

Prefixes

A **prefix** is a letter or a group of letters that appear at the **beginning** of a word and changes the word's original meaning.

It is quite important to understand what different prefixes mean as they can help to understand the meaning of any new vocabulary.

Down below are listed some of the most common prefixes in Obstetrics & Gynecology:

<u>PREFIX</u>	<u>MEANING</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
A		
a-, an-	not, without (alpha privative)	<i>Analgesic</i> <i>Atypical</i>
ab-	from; away from	<i>Abnormal</i> <i>Abduction</i>
ad-	at, increase, on, toward	<i>Adduction</i> <i>Addition</i>
aden-	of/relating to a gland	<i>Adenocarcinoma</i> <i>Adenopathy</i>
adip-	of/relating to fat or fatty tissue	<i>Adipomastie</i>
aesthesi-	sensation	<i>Anaesthesia</i>
alge-	pain	<i>Analgesic</i>
all-	denoting something as different, or as an addition	<i>Alloantigen</i> <i>Alloimmunisation</i>
amnio-	pertaining to the membranous fetal sac (amnion)	<i>Amniochorial</i> <i>Amniocentesis</i>
andr-	pertaining to a man	<i>Android</i> <i>Androgen</i>
angi-	pertaining to a blood vessel	<i>Angiogram</i> <i>Angiography</i>
aniso-	describing something as unequal	<i>Anisocytosis</i>
ante-	describing something as positioned in front of another thing	<i>Antepartum</i> <i>Anteflexion</i>
anti-	describing something as 'against' or 'opposed to' another	<i>Antibody</i> <i>Antibiotic</i>
apo-	away, separated from, derived from	<i>Apoplexy</i>
arteri-	of/pertaining to an artery	<i>Arteriography</i> <i>Arteriogram</i>
auto-	self	<i>Autoimmune</i>
B		

bacteri-	pertaining to bacteria	<i>Bactericide</i>
bi-	twice, double	<i>Bicornuate</i>
blast-	germ or bud	<i>Blastomere</i>
brady-	slow	<i>Bradycardia</i>
C		
carcin-	cancer	<i>Carcinoma</i>
cephal-	of/pertaining to the head	<i>Cephalic (presentation)</i>
cervic-	of/pertaining to the cervix	<i>Cervicitis</i> <i>Cervical (cancer)</i>
co-	with, together, in association	<i>Coinfection</i>
colp(o)-	of/pertaining to the vagina	<i>Colposcopy</i> <i>Colpotomy</i>
contra-	against	<i>Contraception</i> <i>Contraindication</i>
cyst(o)-	of/pertaining to the urinary bladder	<i>Cystocele</i>
D		
di-	two	<i>Dichorionic</i> <i>Diamniotic</i>
dis-	separation, taking apart	<i>Discharge</i>
dys-	bad, difficult, defective, abnormal	<i>Dysmenorrhea</i> <i>Dystocic</i>
E		
ec-	out, away	<i>Ectopic (pregnancy)</i>
endo-	denotes something as inside or within	<i>Endometrium</i>
episi(o)-	of/pertaining to the pubic region	<i>Episiotomy</i>
eu-	true, good, well, new	<i>Eutocic</i>
extra-	outside	<i>Extrauterine (pregnancy)</i>
F		
fibr-	composed of fibrous tissue	<i>Fibroma</i>
G		
galact-	milk	<i>Galactorrhea</i> <i>Galactophoritis</i>
gon-	seed, semen; reproductive	<i>Gonorrhea</i> <i>Gonads</i>
gyno- gynaeco- / gynec-	woman	<i>Gynecology</i> <i>Gynecomastia</i>
H		
hemat-, haemato-	of/pertaining to blood	<i>Hematocolpos</i> <i>Hemorrhage</i>

