

In the Name of ALLAH the Gracious the Merciful

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

List of medical roots, suffixes and prefixes

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List of medical roots, suffixes and prefixes

This is a **list of roots, suffixes, and prefixes** used in medical terminology and their meanings. Most of them are combining forms in New Latin and hence international scientific vocabulary. There are a few general rules about how they combine. **First**, prefixes and suffixes, most of which are derived from ancient Greek or classical Latin, have a droppable *-o-*. As a general rule, this *-o-* almost always acts as a joint-stem to connect two consonantal roots, e.g. *arthr-* + *-o-* + *logy* = *arthrology*. But generally, the *-o-* is dropped when connecting to a vowel-stem; e.g. *arthr-* + *itis* = *arthritis*, instead of *arthr-o-itis*. **Second**, medical roots generally go together according to language, i.e., Greek prefixes occur with Greek suffixes and Latin prefixes with Latin suffixes. I used internet as a reference for this manual as a first edition for all students, In Sha ALLAH later on I will try to use more references in other editions to be more accurate and more valid.

Please Don't Forget Dua'a for Me

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1. Prefixes and suffixes

The following is an alphabetical list of medical prefixes and suffixes, along with their meanings, and English examples.

A

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
a-, an-	not, without	Analgesic, apathy
ab-	from; away from	Abduction
abdomin(o)-	Of or relating to the abdomen	Abdomen
-ac, -acal	pertaining to	cardiac, hydrophobic
acanth(o)-	thorn or spine	acanthion, acanthocyte, acanthoma, acanthulus
acous(io)-	Of or relating to hearing	acoumeter, acoustician
acr(o)-	extremity, topmost	Acrocary, acromegaly, acroosteolysis, acroposthia
-acusis	hearing	paracusis
-ad	toward, in the direction of	dorsad
ad-	at, increase, on, toward	Adduction
aden(o)-, aden(i)-	Of or relating to a gland	Adenocarcinoma, adenology, adenotome, adenotyphus
adip(o)-	Of or relating to fat or fatty tissue	Adipocyte
adren(o)-	Of or relating to adrenal glands	adrenal artery
-aemia (BrE)	blood condition	Anaemia
aer(o)-	air, gas	Aerosinusitis
aesthesio-(BrE)	sensation	Anesthesia
-al	pertaining to	abdominal, femoral
alb-	Denoting a white or pale color	Albino
alge(si)-	pain	Analgesic
-algia, alg(i)o-	pain	Myalgia
all(o)-	Denoting something as different, or as an addition	Alloantigen, allopathy

ambi-	Denoting something as positioned on both sides; describing both of two	Ambidextrous
amni-	Pertaining to the membranous fetal sac (amnion)	Amniocentesis
amph(i)-,	on both sides	Amphicrania, amphismela, amphomycin
an-	not, without	Analgesia
ana-	back, again, up	Anaplasia
an-	anus	anal
andr(o)-	pertaining to a man	Android, andrology, androgen
angi(o)-	blood vessel	Angiogram
aniso-	Describing something as unequal	Anisocytosis, anisotropic
ankyl(o)-, ancylo-	Denoting something as crooked or bent	Ankylosis
ante-	Describing something as positioned in front of another thing	antepartum
anti-	Describing something as 'against' or 'opposed to' another	Antibody, antipsychotic
apo-	away, separated from, derived from	Apoptosis
arch-	first, primitive	archinephron
arsen(o)-	Of or pertaining to a male; masculine	arsenoblast
arteri(o)-	Of or pertaining to an artery	Arteriole, artery
arthr(o)-	Of or pertaining to the joints, limbs	Arthritis
articul(o)-	joint	Articulation
-ary	pertaining to	biliary tract
-ase	enzyme	Lactase
-asthenia	weakness	Myasthenia gravis
atel(o)-	imperfect or incomplete development	atelocardia
ather(o)-	fatty deposit, soft gruel-like deposit	Atherosclerosis
-ation	process	medication
atri(o)-	an atrium (esp. heart atrium)	atrioventricular

aur(i)-	Of or pertaining to the ear	Aural
aut(o)-	self	Autoimmune
aux(o)-	increase; growth	Auxocardia :enlargement of the heart, Auxology
axill-	Of or pertaining to the armpit (uncommon as a prefix)	Axilla
azo(to)-	nitrogenous compound	azothermia : raised temperature due to nitrogenous substances in blood

B

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
bacteri(o)-	Pertaining to bacteria	Bacteriophage, Bactericide
balano-	Of the glans penis or glans clitoridis	Balanitis
bas(o)-	Of or pertaining to base	Basolateral
bi-	twice, double	Binary
bio-	life	Biology
blast(o)-	germ or bud	Blastomere
blephar(o)-	Of or pertaining to the eyelid	Blepharoplast
brachi(o)-	Of or relating to the arm	Brachium of inferior colliculus
brachy-	Indicating 'short' or less commonly 'little'	brachycephalic
brady-	'slow'	Bradycardia
bronch(i)-	of or relating to the bronchus	Bronchitis, bronchiolitis obliterans
bucc(o)-	Of or pertaining to the cheek	Buccolabial
burs(o)-	bursa (fluid sac between the bones)	Bursa, bursitis

