

GLOSSARY - COMMON MEDICAL PREFIXES

A

- a(n) -** not; without; denoting absence
aden(o) - gland; glandular
arthr(o) - joint

B

- bi -** two; in two parts
bi(o) - living organisms or tissue
bis - both; belonging to both; doubled

C

- carcin(o)-** tumor; cancer
cardi(a)-
cardi(o)- heart; heart action
cerebr(i)-
cerebro- brain; cerebrum
contra- against; contrary
counter- opposite, retaliatory; complimentary, corresponding
crani(o)- pertaining to the cranium (skull)

D

derma-	
dermat(o)-	
dermo-	skin
di-	double, apart
dys-	bad, difficult, painful

E

endo-	within
epi-	upon
esthesio- (aesthesio-)	sensation

F

facio-	facial
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G

gaster(o)-	
gastr(o)-	stomach

H

hem(a)-	
hemat-	
hemo-	blood
hemi-	half
hepat(o)-	liver
heter(o)-	other than usual; different
histi(o)-	tissue
hydr(o)-	water; a water-loving organism
hyper-	over; above; beyond; excessive
hypo-	under; beneath; less than normal

I

infra-	below; lower in status; after; within
inter-	between; among; reciprocal
intra-	within; during; between layers

L

lyso-	loosening; dissolution; decomposition
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M

macr(o)-	long; large
mal-	bad; evil; irregular; abnormal
malac(o)-	soft
medi(o)-	the middle; intermediate
mega-	great; enlarged; a million of
megal(o)-	great; large; of giant size
micr(o)-	small; dealing with microscopy
mi(o)-	less; smaller; few
myel(o)-	bone marrow; of the spinal cord
my(o)-	muscle

N

narc(o)-	numbness; stupor; deep sleep
nephr(o)-	of or relating to the kidneys; renal
neur(o)-	neural tissue; nerve

O

ob-	inward; in reverse order
onco-	tumor; mass
orth(o)-	straight; parallel; corrective
oste(o)-	bone

P

par(a)-	alongside of; parallel; parasite
ped(i)- pedo-	of the foot; something involving the feet
peri-	all around; enclosing or surrounding
phleb(o)-	vein
pleur(i)- pleuro-	membrane lining the lungs and inner wall of the chest
post-	after; behind
pro-	earlier than; prior to; in advance; in front of; siding with; advocating; supporting
pyel(o)-	of the pelvis; renal pelvis

R

ren(i)- reno-	of the kidney
retro-	backward; behind

S

sacr(o)-	sacrum (the vertebral column connected to the pelvis)
sangui-	blood
scler(o)-	hard; dry
spondyl(o)-	vertebra
super-	over and above; higher in quantity, quality, or degree
supra-	above; situated on the dorsal or upper side

T

tachy-	rapid; accelerated
tempor(o)-	relating to the temple or the sides of the skull
thromb(o)-	associated with the clotting of blood

U

ultra-	beyond the range or limits; beyond what is common, natural, or moderate
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GLOSSARY - COMMON MEDICAL SUFFIXES

A

- aemia** the condition of having blood; the condition of having something in the blood
-emia, -hemia
- algia** pain; painful condition

C

- clasia** breaking; breaking up

E

- ectomy** cutting out; surgical removal
- emia** having blood; having something in the blood

G

- gram** having drawn or written

I

- iasis** morbid state or condition
- iatric** of or relating to medical treatment
- iatrist** physician; healer
- iatry** medical treatment; healing
- ism** condition; theory
- itis** inflammation of
- ize** to treat according to a specific method or process

L

- logy** doctrine; theory or science
- lysis** decomposition; disintegration; detachment

M

- megally** abnormal enlargement

O

- odynia** pain
- oid** resembling a specified object; having a specific quality
- oma** a tumor of a specified kind, or consisting of a specified kind of cell or tissue
- osis** disease, morbid state, abnormal increase
- ost** bone

P

- patho** a practitioner of a system of medicine emphasizing one aspect of disease and its treatment
- pathy** telling; suffering; a disease of a specific kind
- phobic** exhibiting an exaggerated and disabling fear
- pnea** breath; breathing

R

- (r)rhagia** abnormal or excessive discharge or flow
- (r)rhea** flow; discharge
- (r)rhexis** rupture, splitting

S

- stasis** slowing or stoppage of normal flow; remain still; in a state of equilibrium
- stat** an apparatus or agent keeping something stable or stationary
- stomy** a surgical operation establishing a permanent opening into a body part or between body parts

