

## HELP ON ALPHA PAGE

This document presents a complete description of the Alpha Page. It explains the content of the Alpha Page and how to access the related external sources of information.

This help file is the chapter three of the general Help book of the TA website.

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## 3.1 Introduction

There is a number of external references in the present document. They will be active in the presence of an active internet connection: the referred files will open in the actual default web browser. The external references are always linking to the most recent version of a file. Therefore, an external reference may be desynchronized from a particular Page, because they are prepared at different dates. The user must be aware of this circumstance.

A KWIC Page is a particular Alpha Page. The here presented documentation is relative to both the KWIC and Alpha Pages. This document is also independant of the used languages, consequently it is valid for all of them, whatever the selections for the examples.

## 3.2 Overview

The Alpha Page or alphabetic page is a list presentation in alphabetic order. It generally accompanies a partonomic list and shares its top unit for its title.

The main goal of an Alpha Page is the search for a specific unit, knowing its name. It is well known that outside of the terminology there is place for numerous synonyms, eponyms and variants around the official terms. Languages are living entities: traditions and usages are intrinsic part of them and they must

be captured in some way in order to help the retrieval. For these reasons, the terminology has designed three recipients for grasping all variants present in the real life. They are the followings, applicable to all languages:

**Main term:**

All anatomical entities, units and other objects of the terminology have a unique main term, that is the principal language identifier. When an entity is referenced by another entity, the main term is always used in priority. For example in *LA:ramus sinus cavernosi anterior*, the reference is to *LA:sinus cavernosus*, which is necessarily the main term of the referenced unit and not a synonym.

**Official synonyms:**

In a perfect formal world, the main term alone is sufficient. But in reality, a given language is spoken in different countries and by different persons with considerably different backgrounds: they eventually use a different vocabulary. For this reason, it is necessary to provide from one to three synonym terms for certain entities. They are official, meaning that they have been officially accepted by the authors of the terminology. However, and as far as possible, they are limited in number, as a general rule.

**Related terms and eponyms:**

The above two recipients are not enough, because they are not able to contain a large part of the variants and other related terms of each entity. There is in fact a number of non official terms: historical terms or neologism, scientific or popular, terms depending of local usage, etc. Among them the eponyms have a significant meaning. All these variants are collected under the heading of related terms. They are not officially part of the terminology: this brings a welcome liberty to accept such terms at large. The related terms are uniquely accepted if they may help to search for specific entities.


The Alpha Page is presented with two languages for its content, with the main language used for the alphabetic order. It must be understood that each language has its own development cycle and contains a different set of synonyms and related terms. Languages may be relatively restrictive or more or less verbose and detailed. Due to this quantitative difference by a factor 2 or more, the Alpha Pages may be considerably different when moving from one vernacular to an other.


The Alpha Page is complemented by the KWIC Page, which is a variation of it. See below the dedicated section on KWIC Page.

### 3.3 General layout

A typical Alpha Page is presented in figure 3.1. This example has Latin as main language and the two columns of terms are in Latin. The sorted column is the left content column. The list is actually made of more than 200 items, not visible on the figure.


An Alpha Page is made of two sections, both mandatory. The first section is a navigation section, adapted to the context of this page. The second section is

Alpha Page, primary language: LA, subsidiary: EN, interface: EN, work in progress 

**divisio autonómica** 

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▼ NAVIGATION

Link to the unit [divisio autonómica](#) 

Subsidiary language with Latin English [French](#) [Spanish](#) [Russian](#)

Non Latin primary language [English](#) [French](#) [Spanish](#) [Russian](#)

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▼ ALPHABETICAL LIST












FMA	TA	UID	Sorted generic term	Source specific term
6582		6779	ansa subclavia	ansa subclavia (par)
6582		6779	epo ansa Vieussenii	ansa subclavia
9905		6758	divisio autonómica	divisio autonómica 
5893		6844	ganglion aorticorenale	ganglia aorticorenalia (par) 
77582		6830	ganglion cardiacum	ganglia cardiaca 
6469		6778	syn 2 ganglion cervicale inferius	ganglion cervicale inferius (par)
6468		6774	ganglion cervicale medium	ganglion cervicale medium (par) 

Figure 3.1: Structure of an Alpha Page into two sections, on *LA: divisio autonómica*

the alphabetic list itself, which generally extend on several pages. Beside that, there are the ordinary headers and footers of the content pages of the website.

As usual on ordinary pages, the header gives access by the large bulb icon to the present help file. In the footer, the date of creation of the alphabetic list is given (bottom right), as well as a link to the IFAA website and information on copyrights.



Call help file

### 3.4 Levels

Any Alpha Page is defined at one of three levels, depending on the position of its top unit in the partonomic hierarchy. The three levels are:

#### Global

This level is about the whole terminology. For the neuroanatomy, it means the entire TNA. By definition there is only one item at this level.

#### Chapter

This level is about the chapters of the terminology. For the the neuroanatomy, there are three chapter plus one complement, giving 4 items at this level.