C

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
capill-	Of or pertaining to hair	Capillus
capit-	Pertaining to the head (as a whole)	Capitation
carcin(o)-	cancer	Carcinoma
cardi(o)-	Of or pertaining to the heart	Cardiology
carp(o)-	Of or pertaining to the wrist	Carpopedal
cata-	down, under	Cataract, catabolism
-cele	pouching, hernia	Hydrocele, Varicocele
-centesis	surgical puncture for aspiration	Amniocentesis
cephal(o)-	Of or pertaining to the head (as a whole)	Cephalalgia, hydrocephalus
cerat(o)-	Of or pertaining to the cornu; a horn	Ceratoid
cerebell(o)-	Of or pertaining to the cerebellum	Cerebellum
cerebr(o)-	Of or pertaining to the brain	Cerebrology
cervic-	Of or pertaining to the neck, the cervix	Cervicodorsal
chem(o)-	chemistry, drug	Chemotherapy
chir(o)-, cheir(o)-	Of or pertaining to the hand	Chiropractor
chlor(o)-	Denoting a green color	Chlorophyll
chol(e)-	Of or pertaining to bile	Cholaemia (UK)/Cholemia (US), Cholecystitis
cholecyst(o)-	Of or pertaining to the gallbladder	Cholecystectomy
chondr(i)o-	cartilage, gristle, granule, granular	Chondrocalcinosis
chrom(ato)-	color	Hemochromatosis
-cidal, -cide	killing, destroying	bacteriocidal
cili-	Of or pertaining to the cilia, the eyelashes; eyelids	Ciliary
circum-	Denoting something as 'around' another	circumcision

cis-	on this side	cisgender
clast	break	osteoclast
clostr-	spindle	<i>Clostridium difficile</i>
co-	with, together, in association	coenzymes
col-, colo-, colono-	colon	Colonoscopy
colp(o)-	Of or pertaining to the vagina	Colposcopy
com-	with, together	
contra	against	Contraindicate
cor-	with, together	corrective
cor-, core-, coro-	Of or pertaining to eye's pupil	Corectomy
cordi-	Of or pertaining to the heart (<i>uncommon as a prefix</i>)	Commotio cordis
cornu-	Applied to processes and parts of the body describing them likened or similar to horns	Greater cornu
coron(o)-	pertaining to heart	coronary heart disease
cost-	Of or pertaining to the ribs	Costochondral
cox-	Of or relating to the hip, haunch, or hip-joint	Coxopodite
crani(o)-	Belonging or relating to the cranium	Craniology
-crine, crin(o)	to secrete	Endocrine
cry(o)-	cold	Cryoablation
cutane-	skin	Subcutaneous
cyan(o)-	Denotes a blue color	Cyanopsia
cycl-	circle, cycle	
cyph(o)-	Denotes something as bent (<i>uncommon as a prefix</i>)	Cyphosis
cyst(o)-, cyst(i)-	Of or pertaining to the urinary bladder	Cystotomy
cyt(o)-, -cyte	cell	Cytokine, leukocyte

D

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
dacry(o)-	Of or pertaining to tears	Dacryoadenitis, dacryocystitis
-dactyl(o)-	Of or pertaining to a finger, toe	dactylology, polydactyly
de-	from, down, or not	dehydrate
dent-	Of or pertaining to teeth	Dentist
dermat(o)-, derm(o)-	Of or pertaining to the skin	Dermatology, epidermis, hypodermic, xeroderma
-desis	binding	arthrodesis
dextr(o)-	right, on the right side	Dextrocardia
di-	two	Diplopia
di-	apart, separation	dilation, distal
dia-	through, during, across	dialysis
dif-	apart, separation	different
digit-	Of or pertaining to the finger <i>[rare as a root]</i>	Digit
diplo-	twofold	diploid, diplosis
-dipsia	suffix meaning "(condition of) thirst"	dipsomania, hydroadipsia, oligodipsia, polydipsia
dis-	separation, taking apart	Dissection
dors(o)-, dors(i)-	Of or pertaining to the back	dorsal, dorsocephalad
dromo-	running, conduction, course	Dromotropic, syndrome
duodeno-	duodenum, twelve: upper part of the small intestine (twelve inches long on average), connects to the stomach	Duodenal atresia
dynam(o)-	force, energy, power	Hand strength dynamometer
-dynia	pain	Vulvodynia
dys-	bad, difficult, defective, abnormal	dysentery, dysphagia, dysphasia

