



Medical TERMINOLOGY - A thru Z

Prefixes, roots, suffixes [A]

Prefix: A prefix is placed at the beginning of a word to modify or change its meaning. Pre means "before." Prefixes may also indicate a location, number, or time.
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Alphabetical Listing (Navigation)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
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A

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Term	Meaning
a-	no; not; without
an-	no; not; without
ab-	away from
abdomin/o	abdomen
-ac	pertaining to
acanth/o	spiny; thorny
acar/o	miles
acetabul/o	acetabulum (hip socket)
acous/o	hearing
acoust/o	hearing, sound
acr/o	extremities; top; extreme point
acromi/o	acromion (extension of shoulder bone)
actin/o	light
acu/o	sharp; severe; sudden
-acusic	hearing
-ad-	toward
-ad	toward
aden/o	gland
adenoid/o	adenoids
adip/o	fat
adren/o	adrenal gland
adrenal/o	adrenal gland
aer/o	air
af-	toward
agglutin/o	clumping; sticking together
-agogue	producer, leader
-agon	to assemble; gather
agora-	marketplace
-agra	excessive pain
-al	pertaining to
alb/o	white
albin/o	white
albumin/o	albumin (protein)
alges/o	sensitivity to pain
-algesia	sensitivity to pain
-algia	pain
all/o	other

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axi/o axis
azot/ urea, nitrogen

alveol/o	alveolus; air sac; small sac
ambi-	around, on both sides, about
ambly/o	dim; dull
amphi-	around, on both sides
-amine	nitrogen compound
ammon/o	ammonium
amni/o	amnion (sac surrounding the embryo)
amy/o	starch
an/o	anus
-an	pertaining to
ana-	up; apart; backward; again; anew
andr/o	male
aneurysm/o	aneurysm (widening of blood vessel)
angi/o	vessel (blood)
anis/o	unequal
ankyl/o	stiff
ante-	before; forward
anter/o	front
anthrac/o	coal
antr/o	antrum of the stomach
anti-	against
anxi/o	uneasy; anxious
aort/o	aorta (largest artery)
-apheresis	removal
aphth/o	ulcer
apo-	off; away
aponeur/o	aponeurosis (type of tendon)
append/o	appendix
appendic/o	appendix
aque/o	water
-ar	pertaining to
arachn/o	spider
-arche	beginning
arsenic/o	arsenic
arter/o	artery
arteri/o	artery
arteriol/o	arteriole (small artery)
arthr/o	joint
-arthria	articulate (speak distinctly)
articul/o	joint
-artresia	closure, occlusion
atreto-	closed, lacking an opening
-ary	pertaining to
asbest/o	asbestos
-ase	enzyme
aspir/o	removal
-assay	to examine, analyze
-asthenia	lack of strength
astr/o	star, star-shaped
aque/o	water
atel/o	incomplete
ather/o	plaque (fatty substance)
-ation	process; condition
atri/o	atrium (upper heart chamber)
atmo-	steam, vapor
audi/o	hearing
audit/o	hearing
aur/o	ear
auricul/o	ear
auscult/o	to listen
aut/o	self; own
aut-	self; own
auto-	self; own
aux/o	growth, acceleration
axill/o	armpit

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Term	Meaning
bacill/o	bacilli (bacteria)
bacteri/o	bacteria
balan/o	glans penis
bar/o	pressure; weight
bartholin/o	Bartholin glands
bary-	weight, pressure
-basia	walking
bas/o	base; opposite of acid
batho-, bathy-	deep, depth
bi-	two
bi/o	life
bil/i	bile; gall
bilirubin/o	bilirubin
-blast	embryonic; immature cell
-blastoma	immature tumor (cells)
blenn/o	mucus
blephar/o	eyelid
bol/o	cast; throw
-boulia	will
brach/o	arm
brachy-	short
brady-	slow
brom/o	bromine-containing compound, odor
bronch/o	bronchial tube
bronchi/o	bronchial tube
bronchiol/o	bronchiole
bucc/o	cheek
bunion/o	bunion
burs/o	bursa (sac of fluid near joints)
byssin/o	cotton dust

