

EPONYMS

Medical Terminology

USE OF EPONYMS IN HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

What is an eponym?

Eponyms are words or terms derived from people's names. **Ex:** Boycott (Charles C. Boycott) Obamacare (President Obama), Diesel (Rudolph Diesel)

What is a medical eponym?

Medical eponyms have been used for centuries for identification and scientific recognition of various medical diseases, syndromes, methods, process, substances, organs, organ parts, signs and symptoms.



How many?

There are approximately over 8,000 medical eponyms that exist today.

Klumpke's Paralysis, 1885
Lower brachial plexus paralysis



Augusta Dejerine-Klumpke
1859, San Francisco – 1927, Paris

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Why are eponyms still a part of health care?

- Eponyms are a long-standing tradition in medicine.
- Eponyms usually involve honoring a prominent physician scientist who played a major role in the identification of the disease.
- Under the right circumstances, a disease becomes well known through the name of this individual.
- It is often easier to remember a disease by its eponym than by the more scientific pathologic description.
- **Example:** Which name is better known, **Hodgkins disease** or any of its five types: **to wit, nodular sclerosis, mixed cellularity, lymphocyte depleted, lymphocyte rich, and nodular lymphocyte-predominant?**

Frey's Syndrome, 1923: Gustatory sweating and flushing



Lucja Frey, MD
1889, Lwow, Poland (Lviv, Ukraine) –
1942, Lemberg Ghetto or Belzec Death Camp