

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

Some Greek root words used in medical terminology:

Aden - gland	Kranion - skull	Pyon - pus
Aorta - aorta	Larynx - voice box	Pyr - fire, fever
Bronchos - gullet	Mania - madness, frenzy	Sarx - flesh
Cheir - hand	Nausea - seasickness	Soma - body
Chole - bile	Neuron - tendon, nerve	Spasmos - spasm
Derma - skin	Osteon - bone	Splen - spleen
gaster - belly	Ophthalmos - eye	Stoma - mouth
Haima - blood	Pepsis - digestion	Stomachos - stomach
Hepar - liver	Pharmakon - drug	Tracheia - windpipe
Hygieia - health	Pharynx - throat	Trauma - wound
Hymen - membrane	Pleura -side, rib	
Kardia - heart	Pneuma - air, breath	
Kephal - head	Psyche - soul	

Prefixes

a-, an-, privative or a negative conveying deficiency, lack or weakness

a-pathy, lack of feeling

a-tom, indivisible

an-emia, lack of blood

an-esthesia, lack of sensation

amphi-,ampho, on both sides, double

amphi-bious, living both on land and in water

amphi-theatre, a to see around

ampho-diplopia, double vision

ampho-phil, fond of both, a cell which stains with either acid or dyes

ana-,an-, up, upward, again

ana-lysis-dissolution, breaking up of chemical compounds

ana-mnesis, recollection, medical history

ana-tomy, cutting up, dissection

an-a-phylaxis-renewed loss of protection

anti-, against, opposed to, opposite of

anti-dote, against a given thing (poison)

anti-pyretic, against fever

anti-septic, against infection

ant-acid, against an acid, neutralize an acid

apo-off, away from

apo-physis, a growth away or projection from a bone

apo-plexy, a stroke away, a sudden stroke

apo-staxis, a trickling down, a slight hemorrhage

apo-theary, a pharmacist

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

cata- down, downward

cata-menia, according to month, menses

cata-rrh, a flowing down, inflammation of the mucous membrane

cata-tonia, a downward tone, stupor

cat-hod, downward way, the return goal of an electron

dia- through, across, completely

dia-betes, a going through, syphon, syphon disease

dia-gnosis, knowing completely, determination of the nature of a disease

dia-rrhea, flowing through, fluid discharge

dia-thermy, heat going through, elevation of temperature by means of a current

dys- bad, difficult, defective

dys-entery, bad intestine

dys-pepsia, baddigestion

dys-pnea, difficult breathing

dys-trophy, bad nourishment

ec-, ex- out, out of, outward

ec-topic, out of place

ec-zema, a boiling out, an inflammation of the skin

ex-ophthalmos, eye bulging out

ex-ostosis, bone outside, a bony tumor

en-, em- in, within

en-cephalon, in the head, the brain

en-demic, in the people, present in a community

em-bolism, thrown in, a plugging of a vessel

em-bryo, grown in, fetus

hyper- over, above, excessive

hyper-emia, excessive blood

hyper-thyroidism, symptoms caused by excessive activity of the thyroid

hyper-tonic, excessive in tension

hyper-trophy, excessive nourishment, overgrowth

hypo- under, below, insufficient

hypo-chondriac, under the cartilage, an imaginary disease

hypo-dermic, under the skin

hypo-glyc-emia, low proportion of sugar in the blood

hypo-physis, a growth under the

brain, pituitary body

meta- after, behind, beyond, change

meta-bolism, change in throwing, tissue change

meta-morphosis, change in form

meta-stasis, change in position

met-enkephalon, after the brain, hindbrain

Par, para- near, alongside, apart from, abnormal

par-otid, beside the ear

para-noia, abnormal in mind

para-plegia, near stroke, paralysis of the extremities

par-esthesia, abnormal perception

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

peri- about, around

peri-cardium, around the heart, membrane covering the heart

peri-osteum, around the bone, membrane covering the bone

peri-stalsis, contraction around, contraction of the intestines

peri-toneum- (membrane) stretching around, lining of the abdominal cavity

pro- before, forward, in advance

pro-drome, running before, an early symptom

pro-geria, before old age, premature aging

pro-gnosis, knowing before, forecast

pro-phylaxis, advance protection

syn-,sym- with, together, union

syn-drome, running together, an aggregate of symptoms

sy-stole from syn-stole, contraction, the rhythmic contraction of the heart

sym-biosis, living together of two or more organisms

sym-ptom, a falling together, a sign

Suffixes

-ia, -ie, denotes a pathological state or condition

agon-ia, contest, suffering

hyster-ia, a chronic neurosis formerly thought to be of uterine causation, hystera-womb

