

Common Medication Suffixes, Prefixes and Root Words

Medications in red are part of the top 200 medications, other medications are included for reference.

Suffixes

Suffix	Associated Medications	Medication Class/Use
-afil	avanafil; sildenafil; tadalafil; vardenafil	Phosphodiesterase-5 (PDE-5) inhibitor
-asone	betamethasone; dexamethasone; fluticasone ; mometasone	Corticosteroid
-bicin	doxorubicin; idarubicin; valrubicin	Cytotoxic agent (chemotherapy)
-bital	butalbital; phenobarbital	Barbiturate, sedative
-caine	bupivacaine; lidocaine; prilocaine;	Local anesthetic
-cillin	amoxicillin ; ampicillin; nafcillin	Penicillin antibiotic
-cycline	doxycycline ; minocycline; tetracycline	Tetracycline antibiotic
-dipine	amlodipine ; nifedipine ; nimodipine	Calcium channel blocker, antihypertensive
-dronate	alendronate ; risedronate	Bisphosphonate
-eprazole	esomeprazole ; omeprazole ; rabeprazole	Proton pump inhibitor (PPI)
-fenac	bromfenac; diclofenac	NSAID
-floxacin	ciprofloxacin ; levofloxacin ; moxifloxacin; ofloxacin	Fluoroquinolone antibiotic
-gliptin	saxagliptin; sitagliptin ; linagliptin	DPP-4 inhibitor, diabetes agent
-glitazone	pioglitazone ; rosiglitazone	Thiazolidinedione, diabetes agent
-iramine	brompheniramine; chlorpheniramine; pheniramine	Histamine H-1 receptor antagonist, antihistamine
-lamide	acetazolamide; brinzolamide; dorzolamide;	Carbonic anhydrase inhibitor
-mab	adalimumab ; infliximab; trastuzumab	Monoclonal antibody
-mustine	carmustine; estramustine	Alkylating agent (chemotherapy)
-mycin	azithromycin ; clarithromycin; erythromycin	Macrolide antibiotic
-nacin	darifenacin; solifenacin	Muscarinic antagonist (anticholinergic)
-nazole	fluconazole ; ketoconazole; terconazole	Anti-fungal
-olol	atenolol ; metoprolol ; nadolol; propranolol ; timolol ; nebivolol	Beta blocker, antihypertensive

-olone	fluocinolone; methylprednisolone ; prednisolone; triamcinolone	Corticosteroid
-olone	nandrolone; oxandrolone; oxymetholone	Anabolic steroid
-onide	budesonide ; fluocinonide	Corticosteroid
-oprazole	dexlansoprazole; lansoprazole ; pantoprazole	Proton pump inhibitor (PPI)
-phylline	aminophylline; theophylline	Xanthine derivative
-pramine	clomipramine; desipramine; imipramine	Tricyclic antidepressant (TCA)
-pril	benazepril ; captopril; enalapril ; lisinopril ; ramipril	ACE inhibitor, antihypertensive
-profen	flurbiprofen; ibuprofen ; ketoprofen	NSAID
-ridone	paliperidone; risperidone	Antipsychotic
-sartan	candesartan; irbesartan; losartan ; olmesartan; valsartan	Angiotensin II receptor blocker, antihypertensive
-semide	furosemide ; torsemide	Loop diuretic, antihypertensive
-setron	granisetron; ondansetron ; palonosetron	Serotonin 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist, anti-emetic
-statin	atorvastatin ; lovastatin ; pravastatin; rosuvastatin ; simvastatin	HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, cholesterol lowering agent
-tadine	cyproheptadine; desloratadine; loratadine ; olopatadine	Histamine H-1 receptor antagonist, antihistamine
-tadine	amantadine; rimantadine	Anti-viral, Influenza A
-terol	albuterol ; formoterol ; levalbuterol; salmeterol	Beta-agonist, asthma treatment
-thiazide	chlorothiazide; hydrochlorothiazide ;	Thiazide diuretic, antihypertensive
-tinib	dasatinib; erlotinib; gefitinib; imatinib	Kinase inhibitor (chemotherapy)
-trel	desogestrel ; etonogestrel ; levonorgestrel ; norgestrel	Female hormone (progestin)
-triptan	eletriptan; sumatriptan ; zolmitriptan	Migraine treatment, 5HT ₁ agonist
-tyline	amitriptyline ; nortriptyline	Tricyclic antidepressant (TCA)
-vir	acyclovir ; famciclovir; valacyclovir	Anti-viral
-vir	oseltamivir ; zanamivir	Anti-viral, Influenza
-vudine	lamivudine; stavudine	Anti-viral
-zepam	clonazepam ; diazepam ; flurazepam; lorazepam ; temazepam	Benzodiazepine, sedative
-zodone	nefazodone, trazodone , vilazodone	Antidepressant

-zolam	alprazolam ; midazolam; triazolam	Benzodiazepine, sedative
-zosin	alfuzosin; doxazosin ; prazosin; terazosin	Alpha blocker

Prefixes

Prefix	Associated Medications	Medication Class/Use
cef-, ceph-	cefaclor; cefdinir ; cefuroxime; cephalexin	Cephalosporin antibiotic
sulfa-	sulfacetamide; sulfadiazine; sulfamethoxazole (Bactrim); sulfasalazine	Sulfa containing medication

Root words

Root	Associated Medications	Medication Class/Use
cort	clocortolone; fludrocortisone; hydrocortisone	Corticosteroid
parin, -parin	dalteparin; enoxaparin; fondaparinux; heparin; tinzaparin	Blood thinner, anticoagulant
pred, pred-	loteprednol; prednicarbate; prednisolone; prednisone	Corticosteroid
tretin-; tretin-; -tretin	isotretinoin; tretinoin	Form of vitamin A, dermatology agent
vir; -vir	abacavir; efavirenz; ritonavir; tenofovir	Anti-viral