E

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
-eal	pertaining to	adenohypophyseal, corneal, esophageal, perineal
ec-	out, away	Ectopia, ectopic pregnancy
ect(o)-	outer, outside	Ectoblast, ectoderm
-ectasia, -ectasis	expansion, dilation	Bronchiectasis, telangiectasia
-ectomy	Denotes a surgical operation or removal of a body part. Resection, excision	Mastectomy
-emesis	vomiting condition	Hematemesis
-emia	blood condition (Am Engl)	Anemia
encephal(o)-	Of or pertaining to the brain. Also see Cerebro.	Encephalogram
endo-	Denotes something as 'inside' or 'within'	Endocrinology, endospore
eosin(o)-	Red	Eosinophil granulocyte
enter(o)-	Of or pertaining to the intestine	Gastroenterology
epi-	on, upon	Epicardium, epidermis, epidural, episclera, epistaxis
episi(o)-	Of or pertaining to the pubic region, the loins	Episiotomy
erythr(o)-	Denotes a red color	Erythrocyte
-esophageal, -esophago-	gullet (AmE)	Esophagus
esthesio-	sensation (AmE)	Esthesia
eu-	true, good, well, new	Eukaryote
ex-	out of, away from	Excision
exo-	Denotes something as 'outside' another	Exophthalmos, exoskeleton
extra-	outside	Extradural hematoma

F

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
faci(o)-	Of or pertaining to the face	Facioplegic
fibr-	fiber	fibril, fibrin, fibrinous pericarditis, fibroblast
filli-	fine, hair-like	
-form	Used to form adjectives indicating 'having the form of'	cruciform, cuneiform, falciform
fore-	before or ahead	foregut
fossa	A hollow or depressed area; trench or channel	fossa ovalis
front-	Of or pertaining to the forehead	frontonasal

G

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
galact(o)-	milk	Galactorrhea
gastr(o)-	Of or pertaining to the stomach	Gastric bypass
-gen	(1) Denotes the sense 'born in, from' (2) Denotes the sense 'of a certain kind'	(1) Endogen; (2) Heterogenous
-genic	Formative, pertaining to producing	Cardiogenic shock
genu-	Of or pertaining to the knee	Genu valgum
-geusia	Taste	Ageusia, dysgeusia, hypergeusia, hypogeusia, parageusia
gingiv-	Of or pertaining to the gums	Gingivitis
glauc(o)-	Denoting a grey or bluish-grey colour	Glaucoma
gloss(o)-, glott(o)-	Of or pertaining to the tongue	Glossology
gluco-	sweet	Glucocorticoid
glyc(o)-	sugar	Glycolysis

gnath(o)-	Of or pertaining to the jaw	Gnathodynamometer
-gnosis	knowledge	diagnosis, prognosis
gon(o)-	seed, semen; also, reproductive	Gonorrhea
-gram, -gramme	record or picture	Angiogram
-graph	instrument used to record data or picture	Electrocardiograph
-graphy	process of recording	Angiography
gyno-, gynaeco- gyneco-	woman	Gynecomastia

H

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
halluc-	to wander in mind	Hallucinoses
hemat-, haemato- (haem-, hem-)	Of or pertaining to blood	Hematology, older form Haematology
hema- or hemo-	blood (AmE)	Hemal, Hemoglobin
hemangi or hemangio-	blood vessels	Hemangioma
hemi-	one-half	Cerebral hemisphere
hepat- (hepatic-)	Of or pertaining to the liver	Hepatology
heter(o)-	Denotes something as 'the other' (of two), as an addition, or different	Heterogeneous
hidr(o)-	sweat	Hyperhidrosis
hist(o)-, histio-	tissue	Histology
home(o)-	similar	Homeopathy
hom(o)-	Denotes something as 'the same' as another or common	Homosexuality
humer(o)-	Of or pertaining to the shoulder (or [rarely] the upper arm)	Humerus
hydr(o)-	water	Hydrophobe

hyper-	Denotes something as 'extreme' or 'beyond normal'	Hypertension
hyp(o)-	Denotes something as 'below normal'	Hypovolemia,
hyster(o)-	Of or pertaining to the womb, the uterus	Hysterectomy, Hysteria

I

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
-i-asis	condition, formation, or presence of	Mydriasis
iatr(o)-	Of or pertaining to medicine, or a physician [<i>uncommon as a prefix; common as a suffix, see -iatry</i>]	Iatrochemistry
-iatry	Denotes a field in medicine of a certain body component	Podiatry, Psychiatry
-ic	pertaining to	Hepatic artery
-icle	small	Ovarian follicle
-ics	organized knowledge, treatment	Obstetrics
idio-	self, one's own	Idiopathic
ileo-	ileum	Ileocecal valve
infra-	below	Infrahyoid muscles
inter-	between, among	Interarticular ligament
intra-	within	intramural
ipsi-	same	Ipsilateral
irid(o)-	iris	Iridectomy
isch-	restriction	Ischemia
ischio-	Of or pertaining to the ischium, the hip-joint	Ischioanal fossa
-ism	condition, disease	Dwarfism
-ismus	spasm, contraction	Hemiballismus
iso-	Denoting something as being 'equal'	Isotonic
-ist	one who specializes in	Pathologist

-ite	the nature of, resembling	Hermaphrodite
-itis	inflammation	Tonsillitis
-ium	structure, tissue	pericardium