man-ia, madness

ophthalm-ia, inflammation of the eye

-iasis, signifies a pathological state, condition, or its causation

lith-iasis, formation of calculi, lithos-stone

psor-iasis, a skin disease, psora-itch

trichin-iasis, a disease caused by trichinae infestation

-ikos, -icus,-ic, an adjectival termination

an-esthetic, pertaining to anesthesia, a drug producing

anesthesia

epilept-ic, pertaining to epilepsy

hect-ic, irregularly feverish

patholog-ic pertaining to pathology

-ismos, -ismus, -ism, denotes a condition

embol-ism, the plugging of an artery or vein

hypnot-ism, a condition of artificially induced sleep, hypnos- sleep

metabol-ism, tissue change

rheumat-ism, rheumatic fever, rheuma-flux

-istis, -ist, signifies an agent or doer of the action indicated by the root

anatom-ist, one who cuts up

anesthet-ist, one who takes away sensation

orthodont-ist, one who straightens teeth

urolog-ist, one who treats urological disorders

-itis, originally the adjectival ending -itis used with nosos-disease;

It is now used alone and has acquired the significance of inflammatory disease:

appendic-itis

arthrit-is

bronch-itis

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

ot-itis

These meaning inflammation of the root name

-ize, -izein, a verbal suffix indicating treatment by means of a special instrument or drug

an-esthet-ize, to take away sensation

catheter-ize, to use a catheter

hypnot-ize, to put to sleep

-ma, -ema, -oma, designates a concrete pathological condition

ec-zema, a boiling out, inflammation of the skin

ex-anth-ema, a skin flower, a skin eruption

-oma words are numerous and refer to swelling or tumor and considered equivalent to tumor

carcin-oma, a cancerous tumor, a malignant growth

granul-oma, a tumor of granulation tissue

neur-oma, a tumor formed of nerve cells

sarc-oma, a fleshy thing, a fleshy tumor

-oid; originally -ooid, from eidos, form, appearance; denotes a resemblance to the object referenced in the main word

sphen-oid, sphen wedge shaped

typh-oid, like typhus fever

thyr-oid, the shield like gland, thyreos

xiph-oid, xiphos sword shaped

-sis, -osis, -iasis, denotes any physiological or pathological change including secondary causes such as parasites...

trichin-osis or trichin-iasis

adip-osis, an excessive accumulation of fat

rhe-xis, from rheg-sis, a breaking, a rupture

sep-sis, a rotting, putrefaction

tubercul-osis, a pathogen invasion of tubercle bacilli

Chemical suffixes

-ase, asis, slime a colloid enzyme

amyl-ase, a starch splitting enzyme, amylon-starch

lip-ase, a fat splitting enzyme, lipos-fat

-ate, a salt base

phosph-ate, a salt of phosphoric acid

sulph-ate, a salt of sulphuric acid

-ide, a name for a binary compound with a non-metallic element

chlor-ide, a compound of chlorine with another element

sulph-ide, a compound of sulphur with a base

-in, a termination noting a glucoside

fibr-in, fibra-fiber

gelat-in, gelatum-congealed)

prote-in, protos-first

-ine, an ending used in the names of alkaloids

hero-ine, alkaloidal ester of morphine

morph-ine, alkaloid of opium

-ite, a suffix for a salt of an acid ending in -ous

phosph-ite, a salt of phosphorous acid

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

sulph-ite, a salt of sulphurous acid

Stems of compound words

anthrop-, anthropos, man

anthropo-genesis, origin of man

anthropo-metry, measurement of man

bio-, life

bio-logy the science of living organisms

bi-opsy, examination of tissue from a living organism

broncho-, bronchi, gullet

broncho-cele, windpipe tumor, goiter

broncho-pneumonia, inflammation of the bronchi

cardi-, cardio-, heart

cardi-a-taxia, irregularity in the action of the heart

cardio-gram, recording of the movements of the heart

derma-, dermat - skin)

derma-graph, an instrument for writing on the skin

dermato-logy, study of the skin, logy, study of

entero-, enteron, intestine

enter-ectomy, resection of a segment of the intestine

entero-lith, an intestinal calculus

gastr-, gaster-, gastro-, stomach and intestines

gastro-enterology, the medical specialty dealing with diseases of the stomach and intestines