hema-, hemo-	blood	<i>Hemoglobin</i>
hepat-	of/pertaining to the liver	<i>Hepatitis</i>
heter(o)-	denotes something as "the other" (of two), as an addition, or different	<i>Heterotopic</i> <i>Heterozygous</i>
hom(o)-	denotes something as "the same" as another or common	<i>Homozygous</i> <i>Homolateral</i>
hydr(o)-	water	<i>Hydrorrhea (gravidarum)</i>
hyper-	extreme or beyond normal	<i>Hypertension</i>
hyp(o)-	below normal	<i>Hypovolemia</i>
hyster(o)-	of/pertaining to the womb or the uterus	<i>Hysteroscopy</i>
I		
iatr(o)-	of/pertaining to medicine or a physician	<i>Iatrogenesis</i>
idio-	self, one's own	<i>Idiopathic</i>
inter-	between, among	<i>Interspinous</i>
intra-	within	<i>Intrauterine</i>
isch-	restriction	<i>Ischemia</i>
ischio-	of/pertaining to the ischium, the hip-joint	<i>Ischiococcygeal</i>
L		
lact(i)-, lact(o)	milk	<i>Lactation</i>
lapar(o)-	of/pertaining to the abdominal wall	<i>Laparotomy</i>
lei(o)-	smooth	<i>Leiomyoma</i>
leuc(o)-, leuk(o)-	denoting a white color	<i>Leukorrhea</i>
lymph(o)-	lymph	<i>Lymphadenopathy</i> <i>Lymphedema</i>
M		
macr(o)-	large, long	<i>Macrosomia</i>
mamm(o)-	of/pertaining to the breast	<i>Mammoplasty</i> <i>Mammography</i>
mast(o)-	of/pertaining to the breast	<i>Mastectomy</i> <i>Mastitis</i>
men-	month, menstrual cycle	<i>Menopause</i> <i>Menorrhagia</i>
metr-	pertaining to conditions or instruments of the uterus	<i>Metrorrhagia</i>
micr-	denotes something small, relating to smallness	<i>Micronodule</i>
mon-	single	<i>Monozygotic</i>
my(o)-	of/relating to muscle	<i>Myoma</i>
myc(o)-	fungus	<i>Mycosis</i>
N		
nat(o)-	birth	<i>Neonatology</i>

necr(o)-	death	<i>Necrotizing (Faciitis)</i>
neo-	new	<i>Neoplasia</i>
normo-	normal	<i>Normocardia</i>
O		
olig(o)-	having little, having few	<i>Oliguria</i>
-oma	tumor, mass	<i>Teratoma</i> <i>Sarcoma</i>
oo-	of/pertaining to an (egg), a woman's egg, the ovum	<i>Oogenesis</i>
oophor(o)-	of/pertaining to the woman's (ovary)	<i>Oophorectomy</i>
ovari(o)-	of/pertaining to the ovaries	<i>Ovariectomy</i>
ovo-, ovi-, ov-	of/pertaining to the eggs, the ovum	<i>Ovogenesis</i>
P		
path(o)-	disease	<i>Pathology</i>
ped-, pedo-	of/pertaining to the child	<i>Pediatrics</i>
pelv(i)-, pelv(o)-	hip bone	<i>Pelvimetry</i> <i>Pelvis</i>
peri-	denotes something with a position 'surrounding' or 'around' another	<i>Peripartum</i>
post-	denotes something as 'after (time)' or 'behind (space)' another	<i>Postpartum</i> <i>Postterm (Pregnancy)</i>
pre-	denotes something as 'before' another (in [physical] position or time)	<i>Premature</i>
prim-	denotes something as 'first' or 'most-important'	<i>Primipara</i> <i>Primigravida</i>
py-	pus	<i>Pyometra</i>
S		
salping(o)-	of/pertaining to Fallopian tubes	<i>Salpingectomy</i> <i>Salpingitis</i>
sarco-	muscular, flesh-like	<i>Sarcoma</i>
T		
tachy-	denoting something as fast, irregularly fast	<i>Tachycardia</i>
terato-	monster	<i>Teratoma</i> <i>Teratogen</i>
thel-	of/pertaining to a nipple	<i>Thelarche</i>
therap-	treatment	<i>Therapeutic</i>
thromb(o)-	of/relating to a blood clot, clotting of blood	<i>Thrombophlebitis</i>
toco-	childbirth	<i>Tocolytic</i>
tox(i)-, tox(o)-, toxic(o)-	toxin, poison	<i>Toxemia</i>

U

ultra-	beyond, excessive	<i>Ultrasound</i>
umbilic-	of/pertaining to the navel, the umbilicus	<i>Umbilical (cord)</i>
un(i)-	one	<i>Unilateral</i>
urin-	of/pertaining to urine, the urinary system	<i>Urinalysis</i>
uter(o)-	of/pertaining to the uterus or womb	<i>Uterotonic</i> <i>Uterosacral (ligament)</i>

V

vagin-	of/pertaining to the vagina	<i>Vaginosis</i> <i>Vaginoplasty</i>
vascul(o)-	blood vessel	<i>Vasculitis</i>
vesic(o)-	of/pertaining to the bladder	<i>Vesico-vaginal (fistula)</i>