

Medical Terminology Prefixes

Prefix	Definition	Prefix	Definition
A	No, not, without, apart	Intra	Within
Ab	Away from	Ir(in)	Back
Ad	Toward, near	Macro	Large
Ambi	Both	Mal	Bad
An	No, not, without, lack of	Mega	Large, great
Ana	Up	Meso	Middle
Ant	Against	Meta	Beyond, over, between
Ante	Before	Micro	Small
Anti	Against	Milli	One-thousandth
Apo	Separation	Mon(o)	One
Astro	Star-shaped	Multi	Many, much
Auto	Self	Neo	New
Bi	Two, double	Nulli	None
Bin	Twice	Olig(o)	Little, scanty
Brachy	Short	Pan	All
Brady	Slow	Par	Around, beside
Cac	Bad	Para	Beside, alongside, abnormal
Cata	Down	Per	Through
Centi	A hundred	Peri	Around
Chromo	Color	Poly	Many, much, excessive
Circum	Around	Post	After, behind
Con	With, together	Pre	Before
Contra	Against	Primi	First
De	Down, away from	Pro	Before
Deca	Ten	Proto	First
Di(a)	Through, between	Pseudo	False
Dif	Apart, free from, separate	Pyro	Fire
Dipl	Double	Quadri	Four
Di(s)	Two, apart	Quint	Five
Dys	Bad, difficult, painful	Re	Back
Ec	Out, outside, outer	Retro	Backward
Ecto	Out, outside, outer	Semi	Half
Em	In	Sub	Below, under, beneath
En	Within	Supra	Above, beyond
End	Within, inner	Super	Above, beyond
Endo	Within, inner	Sym	Together
Ep	Upon, over, above	Syn	Together, with
Epi	Upon, over, above	Tachy	Fast
Eso	Inward	Tetra	Four
Eu	Good, normal	Trans	Across
Ex	Out, away from	Tri	Three
Exo	Out, away from	Ultra	Beyond
Extra	Outside, beyond	Uni	One
Hemi	Half		
Heter	Different		
Hetero	Different		
Homo	Similar, same		
Homeo	Similar, likeness, constant		
Hydr(o)	Water		
Hyp	Below, deficient		
Hyper	Above, beyond, excessive		
Hypo	Below, under, deficient		
In	In, into, not		
Infra	Below		
Infer	Below		
Inter	Between		

Medical Terminology Suffixes

Suffix	Definition	Suffix	Definition	Suffix	Definition
-able	Capable	-gnosis	Knowledge	-penia	Lack of, deficiency
-ac	Pertaining to	-grade	A step	-pepsia	To digest
-ad	Pertaining to	-graft	Pencil, grafting knife	-pexy	Surgical fixation
-age	Related to	-gram	A weight, mark, record	-phagia	To eat
-al	Pertaining to	-graph	To write, record	-phasia	To speak
-algesia	Pain	-graphy	Recording	-phoresis	Removal
-algia	Pain	-hexia	Condition	-phil(ia)	Attraction
-ant	Forming	-ia	Condition	-phobia	Fear
-ar	Pertaining to	-iasis	Condition	-phoresis	To carry
-ary	Pertaining to	-ic	Pertaining to	-phragm	A fence
-ase	Enzyme	-ide	Having a particular quality	-phraxis	To obstruct
-asthenia	weakness	-in	Chemical, pertaining to	-phylaxis	Protection
-ate(d)	Use, action	-ine	Pertaining to	-physis	Growth
-betes	To go	-ing	Quality of	-plakia	Plate
