

Quick Study ACADEMIC

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY THE BASICS

FOUNDATION OF MEDICAL WORDS

A. Structure

Most medical words are composed of two or more terms. To define a medical word:

- divide the word into its terms
- analyze the terms
- define the word

Examples:

Pericarditis

peri = around; *card* = heart; *itis* = inflammation
Inflammation around the heart

Oncology

onc = tumor; *mas*; *logy* = study of
Study of tumors

B. Terms

Term + Term (____ + ____) = medical word

There are five categories of terms:

1. **Prefix** - beginning of a word
(*rec*, *pre*, ____ , *post*)

Designated by a "____" after the term.

2. **Suffix** - ending of a word
(*rec*, ____ , *stomy*, ____ , *itis*)

Designated by a "____" before the term.

3. **Root** - foundation/base of a word
(*rec*, ____ , *Apex*; *gastro*)

4. **Combining vowel** - vowel (usually "o") added to a root (*rec*, ____ , *gastro*).

Use a combining vowel when joining:

- a. Root to another root (*rec*, ____ , *gastrodermatitis*)
- b. Root to a suffix, beginning with a consonant (*rec*, ____ , *cardiomyopathy*)

5. **Combining form** - root + vowel
(*rec*, ____ , *Apex*; *gastro*)

Designated by a "____" between the root and the vowel

Examples:

Hypertrocytosis

hyper (prefix) = excessive

trocyte (combining form) = white

cyt (root) = cell

osis (suffix) = condition of

Definition: condition of excessive white blood cells (leukocytosis)

Hematoxic

hema (combining form) = blood

tox (root) = poison

ic (suffix) = pertaining to

Definition: pertaining to blood poisoning

TIPS:

1. Some terms have more than one definition. To determine the correct definition in a particular medical word, analyze the other terms in the word.

Example: Polymyositis

poli = gray (matter)

myo = spinal cord, bone marrow

itis = inflammation

Definition: Inflammation of the gray matter of the spinal cord. The bone marrow does not have gray matter.

2. Some terms may function as a root/combining form in one word and a suffix in another word. Classification depends upon the specific medical word.

Examples: Cytology

cyt (combining form) = cell

logy (suffix) = study of

Definition: Study of cells

Erythrocyte

erythro (combining form) = red

cyte (suffix) = cell

Definition: Red blood cell

THE HUMAN BODY

A. Development

Cells - tissues - organs - systems - organism

1. **Cells**: Major Components

- a. Cell membrane
- b. Cytoplasm
- c. Nucleus

2. **Tissues**: Primary Types

- a. Connective
- b. Epithelium
- c. Muscle
- d. Nervous

3. **Organs**

- a. Composed of two or more different tissues
- b. Have specific functions

4. **Systems**: Related organs with common functions

5. **Organism**: A living person

B. Cavities

A space containing organs

1. **Dorsal**

- a. Cranial
- b. Vertebral (spinal)

2. **Ventral**

- a. Abdominal
- b. Pelvic
- c. Thoracic

C. Planes

An imaginary flat surface

1. **Frontal** - anterior/posterior
2. **Sagittal** - right/left
3. **Transverse** - upper/lower

D. Positions

A reference point for location or direction.

1. **Anterior/Ventral** - front of the body

Posterior/Dorsal - back of the body

2. **Deep** - away from the surface

Superficial - on the surface

3. **Inferior** - situated below

Superior - situated above

4. **Lateral** - pertaining to the side

Medial - pertaining to the middle

5. **Prone** - lying face down

Supine - lying face up

TERMS	DEFINITIONS	WORDS
acid/o	acid, sour, bitter	acidity
acu-	needle	acupuncture
acra/o, acut/o	sharp, severe	achocaut
adip/o	fat	adipomycrosis
aer/o	air, gas	aerophagy
agit/o	rapidity, restlessness	agitation
algia	pain	cephalgia
ambulo/o	to walk	ambulatory
anomal/o	irregular	anomaly
anthrac/o	coal, carbon, carbuncle	anthracosis
anthrop/o	man, human being	anthropometry
astr/o	astrum	astronomy
aphth/o	ulcer	aphthous
apic/o	apex	apical
aqu/o	water	aquous
atmo-	steam, vapor	atmosphere
axio	axis	axial
bar/o	weight, pressure	barometer
bary-	heavy, dull, hard	baryphonia
-basia	walking	brachibasia
bath/o, batho-	deep, depth	bathymetry
bio-, biva	life, living	biogenesis
blast/o, -blast	early embryonic stage, immature	blastocyte

-calculus	to compute	calculi
calent	heat	calent
caput/o	head	capitulum
capsula/o, caps/o	capsule, container	capsulitis
carcin/o	cancer	carcinoma
cario	caries, rottenness	cariology
-cataphasia	affirmation	cataphasia
cathar/o, cathart/o	cleansing, purging	catharsis
-cathisia	setting	acathisia
-kathisia		
caud/o	tail	caudal
cavit/o, cav/o	hollow, cavity	cavitation
chem/o	chemical, chemistry	chemosurgery
chron/o	time, timing	chronobiology
clin/o	to slope, bend	clinoccephaly
-coler/o	sleeping	coleroids
-coma	deep sleep	comatose
consci/o	awareness, aware	unconscious
constrict/o	narrowing, binding	unconstriction
constric/o	to bruise	constriction
corpore/o	body	corporeal
crisis/o	crisis, dangerous	critical
cry/o	cold	cryotherapy
cyt/o, -cyte	cell	cytoid
dem/o	people	epidemic
deduc/o	to dry	electrodendrocytosis
disten/o	enlarge, expand	modulation
duch/o	long	duchobial
dolor/o	pain	dolorogenic
dors/o	back	dorsocentral
duct/o	to lead	conduction
dynam/o	power, strength	dynamometer
-dynia	pain	gastrodynia
dys-	bad, difficult, painful	dysphasia
echin/o	spine, prickly	echinocyte
ectrio	congenital absence	ectropia
ecl/o	oil	elcoma
emmetrio	the correct measure, proportioned	emmetropia
enantio	opposite, opposed	enantiodontia
equi-	equality, equal	equilibrium
erythema/o	irritation	erythema
etio	cause	etiology
eu-	good, normal, well	euthanasia
-facient	to cause, make happen	facient
febril	fever	febrile
fili, fil/o	thread, threadlike	filamentous
filament/o		
-form	specified shape, form	aniform
frig/o, frigid/o	cold	frigorous
funct/o	performance	dysfunctional
gel/o	to freeze, congeal	gelous
genet/o	twins	genobiology
-gen, gen/o	producing, generating	pathogen
-genia	production, formation	gonorrhea
-genic	produced by, forming	carcinogenic
ger/o, geront/o	aged, old age	geriatrics
-grade	step	contingent
hap/o	simple, single	haploid
heredo-	heredity	heredoinnecuity
-hesia	condition	cachexia
hist/o	tissue	histoclastic
homoeo-	likeness, constant, sameness	homeodynamics
hydr/o	water, hydrogen	hydrolysis
latic	treatment, physician	latrogenic
-lican	specialist	clinician

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S Marginson



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