14.8: XIV Glossary

**ABCDE:** A mnemonic for assessing for melanoma developing in moles: Asymmetrical, Borders are irregular in shape, Color is various shades of brown or black, Diameter is larger than 6 mm., and the shape of the mole is Evolving.

**Apocrine sweat gland:** Sweat glands associated with hair follicles in densely hairy areas that release organic compounds subject to bacterial decomposition causing odor.

**Blanching:** To make white or pale by applying pressure.

**Cyanosis:** A bluish discoloration caused by lack of oxygenation of the tissue.

**Dermis:** The inner layer of skin with connective tissue, blood vessels, sweat glands, nerves, hair follicles, and other structures.

**Diaphoretic:** Excessive, abnormal sweating.

**Ecchymosis:** Bruising.

**Eccrine sweat gland:** Sweat gland that produces hypotonic sweat for thermoregulation.

**Epidermis:** The thin, uppermost layer of skin.

**Erythema:** A red color of the skin.

**First-degree burn:** A superficial burn that affects only the epidermis.

**Fourth-degree burn:** Severe burn damaging the dermis and the underlying muscle and bone.
**Hypodermis:** The layer of skin beneath the dermis composed of connective tissue and used for fat storage.

**Jaundice:** A yellowing of the skin or sclera caused by underlying medical conditions.

**Keloid:** A raised scar caused by overproduction of scar tissue.

**Lesion:** An area of abnormal tissue.

**Lymphedema:** A type of swelling that occurs when lymph fluid builds up in the body’s soft tissues due to damage to the lymph system.

**Melanin:** Skin pigment produced by melanocytes scattered throughout the epidermis.

**Melanoma:** Skin cancer characterized by the uncontrolled growth of melanocytes that commonly develops from a mole. Melanoma is the most fatal of all skin cancers because it is highly metastatic. Melanomas usually appear as asymmetrical brown and black patches with uneven borders and a raised surface.

**Petechiae:** Tiny red dots caused by bleeding under the skin.

**Pressure injury:** Skin breakdown caused when a patient’s skin and soft tissue press against a hard surface for a prolonged period of time, causing reduced blood supply and resulting in damaged tissue.

**Rule of Nines:** A tool used in the emergency department to assess the total body surface area burned to quickly estimate intravenous fluid requirements.

**Second-degree burn:** Burn affecting both the epidermis and a portion of the dermis, resulting in swelling and a painful blistering of the skin.

**Skin turgor:** The skin’s elasticity and its ability to change shape and return to normal when gently grasped between two fingers.

**Third-degree burn:** Severe burn that fully extends into the epidermis and dermis, destroying the tissue and affecting the nerve endings and sensory function.