J

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
juxta (iuxta)	Near to, alongside or next to	Juxtaglomerular apparatus

K

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
kal-	potassium	Hyperkalemia
karyo-	nucleus	Eukaryote
kerat(o)-	cornea (eye or skin)	Keratoscope
kin(e)-, kin(o), kinesi(o)-	movement	Kinesthesia
koil(o)-	hollow	Koilocyte
kyph(o)-	humped	Kyphoscoliosis

L

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
labi(o)-	Of or pertaining to the lip	Labiodental
lacrim(o)-	tear	Lacrimonal canaliculi
lact(i)-, lact(o)	milk	Lactation
lapar(o)-	Of or pertaining to the abdomen-wall, flank	Laparotomy
laryng(o)-	Of or pertaining to the larynx, the lower throat cavity where the voice box is	Larynx
latero-	lateral	Lateral pectoral nerve

lei(o)-	smooth	Leiomyoma
-lepsis, -lepsy	attack, seizure	Epilepsy, narcolepsy
lept(o)-	light, slender	Leptomeningeal
leuc(o)-, leuk(o)-	Denoting a white color	Leukocyte
lingu(a)-, lingu(o)-	Of or pertaining to the tongue	Linguistics
lip(o)-	fat	Liposuction
lith(o)-	stone, calculus	Lithotripsy
log(o)-	speech	
-logist	Denotes someone who studies a certain field: _____-logy; a specialist; one who treats	Oncologist, pathologist
-logy	Denotes the academic study or practice of a certain field; The study of	hematology, urology
lymph(o)-	lymph	Lymphedema
lys(o)-, -lytic	dissolution	Lysosome
-lysis	Destruction, separation	Paralysis

M

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
macr(o)-	large, long	Macrophage
-malacia	softening	Osteomalacia
mamm(o)-	Of or pertaining to the breast	Mammogram
mammill(o)-	Of or pertaining to the nipple	mammillaplasty, mammillitis
manu-	Of or pertaining to the hand	Manufacture
mast(o)-	Of or pertaining to the breast	Mastectomy
meg(a)-, megal(o)-, -megaly	enlargement, million	Splenomegaly, megameter

melan(o)-	black color	Melanin
melos	extremity	erythromelalgia
mening(o)-	membrane	Meningitis
men(o)-	month, menstrual cycle	menopause,menorrhagia,
mero-	part	merocrine, meroblastic
mes(o)-	middle	Mesoderm
meta-	after, beyond or change	Metacarpus
-meter	instrument used to measure or count	Sphygmomanometer
-metry	process of measuring	Optometry
metr(o)-	Pertaining to conditions or instruments of the uterus	Metrorrhagia
micro-	denoting something as small, or relating to smallness, millionth	Microscope
milli-	thousandth	milliliter
mon(o)-	single	Infectious mononucleosis
morph(o)-	form, shape	Morphology
muscul(o)-	muscle	Musculoskeletal system
my(o)-	Of or relating to muscle	Myoblast
myc(o)-	fungus	Onychomycosis
myel(o)-	Of or relating to bone marrow or spinal cord	Myeloblast
myl(o)-	Of or relating to molar teeth or lower jaw	Mylohyoid nerve
myri-	ten thousand	myriad
myring(o)-	eardrum	Myringotomy
myx(o)-	mucus	Myxoma

N

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
narc(o)-	numb, sleep	narcolepsy
nas(o)-	Of or pertaining to the nose	nasal
necr(o)-	death	Necrosis, necrotizing fasciitis
neo-	new	Neoplasm
nephr(o)-	Of or pertaining to the kidney	Nephrology
nerv-	Of or pertaining to nerves and the nervous system [<i>Uncommon as a root: neuro- mostly always used</i>]	Nerve, nervous system
neur(i)-, neur(o)-	Of or pertaining to nerves and the nervous system	Neurofibromatosis
normo-	normal	Normocapnia

O

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
ocul(o)-	Of or pertaining to the eye	Oculist
odont(o)-	Of or pertaining to teeth	orthodontist
odyn(o)-	pain	stomatodynia
-oesophageal, oesophago-	gullet	oesophagus
-oid	resemblance to	Sarcoidosis
ole	small or little	
olig(o)-	Denoting something as 'having little, having few'	Oligotrophy
om(o)-	shoulder	Omoplate
-oma(singular), -omata (plural)	tumor, mass, fluid collection	Sarcoma, teratoma
omphal(o)-	Of or pertaining to the navel, the umbilicus	Omphalotomy

