

# MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY



The Language of the Health  
Profession

# ORIGIN OF MEDICAL TERMS

- 75% of medical terms are based on either Greek or Latin words.



# WORD ROOT

- A root is the foundation or basic meaning of a medical term.
- Usually indicates a body part
- cardi - heart
- hepat- liver
- neur - nerve
- nephr - kidney
- cyt- cell



# PREFIX

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- endo - within
- peri- around / surrounding
- pro - before
- mega - large
- dys- abnormal, painful, difficult
- The prefix is used at the beginning of a medical term (before the word root)
- Prefixes describe, modify, or limit the term.

# SUFFIX



- A suffix is the word ending that follows the word root and changes its meaning.
- Often indicates the procedure, condition, disorder, or disease.
- -itis - inflammation
- -logy - the study of
- -ectomy- surgical removal
- -scopy- process of visually examining

# Combining Forms

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- Combining form consists of the word root and a connecting vowel to make it easier to pronounce and attach another word root or suffix.
- Combining form for heart is cardi/o (eg. cardiogram)
- Combining form for nerves is neur/o (eg. neurology)

# Basic Rules for the Connecting Vowel

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- The connecting vowel is not used when the suffix begins with a vowel.  
(neuritis)
- The combining vowel is used when the suffix begins with a consonant.  
(neurology)

# *Word Roots (WR)*

- ❖ Usually derived from Greek or Latin
- ❖ Frequently indicates a body part
- ❖ Most medical terms have one or more word roots





# *Examples of Word Roods*

<u><i>Greek Word</i></u>	<u><i>Word Root</i></u>
<b>Kardia (heart)</b>	<b>Cardi</b>
<b>Gaster (stomach)</b>	<b>Gastr</b>
<b>Hepar (liver)</b>	<b>Hepat</b>
<b>Nephros (kidney)</b>	<b>Nephr</b>
<b>Osteon (bone)</b>	<b>oste</b>



# *Combining Forms (CF)*

- ❖ Combining Form (CF) is a Word Root (WR) plus a vowel, usually an “o”
- ❖ Usually indicates a body part



# *Combining Forms Examples*

- ❖ Cardi/ + o = cardi/o      heart
- ❖ gastr/ + o = gastr/o      stomach
- ❖ hepat/ + o = hepat/o      liver
- ❖ nephr/ + o = nephr/o      kidney
- ❖ oste/ + o = oste/o      bone



# *Suffixes*

- ❖ Word Ending
- ❖ Suffix usually indicates a procedure, condition, disease, or part of speech
- ❖ Usually derived from Greek or Latin

# Examples of Suffix

- ❖ Arthr/o-centesis      Arthrocentesis  
joint      puncture      puncture of a joint
- ❖ thorac/o -tomy      Thoracotomy  
chest      incision      incision of the chest
- ❖ gastr/o -megaly      Gastromegaly  
stomach      enlargement      enlargement of the  
stomach



# *Prefixes*

- ❖ Word element located at the beginning of a word
- ❖ Changes the meaning of the word
- ❖ Usually indicates a number, time, position, direction, color, or sense of negation



# Examples of Prefix

❖ A-            mast            -ia  
without       breast            condition

❖ hyper-       therm            -ia  
excessive     heat              condition

❖ intra-        muscul            -ar  
in                muscle            relating to