

If there are terms that haven't been included in this guide please email info@behcetsuk.org

A	
Acumen	Skill in a particular area.
Analgesic	Something that lessens pain.
Aneurysm	When the wall of a blood vessel becomes weaker and bulges or swells at the point of weakness.
Angiography	Is a type of X ray used to look at blood vessels. A contrast dye is injected into the area being looked at to help make the blood vessels easier to see.
Anterior	At the front of.
Antibodies	Are proteins in the blood that destroy antigens. (see antigens) antibodies are made by white blood cells to attack antigens as part of the body's immune system.
Anticoagulant	Drug used to stop the blood clotting.
Antigens	A substance such as a virus or bacteria which the body's immune system sees as 'foreign'. The immune system produces antibodies to tackle the antigen.
Anti TNF drugs	A type of drug used to treat Behçet's. These drugs are often called biologics. They work by blocking the effects of TNF alpha, an inflammation substance in the blood produced in excessive amounts. In some people with Behçet's. Examples of the drugs are infliximab (Remicaid), adalimumab (humira).
Aorta	The main artery leading from the heart.
Arteritis	Inflammation of arteries: arteriography A contrast dye is injected into an artery before taking scan images to make blood vessels easier to see.
Arthralgia	Joint pains.
Arthritides	The name given to more than one arthritis.
B	
Biologic drugs	Are produced from living organisms that contain protein from living cells. They reduce the immune system attacking the body by targeting particular cells or chemicals in the body's immune system. They are used to control disease over the long term. Examples of these drugs are infliximab, etanercept, and adalimumab.
Biopsy	Removing a small amount of tissue for examination under a microscope.
Biosimilar drugs	Is the name given to describe the newly approved drugs which are a version of the original biologic drug. They are produced by a different drug company

	following the expiry of the patent on the original biologic drug. Biosimilars cannot be an exact copy of the original biologic drug but they must still not alter how well the drug works or how safe it is. Examples inflectra, remsima = biosimilars for infliximab.
Blood vessels	Are the tubes which blood travels in to and from parts of the body. The three main types are veins, arteries and capillaries.
Bowels	Another name for the intestines.
C	
Cardiology	The study and treatment of the heart.
Cardiothoracic	To do with the heart and the lungs.
Cessation	When something stops.
Chemotherapy	Treatment of a disease using chemical substances or drugs.
Chronic	A long lasting illness that lasts longer than six months possibly for the rest of a person's life.
CNS	Central Nervous System (see under N nervous system).
Colon	The large intestine: colonoscopy examining the colon (bowel) with an endoscope.
Congenital	Is an abnormality that is there before birth, sometimes called a birth defect.
Corticosteroids	Also known as steroids reduce inflammation, can be taken as tablets, injections or directly into the vein (intravenously).
CRP	C Reactive Protein a protein in the blood which is often measured, by a blood test, to check for signs of inflammation.
Cytotoxic drug	Drugs that are often used to treat cancer by damaging or destroying cells. These drugs can be used in the treatment of Behçet's.
D	
Deep Vein Thrombosis	When a blood clot forms in one of the deep veins in the leg, but also in other parts of the body.
Dermatology	Study of the skin and diseases of the skin.
Dermatologist	A doctor with specialised training in skin disorders.
Detachment	When something separates from a larger organ.
Dialysis	Used as a method of artificial kidney function.
Diffuse	Widespread.
Disease	A disorder of structure or function in a human, animal, or plant, especially one that produces specific symptoms or that affects a specific location and is not simply a direct result of physical injury.

