

# Simple Present Tense in Medical Writing

In medical writing, the simple present tense is mainly used in two cases:

**1) facts or generalizations; something that is always true**

*Color blindness is a genetic disorder that most often occurs in males.*

*The kidney performs many vital functions.*

**2) repeated or regular actions**

*To treat glaucoma, the doctor uses a laser to create a hole in the eye so that fluid can drain from it more easily.*

*In laparoscopy, a small incision is made in or just below the navel, and a needle is inserted into the abdomen.*

**Exercise:**

**Directions:** Use the simple present tense to complete the following sentences. Decide if the sentence is a **fact** or a **repeated action**.

- 1) Steroids \_\_\_\_\_ (to increase) muscle mass and \_\_\_\_\_ (to allow) athletes to endure longer workouts. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) In cryosurgery, the doctor \_\_\_\_\_ (to remove) abnormal or diseased tissue using liquid nitrogen, which \_\_\_\_\_ (to have) a temperature of -160 degrees Celsius. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Menstrual disorders \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) among the most common problems in women.  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 4) More than 4,000 diseases \_\_\_\_\_ (to cause) by genetic mutations.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) In hip replacement, the surgeon \_\_\_\_\_ (to make) an incision over the side of the hip, through the layers of tissue. Then he \_\_\_\_\_ (to remove) diseased and damaged bone and cartilage, and a prosthetic socket \_\_\_\_\_ (to implant) into the pelvic bone to replace the damaged socket. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) To examine the kidney, the doctor often \_\_\_\_\_ (to perform) ultrasound scanning, which \_\_\_\_\_ (to provide) remarkably clear pictures of the kidney.  
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- 7) A laser that is set on low intensity \_\_\_\_\_ (to reduce) pain, but at high intensity it \_\_\_\_\_ (to destroy) cells. \_\_\_\_\_