gastr-odynia, pain in the stomach

gynec-, gyne-, gynec-, female

gyneco-mastia, female breast in the male

gyneco-plastics, reparative surgery of the female organs

hem- , hemnat- , haima- , haimat-, blood

hemat-emesis, vomiting of blood

hemo-rrhage, bleeding

hepat-, hepar-, hepato-, liver

hepat-a-trophy, atrophy of the liver

hepato-melansosis, dark pigmentation of the liver

hydr-, hydor-, hydro-, water

hydro-cephalus, waterhead, a congenital deformation

hydro-gen, a gas which forms water when combined with oxygen

hydro-therapy, treatment by the use of water

hypno-, sleep

hypn-agogue, inducer of sleep

hypno-lepsy, uncontrollable sleepiness

hyster, hystera-, uterus

hyster-ectomy, excision of the uterus

hystero-ptosis, prolapse of the uterus

litho-, lithos-, stone

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

litho-nephria, stone in the kidney

litho-tomy, cutting for stone

morph-, morphe-, form

morpho-logy, the science of structure

morpho-genesis, the evolution of form

my-, mys-, muscle

my-asthenia, muscular weakness

myo-carditis, inflammation of the muscular wall of the heart

narc-, narke-, numbness, stupor

narco-lepsy, numbing seizure, petit mal

narco-mania, craving for narcotics.

nephro-, nephros-, kidney

nephro-py-osis, suppuration of the kidney

nephro-scler-osis, hardening of the kidney

neuro-, neuron-cord, tendon, nerve

neur-algia, nerve pain

neur-asthenia, nerve weakness

odont-, odys, tooth)

odonto-clasis, breaking of tooth

odont-orthrosis, straightening of teeth

ophthalmo-, ophthalmos-, eye

ophthalmo-gyric, causing eye movements

ophthalmo-scope, an instrument to view the eye

osteo-, osteon-, bone

osteo-malacia-softening of the bone

osteo-necrosis, killing, decay of the bone

ot-, ear

oto-myc-osis, a fungus-caused inflammation of the ear

oto-rrhea-, discharge from the ear

pod-, pus, foot

pod-agra, seizure in the foot, gout

pod-iatrist, foot practitioner

pyo-, pyon-, pus

pyo-genic, pus forming

pyo-periton-itis, suppurative inflammation of the peritoneum

pyr-, pyret-, fire, heat, inflammation

pyr-exia, an acute inflammation

pyreo-mania, an uncontrollable desire to set things on fire

sphygmo-, pulse

sphygmo-graph instrument to measure pulse.

sphygmo-mano-meter an instrument to measure blood pressure

zoo-, a living organism

zoo-logy, study of animals

zoo-parasite, an animal parasite

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

Initial words as part of compound adjectives

allo-, allos-, other, combining form

allo-cinosis, passive movement, reflex movement

all-ergy, a clinical change in the capacity of the organism to react to an infection, hypersensitiveness

auto-, self

auto-matism, a condition in which movements are made without conscious thought

aut-opsy, seeing with one's own eyes, postmortem examination

brady-, slow

brady-cardia, abnormal slowness of the heart beat

brady-pnea, abnormal slowness of respiration

caco-, kakos-, bad

cac-hexia, bad habit, lack of nutrition, and wasting

cac-idrosis, morbid sweating

crypto-, secret, hidden,

crypto-genic, of hidden or obscure origin

crypt-orchid, hidden or undescended testis

ecto-, ektos-, outside

ecto-derm, outer side of the skin

ecto-plasm, moulded on the outer side, the outer side of the cytoplasm

erythro-, erythros-, red

erythro-cyte, red blood cells,

erythr-edema, red swelling

hemi-, one-half

hemi-atrophy, atrophy of one lateral half of a part or organ

hemi-plegia, half stroke, paralysis of one side of the body

hetero-, heteros-, other, different, opposite

hetero-plasty, surgical grafting with tissue derived from another individual

hetero-tonia, different, variable tension

homeo-, homoios-, similar

homeo-pathy-a special system of therapeutics

homeo-stasis, condition of bodily equilibrium; literally staying the same

homo-, homos-, the same

homo-lateral, on or relating to the same side

homo-sexual, having attraction for the same sex

idio-, idios-, one's own, private

idio-pathic, noting a primary disease, one originating without apparent extrinsic cause

