

# Medical Anatomy & Physiology

## Medical Terminology

### Prefixes, Roots and Suffixes

#### A

a - without, absence of  
ab - from  
abdomin/o - abdomen  
-able - capable  
-ac - pertaining to  
acr/o - extremity  
acou/o - hearing  
ad - toward, to  
aden/o - gland  
adenoid/o- adenoids  
adren/o - adrenal gland  
adip/o - fat  
aer /o - air  
af - toward  
-al - pertaining to  
alb - white  
albumin/o- albumin;simple protein  
  
-algia - pain  
alges/i - sense of pain  
aliment - food  
alveol/o- alveolus; small hollow cavity  
  
amb/i - both  
ambul - to walk  
amni/o - amnion; inner fetal membrane  
  
an - without, absence of  
ana - up, back, apart  
andr/o - male  
angi/o - vessel  
ankyl/o - stiff, crooked, bent  
an/o - anus  
ante - before  
anti - against  
antr/o - antrum; nearly closed cavity  
  
aort/o - aorta; largest artery  
-apheresis - removal  
aponeur/o- aponeurosis;flat sheet of connective tissue  
  
append/o - to hang from, appendix  
-ar - pertaining to

arche -  
aria -  
arteri/o-  
arthr/o -  
-ary -  
-ase -  
  
-asis, -asia -  
  
-asthenia-  
  
astr/o -  
at -  
atel/o -  
ather/o -  
atresia -  
  
atri/o -  
audi/o -  
aur/i -  
aur/o -  
aut/o -  
ax -  
azot/o -

first  
air  
artery  
joint  
pertaining to  
referring to an enzyme  
state or condition of  
weakness, lack of strength  
star  
to  
imperfect  
fatty plaque  
absence of a normal opening; occlusion  
atrium; chamber  
hearing  
ear  
gold  
self  
axis  
nitrogen;urea nitrogen  
waste

#### B

bacteri/o - bacteria  
balan/o - penis  
baro - pressure  
bi - two, double  
bil - bile; fluid secreted by the liver  
  
bin - two, double  
bi/o - life  
bis - two, double  
-blast - embryonic;tissue building cell  
  
blast/o - developing cell  
blephar/o - eyelid  
brachi/o- arm  
brady - slow  
bronchiol/o - bronchiole;small tubes of the bronchus  
bronchi/i- bronchus, airway

bucc/o -	cheek	co -	with, together
burs/o -	bursa (fluid filled sac)	coccus(s)-	round, spherical form of bacteria
<b>C</b>		cocci(pl)-	round, spherical form of bacteria
cac/o -	bad or ill	coel -	cavity
cal -	pebble, stone or calcium	colla -	glue
calcane/o -	calcaneus	col/o -	large intestine
calc/i -	lime, stone or calcium	colon -	large intestine
-capnia -	carbon dioxide	colp/o -	vagina
carcin/o-	cancer of epithelial tissue	com -	with, together
cardi/o -	heart	con -	with, together
cari -	decay, (in a tooth)	coni/o -	dust
carp/o -	carpals (wrist bones)	conjunctiv/o -	conjunctiva; lining of the surface of the eye
cata -	downward or down	contra -	against, opposite
caud -	tail	core/o -	pupil
cec/o -	cecum	corne/o -	cornea
-cele -	herniation	cor/o -	pupil
celi/o -	abdomen	coronary -	circling the heart
cellular-	cell	cortic/o -	cortex or outer layer of a gland
centa -	one hundred	cost/o -	rib
cephal/o-	brain, head	crani/o -	cranium, helmet, skull
-centesis -	surgical puncture	cribr -	sieve
cerebell/o -	cerebellum;small hind brain	-crine -	to secrete
cerebr/o-	brain,cerebrum; large outer brain	crista -	ridge
cervic/o-	neck or neck of the uterus	-crit -	to separate
cheil/o -	lip	cry/o -	cold
chem/o -	drug, chemical	crypt/o -	hidden
chlor/o -	green	cubit/o -	elbow
chol/e -	bile, gall	culd/o -	cul-de-sac; a blind pouch
chol/o -	bile, gall	cut -	separating or dividing tissue
cholangi/o -	bile duct	cutane/o-	skin
choledoch/o -	common bile duct	cyan/o -	blue
cholecyst/o -	gallbladder	cyesis -	pregnancy
chori/o -	chorion; outter fetal membrane	cyst/o -	bladder,fluid filled sac
chrom/o -	color	-cyte -	cell
chondr/o -	cartilage	cyt/o -	cell
-cide -	kill	<b>D</b>	
circum -	around	dacry/o -	tears, tear duct
-cise -	cut	dactyl/o -	finger/toes
-clasis -	break down	de -	down, from
-clysis -	washing	deca -	ten
-clast -	destructive cell	demi -	half
clavicul/o-	clavicle	dendr/o -	tree
		dent/o -	tooth

