



## ***Medical terminology Lecture      8***

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### The Prefixes-Cont. (i)

**Term: iatr-:** Prefix relating to a **physician or medicine**. From the Greek word "**iatros**" meaning **physician (healer)**. As in **iatrogenic**, generated by physicians, due to the activity of doctors.

### The Prefixes-Cont. (K)

**Term: kerato-:** Kerato- is a confusing since it can refer to the **cornea** (as in **keratitis** and **keratocornea**) or to "**horny**" tissue (as in **keratin** and **keratosis**).

### The Prefixes-Cont. (L)

**Term: leuko-:** meaning **white**. As in **leukocyte**, a white cell (in the blood). **leucemia**, a malignant disease of the white blood cells.

**Term: levo-:** meaning **on the left side**.

For example, a molecule that shows **levorotation** is turning or twisting to the left. The opposition of **levo-** is **dextro-** (meaning on the right side) so the opposite of **levorotation** is **dextrorotation**.

**Term: litho-:** Prefix meaning stone. A **lithotomy** is an operation to remove a stone. **Lithotripsy** involves crushing a stone. The stone may be in the gallbladder or in the urinary tract.

### **The Prefixes-Cont. (M)**

**Term: macro-:** meaning **large or long**. Terms with "macro-" include **macrocyte** (large cell), **macroglossia** (large tongue), **macroscopic** (visible with the naked eye), and **macrosomia** (big body). The opposite of "macro-" is "micro-."

**Term: mega-:** meaning **great or big** and means **abnormally large**. **Megalocephaly** is too large a head. **Megacardia** is too large a heart. **Megacolon** is too large a colon.

**Term: melan-:** meaning **dark or black**. Examples of terms containing **melan-** include **melanin** (dark pigment), **melanocytes** (cells that make melanin), and **melanoma** (a tumor arising in melanocytes).

**Term: micro-:** meaning **small**. Examples of terms involving micro- include **microcephaly** (small head), **microscope**, etc. The opposite of "micro-" is of "macro-."

### **The Prefixes-Cont. (N)**

**Term: neo-:** meaning **new, young, fresh, recent**. Examples of terms starting with "neo-" include **neonatal** and **neonate** (newborn), **neoplasia** and **neoplasm** (new growth = tumor), etc.

## The Prefixes-Cont. (O)

**Term: oligo-:** Meaning **just a few, scanty**.  
Appears in oligodactyly (few fingers), oligohydramnios (too little amniotic fluid) and oligospermia (too few sperm).

**Term: onycho-:** Having to do with the **nails**. Medical terms involving "onycho-" include onychodystrophy (abnormal growth and development of nails), onychomycosis (fungal infection of the nails), and onychoosteodysplasia (**malformation** of bones and nails).

**Term: osteo-:** meaning **bone**. Appears in osteoarthritis, osteogenesis (building of bone), osteomyelitis (inflammation of bone and marrow), osteopetrosis (stonelike bone), osteoporosis, osteosarcoma, etc.

**Term: oto-:** Combining form meaning **ear**.  
Appears for example in otitis (inflammation of the ear), otolaryngologist (an **ENT** doctor), otoscope (a device for looking in the ear), etc.

## The Prefixes-Cont. (P)

**Term: patho-:** meaning "**suffering or disease**."  
Patho- serves as a prefix for many terms including pathogen (disease agent), pathogenesis (development of disease), pathology (study of disease), etc. The corresponding suffix is **-pathy**.

**Term: phlebo-:** Means vein. From the Greek "phleps", **vein**, which came from the root "phlein", to **gush or overflow**. Appears in **phlebitis** (inflammation of the veins), **phlebotomist** (a person who draws blood from veins), and **phlebotomy** (a venipuncture).

**Term: pneumo-:** Combining form pertaining to **breathing, respiration, the lungs, pneumonia, or air**. "Pneumo-" is derived from the Greek "pneuma" meaning **wind, air, or breath**

**Term: poly-:** From the Greek "polys", **many**. The prefix "poly-" appears in many medical terms including **polyarteritis, polycystic, polyp**, etc. Poly is short for **polymorphonuclear leukocyte** (a type of white blood cell).

**Term: pro-:** A combining form (from both Greek and Latin) with many meanings including "**before, in front of, preceding, on behalf of, in place of, and the same as**." Used as a word, pro of course means professional and, in medicine, it is short for **prothrombin**.

### **The Prefixes-Cont. (Q)**

**Term: quasi-:** Prefix meaning **seemingly**. As, for example, in **quasidominant**, seemingly **dominant**.

### **The Prefixes-Cont. (T)**

**Term: toc-:** From the Greek word "**tokos**" meaning **childbirth**, we have **toc-, toco-, tok-, and toko-** as combining forms, all referring to **labor or childbirth**. **A tocolytic** agent inhibits the uterine contractions.

**Term: trans-:** From the Latin meaning "**across, over, or beyond**." Medical terms containing "trans- " are many: **transfusion, transplant, transurethral, transvaginal**, etc.

