

## Introduction

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Normal people do not write dictionaries. Eventually the gene mappers will find the "dictionary gene" to be a mutant due to prolonged exposure to "word clutter".

But, alas, with the condition being genetic in nature, there is no cure, only palatine treatments. Strangely, one "treatment" that appears to work (not tested via randomized trials) is the production of more word clutter, in my case in the form "essays" appearing here. Repeat surfers of this site will be able to gauge progress in my therapy by the number of essays appearing on words and phrases.

The first overt expression of my affliction showed up when I was led, as if by a hidden force, to write a piece in my dictionary *Clinical Trials Dictionary: Terminology and Usage Recommendations* (1996). Now it is expressed again with the urge to write "short" essays related to the terminology of clinical trials. The definitions appearing in these essays are verbatim from the print version of my dictionary or from updated electronic files of that dictionary with boldface terms denoting other terms defined in the dictionary.

I hope this treatment works!