused by widespread inappropriate utilization of clotting factors within the blood vessels. The end stage of the disorder is characterized by profuse hemorrhaging.
DKA  Diabetic ketoacidosis is a complication of diabetes characterized by hyperglycemia and an excess production of ketones causing a metabolic acidosis.
DNR  Do not resuscitate is a medical directive declining any and all resuscitative efforts.
ECG/EKG  Electrocardiogram is a tracing representing minute electrical impulses generated by the heart.
EDTA  Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid is an anticoagulant for blood specimens.
GDV  Gastric dilation and volvulus is a life-threatening condition when the stomach becomes distended with air then rotates on its axis cutting off the passage of stomach contents and compressing and occluding blood vessels thus affecting perfusion. The volvulus or torsion can be partial or complete.
HR/RR  Heart rate/ Respiratory Rate
ICP  Intracranial pressure is the pressure in the skull. This can change with the swelling of brain tissue or as a result of a rise in pressure of cerebral spinal fluid.
IMHA  Immune-mediated hemolytic anemia is an autoimmune disease where the immune system produces antibodies to attack and destroy its own red blood cells. When the destruction of the red blood cells is faster than production of red blood cells an anemia results.
IO  Intraosseous pertains to the interior of a bone that can be used as a delivery route for fluid and drugs via an intraosseous catheter when IV access is not feasible.
ITP  Immune-mediated thrombocytopenia is an autoimmune disease in which the immune system produces antibodies to destroy its own platelets.
MAP  Mean arterial pressure is the calculated average of the blood pressure in the artery for one heartbeat.
MCT  Mast cell tumor is a cancer of a type of white blood cell (granulocyte) normally involved in the body's response to allergens and inflammation.
mm Hg  Millimeters of mercury is a measurement of height in which the pressure in blood vessels push a column of mercury.
The ABCs of CVTs, continued...

MODS Multiple organ dysfunction syndrome is the presence of altered organ function involving two or more organ systems of an acutely ill patient so that homeostasis cannot be maintained without intervention.

MRI Magnetic resonance imaging is the use of a magnetic field and pulses of radio wave energy to image the internal organs of the body.

NE/NG Nasoesophageal and nasogastric tubes are feeding tubes usually utilized for short-term trickle feeding. NE tubes are placed to end in the distal third of the esophagus. NG tubes enter the stomach and have the advantage of allowing gastric emptying in cases of ileus.

NSAID Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug

OD Oculus dexter or right eye

OS Oculus sinister or left eye

OU Oculus uterque or each eye

PaO2 Partial pressure of oxygen is the measure of oxygen in arterial blood, normally greater than 80 mmHg.

PaCO2 Partial pressure of carbon dioxide is the measure of carbon dioxide in arterial blood. It reflects pulmonary gas exchange in relation to blood flow, normally 35 mmHg to 45 mmHg.

PCR Polymerase chain reaction is the rapid technique for the in vitro amplification of specific DNA or RNA sequences, allowing small quantities of short sequences to be analyzed without cloning.

PCV Packed cell volume is the percent of cells in a sample after centrifugation in a hematocrit tube.

PEEP Positive end expiratory pressure is a type of ventilation where positive pressure is maintained during expiration, thus increasing the amount of air remaining in the lungs at the end of an exhaled breath and improving gas exchange.

PLE Protein losing enteropathy is the excessive loss of enteric plasma protein into the intestines causing hypoproteinemia.

PLN Protein losing nephropathy is the loss of proteins and serum into the urine due to glomerular damage and can lead to renal failure.

PO Per OS or By Mouth or Orally

PPDH Peritoneal-pericardial diaphragmatic hernia is a congenital abnormality where abdominal

PPV Positive pressure ventilation is mechanical ventilation controlled by a ventilator unit that applies positive airway pressure forcing gas into the lungs.

PRBC Packed red blood cells are the result of the plasma component being centrifuged and separated from whole blood. It is a concentrated form of red blood cells.

PTE Pulmonary thromboembolism is when a clot formed in peripheral veins travels to the right side of the heart and then subsequently to the pulmonary arteries. PT Prothrombin time is used to assess the extrinsic pathways of the coagulation system.

PTT/ aPTT Partial thromboplastin time or activated partial thromboplastin time is used to assess the intrinsic and common pathways of the coagulation system.

PPN Partial parenteral nutrition is the IV administration of an amino acid-dextrose solution with a lipid emulsion. This is for patients whose nutritional requirements cannot be fully met through oral means.

QD Quaque die, every day although SID is more commonly used) so it is not confused with Q.I.D.

QID Quarter in die or four times a day

QS Quantum sufficit or a sufficient quantity. Usually part of CRI formulations to indicate the removal of some of the diluent from a fluid bag to make the added medication at the appropriate concentration.

ROM Range of motion

SC/SQ Subcutaneous

SID Semel in die or once a day

SIRS Systemic inflammatory response syndrome is a clinical condition characterized by widespread activation of the inflammatory system secondary to a sterile inflammatory disease (non-septic SIRS) or an infectious insult (septic SIRS).

SOAP Subjective, Objective, Assessment, Plan

SPO2 Peripheral capillary oxygen saturation is measured with a pulse oximeter, a noninvasive method to measure arterial blood oxygen saturation and pulse rate.

TEG Thromboelastogram or thromboelastography is a device to measure the rate of clot formation and dissolution.

TID Ter in die or three times a day

TPN Total parenteral nutrition is the IV administration of a concentrated solution that fulfills the total daily nutritional requirements. The solution is highly osmolar and can cause thrombosis of the peripheral veins so a central line is used for administration.

TPR temperature, pulse, respiratory rate

US Urine Analysis

VPC Ventricular premature contractions/complexes occur when the heartbeat is initiated at the level of the ventricles rather than the sinoatrial node.

WNL Within Normal Limits