

This list of definitions has been put together to explain many of the terms that appear in the literature about inhalant misuse.

Aplastic anemia	Failure of the bone marrow to produce normal red and white blood cells and platelets.
Arrhythmia	Any variation from the normal rhythm of the heartbeat.
Asphyxia	Pathological changes caused by lack of oxygen in respired air, resulting in hypoxia and hypercapnia.
Ataxia	Failure of muscular coordination; irregularity of muscular action.
Atrophy	Wasting away; reduction in the size of cell, tissue, organ or part.
Carboxyhemoglobin	Hemoglobin which has carbon monoxide bound to the sites where oxygen usually binds.
Carboxyhemoglobinemia	The presence of carboxyhemoglobin in the blood.
Central Nervous System (CNS)	The part of the nervous system that consists of the brain, spinal column and optic nerve. Responsible for coordination and control of bodily activities.
Cerebellum	The portion of the brain in the back of the head between the cerebrum and the brain stem. It is responsible for the coordination of movement and balance.
Cerebellar ataxia	Ataxia due to disease of cerebellum.
Cerebral ataxia	Ataxia due to disease or damage of the brain.
Cerebrum	The main portion of the brain. Forms the largest part of the CNS.
Diplopia	Double vision. The perception of two images from a single object.
Dysarthria	Inability to speak due to loss of muscular control after damage to CNS or PNS.
Encephalopathy	Any degenerative disease of the brain.
Epidemiology	The science concerned with the study of the factors determining and influencing the frequency and distribution of disease, injury and other health related events and their causes in a defined human population for the purpose of establishing programs to prevent and control their distribution and spread.
Grandiosity	An exaggerated belief of one's importance or identity.
Hematemesis	Vomiting blood.
Hemoglobin	A component of red blood cells that carries oxygen around the body.
Hepatotoxic	Being toxic or destructive to liver cells.
Heterogeneous	Consisting of or composed of dissimilar elements or ingredients: not having a uniform quality throughout.
Homogeneous	Consisting of or composed of similar elements or ingredients: having a uniform quality throughout.
Hydrocarbon	An organic compound that contains hydrogen and carbon only.
Hypercapnia	Excess of carbon dioxide in the blood.
Hypokalemia	Low blood potassium levels.
Hypophosphatemia	Low blood levels of phosphates.

Hypoxia	Reduction of oxygen supply to tissue below physiological levels, despite adequate perfusion of tissue by blood.
Hypoxic	Relating to hypoxia.
Lipid	Any of the heterogeneous group of fats and fatlike substances characterised by being water soluble and being extractable by solvents. The lipids are easily stored in the body (esp. brain, liver and kidneys), serve as a source of fuel, are an important constituent of cell structure and serve other biological functions.
Lipophilic	Fat loving. Attracted to lipids.
Metabolism	The complex of physical and chemical processes occurring within a living cell or organism that are necessary for the maintenance of life. In metabolism some substances are broken down to yield energy for vital processes while other substances, necessary for life, are synthesized.
Metabolite	Any substance produced during metabolism.
Methemoglobin	A particular type of hemoglobin that is altered, rendering it unable to carry oxygen around the body.
Methemoglobinemia	Having an excessive amount of methemoglobin in the blood resulting in headache, dizziness, fatigue, ataxia, nausea, vomiting and can progress to coma and death.
Myelin	The fatty substance/ sheath that surround and insulates nerve fibres. Also assists in conduction of nerve impulses.
Myelopathy	Disturbance or pathological change in the spinal cord or bone marrow.
Myopathy	Any disease of a muscle.
Nephrotoxic	Being toxic or destructive to the kidney cells and bladder.
Neurologic	Pertaining to the nervous system.
Neuron	Any of the conducting cells of the nervous system.
Neuronopathy	Polyneuropathy involving destruction of the cell bodies of neurons.
Neuropathy	A functional disturbance or pathological change in the peripheral nervous system.
Neurotoxic	Poisonous or destructive to nerve tissue.
Nystagmus	An involuntary, rapid, rhythmic movement of the eyeball.
Oculomotor	Pertaining to or effecting movements of the eye.
Optic atrophy (Optic neuropathy)	Visual loss.
Ototoxic	Causing damage to the vestibulocochlear nerve or the organs of hearing and balance.
Paresthesia	Abnormal touch sensations including, but not limited to, tingling, constriction and discomfort.
Peripheral Nervous System (PNS)	Any nerves outside of the CNS; connecting off the spinal cord.
Physiology	The science which treats the functions of the living organism and its parts, and of the physical and chemical factors involved.
Polyneuropathy	A functional disturbance or pathological change in the peripheral nervous system - where several nerves are

	involved.
Psychology	The science that deals with the mind and mental processes.
Sequela	A condition following as a consequence of a disease (e.g. brain damage, kidney failure).
Stupor	A lowered level of consciousness manifested by the subject's responding only to vigorous stimulation.
Teratogenic	Tending to produce congenital anomalies (birth defects).

Bibliography:

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- *Dorland's Medical Dictionary for Health Care Consumers*
- *The Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, Second Edition*

Last updated: 24 November 2008