

Medical Terminology Combining Forms

Listed here are all of the prefixes, suffixes and combining forms listed on the inside of the front and back covers of the textbook and some additional roots. The long-term benefit of a systematic study of terminology is an increased ability to comprehend new terms as they are encountered in the professional literature.

a- (an-)-----Without, lack of

ab-----Off; away

-able-----Capable

acou-----Hearing

acr-----Extremity

ad- (af-)-----To; toward

adeno-----A gland

-aero-aerob-----Air, of the air

-al-----Relationship to (adj.)

-algia-----Pain

andro-----Male

ante-----Before, forward

anti-----Against, reversed

api-----The tip

apo-----Away from; off

arachn-----Spider

-art-,arteri-----An artery

arthr-----Joint

-ary-----Relationship to (adj.)

aryten-----A pitcher; a ladle

auscult-----To listen; to hear

-asis-----Condition, state of
astr-----A star
auto-----Arising within, self
axilla-----The armpit
baro-----Pressure
bi-----Twice
blast-----Bud, germ
brachi-----Arm; upper arm
brady-----Slow
bucc-----The cheek
burs-----Bag; sac
-c-----Relationship to (adj.)
cancel-----Crossbar; lattice
carcin-----Cancer
cardio-----Heart
cata-----Down, according to
cephal-----Head
-cele-----Hollow
cerebro-----Brain
chol-----Bile
cholecyst-----Gallbladder
chondr-----Cartilage
-cide-----Kill
circum-----Around, about
-clast-----Smash, break
co-,com-,con-----With, together

contra-----Against, opposite
cost-----Of a rib
crin-----To separate
crypto-----Hidden
cysto-----Bladder, sac
-cyte-, cyto-----Cell
de-----Away from
dendr-----A tree, branching
derm-----Skin
desmo-----Band; ligament
di-----Two
dia-----Through, apart, across
diastol-----Stand apart, relax
dis-----Reversal, apart from
diure-----Urine prod., urination
duc-(duct)-----Leading, drawing
-dynia-----Pain
dys-----Difficult, bad
e-, ef-----Out, away from
ec-----Out from
ecto-----On outer side
ectop-----Displaced
-ectomy-----Cut out
-edem-----Swell
ejacul-----To throw out
electro-----Electricity

em-, en-----In
-emia-----Blood
endo-----Within
endym-----A garment
entero-----Intestine
epi-----Upon, on
erg-----Work, power
erythro-----Red
ethm-----A sieve
eu-----Well, good
ex-----Out, away from
exo-----Outside, on outer side
extra-----Outside
fasci-----Bundle
fer-, -ferent-----To bear, carrying
folli-----A bag
foram-----A pit
-form-----Expressing resemblance
foss-----Ditch, depression
gangli-----A swelling
gastro-----Stomach
gemm-----A bud
-genesis-----Produce, origin
germ-----Embryo, sprout
gingiv-----The gums
gli-----Glue

glob-----A ball
gloss-----Tongue
gluco, gluco-----Sugar, sweet
gon(ado)-----A seed
-gram-----A drawing
-graph-----Instrument that records
gusta-----Taste
gyn-----Female
hem(o)-----Blood
hemi-----Half
hepato-----Liver
hetero-----Different, other
hist-----Tissue
holo-----Whole, entire
homeo-----Same
hormon-----To set into motion
hydr(o)-----Water
hyoid-----U-shaped
hyper-----Over, above, excessive
hypo-----Under, below, deficient
-ia, -id-----Expressing condition
-iatr-----Treat, cure
-im-----Not
in-----In, into
-ineum-----Discharge
infra-----Below, beneath

inter-----Between
intra-----Within
ischem-----Without blood
-ism-----Condition, state of
iso-----Equal, the same
-itis-----Inflammation
-ity-----Expressing condition
jugu-----The neck
juxta-----Near, next to
kerat(o)-----Cornea or horny tissue
-kin-----Move
lacr-----Tears, weeping
lacto-----Milk
lacun-----Space, hollow
lamell-----Leaf, layer
lamin-----Layer
-lemma-----Husk, covering
leuko-, (leuco-)-----White
-liga-----Bind
lip-----Fat
-lith-----A stone, of stone
-logy-----The study of
luc-----Light
lumb-----Loin
lumen-----Light, opening
lun-----The moon

