

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

Aarskog Syndrome	Also known as Aarskog-Scott syndrome, this is a genetic condition characterized by ocular hypertelorism, or eyes that are spaced abnormally wide, anteverted nostrils, or nostrils that are front facing, a malformation of the scrotum which is referred to as saddle-bag scrotum, a broadening of the upper lip, a backward bending of the knees due to a laxity in the ligaments, abnormally extensible fingers, and flat feet.
Abdominal Actinomycosis	This is a type of actinomycosis affecting the abdomen. Actinomycosis is a disease that cattle get and can be communicated to humans.
Abdominal Aortic Aneurism	A widening and ballooning of the aorta as it runs through the abdomen. At the point of the aneurysm, which can measure up to 3 cm in diameter, or even more, the wall of the aorta becomes weak and can even rupture, leading to catastrophic consequences.
Abdominal Bracing	A technique wherein the muscles of the stomach are tensed in order to provide spinal support.
Abdominal Cavity	The cavity in the abdomen which contains all the internal organs and entrails. The diaphragm separates this area from the thorax in mammals.
Abdominocentesis	Puncturing the abdomen with a hollow needle in order to draw fluid to carry out diagnosis.
Abdominoplasty	Also referred to as Tummy Tuck, Abdominoplasty is a cosmetic surgical procedure which tightens the abdominal skin, smoothening out wrinkles .
Abdominal Hysterectomy	A surgical procedure wherein an incision is made in the abdomen to remove the uterus.
Abdominoscopy	A surgical procedure using a laparoscope. This is inserted into the abdomen, through a small incision, in order to carry out an examination of the area. The procedure is also known as laparoscopy or endoscopy. It helps to keep the surgical procedure minimally invasive.
Abductor Spasmodic Dysphonia	A condition wherein sudden spasms in the muscle results in causing the vocal cords to remain open. This causes a break in the voice, or the voice having a strained, tight, or strangled quality.
Ablation	Surgically removing a part of the body or tissue
Ablative Therapy	A kind of treatment wherein an organ's function is either removed or destroyed. For example, the ovaries being surgically removed, or administering some kinds of chemotherapy which results in stopping the ovaries from functioning.
Absorption	The process wherein nutrients are absorbed by the body from food after digestion.
Accessory Digestive Organs	Organs, such as salivary glands, tongue, liver, pancreas, and gallbladder, which aid the digestion process, although they do not belong to the digestive tract.
Accessory Movement	Movements of the joints which patients cannot perform in isolation or voluntarily.
Accommodation	The eye's ability to focus by automatically adjusting the focal length of its lens.
Acetylcholine	A neurotransmitter which is derived from choline. It helps in transmitting signals from the nerves.
Acquired Deafness	Hearing Loss which develops later in life.
Acquired Hemochromatosis	An accumulation of iron in tissues which occurs due to repeated blood transfusions, or when iron-rich foods are consumed excessively. It is characterized by the bronzing of skin, diabetes mellitus, enlargement of the liver, and abnormalcies in the joints and the pancreas.
Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	A disease that occurs due to being infected by the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV. It damages or kills the immune system's cells, which leads to the progressive impairment of the ability of the body in fighting infections or certain types of cancers. The disease is usually spread by coming into sexual contact with a partner having the infection or through contaminated hypodermic needles. When the HIV infection reaches advanced stages, it is referred to as AIDS.
Acquired Immunity	Immunity to certain diseases, which is not present at birth, but is acquired later in life. The immunity can occur due to the body developing antibodies because of being infected by a disease, by vaccination, or by antibodies being passed to an unborn child through the placenta.
Action Tremor	A tremor which increases if the hand is moved voluntarily.

Adenocarcinoma	The development of cancer in the inner surface or lining of any organ.
Adenoma	A non-malignant epithelial growth or tumor in the tissues of a gland.
Amsler Grid	This is a chart containing vertical and horizontal lines. These lines form a pattern of small boxes. Patients with macular degeneration that is age-related can use this chart to self-monitor their vision.
