

In the context of medicine, “macroscopic” refers to observations or examinations conducted at a scale visible to the naked eye. It contrasts with “microscopic,” which involves examining specimens or phenomena at a much smaller scale, typically requiring the use of a microscope.

In medical contexts, macroscopic examination might involve visual inspection, palpation (feeling with the hands), or imaging techniques such as X-rays, CT scans, or MRIs to assess structures or abnormalities that are visible without magnification. For example, during surgery, a surgeon may conduct a macroscopic examination of tissues or organs to identify any abnormalities, tumors, or signs of infection visible to the naked eye. Similarly, in pathology, macroscopic examination of specimens removed during surgery or biopsy involves observing their appearance, size, shape, and other visible characteristics.

Macroscopic observations are essential for diagnosis, treatment planning, and monitoring the progression of various medical conditions, providing valuable information about the overall health and functioning of the body's structures and systems.

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