

Unit 2 — Medical Equipment



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bandage

a long piece of cloth which is wrapped around an injured body part

"I need to wrap the bandage around my ankle, as I suspect I have sprained it."

brace

an object to support a body part and hold it in the correct position after injury

"If the patient has suffered a severe head injury and there is a risk for a spinal cord injury, he or she will have to wear a neck brace."

cast

a tough cover which protects an injured body part or a broken limb

"A broken bone will be treated with the cast unless it is very small."

catheter

a thin tube inserted into a patient's body in order to remove a liquid, such as urine

"As you will be immobilized after the surgery so unable to go to the toilet, you will have a catheter inserted."

crutches

sticks which fit under your arms and are used to walk when your leg or foot is injured or broken

"She's been walking on crutches for 4 weeks now and is really looking forward to the moment when her leg has fully recovered."

defibrillator

a device to correct abnormal heart rate by means of electric shocks

"A defibrillator is commonly used in case of patients with irregular heart beats."

diagnostic equipment

tools and devices used by doctors to examine a patient and form an opinion of what is wrong

"A stethoscope and thermometer are examples of common diagnostic equipment."

forceps

an instrument with two long narrow parts for holding things during medical operations

"Use forceps to close the blood vessel."

incubator

a piece of hospital equipment in which ill or premature babies lie to be kept warm and given treatment

"As my son was born a month before he was due, he had to be placed in an incubator."

MRI (magnetic resonance imaging)

a medical imaging technique used to produce images of internal organs

"To produce images of the body, MRI scanners use magnetic fields or radio waves."

scalpel

a small sharp knife used by doctors during operations to cut skin & tissue

"Make sure the scalpel is sterile before you begin performing a surgery."

sling

a piece of cloth to support your arm in case it's injured

"As I have injured my wrist and have to wear a sling, I'm going to take a few days off work."

splint

a metal, plastic or wooden element placed next to a broken bone to immobilize it while it's healing

"Before the doctor put my arm in a cast, he placed a metal splint next to it, so now my arm is so heavy!"

stethoscope

a tool which is used for listening to someone's breathing or heart

"When you complain to a GP about an acute cough, he or she uses a stethoscope to listen to your chest."

stretcher

a type of portable bed used to carry an injured or ill person

"Stretchers are included as standard equipment for ambulances in case paramedics need to carry injured patients."

syringe

a tool which is used to inject fluid into the body or withdraw fluid from it

"The majority of doctors' surgeries use disposable syringes these days."

thermometer

a tool to measure temperature of the body

"Due to the toxicity of mercury, mercury thermometers were banned in the EU."

tongue depressor

a tool used during examinations of the throat which helps keep the view open

"Now please open your mouth and I will use a tongue depressor to check your throat."

wheelchair

a rolling transportation device often used by someone who cannot walk

"She's been in a wheelchair since she had her leg amputated."

X-ray

a type of radiation used to produce images that help to diagnose diseases

"He had an X-ray taken and it revealed he had broken a rib"