

MEDICAL PREFIXES, SUFFIXES, AND COMBINING FORMS

a- not, without, less
ab- from, away from, off
abs- from, away from, off
acantho- thorn
acou- hearing
acro- extremity
acu- hearing
ad- increase, adherence, motion toward, very
-ad toward, in the direction of, -ward
adeno- gland
adip- fat
adipo- fat
-agogue, -agogue promoter, stimulator
aidoi- genitals
-al pertaining to
alb- white
albo- white
alge- pain
algesi- pain
algio- pain
algo- pain
allo- other, different
ambi- around, on (both) sides, on all sides, both
ambly- dull
amblyo- dull
amyl- starch, polysaccharide
amyl- starch, polysaccharide
an- not, without, -less
ana- up, toward, apart
andro- male
angi- vessel
angio- vessel
ankylo- crooked
ante- before
anthraco- coal, carbon
anti- 1 against, opposing, 2 curative, 3 antibody
apo- separated from, derived from
aque- water
aqueo- water
-ar pertaining to
-arche beginning
arteri- artery
arterio- artery
arthr- joint, articulation
arthro- joint, articulation
-ary pertaining to
-ase an enzyme
-ate a salt or ester of an “-ic” acid
athero- pasty, fatty
atto- one quintillionth (10^{-18})
audi- hearing
audio- hearing
aur- ear
auri- ear
auro- ear

aut- self, same
auto- self, same
bacteri- bacteria
bacterio- bacteria
balano- penis
bi- twice, double
bio- life
blasto- budding by cells or tissue
blephar- eyelid
blepharo- eyelid
brachi- arm
brachio- arm
brachy- short
bronch- bronchus
bronchi- bronchus
broncho- bronchus
carcin- cancer
carcino- cancer
cardi- 1 heart, 2 esophageal opening of stomach
cardio- 1 heart, 2 esophageal opening of stomach
carpo- wrist
cata- down
caud- tail, lower part of body
caudo- tail, lower part of body
-cele hernia, swelling
celio- abdomen
-centesis surgical puncture
centi- one hundredth (10^{-2})
cephal- the head
cephalo- the head
cervic- 1 neck, 2 uterine cervix
cervico- 1 neck, 2 uterine cervix
cheil- lip
cheilo- lip
cheir- hand
cheiro- hand
chem- 1 chemistry, 2 drug
chemo- 1 chemistry, 2 drug
chir- hand
chiro- hand
chlor- 1 green, 2 chlorine
chloro- 1 green, 2 chlorine
chol- bile
chondrio- 1 cartilage, 2 granular, 3 gritty
chondro- 1 cartilage, 2 granular, 3 gritty
chrom- color
chromat- color
chromo- color
chron- time
chron- time
-cidal killing, destroying
-cide killing, destroying
cis- on this side, on the near side
-clast breaker
-clysis washing

co- with, together, in association, very, complete
col- with, together, in association, very, complete
colp- vagina
colpo- vagina
com- with, together, in association, very, complete
con- with, together, in association, very, complete
conio- dust
cor- with, together, in association, very, complete
coreo- pupil
cost- rib
costo- rib
crani- cranium
cranio- cranium
-crine secretion
cry- cold
cryo- cold
crypt- hidden
crypto- hidden
culdo- cul-de-sac
cyan- 1 blue, 2 cyanide
cyano- 1 blue, 2 cyanide
cycl- 1 circle, cycle, 2 ciliary body
cyst- 1 bladder, 2 cyst, 3 cystic duct
cysti- 1 bladder, 2 cyst, 3 cystic duct
cysto- 1 bladder, 2 cyst, 3 cystic duct
cyt- cell
-cyte cell
cyto- cell
dacry- tears
dacryo- tears
dactyl- finger, toe
dactylo- finger, toe
de- away from, cessation
deca- ten
deci- one tenth (10^{-1})
deka- ten
dent- tooth
denti- tooth
derm- skin
derma- skin
dermat- skin
dermato- skin
dermo- skin
-desis binding
dextr- right, toward or on the right side
dextro- right, toward or on the right side
di- separation, taking apart, reversal, not, un-
dif- separation, taking apart, reversal, not, un-
dipso- thirst

