

Glossary:

Intro to Medical Terminology

- Medical Terminology: a language that is used to accurately describe the human body and associated components, conditions, process and procedures in a science-based manner
- Prefix: word parts that appear at the beginning of some terms. Prefixes are used to further define the absence, location, number, quantity, or state of the term.
- Root Word: word origin. Usually but not always indicates the involved body part.
- Combining vowel: a letter sometimes used to join word parts. Usually an “o” but occasionally can be a “e” or an “i”
- Suffix: word part that appears at the end of a term. Suffixes are used to indicate whether the term is an anatomic, pathologic, or procedural term
- -rrhagia: excessive flow, profuse fluid discharge
- -rrhage: excessive flow, profuse fluid discharge
- -rrhaphy: suture
- -rrhea: flow discharge
- -rrhexis : rupture
- Nondecodable terms: Words used in medicine whose definitions must be memorized without the benefit of word parts.
- Acute: A term that describes an abrupt, severe onset to a disease. acu- means (“sharp”)
- Chronic: Developing slowly and lasting for a long time. chron/o means (“time”)
- Sign: an objective finding of a disease state (e.g., fever, high blood pressure, rash).
- Symptom: A subjective report of a disease (pain, itching)
- Syndrome: A group of signs and symptoms that consistently appear together.

How root operations relate to suffixes

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| • -ectomy -cutting out can be an alteration, a resection, an excision, or an extraction | • -tripsy (crushing) can be destruction, fragmentation, or occlusion |
| • -plasty (surgically forming) can be an alteration, a dilation, a repair, or a supplement | • -pexy (fixation, suspension) is a repair or reposition |
| • -stomy (making a new opening) can be a bypass, a drainage, or a repair | • -centesis (surgical puncture) is a drainage |
| • -tomy (cutting) can be a drainage or division | • -scopy (viewing) is an inspection |
| | • -desis (binding) is a fusion |

Procedure Suffixes

- -centesis: surgical puncture
- -desis: binding
- -graphy: recording
- -metry: measuring
- -opsy: viewing
- -plasty: surgically forming
- -tomy: cutting
- -tripsy: crushing

Prefixes to be careful of their spelling

- a-: no, not, without
- an-: no, not, without
- ante-: forward, in front of, before
- anti-: against
- hyper-: excessive, above
- hypo- below, deficient
- inter-: between
- intra-: within
- par-: near, beside
- para-: near, beside, abnormal
- per-: through
- pei-: surrounding, around

Special Senses

Eyes & Ears

Eyes	Opt, l, op/ 0, ophthalm/0	Receptor for the sense of sight
Ears	Acous/o, acoust/o, audi/o, audit/o, ot/o	Receptor for sense of hearing/balance
Iris	Ir, ir, ir/o, irid/o, irit/o	Controls light entering eye
Pupil		Circular opening of the iris
Lens		Clear, flexible curved structure that focuses images
Retina	Retin/o	Converts light images
Ptosis		Drooping of the upper eyelid
Hordeolum		Stye – Pus filled lesion secondary to sebaceous gland infection
Periorbital edema		Swelling of tissues surrounding the eyes
Conjunctivitis		“Pinkeye” Inflammation of the conjunctiva
Subconjunctival Hemorrhage		Bleeding between the conjunctiva and the sclera creating a red area over the eye
Uveitis		Inflammation of the uvea
Iritis		The most common form of uveitis.
Anisocoria		Unequal pupil size
Cataract		Loss of transparency of the lens
Floaters		Particles of cellular debris floating in the vitreous humor
Miosis		Contraction of the pupil
Mydriasis		Dilation of the pupil
Nystagmus		Involuntary, rhythmic movement of the eyeball
Papilledema		Swelling and inflammation of the optic nerve at the entrance into the eye

