



# Foundations of Medicine

## Medical Terminology

د. أحمد تركي هاني  
طبيب دكتوراه علم الأمراض  
MBChB. MSc. PhD. Pathology

# 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.