onco-	tumor, bulk, volume	Oncology
-one		hormone
onych(o)-	Of or pertaining to the nail (of a finger or toe)	Onychophagy
oo-	Of or pertaining to the an (egg), a woman's egg, the ovum	Oogenesis
oophor(o)-	Of or pertaining to the woman's (ovary)	Oophorectomy
ophthalm(o)-	Of or pertaining to the (eye)	Ophthalmology
optic(o)-	Of or relating to chemical properties of the eye	Opticochemical, biopsy
or(o)-	Of or pertaining to the mouth	Oral
-or	one who	
orchi(o)-, orchid(o)-, orch(o)-	testis	Orchiectomy, orchidectomy
orth(o)-	Denoting something as straight or correct	Orthodontist
-osis	a condition, disease or increase	Harlequin type ichthyosis, psychosis, osteoporosis
osse-	bony	Osseous
ossi-	bone	Peripheral ossifying fibroma
ost(e)-, oste(o)-	bone	Osteoporosis
ot(o)-	Of or pertaining to the ear	Otology
-ous	pertaining to	
ovari(o)-	Of or pertaining to the ovaries	Ovariectomy
ovo-, ovi-, ov-	Of or pertaining to the eggs, the ovum	Ovogenesis
oxo-	addition of oxygen	
oxy-	sharp, acid, acute, oxygen	

P

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
pachy-	thick	pachyderma
palpebr-	Of or pertaining to the eyelid [<i>uncommon as a root</i>]	Palpebra
pan-, pant(o)-	Denoting something as 'complete' or containing 'everything'	panophobia, panopticon
papill-	Of or pertaining to the nipple (of the chest/breast)	papillitis
papul(o)-	Indicates papulosity, a small elevation or swelling in the skin, a pimple, swelling	Papulation
para-	alongside of, abnormal	paracyesis
-paresis	slight paralysis	hemiparesis
parvo-	small	Parvovirus
path(o)-	disease	Pathology
-pathy	Denotes (with a negative sense) a disease, or disorder	sociopathy, neuropathy
pauci-	Few	Pauci-immune
pector-	breast	pectoralgia, pectoriloquy, pectorophony
ped-, -ped-, -pes	Of or pertaining to the foot; -footed	Pedoscope
ped-, pedo-	Of or pertaining to the child	pediatrics, pedophilia
pelv(i)-, pelv(o)-	hip bone	Pelvis
-penia	deficiency	osteopenia
peo-	Of or pertaining to the penis	Peotomy
-pepsia	Denotes something relating to digestion, or the digestive tract.	Dyspepsia
per-	through	
peri-	Denoting something with a position 'surrounding' or 'around' another	Periodontal
-pexy	fixation	Nephropexy

phaco-	lens-shaped	phacolysis, phacometer, phacoscotoma
-phage, -phagia	Forms terms denoting conditions relating to eating or ingestion	Sarcophagia
-phago-	eating, devouring	phagocyte
phagist-	Forms nouns that denote a person who 'feeds on' the first element or part of the word	Lotophagi
-phagy	Forms nouns that denotes 'feeding on' the first element or part of the word	hematophagy
phallo-	phallus	Aphallia
pharmaco-	drug, medication	pharmacology
pharyng(o)-	Of or pertaining to the pharynx, the upper throat cavity	Pharyngitis, Pharyngoscopy
-phil(ia)	attraction for	Hemophilia
phleb(o)-	Of or pertaining to the (blood) veins, a vein	Phlebography, Phlebotomy
-phobia	exaggerated fear, sensitivity	arachnophobia
phon(o)-	sound	phonograph, symphony
phos-	Of or pertaining to light or its chemical properties, now historic and used rarely. See the common root phot(o)- below.	Phosphene
phot(o)-	Of or pertaining to light	Photopathy
phren(i)-, phren(o)-, phrenico	the mind	Phrenic nerve, schizophrenia, diaphragm
phyt-	to grow	hydrophyte
piri-	Pear	Piriformis muscle
-plasia	formation, development	Achondroplasia
-plasty	surgical repair, reconstruction	rhinoplasty
-plegia	paralysis	paraplegia
pleio-	more, excessive, multiple	pleiomorphism

pleur(o)-, pleur(a)	Of or pertaining to the ribs	Pleurogenous
-plexy	stroke or seizure	Cataplexy
pneum(o)-	Of or pertaining to the lungs	Pneumonocyte, Pneumonia
pneumat(o)-	air, lung	
pod-, -pod-, -pus	Of or pertaining to the foot, -footed	Podiatry
-poiesis	production	hematopoiesis
polio-	Denoting a grey color	Poliomyelitis
poly-	Denotes a 'plurality' of something	Polymyositis
por(o)-	pore, porous	
porphyr(o)-	Denotes a purple color	Porphyroblast
post-	Denotes something as 'after' or 'behind' another	Postoperation, Postmortem
pre-	Denotes something as 'before' another (in [physical] position or time)	Premature birth
presby(o)-	old age	Presbyopia, presbycusis
prim-	Denotes something as 'first' or 'most-important'	Primary
pro-	Denotes something as 'before' another (in [physical] position or time)	Procephalic
proct(o)-	anus, rectum	proctology
prosop(o)-	face	Prosopagnosia
prot(o)-	Denotes something as 'first' or 'most important'	Protoneuron
pseud(o)-	Denotes something false or fake	Pseudoephedrine
psych(e)-, psych(o)	Of or pertaining to the mind	Psychology, psychiatry
pterygo-	Pertaining to a wing	Lateral pterygoid plate
psor-	Itching	Psoriasis

