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- database:** Collection of data organized in information fields in electronic format.
- daytime splint:** Splint used during the daytime, which must be designed in such a way that it may be removed several times a day so that the client can prevent joint stiffening by moving the joint(s) to the full range of motion.
- deaf:** Complete or partial loss of the ability to hear.
- death rates:** Number of deaths occurring within a specific population during a particular time period, usually in terms of 1000 people per year.
- debility:** Weakness or feebleness of the body.
- débridement:** Excision of contused and necrotic tissue from the surface of a wound; **autolytic débridement:** self-débridement (ie, removal of contused or necrotic tissue through the action of enzymes in the tissues); **sharp débridement:** débridement using a sharp instrument.
- debris:** Remains of broken down or damaged cells or tissue.
- decentration:** Tendency to notice and take into account all or most of the relevant characteristics of an object when making an assessment. Opposite of centration with tendency toward attention to only one aspect of an object.
- decidua:** Mucus membrane lining the uterus (or endometrium) that changes in preparation for pregnancy and is sloughed off during menstruation and during postpartum.
- decision making:** The process of making decisions (eg, the choice of certain preferred courses of action over others).
- declarative memory:** The registration, retention, and recall of past experiences, sensations, ideas, thoughts, and knowledge through the hippocampal nuclear structures or the amygdala that result in long-term memory.
- deconditioning:** The physiologic changes in systemic function following prolonged periods of rest and inactivity.
- decorticate rigidity:** Exaggerated extensor tone of the lower extremities and flexor tone of the upper extremities resulting in abnormal posture due to damage to the brainstem.