idio-syn-crazy, one's own mixing, peculiarities of a person

iso-, isos-, equal, like

iso-thermal, having the same temperature

iso-tonia-, tonic equality

leuco-, leukos-, white)

leuco-cyte, white blood cell

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

leuco-rrhea, white discharge

macro-, makros-, long, large

macro-cephalic, having a large head

macro-glossia, enlargement of the tongue

mega-, megal-, megas-, megal-, great, large

mega-colon, dilatation of the large intestine

megalo-mania, delusion of grandeur

melan-, melas-, black

melan-cholia, black bile, a depressed emotional state

melano-sarcoma, a deeply pigmented sarcoma

meso-, mesos-, middle

mes-encephalon, midbrain

mes-entery, middle intestine

micro-, mikros-, small

micro-be, mikros+bios, small living thing

micro-scope, a viewer of small things

mono-, monos-, alone, single

mono-nuclear, having a single nucleus

mono-plegia, paralysis of one limb

neo-, neos-, new, recent, young

neo-natal, relating to the period immediately succeeding birth

neo-plasm, new growth

oligo-, oligos-, little, few

oligo-phrenia, mental weakness, feeble-mindedness

oligo-pnea, infrequent respiration

ortho-, orthos-, straight, correct

ortho-dontia, straightening of the teeth

ortho-pedics, correction of deformities

oxy-, oxys-, sharp, acid

oxy-gen, a gaseous element present in acids

oxy-lalia, rapid speech

paleo-, palaios-, ancient

paleo-genesis, hereditary transmission of peculiarities

paleo-pathology, study of diseases of the prehistoric times

pan-, pas-, all, entire

pan-creas, all flesh, the pancreas gland

pan-demic, a disease attacking all

polio-, polios-, grey

polio-encephalitis, inflammation of the grey matter of the brain

polio-myelitis, inflammation of the grey matter of the spinal cord

poly-, polys-, much, many

poly-pus, many feet

poly-uria, excessive urination

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

prota-, protos-, first

proto-plasm, first formed, living matter

proto-type, first form, primitive form

pseudo-, pseudos-, false, spurious

pseudo-cele, false cavity, the 5th ventricle of the brain

pseudo-cyesis, false pregnancy

tachy-, tachys-, fast

tachy-cardia, rapid heart rate;

tachy-pnea, rapid breathing

xantho-, xanthos-, yellow.

xantho-derm, yellow skin;

xanth-opsia, yellow vision

Prefix and word parts that are in beginning adverb compounds

di-, dis-, twice

di-hydric, a chemical compound with two hydrogen atoms

di-morphism, with two forms

endo-, endon-, within

endo-crine, secretion within, internal secretion

endo-metrium, within the uterus, membrane lining the uterus

eu-, well, easy

eu-phoria, bearing oneself well, good health

eu-thanasia, easy death

exo-, outside, outward

exo-genous-, originating outside

exo-gnathion, outside jaw, maxilla

opisth-, opisthe-, behind

opisth-encephalon, brain behind, the cerebellum

opistho-tonos, stretching backward, a tetanic spasm

palin-, back, backward, again

palindrome, a word or number that is the same forward and backward - dad

palin-dromia, a running back, a relapse

palin-esthesia, a return of sensation

tele- distant.

telepathy, minding reading from a distance.

tele-neuron, the distant neuron, end neuron

Second parts of words in noun compounds

-agogue, -agogos, leader

galact-agogue, an agent promoting the secretion of milk

hypn-agogue, inducer of sleep,

hypnotic

-agra, seizure

cardi-agra, heart seizure, angina pectoris

pod-agra, foot seizure, gout

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

-algia, -algos, pain

gastr-algia, stomach ache

neur-algia, nerve pain

-asthenia, -asthenes, weak

my-asthenia, muscular weakness

neur-asthenia, nerve weakness, nervous exhaustion

-cele, -kele, protrusion, tumor, hernia

hemato-cele, blood cyst

hydro-cele, water hernia

-cinesia, -kinesis, movement

cardio-cinesia, movement, action of the heart

entero-cinesia, movement of the intestine, peristalsis

-clasia, -clasis, breaking

arthro-clasia, breaking of a joint, breaking up of adhesions

hemo-clasis, breaking up of the red blood cells

-cyte, -kytos, cell.

erythro-cyte, red blood cell; lympho-cyte, lymph cell

-ectomy, remove with surgery.