dir- separation, taking apart, reversal, not, un-
dis- separation, taking apart, reversal, not, un-
duo- two
duodeno- duodenum
-dynia pain
dynamo- force, energy
dys- bad, difficult
ect- outer, on the outside
-ectasia dilatation, stretching
-ectasis dilatation, stretching
ecto- outer, on the outside
-ectomy excision
-emphraxia obstruction
encephal- brain
encephalo- brain
end- within, inner
endo- within, inner
enter- intestine
entero- intestine
ent- inner, within
ento- inner, within
epi- upon, following, subsequent to
ergo- work
erythr- red, redness
erythro- red, redness
eso- inward
esthesio- sensation, perception
eu- good, well
ex- out of, from, away from
exo- exterior, external, outward
extra- outside of, without
ferri- ferric ion (Fe^{3+})
ferro- 1 metallic iron, 2 ferrous ion (Fe^{2+})
fibr- fiber
fibro- fiber
-form in the form or shape of
galact- milk
galacto- milk
gastr- 1 stomach, 2 belly
gastro- 1 stomach, 2 belly
-gen 1 producing, coming to be, 2 precursor
gen- 1 producing, coming to be, 2 precursor
giga- one billion (10^9)
gingiv- gums
gingivo- gums
gloss- tongue
glosso- tongue
gluco- glucose
glyco- sugars
gnath- jaw
gnatho- jaw
gon- seed, semen
gonio- angle
gono- seed, semen
-gram a recording

granul- granular, granule
granulo- granular, granule
-graph recording instrument
gyn- woman
gyne- woman
gyneco- woman
gyno- woman
hecto- one hundred (10^{10})
hem- blood
hema- blood
hemat- blood
hemato- blood
hemi- one half
hemo- blood
hepat- liver
hepatico- liver
hepato- liver
hept- seven
hepta- seven
hidr- sweat
hidro- sweat
hist- tissue
histio- tissue
histo- tissue
homeo- same, constant
hydr- water, hydrogen
hydro- water, hydrogen
hyper- excessive, above normal
hypo- beneath, diminution, deficiency, the lowest
hyster- 1 uterus, hysteria, 2 late, following
hystero- 1 uterus, hysteria, 2 late, following
-ia a condition
-iasis condition, state
-ic pertaining to
-ics organized knowledge, practice, treatment
ileo- ileum
ilio- ilium
in- 1 in, 2 not
-in chemical suffix
-ine chemical suffix
infra- below
inguino- groin
inter- between, among
intra- within
intro- within
irid- iris
irido- iris
ischi- ischium
ischio- ischium
-ism 1 condition, disease, 2 practice, doctrine
-ismus spasm, contraction
iso- 1 equal, like, 2 isomer, 3 sameness
-ite the nature of, resembling
-ites -y, -like
-itides plural of -itis
-itis inflammation
kal- potassium

kali- potassium
karyo- nucleus
kerat- cornea
kerato- cornea
kilo- one thousand (10^3)
kin- movement
kine- movement
kinesi- motion
kinesio- motion
kineso- motion
kino- movement
labio- lip
lacrim- tears
lacrimo- tears
lact- milk
lacti- milk
lacto- milk
laparo- abdomen, abdominal wall
laryng- larynx
laryngo- larynx
lateri- lateral, to one side, side
latero- lateral, to one side, side
-leptis seizure
-lepsy seizure
lepto- light, slender, thin, frail
leuk- white
leuko- white
linguo- tongue
lip- fat, lipid
lipo- fat, lipid
lith- stone, calculus, calcification
litho- stone, calculus, calcification
-log speech, words
log- speech, words
logo- speech, words
-logy 1 study of; 2 collecting
lymph- lymph
lympho- lymph
lys- lysis, dissolution
lyso- lysis, dissolution
macr- large, long
macro- large, long
mal- bad, deficient
-malacia softening
mamm- breast
mamma- breast
mammo- breast
mast- breast
masto- breast
meg- large, oversize
mega- 1 large, oversize, 2 one million (10^6)
megal- large
megalo- large
-megaly, enlargement
melan- black
melano- black
men- menstruation
mening- meninges
meningo- meninges
meno- menstruation

