



Unit 1

The History of Medicine

Section III Building Medical Vocabulary

- Medical terms may consist of roots, prefixes, and suffixes. A good knowledge of medical terminology will contribute a lot to your understanding of medical literature.
- **root**
 - ▣ The fundamental unit of each medical word is the root. This establishes the basic meaning of the word and is the part to which modifying prefixes and suffixes are added.

- *cardiologist; cardiology; carditis*
 - ❑ the study of the heart;
 - ❑ inflammation of the heart;
 - ❑ one who specializes in the study of diseases and disorders of the heart;
- cardi(o)- 心，贲门；
 - logist ...学家
 - logy, -logia ...学
 - itis 炎（症）
- 心脏病学；心脏病学家，心脏病科医师；心脏炎

➤ *dermatologist; dermatology; dermatitis; dermatosis*

- ❑ the study of the skin;
- ❑ any (abnormal) conditions of the skin;
- ❑ one who specializes in the study of diseases and disorders of the skin;
- ❑ inflammation of the skin;

dermato-, derma-, dermat-, dermo- 皮 (肤)

-logist ...学家 ; -logy, -logia ...学

-itis 炎 (症) ; -osis, -sis 病, 病态

皮肤炎 ; 皮肤科医生, 皮肤学者 ; 皮肤医学, 皮肤病学 ; 皮肤病 ;

➤ prefix

- ❑ A prefix is a word element added at the beginning of the word. When a prefix is used with a root, it often changes (or alters) the meaning of the word. Prefixes are not necessarily a part of all medical words.

➤ Endocardium, intracardiac, pericardial

- ❑ Within the heart, the inner lining of the heart;
- ❑ Pertaining to within the heart ;
- ❑ Pertaining to around the heart;

end(o)- 内，在内（部）； intra-, intro- 内，
peri- 周，周围； -ac ...的； -al 属于...的，具有...性质的，如...的；
cardi(o)- 心，贲门

心脏内的； 心内膜； 心包的，围心的

➤ suffix

- ❑ A suffix is a word element attached at the end of the word root. Adding a suffix to a word can either change the meaning or grammatical function of the word.

➤ cardiomegaly, cardialgia, cardiocentesis

- ❑ enlargement of the heart;
- ❑ pain in the heart;
- ❑ surgical puncture of the heart;

-megaly 巨大（症），肥大；-algia 痛；-centesis 穿刺术；
cardi(o)- 心，贲门

- ❑ 心脏穿刺术；心脏肥大；胃灼痛，心痛；

➤ cardiomegaly, cardialgia, cardiocentesis

Notice: If the suffix begins with a vowel, the root will attach directly to it. If, however, the suffix begins with a consonant (anything other than a, e, i, o, u, y) the root will need a combining vowel before attaching to the suffix.

➤ **combining form (root + combining vowel)**

- ❑ A combining form is created when a word root is combined with a vowel. This vowel is known as a combining vowel, is usually an o.
- ❑ The vowel has no meaning of its own, but enables two word elements to be linked, making it pronounceable

· / ,kɑ:diəʊmaɪ'ɒpəθɪ / / ,maɪəʊɪ'lektɪk / / lɪm,fædɪ'nɒpəθɪ /

➤ **cardiomyopathy, myoelectric, lymphadenopathy**

- ✓ cardi(o)- 心, 贲门;
- ✓ -pathia, -pathy 病, 痛苦, 疗法
- ✓ my-, myo- 肌 (肉)
- ✓ lymph-, lympho- 淋巴
- ✓ aden/o- 腺, 腺体

cardi / *o* / *my* / *o* / *-pathy*
↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
root + vowel + root + vowel + suffix

心肌病

my / *o* / *electr* / *-ic*
↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
root + vowel + root + suffix

肌电的

lymph / *aden* / *o* / *-pathy*
↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
root + root + vowel + suffix

淋巴结病

Notice: Generally, when using more than one word root (as in a compound word) a combining vowel is needed to separate the different word roots regardless of whether the second or third word root begins with a vowel. (There are exceptions to the rule)

Types of combining forms

-o- cardi + o → cardio- o + logy → -ology
-i- meningioma



➡ Review: Complete the Statement

1. The four components of a medical term are

root, prefix,
suffix, and combining vowel.