hyster-ectomy; removal of the uterus

thyroid-ectomy removal of the thyroid

-ectopia, ek+topos= out of place

nephro-ectopia, abnormal movement of the kidney

splen-ectopia, abnormal movement of the spleen

-emia, -haima, blood

an-emia, lack of blood

ur-emia, an excess of urea in the blood

-esthesia, -aisthesis, feeling,

sensibility

an-esthesia, lack of feeling

par-esthesia, an abnormal spontaneous sensation, like itching

-genesis, -geny, generation, origin

patho-genesis, the origin or development of a disease

spermato-genesis, production of spermatozoa

onto-geny, the development of the individual

-gram, -gramma, writing, drawing

cardio-gram, the record of the movement of the heart

encephalo-gram, a roentgenogram of the brain

-graph, -graphy, graphein = to write

dermo-graph, an instrument for marking or writing on the skin

ventriculo-graphy, radiography of the cerebral ventricles

-lith, lithos = stone, calculus

entero-lith, an intestinal calculus

hemato-lith, a concretion in the wall of a blood vessel

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

-logia, -logie, -logy, logos = word, discourse, treatise
physio-logy, the science which deals with life processes
uro-logy, the specialty dealing with the diseases of the urinary organs

-lysis, dissolution, loosening, breaking down
hemo-lysis, destruction of the red blood cells
para-lysis, loss of voluntary movement in a muscle

-malacia, malakia = softening
myo-malacia, softening of muscular tissues
osteo-malacia, softening of the bones

-mania, madness, uncontrollable impulse.
klepto-mania, a pathological impulse to steal;
megalo-mania, delusion of grandeur

-megalia, -megaly, megas and megal = large
acro-megalia or acromegaly, enlargement of the extremities
spleno-megalia, enlargement of the spleen

-meter, metron and metrum = measure, an instrument for measuring
pulsi-meter, instrument to measure the pulse
thermo-meter, instrument to measure heat

-odynia, odyne = pain
acr-odynia, pain in the extremities
ot-odynia, pain in the ear

-opia, ops = vision
ambly-opia, dimness of vision, amblys = dull
my-opia, winking vision, shortsightedness, myein = to wink

-pathy, pathos = suffering
adeno-pathy, glandular disease
psycho-pathy, a disorder of the mind, insanity

-philia, philein = to like
hemo-philia, liking of blood, a disorder marked with hemorrhages

-phobia, phobos = fear
claustro-phobia-a morbid fear of being in any closed place
hydro-phobia, fear of water, rabies

-plasty, plassein = to form as a plastic surgeon
entero-plasty, plastic surgery of the intestines
rhino-plasty, plastic surgery of the nose, rhis, rhin = nose

-rrhea, rrhoia = flow
gono-rrhea, a discharge caused by gonococcus infection
leuco-rrhea, white discharge

-sclerosis, hardening, induration
arterio-sclerosis, hardening of the arteries
arthro-sclerosis, stiffness of the joint

-scope, -scopy, skopein = to view
cysto-scope, an instrument to view the bladder, kystis-bladder

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

ophthalmo-scope, an instrument to view the fundus of the eye

-spasm, spasmos = convulsion, cramp
 entero-spasm, intestinal colic
 pyloro-spasm, painful contraction of the pylorus

-stasis, stoppage, checking
 hemo-stasis, arrest of bleeding
 homeo-stasis, standing still, bodily equilibrium

-staxis, dripping,oozing,slowhemorrhage
 entero-staxis, bleeding from the intestines
 epi-staxis, nose bleed

-stenosis, narrowing
 cardio-stenosis, narrowing of the heart
 entero-stenosis, narrowing of the intestines

-stomy, stoma-mouth
 colo-stomy, forming an opening into the colon
 cysto-stomy, forming an opening into the bladder

-therapy, therapeia = treatment
 hydro-therapy, treatment by water
 physio-therapy, treatment by natural means (air, water, massage)

-tomy, tome = incision
 laparo-tomy, incision into the loin, lapara = loin
 lobo-tomy, operation on the frontal lobe

-trophy, troph = to nourish
 a-trophy, lack of nourishment, wasting of the tissues of the body
 hyper-trophy, excessive nourishment, overgrowth

-uria, urein = urinate
 hemat-uria, blood in the urine
 py-uria, pus in the urine