-blast	Immature cell, germ cell	-ion	Process	-plasia	Formation, produce
-body	Body	-ism	Condition	-plasm	A thing formed, plasma
-cele	Hernia, tumor, swelling	-ist	One who specializes	-plasty	Surgical repair
-centesis	Surgical puncture	-itis	Inflammation	-plegia	Storke, paralysis
-ceps	Head	-ity	Condition	-pnea	Breathing
-cide	To kill	-ive	Nature of, quality of	-poiesis	Formation
-clasia	A breaking	-kinesia	Motion	-praxia	Action
-clave	A key	-kinesis	Motion	-ptosis	Prolapse, drooping
-cle	Small	-lalia	To talk	-ptysis	To spit, spitting
-clysis	Injection	-lemma	A sheath, rind	-puncture	To pierce
-cope	Strike	-lepsy	Seizure	-rrhage	To burst forth
-crit	To separate	-lexia	Diction	-rrhagia	To burst forth
-culture	Cultivation	-liter	Liter	-rrhaphy	Suture
-cusic	Hearing	-lith	Stone	-rrhea	Flow, discharge
-cuspid	Point	-logy	Study of	-rrhexis	Rupture
-cyesis	Pregnancy	-lymph	Clear fluid	-scope	Instrument
-cyst	Bladder	-lysis	Destruction, to separate	-scopy	To view, examine
-cyte	Cell	-malacia	Softening	-sepsis	Decay
-derma	Skin	-mania	Madness	-sis	Condition
-dermis	Skin	-megaly	Enlargement, large	-some	Body
-desis	Binding	-meter	Instrument to measure	-spasm	Tension, contraction
-dipsia	Thirst	-metry	Measurement	-stalsis	Contraction
-drome	A course	-mnesia	Memory	-stasis	Control, stopping
-dynia	Pain	-morph	Form, shape	-staxis	Dripping, trickling
-ectasia	Dilation	-noia	Mind	-sthenia	Strength
-ectasis	Dilation, distension	-oid	Resemble	-stomy	New opening
-ectasy	Dilation	-ole	Opening	-systole	Contraction
-ectomy	Surgical excision	-oma	Tumor	-taxia	Order
-edema	Swelling	-omion	Shoulder	-therapy	Treatment
-emesis	Vomiting	-on	Pertaining to	-thermy	Heat
-emia	Blood condition	-one	Hormone	-tic	Pertaining to
-er	Relating to, one who	-opia	Eye, vision	-tome	Instrument to cut
-ergy	Work	-opsia	Eye, vision	-tomy	Incision
-esthesia	Feeling	-opsy	To view	-tone	Tension
-form	Shape	-or	One who, a doer	-tripsy	Crushing
-fuge	To flee	-ory	Like, resemble	-troph(y)	Nourish, development
-gen	Formation, produce	-orexia	Appetite	-type	Type
-genes	Produce	-ose	Like	-um	Tissue
-genesis	Formation, produce	-osis	Condition	-ure	Process
-genic	Formation, produce	-ous	Pertaining to	-uria	Urine
-glia	Glue	-paresis	Weakness	-us	Pertaining to
-globin	Protein	-pathy	disease	-y	Condition, pertaining to

Medical Terminology Root Words

Root	Definition	Root	Definition	Root	Definition
Abdomin	Abdomen	Bi/o	Life	Col/o	Colon
Abort	To miscarry	Blast/o	Germ cell	Colon/o	Colon
