

ing; and inadequate support systems. See also **nursing diagnosis**.

homeo-, homoeo-, homoio-, combining meaning 'sameness, similarity': *homeochrome*, *homeomorphus*, *homeothermal*.

homeodynamics /hō'mē-ədīnam'iks/ [Gk, *homoios*, similar, *dynamis*, force], the constantly changing interrelatedness of body components while maintaining an overall equilibrium.

homeomorphous /-mōr'fəs/, similar in appearance but different in composition.

homeopathic. See **homeopathy**.

Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States, one of the three official drug compendia specified in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. See also **compendium**, *National Formulary (NF)*, *United States Pharmacopoeia (USP)*.

homeopathist /hō'mē-op'əthist/, a physician who practices homeopathy.

homeopathy /hō'mē-op'əthē/ [Gk, *homoios*, similar, *pathos*, disease], a system of therapeutics based on the theory that "like cures like." The theory was advanced in the late eighteenth century by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, who believed that a large amount of a particular drug may cause symptoms of a disease and moderate dosage may reduce those symptoms; thus some disease symptoms could be treated by very small doses of medicine. In practice, homeopaths dilute drugs with milk sugar in ratios of 1 to 10 to achieve the smallest dose of a drug that seems necessary to control the symptoms in a patient and prescribe only one medication at a time. Compare **allopathy**. —**homeopathic**, *adj.*

homeostasis /hō'mē-ōstā'sis/ [Gk, *homoios* + *stasis*, standing still], a relative constancy in the internal environment of the body, naturally maintained by adaptive responses that promote healthy survival. Various sensing, feedback, and control mechanisms function to effect this steady state. Some of the key control mechanisms are the reticular formation in the brainstem and the endocrine glands. Some of the functions controlled by homeostatic mechanisms are heartbeat, hematopoiesis, blood pressure, body temperature, electrolytic balance, respiration, and glandular secretion. —**homeostatic**, *adj.*

homeotherapy /-ther'əpē/, the treatment or prevention of disease by homeopathic methods.

homeotic mutation /hō'mē-ot'ik/, a mutation that causes tissues to alter their normal differentiation pattern, producing integrated structures but in unusual locations. For example, a homeotic mutation in the fruit fly, *Drosophila*, causes legs to develop where antennae normally form.

homeotypic /hō'mē-ōtip'ik/ [Gk, *homoios* + *typos*, mark], pertaining to or characteristic of the regular or usual type, specifically regarding the second meiotic division of germ cells in gametogenesis as distinguished from the first meiotic division. Also called **homeotypical**. Compare **heterotypic**.

homeotypic mitosis, the separation of sister chromatids, as occurs in the second meiotic division of germ cells in gametogenesis. Compare **heterotypic mitosis**.

Home's silver precipitation method, a technique for depositing silver in enamel and dentin by applying ammoniac silver nitrate solution and reducing with formalin or eugenol.

homicide /hom'isid/ [L, *homo*, man, *caedere*, to kill], the death of one human being caused by another.

hominal physiology /hom'inəl/ [L, *hominis*, human; Gk, *physis*, nature, *logos*, science], the study of the specific

physical and chemical processes involved in the normal functioning of humans; human physiology.

hominid /hom'inid/ [L, *homo*, man; Gk, *eidōs*, form], pertaining to the primate family Hominidae, which includes humans.

homo-, 1. prefix meaning 'the same': *homocentric*, *homodont*, *homolysis*. 2. prefix meaning 'the addition of one CH₂ group to the main compound': *homochelidonine*, *homocystine*, *homoquinine*.

homoblastic /hō'mōblas'tik/ [Gk, *homos* + *blastos*, germ], developing from the same germ layer or from a single type of tissue. Compare **heteroblastic**.

homocarnosine /hō'mō-kār'nō-sēn/, a dipeptide consisting of γ -aminobutyric acid and histidine; in humans it is found in the brain but not in other tissues.

homochronous inheritance /hōmōk'rənəs/ [Gk, *homos* + *chronos*, time], the appearance of traits or conditions in offspring at the same age when they appeared in the parents.

homocysteine /-sis'tēn/, an amino acid containing sulfur and a homolog of cysteine, produced in the demethylation of methionine. It is also an intermediate product in the biosynthesis of cysteine from L-methionine via L-cystathionine in the breakdown of proteins. High levels of homocysteine are associated with an increased risk of collagen cardiovascular disorders, particularly thromboembolic stroke. It is believed the amino acid may have a toxic effect on cells lining the blood vessels. Studies also indicate that low levels of homocysteine are found in people with high intake of B vitamins. See also **homocystine**.

homocysteine test (HCY), a blood test used to detect levels of homocysteine, which, if elevated, may act as an independent risk factor for ischemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, peripheral arterial disease, and venous thrombosis. This test should be considered for screening in individuals with progressive and unexplained atherosclerosis despite normal lipoproteins and in the absence of other risk factors, and in those with an unusual family history of atherosclerosis.

homocystine /sis'tin/, a disulfide analog of homocysteine produced by the oxidation of homocysteine. See also **homocysteine**.

homocystinemia /-sis'tinē'mē-ə/, an amino acid disorder that causes an excess of homocystine in the blood. See also **homocystinuria**.

homocystinuria /hō'mōsis'tinōr'ē-ə/ [Gk, *homos* + (cystine); Gk, *ouron*, urine], a rare biochemical abnormality characterized by the abnormal presence of homocystine, an amino acid, in the blood and urine, which is caused by any of several enzyme deficiencies in the metabolic pathway of methionine to cystine. The disease is inherited as an autosomal-recessive trait; its clinical signs are similar to those of Marfan's syndrome, including mental retardation, osteoporosis leading to skeletal abnormalities, dislocated lenses, and thromboembolism. Treatment may include a diet low in methionine and supplementation with large doses of vitamin B₆. Long-term results of treatment are not available. —**homocystinuric**, *adj.*

homoeo-. See **homeo-**.

homogametic /hō'mōgamet'ik/ [Gk, *homos* + *gamete*, spouse], pertaining to the sex that produces gametes of only one kind, in terms of their sex chromosomes. In human beings, the female is the homogametic sex.

homogenate /hōmōj'ənit/, a tissue that is or has been made homogenous, as by grinding cells into a creamy consistency for laboratory studies. A homogenate usually lacks cell structure. Also called **broken cell preparation**.