

IMMUNITY GLOSSARY — Med-Surg II Nursing

Page 1 — General Immunity, Immune Cells, & Lab Terms

GENERAL IMMUNITY TERMS

Immunity: Body's defense against infection and disease.

Innate Immunity: Immediate, nonspecific defense (skin, neutrophils, macrophages).

Adaptive Immunity: Specific, learned immunity involving B-cells & T-cells.

Active Immunity: Body produces its own antibodies (infection/vaccines).

Passive Immunity: Antibodies received from another source (IVIG, placenta).

Antigen: Foreign substance triggering immune response.

Antibody: Protein from B-cells that binds antigens.

Autoimmunity: Immune system attacks the body (RA, SLE).

IMMUNE CELLS (with production & housing)

Neutrophils: Bacterial fighters; produced in bone marrow.

Segs: Mature neutrophils.

Bands: Immature neutrophils; elevated in acute infection.

Lymphocytes: Produced in bone marrow; live in lymph nodes & spleen.

B-Cells: Mature in bone marrow; produce antibodies.

T-Cells: Mature in thymus; include CD4 & CD8.

CD4 Cells: Helper T-cells destroyed in HIV.

CD8 Cells: Kill virus-infected cells.

NK Cells: Destroy infected/cancer cells; housed in spleen & lymph nodes.

Macrophages: Tissue phagocytes; develop from monocytes.

Mast Cells: Release histamine in allergic reactions.

LABS & DIAGNOSTICS

WBC Differential: Measures types of WBCs for infection type.

ESR: Elevated in RA & SLE flares.

CRP: Acute inflammation marker.

ANA: Autoimmune screening; positive in SLE.

Anti-dsDNA: Specific marker for SLE.

Anti-Smith: Specific SLE antibody.

RF: Commonly elevated in RA.

Anti-CCP: Highly specific for RA.

CD4 Count: <200 = AIDS.

Viral Load: Measures HIV viral replication.

Page 2 — SLE, RA, HIV Terms & Treatment Glossary

SLE TERMS

SLE: Autoimmune disease affecting skin, kidneys, joints.

Malar Rash: Butterfly rash across cheeks.

Photosensitivity: Sunlight triggers flares.

Lupus Nephritis: Kidney inflammation with proteinuria.

Pericarditis: Heart lining inflammation.

RA TERMS

Rheumatoid Arthritis: Autoimmune symmetrical joint disease.

Synovitis: Joint lining inflammation.

Pannus: Tissue destroying cartilage/bone.

Swan-Neck Deformity: PIP hyperextension, DIP flexion.

Boutonnière Deformity: PIP flexion, DIP hyperextension.

HIV/AIDS TERMS

HIV: Virus destroying CD4 T-cells.

AIDS: CD4 <200 or opportunistic infection.

Opportunistic Infection: Illness due to weakened immunity.

Seroconversion: Appearance of HIV antibodies.

ART: Therapy suppressing HIV.

Kaposi Sarcoma: AIDS-related cancer with purple lesions.

TREATMENT TERMS

DMARDs: Slow autoimmune progression (methotrexate).

Biologics: Targeted immune medications.

Immunosuppressants: Reduce immune response.

Corticosteroids: Anti-inflammatory drugs.

NSAIDs: Reduce inflammation & pain.