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Term	Meaning
calc/o	bad
calc/o	calcium
calcane/o	calcaneus (heel bone)
calc/i/o	calcium
calcul/o, -calculia	to compute
call/o	calyx
calic/o	calyx
calor/i	heat
camp/o	bent
capillar/o	capillary (tinest blood vessel)
capn/o	carbon dioxide
-capnia	carbon dioxide
caps/o, capsul/o	capsule, container
carcin/o	cancerous; cancer
car/i/o	caries, rotteness
cardi/o	heart
carp/o	wrist bones (carpals)
cata-	down
-cataphasia	affirmation
cathar/o, cathart/o	cleansing, purging
-cathisia, -kathisia	sitting
caud/o	tail; lower part of body
caus/o	burn; burning
cauter/o	heat; burn
cav/o, cavit/o	hollow, cavity
cec/o	cecum (first part of colon)
-cele	hernia
cali/o	belly; abdomen
-centesis	surgical puncture to remove fluid
centr/o	center
cephal/o	head
cerebell/o	cerebellum (posterior part of the brain)
cerebr/o	cerebrum (largest part of the brain)
cerumin/o	cerumen
cervic/o	neck; cervix (neck of uterus)
-chalasia	relaxation
-chalasis	relaxation
cheil/o	lip

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chem/o	drug; chemical
-chezia	defecation; elimination of wastes
chir/o	hand
chlor/o	green
chlorhydr/o	hydrochloric acid
chol/e	bile; gall
cholangi/o	bile; vessel
cholecyst/o	gallbladder
choledoch/o	common bile duct
cholesterol/o	cholesterol
chondr/o	cartilage
chore/o	dance
chori/o	chorion (outermost membrane of the fetus)
chorion/o	chorion
choroid/o	choroid layer of eye
-chroia	skin coloration
chrom/o	color
chron/o	time
chrys/o	gold
chyl/o	chyle
chym/o	to pour
cib/o	meal
-cide	killing
-cidal	pertaining to killing
cine/o	movement
circum-	around
cirr/h/o	orange-yellow
cis/o	to cut
-clasis	to break
-clast	to break
clastr/o	enclosed space
clavicul/o	clavicle (collar bone)
cleid/o	clavicle
clin/o	to slope, bend
-clysis	irrigation; washing
coagul/o	coagulation (clotting)
-coccus	berry-shaped bacterium
coccyg/o	coccyx (tail bone)
cochle/o	cochlea (inner part of ear)
-coimesis	sleeping
col/o	colon (large intestine)
coll/a	glue
colon/o	colon (large intestine)
colp/o	vagina
comat/o	deep sleep
comi/o	to care for
-coma	deep sleep
con-	together; with
con/i/o	dust
conjunctiv/o	conjunctiva (lines of eyelids)
consci/o	awareness, aware
constrict/o	narrowing, binding
-constriction	narrowing
contra-	against; opposite
contus/o	to bruise
cor/o	pupil
core/o	pupil
corne/o	cornea
coron/o	heart
corpor/o	body
cortic/o	cortex, outer region
cost/o	rib
cox/o	hip
cran/i/o	skull
cras/o	mixture; temperament

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icrin/o	secrete
-crine	to secrete; separate
-crit	to separate
critic/o	crisis, dangerous
cry/o	cold
crypt/o	hidden
cubit/o	elbow, forearm
culd/o	cul-de-sac
cupr/o	copper
-cuis	hearing
cutane/o	skin
cyan/o	blue
cycl/o	ciliary body of eye; cycle; circle
-cyesis	pregnancy
cyst/o	urinary bladder; cyst; sac of fluid
cyt/o	cell
-cyte	cell
-cytosis	condition of cells; slight increase in numbers

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Term	Meaning
dacryo/o	tear
dacryoaden/o	tear gland
dacryocyst/o	tear sac; lacriman sac
dactyl/o	fingers; toes
de-	lack of; down; less; removal of
dem/o	people
dent/i	tooth
derm/o	skin
-derma	skin
dermat/o	skin
desicc/o	drying
-desis	to bind; tie together
dextr/o	right
dia-	complete; through
diaphor/o	sweat
-dilation	widening; stretching; expanding
dilat/o	to enlarge, expand
dip/o	double
dips/o	thirst
dis-	apart, to separate
dist/o	far; distant
dolich/o	long
dolor/o	pain
dors/o	back (of body)
dorsi-	back
-dote	to give
-drome	to run
duct/o	to lead; carry
duoden/o	duodenum
dur/o	dura mater
dynam/o	power, strength
-dynia	pain

