

Quick Study ACADEMIC

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY THE BASICS

FOUNDATION OF MEDICAL WORDS

A. Structure

Most medical words are composed of two or more terms. To define a medical word:

- divide the word into its terms
- analyze the terms
- define the word

Examples:

Pericarditis

peri = around, *card* = heart, *itis* = inflammation
Inflammation around the heart

Oncology

onc = tumor, *ology* = study of
Study of tumors

B. Terms

Term + Term (____ + ____) = medical word

There are five categories of terms:

1. Prefix - beginning of a word

(ex., *pre*, *post*)

Designated by a "____" after the term.

2. Suffix - ending of a word

(ex., *ology*, *itis*)

Designated by a "____" before the term.

3. Root - foundation/base of a word (ex., *hepat*, *gastr*)

4. Combining vowel - vowel (usually "o") added to a root (ex., *gastro*)

Use a combining vowel when joining:

- Root to another root (ex., *gastrohepatitis*)
- Root to a suffix beginning with a consonant (ex., *cardiomegaly*)
- Combining form + root + vowel (ex., *hepatic/gastric*)

Designated by a "-" between the root and the vowel

Examples:

Hyperleukocytosis

hyper (prefix) = excessive

leuko (combining form) = white

cyt (root) = cell

osis (suffix) = condition of

Definition: condition of excessive white blood cells (leukocytes)

Hematoxic

hemate (combining form) = blood

tox (root) = poison

ic (suffix) = pertaining to

Definition: pertaining to blood poisoning

TIPS:

1. Some terms have more than one definition. To determine the correct definition in a particular medical word, analyze the other terms in the word.

Example:

Polymyelitis

polio = gray (matter)

myel = spinal cord, bone marrow

itis = inflammation

Definition: Inflammation of the gray matter of the spinal cord. The bone marrow does not have gray matter.

2. Some terms may function as a root/combining form in one word and a suffix in another word.

Classification depends upon the specific medical word.

Examples:

Cytology

cyte (combining form) = cell

logy (suffix) = study of

Definition: Study of cells

Erythrocyte

erythro (combining form) = red

cyte (suffix) = cell

Definition: Red blood cell

THE HUMAN BODY

A. Development

Cells - tissues - organs - systems - organism

1. Cells: Major Components

- Cell membrane
- Cytoplasm
- Nucleus

2. Tissues: Primary Types

- Connective
- Epithelium
- Muscle
- Nervous

3. Organs

- Composed of two or more different tissues
- Have specific functions

4. Systems: Related organs with common functions

5. Organisms: A living person

B. Cavities

A space containing organs

1. Dorsal

- Cranial
- Vertebral (spinal)

2. Ventral

- Abdominal
- Pelvic
- Thoracic

C. Planes

An imaginary flat surface

1. Frontal - anterior-posterior

2. Sagittal - right/left

3. Transverse - upper/lower

D. Positions

A reference point for location or direction.

1. Anterior/Ventral - front of the body

2. Posterior/Dorsal - back of the body

3. Deep - away from the surface

Superficial - on the surface

4. Inferior - situated below

Superior - situated above

5. Lateral - pertaining to the side

6. Medial - pertaining to the middle

7. Prone - lying face down

Supine - lying face up

TERMS	DEFINITIONS	WORDS
acidic	acid, sour, bitter	acidity
acne	swell	acne/acne/acne
acute/a, acutis	sharp, severe	acute
adipis	fat	adipose/adipose
aeris	air, gas	aerophagy
agglis	agglutinate, maturation	agglutinate
algis	pain	alginate
ambid/is	to walk	ambulatory
anomalis	irregular	anomaly
anthracis	coal, carbon, carbonaceous	anthracosis
anthropis	man, human being	anthropology
astris	astrum	astronomy
aphis	abey	aphasia
apicis	apex	apical/apical
aqueis	water	aqueous
astis	steam, vapor	asthma/asthma
astris	astrum	astronomy
baris	weight, pressure	bariatrics
baris	heavy, dull, hard	bariatrics
basal	walking	basal/basal
bathis, bathis	deep, depth	bathys/bathys
bathis, bathis	life, living	bathys/bathys
blastis, -blast	early embryonic stage, immature	blastocyst
-calculis	to compute	calculi/calculi

calentis	heat	calentis
capentis	heat	capentis
capentis, capentis	capable, container	capentis
carcinis	cancer	carcinoma
carcinis	cancer, carcinoma	carcinoma
-cataphasia	affirmation	cataphasia
catharis	cleansing, purging	catharsis
catharis	catharsis	catharsis
-cathisis	sitting	acathisis
-cathisis	catharsis	catharsis
cavitis	cavity	cavities
cavitis, cavitis	chemical, chemistry	chemistry
chemis	time, timing	chemotherapy
chemis	to sleep, bend	chemotherapy
-chloasis	sleeping	chloasis
-coma	deep sleep	coma
comis	anesthesia, anesthetic	anesthesia
comis	narrowing, binding	anesthesia
comis	to break	anesthesia
comis	body	anesthesia
comis	crisis, dangerous	anesthesia
comis	cell	anesthesia
comis, -comis	cell	anesthesia
comis	people	anesthesia
comis	to dry	anesthesia
comis	enlarge, expand	anesthesia
comis	long	anesthesia
comis	pain	anesthesia
comis	back	anesthesia
comis	to lead	anesthesia
comis	power, strength	anesthesia
comis	point	anesthesia
comis	bad, difficult, painful	anesthesia
comis	spicy, prickly	anesthesia
comis	compositional absence	anesthesia
comis	oil	anesthesia
comis	the correct measure, proportioned	anesthesia
comis	opposite, opposed	anesthesia
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comis	to cause, make	anesthesia
comis	happen	anesthesia
comis	fever	anesthesia
comis, comis	thread, threadlike	anesthesia
comis	specified shape, form	anesthesia
comis	cold	anesthesia
comis	performance	anesthesia
comis	to freeze, congeal	anesthesia
comis	twice	anesthesia
comis	producing, generating	anesthesia
comis	production, formation	anesthesia
comis	produced by, forming	anesthesia
comis	aged, old age	anesthesia
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