-ptosis	falling, drooping, downward placement, prolapse	Apoptosis, nephroptosis
-ptysis	(a spitting), spitting, hemoptysis, the spitting of blood derived from the lungs or bronchial tubes	hemoptysis
pulmon-, pulmo-	Of or relating to the lungs.	pulmonary
pyel(o)-	pelvis	Pyelonephritis
pykno-	to thicken (as the nucleus does in early stages of cell death)	Pyknosis
py(o)-	pus	Pyometra
pyr(o)-	fever	Antipyretic

Q

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
quadr(i)-	four	quadriceps

R

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
radio-	radiation	radiowave
re-	again, backward	relapse
rect(o)-	rectum	
ren(o)-	Of or pertaining to the kidney	renal
reticul(o)-	net	reticulocyte
retro-	backward, behind	retroversion, retroverted
rhabd(o)-	rod shaped, striated	rhabdomyolysis
rhachi(o)-	spine	rachial, rachialgia, rachidian, rachiorpathy
rhin(o)-	Of or pertaining to the nose	rhinoceros, rhinoplasty
rhod(o)-	Denoting a rose-red color	rhodophyte
-rrhage	burst forth	Hemorrhage

-rrhagia	rapid flow of blood	menorrhagia
-rrhaphy	surgical suturing	
-rrhea (AmE)	flowing, discharge	Galactorrhea, Diarrhea
-rrhexis	rupture	Karyorrhexis
-rrhoea (BrE)	flowing, discharge	diarrhoea
rubr(o)-	Of or pertaining to the red nucleus of the brain	Rubrospinal
-rupt	Break or burst	Erupt, Interrupt

S

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
salping(o)-	Of or pertaining to tubes e.g. fallopian tubes	Salpingectomy, salpingo pharyngeus muscle
sangui-, sanguine-	Of or pertaining to blood	Sanguine
sarco-	muscular, fleshlike	sarcoma, sarcoidosis
schist(o)-	split, cleft	schistocyte
schiz(o)-	Denoting something 'split' or 'double-sided'	Schizophrenia
scler(o)-	hard	Scleroderma
-sclerosis	hardening	Atherosclerosis, multiple sclerosis
scoli(o)-	twisted	scoliosis
-scope	instrument for viewing	stethoscope
-scopy	use of instrument for viewing	endoscopy
scoto-	darkness	scotopic vision
semi-	one-half, partly	semiconscious
sial(o)-	saliva, salivary gland	sialagogue
sigmoid(o)-	sigmoid, S-shaped curvature	sigmoid colon
sinistr(o)-	left, left side	
sinus-	Of or pertaining to the sinus	Sinusitis

sito-	food, grain	Sitophobia
somat(o)-, somatico-	body, bodily	somatic
-spadias	slit, fissure	hypospadias, epispadias
spasmo-	spasm	Spasmodic dysphonia
sperma-, spermo-, spermato-	semen, spermatozoa	Spermatogenesis
splanchn(i)-, splanchn(o)-	viscera	splanchnology
splen(o)-	spleen	Splenectomy
spondyl(o)-	Of or pertaining to the spine, the vertebra	Spondylitis
squamos(o)-	Denoting something as 'full of scales' or 'scaly'	Squamous cell
-stalsis	contraction	Peristalsis
-stasis	stopping, standing	Cytostasis, homeostasis
-staxis	dripping, trickling	
sten(o)-	Denoting something as 'narrow in shape' or pertaining to narrowness	Stenography
-stenosis	abnormal narrowing in a blood vessel or other tubular organ or structure	Restenosis, stenosis
steth(o)-	Of or pertaining to the upper chest, chest, the area above the breast and under the neck	Stethoscope
stheno-	strength, force, power	
stom(a)	mouth	
stomat(o)-	Of or pertaining to the mouth	Stomatogastric, stomatognathic system
-stomy	creation of an opening	colostomy
sub-	beneath, under	subcutaneous tissue
super-	in excess, above, superior	superior vena cava

supra-	above, excessive	supraorbital vein
sy, syl-, sym-, syn-, sys-	Indicates similarity, likeness, or being together; assimilates before some consonants: before <i>l</i> to syl- , <i>s</i> to sys- , before a labial consonant to sym- .	Symptom, synalgia, synesthesia, syssarcosis

T

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
tachy-	Denoting something as fast, irregularly fast	Tachycardia
-tension, -tensive	pressure	Hypertension
terato-	Monster	teratoma, teratogen
tetan-	rigid, tense	tetanus
thec-	case, sheath	Intrathecal
thel-	Of or pertaining to a nipple (<i>uncommon as a prefix</i>)	Theleplasty, thelarche
thely-	Denoting something as 'relating to a woman, feminine'	Thelygenous
therap-	treatment	hydrotherapy, therapeutic
therm(o)-	heat	
thorac(i)-, thorac(o)-, thoracico-	Of or pertaining to the upper chest, chest; the area above the breast and under the neck	thoracic, thorax
thromb(o)-	Of or relating to a blood clot, clotting of blood	Thrombus, thrombocytopenia
thyr(o)-	thyroid	
thym-	emotions	dysthymia
-tic	pertaining to	
toco-	childbirth	
-tome	cutting instrument	