-lysis-----Breaking up, dissolving

-lyte-----That which is loosed

macro-----Large

mal-----Bad

malaco-----Soft

malle-----Hammer

mast-----Breast

mastic-----Of chewing

maxi-----The most

medull-----Underneath, beneath

mega-----Great

melano-----Black

menin-----A membrane

mero-----A part

meso-----Middle, mid

meta-----Beyond, after, change

metr-----Measure

-metri-----The uterus

micro-----Small

mictur-----Urination

mito-----Thread, filament

modul-----Control, measure

mono-----One, single

-morph-----Form

moti-----To move

moto-----Movement, motor

multi-----Many, much
mura-----Wall
my-(myo-)-----A muscle
myelo-----Marrow, spinal cord
narco-----Numbness
nata-----Birth
natri-----Natrium (Na), sodium
neo-----New
nephro-----Kidney
neuro-----Nerve
-nomic-----Of law
noto-----The back
oculo-----Eye
odonto-----Tooth or teeth
-oid-----With resemblance to
olfact-----Smell
oligo-----Few, scanty, little
-oma-----Tumor
-op-, opsi-----See, sight
ophthalam-----Eye
ortho-----Straight, normal
-ory-----Referring to
-ose-----Full of
-osis-----A condition of
osmo-----Pushing
osteo-----Of bone

oto-----Ear
-ous-----Expressing material
papill-----A nipple
para-----Beside, beyond, near
parot-----Beside the ear
pars-----A part
-pathy-----Disease
pedunc-----A little foot
-penia-----Deficiency
per-----Through, excessive
peri-----Around
permea-----To pass through
-phag-----Eat
-phas-----Speak, utter
-phil-----Like, love
phleb-----Vein
-phobia-----Fear
-phragm-----A fence, partition
phren-----Of the diaphragm
physis/phy-----Growth, production
plant-----The sole of the foot
-plas-----Form, grow
-plegia-----Paralyze
pleur-----The side
plex-----A network
pluri-----More, several

pne-----Breathe
pneumo-----Air, gas, or lungs
pod-----Foot
poie-----A making, production
pol-----An axis
poly-----Many, much
pon-----A bridge
post-----After, behind
pre-, pro-----Before, in front of
procto-----Anus, rectum
propri-----Peculiar
propaga-----Reproduce, generate
proprio-----One's own
pseudo-----False
psycho-----Mind, soul
pteryg-----A wing
pubend-----The female genitalia
pyo-----Pus
ram-----Branch
re-----Back, again, contrary
recept-----A receiver
rect-----Straight
renal-----Of the kidney
reticul-----Net-like
retin-----A network
retro-----Backward, loc. behind

-rrhagia-----Burst forth, pour
-rrhea -----Flow, discharge
sacchar-----Sugar
sagitt-----An arrow
salt-----To leap or dance
sarco-----Flesh or fleshy
sclero-----Hard
-scope-----Examine
semi-----Half
semin-----Related to semen
somato-, -some-----Body
sphen-----A wedge
sphin-----To squeeze or strangle
-spire-----To breathe
-stasis-----Stop, stand still
steno-----Narrow
stimul-----A goad or prod
-stomy-----To make an artificial opening
strat-----Forming layers
stria-----To channel
sub-----Under
sulc-----A groove or furrow
super-----Above, upper, excessive
supra-----Above, upon
syn-(sym-)-----Together, with
systol-----To stand together, contract

tachy-----Fast, swift
tax-----Arrangement
tegmen-----A cover
telo-----The end
tetan-----Rigid, stretched
thalam-----A chamber
thenar-----The palm of the hand
therm-----Heat
thesis-----A placing, arrangement
thrombo-----A blood clot
thyro-----A shield
-tomy-----To cut, incise
-ton-----To stretch
-tope -----Place
tox-----Poison
trab-----Beam or timber
trans-----Across, through, beyond
tri-----Three
-troph-----To nourish
-tropic-----Changing, influencing
ure-, -uria-----Pertaining to the urine
vas-, vaso-----A vessel
-vect-----Carrying, to carry
vene-----Vein
viscer-----Internal organ
viscos-----Sticky, thick

vitri-----Glassy

zyg-----Paired



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