

# Module 7

## A New Type of Root: the Adjective Root

- Neither anatomical nor abstract nouns, but are adjectives
- Always subordinate and precede root / termination they modify
- Many adjective roots have no conn. vowel or use "i" instead of "o"

## Anatomical Roots: The Reproductive System

- *didym-*, *epididym-*
  - Greek: *didymos* = "twin"
  - *epididymis* is literally a duct "on the surface of the testicle"
- *orchid-*, *orchi-*, *orche-*, *orch-*
  - Related to "orchid"
  - Tuberoid roots resembled testes
- *phall-*
  - Greek: *phallos* = "ritualistic or artistic representation of an erect penis"
  - Carried into English: "penis" is a reproductive organ; "phallus" is the artistic representation of the organ in its erect state
- *vas-*
  - Latin: *vas* = "vessel or container"
- *colp-*, *vagin-*
  - Greek: *kolpos* = "cavity or fold" = Latin *sinus*
  - Greek anatomists thought the vagina was a "fold" in a woman's genital region
  - Latin: *vagina* = "sword sheath or scabbard"
- *salping-*, *tub-*
  - Greek: *salping-* = "trumpet"
  - Latin: *tub-* = "trumpet"
  - Can refer to a number of tubes within the body, but *salping-* almost exclusively refers to the Fallopian tube
- *o-*, *oophor-*
  - *o-* and following conn. vowel "o" must be pronounced separately
  - Greek: *oophor-* = "an egg carrier"
- *hymen-*
  - *Hymenaeus* = "Greco-Roman god of marriage"
- *thel-*
  - Root means "nipple"

- After *epithelial* was coined for the membrane around the nipple, this root has seen use mostly in reference to anatomical membranes
- *toc-* vs. *nat-*
  - The root *toc-* refers only to the physical process of labour and delivery of a child; *nat-* is much broader in scope

## Hysteria and the womb

- *hyster-*, *metr-*, *uter-*
  - *hyster-* and *metr-* are Greek, *uter-* is Latin; they are interchangeably used
- The root *hyster-* is where "hysteria" comes from
- "Hysteria" has an older and specifically medical meaning: "a disorder (peculiar to women) involving shallow, volatile emotions, overdramatic behaviour, susceptibility to suggestion, and amnesia, with physical symptoms such as anesthesia, tremor, and convulsions unexplainable by physical pathology"
- Earliest notions of the womb as a source of feminine pathology trace back to Hippocrates' writings, which refer to the "wandering womb" concept
  - Hippocrates and many other Greco-Roman physicians of the time believe that organs could all move around inside the body, and that the womb (thought to be like an air-filled balloon) moving around inside a woman's body could cause a multitude of physical and mental disorders
  - Hippocrates suggested sex as a treatment (to weigh down the floating womb with seminal fluid); others suggested to lure it back by placing perfume in the vagina
- Even after physicians realized that the womb could not wander around the female body, they continued to believe that the uterus was a source of many mental and physical disorders, and applied the diagnosis of "hysteria" for a wide range of symptoms and illnesses well into the 20th century

## Adjective Roots

- *aut-*
  - Greek: comes from "self"
  - Special case: as a subordinate root, it can skip the main root and modify the termination
- *crypt-*
  - The root's meaning of "hidden" is sometimes in the metaphorical sense in that something is not obvious or not clear to the observer
- *gymn-*
  - *gymnasium* is literally Greek for "a place where one goes to be naked"

- Ancient Greeks did athletic activities, including the Olympics, nude

## Terminations

- *-atresia*
  - Not the absence of the structure itself, just the opening of the structure; usually a congenital condition
- *-cleisis*
  - May also mean "surgical attachment of one organ to another", though *-pexy*, *-pexis* take priority for that meaning
- *-genesis*, *-poiesis*
  - *-genesis* is both Latin and Greek, implies natural formation or development
  - Greek: *-poiesis* comes from "to make / to do"
  - *-poiesis* is related to English words "poem", "poetry", "poet"
  - *-poiesis* can be used to indicate unnatural or natural formation or development
- *-genic*
  - Note that the attached root may be the object that is forming, developing, etc. or the one doing the forming, developing, etc.
- *-gravida*
  - Latin: *gravis* = "heavy or full"
  - Numerical root attached to *-gravida* refers to the number of times a woman has been pregnant
    - Includes current pregnancy
    - Regardless of whether pregnancies resulted in the birth of a living child
    - Twins, triplets, etc. count as one pregnancy
- *-para*
  - Numerical root attached to *-para* refers to the number of times a woman has given birth
    - Stillborn babies would also count as an episode of childbirth
    - Twins, triplets, etc. count as one birth event

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