dys - Bad, painful, difficult

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Term	Meaning
-eal	pertaining to
ec-	out; outside
echin/o	spiny, prickly
echo-	reflected sound
-ectasia	dilation; dilatation; widening
-ectasis	dilation; dilatation; widening
ecto-	out; outside
ectro/o	congenital absence
-ectomy	removal; excision; resection
-edema	swelling
eight	octa-, octi-
-elasma	flat plate
electr/o	electricity
ela/o	oil
em-	in
-ema	condition
embolo/o	embolus
embryo/o	embryo
-emesis	vomiting
-emia	blood condition
-emic	pertaining to blood condition
emmetr/o	in due measure
-emphraxis	stoppage, obstruction
en-	in; within
enantio	opposite, opposed
encephal/o	brain
end-	in; within
endo-	in; within
enter/o	intestines (usually small intestine)
eosin/o	red; rosy; dawn-colored
epi-	above; upon; on

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epididym/o	epididymis
epiglott/o	epiglottis
episi/o	vulva
epitheli/o	skin; epithellum
equi-	equality, equal
equin/o	horse
-er	one who
erg/o	work
erethism/o	irritation
erythem/o	flushed; redness
erythr/o	red
eschar/o	scab
-esis	action; condition; state of
eso-	inward
esophag/o	esophagus
esthes/o	nervous sensation
esthesi/o	nervous sensation
-esthesia	nervous sensation
estr/o	female
ethm/o	sieve
eti/o	cause
eu-	good; normal
-eurysm	widening
ex-	out; away from
exanthemat/o	rash
exo-	out; away from
extra-	outside

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Term	Meaning
faci/o	face
-facient	to cause, make happen
fasci/o	fascia (membrane supporting muscles)
febr/i	fever
femor/o	femur (thigh bone)
-ferent	to carry
ferr/i, ferr/o	iron
fet/o	fetus
fibr/o	fiber
fibros/o	fibrous connective tissue
fibul/o	fibula
-fication	process of making
-fida	split
fil/i, fil/o, filament/o	thread, threadlike
five	pent-, penta-, quinque-
flav/o	yellow
flex/o	to bend
fluor/o	luminous
follicul/o	follicle; small sac
fore-	before, in front
-form	resembling; in the shape of
four	quadri, tetra-
fovea/o	small pit or depression
frig/o, frigid/o	cold
funct/o	performance
fung/i	fungus; mushroom (organism lacking chlorophyll)
furc/o	forking; branching
fusc/o	dark brown
-fusion	to pour; to come together

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Term	Meaning
galact/o	milk
ganglion/o	ganglion; collection of nerve cell bodies
gastr/o	stomach
gel/o	to freeze, congeal
gemell/o	twins
-gen	substance that produces
-genesis	producing; forming
-genic	produced by or in
geni/o	chin
genit/o	reproduction
ge/o	earth, soil
ger/o	old age
geront/o	old age
gest/o	pregnancy
gester/o	pregnancy
gigant/o	huge
gingiv/o	gum
glauc/o	gray
gli/o	glial cells; neuroglial cells
-globin	protein
-globulin	protein
glomerul/o	glomerulus
gloss/o	tongue
gluc/o	glucose; sugar
glyc/o	glucose; sugar
glycogen/o	glycogen; animal starch
glycos/o	glucose; sugar
gnath/o	jaw
gnos/o	knowledge
gon/o	seed
gonad/o	sex glands

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goni/o	angle
-grade	to go
-gram	record
granul/o	granule(s)
-graph	instrument for recording
graph/o	writing
-graphy	process of recording
gravid/o	pregnancy
-gravida	pregnant woman
gynec/o	woman; female
gyr/o	circle, spiral