derm/o -	skin	en -	in
dermat/o-	skin	encephal/o -	brain
-desis -	surgical union	end/o -	inside
desm/o -	band or ligament	endocrin/o -	internal secretion
dextr/o -	right	enter/o -	small intestine
di -	twice; double	epi -	on, upon
dia -	through, apart, across	epididym/o -	epididymis; structure on testicle surface
diaphragmat/o -	diaphragm	epiglott/o -	epiglottis; cartilage covering the larynx; voice box
dif -	to carry apart	episi/o -	perineum; pelvis floor
dipl/o -	double	epitheli/o -	epithelium; outer layer of skin
-dipsia -	thirst	erg/o -	work
dips/o -	thirst	erythr/o -	red
dis -	apart, free from	-esis -	condition
disk -	flat, round structure; intervetbral disk	esophag/o-	esophagus; food tube from the throat to the stomach
dist -	away from the point of origin	esthesi/o-	feeling, sensation
diure -	to urinate	eti/o -	cause of disease
diverticul/o -	diverticulum; pouch in a wall	eu -	true, good, normal
dont -	tooth	ex -	outside
dors -	back	extra -	outside
-drome -	symptoms		
duct -	tube		
duction -	movement		
duoden/o-	duodenum		
dur/o -	dura mater; outer covering of the brain	<b>F</b>	
dynia -	pain	fasci/o -	fascia, fibrous band
dys -	painful, bad, difficult	febrile -	fever
		femor/o -	femur (upper leg bone)
<b>E</b>		-ferent -	carry
-eal -	pertaining to	-ferous -	producing
ech/o -	reflected sound	ferr -	iron
ectasia -	expansion, dilatation or stretching	fetal -	fetus, unborn child
-ectasis -	expansion, dilataion or stretching	fibr/o -	fiber, fibrous
ecto -	out, outside, outer layer	fibul/o -	fibula (lower leg bone)
ectop -	misplaced	flu -	influenza
-ectomy -	removal of, cut out excision of	follicle -	small secreting sac
edema -	swelling	fore -	in front of
ef -	away from	form -	expressing shape or resemblance
electr/o -	electricity	fovea -	pit or depression
embryo/o -	embryo, something that swells	-fuge -	separating; driving away, expelling
emesis -	vomiting	furc -	branch; forked
-emia -	blood condition		

