

**Toxoid:** a modified antigen from an infectious organism used as a vaccine (tetanus toxoid).

**Trace Element:** a chemical element required by living organisms in minute amounts.

**Tranquilizer, Minor:** an old term for an anxiolytic drug.

**Tranquilizer:** a drug (such as antipsychotic) used to suppress an acutely disturbed emotional state (trifluoperazine, antipsychotic).

**Tricyclic Antidepressant:** an antidepressant that contains the tricyclic phenothiazine nucleus in its chemical structure (amitriptyline, imipramine).

**Tuberculostatic:** see Antitubercular.

## U

**Urea Cyclic Disorder Agent:** a drug used to treat a severe disease of newborns in which ammonia is not correctly metabolized in the liver.

**Uricosuric:** a drug that promotes renal excretion of uric acid; it is useful in treating chronic gout (probenecid).

**Urinary Acidifier:** an agent used to adjust the pH of the urine to be more acidic (ammonium chloride).

**Uterine Contractant:** an obstetric drug used after placenta delivery to induce sustained uterine contraction to reduce bleeding (methylergonovine).

**Uterine Contraction Inhibitor:** a drug that inhibits uterine muscle contraction; it is used in preterm labor to prolong gestation (ritodrine).

## V

**Vaccine:** an antigen-containing drug used to induce active immunity against an infectious disease (hepatitis B vaccine, rabies vaccine).

**Vasoconstrictor:** a drug that narrows arterioles, usually to elevate blood pressure. See Vasopressor.

**Vasodilator, Coronary:** a drug that expands blood vessels in the heart and improves coronary blood flow; it is useful in treating angina pectoris; an antianginal drug (nitroglycerin).

**Vasodilator, Peripheral:** a drug that expands peripheral blood vessels and improves blood flow to the extremities of the body (minoxidil).

**Vasopressor:** an adrenergic drug administered to constrict arterioles and elevate arterial blood pressure (norepinephrine).

**Vesicant:** a blistering agent or blister-producing agent.

**Vinca Alkaloid:** a plant principle derived from *Vinca rosea* and related species, with antineoplastic action (vincristine).

**Vitamin:** an organic chemical essential in small amounts for normal metabolism; it is used therapeutically to supplement the vitamin content of foods (ascorbic acid, thiamine HCl, pyridoxine HCl).

## X

**Xanthine Alkaloid:** a plant principle chemically related to xanthine, with central nervous system stimulant, smooth muscle relaxant, and diuretic actions (caffeine).

**Xanthine Oxidase Inhibitor:** a substance that inhibits the activity of xanthine oxidase, an enzyme involved in purine metabolism.

**X-Ray Contrast Medium:** a drug opaque to X-rays that assists visualization of an internal organ during radiographic examination (barium sulfate, iopanoic acid).