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Term	Meaning
half	demi, hemi, semi
hallucin/o	hallucination
hapl/o	simple, single
hele/o	ulcer
heli/o	sun
-helminth	worm
hem/o	blood
hemat/o	blood
hemi-	half
hemoglobin/o	hemoglobin
hepat/o	liver
heredo-	heredity
herni/o	hernia
-hexia	habit
hidr/o	sweat
hirsut/o	hairy
hirund/i	leech
hist/o	tissue
histi/o	tissue
holo-	entire, complete
home/o	sameness; unchanging; constant
hormon/o	hormone
hymen/o	hymen
humer/o	humeral
hydr/o	water
hygr/o	moisture
hyper-	above; excessive
hypn/o	sleep
hypo-	deficient; below; under; less than normal
hypophys/o	pituitary gland
hypothalam/o	hypothalamus

hypsi - high
 hyster/o uterus - womb

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Term	Meaning
-ia	condition
-iac	pertaining to
-iasis	abnormal condition
iatr/o	physician; treatment
-ic	pertaining to
-ical	pertaining to
ichthy/o	dry; scaly
-ician	specialist
-icle	small
ide/o	idea, mental images
idi/o	unknown; individual; distinct
ile/o	ileum
ili/o	illum
immun/o	immune; protection; safe
in-	in; into; not
-in	a substance, chemical, chemical compound
-ine	a substance, chemical, chemical compound
-ine	pertaining to
infra-	below; inferior to; beneath
inguin/o	groin
insulin/o	insulin (pancreatic hormone)
inter-	between
intra-	within; into
iod/o	iodine
ion/o	ion; to wander
-ion	process
-ior	pertaining to
ipsi-	same
ir-	in
ir/o	iris (colored portion of eye)
irid/o	iris (colored portion of eye)

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MORE

is/o	same; equal
isch/o	to hold back; back
ischi/o	ischium (part of hip bone)
-ism	process; condition
-ist	specialist
ithy-	erect, straight
-itis	inflammation
-ium	structure; tissue
ixod/i	ticks

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*J

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Term	Meaning
juxta-	near
jaund/o	yellow
jejun/o	jejunum

Term	Meaning
kal/i	potassium
kary/o	nucleus
kel/o	tumor, fibrous growth
kerat/o	cornea; hard, horny tissue
keraun/o	lightning
kern-	nucleus (collection of nerve cells in the brain)
ket/o	ketones; acetones
keton/o	ketones; acetones
kines/o	movement
kinesi/o	movement
-kinesis	movement
klept/o	to steal
koll/o	hollow, concave, depressed
kraur/o	dry
kym/o	waves
kyph/o	humpback

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Term	Meaning
-labile	unstable, perishable
labi/o	lip
lacrim/o	tear; tear duct; lacrimal duct
lact/o	milk
lal/o, -lalia	speech, babble
lamin/o	lamina
lapr/o	clear
lapar/o	abdominal wall; abdomen
-lapse	to slide, fall, sag
laryng/o	larynx (voice box)
later/o	side
lecith/o	yolk, ovum
lei/o	smooth
leiomy/o	smooth (visceral) muscle
-lemma	sheath; covering
lepid/o	plakes, scales
lepr/o	leprosy
-lepsy	seizure
lept/o	thin, slender
-leptic	to seize, take hold of
leth/o	death
leuk/o	white
levo-	left
lex/o	word; phrase
-lexia	word; phrase
lien/o	spleen
ligament/o	ligament
ligat/o	binding, tying
lim/o	hunger
lingu/o	tongue
lip/o	fat; lipid

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-lipsis	omit, fail
-lithesis	condition of stones
lith/o	stone, calculus
-lithotomy	incision (for removal) of a stone
lob/o	lobe
logad/o	whites of the eyes
-logist	specialist
log/o	study
-logy	study (process of)
loph/o	ridge
lord/o	curve; swayback
lox/o	oblique, slanting
-lucent	to shine
lumb/o	lower back; loin
lumin/o	light
lute/o	yellow
lux/o	to slide
lymph/o	lymph
ly/o	to dissolve, loosen
lymphaden/o	limph gland (node)
lymphangi/o	lymph vessel
-lysis	breakdown; separation; destruction; loosening
-lytic	to reduce, destroy, separate; breakdown

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Term	Meaning
macro-	large
mal-	bad
-malacia	softening
malleol/o	malleolus
mamm/o	breast
mandibul/o	mandible (lower jaw bone)
-mania	obsessive preoccupation
-masesis	mastication, chewing
mast/o	breast
mastoid/o	mastoid process (behind the ear)
maxill/o	maxilla (upper jaw bone)
meat/o	meatus (opening)
medi/o	middle
medic/o	to heal, healing
mediastin/o	mediastinum
medi/o	middle
medull/o	medulla (inner section); middle; soft, marrow
mega-	large
-megaly	enlargement
melan/o	black
mel/o	limb, limbs
men/o	menses; menstruation
mening/o	meninges (membranes covering the spinal cord & brain)
mening/o	meninges
ment/o	mind; chin
mer/o	part
meso-	middle
meta-	change; beyond
metacarp/o	metacarpals (hand bones)
metatars/o	metatarsals (foot bones)
-meter	measure