Arthralgia	Pain in a joint.
Balance Disorder	A disorder in the labyrinth, or the internal organ in the ear, which controls the system of balance and lets humans know how their bodies are positioned in relation to the environment.
Balloon Angioplasty	A procedure that is used for widening arteries which are narrowed. A catheter, which has a deflated balloon attached to its tip, is inserted in that part of the artery that is narrowed, and is then inflated. This results in dilating the artery.
Barium	A chalky, chemical, metallic liquid which is used for coating the inner parts of organs so that they become visible on x-ray pictures.
Basal Body Temperature	The temperature of an individual taken early in the morning, after a night's sleep, prior to any activity such as getting off the bed, talking, eating, etc.
Basal Metabolic Rate (BMR)	BMR is the measurement of the energy that is required for the body to function at rest. The measurement is made in calories. There is an increase in the metabolic rate when there is exertion, fear, stress, or illness.
Beta Blocker	A drug that is used in the treatment of arrhythmia or hypertension (high blood pressure). It decreases the contraction rate of the heart by blocking the beta-adrenergic receptors of the autonomic nervous system.
Beta Cells	Clusters of insulin making cells located in the pancreas known as the islets of Langerhans.
Biartrodial Muscles	Muscles spanning across two joints which help in the functioning of those joints.
Bilateral	Affecting two sides of the body. For instance, cancer that occurs in both breasts is known as bilateral breast cancer. It is referred to as synchronous if it occurs at the same time, and metachronous if it occurs at different times.
Biliary Tract	Also known as the biliary tree or biliary system, it includes the bile ducts and the gallbladder.
Binocular Vision	Vision involving the ability of using both eyes synchronously, which results in producing a single image.
Biologic Response Modifiers	Substances which boost the immune system of the body in order to combat cancer.
Bismuth Subsalicylate	A non-prescription medication for treating diarrhea, indigestion, nausea, and heartburn. It is also used for treatment of ulcers that are caused by a bacterium known as the <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> .
Blink Rate	The rate at which the eyelids blink automatically per minute (usually it is 10-30 times a minute).
Blood Plasma	The colorless watery part of the blood which contains blood cells, nutrients, proteins, glucose, enzymes, minerals, and other matter.
Blood Pressure Cuff	Also known as the sphygmomanometer, this device is usually put around the upper arm for measuring blood pressure.
Blood-Brain Barrier	The membrane which separates the brain cells and the circulating blood.
Body Fat Percentage	See what does body fat percentage mean.
Body Mass Index (BMI)	A number which is derived by using measurements of height and weight, which is indicative of whether the weight is within a range that is considered healthy.
Bone Density Test	A test used for measuring the density and strength of bones. It is usually used for determining whether there is a risk of osteoporosis developing.
CA-125 Test	A blood test for detecting elevated levels of CA-125, which is a protein antigen, which can be indicative of the development of ovarian cancer, and other disorders.

Calcium Channel Blocker	A medicinal drug used for treating heart disease.
Calculi	Solid lumps or stones which form in the body, e.g., gallstones.
Cancellous Tissue	The spongy tissue within bones.
Cancer	Cells which divide abnormally, invading tissues nearby, or spread via the lymphatic system and blood stream to other areas in the body.
Candidiasis	An infection that is caused by fungi of the genus <i>Candida</i> . It exists normally in the gastrointestinal tract. An infection usually occurs when the fungus suddenly overgrows because of surgery or some other changes in the body.
Capsule	The cell layer that surrounds an organ, e.g. the prostate gland's capsule.
Carcinogen	A cancer causing substance.
Cardiac	Anything that pertains to the heart, e.g. cardiac arrest, which means the cessation of heartbeat.
Cardiology	The branch of medical study and practice dealing with the heart and its maladies.
Caroli's Disease	This is a congenital condition wherein there is an enlargement of the liver's bile ducts, which can cause infection, irritation, or gallstones.
