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her·ni·a  (hûr nē-ə)

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n. pl. her·ni·as or her·ni·ae (-nē-ē')

The protrusion of an organ or other bodily structure through the wall that normally contains it; a rupture.

[Middle English, from Latin; see **ghera-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

her ni-al *adj.*

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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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