Latin root words in medicine

Anus - ring	Hernia - rupture	retina - net
Aqua - water	Ilium - flank	ruga - wrinkle,
Bacillus - little rod	Labium - lip	saliva - spittle
Bucca - cheek, cake	Latius - side	scrotum - pouch
Cancer - crab	Lens - lentil	sella - chair
Caput - head	Ligamentum - binding	semen - seed
Caries - decay	Lingua - tongue	spina - thorn
Cella - chamber	Lues - plague	stimulus - goad
Cerebrum - brain	Lupus - wolf	succus - juice
Cervix - neck	Manus - hand	sudor - sweat
Cor - heart	Meatus - opening	tabes - wasting

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

Corpus - body	Mens - mind	talus - ankle
Cortex - bark	Mensis - month	tergum - back
Cutis - skin	Morbus - disease	tonsilla - pointed
Dens - tooth	Nodus - knot	tunica - garment
Facies - face	oculus - eye	tussis - cough
Fascia - land	os - mouth	ulcus - ulcer
Febris - fever	ovum - egg, pan	uterus - womb
Femur - thigh bone	patella - shallow	vagina - sheath
Fetus - embryo	pectus - chest	valva - valve
Foramen - perforation	pelvis - basin	vas - vessel
Fornix - arch	placenta - flat, pole	vena - vein
Fossa - ditch	pons - bridge	venter - belly
Frons - forehead	pulmo - lung	vermis - worm
Fundus - base, bottom, furrow, girl	pupilla - little	vesica - bladder
Glans - gland	ren - kidney	virus - poison

Prefixes

When prefixes are added to a stem, letters can be changed. Often the final consonant of a Latin prefix change match the letter that follows.

ad-cept - ac-cept

ad-ferens - af-ferens

ad-sume - as-sume

con-lapse - col-lapse

con-lateral - col-lateral

ob-ciput - oc-ciput

ob-press - op-press,

Latin prefix samples

a-, ab-, abs, away from, off

a-vulsion, tearing away

ab-ductor, leading away

ab-oral, away from the mouth

abs-tract, a condensation

ad-, to, toward

ad-hesion, sticking to

ad-renal, near the kidney, adrenal gland

ac-cretion, accumulation

ap-pendix, hanging upon

ambi-, ambo-, both, on both sides

ambi-dextrous, able to use both hands

ambi-valent, having power in both directions

ambo-ceptor, accepting both, a substance in the blood

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

ambo-sexual, bisexual, affecting both sexes

ante-, before, in time or space, in front of, forward

ante-cubital, before the elbow

ante-flexion, bending forward

ante-natal, before birth

ante-version, tipping forward

bi-, bis-, twice, double

bi-carbonate, a salt having two elements of carbonic acid

bi-cuspid, having two points

bi-lateral, pertaining to both sides

bis-axillary, pertaining to both armpits = axilla

circum-, around, about

circum-cision, cutting around

circum-flex, bent around

circum-ocular, around the eye

circum-oral, around the mouth

co-, con-, cum = with, together

co-agulation, changing into a clot

con-cussion, a violent shock

col-lapse, extreme prostration

com-press, pressed together, a compressed pad

contra-, against, opposed

contra-ception, against conception

contra-indication, rendering a particular treatment undesirable

contra-stimulant, opposing stimulation

contra-toxin, against toxin

de-, down, downward, sometimes a

privative

de-ciduous, not permanent, temporary

de-composition, decay, putrefaction

de-mentia, without mind,

mental deterioration

de-odorant, taking odor away

di-, dis-, an inseparable preposition denoting sundering, apart, sometimes negative

di-gestion, carrying food away

dis-infectant, freeing from infection, an agent that disinfects

dis-location, displacement of a bone

dis-sect, cut apart, cut up

e-, ec-, ex-, out, out of, off, removal

e-jection, act of throwing out

e-nucleate-to remove whole

ex-tract, something drawn out

ex-udate, from ec+sudate, sweat out, sweat

extra-, extro-, outside of, outer side

extra-cellular, outside the cell

extra-cranial, outside the skull

extra-vasation, a discharge of blood from a vessel into the tissues

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

extro-vert, a person whose interest is turned outward

in-, im-, in-, into, inside
in-cision, cutting in, a cut
in-cubation, lying in, the latent stage of an infectious disease
im-mersion, placing a body under water
im-pacted, pressed closely together, immovable

in-, im-, ir, not, a negation
in-curable, not curable
in-sane, without mind, of unsound mind
im-maculate, without a spot
ir-reducible, not reducible, incapable of being made smaller

infra-, below, beneath, downward, lower
infra-inguinal, below the groin
infra-maxillary, below the maxilla
infra-orbital, below the orbit, eye socket
infra-red, beyond the red end of the spectrum