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method/o	procedure, technique
metr/o	uterus (womb); measure
metri/o	uterus (womb)
-metry	process of measuring
mi/o	smaller; less
micro-	small
-mimesis	imitation, simulation
-mimetic	mimic; copy
-mission	to send
-nesia	memory
mogi-	difficult
mon/o	one; single
morph/o	shape; form
mort/o	death
-mortem	death
-motor	movement
muc/o	mucus
mucos/o	mucous membrane (mucosa)
multi-	many
muscul/o	muscle
mut/a	genetic change
mutagen/o	causing genetic change
my/o	muscle
myc/o	fungus
mydr/o	wide
myel/o	spinal cord; bone marrow
myocardi/o	myocardium (heart muscle)
myom/o	muscle tumor
myos/o	muscle
myring/o	tympanic membrane (eardrum)
myx/o	mucus

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Term	Meaning
narc/o	numbness; stupor; sleep
nas/o	nose
nat/i	birth
natr/o	sodium
necr/o	death
nect/o	to bind, tie, connect
neo-	new
neph/r/o	kidney
neur/o	nerve
neutr/o	neither; neutral; neutrophil
nid/o	nest
nine	non-
noc/i-	to cause harm, injury or pain
noct/o	night
nod/o	knot
-noia	mind, will
nom/o	custom, law
nomen-	name
norm/o	rule; order
nos/o	disease
nucle/o	nucleus
null-	none
nutri/o, nutrit/o	to nourish
nyct/o	night

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Term	Meaning
obstetr/o	pregnancy; birth
ocul/o	eye
odont/o	tooth
odyn/o	pain
-oid	resembling; derived from
-ole	little; small
ole/o	oil
olecran/o	olecranon (elbow)
olig/o	scanty
om/o	shoulder
-oma	tumor; mass; fluid collection
omphal/o	umbilicus (navel)
onc/o	tumor
-one	hormone
one	mono, uni
one and a half	bi, di
onych/o	nail (of fingers or toes)
o/o	egg
oophor/o	ovary
-opaque	obscure
ophry/o	eyebrow
ophthalm/o	eye
-opia	vision condition
opisth/o	backward, behind
-opsia	vision condition
-opsy	view of
opt/o	eye; vision
optic/o	eye; vision
-or	one who
or/o	mouth
orch/o	testis

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orchi/o	testis
orchid/o	testis
-orexia	appetite
organ/o	organ
orth/o	straight
osche/o	scrotum
-ose	full of; pertaining to; sugar
-osis	condition, usually abnormal
-osmia	smell
osphresi/o	sense of smell
ossicul/o	ossicle (small bone)
oste/o	bone
-ostosis	condition of bone
ot/o	ear
-otia	ear condition
-ous	pertaining to
ov/o	egg
ovari/o	ovary
ovul/o	egg
ox/o	oxygen
-oxia	oxygen
oxy-	swift; sharpp; acid
oxysm/o	sudden

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Term	Meaning
-pachy-	heavy; thick
-pagus	conjoined twins
palat/o	palate (roof of mouth)
pale/o	old
pali-	recurrence, repetition
palliat/o	to soothe, relieve
palpebr/o	eyelid
palp/o, palpat/o	to touch gently
palpit/o	flutter, throbbing
pan-	all
pancreat/o	pancreas
pan/o	all, whole
papill/o	nipple-like; optic disc
papul/o	papule, pimple
par-	other than; abnormal
para-	near; beside; abnormal; apart from; along the side of
-para	to bear, bring forth (live births)
-parous	to bear, bring forth
parasit/o	parasite
parathyroid/o	parathyroid glands
-paresis	weakness
-pareunia	sexual intercourse
-partum	birth; labor
patell/a	patella
patell/o	patela
path/o	disease
-pathy	disease; emotion
pector/o	chest
pedicul/o	louse
ped/o	child; foot
pelv/i	pelvis; hip region
pelv/o	pelvis; hip region
pend/o	to hang
-penia	deficiency
-pepsia	digestion
per-	through
percuss/o	to tap
peri-	surrounding