<b>G</b>		hy/o -	u-shaped
gangli/o -	ganglion; mass of nerve tissue	hyper -	above, more than normal
gastr/o -	stomach	hypo -	below, less than normal
-gen -	to produce, origin	hymen/o -	hymen; vaginal entrance covering uterus
-genesis -	to produce, origin	hyster/o -	
-genic -	to produce, origin	<b>I</b>	
genial -	pertaining to chin	-ia -	state of
genit/o -	reproductive organs	-ial -	pertaining to
-genous -	kind, type	-iasis -	pathological or abnormal condition
geront/o -	old age, elderly	-iatic -	medical profession; physician
gingiv/o -	gum	-ic -	pertaining to
-glia -	glue	-ical -	pertaining to
glomerul/o-	glomerulus; kidney nephron	-ician -	one who
gloss/o -	tongue	-ictal -	seizure, attack
gluc/o -	sugar, sweet	-id -	form or shape
glyc/o -	sugar, sweet	id(io) -	one's own self
glycos/o -	sugar, sweet	ile/o -	ileum; part of small intestine
gnos -	knowledge	ili/o -	ilium (hip bone)
gonad/o -	gonads; sex glands	im -	not
-gram -	record picture (such as a tracing picture)	immun/o -	immunity; protected from
-graph -	instrument that records	in -	in, within, not
-grapher-	one who records	inflam -	to flame within
-graphy -	the process of making a picture or recording	infra -	beneath, below
gravid/o -	pregnancy	inguin/o-	ingunial or groin
gynec/o -	female	inter -	between
gyn/o -	female	intra -	within
<b>H</b>		irid/o -	iris
hem/o -	blood	-is -	pertaining to
hemat/o -	blood	ischemia-	deficiency, blockage of blood supply
hemi -	half	ischi/o -	ischium; pelvic bone
hepat/o -	liver	-ism -	condition or state of
herni/o -	hernia or protrusion of an organ through the body wall	is/o -	equal
heter/o -	other, different	-ist -	one who specializes
hiatus -	an opening	-itis -	inflammation of or infection of
hidr/o -	sweat	-ity -	condition of
hist/o -	tissue	-ium -	pertaining to
home/o -	same; constant unchanging state	<b>J</b>	
homo -	same	jejun/o -	jejunum; part of the small intestine
hormone -	to excite; urging on	juxta -	near
humer/o -	humerus		
hydr/o -	water		

**K**

kal/i - potassium  
kary/o body, nucleus  
kerat/o - horn, hard tissue  
cornea  
kilo - one thousand  
kinesi/o - movement, motion  
kinetic - motion  
kino - movement  
kyph/o - hump

**L**

labyrinth/o- labyrinth; maze  
lacrim/o - tears  
lact/o - milk  
lamin/o - lamina; layer  
lapar/o - abdominal wall, abdomen  
laryng/o - larynx, voice box  
latent - hidden; not active  
later/o - side  
lei/o - smooth  
-lemma - membrane  
lepsy - seizure  
leuk/o - white  
liga - to bind  
ligament/o- ligament; fibrous connective tissue  
lingu/o - tongue  
lip/o - fat  
lith/o - stone  
lobe - well defined part of an organ  
-logy - study of  
-logist - one who studies  
lordosis - convex curvature of the lumbar spine  
lumb/o - lumbar, lower back  
lymph/o - lymph, lymph tissue  
-lysis - dissolution, destruction  
lys/o - to kill, separating destruction

**M**

macr/o - large  
mal - bad, abnormal  
-malacia - soft  
mamm/o - breast

mandibul/o - mandible; lower jaw  
mania - madness  
mast/o - breast  
mastoid- resembling a breast; bone of the skull  
maxill/o - maxilla; upper jaw  
meat/o - passage, opening  
meatus middle  
medi middle  
mega - large  
megal/o - large  
-megaly - enlarged  
melan/o - black  
mening/o- meninges; lining of the central nervous system  
menisci/o - meniscus; cartilage pads  
ment/o - chin  
mentia - mental, mind  
men/o - menstruation  
meso - middle  
meta - beyond, change  
-meter - instrument to measure  
-metry - process of measurement  
metr/o - uterine tissue  
micr/o - small  
mitos - thread, filament  
mon/o - single  
morph/o - form  
-mortem - death  
mot/o - moving  
muc/o - mucus  
multi - many, much  
myc/o - fungus  
myel/o - bone marrow or spinal cord  
my/o - muscle  
myoma - cancer of muscle tissue  
myring/o- eardrum