inter-, between
inter-cellular, between cells
inter-digital, between the fingers or toes
inter-mittent, marked by intervals
inter,vertebral, situated between two vertebrae

intra-, within, inside of
intra-cellular, within the cell
intra-rectal, within the rectum
intra-uterine, within the uterus
intra-venous, in, into, within a vein

intro-, into, inward, within
intro-duction, leading into
intro-flexion, bending inward
intro-mission, insertion
intro-vert, turned within, a person given to introspection

juxta-, beside, near
juxta-articular, situated near a joint
juxta-position, an adjacent position
juxta-spinal, close to the spinal column

ob-, in front of, against, near, space or time
ob-literation, complete removal
ob-stetrics, to stand in front of a woman, midwifery
ob-struction, the act of blocking or clogging
oc-clusion from ob-clusion, the act of closure or state of being closed

per-, through, thorough, excessive, very
per-cutaneous, through the skin, cutis
per-forate, to pierce, bone through
per-meable, permitting the passage through
per-oxide, the oxide that contains the greatest number of oxygen' atoms

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

post-, behind, following, after, time or space, posterior
post-encephalitis, following or a sequel of encephalitis
post-febrile, after fever, febris
post-ocular, behind the eye
post-partum, after birth

prae-, pre-, before, in time or space, in front of, anterior
pre-frontal, the anterior portion of the frontal lobe
pre-gnancy, before birth, gestation
pre-mature, unripe, undeveloped, occurring before the appointed time
pre-oral, in front of the mouth

pro-, before, in front of,
forward
pro-cess, an advance or progress
pro-ductive, leading forward, capable of producing
pro-lapse, to fall, sink forward
pro-sector, one who prosects, demonstrator of anatomy

re-, red-, before a vowel, back, again
re-current, running back, returned
re-duce, lead back, replace
re-flex, bent back, reacting, reaction
red-integration, renewal, restoration of lost or injured parts

retro-, back, backward, behind
retro-flexion-bending backward
retro-grade, going backward, moving backward
retro-nasal, posterior nasal
retro-version, turning backward

se-, an inseparable prefix meaning apart, sundering
se-cretion, separation, of various substances from the blood
se-gregation, removal of certain parts from a mass
se-junction, breaking of continuity

sub-, sup-, under, in position or degree, beneath, downward, nearly
sub-acute, not definitely acute
sub-cutaneous, under the skin
sub-liminal, below the threshold, of sensation,
sup-puration, from sub-puration, the formation of pus

super-, above, in position or degree, over, upper part, extreme
super-acute, excessively sharp or acute
super-ciliary, above the eyebrow
super-numerary, in excess of the regular or normal number
super-tension, extreme tension

supra-, above, upon, over, upper
supra-costal, above the rib, costa
supra-pubic, above the pubic arch
supra-renal, above the kidney, ren
supra-sternal, above the breast, sternum

trans-, across, through, beyond

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

trans-ference, carry across, displacement of symptoms or effect

trans-fusion, pouring across, transfer of blood

trans-plantation, grafting of tissues

trans-urethral, through the urethra

ultra-, beyond, in excess

ultra-filtration, extra fine filtration

ultra-ligation, ligation of a vessel beyond the origin of a branch

ultra-violet, rays beyond the violet end of the spectrum

ultra-virus, extra virus, filtrable virus

Suffixes

-ago, -igo, to drive, gives an idea of activity

lumb-ago, rheumatism of the lumbar region, lumbus-loin

prur-igo, itch, prurire = to itch

vert-igo, dizziness, giddiness, vertere = to turn around

-alis, -al, an adjectival termination

cruci-al, decisive, crux=cross

digit-al, relating or resembling a digit

dors-al, relating to the back, dorsum

or-al, relating to the mouth

-culum, -cle, small, diminutive

corpus-cle, little body

folli-cle, little bag, follis

ventri-cle, little belly, ventricle, venter

vesi-cle, little bladder, vesica

-or, denotes a state or an agent

don-or, giver, donare = to give

levat-or, one that lifts, levare = to lift

rub-or, redness, ruber = red

tum-or, swelling, tumescere=to

swell

-orium, -terion-, designates a place

sanat-orium, place for treatment, sanare=to heal

sens-orium, the seat of sensation, sensus=sense

tent-orium, an anatomical part resembling a tent or covering

-osus, -ous, -ose, suffix used on adjectives

aque-ous, watery, aqua

adip-ose, fatty, adip=fat)