Absorpt	To suck in	Blephar/o	Eyelid	Cop/o	Vagina
Acanth	A thorn	Bol	To cast, throw	Concuss	Shaken violently
Acetabul	Vinegar, cup	Brach/i	Arm	Condyle	Knuckle
Acid	Acid	Bronch/i/o	bronchi	Con/i	Dust
Acoust	Hearing	Bronchiol	Bronchiole	Conjunctiv	To join together
Acr/o	Extremity, point	Bucc	Cheek	Connect	To bind together
Act	Acting	Burs	A pouch	Constipat	To press together
Actin	Ray	Calc/i	Lime, calcium	Continenence	To hold
Aden/o	Gland	Calcan/e	Heel bone	Cor/o	Pupil
Adhes	Stuck to	Capn	Smoke	Coriat	Corium
Adip	Fat	Capsul	A little box	Corne	Cornea
Agglutinat	Clumping	Carcin/o	Cancer	Corpor/e	Body
Agon	Agony	Card/i/o	Heart	Corti/c/s	Cortex
Agor/a	Market place	Carp/o	Wrist	Cost/o	Rib
Albin	White	Cartil	Cartilage, gristle	Cox	Hip
Albumin	Protein	Castr	To prune	Cran/i/o	Skull
Alimentat	Nourishment	Caud	Tail	Creat/in	Flesh, creatine
All	Other	Caus	Heat	Crin/e/o	To secrete
Alveol	Small, hollow air sac	Cavit	Cavity	Crur	Leg
Ambyl	Dull	Celi	Abdomen, belly	Cry/o	Cold
Ambul	To walk	Cellul	Little cell	Crypt	Hidden
Amni/o	Amnion, sac around fetus	Centri/i/o	center	Cubit	Elbow, to lie
Amputat	To cut through	Cephal/o	Head	Culd/o	Cul-de-sac
Amyl	Starch	Cept	Receive	Cutane/o	Skin
Anastom	Opening	Cerebell/o	Little brain, cerebellum	Cyan/o	Blue
Andr/o	Man	Cerebr/o	Brain, cerebrum	Cycl/o	Ciliary body
Ang/i/o	Vessel	Cervic	Cervix, neck	Cyst/o	Bladder, sac
Angin	To choke, pain	Cheil	Lip	Cyt/o	Cell
Anis/o	Unequal	Chem./o	Chemical	Cyth	Cell
Ankyl	Stiffening, crooked	Chlor/o	Green	Dacry	Tear
An/o	Anus	Choll/e	Gall bladder, bile	Dactyl/o	Finger or toe
Anter/i	Toward the front	Choledoch/o	Common bile duct	Defecat	To remove dregs
Anthrac	Coal	Chondr/o	Cartilage	Dem	People
Aort/o	Aorta	Chord	Cord	Dendr/o	Tree
Append	Appendix	Chori/o	Chorion	Dent/i	Tooth
Arachn	Spider	Choroid/o	Choroids	Derm/a/o	Skin
Arche	Beginning	Chromat	Color	Dermat/o	Skin
Arter/i/o	Artery	Chrom/o	Color	Dextr/o	To the right
Arthr/o	Joint	Chym	Juice	Diast	To expand
Artific/i	Not natural	Cine	Motion	Didym	Testis
Aspirat	To draw in	Cinemat/o	Motion	Digit	Finger or toe
Atel/o	Imperfect	Circulat	Circular	Dilat	To widen
Ather/o	Fatty substance	Cirrh/o	Orange-yellow	Disk	A disk
Atri/o	Atrium	Cis	To cut	Dist	Away from the origin
Aud/i/o	To hear	Claudicat	To limp	Diverticul	Diverticula
Auditor	Hearing	Clavicul/o	Little key	Dors/i	Backward
Aur/i	Ear	Cleid/o	Clavicle	Duct	To lead
Auscultat	Listen to	Coagul/at	To clot	Duoden/o	Duodenum
Aut/o	Self	Coccyg/e/o	Tail bone	Dur/o	Dura, hard
Axill/o	Armpit	Cochle/o	Land snail	Dwarf	Small