2. The combination of a word root and the combining vowel is called a(n) combining form.

➡ Review: Complete the Statement

3. The vowel that connects two word roots or a suffix with a word root is usually a(n) o.

4. A word part used at the end of a word root to change the meaning of the word is called a(n) suffix.

5. A(n) prefix is used at the beginning of a word to indicate number, location, time, etc.

TABLE 3-1 Prefixes for Numbers*

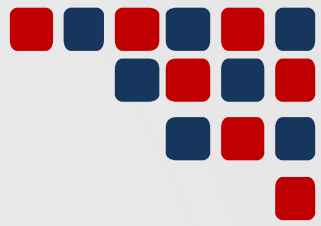
PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE	DEFINITION OF EXAMPLE
prim/i-	first	primitive <i>PRIM-i-tiv</i>	occurring first in time
mon/o	one	monocular <i>mon-OK-ū-lar</i>	pertaining to one eye
uni-	one	unicellular <i>ū-ni-SEL-ū-lar</i>	composed of one cell (Fig. 3-1)
hemi-	half; one side	hemisphere <i>HEM-i-sfēr</i>	one half of a rounded structure
semi-	half; partial	semisolid <i>sem-ē-SOL-id</i>	partially solid
bi-	two, twice	bicuspid <i>bī-KUS-pid</i>	a tooth with two points (cusps)
di-	two, twice	dimorphous <i>dī-MOR-fus</i>	having two forms (morph/o)
dipl/o	double	diploid <i>DIP-loyd</i>	having two sets of chromosomes
tri-	three	triplet <i>TRIP-let</i>	one of three offspring produced in a single birth
quadr/i-	four	quadrant <i>KWOD-rant</i>	one-fourth of an area
tetra-	four	tetrahedron <i>tet-ra-HE-dron</i>	a figure with four surfaces
multi-	many	multiple <i>MUL-ti-pl</i>	consisting of many parts
poly-	many, much	polysaccharide <i>pol-ē-SAK-a-rīd</i>	substance composed of many sugars

TABLE 3-7 Prefixes for Time and/or Position

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE	DEFINITION OF EXAMPLE
ante-	before	antenatal <i>an-tē-NĀ-tal</i>	before birth
pre-	before, in front of	predisposing <i>prē-dis-PŌZ-ing</i>	leading toward a condition, such as disease
pro-	before, in front of	prodrome <i>prō-drōm</i>	symptom that precedes a disease
post-	after, behind	postmenopausal <i>pōst-men-ō-PAW-sal</i>	after menopause



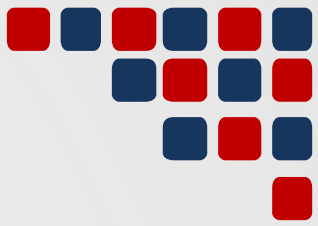
Section III Building Medical Vocabulary (p33)



Etymology is the study of the origins, history, and changing meanings of words. The origins of medical English vocabulary can be traced back to a variety of sources, including Latin, Greek, and Arabic. These languages have heavily influenced the terminology used in the medical field, with many terms derived from ancient texts and scientific discoveries. Understanding the etymology of medical terms can provide valuable insights into their meanings and help healthcare professionals communicate more effectively with colleagues and patients.



Section III Building Medical Vocabulary (p33)



“Evacuation” 抽空；排泄 is a typical example. It can be traced back to the Latin verb "evacuare", which means "to empty" or "to make empty", derived from the prefix "ex" (out) and the root "vacuus" (empty). In medical contexts, "evacuation" refers to the removal or emptying of a substance or fluid from the body through medical means.

