

PROCEDURAL SUFFIXES

The suffixes that describe *procedures used in patient care*.

-centesis (surgical puncture to remove fluid)

Thoracentesis: Surgical puncture of the chest to remove fluid. (*This term is a shortened form of thoracocentesis*).

A needle is inserted through the skin between the ribs and into the pleural space to drain a pleural effusion. Insertion of a needle into the chest to remove fluid from the space surrounding the lungs (pleural cavity). After injection of a local anesthetic, a hollow needle is placed through the skin and muscles of the back and into the space between the lungs and chest wall. Fluid is then withdrawn by applying suction. Excess fluid (pleural effusion) may be a sign of infection, heart failure, or malignant disease. This procedure is used to diagnose conditions, to drain a pleural effusion, or to reexpand a collapsed lung (atelectasis).

Amniocentesis: Surgical puncture to remove or to withdraw fluid from the amnion (sac surrounding the developing fetus) for chemical and chromosomal analysis.

Arthrocentesis: Surgical puncture to remove fluid from a joint. This usually is done through the skin with a percutaneous needle.

-ectomy (removal, resection, excision)

Tonsillectomy: Removal (excision) of a tonsil or tonsils. (*Tonsils and adenoids are lymph tissue in the pharynx (throat). Lymph is composed of white blood cells that fight infection*).

Hysterectomy: Excision of the uterus, either through the abdominal wall (abdominal hysterectomy) or through the vagina (vaginal hysterectomy). (*In a **total hysterectomy**, the entire uterus, including the cervix, is removed. If only a portion of the uterus is removed, the procedure is a partial or subtotal hysterectomy.*

Oophorectomy: Removal of an ovary or ovaries.

Salpingectomy: Removal of a fallopian (uterine) tube.

Cholecystectomy: Removal of the gallbladder. (*Laparoscopic cholecystectomy is performed whenever possible, instead of an open (more invasive) procedure*).

Mastectomy: Removal (excision) of the breast.

RESECTIONS	
adenectomy	Excision of a gland
adenoidectomy	Excision of the adenoids
appendectomy	Excision of the appendix
colectomy	Excision of the colon
gastrectomy	Excision of the stomach
laminectomy	Excision of a piece of backbone (lamina) to relieve pressure on nerves from a (herniating) disk
myomectomy	Excision of a muscle tumor (commonly a fibroid of the uterus)
pneumonectomy	Excision of lung tissue: total pneumonectomy (an entire lung) or lobectomy (a single lobe)
prostatectomy	Excision of the prostate gland
splenectomy	Excision of the spleen

-gram (record)

Myelogram: X-ray recording of the spinal cord. X-ray image of the spinal cord after contrast is injected within the membranes surrounding the spinal cord in the lumbar area of the back. (**MYEL/O** means *spinal cord* in this term. Contrast material is injected into the membranes around the spinal cord (by lumbar puncture), and then x-ray pictures are taken of the spinal cord. This procedure is performed less frequently now that MRI is available.

Mammogram: X-ray record of the breast.

-graphy (process of recording)

Electroencephalography: Process of recording the electricity or the electrical activity within the brain.

Connection of electrodes (wires or “leads”) to the scalp to record electricity coming from within the brain. The *electroencephalogram* is the actual record produced. This test is useful in the diagnosis and monitoring of epilepsy and in the investigation of neurologic disorders. It also is used to evaluate patients in coma (brain inactivity) and in the study of sleep disorders.

Mammography: Process of making an x-ray recording of the breast.

Mammography (mah-MOG-rah-fe) or mammogram (MAM-o-gram): X-ray recording or record of the breast. X-rays of low voltage are beamed at the breast, and images are produced. Mammography detects abnormalities in breast tissue, such as breast cancer. In *stereotactic breast biopsy*, a hollow needle is passed through the skin into a suspicious lesion with the help of mammographic imaging. A specialized mammography machine uses intersecting coordinates to pinpoint an area of tissue (lesion) to be biopsied.