T

- tomy** incision; section
- trophic** relating to a specific type of nutrition or nutritional requirement
- trophy** nutrition; nourishment; growth
- tropic** attracted specifically to such tissue, organ, or system

U

- ule** small
- ulum** small one

COMMON MEDICAL TESTS

Bender-Gestalt Test

CAT (computerized axial tomography)

Cheyne-Stokes respiration

CT (computerized tomography)

Fisher Finger Coordination Test

Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer - GCMS

Grassi-Block Substitution

Kimmelstiel-Wilson syndrome

Laseque Test (to diagnose low back pain and sciatica)

Magnetic Resonance Imaging - MRI

Papanicolaou's smear test - Pap (to diagnose cancer)

Rorschach Test (a personality test using a set of ink blots)

Stanford Binet Test (tests mental ability by age)

Thematic Apperception Tests (used to detect subconscious personality)

Wechsler IQ Test (measures intellectual capacity)

Weigl-Goldstein-Scheerer Color Form Sorting Test

GLOSSARY - MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

A

abduct	to draw away from the median or center line
abduction	to move a body part away from the midline of the body
abrasion	a wearing, grinding, or rubbing away by friction, especially from the surface layer of the skin
abscess	a localized collection of pus surrounded by an area of inflamed tissue
adduction	to move a body part toward the midline of the body
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
Alzheimer's disease	senile dementia occurring at an early age characterized by emotional apathy and a marked decline in intellectual level
analgesic	an agent that produces insensibility to pain without loss of consciousness
anemia	a condition in which the blood is deficient in red blood cells; lack of vitality
anesthesia	loss of feeling or sensation; especially loss of the sensation of pain so as to permit surgery
anesthesiologist	a physician specializing in anesthesiology
anesthetist	one who administers anesthesia
aneurysm	the localized, abnormal dilation of a blood vessel, filled with fluid or clotted blood, which results from disease of the vessel wall
angina pectoris	a disease characterized by sudden attacks of substernal pain of short duration, precipitated by effort or emotion
anorexia	prolonged loss of appetite
anosmia	loss or impairment of the sense of smell
aorta	the chief artery that carries blood from the heart
apnea	temporary cessation of breathing

arteriosclerosis	thickening of the walls of arteries, ultimately resulting in the hardening and loss of elasticity of those arteries
atrophy	a wasting away or degeneration of body tissue or a body part
audiometer	an instrument that measures acuity of hearing
auricle	the cartilaginous, projecting portion of the external ear; an atrium of the heart

B

bilateral	affecting or relating to two sides
biopsy	removal of tissue, cells, or fluid from the living body for examination
bradycardia	below normal heartbeat
bulimia	an abnormal and constant craving for food

C

cardiac arrest	cessation of heart action, usually caused by systole or ventricular fibrillation
cardiogram	a tracing made by an instrument that registers movement of the heart muscle
carotid artery	either of two main arteries that supply blood to the head
carpus	the eight bones of the wrist
cartilage	translucent elastic tissue
cauterize	to burn or sear by application of a heated instrument; to deaden
cervical vertebrae	the seven bones making up the neck region of the spine
Cesarean section	removal of a fetus through an incision into the uterus
chiropractor	a doctor specializing in spinal adjustments and the relationship between musculoskeletal, neurological, vascular, and nutritional systems of the body

clavicle	the collarbone
coccyx	the lowermost part of the spine
cochlea	the cavity of the inner ear that contains the organ of hearing
Colle's fracture	a break in the lower third of the radius that displaces the hand backwards and outwards
colostomy	surgically creating a new opening of the colon accessible from outside the body
comminuted fracture	a fracture where bone is crushed, splintered, or broken in several places
congenital	a condition existing from the time of birth
conjunctiva	the mucous membrane lining the inside of the eyelids and covering the front of the eye
contusion	a bruise; an injury with no break in the skin
craniotomy	a surgical opening made in the skull
crepitation	a grating or crackling sound or sensation

D

debility	weakness
defibrillator	an apparatus used to counteract atrial or ventricular fibrillation by the application of brief electro-shock to the heart
dermatologist	a doctor specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of skin disorders
diagnosis	identification of a disease or disorder
diaphragm	the muscle separating the thoracic and abdominal cavities
distal	situated farthest from the point of origin along the course of any structure; nearest the end
dysphonia	difficulty in speaking; hoarseness
dyspnea	shortness of breath

E

ecchymosis	a bruise; a discoloration of skin
endocrinologist	a doctor specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the internal secretion glands - (the endocrine glands)
enteropathy	any disease of the intestines
enuresis	urinary incontinence
epistaxis	nosebleed
esophagus	the muscular tube extending from the pharynx to the stomach