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perine/o	perineum	
peritone/o	peritoneum	
per/o	deformed, maimed	
perone/o	fibula	
perspir/o	breathe through	Advertisement
petr/o	stone, petrous region of temporal bone	
-pexy	fixation; to put in place	
phac/o	lens of eye	
phag/o	eat; swallow	
-phage	eat; swallow	
-phagia	eating; swallowing	
phak/o	lens of eye	
phalang/o	phalanges (of fingers and toes)	
phall/o	penis	
phaner/o	visible, apparent	
pharmac/o	drug	
pharmaceut/o	drug	
pharyng/o	throat (pharynx)	
phas/o	speech	
-phasia	speech	
phe/o	dusky; dark	
-pheresis	removal	
phil/o	like; love; attraction to	
-phil	attraction for	
-philia	attraction for	
phim/o	muzzle	
phleb/o	vein	
phob/o	fear	
-phobia	fear	
phon/o	voice; sound	
-phonia	voice; sound	
-phor/o	to bear	
-phoresis	carrying; transmission	
-phoria	to bear, carry; feeling (mental state)	
phosphat/o	phosphate	
phot/o	light	
phren/o	diaphragm; mind	
-phthisis	wasting away	
-phylaxis	protection	
phyl/o	race, species, type	
physi/o	nature; function	
physic/o	physical, natural	
-physis	to grow	
phys/o	air, gas	
phyt/o	plant	
-phyte	plant	
picr/o	bitter	
pies/i, -piesis	pressure	
pil/o	hair	
pinel/o	fat, fatty	
pineal/o	pineal gland	
pin/o	to drink	
pituitar/o	pituitary gland	
-piakia	plaque	
plan/o	flat, level, wandering	
plant/o	sole of the foot	
plas/o	development; formation	
-plasia	development; formation	
-plasm	formation; structure	
-plastic	pertaining to formation	
-plasty	surgical repair	
platy-	broad, flat	
ple/o	more; many	
-plegia	paralysis; palsy	

-plegic	paralysis; palsy
pleur/o	pleura
plex/o	plexus; network (of nerves)
-pnea	breathing
pneum/o	lung; air; gas
pneumon/o	lung; air; gas
pod/o	foot
-poiesis	formation
-poietin	substance that forms
poikil/o	varied; irregular
pol/o	extreme
polio-	gray matter (of brain or spinal cord)
poly-	many; much
polyp/o	polyp; small growth
pont/o	pons (a part of the brain)
por/o, -pore	opening, passageway
-porosis	condition of pores (spaces)
-posia	drinking
posit/o	arrangement, place
post-	after; behind
poster/o	back (of body); behind
-prandial	meal
-praxia	action
pre-	before; in front of
presby/o	old age
primi-	first
pro-	before; forward
proct/o	anus and rectum
pros-	before; forward
pros/o	forward, anterior
prosop/o	face
prostat/o	prostate gland
prot/o	first
prote/o	protein
proxim/o	near
prurit/o	itching
psamm/o	sand, sand-like material
pseudo-	false
psor/o	itching
psych/o	mind
psychr/o	cold
-pterygium	abnormality of the conjunctiva
-ptosis	droop; sag; prolapse; protrude
ptyal/o	saliva
-ptysis	spitting
pub/o	pubis (anterior part of hip bone)
pulmon/o	lung
puls/o, pulsat/o	to beat, beating
-puncture	to pierce a surface
pupill/o	pupil (dark center of eye)
purpur/f	purple
purul/o	pus
py/o	pus
pycn/o	thick, dense
pyel/o	renal pelvis
pyl/e	portal vein
pylor/o	pylorus; pyloric sphincter
pyr/o	fever; fire
pyret/o	fever
pyrex/o	fever

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Term	Meaning
quadri-	four, square
qual-	quality, characteristic
quant-	how much
quasi-	to some degree, as if
quart-	fourth, four
quer-	to seek, search
quercin	oak
quint-	fifth, five
quota-	how many