pil-ose, hairy, pilus=hair

rug-ose, wrinkled, ruga=wrinkle

-tas, -ty, denotes an abstract quality or idea

acidi-ty, the state of being acid

immuni-ty, a state resistant to disease, immunis=free from service

in-sani-ty, unsoundness of mind, insanus

senili-ty, old age, senex-old

-tio, -tion, a suffix of verbal roots signifying an action or function

bi-furca-tion, a forking, division into branches, furca-fork

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

in-flamma-tion, a morbid change in the tissues, flamma=flame

palpa-tion, an examination by the hands, palpare=to feel

Compounds in Latin

ilio-, ilium, flank

ilio-costal, relating to the ilium and ribs, costa

ilio-femoral, relating to the ilium and thigh bone, femur

ilio-lumbar, relating to the iliac and lumbar region, lumbus=loin

ilio-sacral, relating to the ilium and sacrum

latero-, **-latus**, later, side

latero-abdominal, pertaining to the side and abdomen

latero-flexion, a bending or curvature to one side, flectere=to bend

latero-torsion, twisting to one side, torquere=to twist

latero-version, turning to one side, vertere=to turn

Beginnings for adjective compounds

albo-, albus=white

albo-cinereous, ashen white, cinus,

ciner=ash

albo-ferrin, a light brown powder with an iron compound, ferrum

albu-lactin, trade name of a soluble lactalbumin, lac-milk

anter-, anterior=before, in front of

antero-grade, moving forward, gradior=to step

antero-lateral, in front and to the side, latus

antero-posterior, relating to both front and rear.

dextro-, dexter, dextr, right

dextro-ocular, right eyed, oculus

dextro-manual, right handed, manus

dextro-pedal, right footed, pes & ped

mal-, malus=bad, evil

mal-adjustment, poor adjustment

mal-aria, bad air, aria

mal-formation, congenital deformity

mal-practice, mistreatment of a disease

medio-, medius=middle

medio-carpal, relating to the central part of the wrist, carpus

medio-lateral, relating to the middle and one side

medio-tarsal, relating to the middle of the instep tarsus

multi-, multus=many

multi-form, occurring in many forms

multi-gravida, a woman who has been pregnant many times

multi-lobar, having several lobes

multi-nuclear, having two or more nuclei

pluri-, plus, plur, more

pluri-glandular, noting several glands or their secretion

pluri-gravida, a synonym for multi-gravida

pluri-para, a woman who has given birth to three or more children.

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

primi-, primus=first

primi-para, a woman giving birth the first time

prim-ordial, primitive, ordire=to begin

postero- posterior=behind

postero-lateral, behind and to one side

postero-parietal, relating to the posterior portion of the parietal lobe

semi-, half, in part, somewhat

semi-comatose-in a condition of mild coma

semi-flexion, midway between extension and flexion

semi-lunar, half-moon shaped, luna

semi-luxation, a partial dislocation, luxatio

sesqui-, one and a half, one-half more

sesqui-basic, a salt with 3 equivalents of the acid for 2 of the base

sesqui-hora, an hour and a half

sinistro-, sinister, sinistr, left

sinistro-cerebral, relating to the left cerebral hemisphere

sinistro-lateral, relating to the left side

sinistro-torsion, turning or twisting to the left

uni-, unus=one

uni-axial, having one axis

uni-lateral, having one side, confined to one side only

uni-nuclear, having one nucleus

Nouns in the second part of a compound

-form, forma=shape, form indicating a resemblance to the stem

cunei-form, wedge shaped, cuneus

funi-form, rope like, funis

fusi-form, spindle shaped, fusus

-fuge, fugare, to expel, drive away

centri-fuge, an apparatus driving particles to the center

febri-fuge, reducing fever, febris

vermi-fuge, an agent causing expulsion of intestinal worms, vermis

Words with a mixture of Greek and Latin

G - L

bacterni-al

de-hydr-ation

derm-al

peri-card-ium

hem-al

L. - G.

appendic-itis

fibr-oma

tonsill-itis

granul-oma,

Multiple combinations of G & L

Study of anatomy and medical word parts and their meaning

appendicitis,
bacterial,
cancer-ology
colorimeter,
dehydration,
parasacral
colorimeter
posthepatic
mononuclear
venotomy
oculogyric
visceroptosis

Source: *An Introduction to Medical Terminology*. by George L. Banay