Cathartics	Purgative medicines, also called laxatives, which stimulate the emptying of the bowels.
Catheter	A flexible tube utilized for draining fluids from the body, or injecting them into the body. For example, the Foley catheter is used for draining urine out of the bladder.
Cecostomy	A catheter that is inserted through the abdomen into the cecum, or the beginning of the large intestine in order to remove feces or gas. This is particularly useful as a short term method of protecting a portion of the colon while healing after surgery. It is also used by patients suffering from fecal incontinence by administering a small amount of phosphate enema, and then a saline enema, in order to evacuate feces from the large intestine completely.
Cellular Pathology	Also known as cytopathology, it is the study of the alteration of cells in disease.
Central Auditory Processing Disorder	The inability of people with normal intelligence and hearing to recognize, understand, or differentiate sounds.
Cerebral Embolism	A blood clot that is carried by the blood stream from some other area of the body to the brain where it causes blockage of an artery.
Cerebral Hemorrhage	Bleeding inside the brain.
Cerebral Thrombosis	A blood clot forming in an artery which carries blood to the brain.
Chelation Therapy	See what is Chelation Therapy.
Chemosensory Disorders	Diseases or disorders of taste and/or smell.
Chlorhydria	Excessive hydrochloric acid inside the stomach.
Cholecystitis	The inflammation of the wall of the gallbladder.
Cholelithiasis	The gallbladder having gallstones inside it.
Chorea	The body moving in a rapid, dance-like, jerky manner because of a degenerative nervous disorder.
Chronic Depression (Dysthymia)	See what is Chronic Depression (Dysthymia).
Compound Fracture	A fracture in which a bone is sticking through the skin. Also known as an open fracture.
Corticosteroids	Hormones that are anti-inflammatory which are produced in the body naturally or are made synthetically to be used as drugs. Prednisone is one of the most common drugs of this kind which is prescribed to treat arthritis, and also as an immunosuppressant.
Cranioplasty	Cranioplasty is a surgical repair of a defect or deformity of a skull.

Cytotechnologist	A cytotechnologist (CT) is laboratory specialist who is responsible for examining human cell samples under the microscope
Debridement	Surgically removing damaged, infected, or infected tissue and/or foreign matter from a burn or wound.
Decibel	The unit for measuring the loudness or intensity of sound.
Deciduous Teeth	Also referred to as primary or baby teeth.
Defibrillator	An electronic machine used for administering an electric shock, of a voltage that is preset, on the chest, for restoring the normal rhythmic beating of the heart.
Deja Vu	See what is Deja Vu.
Delusions	A condition wherein the patient loses his/her ability to discern reality, experiencing mis-perceptions and hallucinations.
Dental Amalgams	Also known as silver fillings, this is a mixture of 45-50 percent of mercury and 50-55 percent of an alloy made of tin, copper, and silver, which is used for repairing teeth that are decayed.
Dental Fluorosis	A condition caused by drinking water that has too much fluoride in it. It results in teeth becoming discolored, with the enamel getting stained, pitted, or spotted.
Depth Perception	The ability of distinguishing physical objects in a field of vision.
Dermatopathology	Making a diagnosis of skin diseases by studying the skin.
Diastolic Blood Pressure	The lowest measure of blood pressure in the arteries, occurring between heartbeats.
Digestants	Medicines which stimulate or aid digestion.
Dilation And Curettage (D & C)	A gynecological surgical procedure wherein the cervical canal is widened with the help of a dilator and a curette is used to scrape the uterine cavity.
Diplopia	An impairment of the vision which results in a single object appearing as double objects.
Disc Herniation (Herniated Disc or Bulging Disc)	Also referred to as slipped disc, disc bulge, or disc prolapse, it is a condition wherein the tissue separating the vertebral bones of the spine gets ruptured. When this happens, it usually creates pressure on the spinal nerves, thus causing pain, numbness or weakness in the arm and neck.
Distention	Swelling or bloating of any part of the body like the abdomen.