Retinal Detachment		Separation of the light sensitive retina from the choroid
Glaucoma		Disease characterized by increased intraocular pressure.
Macular Degeneration		Progressive degeneration of the macula resulting in loss of central vision.
Diplopia		Double vision
Hemianopia		Blindness in one half of the visual.
Monochromatism		Colorblindness
Photophobia		Excessive sensitivity to light
Presbyopia		Common changes in vision resulting in farsightedness
Strabismus		Disorder in which the eyes pointing in different direction
Astigmatism		Improper focusing of the eye secondary to uneven curvature of the cornea
Myopia		Nearsightedness
PERRLA		Acronym meaning Pupils are Equal, Round, Reactive to Light and Accommodation
Outer Ear	Pinn/i	Transmits sounds to middle ear
Cerumen		Earwax
Middle Ear	Myring/o, tympan/o	Transmits sound to inner ear
Inner Ear	Labyrinth/o	Receives vibrations and transmits them to the brain
Lacrimal Apparatus	Dacryocyst/o, lacrim/o	Accessory structure of the eyes that produce, store, and remove tears
Auditory Ossicles		Three small bones of the ear. Malleus, Incus and Stapes

Eustachian Tubes		Narrow tubes leading from the middle ear to the nasal cavity and throat functioning to equalize pressure
Cochlea		Snail shaped structure of the inner ear where vibrations are converted to nerve impulses.
Otorrhea		Any discharge from the ear
Mastoiditis		Inflammation of the mastoid bone.
Otitis Media		Inflammation of the middle ear
Vertigo		Sensation of whirling, dizziness and loss of balance causing nausea and vomiting
Tinnitus		Ringling, buzzing or roaring in one or both ears.

Lymphatic and Immune

Cancer = CA	Carcinoma in situ = CIS
Immunoglobulin = IG	Metastasis = MET
Lymph/o = lymph	Lymphangia/o = lymphatic vessels and ducts
Lymphaden/o = lymph nodes	Tonsill/o = tonsils
Adenoid/o = adenoids	Splen/o = spleen
Myel/o = bone marrow	Lymphocyte/o = lymphocytes
Thym/o = thymus	Anti- = against
Carcino/o = cancerous	Immune/o = immune, protection
Neo, ne/o = new	-oma = tumor
Onc/o = tumor	Phag/o = eat, swallow
-plasm = formative material of cells	Sarc/o = flesh, connective tissue
-tic = pertaining to	Tox/o = poison
Cyt/o = cells	
Carcinoma = cancerous tumor	Cytotoxic = poisonous to cells
Lymphoma = tumor of lymph	Lymphadenopathy = disease of lymph nodes
Lymphocytes = cells of lymph	Sarcoma = tumor of connective tissue
Splenomegaly = enlarged spleen	

Cardiovascular System

<u>Word Root/Combining Form</u>	<u>Definition</u>
angio/o, vas/o, vascul/o	vessel
Angin/o	Choke, strangle
aort/o	aorta
arteri/o	artery
ather/o	plaque, fatty substance
Ausculat/o	listen
Capill/o	capillary
cardi/o	heart
coron/o	crown
ech/o, son/o	sound
Erythr/o	red
Hem/o, hemat/o	blood
my/o	muscle
path/o	disease
Phleb/o, ven/o	vein
sept/o	septum
sin/o	sinus
Sphygm/p	pulse
Sten/o	narrow
thorac/o	chest
Thromb/o	clot
valv/o	valve

<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Definition</u>
a-	Lack of
Brady-	Slow
End-, endo-	Within, inside
Exo-	Without, outside
Epi-	Above
Hyper-	Excessive
Hypo-	Insufficient
Inter-	Between
Intra-, medi-	Middle
Normo-	Normal
Peri-	Around
Retro-	Behind, back
Sub-	Under, below, beneath

Tachy-	Fast
Trans-	Across, through

<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Definition</u>
-ac, -al, -ar, -ary, -ic, -ose, -ous	Pertaining to
-centesis	Surgical puncture to aspirate or remove fluid
-cision	Process of cutting
-ectomy	Excision
-emia	Blood, blood related condition
-gram	Drawing or written record
-graph	Product of drawing, writing, recording
-graphy	Process of recording
-ia	Condition
-ion	process
-itis	Inflammation
-lysis	Process of loosening, freeing, destroying
-megaly	enlargement
-ologist	One who studies
-ology	Study of
-oma	Tumor
-osis	Condition of
-pathy	Disease
-plasty	Surgical repair
-sclerosis	Hardening
-stasis	Place, stop, control
-tension	Pressure
-thoracic	Chest
-ule, -ole	Small
-um	Structure, tissue

Respiratory System

- Rales: also called crackles or crepitations. An abnormal lung sound heard on inspiration, characterized by discontinuous bubbling, clicking, or rattling noises.