Distension	Stretching or swelling.
Duodenum	The first part of the small intestine.
Dyspepsia	Acid indigestion.
E	
Embolism	Blocking of an artery by a blood clot.
Entity	Something that exists by itself and is separate from other things.
Episiotomy	Surgical cut in the muscular area between the vagina and the anus made just before delivery of a baby to make the vaginal opening bigger.
Erythema nodosum	One of the skin symptoms associated with Behçet's. Red tender swellings under the skin usually seen on the shins and the lower legs during a flare up, may also be on the hips or under the arms, may leave permanently discoloured skin.
ESR	Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate a blood test used to look at levels of inflammation in the body.
Exacerbation	A worsening of the disease, often called a relapse or "flare up".
F	
Fatigue	Persistent physical or mental exhaustion that is more than normal tiredness.
Femoral	To do with the thigh.
Fibrosis	Scarring.
Flare up	A relapse after a period of being well, with little or no symptoms, or when the condition gets worse.
Flatus	Gas from the stomach or bowels let out through the rectum, more commonly known as "wind".
Folliculitis	Swelling or inflammation around a hair follicle.
Frank	A term most often used with bleeding, this is bleeding that is visible to the human eye, whereas sometimes blood cannot be seen.
Funduscopy	A test to see inside the fundus, the furthest point at the back of the eye using an ophthalmoscope.
G	
Gastroenterology	The study and treatment of the stomach and the intestines (gut).
Gastroenterologist	A doctor who is specially trained in the diagnosis and treatment of intestinal disorders.
Gastrointestinal	About the stomach and the intestines (guts).

Genetically predisposition	This means that the genes you inherit from your parent's may make you more likely to have a particular condition.
Gestational	The time of pregnancy from conception until the baby is born.
Glomerulonephritis	Inflammation of the blood filtering part of the kidneys.
H	
Haemorrhage	Large amount of blood escaping from a burst blood vessel.
Hepatic	Anything to do with the liver: hepatitis, liver disease.
Histological	Examination using a microscope.
Holistic	Treating the whole person and all aspects of the disease not just one part
Hypertension	High blood pressure.
HLA-B*51	HLA-B is part of a family of genes called the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) complex (incl HLA-A and HLA-C). The HLA complex helps the immune system distinguish the body's own proteins from proteins made by foreign invaders such as viruses and bacteria. There is a large number of allele (variants of a specific gene) within the B*51allele group, which is a split antigen (structure, substance or molecule) from the broad HLA-B5 serotype (variation) antigen, which is involved in the human adaptive immune response system. Association of this gene has been identified as a genetic susceptibility factor for Behçet's, however not all Behcet's patients carry the B*51 allele, and its proportion varies in Behcet's patients from country to country and between ethnic groups.
I	
Immune system	The body's defence system. This is made up of different types of tissues and cells that protect the body against infections. The body recognises antigens 'foreign' to the body and makes antibodies to attack them. (see antibodies and antigens).
Immunology	Immunology is the study of the immune system and is a very important branch of the medical and biological sciences. The immune system protects us from infection through various lines of defence. If the immune system is not functioning as it should, it can result in disease.
Immunosuppressants	Drugs that reduce inflammation, these drugs are used to treat a wide range of conditions. A side effect is that you become more prone to infection.
Impaired	Not working as well as it could.
Incidence	How many people are diagnosed with the illness.
Inflammation	The way the body responds to irritation, infection or injury. Blood collects in infected areas causing reddening, swelling and pain.
Intracranial hypertension	Increase in blood pressure within the skull.

Intracranial venous sinus thrombosis	Disturbance of blood drainage from the brain leading to increased pressure in the brain.
Intravenously	A drug or other fluids given directly into a vein.
Invasive	A medical procedure which involves entry into the body either through surgery or by inserting any kind of medical instrument.
J	
K	
L	
Lesion	A lesion is an area of inflammation in a tissue that suffered trauma or the impact of chronic illness
M	
Mandatory	Something that must be done, or is compulsory.
Manifestations	Sign of illness.
Meningitis	Inflammation of the lining of the brain.
Meningoencephalitis	Inflammation within the brain.
Morbidity	How often an illness or disease happens in a specific area .
MRI	(Magnetic resonance imaging) a scan of internal organs using strong magnets and radio waves rather than X rays. A computer converts signals from the scanner into detailed images. There is no radiation involved in this test.
Mucosa	The lining of various parts of the body, Oral mucosa means lining of the mouth.
Mucocutaneous	The skin lining of various entrances to the body, e.g. mouth, genitals and also linings within the body e.g. the guts.
N	
Nervous system	The central nervous system is the brain and the spinal cord working together. Peripheral Nervous system is the network of nerves which carry messages between the central nervous system and the rest of the body.
Neurology	Study of the nervous system.
Neurologist	Doctor who specialises in studying and treating diseases of the nervous system.
Neuropathy	Damage to network of nerves.
O	
Occlusion	Blockage forming within a blood vessel.