Diuretic	A medication that increases the formation of urine so that the body can get rid of excessive fluids. The term 'diuretic' is derived from the Greek 'dia', which means 'thoroughly', and 'ourein', which means 'to urinate'. Diuretics are also used to reduce blood pressure because of this reason.
Diverticulosis	A condition wherein small bulging pouches, or diverticula, form in the weak areas of the colon, which can become infected and inflamed, and can even lead to certain kinds cancer.
Dopamine	A chemical, which is a neurotransmitter, in the brain which regulates balance, movement, and walking.
Down Syndrome	See what is Down Syndrome.
Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry (DEXA)	A technique of imaging using low doses of radiation to check the density of bone in order to diagnose osteoporosis.
Durable Power of Attorney	A legal document which designates a member of the family or a friend whom you appoint as your guardian in the event of you being unable make medically related decisions for yourself.
Earwax	A yellow, waxy substance secreted by the glands located in the ear canal, also called cerumen, which protects from getting infected by keeping the skin dry.
Eczema	A condition wherein the skin gets inflamed causing itching and, often, even scaling, crusting, or blisters sometimes.
Edema	Swelling caused by the accumulation of excessive fluid in tissues, cells, or serous cavities.

Ejection Fraction	Measurement of the amount of blood that is pumped out from the ventricles.
Elective Surgery	An operation that is not required but which an individual opts for. It is also referred to as Optional Surgery.
Electrocardiogram (EKG OR ECG)	A test used for recording the heart's electrical activity. It is helpful for detecting damage of the heart muscle, and also shows abnormalities in the rhythms, also known as dysrhythmia or arrhythmia.
Electrocoagulation	Using high-frequency electric current, which is applied by a needle or metal instrument, to coagulate (clot) blood in order to stop bleeding.
Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)	Administering a controlled amount of electric current to the brain inducing mild convulsions. This technique is used for treating psychiatric illnesses such as severe depression.
Electrodermal Activity (EDA)	Measuring changes in the rate of perspiration.
Electromyogram (EMG)	A test used for evaluating muscle and nerve function.
Electrosurgery	Destroying cancer cells or any other tissue, such as warts, by using high-frequency current.
Embolus	A particle, such as a blood clot or an air bubble, in the blood stream.
Encephalitis	The brain infected with a virus which results in inflammation. Some of the symptoms of this condition are headache, pain in the neck, nausea, drowsiness, and fever.
Endarterectomy	Surgically removing blood clots or plaque in arteries.
Endocardium	The membrane covering the surface inside the heart.
Endocervical Curettage (ECC)	A procedure wherein a narrow instrument, known as a curette, is used for scraping the endocervical canal's lining. This kind of biopsy usually is done along with colposcopic biopsy.
Endodontist	Also referred to as a Pulp Specialist, an Endodontist specializes in root canal treatment.
Endometrium	The mucous membrane that lines the uterus' inner surface, which thickens during each cycle of menstruation, and is shed in the menstrual blood.
Endorphins	Neurochemicals that occur naturally in the brain, which have pain killing properties, and are usually produced when the body experiences physical stress.
Endoscopy Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)	A procedure involving the insertion of a viewing tube, or endoscope, into the small intestine via the stomach. A special kind of dye is injected, which shows the biliary system's ducts.
Extrinsic Asthma	Asthma that gets triggered due to an allergic reaction, generally because of something inhaled.
Fallopian Tubes	Two tubes extending from either side of the uterus, going towards the ovaries, which act as a passageway for eggs.
False Negative Report	A report that shows negative results, although it is actually positive.
False Positive Report	A report that shows positive results, although it is actually negative.
Fatty Liver	Also known as Steatosis, this is a condition wherein certain fats, like triglycerides, accumulate in the liver, which usually occurs because of alcoholic cirrhosis, or due to certain toxins, or pregnancy.
Fecal Incontinence	The inability to hold stools in the rectum or colon, which results in involuntary bowel movements occurring.