ment- chin
mento- chin
-mer member of a series
mes- 1 middle, mean, intermediate, 2 attaching membrane
meso- 1 middle, mean, intermediate, 2 attaching membrane
meta- 1 after, behind, 2 joint action, sharing
-meter measurement, measuring device
metr- uterus
metro- uterus
micr- small, microscopic
micro- 1 small, microscopic, 2 one-millionth (10^{-6})
milli- one-thousandth (10^{-3})
mon- single
mono- single
morph- form, shape, structure
morpho- form, shape, structure
my- muscle
myo- muscle
myel- 1 bone marrow, 2 spinal cord
myelo- 1 bone marrow, 2 spinal cord
myring- tympanic membrane
myringo- tympanic membrane
myx- mucus
myxo- mucus
nano- 1 dwarf, 2 one billionth (10^{-9})
nas- nose
naso- nose
natr- sodium
natri- sodium
necr- death, necrosis
necro- death, necrosis
neo- new
neph- kidney
nephro- kidney
neur- nerve, nervous system
neuri- nerve, nervous system
neuro- nerve, nervous system
norm- normal
normo- normal
octo- eight
oculo- eye, ocular
odont- tooth
odonto- tooth
odyn- pain
odyno- pain
-oid resemblance to
olig- few, little
oligo- few, little
-oma tumor, neoplasm
-omata plural of -oma
oncho- onco-
onco- tumor, bulk, volume
-one ketone (-CO- group)

onych- fingernail, toenail
oncho- fingernail, toenail
oo- egg, ovary
oophor- ovary
oophoro- ovary
ophthalm- eye
ophthalamo- eye
-opia vision
-opsia vision
or- mouth
orchi- testis
orchido- testis
orchio- testis
ori- mouth
oro- mouth
-ose sugar
-oses plural of -osis
-osis process, condition, state
ossi- bone
osseo- bony
ost- bone
oste- bone
osteo- bone
ovari- ovary
ovario- ovary
ovi- egg
ovo- egg
oxa- oxygen
oxo- oxygen
oxy- 1 sharp, acid, 2 acute, shrill, quick, 3 oxygen
pachy- thick
pan- all, entire
pant- all, entire
panto- all, entire
para- 1 abnormal, 2 involvement of two like parts
pari- equal
path- disease
patho- disease
-pathy disease
ped- 1 child, 2 foot
pedi- 1 child, 2 foot
pedo- 1 child, 2 foot
-penia deficiency
penta- five
per- through, thoroughly, intensely
peri- around, about
-pexy fixation, usually surgical
phaco- lens
-phage eating, devouring
-phagia eating, devouring
phago- eating, devouring
-phagy eating, devouring
phako- lens
phanero- visible, evident
pharmaco- drugs, medicine
pharyng- pharynx
pharyngo- pharynx
phil- 1 attraction, 2 chemical affinity

