



## NF2 Glossary

- **ABI:** Abbreviation for Auditory Brainstem Implant.
- **ABR:** Abbreviation for Auditory Brainstem Response.
- **Auditory Brainstem Implant:** A small complex electronic device that is surgically placed (implanted) against the brain stem that can restore some level of hearing when the cochlear nerve has been damaged or severed. during an acoustic neuroma removal, commonly A.K.A. ABI.
- **Auditory Brainstem Response:** A physiological measure of the brainstem's response to sound. It tests the integrity of the hearing system from the ear to the brainstem by measuring the length of time for signals from sound to be detected by the brain.
- **Acoustic Neuroma:** A benign tumor developing on the hearing and balance nerves near the inner ear. A.K.A. AN, Acoustic Neurinoma, or Vestibular Schwannoma.
- **AN:** Abbreviation for acoustic neuroma.
- **Artificial Tears:** Eye drops used to provide more moisture for treatment of dry eyes. Some types of Artificial tears include Refresh™ Celluvisc, Thera Tears, and Refresh™ Liqui-Gel. These are just a few.
- **Astrocytoma:** A tumor that begins in the brain or spinal cord in small, star-shaped cells called astrocytes.
- **BT:** Abbreviation for brain tumor.
- **Cavernous Sinus:** A large channel of venous blood creating a "sinus" cavity bordered by the sphenoid bone and the temporal bone of the skull. The cavernous sinus is an important structure because of its location and its contents which include the third cranial (oculomotor) nerve, the fourth cranial (trochlear) nerve, parts 1 (the ophthalmic nerve) and 2 (the maxillary nerve) of the fifth cranial (trigeminal) nerve, and the sixth cranial (abducens) nerve.
- **Celluvisc:** An over-the-counter eye drops for dry eye. They are thicker than artificial tears, so they stay in the eye longer without running.
- **CI:** Abbreviation for Cochlear Implant.

- **CINE MRI's:** Cine MRI (as in cinema) is taken the same way a traditional MRI is, with the addition of either a wristband or EKG leads on the patient's chest to measure the heart rate. See <http://www.asap4sm.com/cine.html>.
- **Crocodile Tears:** Tears produced while eating.
- **Chromosome 22:** The chromosome containing the faulty gene which causes NF2.
- **Cochlear implant:** A small complex electronic device that is surgically placed (implanted) within the inner ear to help persons with certain types of deafness to hear. The hearing nerve must be intact to be considered for a cochlear implant.
- **Diploid Neoplasm:** A tumor (neoplasm) with a diploid number of chromosomes -- that is, with a karyotype that is equivalent to that of a normal cell, with 23 chromosome pairs.
- **Eighth Cranial Nerve:** Responsible for the sense of hearing. It is also pertinent to balance and body position sense .
- **Electromyogram:** A test used to detect abnormal muscle electrical activity that can occur in many diseases and conditions, most often performed when patients have unexplained muscle weakness. This test involves using electrodes to send electric signals through nerves.
- **EMG:** Abbreviation for Electromyogram.
- **Encephalomalacia:** A A non-specific term that literally means "softening of the brain". It may be caused by either some pathological neurological process or compression of the brain, either by a tumor or secondary to surgery. For example, it is difficult to avoid encephalomalacia in the cerebellar region when a posterior fossa approach is used in AN surgery.
- **ENT:** Abbreviation for Ear, Nose, and Throat Doctor.
- **Ependymoma:** A type of brain tumor derived from the cells that line the cavities within the ventricles of the brain and the central canal of the spinal cord .
- **Fibromyalgia:** A syndrome characterized by chronic pain, stiffness, and tenderness of muscles, tendons, and joints without detectable inflammation.
- **Fifth Cranial Nerve:** Functions both as the chief nerve of sensation for the face and the motor nerve controlling the muscles of mastication (chewing), also known as the trigeminal nerve
- **FSR:** Abbreviation for Fractionalized Stereotactic Radiosurgery.

- **Gamma knife:** A type of radiosurgery machine that acts by focusing low-dosage gamma radiation from many sources on a precise target. Areas adjacent to the target receive only slight doses of radiation, while the target gets the full intensity.
- **HEI:** House Ear Institute in Los Angeles, CA.
- **Infrared Full Body Scanning:** See <http://www.healthscanonline.com/what-is-full.html>.
- **Lacrilube:** An over-the-counter ointment for dry eye treatment. A.K.A. "Night Goop". See also: Puralube
- **Magnetic Resonance Imaging:** A special radiology technique designed to image internal structures of the body using magnetism, radio waves, and a computer to produce the images of body structures.
- **Meckel's Cave:** a pocket of dura matter (the outermost layer of the meningeal membranes) located near the medial (innermost) end of the petrous portion of the temporal bone-- the bony housing at the base of the cranium that contains the inner ear. Meckel's Cave contains the trigeminal ganglion-- the nerve root of the fifth cranial nerve.
- **Meningioma:** A common type of slow growing, usually benign brain tumor that arises from the protective covering of the brain and spinal cord.
- **Micromole:** A mole is a measure of units, not weight. One mole =  $6.023 \times 10^{23}$  (10 to the 23rd power) units - also known as Avogadro's number. It is used in chemistry to establish atomic or molecular weight. For example, 1 mole of carbon = 12 grams. If you look at a periodic table, you'll see carbon has an atomic weight of 12. A mole of water would be 18 grams (2 grams hydrogen + 16 grams oxygen). A micromole is one millionth of a mole.
- **Middle Fossa Approach:** A surgical approach for removing Acoustic Neuromas. See link for details.
- **Montgomery® Thyroplasty Implant System:** A procedure Designed to treat unilateral vocal cord paralysis. See the link for details.
- **MRI:** Abbreviation for Magnetic Resonance Imaging.
- **Nonsense Mutation:** A truncated mutation....the protein is truncated by mutation, and so dysfunctional or non-existent depending on where the mutation occurs.
- **Optic Glioma:** A benign tumor on an optic nerve or the optic chiasm.
- **Optic Chiasm:** The area where the 2 optic nerves cross.

- **Otolaryngologist:** A specialist in disorders of the ears, nose, throat, head and neck. Sometimes called an "ENT" - ear, nose and throat doctor.
- **Puralube:** An over-the-counter ointment for dry eye treatment. This is similar to Lacrilube but it's much cheaper.
- **Neuropathy:** Any and all disease or malfunction of the nerves.
- **Neurosurgeon:** A physician trained in surgery of the nervous system and who specializes in surgery on the brain and other parts of the nervous system. Sometimes called a "brain surgeon."
- **NF2:** Abbreviation for neurofibromatosis type 2.
- **NS:** Abbreviation for neurosurgeon.
- **PT:** Physical Therapy.
- **OT:** Occupational Therapy.
- **RT:** Recreational Therapy.
- **ST:** Speech Therapy.
- **Strabismus:** Crossed Eyes.
- **Trigeminal Nerve:** See Fifth Cranial Nerve.
- **Vestibular Schwannoma:** See Acoustic Neuroma.
- **Vestibulocochlear nerve:** See Eighth Cranial Nerve.

If you have any NF2 related terms that you would like to have added to this list, send them to the Crew Webmaster. Please provide the terms and their definitions.

Copyright © 2004 NF2Crew. All Rights Reserved.