**N**

narc/o - numbness, stupor  
nas/o - nose  
natus - birth, newborn  
-natal - birth, newborn  
natri - sodium

necr/o -	death of cells or body	-osis -	condition of
ne/o -	new	osseous -	pertaining to bone
nephr/o -	kidney	oste/o -	bone
neur/o -	neuron, nerve	-ostomy -	creation of an artificial opening
neuroma -	cancer of nervous tissue	ot/o -	ear
noct/i -	night	-otomy -	cut into or incision
non -	no, none	-ous -	pertaining to
nona -	nine	ova -	egg
null -	none	ovari/o-	ovary; female sex gland
nutriti/o -	to nourish	ox/i -	pertaining to oxygen
		-oxia -	pertaining to oxygen
<b>O</b>		<b>P</b>	
obese -	extremely fat	pachy/o -	thick
octa -	eight	palat/o -	palate; roof of mouth
ocul/o -	eye	pan -	all, total
odont/o -	tooth	pancreat/o -	pancreas
-odynia -	pain	para	-beside,beyond, near
-oid -	resembling	paralysis -	loss of movement
olfact -	smell	parathyroid -	four glands on the back surface of the thyroid gland
olig/o -	few, scant		partial;slight paralysis
-ology -	the study of	-paresis-	wall
-ologist-	one who studies	pariet/o-	to bear, labor or to give birth (delivery)
-oma -	mass, tumor	-partum -	childbirth
omphal/o-	umbilicus, navel, belly button		patella; knee cap
onc/o -	mass, tumor		disease
onych/o -	nail		relating to disease
oo -	ova(eggs); female sex cells	parturition-	child or foot
oophor/o-	ovary	patell/o-	child
-opia -	vision	path/o -	deficiency, lack of
ophthalm/o-	eye	-pathy -	digestion
opt/o -	vision	ped -	pelvis
-opsy -	to view	pedia -	five
orb -	circle, orbit	-penia -	through, by
orchi/o -	testes	pepsia -	around
orchid/o-	testes	pelv/i -	perineum
organ -	body parts with special function	penta -	peritoneum
or/o -	mouth	per -	stone
-orrhagia-	rapid flow; hemorrhage	peri -	surgical fixation or suspension
-orrhaphy-	suture, repair	perine/o-	eating
-orrhoea -	discharge	peritone/o-	eating
-orrhexis-	rupture	petr/o -	to eat
orth/o -	straight	-pexy -	phalanges;fingers/toe
os -	bone	-phage -	
-ose -	suffix for carbohydrates	-phagia -	
		phag/o -	
		phalang/o-	

pharmac/o-	drug, medicine	pub/o -	pubis; a pelvic bone
pharyng/o-	pharynx, throat	pulmon/o-	lungs
phasia -	speak or speech	pupilla-	pupil of the eye
phas/o -	speech	pyel/o -	renal pelvis
-philia -	love, affinity	pylor/o -	pylorus; lowest part of the stomach
phleb/o -	vein		
-phobia -	fear	py/o -	pus
-phonia -	sound or voice	pyr/o -	fire, fever
phon/o -	sound		
phot/o -	light	<b>Q</b>	
phren/o -	diaphragm	quad -	four
phrenia -	mind	quint -	five
-phylaxis -	protection, preventive		
		<b>R</b>	
physi/o -	function	radicul/o-	nerve root
-physis -	growth	radi -	radiation or radius
pili -	hair	re -	again, back
pineal -	pineal gland; pine cone shaped	rect/o -	rectum
		ren/o -	kidney
pituitary-	pituitary or master gland	reticul/o-	net
		retin/o -	retina; inner lining of the eye
-plasia -	formation, growth		
-plasm -	living tissue	retr/o -	behind, backward
plasma -	component of blood	rhin/o -	nose
-plasty -	surgical repair	rhiz/o -	nerve root
platy -	flat	rhytid/o-	wrinkles
-plegia -	paralysis	-rrhagia-	burst forth; hemorrhage
pleur/o -	lung		
pod	foot	-rrhaphy-	suture, repair
-poiesis -	making or production	-rrhea -	discharge, flow
polio -	gray matter disease	-rrhexis-	rupture
poly -	many		
polyp -	tumor with a pedicle or foot	<b>S</b>	
		sacchar -	sugar
-pnea -	breathe	sanguin/o-	blood
pneum/o -	lungs	salping/o-	uterine tube or fallopian tube
pneumon/o-	lungs		
pore -	small openings	sarc/o -	flesh
-porosis-	condition of holes or passages	sarcoma-	cancer of connective tissue
post -	after, behind	scapul/o-	scapula; shoulder blade
pre -	for, before, in front of		
presby -	old	schisis -	split, fissure
prim/i -	first	schiz/o -	split
pro -	before, for	scler/o -	sclera; white of the eye or hardening
proct/o -	rectum and anus		
prostat/o-	prostate gland	-sclerosis -	condition of hardening
proxim/o -	near point of origin	scoli/o -	crooked, curved
pseud/o -	false	-scope -	instrument to view or examine
psych/o -	mind, soul		
-ptosis -	prolapse, drooping	-scopy -	visualize or view