Fecal Occult Blood Test	A test to check for cancer of the rectum or colon by examining if there is hidden blood in the stools.
Festination	Quickening the gait and shortening the stride involuntarily in order to maintain balance. This condition occurs due to certain diseases, such as Parkinson's disease.
Fibrillation	The fibers of the heart muscle contracting rapidly, in an uncoordinated manner. Unless it is stopped, this condition can be fatal.

Fibroadenoma	Firm and movable lumps in the breast, which are noncancerous. They occur commonly in young women because of high estrogen levels.
Fibroids	Benign growths that contain fibrous tissue, which usually occur in the uterus.
Fibrosis	The formation of scar tissue which can be caused due to injury, inflammation, infection, and even healing.
Fibrositis	A protracted process of disease which occurs intermittently and has no underlying pathological cause.
Fine Needle Aspiration	Using a hollow, narrow needle to extract tissue.
Flexor Muscle	Any muscle used for bending a limb or any other part of the body.
Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH)	A hormone that the pituitary gland secretes which helps in stimulating the formation and development of eggs in women and sperm in men. It also induces the production of sex hormone in both women and men.
Food Intolerance	An adverse reaction to certain foods wherein the immune system is not involved, such as lactose intolerance.
Free Skin Graft	Taking healthy skin from one area of the body to be grafted on other areas where the skin is damaged or lost.
Frozen Shoulder	Also known as 'capsulitis', this is a condition wherein the connective tissue of the shoulder gets stiff, thus severely restricting movement of the joint. While this is sometimes caused due to injury, often it occurs spontaneously, without any obvious trigger factors.
Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer (GIFT)	An infertility treatment wherein the eggs are removed from the ovaries of a woman and combined with her partner's or a donor's sperm, and then placing both the sperm and eggs in her fallopian tube for fertilization to take place.
Ganglion	A collection of nerve cells which are encapsulated in a neural structure.
Ganglion Cysts	Non-cancerous cysts which are filled with fluid occur commonly as lumps, usually on the back portion of the wrist.
Gardner's Syndrome	A condition wherein there is formation of a large number of polyps in the digestive tract.
Gastric Juices	Fluids that are secreted in the stomach, which consist mainly of mucin and hydrochloric acid, along with the enzymes rennin, pepsin, and lipase, which help in breaking down food and killing bacteria.
Gastrocolic Reflex	An increase in the movement of muscles in the gastrointestinal tract on food entering the stomach when it is empty. This often results in the urge for bowel movement soon after consuming food.
Gastroenteritis	Infection and inflammation of the digestive tract, that could be caused by parasites or bacteria from unclean water or spoiled food, or consuming food which causes irritation to the lining of the stomach, or emotional reasons like stress, fear, or anger.
Gastroenterology	The study of the stomach, intestines and associated diseases.
Gastrointestinal (GI) Tract	Also termed as digestive tract or alimentary tract, this is a tube extending from the mouth right up to the anus.
Gastronomy	An opening made artificially into the stomach through the wall of the abdomen for a feeding tube to be inserted.
Gated Blood Pool Scan	A nuclear scan made to check for the amount of blood expelled with each beat of the heart and the movement of the heart wall soon after a patient finishes walking on a treadmill or riding a stationary bike.
General Anesthetic	An anesthetic used for anesthetizing the whole body and causing unconsciousness during surgery.
Genes	These are basic hereditary units, each having a specified place in the chromosomes of an individual. The genes determine the color of the eyes, the type of hair, the height, etc. of each person, which they inherit from their progenitors.
Genital Herpes	A disease that is transmitted sexually, which is caused by a virus called the herpes simplex.

Genu Valgum	A condition wherein the thighs slant inwards causing knock knees.
Genu Varum	A condition in which the legs are bowed outwards, either at the knees or below them, which is also termed as 'bowed legs'.
Glucose	This is the body's primary source of energy. It is a sugar that is derived from metabolizing carbohydrates, and is easily converted into energy.