Bacter/i	Bacteria	Coit	a coming together	Dynam	Power
Balan/o	Glans penis	Col/o	Colon	Ech/o	Echo
Bas/o	Base	Coll/a	Glue	Ectop	Displaced
Bil/i	Bile, gall bladder	Collis	neck	Eg/o	I, self

Root	Definition	Root	Definition	Root	Definition
Ejaculat/o	To throw out	Gonad	Seed	Lei/o	Smooth
Electr/o	Electricity	Goni/o	Angle	Lemma	Rind, sheath, husk
Eme	To vomit	Granul/o	Little grain, granular	Lent	Lens
Embol/o	To cast, to throw	Gravida	Pregnant	Lept	Seizure
Emulsificat	Disintegrate	Gryp	Curve	Letharg	Drowsiness
Encaphal/o	Brain	Gynec/o	Female	Leuk/o	White
Enchyma	To pour	Halat	Breathe	Levat	Lifter
Enter/o	Intestine	Hallux	Great (big) toe	Libr/i	Balance
Enucleat	To remove the center of	Hem/at/o	Blood	Lingu/o	Tongue
Eosin/o	Rose-colored	Hemorrh	Vein liable to bleed	Lip/id/o	Fat
Episi/o	Vulva	Hepat/o	Liver	Lith/o	Stone
Equ/i	Equal	Herni/o	Hernia	Lob/o	Lobe
Erg/et/o	Work	Hidr	Sweat	Lobul	Small lobe
Eructat	A breaking out	Hirsut	Hairy	Locat	Place
Erysi	Red	Hist/o	Tissue	Log	Study
Erythr/o	Red	Hol/o	Whole	Log/o	Word
Esophag/e/o	Esophagus	Horizont	Horizon	Lord	Bending
Esthesi/o	Feeling	Humer/o	Humerus	Lucent	To shine
Estr/o	Mad desire	Hydr/o	water	Lumb/o	Loin
Eti/o	Cause	Hypn	Sleep	Lump	Lump
Eunia	A bed	Hyster/o	Womb, uterus	Lun	Moon
Excret/o	Sifted out	Icter	Jaundice	Lymph/o	Lymph, clear fluid
F(erat)	To bear	Ile/o	Ileum	Malign	Bad kind
Fasc/i/o	Fascia, a band	Ili/o	Ilium	Mamm/o	Breast
Femor/o	Femur	Illus	Foot	Mandibul/o	Lower jawbone
Fenestrat	Window	Immun/o	Safe, immunity	Man/o	Thin
Fibr/o	Fibrous tissue, fiber	Infarct	Necrosis of an area	Mast/o	Breast
Fibrillat	Fibrils, small fibers	Infect	Infection	Masticat	Chew
Fibr/in/o	Fiber	Infer/i	Below	Maxill/a/o	Jaw
Fibul/o	Fibula	Inguin/o	Groin	Maxim	Greatest
Filtrat	To strain through	Insul/in/o	Insulin	Meat/o	Passage
Fixat	Fastened	Integument	Covering	Med/i	Middle
Flex	To bend	Intern	Within	Medull/o	Marrow
Fluor/o	Fluorescence	Ionizat	Ion, going	Melan/o	Black
Foc	Focus	Ion/t/o	Ion	Men/o	Month
Follicul/o	Little bag	Irid/o	Iris	Mening/i/o	Meninges membrane
Format	A shaping	Isch	To hold back	Menise	Crescent
Fungat	Mushroom, fungus	Ischi	Ischium	Ment	Mind
Fus	To pour	Is/o	Equal	Mes/o	Middle
Galact/o	Milk	Jaund	Yellow	Mester	Month
Ganglion	Knot	Kal	Potassium	Metri	Womb, uterus
Gastr/o	Stomach	Kary/o	Cell's nucleus	Micturit	To urinate
Gen/e/t	Formation, produce	Kel	Tumor	Miliar	Tiny
Genital	Belonging to birth	Kerat/o	Cornea, horn	Minim	Least
Gen/o	Kind	Keton	Ketone	Mi/o	Less, smaller
Ger	Old age	Kil/o	A thousand	Mit	Thread
Gest	To carry	Kinet	Motion	Mitr/o	Mitral valve
