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Ablation

Edison Wong¹ and Richard Kunz²

¹Center for Pain and Medical Rehabilitation,
Fitchburg, MA, USA

²Department of Physical Medicine &
Rehabilitation, Virginia Commonwealth
University, Richmond, VA, USA

Synonyms

Resection

Definition

Ablation is the removal or destruction of an anatomical structure by means of surgery, disease, or other physical or energetic process. Ablation can be performed on any tissue (e.g., cardiac, neurologic, or endometrium). Ablation is employed as a treatment of various medical conditions and includes recent advances in technology. Surgical ablation of neuronal pathways to the globus pallidus or thalamus has been used historically to treat Parkinsonism. Interventional pain experts use radiofrequency ablation of nerves in the spine to treat chronic back pain. Gamma radiation or “gamma knife surgery” is used to excise brain tumors when traditional surgical ablation is too destructive to neighboring tissues. Even with

sophisticated neurosurgical techniques, ablation of any type in the central nervous system may still produce unwanted motor, sensory, or cognitive-behavioral impairments.

Cross-References

- ▶ Commissurotomy
- ▶ Craniotomy
- ▶ Gamma Knife
- ▶ Hemispherectomy
- ▶ Lobectomy
- ▶ Lobotomy
- ▶ Pallidotomy
- ▶ Prefrontal Lobotomy
- ▶ Radiosurgery
- ▶ Temporal Lobectomy

References and Readings

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