

Terminology : Special words or expressions used in relation to a particular subject or activity.

Medicine : Is the science and practice of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. The word medicine is derived from Latin medicus, meaning "a physician".

Dentistry : Is a branch of medicine that is involved in the study, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases of the teeth ,gums and other structures of the mouth .

A TERM : A word or phrase used to describe a thing or to express a concept, especially in a particular kind of language or branch of study, Learning and understanding the roots of most words in the field of Health, Medicine, and Dentistry can help you to understand what is being discussed "**Origin of medical terms**". Hippocrates was a Greek physician and is known as the '**father of medicine**. 75% of medical terms are based on terms which in turn based on either Greek or Latin words.

The '**word root** is a term derived from a source language such as Greek or Latin and usually describes a body part (usually the middle of the word and its central meaning). All medical terms have at least one-word root. (e.g. arthr: joint/ hepat: liver ven: vein/ oste: bone).

The **prefix** can be added in front of the term to modify the word root by giving additional information, usually indicates number, location, time, or status (e.g. intra-:within - sub-: under).The term **-PNEA** relates to breathing, but it says nothing about the quality or kind of breathing. Adding the prefix **DYS-** qualifies it as difficult breathing .

Word Root	Prefix	Suffix	Medical Word
Abdominal	Intra		Intra abdominal pain
Esthes	An	ia	Anesthesia
Therm	Hyper	ia	Hyperthermia
mer	mono		monomer

Suffixes are word endings that form nouns, adjectives, or verbs. Medical terms can have more than one suffix, and a suffix can appear in the middle of a compound term affixed to a combining form. A number of suffixes have specialized meanings. **ITIS** means inflammation; thus **ARTHRITIS** means inflammation of a joint.

Some suffixes are added to word roots to express reduction in size, **-OLE** and **-ULE**, for example. An **ARTERIOLE** is smaller than an **ARTERY**, and a **VENULE** is smaller than a vein. Finally, some of what are commonly accepted as suffixes are actually the combination of a word root and a suffix. **MEGALY** (**enlargement**) results from the combination of the word root **MEGAL** (large).

Word Root	Suffix	Medical Word
Gastr /o	itis(inflammation)	Gastritis
	megaly (enlargement)	Gastromegaly
Hepat / o	itis(inflammation)	Hepatitis
	megaly (enlargement)	Hepatomegaly
	oma (tumor)	Hepatoma

Medical/Dental Terminology Word Roots**Prefixes and meaning**

aden	gland	hepat	liver
angio	Blood vessel	hemo	blood
arterio	artery	hydro	water
arthro	joint	hystero	uterus
carcin	cancer	leuko	white
cardio	heart	lingua	tongue
cephal	head	mamm, mast	breast
cerebro	brain	myelo	Bone marrow
chem	drug	myo	muscle
chole	gall, bile	nephro, ren	kidney
colo	colon	neuro	nerve
costo	ribs	ocul, ophthal	eye
derma	skin	ped, pod	foot
entero	intestine	phleb	vein
epidemi	among the people	pneumo.pulm	lung
erythro	red	psych	mind, soul
gastro	stomach	rhin	nose
gingiva	gum	salpingo	tube
gloss	tongue	thorac	thorax, chest

Prefixes	Meaning	Suffixes	Meaning
a, an	without	a, ac, al	pertaining to
ab	away from	algia	pain
ad	toward	ase	enzyme
ante	before	centre	puncture
anti	against	cide	causing death
aut	self	cente	puncture
bi	both, two	dipsia	thirst
brady	slow	ectomy	surgical removal
circum	round	emesis	vomit
contra	against	emia	blood
di	two	esthesia	sensation
diplo	double	genesis,	genic origin,
dys	painful, difficult	gram,graph pictures	record
ecto	outside	ia	a disease
endo, intra	inside	iasis	abnormal
epi	upper, above	ism	state of
hemi	half	itis	inflammation
hyper	excessive, above, more than	lysis	destruction
hypo	deficient, below, less than	malacia	softening
inter	between	megaly	enlarged
later	side	oid	like, similar
lipo	fat	ologist	specialist
mal	bad, difficult	ology	study of
mega/macr	large	oma	tumor
micro	small	orrhagia	hemorrhage
Mono, uni	one, single	orrhea	flow
noe	new	osis	condition of
ortho	straight	ostomy	surgical opening
peri	around,	pathy	disease
poly	many, much	penia	deficiency
post	behind, after	phobia	fear
pre	before, in front of	plasty	surgical repair
pro	forward	plegia	stroke, paralysis
pseudo	false	pnea	breathing