-tomy	act of cutting; incising, incision	Gastrotomy
ton-	tone, tension, pressure	
-tony	tension	
top(o)-	place, topical	Topical anesthetic
tort(i)-	twisted	Torticollis
tox(i)-, tox(o)-, toxic(o)-	toxin, poison	Toxoplasmosis
trache(a)-	trachea	Tracheotomy
trachel(o)-	Of or pertaining to the neck	tracheloplasty
trans-	Denoting something as moving or situated across or through	Transfusion
tri-	three	triangle, triceps
trich(i)-, trichia, trich(o)-	Of or pertaining to hair, hair-like structure	Trichocyst
-tripsy	crushing	Lithotripsy
-trophy	nourishment, development	Pseudohypertrophy
tympan(o)-	eardrum	Tympanocentesis

U

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
-ula, -ule	small	Nodule
ultra-	beyond, excessive	Ultrasound, ultraviolet
umbilic-	Of or pertaining to the navel, the umbilicus	Umbilical
ungui-	Of or pertaining to the nail, a claw	Unguiform, Ungual
un(i)-	one	Unilateral hearing loss
ur-	Of or pertaining to urine, the urinary system	antidiuretic, diuresis, diuretic, dysuria, enuresis, polyurea, polyuria, uraemia/uremia, uremic, ureter, urethra, urology

uric-	uric acid	
urin-	Of or pertaining to urine, the urinary system	Uriniferous
uter(o)-	Of or pertaining to the uterus or womb	Uterus

V

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
vagin-	Of or pertaining to the vagina	Vagina
varic(o)-	swollen or twisted vein	varicose
vas(o)-	duct, blood vessel	vasoconstriction
vasculo-	blood vessel	
ven-	Of or pertaining to the veins, venous blood, and the vascular system	Venule, Venospasm
ventr(o)-	Of or pertaining to the belly; the stomach cavities	Ventrodorsal
ventricul(o)-	Of or pertaining to the ventricles; any hollow region inside an organ	Cardiac ventriculography
-version	turning	anteversion, retroversion
vesic(o)-	Of or pertaining to the bladder	vesical arteries
viscer(o)-	Of or pertaining to the internal organs, the viscera	Viscera

X

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
xanth(o)-	Denoting a yellow color, an abnormally yellow color	Xanthopathy
xen(o)-	Foreign, different	Xenograft
xer(o)-	dry, desert-like	Xerostomia, xeroderma
xiph-	sword	xiphisternum, xiphoid, xiphoidalgia

Y

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
-y	condition or process of	Surgery

Z

Affix	Meaning	Example(s)
zo(o)-	animal, animal life	zoology
zym(o)-	fermentation	enzyme, lysozyme

2. English meanings

This section contains lists of different root classification (e.g. body components, quantity, description, etc.). Each list is alphabetized by English meanings, with the corresponding Greek and Latin roots given.

2.1. Roots of the body**2.1.1. Roots of bodily concepts**

Bodily concept	Greek root in English
Digestion	-pepsia
Disease	-pathy
Eating	-phagia

2.1.2. Roots of body parts and components

(Internal anatomy, external anatomy, body fluids, body substances)

Body part or component	Greek root	Latin root
abdomen	lapar(o)-	abdomin-
aorta	aort(o)-	aort(o)-
arm	brachi(o)-	-
armpit	-	axill-
artery	arteri(o)-	-
back	-	dors-
big toe	-	allic-
bladder	cyst(o)-	vesic(o)-
blood	haemat-, hemat- (haem-, hem-)	sangui-, sanguine-
blood clot	thromb(o)-	-
blood vessel	angi(o)-	vascul-, vas-
body	somat-, som-	corpor-
bone	oste(o)-	ossi-
bone marrow, marrow	myel(o)-	medull-
brain	encephal(o)-	cerebr(o)-, pector-
breast	mast(o)-	mamm(o)-
chest	steth(o)-	-
cheek	-Zygomatic	bucc-
ear	ot(o)-	aur(i)-
eggs, ova	oo-	ov-
eye	ophthalm(o)-	ocul(o)-
eyelid	blephar(o)-	cili-, palpebr-
face	prosop(o)-	faci(o)-
fallopian tubes	salping(o)-	-
fat, fatty tissue	lip(o)-	adip-
finger	dactyl(o)-	digit-