#### Subchapter

This level is about the primary subdivisions of each chapter. It corresponds for the central nervous system to the segments of the neuraxis. There are four subdivisions for the peripheral nervous system. For the sense organs, there are four items or sense organs. The cerebral vessels are made of two subdivisions.

The levels allow to the users to choose where to search for a unit, depending on their personal knowledge. The lower is the level, the narrower is the search and the higher is the chance to find a correct answer. However, in the absence of contextual knowledge, the search in the entire terminology is necessary.

### 3.5 Navigation

The navigation section is a simplified version compared to the same section in Unit Pages. It concentrates on the Unit Page, the other Alpha Pages at different levels and to the selection of languages. See the figure 3.1 for the possible links as described below.

The first link is to the Unit Page of the top unit of the list.

The second group of links allows the navigation between the different levels of Alpha Pages. All higher levels are proposed and when the present level is not the lowest, links to all children of the present level are proposed. Selecting any link will open the corresponding Alpha Page.

The navigation between languages is the classical diversion to any one of the eight standard combinations of languages, as described elsewhere. The actual combination is of course not selectable.

### 3.6 Types of terms

The alphabetic section presents a sorted list, based on all the retained terms in main language. For each unit in the list, there may be a variable number of terms, depending on the number of synonyms, related terms and eponyms present. A term is always given a type specifying its origin and if it is official or simply present for documentation purpose. Table 3.1 displays all types of terms that can be present in the terminology. A detailed review of these types is presented now.

Main term:

Each unit of the terminology must have at minima a unique representative term, proposed as the main reference to be used in scientific communication. Such a term is call the main term of that unit. Because a large number of terms are made with a reference to another unit, the main term is systematically used for satisfying this reference. By unique is meant the fact that the term represents one an only one unit: in other words all main terms are different (in a population of more than 50000 units). In addition, they are also different from any official synonyms.

The main terms have all been approved by the authors of the terminology. This means that their wording has been selected by a committee of experts, following a number of rules concerning the languages of the terminology. The main terms, as well as other official terms, must tend to be scientifically significant, precise, syntactically non ambiguous and universal (non dependent on a language). See the general documentation for a extended discussion about the quality of terms.

Synonyms:

A synonym is an alternative term for the main term. All the rules and constrains of the main terms are applicable to the synonyms because they are also officially approved.

The synonyms are present in order to allow alternate terms issued from different regions or used by different people. For example, the general anatomist may use different terms than the surgeons or the radiologists.

Type	Value	Description
main term	blank	mandatory universal term, officially approved
first synonym	syn1	optional first synonym, officially approved
second synonym	syn2	optional second synonym, officially approved
third synonym	syn3	optional third synonym, officially approved
universal term	uni	universal term, present if it has not been accepted
regular term	reg	regular term used in place of the universal term
irregular term	irr	irregular term used in place of the universal term
related term	rel	related term, not officially approved
eponym	epo	eponym, not officially approved
FMA term	fma	FMA term when different of TNA main term
rotated term	rot	term obtained by rotation in KWIC mode

Table 3.1: The types of terms.

Or typically UK has traditions not valid in US. However, synonyms must not be used as a garbage collection of everything not accepted as main terms. On the contrary, the rule is to maintain the synonyms preferably at a low level.

#### Universal term:

The universal terms are usually present as main terms in more than 90% of all situations. But, they can be sometimes discarded and replaced in a specific language. For that reason, the universal unused term must be displayed. By definition a universal term is accepted in a majority of languages, therefore it is of interest even if not accepted in a particular vernacular.

#### Regular term:

A regular term is a term defined in a specific language in order to replace the proposed universal term. It has the quality of being regular according to the formal grammar of terms (see documentation elsewhere). There is no dependencies between languages about such terms, what is done in one language does not impact the other languages.

#### Irregular term:

A irregular term is a term defined in a specific language in order to replace the proposed universal term. On the contrary of the regular terms, it does not follow the formal grammar of terms. When an irregular term is propagated in a unit for the naming of its different entities, this process may generate errors and no guaranty of satisfactory result may be given.

#### Related term:

Related terms are completely free terms, not officially committed by the author of the terminology. However, they must preferably be regular, but that's not mandatory.

#### Eponym term:

Eponyms are important in anatomy, but they are sometimes controversial: they are not recognized in all countries. The ultimate goal of the terminology being to be universal, eponyms are not officially recognized. However,

as the related terms, they are accepted and may help to document some units.

FMA term:

FMA term when it is different from the main term as defined in the terminology. It is to be considered as an additional related term.

Rotated term:

Any term obtained by KWIC rotation of an initial term.

The type of term is displayed in the fourth column of the Alpha Page. The main term is marked by a blank.

