

Medical Terminology



Introduction

Lec 2

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Medical/Dental Terminology Word Roots

Prefixes

Suffixes

aden	gland	hepat	liver
angio	blood vessel	hemo	blood
arterio	artery	hydro	water
arthro	joint	hystero	uterus
carcin	cancer	leuko	white
cardio	heart	lingua	tongue
cephal	head	mamm, mast	breast
cerebro	brain	myelo	bone marrow
chem	drug	myo	muscle
chole	gall, bile	nephro, ren	kidney
colo	colon	neuro	nerve
costo	ribs	ocul, ophthal	eye
cranio	skull	oophor	ovary
cyan	blue	odont, dent	tooth
cysto	bladder, sac	osteo	bone
cyte	cell	oto	ear
derma	skin	ped, pod	foot
entero	intestine	phleb	vein
epidemi	among the people	pneumo.pulm	lung
erythro	red	psych	mind, soul
g astro	stomach	rhin	nose
gingiva	gum	salpingo	tube
gloss	tongue	thorac	thorax, chest
glyco	sugar	trach	trachea

Prefixes

a, an	without
ab	away from
ad	toward
ante	before
anti	against
aut	self
bi	both, two
brady	slow
circum	round
contra	against
di	two
diplo	double
dys	painful, difficult
ecto	outside
endo, intra	inside
epi	upper, above
hemi	half
hyper	excessive,, above, more than
hypo	deficient, below, less than
inter	between
later	side
lipo	fat
mal	bad, difficult
mega/macro	large
micro	small
mono, uni	one, single
neo	new
ortho	straight
peri	around,
poly	many, much
post	behind, after
pre	before, in front of
pro	forward
pseudo	false
retro	backward, behind
semi	half
sub	below
tachy	fast
tele	distant, far
trans	across
ultra	beyond, excess

Suffixes

a, ac, al	pertaining to
algia	pain
ase	enzyme
centre	puncture
cide	causing death
cente	puncture
dipsia	thirst
ectomy	surgical removal
emesis	vomit
emia	blood
esthesia	sensation
genesis, genic origin, source	
gram, graph pictures, record	
ia	a disease
iasis	abnormal condition
ism	state of
itis	inflammation
lysis	destruction
malacia	softening
megaly	enlarged
oid	like, similar
ologist	specialist
ology	study of
oma	tumor
orrhagia	hemorrhage
orrhea	flow
osis	condition of
ostomy	surgical opening
pathy	disease
penia	deficiency
phobia	fear
plasty	surgical repair
plegia	stroke, paralysis
pnea	breathing
ptosis	drooping down
sclerosis	hardening
scope	picture, inspection
stasis	stoppage
toxic	poisonous
trophy	development, growth
uria	Urine

Prefixes- Numbers

uni-	1	unicorn: mythical creature with one horn
mono-	1	monorail: train that runs on one track
bi-	2	bicycle: two-wheeled vehicle
tri-	3	triceratops: three-horned dinosaur
quadr-	4	quadruped: four-footed animal
quint- 5		quintuplets: five babies born at a single birth
penta-	5	pentagon: figure with five sides
hex-	6	hexapod: having six legs, an insect, for example
sextus	6	sextet: group of six musicians
hept-	7	heptathlon: athletic contest with seven events
sept-	7	septuplets: seven babies at a single birth
octo-	8	octopus: sea creature with eight arms
novem-	9	novena: prayers said over nine days
deka- or deca-	10	decade: a period of 10 years
cent-	hundred	century: a period of 100 years
hecto-	hundred	hectogram: 100 grams
milli-	thousand	millennium: a period of 1,000 years
kilo-	thousand	kilogram: 1,000 grams
mega-	million	megaton: one million tons
giga-	billion	gigawatt: one billion watts

Prefixes-Colors

IMS Leuk/o	white
Erythr/o	red
Xanth/o	yellow
Melan/o	black or dark
Chlor/o	green
Cyan/o	blue
Purpur/a	Purple
Aureus	Golden
Polio	Gray

Prefixes of time or speed

Prefixes	Meaning
Tachy	abnormally fast
Brady	abnormally slow
Pre	before or in front of
Post	behind or after

Examples of Suffixes Indicating Condition

Suffix	Condition of Root Foundation
-ion	occlusion (bite)
-ism	bruxism (tooth grinding)
-itis	arthritis (joint inflammation)
-ity	acidity (acid)
-ium	bacterium (germ)
-olus	alveolus (air sac)

-oma	lipoma (fat tumor)
-myopathy	(muscle disease)
-ant	etchant (etching)
-cle	vesicle (small blister)
-ule	molecule (small bit of matter)
-ia	anesthesia (without feeling)
-tic	necrotic (dead tissue)
-tion	mastication (chewing)
-rry	slurry (plaster water mix)

Prefixes Denoting Conditions

Prefix	Meaning	Example
Ambi-	Both	Ambidextrous 
Aniso-	Unequal	Anisochromatic 
Dys-	Bad, difficult, or painful	Dysphoria 
Eu-	Good or normal	Euglycemia 
Hetero-	Different	Heterogenous
Homo-	Same	Homogeneous
Hyper-	Above or excessive	Hyperthyroidism
Hypo-	Below or deficient	Hypoacidic
Iso-	Equal or same	Isotonic
Mal-	Poor or bad	Malabsorption
Megalo-	Large	Megalocyte



Any question?

THANKS