seb/o -	fat or oil	syn -	with, together
sect -	cut	synovi/o-	membrane or
semi -	half		synovial fluid of a joint
sense -	feeling		
sepsis -	infection	<b>T</b>	
septic -	pathogenic	tachy -	swift, fast
sept/o -	septum; wall dividing	tars/o -	tarsals, ankle bone
	two cavities	tel/o -	end
septa -	seven	temp -	temperature, heat
serosa -	closed cavity	ten/o -	tendon
	membrane	tend/o -	tendon
sexti -	six	tendin/o-	tendon
sial/o -	saliva	tension -	pressure; stretching
sigmoid/o	sigmoid colon	testis -	testicles
sinistr/o-	left	testicul/o -	testicles
sinus -	cavity in a bone	tetan -	stiff
-sis -	state of; condition	tetra -	four
soma -	body	-therapy-	treatment
son/o-	sound	therm/o -	heat
-spasm -	sudden, involuntary	thorac/o-	chest, thorax
	muscular contraction	thromb/o-	clot
spermat/o-	spermatozoa; male	thym/o -	thymus gland
	sex cells	thyr/o -	thyroid gland
sphygm/o-	pulse	tibi/o -	tibia; lower leg bone
spina -	spine	-tic -	pertaining to
spirilla-	spiral shaped	-tocia -	labor
	bacteria	-tome -	cutting instrument
spir/o -	breath	tom/o -	cut, section
splen/o -	spleen	-tomy -	to cut into; incision
spondyl/o-	vertebrae or	ton/o -	tension, pressure
	vertebral column	tonic -	stretch, tension, or
squam -	scale		pressure
staphyl/o-	grape like clusters	tonsilla-	tonsils
staped -	stapes; bone of	tox -	poison
	the middle ear	toxic/o -	poison
-stasis -	standing still	trach -	trachea, windpipe
stern/o -	sternum, breast bone	trache/o-	trachea, windpipe
steth/o -	chest	trans -	through, across
stomat/o-	mouth	tri -	three
-stomy -	make a new opening	trich/o -	hair
strat -	layer	-tripsy -	surgical crushing
-stenosis-	narrowing or	-trophic -	nutrition or
	constriction		development
strept/o-	twisted chains		
styl/o -	stake, pole	-trophy -	growth or
sub -	below, under		development
subcu -	subcutaneous; under	-tropic -	influencing, affect
	the skin	tuber -	swelling; enlargement
super -	above	tympan/o-	eardrum
supra -	above		
sym -	with, together		



**U**

ulna - large bone of the forearm  
ultra - beyond, excess  
-um - pertaining to  
umbilic/o - umbilicus; navel or belly button  
ungual - nail  
uni - one  
ureter/o - ureter  
urethr/o - urethra  
ur/o - urine  
-uria - urine  
urin/o - urine  
uter/o - uterus  
uvul/o - uvula; tissue suspended from the back of the throat

**V**

vagin/o - vagina  
valve - structure to permit one way flow  
vas/o - vessel, duct  
ven/o - vein  
ventr/o - front  
ventricle - a small cavity  
vertebr/o - vertebrae  
vesic/o - fluid filled sac  
bladder  
villi - fingerlike  
viscer/o - internal organs  
vita - necessary for life  
vitre/o - glass-like  
vulv/o - vulva; female external genitalia

**X**

xanth/o - yellow  
xer/o - dry

**Y**

y - the act, or result of an action, a condition or quality; process

**Z**

zoa - animal  
zoo - animal