F

Fallopian tube	uterine tube; the pair of tubes transporting ova from ovary to uterus
fascia	a band or sheet of tissue connecting muscles
femur	the bones extending from pelvis to knee; thighbone
fetus	an unborn child after the first three months of development
fibula	the long, thin, outer bone of the lower leg that extends from the ankle to the knee
flexion	bending of a joint

G

gait	the manner in which a person walks
gangrene	local death of soft tissues caused by the loss of blood supply
gastroenterologist	a doctor who specializes in treating diseases of the digestive tract
gingivitis	inflammation of gum tissue
glaucoma	abnormal accumulation of aqueous humor within the eye, resulting in increased intraocular pressure which, if untreated, leads to blindness
glossitis	inflammation of the tongue

gynecologist a doctor who specializes in diseases affecting women and girls, particularly diseases affecting the reproductive system

H

hematocrit a measurement of the volume of packed red cells in venous blood

hemorrhage bleeding from a ruptured blood vessel either internally or externally

humerus the bone of the upper arm that runs from the shoulder to the elbow

hypertension high blood pressure; elevation of arterial pressure above normal levels

hypotension abnormally low blood pressure

hypothermia abnormally low body temperature, typically one that is dangerously low

hysterectomy surgical removal of the uterus

I

ileum the last division of the small intestine, running between the jejunum and the large intestine

ilium the dorsal and upper bone (one of three) composing either lateral half of the pelvis

infarction the producing of a mass or area of dead tissue which results when circulation to that area is obstructed by a blood clot in a blood vessel

inguinal the region of the groin

intervertebral disc a disc sitting between the adjoining vertebrae and consisting of an outer fibrous ring enclosing a pulpy nucleus

J

jaundice yellowing of the skin and eyes from bile pigments

jugular relating to the throat or neck (jugular vein)

K

keloid a scar-like growth that rises above the skin surface (considered a benign tumor)

L

labial pertaining to the lips

lacrimal pertaining to tears

laminectomy excision of one or more laminae of the vertebrae; a method of approach to the spinal cord

ligament a tough band of tissue that connects bones at a joint, or supports organs

lordosis inward curvature of the spine towards the front

lumbar vertebrae five vertebrae at the lower part of the back

M

magnetic resonance imaging a non-invasive imaging procedure capable of providing very precise images of the body's soft tissue - known as an MRI

malignancy an abnormal growth tending to progress in virulence

mammary relating to the milk-secreting glands; the breasts

mandible lower jawbone

mastectomy removal of a breast

maxillary upper jaw

membrane a thin layer of tissue that covers a surface or divides an organ

metacarpus the five bones between the wrist and fingers

metatarsus the five bones between the ankle and toes

myelogram x-rays obtained with an MRI

N

necrosis	death of a cell resulting from disease or injury
nephritis	inflammation of the kidney
nephrologist	a doctor specializing in kidney care and treating diseases of the kidney
neural	relating to nerves
neuroma	any tumor pertaining to the nervous system
nucleus pulposus	a pulpy mass in the center of an intervertebral disc
nystagmus	involuntary moment of the eyeballs which is present in disturbances of the equilibrium

O

obstetrician	one who specializes in the branch of medicine dealing with childbirth
occipital	referring to the back of the head/skull
occlusion	an obstruction or closing off
olfactory	pertaining to the sense of smell
oncology	study and practice of treating tumors
ophthalmologist	a person skilled or specializing in the branch of medicine devoted to the study and treatment of eye diseases
optometry	measurement of the powers of vision and the adaptation of lenses to correct any vision deficiencies
orthopedics	the branch of medicine dealing with the correction of deformities of bones or muscles
otorhinolaryngology	the branch of medicine that treats the ear, nose, pharynx, and larynx and their diseases

P

palate	the roof of the mouth
palpate	to feel with the fingers or hand
parietal	pertaining to the inner walls of a body cavity, or relating to the parietal bone
parietal bone	either of two large bones between the frontal and occipital bones that together form the sides and top of the skull
patella	the bone that forms the kneecap
pathologist	a specialist in pathology
pathology	the study of disease process with the aim of understanding its nature and cause
pediatrician	a physician specializing in child development and treating disease in children
pedodontist	a dentist specializing in children's dental care
pelvis	the basin-shaped ring of bones supporting the spinal column
periosteum	the outer covering of bone
peripheral	outer boundary; pertaining to or located at or near the surface of the body or near the surface of an organ
phalanges (pl.)	any of the bones of the fingers or toes
phalanx (sing.)	a single bone of the fingers or toes
phlebitis	inflammation of a vein
pilonidal cyst	containing hair nested in a cyst
podiatrist	a specialist in care and treatment of the foot
prognosis	the probable outcome of a disease process
prostate	a glandular body which surrounds the base of the male urethra

proximal	nearest the point of origin or point of reference; nearest to the body or to a point considered the center of a system
pulmonary	relating to the lungs
pyelitis	inflammation of the renal pelvis
pyorrhea	a discharge of pus