Gluten Intolerance	A condition wherein wheat protein, or gluten, cannot be tolerated. People with this condition must avoid grains that contain gluten such as wheat, barley, oats, and rye.
Gluteus Maximus	It is the outermost among the three gluteal, or buttock, muscles.
Glycogen	One of the forms in which the body stores fuel. It is stored mainly in the liver and is converted into glucose when the body requires it.
Gonadotropins	This is a hormone that the pituitary gland secretes which stimulates the gonads where gametes, or sex cells, are produced.
H2-Blockers	Medications that block histamine ₂ in order to inhibit the production of acid in the stomach.
Hair Cells	These are sensory cells located in the inner ear. They are topped by stereocilia, or hair-like anatomical structures, which convert the mechanical energy that sound waves produce into nerve impulses.
Halitosis (Oral Malodor)	Also known as foetor oris, or stench in the mouth, or simply bad breath. These days it is referred to as Oral Malodor.
Hallucinosi	A psychological condition wherein an individual hallucinates continuously.
Hallux Rigidus	A condition wherein the metatarsophalangeal joint, or the joint of the big toe, loses its range of movement.
Hamstrings	Muscles that are found in the posterior part of the thighs.
Hay Fever	Also referred to as rhinitis, this is a seasonal condition that afflicts people who are allergic to pollen.
Headache, Primary	These types of headaches are not related to any underlying pathological causes. They include tension induced headache, migraine, and cluster headache.
Headache, Secondary	This type of headache is caused by an underlying pathological reason. Also referred to as inflammatory or traction headaches, they include any headache that has neoplastic, infectious, drug-induced, idiopathic, or vascular origins.
Heart Block	When the electrical impulses to the heart muscles are interrupted. This results in unconsciousness.
Heart Valve Prolapse	A condition wherein the heart valve remains open partially when it ought to be closed.
Heart-Lung Machine	A machine that maintains the circulation of blood, by diverting it, oxygenating it, and then pumping it back into the body, during surgery of the heart.
Heberden's Nodes	Bony swellings which form around the joints, due to the degenerative effects of arthritis.
Hematopathology	Also referred to as Hemopathology, this is branch of study that deals with blood, the organs that produce blood, bone marrow, and the diseases that affect them.
Hemorrhage	The medical word for excessive bleeding.
Hemorrhoidectomy	Removing hemorrhoids surgically. Hemorrhoids are swellings inside or at the anal sphincter.
Hepatitis	The liver getting inflamed either due to a toxin or being infected by a virus.
Hepatologist	A physician specializing in diseases of the liver.
High Density Lipoprotein (HDL)	Also referred to as the 'good cholesterol', it helps in breaking down and removing 'bad' cholesterol from the body.
Hippocratic Oath	The Hippocratic Oath is an oath historically taken by physicians and other healthcare professionals swearing to practice medicine ethically and honestly.

Histamine	A chemical that is released by the body due to an allergic reaction.
Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT)	Replacing female hormones such as progestin, which is the synthetic version of progesterone, and estrogen, when women no longer produce them after menopause.
Human Brain	See facts about Human Brain.
Human Chromosomes	See facts about Human Chromosomes.
Hyaluronic Acid (HA)	See what is Hyaluronic Acid (HA).
Hypertension	High blood pressure.
Hypotension	Low blood pressure.
Hypothermia	A drop in body temperature during prolonged exposure to cold.
Ileal	Related to the lowest part of the small intestines, or the ileum.
Ileitis	Also known as Crohn's Disease, it is a condition wherein the ileum gets inflamed.
Imaging	A diagnostic procedure wherein pictures of the inner parts of the body are taken for making evaluations.
Immobilization	The prevention of movement in order to allow healing to take place.
Immune System	A network of special organs and cells which function together, defending the body from being attacked by viruses and bacteria.
Immunoglobulins	Proteins and antibodies that are produced by the immune system's cells, found in the tissue fluids and blood, which bind to anything they recognize as foreign antigens. Sometimes immunoglobulins bind to substances that may not be a health threat.
