

Common Suffixes for Drug Names

Note: This is just a general guideline—there are always exceptions!

Ending	Category	Example
-afil	Erectile dysfunction	Sildenafil
-ane	Inhalational general anesthetic	Halothane
-ase	Thrombolytic	Urokinase
-azepam	Benzodiazepine	Diazepam
-azine	Phenothiazine (neuroleptic, antiemetic)	Chlorpromazine
-azole	Antifungal	Ketoconazole
-barbital	Barbiturate	Phenobarbital
-caine	Local anesthetic	Lidocaine
-cillin	Penicillin	Methicillin
-cycline	Antibiotic, protein synthesis inhibitor	Tetracycline
-dipine	Calcium channel blocker	Nifedipine
-dronate	Bisphosphonate (for osteoporosis)	Alendronate
-floxacin	Fluoroquinolone antibiotic	Ciprofloxacin
-ipramine	TCA	Imipramine
-mab	Monoclonal antibody	Cetuximab
-micin	Aminoglycoside antibiotic	Gentamicin
-mycin	Aminoglycoside antibiotic	Neomycin
-navir	Protease inhibitor	Saquinavir
-nib	Tyrosine kinase inhibitor	Imatinib
-olol	β -antagonist	Propranolol
-operidol	Butyrophenone (neuroleptic)	Haloperidol
-oxin	Cardiac glycoside (inotropic agent)	Digoxin
-parin	Anticoagulant	Heparin
-phylline	Methylxanthine	Theophylline
-plase	Thrombolytic	Reteplase

-prazole	Protein pump inhibitor	Omeprazole
-pril	ACE inhibitor	Captopril
-sartan	Angiotensin II receptor blocker	Losartan
-sone	Corticosteroid	Prednisone
-statin	Hypolipidemic drug (cholesterol-lowering)	Lovastatin
-terol	β 2 agonist	Albuterol
-thromycin	Macrolide antibiotic	Azithromycin
-tidine	H2 antagonist	Cimetidine
-triptyline	TCA	Amitriptyline
-tropin	Pituitary hormone	Somatotropin
-zolam	Benzodiazepine	Midazolam
-zosin	α 1 antagonist	Prazosin

Common Prefixes for Drug Names

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Ending	Category	Example
-cef	Cephalosporin antibiotic	Ceftriaxone
-ceph	Cephalosporin antibiotic	Cephalexin