- Rhonchi: are continuous abnormal sounds heard on expiration caused by airways blocked with secretions.
- Stridor: high pitched inspiratory sound from the larynx; a sign of upper airway obstruction or epiglottitis
- Wheezing: continuous sound heard during inspiration and/or expiration.
- Respiratory system: consists of the lungs and the air passages
- Upper respiratory system includes: the nose, nasal cavity, nasopharynx, oropharynx, laryngopharynx and the larynx
- Lower respiratory system includes trachea, bronchi, bronchioles, alveoli and capillaries of lungs

Abbreviations

- ABG: arterial blood gases
- ARDS: acute respiratory distress syndrome
- COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- CPAP: continuous positive airway pressure
- LLL: left lower lobe
- LUL: left upper lobe
- O₂: oxygen
- RLL: right lower lobe
- RML: right middle Lobe
- RUL: right upper lobe
- SARS: severe acute respiratory syndrome
- SOB: shortness of breath

Terms related to Signs and Symptoms

Cheyne-Stokes respirations: Deep, rapid, breathing followed by a period of apnea

Clubbing: Abnormal enlargement of the distal phalanges as a result of diminished O₂ in the blood

Cyanosis: cyan/o (blue) -osis (abnormal condition) Lack of oxygen in blood seen as bluish or grayish discoloration of the skin, nail beds, and/or lips

Dyspnea: dys- (difficult) -pnea (breathing) Difficult or painful breathing

Eupnea: eu-(healthy normal) -pnea (breathing) Good, normal breathing

Hyperventilation: Hyper (excessive) Abnormally increased breathing

Hypoxemia: hypo-(deficient) ox/o (oxygen) -emia (blood condition) Condition of deficient O₂ in the blood. Hypoxia is the condition of deficient oxygen in the tissues.

Orthopnea: orth/o straight -pnea (breathing) Condition of difficult breathing unless in an upright position

Pyrexia: pyr/o (fire) – -exia (condition) Fever

Thoracodynia: thorac/o (chest) -dynia (pain) Chest pain

Respiratory Infections

Bronchiolitis: bronchiol/o (bronchiol) -itis (inflammation) Viral inflammation of the bronchioles; more common in children younger than 18 months.

Bronchitis: bronch/o (bronchus) -itis (inflammation) Inflammation of the bronchi. May be acute or chronic

Epiglottitis: epiglott/o (epiglottis) -itis (inflammation) Inflammation of the epiglottis.

Laryngitis: laryng/o (larynx, voice box) -itis (inflammation) Inflammation of the voice box

Nasopharyngitis: nas/o(nose) pharyng/o (pharynx, throat) -itis (inflammation) The common cold

Pansinusitis: pan- (all) sinu/o(sinus) -itis (inflammation) Inflammation of all the sinuses.

Pneumonia: pneumon/o(lung) -ia (condition) Inflammation of the lungs caused by a variety of pathogens.

Sinusitis: sinus/o (sinus) -itis (inflammation) Inflammation of one or more of the paranasal sinuses.

Tracheitis: trach/o (trachea, windpipe) -itis (inflammation) Inflammation of the windpipe.

Cancers

Adenocarcinoma: aden/o (gland) -carcinoma (cancer of the epithelial origin) NSCLE (non-small cell lung cancer) derived from the mucus-secreting glands in the lungs.

Large cell carcinoma: carcinoma (cancer of the epithelial origin) NSCLC originating in the lining of the smaller bronchi

Squamous cell carcinoma: squam/o (scaly) -ous (pertaining to) carcinoma (cancer of the epithelial origin) NSCLC originating in the squamous epithelium of the larger bronchi

Small cell lung cancer: Second most common type of lung cancer. Associated with smoking.

Procedures

Adenoidectomy: adenoid/o (adenoid) -ectomy (cutting out) removal of the adenoids.

Bronchoscopy: bronch/o (bronchus) -scopy (viewing) Viewing a bronchus using an instrument.