R

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Term	Meaning
rachi/o	spinal column; vertebrae
radi/o	x-rays; radioactivity; radius (lateral lower arm bone)
radicul/o	nerve root
re-	back; again; backward
-receptor, -ceptor	receiver
rect/o	rectum
ren/o	kidney
respi/o	breath
resuscit/o	to revive
reticul/o	network
retin/o	retina
retro-	behind; back; backward
rhabd/o	rod
rhabdomy/o	striated (skeletal) muscle
rhe/o	flow, current, stream
rheumat/o	watery flow
rhin/o	nose
rhiz/o	root
rhod/o	red, rosy
rhytid/o	wrinkle
roentgen/o	x-rays
rose/o	rosy
rot/o, rotat/o	turn, revolve
-rrhage	bursting forth (of blood)
-rrhagia	bursting forth (of blood)
-rrhaphy	suture
-rrhea	flow; discharge
-rrhexis	rupture
rhythm/o	rhythm
rubr/o, rubr/i	red

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Term	Meaning
sacchar/o	sugar
sacr/o	sacrum
salping/o	fallopian tube; auditory (eustachian) tube
-salpinx	fallopian tube; oviduct
sangu/i	blood
sanit/a	health
sapr/o	rotten, decay
sarc/o	flesh (connective tissue)
scapul/o	scapula; shoulder blade
-schisis	to split
schist/o	split, cleft
schiz/o	split
sinistr/o	left
scint/i	spark
scirr/h/o	hard
scler/o	sclera (white of eye)
-sclerosis	hardening
scolec/o	worm
scoll/o	crooked; bent
-scope	instrument for visual examination
-scopy	visual examination
scot/o	darkness
seb/o	sebum
sebace/o	sebum
sect/o	to cut
semi-	half
semin/i	semen; seed
-sepsis	putrefaction
seps/o	infection
sept/o	partition
ser/o	serum, serous
seven	hepta-, sept-, septi-
sial/o	saliva
sialaden/o	salivary gland
sider/o	iron
sigmoid/o	sigmoid colon
silic/o	glass
sinus/o	sinus

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-sis	state of; condition
sit/o	food
six	hex-, hexa-, sex-
skelet/o	skeleton
-sol	solution
somat/o	body
-some	body
somn/o	sleep
-somnia	sleep
son/o	sound
-spadia	to tear; cut
span/o	scanty, scarce
-spasm	sudden contraction of muscles
spectr/o	image, spectrum
sperm/o	spermatozoa; sperm cells
spermat/o	spermatozoa; sperm cells
sphen/o	wedge; sphenoid bone
spher/o	globe-shaped; round
sphygm/o	pulse
-sphyxia	pulse
splanchn/o	viscera (internal organs)
spin/o	spine (backbone)
spir/o	to breathe
splen/o	spleen
spondyl/o	vertebra (backbone)
squam/o	scale
-stalsis	contraction
staped/o	stapes (middle ear bone)
staphyl/o	clusters; uvula
-stabile	stable, fixed
-stalsis	contraction
staped/o	stapes
-stasis	to stop; control; place
-stat	device/instrument for keeping something stationary
-static	pertaining to stopping; controlling
steat/o	fat; sebum
sten/o	narrowed, constricted
-stenosis	tightening; stricture
ster/o	solid structure; steroid
stere/o	solid; three-dimensional
stern/o	sternum (breastbone)
steth/o	chest
-sthenia	strength
stich/o	rows
stigmat/o	mark, point
-stital	to set; pertaining to standing or positioned
stomat/o	mouth
-stomia	condition of the mouth
-stomy	new opening (to form a mouth)
strept/o	twisted chains
-stroma	supporting tissue of an organ
styl/o	pole or stake
sub-	under; below
submaxill/o	mandible (lower jaw bone)
succ/o	juice
sud/o	sweat
super-	above, beyond
-suppression	to stop
supra-	above; upper
-sym-	together; with
symptom/o	occurrence
syn-	together; with
synaps/o, synapt/o	point of contact, to join
syncope/o	to cut off, cut short; faint
syndesm/o	ligament

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Synovi/o - synovial membrane sheath around tendon

Syring/o - tube

System/o - system

Systemic/o - contraction



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Prefixes, roots, suffixes [T]

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Term	Meaning
tachy-	fast
tal/o	talus
tars/o	tarsus; hindfoot or ankle
tauto-	identical, same
tax/o	order; coordination
techn/o	skill, art
tel/o	complete
tele/o	distant
temp/o, tempor/o	period of time, the temples
ten	deca-
ten/o	tendon
tendin/o	tendon
-tension	pressure
tens/o	stretched, strained
tephr/o	gray (ashen)
terat/o	monster; malformed fetus
test/o	testis
tetan/o	tetanus
tetra-	four
thalam/o	thalamus
thalass/o	sea
thanat/o	death
the/o	put; place
thec/o	sheath
the/o	nipple
therapeut/o	treatment
-therapy	treatment
therm/o	heat
thorac/o	chest
-thorax	chest; pleural cavity
three	tri-

