



## ***Medical terminology Lecture 2***

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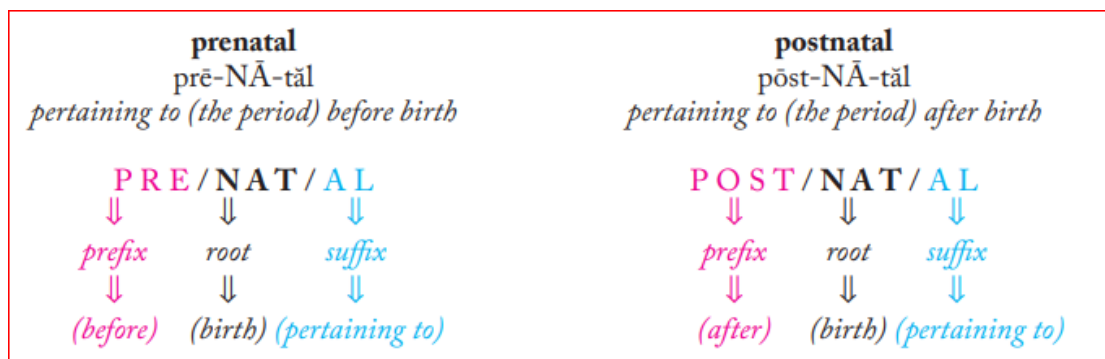
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# Medical terminology

## Prefixes

A prefix is a word element attached to the beginning of a word or word root. However, not all medical terms have a prefix. Adding or changing a prefix changes the meaning of the word. The prefix usually indicates *a number, time, position, direction, or negation*. Prefixes do not require adding a connecting vowel. Many prefixes in medical terms are the same as the prefixes used in the english language. Consider the following terms. (as in the example below.)



The prefixes *pre-* and *post-* indicate a *state of time*. Both prefixes are attached directly to the word root that follows. In the above examples, pre- and post- are attached to the root nat. In this text, whenever a prefix stands alone, it will be followed by a hyphen, as in pre- and post-. Whenever a suffix stands alone, it will be preceded by a hyphen.

## Common word roots

Head	
brain	enceph

ear	ot, aur
eardrum	tympan, myring
eye	ophthalm, ocul
face	faci
nose	rhin
skull	crani
tongue	lingu
tooth	odont, dent
<b>Heart and Circulatory System</b>	
aorta	aort
arteries	arteri
blood	hem, sangu
blood vessels	angi
heart	cardi
veins	ven, phleb
<b>Bones and Muscles</b>	
arm	brachi
dorsa	back
bone	oste
foot	pod, ped
muscle	myo
rib	cost
shoulder	carp
<b>Digestive scapul System</b>	
appendix	append
colon	col
esophagus	esophag
intestine (usually small)	enter
kidney	ren, neph
liver	hepat
stomach	gastr
<b>Other Common Roots</b>	
cancer	carci
drug	chem
electric	electr
heat	therm
pressure	bar

## Compound Words

A medical word may include multiple roots. This frequently occurs when referencing more than one body part or system. For example, *cardio-pulmo-nary* means pertaining to the heart and lungs; *gastro-entero-logy* means the study of the stomach and intestines.

## Combining Forms

A combining vowel is used when a root is followed by another word part that begins with a consonant. A combining vowel (usually the letter "o") is added after the root (e.g., *neur-o-logy*) to aid pronunciation. The root and vowel together (e.g., *neur-o*) are called the combining form. For simplicity, combining vowel options are omitted from the word part tables.

Underline the *word roots* in the following terms

<u>Medical Word</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
-nephritis	inflammation of the kidneys .
-arthrodesis	fixation of a joint .
-dermatitis	inflammation of the skin .
-arthrocentesis	surgical puncture of a joint .
-gastrectomy	excision of the stomach .

Underline the following elements that are *combining forms*

-nephr /o	kidney .
-hepat/o	liver .
-arthr /o	joint .
-oste/o	arthr bone, joint .
-choangi/o	bile vessel.

## Prefixes

A prefix modifies the meaning of the word root. It may indicate a *location, type, quality, body category, or quantity*. Prefixes are optional and do not appear in all medical terms.

## **:Common prefixes**

### **Size**

-macro--	mega(lo) large
-micro	small

### **Number**

-semi	Half
-hemi	half (one side)

### **Level**

-hyper	above normal
-hypo	below normal

## **Suffixes**

Medical terms always end with a suffix. The suffix usually indicates a *specialty, test, procedure, function, condition/disorder, or status*. For example, “itis” means inflammation and “ectomy” means removal.

Alternatively, the suffix may simply make the word a noun or adjective. For example, the endings -a, -e, -um, and -us are commonly used to create a singular noun (e.g., crani-um).

Although the suffix appears at the end of the term, it often comes first in the definition. For example, appendicitis means inflammation (-itis) of the appendix. Accordingly, it is sometimes helpful to read unfamiliar medical terms from right to left.

Occasionally, medical terms are composed of only a prefix and a suffix. For example, apnea includes the prefix a- (without) and suffix -pnea (breathing).

Common suffixes (letters in parentheses are not always present).

ectomy- removal of

graphy- recording instrument

otomy- cut in

scopy- visual examination

stomy- opening