

## Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example
a-, an-	without, not	anemia
ab-	away from	abduction
ad-	toward, near	adrenal
ante-	before	antepartum
anti-	against	antibiotic
auto-	self	autoimmune
bi-	two	bilateral
brady-	slow	bradycardia
circum-	around	circumcision
co-, con-	together, with	congenital
contra-	against	contraindicated
de-	down, away from	dehydration
dia-	through, complete	dialysis
dis-	apart, free of	disinfect
dys-	bad, difficult, painful	dyspnea
ec-, ecto-	out, outside	ectopic
en-, endo-	within, inside	endoscopy
epi-	upon, above	epidermis
eu-	good, normal, true	eupnea
ex-, exo-	out, away from	excision
extra-	outside, beyond	extracellular
hemi-	half	hemiplegia
hyper-	above, excessive	hypertension
hypo-	below, deficient	hypoglycemia
infra-	beneath, below	infrared
inter-	between	intercostal
intra-	within	intravenous
macro-	large	macrocyte
mal-	bad, poor	malnutrition
meta-	change, beyond	metastasis
micro-	small	microbiology
mono-, uni-	one	monocyte
neo-	new	neoplasm

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Prefix	Meaning	Example
nulli-	none	nullipara
para-	beside, beyond	paraplegia
peri-	around, surrounding	pericardium
poly-	many, much	polyuria
post-	after, behind	postoperative
pre-, pro-	before, in front of	prenatal
pseudo-	false	pseudocyst
re-	back, again	remission
retro-	backward, behind	retroperitoneal
semi-	half, partial	semiconscious
sub-	below, under	subcutaneous
super-, supra-	above, over	suprapubic
sym-, syn-	together, with	syndrome
tachy-	fast, rapid	tachycardia
trans-	across, through	transplant
tri-	three	trimester
ultra-	beyond, excess	ultrasonography
uni-	one	unilateral

## Common Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-ac, -al, -ar, -ary	pertaining to	cardiac, renal
-algia	pain	neuralgia
-centesis	surgical puncture to remove fluid	amniocentesis
-cyte	cell	erythrocyte
-dynia	pain	coxodynia
-ectomy	surgical removal	appendectomy
-emia	blood condition	leukemia
-genesis	origin, production	carcinogenesis
-gram	record, image	electrocardiogram
-graph	instrument for recording	electrocardiograph
-graphy	process of recording	radiography
-ia, -iasis	condition	pneumonia, urolithiasis
-itis	inflammation	appendicitis
-logy	study of	cardiology

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Suffix	Meaning	Example
-lysis	separation, breakdown	hemolysis
-malacia	softening	osteomalacia
-megaly	enlargement	hepatomegaly
-meter	instrument to measure	thermometer
-metry	process of measuring	spirometry
-necrosis	tissue death	avascular necrosis
-oma	tumor, mass	carcinoma
-opia	vision condition	myopia
-oscopy / -scopy	visual examination	endoscopy
-osis	abnormal condition	fibrosis
-ostomy	surgical opening	colostomy
-otomy / -tomy	incision, cutting into	laparotomy
-pathy	disease	neuropathy
-penia	deficiency	thrombocytopenia
-pexy	surgical fixation	nephropexy
-phagia	eating, swallowing	dysphagia
-phasia	speech	aphasia
-phobia	fear	claustrophobia
-plasty	surgical repair/reconstruction	rhinoplasty
-plegia	paralysis	quadriplegia
-pnea	breathing	apnea
-ptosis	drooping, sagging	blepharoptosis
-rrhage / -rrhagia	bursting forth, hemorrhage	menorrhagia
-rrhaphy	suture, repair	herniorrhaphy
-rrhea	flow, discharge	diarrhea
-rrhexis	rupture	amniorrhaxis
-scope	instrument for viewing	ophthalmoscope
-spasm	sudden contraction	bronchospasm
-stasis	stopping, controlling	hemostasis
-stenosis	narrowing	aortic stenosis
-therapy	treatment	chemotherapy
-trophy	nourishment, development	hypertrophy
-uria	urine condition	hematuria

## Essential Word Roots (Combining Forms)

# Word Roots, Prefixes & Suffixes

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Root / Combining Form	Meaning	Example
aden/o	gland	adenoma
angi/o	vessel	angioplasty
arteri/o	artery	arteriosclerosis
arthr/o	joint	arthritis
bronch/o	bronchus	bronchoscopy
cardi/o	heart	cardiomyopathy
cerebr/o	cerebrum (brain)	cerebrovascular
chol/e, chol/o	bile, gall	cholecystitis
chondr/o	cartilage	chondroma
col/o, colon/o	colon	colonoscopy
cost/o	rib	intercostal
crani/o	skull, cranium	craniotomy
cutane/o, dermat/o, dermat/o	skin	dermatitis
cyst/o	bladder, cyst	cystoscopy
cyt/o	cell	cytology
encephal/o	brain	encephalitis
enter/o	intestine (small)	gastroenteritis
erythr/o	red	erythrocyte
esophag/o	esophagus	esophagoscopy
gastr/o	stomach	gastroplasty
gluc/o, glyc/o	sugar, glucose	glycemia
hem/o, hemat/o	blood	hematology
hepat/o	liver	hepatitis
hist/o	tissue	histology
hyster/o	uterus	hysterectomy
lapar/o	abdomen	laparoscopy
leuk/o	white	leukocyte
lip/o	fat	liposuction
lymph/o	lymph	lymphoma
men/o	menstruation	menorrhagia
my/o	muscle	myocardium
myel/o	bone marrow, spinal cord	myeloma
nas/o, rhin/o	nose	rhinoplasty
nephr/o, ren/o	kidney	nephrology
neur/o	nerve	neurology

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Root / Combining Form	Meaning	Example
ocul/o, ophthalm/o	eye	ophthalmology
onc/o	tumor	oncology
or/o, stomat/o	mouth	stomatitis
orth/o	straight, correct	orthopedics
oste/o	bone	osteoporosis
ot/o	ear	otoscope
path/o	disease	pathology
ped/o, pedi/o	child, foot	pediatrics
pneum/o, pulmon/o	lung, air	pneumonia
proct/o	rectum/anus	proctoscopy
psych/o	mind	psychiatry
py/o	pus	pyogenic
splen/o	spleen	splenomegaly
tend/o, tendin/o	tendon	tendinitis
thromb/o	clot	thrombosis
thyr/o	thyroid gland	thyroidectomy
ur/o, urin/o	urine, urinary	urology
vas/o	vessel, duct	vasodilation
ven/o, phleb/o	vein	phlebotomy
vertebr/o	vertebra, spine	vertebral