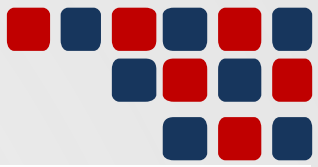
vacuo- 空 (的) ; ex-, exo- 外 , 外部 , 在外

- Evacuate 抽空；排泄

- Under general anesthesia the cervix was dilated to 12 mm and the uterus was evacuated by suction curettage, while syntocinon was infused in i.v. drip (20 U. with 5% dextrose in 1,000 ml.bottle) at a rate of 40 drops/min.
- 在全麻下将子宫颈扩张至12 mm，以吸刮术排空子宫，其间以40滴 / min的速度静脉滴注催产素（20 U加入1,000毫升5%葡萄糖瓶内）。
- Until evacuated from the body, feces are stored in the sigmoid colon.
- 粪便(消化的废料)在被排泄前储存在乙状结肠内。



Section III Building Medical Vocabulary (p34)



orthopaedics

n.

The word is from the Greek words *orthos*, meaning “straight”, and *pedo*, meaning “child”. Originally, it referred to the treatment of musculoskeletal conditions in children, but now it encompasses the treatment of all such conditions in people of all ages.

矫形术；骨科

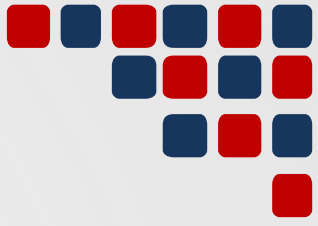
ortho- straight; orthodontic pertaining to straight teeth

ped(o)- 小儿

orthopedics, orthopaedics

anemia, anaemia 贫血

paediatrics, pediatrics 小儿科



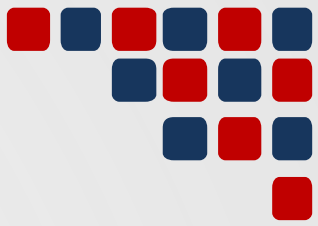
Section III Building Medical Vocabulary (p36-37)

3. Translate the following English sentences into Chinese.

(1) In the time of Galen, the mucus from the nose and mouth was thought to come from the brain, hence the pituitary gland was so named.

在盖伦时代，鼻腔和口腔的粘液被认为来自大脑，pituitary gland (脑垂体)因此而命名。

注：古希腊人认为鼻涕来自大脑，他们在解剖中发现靠近鼻窦上方，脑的中心位置有一个小小的清晰结构，他们认为这是鼻涕来源地，将其称为Pituita（古希腊语的鼻涕）。这就是垂体的英文名Pituitary Gland的来源。



Section III Building Medical Vocabulary (p37)

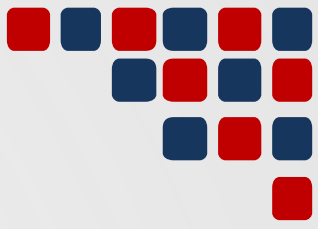
3. Translate the following English sentences into Chinese.

(3) In Greek mythology, Hypnos was the personification of sleep; the Roman equivalent was known as Somnus. Now we have the related medical terms "hypnosis" and "insomnia".

hypn(o)- 睡眠，催眠

hyp(o)- 低，下，减少，不足，过少，次

在希腊神话中，Hypnos是睡眠之神；罗马人的睡神则被称为Somnus。现在我们就有了相关的医学术语hypnosis（催眠）和insomnia（失眠）。



Section III Building Medical Vocabulary (p37)

