

## LOCATIVE ADJECTIVES

The following locative adjectives are in common use in medical writing (*locative* means *describing place or situation*)

- a) right, left
- b) inner, outer
- c) upper, lower
- d) internal, external (esp.hollow)
- e) superficial, deep (= nearer and farther from the surface of the body)
- f) central, peripheral (= nearer and farther from the centre of the body)
- g) proximal, distal (especially of limbs; = nearer and farther from the trunk)
- h) superior, inferior (- higher and lower, in transverse planes)
- i) anterior, posterior (- nearer the front, nearer the back, in coronal places)
- j) medial, lateral (= nearer and farther from the midline, in sagittal planes)

**N.B.** Notice that the adjectives (e) - (j) may be used as follows:

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| the <i>superior</i> vena cava          | The head is <i>superior to</i> the heart.  |
| the <i>lateral</i> surface of the lung | The lungs lie <i>lateral to</i> the heart. |

**21. Choose adjectives from the list above to complete the following sentences.**

1. The head is ..... to the feet.
2. The sternum is ..... to the heart.
3. The left lung lies ..... to the heart.
4. The humerus articulates at its ..... end with the radius and ulna.
5. The ulna is ..... to the radius.
6. The stomach is ..... to the heart.
7. The thorax is bordered on the ..... region by the vertebral column.
8. The phalanges are found at the ..... ends of the limbs.
9. The pelvic cavity is ..... to the abdominal cavity.
10. .... to the dermis lies a layer of subcutaneous fat.
11. The thumb is on the ..... side of hand.
12. The right lung lies ..... to the heart.