Laryngoplasty: laryng/o (larynx, voice box) -plasty (surgically forming) Surgically forming the larynx for the purpose of improving the voice for patients with hoarseness

Pleurodesis: pleur/o (pleura) -centesis (surgical puncture) Surgical procedure to remove fluid or air from the pleural cavity.

Positive end expiratory pressure (PEEP): A method of providing assistance in exhalation through the use of an endotracheal tube, a tracheostomy, a face mask, or nasal prongs.

Positive support ventilation (PSV): A method of breathing assistance to increase a patient's ability to inhale through an endotracheal tube.

Quantiferon-TB gold test (QFT): Definitive blood test used to diagnosis tuberculosis.

Rhinoplasty: rhin/o (nose) -plasty (surgically formed) Surgically forming by correcting, supplementing, or replacing the nose.

Septoplasty: sept/o (septum, wall) -plasty (surgically forming) Surgically straightening the wall between the nares to correct a deviation.

Tracheotomy: trach/o (trachea, windpipe) -stomy (make a new opening) Cutting the trachea to establish an airway.

Genitourinary System

-cele	Hernia, tumor, swelling
Cyst/o	Urinary bladder, cyst, sac of fluid
Dia-	Through, between, complete
-ectasis	Stretching, dilation, enlargement

-glomerul/o	Glomerulus
lith/o	Stone, calculus
-lysis	Breakdown, separation, setting free
Nephr/o	Kidney
-pexy	Surgical fixation
Pyel/o	Renal pelvis
-tripsy	Crush
Ur/o	Urine, urinary tract
Ureter/o	Ureter
Urethr/o	Urethra
-uria	Urination, urine

Definitions

Anuria	Failure of the kidneys to produce urine
Cystitis	Inflammation of the urinary bladder
Cystocele	Herniation of the urinary bladder into the vagina
Cystopexy	Surgical attachment of the urinary bladder to the abdominal wall
Cystoscopy	An examination of the urinary bladder
Dialysis	The process by which uric acid and urea are manually removed from circulation blood
Diuresis	Increased discharge of urine
Enuresis	Lack of control of urination
Epispadias	Congenital defect in which the urethra opens on the upper penile surface
Glomerulonephritis	Kidney disease affecting the capillaries of the glomeruli
Hydronephrosis	Dilation of the kidney, caused by accumulation of urine
Hydroureter	Distention of the ureter with urine due to blockage
Hyperproteinuria	Increased amount of protein in the urine
Hypoproteinuria	Decreased amount of protein in the urine
Hypospadias	Congenital defect in which the urethra opens on the underside of the penis
Incontinence	The inability to control excretory functions
Nephrolith	Renal calculus, kidney stone
Nephrolithiasis	Calculi in the kidneys

Nephrolysis	Operation of freeing the kidney from inflammatory adhesions
Nephropathy	Disease of the kidney
Nocturia	Condition in which one often wakes up during the night to urinate
Oliguria	Scantiness of urine due to diminished secretion
Polyuria	Passing of an excessive quantity of urine
Uremia	A condition resulting from the retention in the blood of constituents normally excreted in the urine
Ureterolith	A calculus in the ureter
Ureterorrhagia	Hemorrhage from a ureter
Ureterorrhaphy	Suture of a ureter
Urethritis	Inflammation of the urethra
Urethroplasty	Reparative or plastic surgery of the urethra
Urethrorrhagia	Hemorrhage from the urethra
Urethrorrhaphy	Suture of the urethra

Digestive System

Mouth	Or/o, stomat/o	
Pharynx	Pharyng/o	Transports food from mouth to esophagus
Esophagus	Esophag/o	Transports food from esophagus to stomach
Small Intestine	Enter/o	Mixes chyme from stomach
Large Intestine	Col/o, colon/o	Absorbs water and preps for excretion
Rectum & Anus	An/o, proct/o, rect/o	Controls excretion of solid waste
Liver	Hepat/o	
Gallbladder	Cholecyst/o	
Pancreas	Pancreat/o	
-lithiasis		Presence of stones
-pepsia		Digest, digestion
-phagia		Eating, swallowing
-emesis		vomiting

Endocrine System:

