



WonderCast : Kidspeak

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Children may hear medical terminology more frequently when a parent is navigating an illness. If this information is not simplified for their developmental level, this could create some confusion. When working to put medical terms into child-friendly language, keep in mind the child's level of understanding, and consider how some words may have dual meanings. We have provided an overview of a few general medical terms below with sample child-friendly explanations.

Medical Terminology and Potential Explanations

- **IV or Intravenous (NOT a poisonous plant):** A small tube or straw that is placed in the vein to get blood, or to give medicine and/or water.
- **Stretcher (NOT stretching the body):** Bed on wheels
- **Dressing change (NOT changing clothes):** Putting on a new bandage
- **[EKG] Leads (NOT to "take you somewhere..."):** Stickers placed on the chest, arms, and legs to show how well the heart is beating.
- **Urine (When explaining what a urinary catheter is | NOT "You're in!"):** A small plastic tube that is put into the bladder (where pee is held). This tube helps the body get rid of pee.

Additional Language to Consider...

- **Intubation:** A tube placed in the mouth or nose to help the patient breathe.
- **Compression Sleeves:** Kept on the patient's lower legs to help keep the blood moving in the body
- **Incision:** Small opening
- **Anesthesia:** Medicine that a patient breathes so they can stay asleep for their surgery.
- **Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygen (ECMO):** Machine that helps the body get oxygen while the heart and lungs rest and work to get better.
- **Pulse Oximeter:** A sticker or plastic clip that goes on the finger or toe with a red light that shows how much oxygen is in the blood.

Visits can be challenging, especially when a parent is not doing well or is in a different state than a child is used to. Utilizing the examples above may be helpful and we encourage adapting for unique situations.

For additional tips and information on how to communicate medical information to children, please reference [KidsHealth.org](https://www.kidshealth.org).



Wonders & Worries

Professional support for children
through a parent's illness or injury.

We will, together.