# Medical vocabulary : prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example
A,an	Absence of, with out, not	atrophy
Ab	From, away	abduction
Ad	to, toward, near	adduction
Allo	another (human)	allografft
Ambi	both	ambidextrous
Ante	before	anteversion
Anti	against	antibiotic
Auto	self	autograft
Bi	two	bipolar
Bio	life	biology
Circum	around	circumduction
Contra	against, opposed	contraindication
Cortico	cortex, cortical	corticospinal
Di	two	dichromatic
Dis	the opposite of, apart	disarticulation
Dors	back	dorsiflexion
Dys	abnormal	dysplasia
Ect	external	octoderm
En	in, internal	endocrine
Endo	inner, within	endocardium
Ent	inner, within	entropion
Epi	on, outer	epidural
Erythr	red	erythrocyte
Ex	from, without	exostosis
Exo	outside	exoskeleton
Extra	outside, in addition	extracapsular
Hemi	half	hemisphere
Heter	other	heterogenous
Hom	same	homogenous
Hyper	excessive, more than normal	hyperextention
Нур	below, less than normal	hypoplasia
In	within, into, not	incomplete
Infra	below, inferior	infrapatellar

Inter between interosseus
Intra within intravenous
Iso same, normal isotonic

Leuk White leukocytes

Mal disordered, bad malignancy
Micro small microcephalus

Myelmarrow, spinal cordmyelogramParabeside, alongside, parallelparavertebralPathdiseasepathologist

PedchildrenpedratricianPerthroughpercutaneousPeriaround, aboutperiosteum

Poly many polycentric
Post after postoperative
Pre before, anterior preoperative

Probefore, forprogressivePseudofalsepseudoarthrosisQuadfourquadriceps

Retro posterior, behind retrograde
Semi half semicircular
Septi poison septicemia

SubundersubcapsularSuperabove, greater, oversuperiorSupraabove, upon, superiorsupracondylar

Sym, Synwith, togethersymphysisTransacross, beyound, throughtransverseTrithreetriceps

Tri three triceps
Uni one unilateral

### Medical vocabulary: root words

Root	Meaning	Example
Angi	vessel	angioplasty
Arthr	joint	arthrodesis
Card(i)	heart	cardiology
Celi(o)	cavity	celioscopy
Cephal	head	cephalad
Cerebr	brain	cerebrum

Cervic neck cervical

Chondr cartilage chondrocranium
Col colon colectomy

CorpbodycorpectomyCostribcostalCutskincutaneous

Cystsac, bladderosteocystomaDermaskindermatomeDurDura materperidural

Enter small intestine enteritis
Fibr fiber fibrocystis
Gastr stomach gastrointestinal

Hem, hemabloodhematomaHepatliverhepatitisHisttissuehistology

Laparabdomen, flanklaparotomyLipfatliposuctionLumblumbarlumbosacral

Mening membrane meningitis
Muscul muscle musculoskeletal
Myo muscle myocardium

Nephr kidney nephretomy Neur nerve neuroma Os, oste bone osteomyelitis faryngitis Pharyng pharynx Phleb vein phlebitis Pulmon lung pulmonia

Radicul root radiculitis Sacr sacrum sacral

Spondyl vertebra spondylopathy

Thec dura mater thecal sac
Thorac chest thoracotomy
Ureter ureter ureteritis

# Medical vocabulary: suffixes

Suffix Meaning Example

Algia pain neuralgia
Desis fusion arthrorodesis

Ectomy removal, excision, extirpation s	
	vnovectomy
Letoniy removal, excision, extripation s	ymovectomy

Emia	blood	anemia
Esthesia	feeling, sensation	anesthesia
Genic	causing, origin	osteogenic

Graph something written monograph Iasis condition of lithiasis Itis inflammation arthritis

Listhesis displacement spondylolisthesis Lysis breaking down, reduction hydrolysis Ocentesis puncture, aspiration of amniocentesis

Ogram examination of cholangiogram
Olithectomy
Olithiasis stones nephrolithiasis

Ologyscience of, study ofrheumatologyOmatumorosteomaOpathydiseaseosteopathy

Opexy fixation omentopexy
Oplasty repair, surgical formation of arthroplasty
Opsy examination biopsy

Orrhaphy surgical repair herniorrhaphy
Oscopy to view arthroscopy
Osis state of many scoliosis

Ostasis control, stop hemostasis
Ostomy drainage colostomy
Otome a cutting instrument osteotome

Otomy cutting into arthrotomy
Paresis mild paralysis hemiparesis
Plegia paralysis paraplegia

Rrhea discharge, flow diarrhea
Scope instrument for viewing arthroscope
Scopist who uses a scope laparoscopist
Sthenia strength myasthenia

### Rules to combine medical word components

In general, the rules of combination are simple and straightforward. There are exceptions, and the best advice is to ask someone who is knowledgeable or look it up in a book. There is no substitute for a good medical dictionary and sound advice from a physician.

When combining a root word and a suffix, a combining vowel must be added.

This is usually an "o." In the listing given in this manual, many terms have this combining vowel already added. This was done for simplicity. When the suffix starts with a vowel, the "o" is usually not added. For example, in the word "arthritis" (which means joint inflammation), an "o" is not used. When a root word has the "o" added to it, it is called a "combining form."

When combining two root words, the combining vowel is maintained, even if the second root begins with a vowel. Take the word "osteoarthritis," formed by oste-o-arthritis (inflammation or infection of the bone and joint). When using two root words; the first root word will correspond to the structure that is most proximal anatomically, or using direction of flow (this will become clear as you continue your study of medical terminology).

When reading a medical term, start your translation with the suffix, then the beginning of the term and across the word. Osteoarthritis should be interpreted "itis" (inflammation), "osteo"(bone) and "arthr" (joint), an inflammation of the bone and joint.

# **Surgical positions**

The surgeon will place a patient's body in different position on the surgical table in order to gain access to different internal organs (viscera). Some of these positions have become standard and are used routinely. In the field you will see variations according to each surgeon's preference.

Supine or dorsal recumbent:

Lying on the back

Lying on the abdomen (face down)

Knee-chest:

kneeling with face down and knees bent

lying on the back, thighs elevated and the legs flexed at right angles to body perineum exposed

Trendelenburg:

Lying supine with head tilted down

Lateral recumbent or lateral decubitus: Lying on the side