

Basic Word Structure



Chapter 1

Learning Objectives



- Divide medical terms into their component parts
- Analyze, pronounce, and spell medical terms using common combining forms, suffixes, and prefixes

Important Word Parts



- Root: the essential meaning of the term
- Suffix: word ending
- Prefix: small part added to the beginning of the term
- Combining vowel: connects roots to suffixes and roots to other roots
- Combining form: the combination of the root and the combining vowel

General Rules



- ▣ *Read* the meaning of medical terms from the *suffix* back to the beginning of the term and then across
- ▣ *Drop* the combining vowel before a suffix beginning with a vowel: *gastritis not gastroitis*
- ▣ *Keep* the combining vowel word roots: *gastroenterology not gastrenterology*

Word Division



Example:

ELECTR/O/CARDI/O/GRAM means record of electricity in the heart

ELECTR: □ root

O: □ combining vowel

CARDI: □ root

O: □ combining vowel

GRAM: □ suffix

Word Division (Cont.)



Example:

SUB/GASTR/IC means pertaining to under the stomach

SUB: □ prefix (under)

GASTR: □ root (stomach)

IC: □ suffix (pertaining to)

Combining Forms



aden/o	gland
arthr/o	joint
bi/o	life
carcin/o	cancer, cancerous
cardi/o	heart

Combining Forms (Cont.)

cephal/o Head

cerebr/o cerebrum, largest part of the brain

cyst/o urinary bladder

cyt/o cell

derm/o skin

Combining Forms (Cont.)

dermat/o	skin
electr/o	electricity
encephal/o	brain
enter/o	intestines (often the small intestines)

Combining Forms (Cont.)

erythr/o red

gastr/o stomach

gnos/o knowledge

gynec/o woman, female

hem/o blood

Combining Forms (Cont.)

hemat/o blood

hepat/o liver

lapar/o abdomen

leuk/o white

nephr/o kidney

Combining Forms (Cont.)

neur/o nerve

onc/o tumor

ophthalm/o eye

oste/o bone

path/o disease

Combining Forms (Cont.)

psych/o mind

ren/o kidney

rhin/o nose

sarc/o flesh

thromb/o clotting

Suffixes



- **al** pertaining to
- **algia** pain
- **cyte** cell
- **ectomy** cutting out; removal, excision

Suffixes (Cont.)



- **emia** blood condition
- **globin** protein
- **gram** record
- **ia** condition
- **ic** pertaining to

Suffixes (Cont.)



- **ism** condition, process
- **itis** inflammation
- **logist** specialist in the study of
- **logy** study of

Suffixes (Cont.)



- **oma** tumor, mass
- **opsy** process of viewing
- **osis** abnormal condition
- **scope** instrument to visually examine

Suffixes (Cont.)



- **scopy** process of visual examination
- **sis** state of
- **tomy** process of cutting into (incision)

Prefixes



a-, an- no, not

aut- self

dia- complete, through

dys- bad, painful, difficult, abnormal

endo- within

Prefixes (Cont.)



exo-

outside

hyper-

excessive, more than normal, too much

hypo-

below, less than normal, under

peri-

surrounding

Prefixes (Cont.)



pro- before, forward

re- back

retro- behind

sub- below, under

trans- across, through

Medical Scramble



1. Pertaining to the heart

D A C C I R A

2. Nerve pain

U G A R E N L A I

3. Deficiency of hemoglobin causes this condition

I M E A N A

Medical Scramble

(Cont.)

4. Study of cells
G L Y C O T O Y
5. Infants are often born in this position...head first!
P C L A H I E C
6. Inflammation of a gland
N I D I E A S T

Medical Scramble

(Cont.)

Bonus Term: Malignant diagnosis

C R N M O A C I A



Questions?
Quiz next class