### 3.7 The alphabetic list

The alphabetic list section is made of two blocks on each side of the type of term column. On the left of the type of term are displayed three columns with the links to the FMA, TA98 and the corresponding Unit Page. On the right of the type of term are displayed the two content columns. The first one is sorted in alphabetic order of the terms in the main language of the page. The right one represents the official main term, of which the present term is a representative. This column has a bubble on each term with its translation in the subsidiary language.



TA98 link

The entries in the list are governed by the type of term. Each time represents a particular situation to be analyzed below:

Applied universal formula:

This is the standard situation usually occurring in 95 percents of the times: the main term is computed in the selected language from the universal formula. This makes a single entry in the list of type main term.

Regular replacement:

In this situation, a regular term is given for the replacement of the universal term. This generates a double entry: the regular term, and the universal term, both marked as such.

Irregular replacement:

In this situation, an irregular term is given for the replacement of the universal term. This generates a double entry: the irregular term, and the universal term, both marked as such. An example is shown in figure [3.2](#).

As a general statement, irregular terms are accepted in the terminology in a limited number. They correspond to a preponderant usage or tradition in a specific vernacular, respected by the authors of the terminology. The present implementation of the terminology is able to correctly manage the irregular terms.

Universal synonym:

Like the main term, a synonym may be generated from a universal formula, meaning that the synonym is valid in all languages. This generates a single entry, marked as synonym term.









		<a href="#">6785</a>		ramus oesophageus
<a href="#">52754</a>		<a href="#">6406</a>		ramus orbitalis
		<a href="#">9375</a>	uni	ramus posterior sinus cavernosi
		<a href="#">6784</a>		ramus pulmonalis thoracicus
		<a href="#">6833</a>		ramus pulmonalis
		<a href="#">6544</a>		ramus pyloricus
		<a href="#">6789</a>		ramus renalis
		<a href="#">6549</a>		ramus renalis
		<a href="#">9374</a>	irr	ramus sinus cavernosi anterior
		<a href="#">9375</a>	irr	ramus sinus cavernosi posterior
<a href="#">52839</a>		<a href="#">6414</a>		ramus tonsillaris

Figure 3.2: Situation with an irregular term in Latin. The irregular term is *LA:ramus sinus cavernosi posterior*. The selection of this irregular term corresponds to a decision of the authors or the terminology. It is irregular because the adjective posterior is not related to the immediately preceding noun, but to ramus. The corrected universal term is shown on the third line.

#### Specific synonym:

Any synonym may also be given as a regular or an irregular term, in a specific language. This generates a single entry, marked as synonym term.

#### Synonym replacement:

A synonym may be specified by a universal formula with a replacement specified in a specific language. This generates a double entry: the replacement synonym marked as synonym and the universal term marked as universal.

#### Related term or eponym:

Any such terms may be specified in one or more variants for each unit of the list. Each term generates a single entry marked as related term or eponym.

#### Rotated terms

A rotated term is marked by its type plus an additional dot on the right.

## 3.8 The KWIC mode

The KWIC mode is a variation of the Alpha Page, proposing a more verbose list of terms, suitable for fine search when the Alpha Page is not sufficient. KWIC is an acronym meaning Key Word In Context. The strategy of the KWIC mode is to rotate the words of a term and to consider each word (except a few stop words) as a candidate for the alphabetic sort. This means that a term with 3







<a href="#">77569</a>		<a href="#">6812</a>	rel	pars pelvica
		<a href="#">9549</a>		pars posterior plexus gastrici
<a href="#">53632</a>		<a href="#">9169</a>		pars posterior plexus oesophagei
<a href="#">77569</a>		<a href="#">6812</a>		pars sacralis
<a href="#">9906</a>		<a href="#">6759</a>	syn 1	pars sympathica
		<a href="#">6827</a>	rel	pars thoracica
<a href="#">9906</a>		<a href="#">6759</a>		pars thoraco lumbalis
		<a href="#">9057</a>		pars vagalis
<a href="#">77569</a>		<a href="#">6812</a>	rel .	pelvica   pars

Figure 3.3: Extracted part of a KWIC list. On this example the unit LA:*pars pelvica* appears twice with two different rotations.

words will appear 3 times in the alphabetic list, each time with the same type of term. When applying the KWIC mode, the generated page is call a KWIC Page.

The rotation of the initial term is performed one word at a time, the first word becoming the last word in the rotated term. The new first word is selected for the sort of the list. A vertical bar is inserted at the initial end of the term when it is rotated. The figure 3.3 shows an example of rotations.

Some words are call stop words and are skipped, like the articles, the adverbs and the prepositions (conjunctions are anyway verbidden in the terminology).



### 3.9 Log of updates

19 Dec 2021 Creation of the file.

### 3.10 Credentials

This document is part of the help system accompanying the website on Terminologia Anatomica. It expresses the vision of the authors of the terminology about its content and its form of presentation. Despite it is as exact as possible, close to the reality of the database of the terminology and the surrounding software, approximations, errors and ambiguities are possible and should be considered as independent of their willingness and intents.

Identified comments about the content of the website and its presentation are welcome. An appropriate answer will be given when pertinent.

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