



Foundations of Medicine

Medical Terminology

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Introduction

- **Medical terminology** is the language used by healthcare professionals to describe the human body, medical conditions, procedures, and treatments.
- It is essential for clear and accurate **communication**.

Why is Medical Terminology **Important**?

- 1. **Facilitates** precise communication among healthcare professionals.
- 2. **Reduces** the risk of errors in diagnosis and treatment.
- 3. **Helps** in documenting medical records efficiently.
- 4. **Enhances** understanding of complex medical concepts.

Components of Medical Terms

- 1. **Prefix**: Indicates location, time, or number (e.g., **pre-** means 'before').
- 2. **Root**: The central meaning (e.g., **cardio** relates to the heart).
- 3. **Suffix**: Indicates procedure, condition, or disease (e.g., **-itis** means 'inflammation').
- 4. **Combining vowel**: Often 'o', used to link root words.

Examples of Medical Terms

- 1. *Cardiology*: Study of the **heart**.
- 2. *Gastritis*: Inflammation of the **stomach**.
- 3. *Rhinoplasty*: Surgical repair of the **nose**.
- 4. *Hyperglycemia*: High blood **sugar** levels.

Common Prefixes

- 1. ***Hyper-***: Excessive or high (e.g., hypertension).
- 2. ***Hypo-***: Below or low (e.g., hypothermia).
- 3. ***Brady-***: Slow (e.g., bradycardia).
- 4. ***Tachy-***: Fast (e.g., tachycardia).

Common Suffixes

- 1. ***-itis***: Inflammation (e.g., arthritis).
- 2. ***-ectomy***: Surgical removal (e.g., gastrectomy).
- 3. ***-logy***: Study of (e.g., biology).
- 4. ***-algia***: Pain (e.g., neuralgia).

Applications in Healthcare

- 1. **Diagnosis**: Describing symptoms and conditions accurately.
- 2. **Documentation**: Recording patient information.
- 3. **Communication**: Ensuring clarity among healthcare teams.
- 4. **Education**: Teaching and learning medical concepts.

Tips for Learning

- 1. Break down terms into their components (prefix, root, suffix).
- 2. Use flashcards for memorization.
- 3. Practice with real-life scenarios.
- 4. Use medical dictionaries and online resources.