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thromb/o	clot
-tropia	to turn
thym/o	thymus gland
-thymia	mind (condition of)
-thymic	pertaining to mind
thyro/o	thyroid gland; shield
thyroid/o	thyroid gland
tibi/o	tibia (shin bone)
-tic	pertaining to
toc/o	labor; birth
-tocia	labor; birth (condition of)
-tocin	labor; birth (a substance for)
tom/o	to cut
-tome	instrument to cut
-tomy	process of cutting
ton/o	tension
tone/o	to stretch
tonsill/o	tonsil
top/o	place; position; location
torso	twisted
tox/o	poison
toxic/o	poison
trache/o	trachea (windpipe)
trans-	across; through
traumat/o	trauma, injury, wound
trem/o, tremul/o	shaking, trembling
-tresia	opening
tri-	three
trich/o	hair
trigon/o	trigone (area within the bladder)
tri/o	to sort out, sorting
-tripsy	to crush
troph/o	nourishment; development
-trophy	nourishment; development (condition of)
-tropia	to turn
-tropic	turning
-tropin	stimulate; act on
tub/o	tube
tumesc/o, -tumescence	swelling
tympan/o	tympanic membrane (eardrum); middle ear
-type	classification; picture
typh/o	cecum, blindness

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Term	Meaning
-ule	little; small
uln/o	ulna (middle lower arm bone)
ul/o	scar, scarring
ultra-	beyond; excess
-um	structure; tissue; thing
umbilic/o	umbilicus (navel)
ungu/o	nail
uni-	one
uran/o	palate
-uresis	urination
ur/o	urine; urinary tract
ureter/o	ureter
urethr/o	urethra
-uria	urination; condition of urine
uric/o	urine condition
urin/o	urine
-us	structure; thing
uter/o	uterus (womb)
uve/o	uvea, vascular layer of eye (iris, choroid, ciliary body)
uvul/o	uvula

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Term	Meaning
vaccin/o	vaccine
vag/o	vagus nerve
vagin/o	vagina
valv/o	valve
valvul/o	valve
varic/o	varicose veins
vas/o	vessel; duct; vas deferens
vascul/o	vessel (blood)
ven/o	vein
ven/i	vein
vener/o	venereal (sexual contact)
ventil/o	to aerate, oxygenate
ventr/o	belly side of body
ventricul/o	ventricle (of heart or brain)
venul/o	venule (small vein)
verm/i	worm
verruc/i	wart
-verse	to turn
-version	to turn
vers/o, -verse	turn, turning
vertebr/o	vertebra (backbone)
vesic/o	urinary bladder
vesicul/o	seminal vesicle
vestibul/o	vestibule of the inner ear
vir/o	virus
viscer/o	internal organs
vit/o	life
vitro/o	vitreous body (of the eye)
vitre/o	glass
viv/o	life
-volemia	blood volume

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valv/o - to roll

Vulv/o - vulva



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W

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Term	Meaning
-ward	in the direction of
-where	location e.g. anywhere
-wise	direction e.g. clockwise
with-	together, united

X

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Term	Meaning
xanth/o	yellow
xen/o	stranger, foreigner
xer/o	dry, dryness
xiph/o or xiphi-	sword shaped
xylo-	wood e.g. xylum
xys-	file, scrape

Y

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Term	Meaning
-y	condition; process
yalos	Glass
ydor	Water
-yne	ending for alkynes
yocto-	prefix: one septillionth part of; the factor 10: yoctosecond
yooides	U-shaped
-yl	suffix - a monovalent hydrocarbon radical e.g. ethyl
-ylene	suffix - A bivalent organic radical
yper	Above
ypo	Under
ypsi	High
ystera	Uterus

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Term	Meaning
zeo-	boil
zinc-	Pertaining to or containing the element zinc
zolo	animal life
zon-	girdle, belt
zyg/o	union, junction, pair, yoke, tied together
zym/o	enzyme, ferment
-zyme	enzyme

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