

Medical Terminology

➤ DEFINITION:

Medical terminology is a vocabulary, for accurately describing the human body and associated components, conditions, processes and process in a science-based manner.

➤ OBJECTIVE:

There are three objectives to keep in mind as you study medical terminology.

1. Analyze words by dividing them into component parts:
2. Relate the medical terms to the structure and function of human body:-
Medical terms explained in their proper context will be easier to remember.

Eg: hepatitis-means inflammation of liver. (Hepat:-Liver and itis:-inflammation)

3. Be aware of spelling and pronunciation problems:-

Some medical terms are pronounced alike but are spelled differently and also have different meanings.

Eg:-ilium and ileum

They have identical pronunciations but

ILIUM –means a part of hip bone and

ILEUM –means part of small intestine.

➤ WORD ANALYSIS:

It means dividing the word into its component parts.

The component parts are:-

1. Word root:

The **word root** is a term derived from a source language such as Greek or Latin and usually describes a body part.

The word root is the foundation of the word. All medical terms have one or more roots.

Eg:- The root “**Hemat**” means “**blood**.”

2. Prefix:

The **prefix** can be added in front of the term to modify the word root by giving additional information about the location of an organ, the number of parts, or time involved.

Eg: Subgastric--here “Sub” is prefix which means “under”

3. Suffix:

Suffixes are attached to the end of a word root to add meaning such as condition, disease process, or procedure.

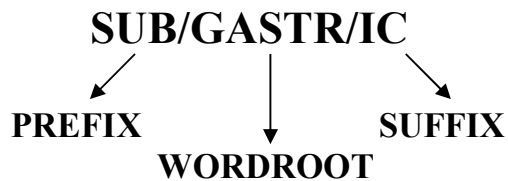
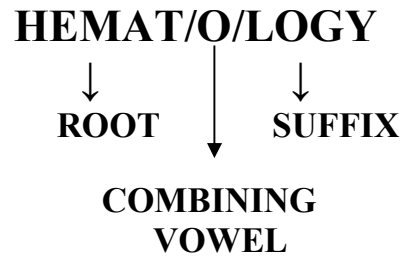
Eg:- The suffix “**-logy**” means “**study of**”.

4. Combinig vowel:

(Usually O) It links the root to the suffix or one root to another root.

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Eg:--



List of few commonly used medical terms to start:	
Prefix/Suffix	Example
a = an absence of	a/vir/emia (no virus in the blood)
alg(ia) = pain	neur/algia (nerve pain)
anti = attacks	anti/retroviral (attacks retroviruses)
contra = against	contra/ceptive (against conception)
cyt(e,o) = cell(s)	macro/cyte (big cell)
dys = abnormal	dys/plasia (abnormal growth)
emia = in the blood	tox/emia (toxins in the blood)
endo = inside	endo/scopy (examining the inside)
erythr(o) = red	erythro/cyte (red blood cell)
gastr(o) = stomach	gastr/itis (stomach inflammation)

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gen(esis) = origin, new	osteo/genesis (formation of new bone)
glyc(o) = glucose (sugar)	hyper/glyc/emia (high blood sugar)
hem(ato) = blood	hemato/logy (study of the blood)
hepat(o) = liver	hepat/itis (liver inflammation)
hyper = high, elevated	hyper/lipid/emia (high blood lipid levels)
intra = within	intra/muscular (in the muscle)
itis = inflammation	pancreat/itis (inflammation of the pancreas)
leuk(o) = white	leuko/penia (deficiency of white blood cells)
lip(o) = fat	lipo/dys/trophy (abnormal fat development)
lysis = break up	cyto/lysis (breaking up cells)
mal = bad, poor	mal/nutrition (poor nutrition)
mega(lo) = large	mega/dose (large dose)
my(o) = muscle	my/algia (muscle pain)
osteo = bone	osteo/pathy (bone disease)
penia = deficiency	osteo/penia (deficiency in the bones)
peri = around	peri/oral (around the mouth)