Gester	To bear	Kyph	A hump	Mnes	Memory
Gigant	Giant	Labi	Lip	Muc/os/us	Mucus
Gingiv/o	Gums	Labyrinth/o	Maze	Muscul/o	Muscle
Glandul/o	Little acorn	Lacrim	Tear	Muta/t	To change
Gli/o	Glue	Lamin	Lamina, thin place	My/o/s	Muscle
Glob/in/ul	Globule, globe	Lamp/s	To shine	Myc/o	Fungus
Glomerul/o	Glomerulus, little ball	Lapar/o	Flank, abdomen	Mydriat	Dilation, widen
Gloss/o	Tongue	Laryng/e/o	Larynx	Myel/o	Marrow, spinal cord
Gluc/o	Sweet, sugar, glucose	Later	Side	Myring/o	Drum membrane
Glyc/o/s	Sweet sugar, glucose	Laxat	To loosen	Myx	Mucus

Root	Definition	Root	Definition	Root	Definition
Narc/o	Numbness	Pept/o	To digest	Rach/i	Spine
Nas/o	Nose	Perine	Perineum	Rad/i	Radiating out
Nat/o	Birth	Periton/e	Peritoneum	Radiat	Radiant
Necr/o	Death	Phac/o	Lens	Radic/o	Spinal nerve root
Nephr/o	Kidney	Phag/o	To eat, engulf	Radicul	Spinal nerve root
Neur/i/o	Nerve	Phak	Lentil, lens	Radi/o	Ray
Neutr/o	Neither	Phalang/e/o	Pharynx	Rect/o	Rectum
Nid	Nest	Phas	Speech	Relaxat	To loosen
Noct	Night	Phen/o	To show	Remiss	Remit
Nom	Law	Phe/o	Dusky	Ren/o	Kidney
Norm	Rule	Phim	A muzzle	Respirat/o	Breathing
Nucl/e/o	Nucleus	Phleb/o	Vein	Reticul/o	Net
Nyctal	Blind	Phon/e	Voice	Retin/o	Retina
Nystagm	To nod	Phor	Carrying	Rhabd/o	Rod
Occlus	To shut up	Phos	Light	Rheumat/o	discharge
Ocul	Eye	Phot/o	Light	Rhin/o	Nose
Odont	Tooth	Phragm/at/o	Partition	Rhonch/o	Snore
Olecran	Elbow	Phras	Speech	Rhytid/o	Wrinkle
Onc/o	Tumor	Physic	Nature	Rotat	To turn
Onych/o	Nail	Physi/o	Nature	Rrhythm	Rhythm
O/o	Ovum, egg	Pil/o	Hair	Rube/o	Red
Oophor	Ovary	Pineal	Pineal body	Sacr/o	Sacrum
Ophthalm/o	Eye	Pin/o	To drink	Salping/o	Tube, fallopian tube
Opt/o	Eye	Pituitar	Phlegm	Salpinx	Tube, fallopian tube
Or	Mouth	Plak	Plate	Sarc/o	Flesh
Orch/id/o	Testicle	Plasma	A thing formed	Scapul/o	Shoulder blade
Organ	Organ	Plast/o	A developing	Scler/o	Hardening, sclera
Orth/o	Straight	Pleur/a/o	Pleura	Scoli/o	Curvature
Oscill/o	To swing	Plicat	To fold	Scop	To examine
Oste/o	Bone	Pneum/o/n	Lung	Seb/o	Oil
Ot/o	Ear	Poeit	Formation	Second	Second
Ovar	Ovary	Poli/o	Gray	Semin/at	Seed
Ovul/at	Ovary	Pollex	Thumb	Senil/e	Old
Ox/i	Oxygen	Por	A passage	Sept/ic	Putrefying
Oxy	Sour, sharp, acid	Porphyr	Purple	Ser/a/o	Whey, serum
Pachy	Thick	Poster/i	Behind	Sert	To gain
Pancreat/o	Pancreas	Prand/i	Meal	Sex/u	Sex
Paque	Dark	Presby	Old	Sial/o	Saliva
Palat/o	Palate	Press	To press	Sider/o	Iron
Palliat	Cloaked	Proct/o	Anus, rectum	Sigmoid/o	Sigmoid colon
Pallid/o	Globus, pallidus	Prolif	Fruitful	Sin/o	A curve