Angiography: X-ray recording of blood vessels after contrast is injected. (Contrast material (such as iodine) is injected into an artery or vein, and x-ray images are taken).

A contrast substance is injected into a blood vessel (vein or artery), and x-ray images are taken of the vessel. In *cerebral angiography*, x-ray images show blood vessels in the brain. In *coronary angiography*, x-rays detect abnormalities in vessels that bring blood to the heart. Angiograms can detect blockage by clots, cholesterol plaques, or tumors or aneurysms (ballooning or dilating of the vessel wall). Angiography is performed most frequently to view arteries and is often used interchangeably with *arteriography*.

-lysis (separation, breakdown, destruction)

Dialysis: Complete separation (-LYSIS) of wastes (urea) from the blood when the kidneys fail.

The root (LYS, meaning to loosen) in this term is embedded in the suffix (-LYSIS).

Hemodialysis is the removal of blood for passage through (DIA means through or complete) a kidney machine to filter out waste materials, such as urea.

*Another form of dialysis is **peritoneal dialysis**. A special fluid is put into the peritoneum through a tube in the abdomen. The wastes seep into the fluid from the blood during a period of time. The fluid and wastes are then drained from the peritoneum.*

-plasty (surgical repair, or surgical correction)

Rhinoplasty: Surgical repair of the nose.

Angioplasty: Surgical repair of a blood vessel.

*Balloon angioplasty is performed on narrowed, blocked coronary arteries that surround the heart. A wire with a collapsed balloon is placed in a clogged artery. Opening of the balloon widens the vessel, allowing more blood to flow through. A **stent (mesh tube)** is placed in the artery to hold it open.*

-scopy (process of visual examination)

Bronchoscopy: Visual examination of bronchial tubes by passing an endoscope through the trachea (windpipe) into the bronchi. The lining of the bronchial tubes can be seen, and tissue may be removed for biopsy. The tube is usually inserted through the mouth but can also be directly inserted into the airway during mediastinoscopy. Sedation is required for this procedure.

Laparoscopy: Visual examination of the abdomen. A small incision is made near the navel, and an instrument (endoscope) is inserted to view abdominal organs. After the patient receives a local anesthetic, a laparoscope is placed through an incision in the abdominal wall. This procedure gives the physician a view of the abdominal cavity, the surface of the liver and spleen, and the pelvic region. Laparoscopy can be used to remove some organs (such as the gallbladder, appendix, and ovary) and tumors and for fallopian tube ligation to prevent pregnancy.

Laryngoscopy: Visual examination of the interior of the voice box (larynx) with an endoscope. The laryngoscope transmits a magnified image of the larynx through a system of lenses and mirrors. The procedure can reveal tumors and explain changes in the voice. Sputum samples and tissue biopsy specimens are obtained by using brushes or forceps attached to the laryngoscope.

-stomy (opening)

Colostomy: Opening of the colon to the outside of the body.

A -STOMY procedure is the creation of a permanent or semipermanent opening (stoma) from an organ to the outside of the body.

*A. When two tube-like structures are surgically connected within the body, the new connection is an **anastomosis***

*B). A **colocolostomy** Is an anastomosis, a new connection between two previously unconnected portions of the colon.*

Tracheostomy: Opening of the trachea to the outside of the body.

-therapy (treatment)

Radiotherapy: Treatment of disease (cancer) with high-energy x-rays or particles such as photons and protons.

Chemotherapy: Treatment with drugs. Chemotherapy is most often used in the treatment of cancer.

Cryotherapy: Treatment using cold (CRY/O) temperatures.

Skin lesions, such as warts, are removed with cryotherapy. Liquid nitrogen or carbon dioxide snow is applied and blistering followed by necrosis results.

-tomy (incision, cutting into)

Craniotomy: Incision of the skull.

Laparotomy: Incision of the abdomen. A surgeon makes a large incision across the abdomen to examine and operate on its organs.

Phlebotomy: Incision of a vein.