

Prefixes and Suffixes Commonly Used in Medical Terminology

Prefix	Meaning	Suffix	Meaning
a-	Without, not	-al, -ac	Pertaining to
af-	Toward	-algia	Pain
an-	Without, not	-aps, -apt	Fit; fasten
ante-	Before	-arche	Beginning; origin
anti-	Against; resisting	-ase	Signifies an enzyme
auto-	Self	-blast	Sprout; make
bi-	Two; double	-centesis	A piercing
circum-	Around	-cide	To kill
co-, con-	With; together	-clast	Break; destroy
contra-	Against	-crine	Release; secrete
de-	Down from, undoing	-ectomy	A cutting out
dia-	Across; through	-emesis	Vomiting
dipl-	Twofold, double	-emia	Refers to blood condition
dys-	Bad; disordered; difficult	-flux	Flow
ectop-	Displaced	-gen	Creates; forms
ef-	Away from	-genesis	Creation, production
em-, en-	In, into	-gram	Something written
endo-	Within	-graph(y)	To write, draw
epi-	Upon	-hydrate	Containing H ₂ O (water)
eu-	Good	-ia, -sia	Condition; process
ex-, exo-	Out of, out from	-iasis	Abnormal condition
extra-	Outside of	-ic, -ac	Pertaining to
hapl-	Single	-in	Signifies a protein
hem-, hemat-	Blood	-ism	Signifies "condition of"
hemi-	Half	-itis	Signifies "inflammation of"
hom(e)o-	Same; equal	-lemma	Rind; peel
hyper-	Over; above	-lepsy	Seizure
hypo-	Under; below	-lith	Stone; rock
infra-	Below, beneath	-logy	Study of
inter-	Between	-lunar	Moon; moonlike
intra-	Within	-malacia	Softening
iso-	Same, equal	-megaly	Enlargement
macro-	Large	-metric, -metry	Measurement, length
mega-	Large; million(th)	-oid	Like; in the shape of
mes-	Middle	-oma	Tumor
meta-	Beyond, after	-opia	Vision, vision condition
micro-	Small; millionth	-oscopy	Viewing
milli-	Thousandth	-ose	Signifies a carbohydrate (especially sugar)
mono-	One (single)	-osis	Condition, process
neo-	New	-ostomy	Formation of an opening
non-	Not	-otomy	Cut
oligo-	Few, scanty	-penia	Lack
ortho-	Straight; correct, normal	-philic	Loving
para-	By the side of; near	-phobic	Fearing
per-	Through	-phragm	Partition
peri-	Around; surrounding	-plasia	Growth, formation
poly-	Many	-plasm	Substance, matter
post-	After	-plasty	Shape; make
pre-	Before	-plegia	Paralysis
pro-	First; promoting	-pnea	Breath, breathing
quadr-	Four	-(r)hage, -(r)rhagia	Breaking out, discharge
re-	Back again	-(r)haphy	Sew, suture
retro-	Behind	-(r)hea	Flow
semi-	Half	-some	Body
sub-	Under	-tensin, -tension	Pressure
super-, supra-	Over, above, excessive	-tonic	Pressure, tension
trans-	Across; through	-tripsy	Crushing
tri-	Three; triple	-ule	Small, little
		-uria	Refers to urine condition

From Thibodeau GA, Patton KT: Anatomy & physiology, ed 5, St Louis, 2003, Mosby.