Palm	Palm	Prophylact	Guarding	Sinus	A hollow curve
Palpitat/o	Throbbing	Prostat	Prostate	Situ	Place
Papill	Papilla	Prosth/e	An addition	Som/at/o	Body
Para	To bear	Prot/e	First	Somn	Sleep
Paralyt	To disable, paralysis	Proxim	Near a point of origin	Son/o	Sound
Partum	Labor	Prurit	Itchng	Spdias	A rent, an opening
Parturit	In labor	Psych/o	Mind	Spastic	Convulsive
Patell/o	Kneecap, patella	Pudend	External genitals	Sperm/i/at/o	Seed, sperm
Path/o	Disease	Pulm/o/n/ar	Lung	Sphygm/o	Pulse
Pause	Cessation	Pupill	Pupil	Spin/o	Spine, a thorn
Pector	Chest	Purpur	Purple	Spir/o	Breath
Pectorat	Breast	Py/o	Pus	Splen/o	Spleen
Ped/i	Foot, child	Pyel/o	Renal pelvis	Spondyl/o	Vertebra
Pedicul	A louse	Pylor	Pylorus, gate keeper	Staped	Stirrup
Pelv/i	Pelvis	Pyret	Fever	Steat	Fat
Pen/ile	Penis	Pyr/o	Heat, fire	Sten	Narrowing

Root	Definition	Root	Definition	Root	Definition
Ster	Solid	Ure	urinate		
Stern/o	Sternum	Urea	Urea		
Sterol	Solid, fat	Uret	Urine		
Steth/o	Chest	Ureter/o	Ureter		
Stigmat	Point	Urethr/o	Urethra		
Stom/at	Mouth	Uter/o	Uterus		
Strabism	A squinting	Uve	Uvea		
Strict	To draw, to bind	Vagin/o	Vagina		
Superfic/i	Near the surface	Vag/o	Vagus, wandering		
Super/i	Upper	Varic/o	Twisted vein		
Surrog	Substituted	Vas/o	Vessel		
Sympath	Sympathy	Vascul/o	Small vessel		
Synov/o	Joint fluid	Vector	A carrier		
Syst/o/l	Contraction	Ven/o/i	Vein		
System	A composite whole	Venere	Sexual intercourse		
Tel/e	End, distant	Ventilat/o	To air		
Tempor	Temples	Ventr/o	On belly side of body		
Tend/o/in	Tendon	Ventricul/o	Ventricle		
Ten/o/n/s	Tendon	Vermi	Worm		
Tens	Tension	Vers	Turning		
Tentori	Tentorium, tent	Vertebr/o	Vertebra		
Terat	Monster	Vesic/o	Bladder		
Testicul	Testicle	Vesicul/o	Vesicle		
Test/o	Testicle	Vir	Virus		
Thalass/o	Sea	Viril	Masculine		
Thel/i	Nipple	Viscer/o	Body organs		
Therm/o	Hot, heat	Volunt	Will		
Thorac/o	Chest	Volvul/o	To roll		
Thorax	Chest	Vuls	To pull		
Thromb/o	Clot	Xanth/o	Yellow		
Thym/o	Thymus, mind, emotion	Xen	Foreign material		
Thyr/o/x	Thyroid, shield	Xer/o	Dry		
Tibi	Tibia	Xiph	Sword		
Tinnit	A jingling	Zo/o	Animal		
Toc	Birth	Zoon	Life		
Tom/o	To cut				
Ton/o	Tone, tension				
Tonsill/o	Tonsil, almond				
Topic	Place				
Top/o	Place				
Tors	Twisted				
Tort/i	Twisted				
Toxic	Poison				
Trach/e/o	Trachea				
Tract	To draw				
Trephinat	A bore				
Trich/o	Hair				
Trism	Grating				
Trop/h	Turning				
Tubercul/o	A little swelling				
Tuss	Cough				
Tympan/o	Ear drum				
Uln/o	Ulna, elbow				
Umbilic/o	Navel				
Ungu	Nail				
Ur/o/in/at	Urine				