

Medical Terminology
First class

# Dental roots \& combining form 

$6^{\text {th }}$ lecture
20202021
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A word may have one or more root sections. When a root section is combined or connected with other word elements, it may take on a combining vowel and become a combining form. The most common combining vowel is $\boldsymbol{0}$. For example, the word temporal relates to the temporal bone in the skull, and the word mandible is the lower jaw bone. Independently, these are two separate words, but they can be combined to form the word temporomandibular, as in temporomandibular joint (TMJ). Note that the combining vowel $o$ is inserted in place of the a/in temporal.


As another example, two roots are combined to designate specific areas of teeth. In referring to the back chewing surface of a tooth, the root term for back or distant is distal and the term occlusal refers to chewing or occluding area. When combining these two roots with the combining vowel 0 , we have distocclusal surface, the back chewing surface.

Other examples of terms with two roots are thermometer, cementoenamel junction, and radiograph.


Cheilo
(key-LOH)
cheil-/o-
lip
coronal (kor-OH-nal) coron-/o-
crown
Dent
(dent)
dent-/o-
tooth
enamel (ee-NAM-el) ename-/o- enamel tissue


Gingiva (JIN-jih-vah) gingiv-/o-
gum tissue
glossa (GLOSS-ah) gloss-/o- tongue
gnatho (nah-TH-oh) gnath-/o- jaw, cheek
incisor
(in-SIGH-zore) incis-/o-
incisor tooth


## labia

(LAY-bee-ah) labi-/o-
lip area
lingua (LING-wa) lingu-/o- tongue
mandible (MAN-dih-bull) mandibu-/a- lower jaw

maxilla (MACK-sih-lah) maxilla-/o- upper jaw

mesial (ME-zee-al) mesi-/o- middle, midplane

The Anatomy of Lip Rejuvention



## Tooth Morphology

Anatomical "directions" when discussing teeth:

- Labial
-     - Buccal
- Mesial
- Distal
- Occlusal
- Lingual

mucosa (myou-KOH-sah) muc-/o- tissue lining an orifice occlude (oh-KLUDE) occlus-/o- occluding, jaw close odont (oh-DONT) odont-/o- tooth Orthos (OR-thohs) orth-/o- straight, proper order stoma (STOW-mah) stoma- mouth


Anatomy of the oral cavity