Diabetes mellitus = DM	FSBS = fingerstick blood sugar
Epinephrine = EPI, epi	Thyroid stimulating hormone = TSH
Fasting blood sugar = FBS	
Adren/o = adrenal glands	Gonad/o = gonads
Testic/o = testicles	Ovari/o = ovaries
Pancreat/o = pancreatic	Parathyroid/o = parathyroid glands
Pineal/o = pineal gland	Pituit/o, pituitar/o = pituitary gland
Thym/o = thymus	Thyr/o, thyroid/o = thyroid gland
Acr/o = extremities	Crin/o = secrete
-dipsia = thirst	Glyc/o = glucose, sugar
Gonad/o = gonad, sex glands	-ism = condition, state of
Poly = many	Somat/o = body
Acromegaly = enlarged extremities	Adrenalitis = inflammation of adrenal glands
Hypercalcemia = excessive calcium levels	Hyperinsulinism = excessive insulin levels
Hyperpituitarism = excessive pituitary hormone levels	Hyperthyroidism = excessive thyroid hormone levels
Hypoglycemia = low glucose	Hypothyroidism = low thyroid hormone levels
Insulinoma = insulin secreting tumor	Pancreatitis = inflammation of pancreas
Parathyroidectomy = removal of parathyroid glands	Polydipsia = excessive thirst
Polyphagia = excessive hunger	Polyuria = excessive urination
Thymectomy = removal of thymus	Thymitis = inflammation of thymus

Reproductive System

<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ante- Reproductive System	before, in front of
brachy-	short
dys-	painful, difficult
endo-	within, inside
epi-	above, upon
hydro-	water
multi-	many, much
post-	after
primi-	first

<u>Word Root/Combining Form</u>	<u>Definition</u>
amni/o	amnion (amniotic sac)
cervic/o	neck; cervix uteri (neck of uterus)
colp/o, vagin/o	vagina
galact/o, lact/o	milk
gynec/o	female
hyster/o, metri/o, uter/o	uterus
mamm/o, mast/o	breast
men/o	menses, menstruation
metr/o	uterus, measure
nat/o	birth
oopho/o, ovari/o	ovary
pareun/o	sexual intercourse
perine/o	perineum
salping/o	tube (fallopian)
vulv/o	vulva
andr/o	male
balan/o	glans penis
crypt/o	hidden
epididym/o	epididymis
genit/o	genitalia
gonad/o	gonads, sex glands
olig/o	scant
orch/o, orchi/o orchid/o, test/o	testis (plural testes)

prostat/o	prostate gland
spermat/o, sperm/o	spermatozoa, sperm cells
varic/o	dilated vein
vas/o	vessel; vas deferens
<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Definition</u>
-arche	beginning
-cele	swelling
-cide	killing
-genesis	forming, producing
-gravida	pregnant woman
-ism	condition
-oids	resembling
-para	to bear
-pause	stopping
-plasia	formation, growth
-rrhagia	bursting forth

Diagnostic, Imaging, and Pharmacology

<u>Word Root/Combining Form</u>	<u>Definition</u>
auscult/a	to listen
ophthalm/o	eye
ot/o	ear
tom/o	to cut
fluro/o	luminous, fluorescent
radi/o	radiation, x-ray
son/o, ech/o	sound
amin/o	amnion
arthr/o	joint

cardi/o	heart
mamm/o	breast
chol/o, bil/i	bile, gall
genit/o	genital
hyster/o	uterus
cyst/o	urinary bladder, cyst, sac of fluid
urethr/o	urethra
myel/o	spinal cord, bone marrow
angi/o	vessel (blood)
vertebr/o	vertebra
kyph/o	humpback
scint/i	spark
hepat/o	liver
therm/o	heat
<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Definition</u>
-centesis	surgical puncture to remove fluid
-gram	record
-graphy	process of recording
-plasty	surgical repair
-scope	Instrument for visual examination

Muscular System

Bi	twice, double, two
-cele	Hernia, tumor, swelling
Dys-	Bad, difficult, painful
Fasci/o	Facia, fibrous band
Fibro/o	Fibrous tissue, fiber
Kines/o, kinesi/o	Movement
Musculo/o	Muscle
My/o	Muscle
-plegia	Paralysis, stroke
-rrhexis	Rupture
tax/o	Coordination/order
Ten/o, tend/o, tendin/o	Tendon, stretch out, extend, strain
Ton/o	Tone, stretching, tension
Tri-	Three

