



Medical Terminology

Word Analysis

We use medical terms daily as a consumer and as a citizen.

Words like arthritis, electrocardiogram, hepatitis, and anemia describes familiar conditions.

Medical words are like individual jigsaw puzzles. Once we divide the word to its component parts and learn the meaning of individual parts, we can use that knowledge to understand many other new terms.

For example, the term **HEMATOLOGY**

HEMAT / O / LOGY

root combining suffix
(blood) vowel (study of)

ELECTR / O / CARDI / O / GRAM

Root combining **root** combining suffix
(Electricity) vowel (heart) vowel (record)

GASTR/O/ENTER/O/LOGY

Root	root	suffix
(stomach)	(intestines)	(study of)

GASTR/O/SCOPE

Combining form	suffix
(stomach)	(instrument to visually examine)

ENTER/ITIS

Root	suffix
(intestines)	(inflammation)

SUB /gastric

Prefix (below)

TRANS /gastric

Prefix (across)

RETRO/gastric

Prefix (behind)

So the important word parts:

1. Root—essential meaning of the term
2. Suffix—is the word ending
3. Prefix---small part added to the beginning of a term
4. Combining vowel—connects roots to suffixes and roots to other roots
5. Combining form—is combination of the root and combining vowel

Commonly used combining forms, suffixes and prefixes in medical terms:

<u>Combining form</u>	<u>meaning</u>	<u>Medical term</u>
Adeno	gland	adenoma, adenitis
Arthro	joint	arthritis
Bio	life	biology
Carcino	cancer	carcinoma
Cardio	heart	cardiology
Cephalo	head	cephalic
Cerebro	cerebrum	cerebral
Cysto	urinary bladder	cystoscope

<u>Combining form</u>	<u>meaning</u>	<u>Medical term</u>
Cyto	cell	cytology
Dermato	skin	dermatitis
Electro	electricity	electrocardiogram
Encephalo	brain	electroencephalogram
Entero	intestines	enteritis
erythro	red	erythrocyte
Gastro	stomach	gastroscopy
Gyneco	women, female	gynecology
hemato	blood	hematoma
Hepato	liver	hepatitis

<u>Combining form</u>	<u>meaning</u>	<u>Medical term</u>
Laparo	abdomen	laparotomy
Leuko	white	leukocyte
Nephro	kidney	nephrectomy
Neuro	nerve	neurology
Onco	tumor	oncologist
Ophthalmo	eye	ophthalmoscope
Osteo	bone	osteoarthritis
Patho	disease	pathologist
Psycho	mind	psychosis
Reno	kidney	renal
Rhino	nose	rhinitis

Suffix	Meaning	Medical term
-al	pertaining to	neural
-algia	pain	arthralgia
-cyte	cell	leukocyte
-ectomy	cutting out,excision	gastrectomy
-emia	blood condition	leukemia
-globin	protein	hemoglobin
-gram	record	arthrogram
-ic	pertaining to	gastric
-ism	condition,process	hyperthyroidism
-itis	inflammation	gastroenteritis
-logist	specialist in the	neurologist

Suffix	Meaning	Medical term
-logy	study of	nephrology
-oma	tumor, mass	hepatoma
-opsy	to view	biopsy
-osis	abnormal condition	nephrosis
-scope	instrument to visually examine	gastroscopy
-tomy	process of cutting into; incision	laparotomy

prefixes	Meaning	Medical term
a-,an-	no,not	anemia
Aut-	self	autopsy
Dia-	complete, through	diagnosis
Dys-	bad,painful,difficult	dysentery
Endo-	within	endocrine glands
Exo-	outside	exocrine glands
Hyper-	excessive,more than normal,too much	hyperglycemia
Hypo-	below,less than normal,under	hypoglycemia

<u>prefixes</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Medical term</u>
pro-	before	prognosis
Re-	back	resection
Retro-	behind	retrogastric
Sub-	below, under	subhepatic
Trans-	across, through	transdermal transurethral