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bal·lotte·ment  (bə-lŏt mənt)

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n.

Medicine

A palpatory technique for detecting or examining a floating object in the body, as:

- a.** The use of a finger to push sharply against the uterus and detect the presence or position of a fetus by its return impact.
- b.** Palpation of the abdominal wall while a kidney is being pushed sharply from the backside, used as a test for determining the presence of a floating kidney.

[French, from *balloter*, to toss, from Italian *ballotta*, diminutive of dialectal *balla*, ball; see [BALLOON](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

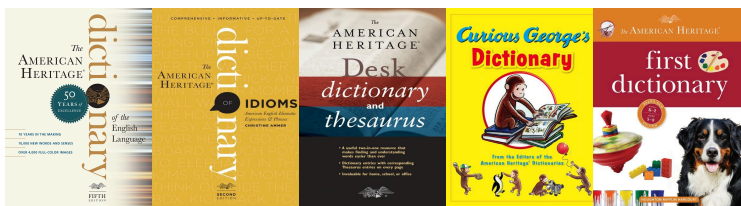
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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