



FINAL DRAFT

Technical Specification

Traditional Chinese medicine — Vocabulary for diagnostics —

Part 3: Abdomen

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 249, *Traditional Chinese medicine*.

In addition to text written in the official ISO languages (English, French, Russian), this document gives text in Chinese, Japanese and Korean. This text is published under the responsibility of the member body for China (SAC) and is given for information only. Only the text given in the official languages can be considered as ISO text.

A list of all parts in the ISO 23961 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Abdominal diagnosis is one of the unique diagnostic methods in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). International standards in the field of TCM are needed to facilitate international communication, medical activities, scientific research and regulations. Furthermore, the standardization of terminology is very important for manufacturing products (e.g. education-related products and diagnostic products).

This document facilitates government regulation and policy. It also facilitates the international trade of abdominal diagnosis related products and services.

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Traditional Chinese medicine — Vocabulary for diagnostics —

Part 3: Abdomen

1 Scope

This document defines terms for abdominal diagnosis. The equivalent terms in Chinese characters (Pinyin), Japanese characters and Korean characters are given in [Annex A](#).

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 General

3.1.1

abdominal examination

method of physical investigation of the abdomen

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: Methods include palpation.

Note 3 to entry: See term 2.4.74 "abdominal examination" in Reference [\[1\]](#).

3.1.2

manifestation

symptom or identifiable result of a specific ailment or situation

Note 1 to entry: Manifestations can be either objective when observed by a physician, or subjective when perceived by the patient.

3.2 Body structures of abdomen

3.2.1

epigastric region

epigastrium

part of the *upper abdomen* ([3.2.7](#)) above stomach and below the diaphragm inside mammillary line

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B: Figure B.1](#), key 3 and [Figure B.2](#) key 3.

3.2.2

chest and hypochondrium

region along the costal arches

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B: Figure B.1](#), key 4 and [Figure B.2](#), key 4.

3.2.3

lateral upper abdomen

lower hypochondrium

region of the abdomen bound by the lower costal arch and the side of the chest

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B: Figure B.1](#), key 5 and [Figure B.2](#), key 5.

3.2.4

supra-umbilical region

region above the umbilicus

central region of the abdomen above the navel

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B: Figure B.1](#), key 6 and [Figure B.2](#), key 6.

3.2.5

left or right umbilical region

para-umbilicus region

region beside the umbilicus

central region of the abdomen left and/or right beside the navel

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B: Figure B.1](#), key 7 and [Figure B.2](#), key 7.

3.2.6

infra-umbilical region

region below the umbilicus

central region of the abdomen below the navel

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B: Figure B.1](#), key 8 and [Figure B.2](#), key 8.

3.2.7

upper abdomen

abdominal region above the level of the navel

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B: Figure B.1](#), key 9.

3.2.8

lower abdomen

abdominal region below the level of the navel

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B: Figure B.1](#), key 10.

3.2.9

lateral lower abdomen

part of the lower abdominal region lateral to the mammillary line

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B: Figure B.1](#), key 11.

3.3 Representation of TCM abdominal clinical findings

3.3.1

abdominal strength

quality of being tense in abdomen

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

3.3.2

tenderness

pain as a result of pressure

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

3.3.3

resistance

tension opposition to an active force

opposite force to pressure

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: The term is used to describe resistance to pressure.

3.3.4

stuffiness

localized subjective feeling of *fullness* ([3.3.5](#)) and obstruction

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: See 2.3.152 “stuffiness” in Reference [\[1\]](#) and 09-319 “stuffiness” in Reference [\[2\]](#).

Note 3 to entry: The term is used to describe epigastric stuffiness.

3.3.5

fullness

subjective feeling of being filled to capacity

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: The term is used to describe *fullness and discomfort in chest and hypochondrium* ([3.4.5](#)).

3.3.6

pulsation

beating of artery

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: The term is used to describe pulsation of aorta.

3.3.7

tension

state of being stretched tight

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: The term is used to describe *rectus abdominal muscle tension* ([3.4.15](#)).

3.3.8

contracture

state of static muscle shortening sometimes with shorting of skin

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: The term is used to describe lower abdominal and inguinal muscle *tension* ([3.3.7](#)).

3.3.9

flaccid abdominal wall

restless peristalsis

state of thinness of the abdominal wall with decreased bowel movement

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: The term is used to describe *unstable peristalsis* ([3.4.19](#)) (observed through flaccid abdominal wall).

3.3.10

spastic abdominal wall

abdominal urgency

state of rigidity of the abdominal wall with abdominal pain

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: The term is used to describe abdominal wall *tension* ([3.3.7](#)).

3.4 Practical examples of terminology use

3.4.1

epigastric stuffiness

stuffiness in the epigastric region

focal distension in *epigastric region* ([3.2.1](#)) reported by the patient

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B: Figure B.3 a](#)).

Note 3 to entry: See term 09-335 “epigastric stuffiness” in Reference [2].

Note 4 to entry: The term is used to describe subjective epigastric *stuffiness* ([3.3.4](#)).

Note 5 to entry: The first mention is in the *Shanghanlun* [3].

3.4.2

epigastric stuffiness and resistance

subjective feeling of *fullness* ([3.3.5](#)) and obstruction in *epigastric region* ([3.2.1](#)) reported by the patient and opposite force when abdomen is palpated

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B: Figure B.3 b](#)).

Note 3 to entry: See term 2.3.150 “stuffiness and rigidity below the heart” in Reference [1].

Note 4 to entry: The term is used to describe *epigastric stuffiness* ([3.4.1](#)) and *resistance* ([3.3.3](#)) to pressure.

Note 5 to entry: The first mention in the *Shanghanlun*[3].

3.4.3

obstructive sensation in epigastrium

rectus *abdominal muscle tension* ([3.4.15](#)) under the costal arch associated with feeling of obstruction and discomfort in *epigastric region* ([3.2.1](#))

Note 1 to entry: See [Table A.1](#).