R

radiologist	a physician who uses roentgen, radium, and other forms of radiant energy for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes
radius radii (pl.)	the shorter bone of the forearm, on the same side as the thumb
respiration	breathing; the process of gaseous exchange between an organism and its environment
resuscitation	restoration to life or consciousness of one apparently dead
rheumatologist	a specialist in rheumatic conditions
rhinopathy	disease of the nose
rib	any of the arched bones attached posteriorly to the spine and enclosing the chest cavity
rigor mortis	rigidity of the muscles that occurs after death
roentgenography	the study of the application of x-rays in medicine
roentgenologist	radiologist

S

sacroiliac	pertaining to the sacrum and ilium, also to their articulation
sacrum	a curved triangular bone composed of five fused vertebrae
salmonella	a bacteria causing food poisoning, acute gastrointestinal inflammation, or diseases of the genital tract

sarcoma	a malignancy arising in connective tissue, especially in bone, cartilage, or striated muscle that spreads into neighboring tissue
scapula	shoulder blade
scoliosis	curvature of the spine toward the side
sequela sequelae (pl.)	a condition following as a consequence of a disease
skull	skeleton of the head; may be divided into four parts: the frontal, parietal, occipital, and temporal
spasm	a sustained muscular contraction
spine	the backbone; consists of a series of small bones called vertebrae: 7 cervical, 12 thoracic, and 5 lumbar
spondylolisthesis	a congenital deformity of the spine; the forward shift of one vertebra upon another
spondylolysis	a degenerative lesion of the spine
sprain	a joint injury causing partial rupture of attached ligaments
sternum	the breastbone; a flat chest bone extending from the base of the neck joining sets of ribs
stethoscope	an instrument for listening to sounds within the body
strain	excessive stretching of a muscle resulting in pain and swelling
stupor	partial or nearly complete unconsciousness
subcutaneous	something situated or occurring beneath the layers of the skin
subluxation	an incomplete or partial dislocation
syphilis	a contagious venereal disease that causes structural and cutaneous lesions
systole	contraction of the heart

T

tachycardia	an increase in heart rate above normal
tarsus	the ankle; the seven bones articulating between the foot bones and the leg bones
tendon	a cord of tissue attaching muscle to bone
thalamus	part of the brain that relays somatic, sensory, and optic paths to the cerebral cortex of the brain
thrombosis	the formation or presence of a blood clot in a blood vessel
tibia	the shin bone, the inner and larger bone of the leg between the knee and ankle, articulating with the femur above and the talus below
tinnitus	ringing in the ears
trachea	windpipe; part of the air passage between the larynx and the main bronchi

U

ulna	the inner and longer bone of the forearm
ureter	a narrow, muscular, foot-long tube that transports urine from the kidney to the bladder
urologist	a physician specializing in the urinary tract of males and females, and the genitals of the male
uvula	the fleshy lobe hanging at the back of the palate above the root of the tongue

V

vascular	relating to or supplied with blood vessels
vertebra vertebrae (pl.)	one of the 33 bones forming the spinal or vertebral column; the backbone
vertigo	dizziness

W

windpipe the trachea

Z

zygoma the horizontal arch of bone on either side of the face just below the eye

GLOSSARY - NUMBER PREFIXES

uni-, mono-	one
bi-, bin-, di-	two
ter-, tri-	three
quadri-, tetra-	four
quinque-, penta-	five
sex-, hex-	six
hepta-, septa-	seven
octo-, octa-	eight
non-, nona-	nine
deca-	ten
centi-	hundred

GLOSSARY - COLOR PREFIXES

alb(o)-	white
auro-	golden
chlor(o)-	green; yellowish green
cyano-	blue
erythr(o)-	red; reddish
glauc(o)	pale yellow green; light bluish gray or bluish white
luteo-	yellowish
mal(a)-, melo-	black
poli(o)-	gray
purpureo-	purple or purplish red
purpuri-	purple
verd(o)-	green-colored
xanth(o)-	yellow