<p>-philia 1 attraction, 2 chemical affinity philo- 1 attraction, 2 chemical affinity phleb- vein phlebo- vein -phobia fear phon- sound, speech phono- sound, speech phor- carrying, bearing phoro- carrying, bearing phos- light phot- light photo- light phren- 1 diaphragm, 2 mind, 3 phrenic phreni- 1 diaphragm, 2 mind, 3 phrenic -phrenia of mind phrenico- 1 diaphragm, 2 mind, 3 phrenic phreno- 1 diaphragm, 2 mind, 3 phrenic -phylaxis protection phyll- leaf phylo- leaf physi- 1 physical, 2 natural physio- 1 physical, 2 natural physo- 1 swelling, inflation, 2 air, gas phyt- plants phyto- plants pico- one trillionth (10^{-12}) plan- flat plani- flat plano- flat -plasia formation plasma- plasma plasmat- plasma plasmato- plasma plasma- plasma platy- wide, flat -plegia paralysis pleo- more plesio- near, similar pleur- rib, side, pleura pleura- rib, side, pleura pleuro- rib, side, pleura pluri- several, more -pnea breath, respiration pneo- breath, respiration pneum- 1 air, gas, 2 lung, 3 breathing pneuma- 1 air, gas, 2 lung, 3 breathing pneumat- 1 air, gas, 2 lung, 3 breathing pneumato- 1 air, gas, 2 lung, 3 breathing pod- foot, foot-shaped -pod foot, foot-shaped podo- foot, foot-shaped</p>	<p>-poiesis production poikilo- irregular, variable polio- gray poly- 1 multiplicity, 2 polymer post- after, behind, posterior pre- anterior, before presby- old pro- 1 before, forward, 2 precursor proct- anus, rectum procto- anus, rectum prot- first proto- first pseud- false pseudo- false psych- mind psyche- mind psycho- mind -ptosis sagging, falling pyel- (renal) pelvis pyelo- (renal) pelvis pykn- dense, compact pykno- dense, compact pyo- suppuration, pus pyreto- fever pyro- fire, heat, fever quadr- four quadri- four rachi- spinal column rachio- spinal column radio- 1 radiation, x-ray, 2 radius re- again, backward rect- rectum, straight recto- rectum, straight ren- kidney reno- kidney retro- backward, behind rhin- nose rhino- nose -rrhagia discharge -rrhaphy surgical suturing -rrhea flow -rrhexis rupture salping- tube salpingo- tube sarco- flesh, muscle schisto- split, cleft schiz- split, cleft, division schizo- split, cleft, division scler- hardness (induration), sclerosis, ocular sclera sclero- hardness (induration), sclerosis, ocular sclera scolio- crooked -scope instrument for viewing -scopy viewing scot- shadow, darkness scoto- shadow, darkness semi- one-half, partly sept- 1 seven, 2 septum, 3 sepsis, infection</p>	<p>septi- seven septo- 1 seven, 2 septum, 3 sepsis, infection sial- saliva, salivary gland sialo- saliva, salivary gland sider- iron sidero- iron sigmoid- 1 S-shaped, 2 sigmoid colon sigmoideo- 1 S-shaped, 2 sigmoid colon sin- sinus sino- sinus sinu- sinus sito- food, grain somat- body, bodily somato- body, bodily somatico- body, bodily somno- sleep son- 1 sound, 2 ultrasound sono- 1 sound, 2 ultrasound spasmo- spasm spermato- semen, spermatozoa spermo- semen, spermatozoa sperma- semen, spermatozoa sphygmo- pulse spir- breathing spiro- breathing splanchn- viscera splanchni- viscera splanchno- viscera splen- spleen spleno- spleen staphyl- grape, bunch of grapes, staphylococci staphylo- grape, bunch of grapes, staphylococci -stasis stopping -stat arresting change or movement steno- narrowness, constriction stereo- solid stheno- strength, force, power stom- mouth stoma- mouth stomat- mouth stomato- mouth sub- beneath, less than normal, inferior super- in excess, above, superior, in the upper part supra- above sy- together syl- together sym- together syn- together sys- together tachy- rapid tel- distant tele- distant ten- tendon</p>	<p>tendin- tendon teno- tendon tenont- tendon tenonto- tendon tera- one quadrillion (10^{15}) tetra- four thel- nipple thelo- nipple therm- heat thermo- heat thorac- chest, thorax thoracico- chest, thorax thoraco- chest, thorax thromb- blood clot thrombo- blood clot thyr- thyroid gland thyro- the thyroid gland toco- childbirth -tome 1 cutting instrument, 2 segment, section -tomy cutting operation tono- tone, tension, pressure top- place, topical topo- place, topical tox- toxin, poison toxi- toxin, poison toxico- toxin, poison toxo- toxin, poison trache- trachea tracheo- trachea trans- across, through, beyond tri- three trich- hair trichi- hair -trichia hair tricho- hair tris- three -trophic food, nutrition tropho- food, nutrition -trophy food, nutrition -tropia turning -tropic turning toward, affinity ultra- beyond uni- one, single uri- uric acid -uria urine, urination uric- uric acid urico- uric acid uro- 1 urine, 2 urinary tract vas- duct, blood vessel vasculo- blood vessel vaso- duct, blood vessel vesic- urinary bladder, vesicle vesico- urinary bladder, vesicle xanth- yellow, yellowish xantho- yellow, yellowish xero- dry zo- 1 animal, 2 life zoo- 1 animal, 2 life zym- fermentation, enzymes zymo- fermentation, enzymes</p>
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