Ocular	To do with the eye.
Oedema	Swelling caused by fluid.
Ophthalmic	To do with the eye: ophthalmology its treatment.
Ophthalmologist	Doctor who specialises in studying and treating diseases of the eye.
Osteoporosis	Brittle bones.
P	
Paediatrics	Study and treatment of children and their diseases.
Paediatrician	Doctor who specialises in treatment of children and their illnesses.
Pathergy	Skin that is unusually sensitive to injury or irritation, e.g. needle used to prick skin, large bump may appear suggesting oversensitive reaction.
Parenchymal	The main part of an organ such as the brain or spinal cord rather than the structure that surrounds it.
Pathology	The study of disease its causes and how it develops.
Perforation	Perforation can happen to any organ but is most usually associated with the bowel which can cause the contents of the bowel to leak into the abdomen causing infection.
Peripheral Neuropathy	This is when there is damage to the nerves in the extremities for example, the hands and the feet. Peripheral neuropathy can cause muscle weakness, loss of balance, numbness, tingling, pins and needles or burning sensations. It can be caused by illness or as a side effect of some medicines.
Peritonitis	Inflammation of the peritoneum which is the thin layer of tissue that lines the inside of the abdomen, often due to a perforation of the wall of the bowel.
Phlebitis	Inflammation, redness swelling, pain in a vein
Posterior	At the back of.
Prevalence	How many people are affected by the illness.
Predisposition	More likely to get something.
Prognosis	Prediction of what might happen in the future, the likely progress of the disease.
Pulmonary	To do with anything related to the lungs and lung function. Pulmonary embolus occurs when a blood clot breaks off from somewhere in the body and travels to the lungs.
R	
Recurrent	Something that happens again from time to time, or more frequently.

Red Eye	Also called conjunctivitis. Redness or irritation of the conjunctivae, the membranes on the inner part of the eyelids and the membranes covering the whites of the eyes.
Refractory	An illness that does not respond to the usual first line of treatment.
Relapse	Return of illness after a period when things had got better, often called a “flare up”.
Remission	A period of good health with few or no symptoms.
Renal	Anything to do with the kidney.
Rheumatologist	A doctor with specialist training in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with diseases of the joints and muscles.
Rupture	Wall of blood vessel which has become weak tears causing serious bleeding.
S	
Spectrum	The whole range of an illness.
Spondylitis	Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a long-term (chronic) condition in which the spine and other areas of the body become inflamed.
Stenosis	Where the lining of a blood vessel becomes narrower so less blood flows through it.
Suppress	Prevent the symptoms or disease getting worse.
Symptomatic	Signs of a particular illness.
Syndrome	The set of symptoms linked to a particular illness or group of illnesses.
Synovitis	Irritated or inflamed synovium is called synovitis.
Synovium	Synovium is a thin layer of tissue that lines your joints and tendon sheaths. It protects and lubricates the surfaces.
Synthetic	Synthetic medicines are made using chemicals.
Systemic	Something which has an effect on the whole body, not just part of it. Systemic therapy means taking medicines by mouth (as tablets), or as injections or infusions.
T	
Thrombophlebitis	When there is inflammation in a vein near the surface of the skin, also caused by a blood clot. It usually happens in the lower leg but can also affect the surface veins in the arms, penis or breast
Thrombosis	When clots form in blood vessels; thrombophlebitis, blood clot in a vein.
Topical	Topical medicine is medicine usually put directly onto the skin in the area that is affected.
Transient	Passes quickly, does not last long.

U	
Ultrasound scan	A painless test using high pitched sound waves to produce pictures of organs in the body.
Uveitis	Is inflammation (swelling) of one of the layers of the eye called the uvea.
V	
Vascular	Anything to do with blood vessels: vasculitis is inflammation in veins and arteries.
Vasculitis	Inflammation in any vein. In Behçet's inflammation can occur in arteries and veins.
Venous sinus	One of the sinuses in the brain; venous sinus thrombosis, when a blood clot is in the brain's venous sinus.
W	
X	
Y	
Z	

Version	Last Review Date	Author
2.3	16 January 2023	Behçet's UK