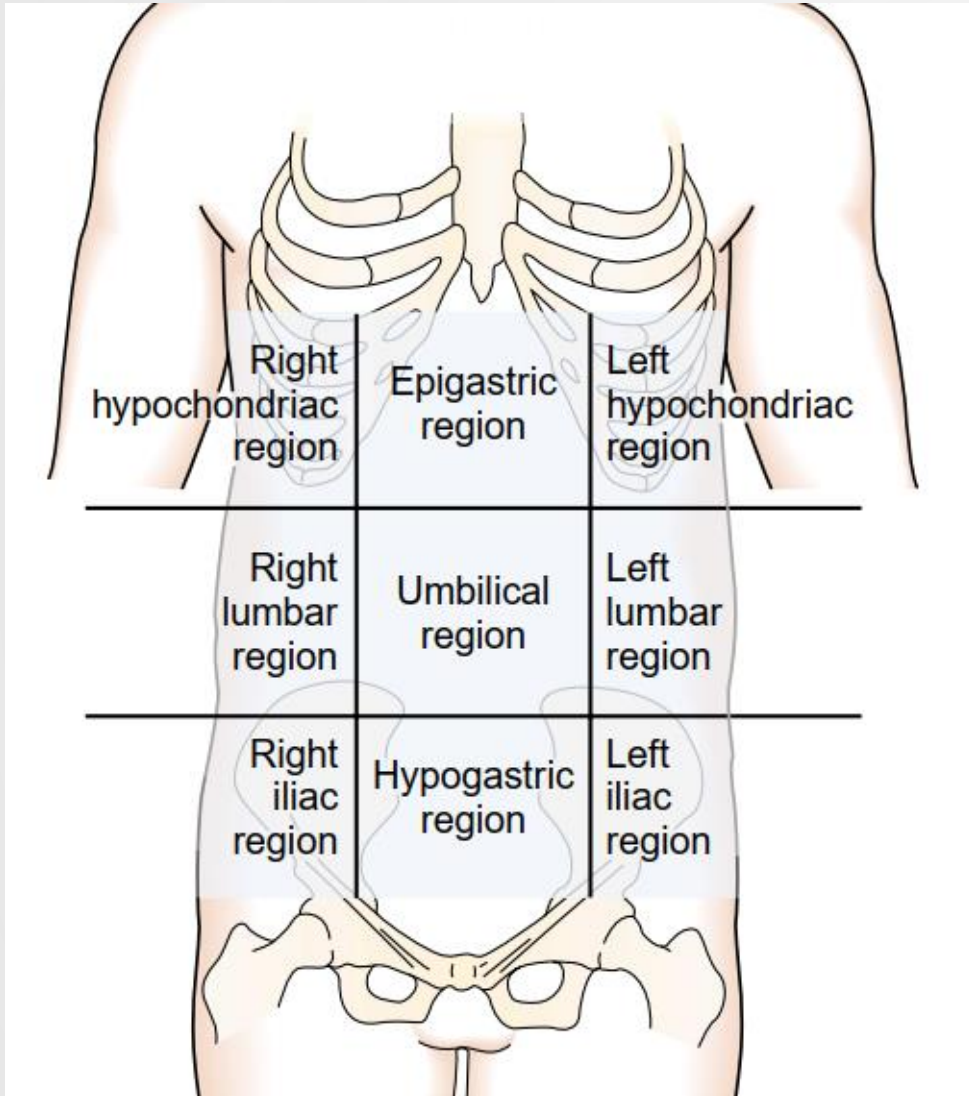
3. Translate the following English sentences into Chinese.

(4) Originating from the Greek term "melancholia" meaning "black bile", melancholy means depression because ancient Greek medicine attributed mental depression to unnatural or excess "black bile".

melan(o)- 黑，黑色（素）

“忧郁”一词源于希腊语“melancholia”，意为“黑胆汁”，因为古希腊医学将精神抑郁归因于不自然或过量的“黑胆汁”。

Passage 1 Word Bank



- Hypochondriac
- hyp-, hypo- 下, 低, 少, 减退, 迟, 次, 过少
- chondro-, chondr-, chondri-, chondrio- 软骨, 颗粒
- hypochondriac regions, named for their position near the ribs, specifically near the cartilages (root chondr/o) of the ribs. 季肋区

Passage 1 Word Bank

- Hypochondriac 疑病症的(p11);季肋区的
- The hypochondriac regions are in the upper portions of the abdomen, an area that the ancients believed was the seat of mental disorders.