forehead	-	front(o)-
gallbladder	cholecyst(o)-	fell-
genitals, sexually undifferentiated	gon(o)-, phall(o)-	-
gland	aden(o)-	-
glans penis or clitoridis	balan(o)-	-
gums	-	gingiv-
hair	trich(o)-	capill-
hand	cheir(o)-, chir(o)-	manu-
head	cephal(o)-	capit(o)-
heart	cardi(o)-	cordi-
hip, hip-joint	-	cox-
horn	cerat(o)-	cornu-
intestine	enter(o)-	-
jaw	gnath(o)-	-
kidney	nephr(o)-	ren-
knee	gon-	genu-
lip	cheil(o)-, chil(o)-	labi(o)-
liver	hepat(o)-, (hepatic-)	jecor-
loins, pubic region	episi(o)-	pudend-
lungs	pneumon-	pulmon(i)-, (pulmo-)
marrow, bone marrow	myel(o)-	medull-
mind	psych-	ment-
mouth	stomat(o)-	or-
muscle	my(o)-	-
nail	onych(o)-	ungui-
navel	omphal(o)-	umbilic-
neck	trachel(o)-	cervic-
nerve; the nervous system	neur(o)-	nerv-
nipple, teat	thele-	papill-, mammill-
nose	rhin(o)-	nas-

ovary	oophor(o)-	ovari(o)-
pelvis	pyel(o)-	pelv(i)-
penis	pe(o)-	-
pupil (of the eye)	cor-, core-, coro-	-
rib	pleur(o)-	cost(o)-
rib cage	thorac(i)-, thorac(o)-	-
shoulder	om(o)-	humer(o)-
sinus	-	sinus-
skin	dermat(o)-, (derm-)	cut-, cuticul-
skull	crani(o)-	-
stomach	gastr(o)-	ventr(o)-
testis	orchi(o)-, orchid(o)-	-
throat (upper throat cavity)	pharyng(o)-	-
throat (lower throat cavity/voice box]	laryng(o)-	-
thumb	-	pollic-
tooth	odont(o)-	dent(i)-
tongue	gloss-, glott-	lingu(a)-
toe	dactyl(o)-	digit-
tumour	cel-, onc(o)-	tum-
ureter	ureter(o)-	ureter(o)-
urethra	urethr(o)-, urethr(a)-	urethr(o)-, urethr(a)-
urine, urinary system	ur(o)-	urin(o)-
uterine tubes	sarping(o)-	sarping(o)-
uterus	hyster(o)-, metr(o)-	uter(o)-
vagina	colp(o)-	vagin-
vein	phleb(o)-	ven-
vulva	episi(o)-	vulv-
womb	hyster(o)-, metr(o)-	uter(o)-
wrist	carp(o)-	carp(o)-

2.2. Roots of color

Color	Greek root in English	Latin root in English
black	melano-	nigr-
blue	cyano-	—
gray, grey	polio-	—
green	chlor(o)-	vir-
purple	porphyr(o)-	purpur-, purpureo-
red	erythr(o)-, rhod(o)-	rub-, rubr-
red-orange	cirr(h)o-	—
white	leuc-, leuk-	alb-
yellow	xanth(o)-	flav-

2.3. Roots of description

(Size, shape, strength, etc.)

Description	Greek root in English	Latin root in English
bad, incorrect	cac(o)-, dys-	mal(e)- / mis-
bent, crooked	ankyl(o)-	prav(i)-
big	mega-, megal(o)-	magn(i)-
biggest	megist-	maxim-
broad, wide	eury-	lat(i)-
cold	cry(o)-	frig(i)-
dead	necr(o)-	mort-
equal	is(o)-	equ(i)-
false	pseud(o)-	fals(i)-
female, feminine	thely-	-
flat	platy-	plan(i)-

good, well	eu-	ben(e)-, bon(i)-
great	mega-, megal(o)-	magn(i)-
hard	scler(o)-	dur(i)-
heavy	bar(o)-	grav(i)-
hollow	coel(o)-	cav(i)-
huge	megal(o)-	magn(i)-
incorrect, bad	cac(o)-, dys-	mal(e)- / mis-
irregular	poikil(o)	–
large; extremely large	mega-	magn(i)-
largest	megist-	maxim-
long	macr(o)-	long(i)-
male, masculine	arseno-	vir-
narrow	sten(o)-	angust(i)-
new	ne(o)-	nov(i)-
normal, correct	orth(o)-	rect(i)-
old	paleo-	veter-
sharp	oxy-	ac-
short	brachy-	brev(i)-
small	micr(o)-	parv(i)- (rare)
smallest	-	minim-
slow	brady-	tard(i)-
fast	tachy-	celer-
soft	malac(o)-	moll(i)-
straight	orth(o)-	rect(i)-
thick	pachy-	crass(i)-
varied, various	poikilo-	vari-
well, good	eu-	ben(e)-
wide, broad	eury-	lat(i)-

2.4. Roots of position

Description	Greek root in English	Latin root in English
around	peri-	circum-
left	levo-	laev(o)-, sinistr-
middle	mes(o)-	medi-
right	dexi(o)-	dextr(o)-
surrounding	peri-	circum-

2.5. Prefixes of quantity

(Amount, quantity)

Description	Greek root in English	Latin root in English
double	diplo-	dupli-
equal	iso-	equi-
few	oligo-	pauci-
half	hemi-	semi-
many, much	poly-	multi-
twice	dis-	bis-