Definitions

Abduction	Moving or drawing away from the axis of the body or limb
Adduction	Moving or drawing toward the axis of the body or limb
Adhesion	The abnormal union of adjacent tissues
Ataxia	Loss of coordination of the muscles
Atonic	Muscular weakness, lack of tone
Atrophy	Wasting away of the body (muscle)
Bradykinesia	Slowness of movement
Circumduction	Movement in a circular direction
Contracture	Shortening or distortion of muscular or connective tissue due to spasm, scar, or paralysis
Dorsiflexion	Flexion toward the back
Dyskinesia	Difficulty or abnormality in performing voluntary muscle movements
Dystonia	Abnormal tone of tissue
Epicondylitis	Irritation of the epicondyle, especially at the elbow
Fasciitis	Inflammation of the fascia
Hemiparesis	Partial paralysis affecting only one side of the body
Hemiplegia	Paralysis of one side of the body
Hyperkinesia	An abnormal amount of uncontrolled muscular action, spasm
Hypotonia	Reduced tension or pressure
Insertion	The distal attachment of a muscle
Myoclonus	An abrupt spasms or twitch of a muscle or group of muscles
Myolysis	The breakdown of muscular tissue
Myoparesis	Slight muscular paralysis
Myorrhaphy	Suture of a muscle
Origin	Muscle's proximal attachment
Paralysis	A loss or impairment of voluntary movement in a body part
Paraplegia	Paralysis of both lower limbs due to spinal disease or injury
Polymyositis	Inflammation of several voluntary muscles
Pronation	Rotation of the hand or forearm so that the surface of the palm is facing downward

Supination	Rotation of the hand or forearm so that the surface of the palm is facing upward
Quadriplegia	Paralysis of all four limbs or of the entire body below the neck
Tenodesis	Surgical anchoring of a tendon
Tenorrhaphy	Suture of a tendon
Tenosynovitis	Inflammation of a tendon sheath

Skeletal System:

Bone density testing = BDT	Partial knee replacement = PKR
Closed reduction = CR	Polymyalgia rheumatica = PMR
Fracture = Fx	Rheumatoid arthritis = RA
Osteoarthritis = OA	Total hip arthroplasty = THA
Osteoporosis = OP	Total knee arthroplasty = TKA
Below knee amputation = BKA	Above knee amputation = AKA
Ankyl/o = crooked, bent, stiff	Arthr/o = joint
Burs/o = bursa	Chondr/o, chondr/o = cartilage
Cost/o = rib	Crani/o = skull
-desis = to bind, tie together	Kyph/o = bent, hump
Lord/o = curve, swayback, bent	-lysis = loosening or setting free
Myel/o = spinal cord, bone marrow	Oss/e, oss/l, oste/o = bone
Scoli/o = curved, bent	Spondyl/o = vertebrae, vertebral column
Synovi/o, synov/o = synovial membrane/fluid	
Arthrodesis = immobilization of a joint by fusion of adjacent bones	Arthrolysis = surgical restoration of mobility of a joint
Arthroscopy = surgical procedure which involves examining the joint with a camera	Costochondritis = inflammation of cartilage of ribs
Craniostenosis = premature closing of cranial sutures causing malformation of skull	Hemarthrosis = condition of blood in the joint
Kyphosis = condition of humped spine	Laminectomy = surgical removal of lamina on the vertebrae
Lordosis = condition of swayback	Myeloma = malignant tumor of bone marrow
Orthotic = pertaining to bones	Osteitis = inflammation of bone
Osteoarthritis = inflammation of bone and joints	Osteochondroma = benign tumor of bone and cartilage
Osteomalacia = softening of bones	Osteomyelitis = inflammation of bone, usually infectious
Osteopenia = bone deficiency	Osteoporosis = conditions of porous bones

Periostitis = inflammation of the lining of the bones	Scoliosis = condition of lateral curvature of spine
Spondylolisthesis = slipping of vertebrae, usually anterior	Spondylosis = condition involving spine
Synovectomy = removal of synovial membrane	