

JEJUNIANA

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When Galen in the second century carried out autopsies, he found that the second portion of the small intestine was usually empty, and called this part of the gut the *jejunum*, meaning empty, dry. We have a few English words with the same root:

jejune: insipid, from Webster's Second
jejunation: fasting, from Webster's Second
jejunator: one who fasts, from Webster's Second
jejunium propheticum: prophetic fast by tribal priests and shamans to induce visions, from Encyclopaedia Britannica

But the great majority of *jejun*- words relate to the *jejunum*, a word of logologic interest for its double J, and therefore for the letter patterns that can be made from its compound forms. But how many such words are there?

Webster's Second and Third Editions allow but 16. Three major medical dictionaries permit 25 more. But, a review of the Index Medicus for the past 20 years or so, under the headings *jejunum* and *Jejunal Diseases*, shows 49 more, in the titles of articles written in English and many more in the translations of the titles of foreign-language articles. I estimate more than 200 different English *jejun*-words are to be found in respectable medical sources.

The rules for making up medical words on the spot are so clear in many cases that authors and editors never question them. There is no doubt, for example, that if anyone cared to refer to the region anatomically behind the *jejunum*, it would be *retrojejunal*, though I lack a citation. Numbers of words are multiplied by equivalent roots for medical terms: *esophago-/oesophago*, *hepatico-/hepato-*, *pancreatico-/pancreato-*. The placement of hyphens is variable, and in the list below I have retained the hyphen only where I have not come across a non-hyphenated form of the word. For the word *postjejunoileal*, you may choose between two locations for the hyphen. Many of the nouns ending in *-stomy* or *-tomy* are, in fact, turned to verbs in medical parlance, although finding examples in medical writings is a bit difficult; two examples are included.

In the listing, 2 = Webster's Second Edition, 3 = Webster's Third Edition, B = Blakiston's Gould Medical Dictionary, 4th Edition, McGraw-Hill, 1979, D = Dorland's Medical Dictionary, 26th Edition, W B Saunders, 1981, S = Stedman's Medical Dictionary, 24th Edition, Williams & Wilkins, 1982. The non-tagged words are from titles of articles written in English; the texts would certainly pro-

vide more jejun-words. The translations to English of foreign-language summaries are not included except to note *wirsungojejunostomies*, perhaps the most remarkable of all.

	aortojejunal
	appendico-jejunal
	cardiojejunopexy
D	cholangiojejunostomy
	cholecystojejunocholecystostomy
2 BDS	cholecystojejunostomy
	choledochojejunal
BDS	choledochojejunostomy
	colo-jejunal
	cystojejunostomy
23B	duodenojejunal
	duodeno-jejunectomy
	duodenojejunoileitis
2 BDS	duodenojejunostomy
	esophagojejunoduodenal
D	esophagojejunogastrostomosis
D	esophagojejunogastrostomy
D	esophagojejunoplasty
BD	esophagojejunostomy
23B	gastrojejunal
B	gastrojejunitis
DS	gastrojejunocolic
	gastrojejunocutaneous
D	gastrojejunoesophagostomy
23BDS	gastrojejunostomy
	gastrostomy-jejunal
D	hepaticocholangiojejunostomy
	hepaticocholedochojejunostomy
	hepaticojejunal
	hepaticojejunoduodenostomy
BD	hepaticojejunostomy
	hepatic-portojejunostomy
S	hepatocholangiojejunostomy
B	hepatojejunal
	hepatojejunostomy
	ileojejunal
S	ileojejunitis
	ileum-jejunum
	inter-jejunal
	intrahepatoductojejunostomy
	intrajejunal
B	jejuna
23BDS	jejunal
	jejunal-ileal
	jejunal-loop
	jejunectomized
23BDS	jejunectomy

	jejuni
2 BDS	jejunitis
	jejunoaortic
B	jejunocaecostomy
	jejunocecal
BD	jejunocecostomy
	jejunocolic
2 BDS	jejunocolostomy
	jejunocutaneous
23	jejunoduodenal
B	jejunogastric
	jejunogastroplasty
	jejunogastrostomy
	jejunohepatopexy
DS	jejunioileal
	jejunioilectomized
2 BDS	jejunioileitis
	jejunioileocolic
2 BDS	jejunioileostomy
B	jejunioileum
	jejunojejunal
2 BDS	jejunojejunostomy
S	jejunoplasty
	jejunorenal
BD	jejunorrhaphy
	jejunoseral
23BDS	jejunostomy
2 BDS	jejunotomy
	jejunovesical
23BDS	jejunum
	mid-jejunum
	nasojejunal
	oesophagojejunal
B	oesophagojejunostomy
	pancreaticodochojejunostomy
	pancreaticojejunal
BD	pancreaticojejunostomy
S	pancreatojejunostomy
	pericystojejunostomy
	pharyngo-jejunostomy
	post-jejunoileal (postjejuno-ileal)
	pylorojejunostomy
	transjejunal

Editor's Note: Admittedly, few people are interested in obscure medical terms relating to the jejunum. However, this article should instead be viewed as an illustration of the fact that dictionaries not only differ in their opinion of what words to include, but leave out a considerable number of words in actual use.