Immunology	The study of the immune system of the body - how it functions and what are the disorders that affect it.
Immunosuppressive Medications	Medications which suppress the immune system of the body, usually used to minimize transplanted organs from being rejected.
Immunotherapy	A therapy that is designed to make the body resistant to substances that it is allergic to like dust mites, pollens, insect venom, and fungi by giving the person increasing doses of the allergen he/she is allergic to. It is also a treatment wherein the natural defenses of the body to fight disease is used.
Impaction	An object trapped in a passage of the body, like hardened stool trapped in the colon or stones caught in the bile duct.
Impaired Glucose Tolerance (IGT)	A condition wherein blood sugar levels are elevated higher than normal, although not to the extent of being diagnosed as diabetes. It is an indication of prediabetes or borderline diabetes.
Impedance Plethysmography	A test which evaluates the flow of blood through the leg.
In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF)	An infertility treatment wherein the egg from a woman is taken and fertilized in the laboratory with either the sperm from her partner or a donor.
Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)	Chronic problems causing the gastrointestinal tract to get inflamed, also resulting in ulcers. Some of the common conditions are Crohn's Disease and colitis.
Informed Consent Form	A form which a patient signs before undergoing surgery, which states everything that the surgery involves, including the risks.
Inotropic Medications	Medications which increase the strength of the heart's contractions.
Inspiration	Inhalation; Breathing in of oxygen.
Insulin	A hormone that the isles of Langerhans, located in the pancreas, secretes. Insulin regulates the amount of glycogen stored in the liver and helps in accelerating the oxidation of sugar.

Insulin Dependent Diabetes (Type 1 Diabetes)	Also known as Type 1 Diabetes, this is a condition wherein the immune system of the body destroys the insulin producing cells in the pancreas. Insulin is required by the body for cells to get glucose for energy. People afflicted with this kind of diabetes mellitus (DM) have to take insulin injections daily.
Insulin Resistance (IR)	A condition wherein the cells' ability to respond to insulin is impaired, resulting in the body secreting increased amounts of insulin in the blood in order to reduce the levels of blood glucose.
Injection, types	
intradermal injection	one made just under the outer layer of skin.
intramuscular injection	one made into the substance of a muscle.
intravenous injection	one made into a vein.
subcutaneous injection	one made into the subcutaneous tissues.
Jackknife Seizure	Also referred to as Infantile Spasms, it is a disorder that occurs in infancy with the onset of myoclonic seizures, mental retardation, and abnormal electroencephalogram.
Jacob's Disease	Also referred to as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), it affects the brain causing dementia, which is thought to be caused by a prion. Apart from chronic dementia, the other symptoms include nervousness, forgetfulness, trembling jerky movements of the hands, muscular spasms, unsteady gait, balance disorder, and loss of expression in the face.
Jejunum	The portion of the small intestines that is between the duodenum and the ileum.
Jenner's Method	Inoculating a weakened form of a virus in order to produce immunity to the disease it causes. It is also known as Jennerization.
Joint Locking	A condition which is very painful, generally caused by a loose body being entrapped within a joint, between the surfaces of the joint.
Jordan Frame	A special stretcher meant for transporting patients with spinal injury.
Jugular Veins	Veins carrying blood back to the heart from the head.
Jumper's Knee	The degeneration of the tendon attached to the lower part of the knee-cap, or the patella, resulting in tenderness of the area and pain.
Junctional Epidermolysis Bullosa	A condition that causes blistering of the skin because of a mutation of a gene which in normal conditions helps in the formation of thread-like fibers that are anchoring filaments, which fix the epidermis to the basement membrane. The lack of these anchoring elements results in the separation of tissue, which causes the blistering that is evident on the topmost layer of the basement membrane.
Kanner Syndrome	Also referred to as Autism, this is one of the neuropsychiatric conditions typified by deficiencies in communication and social interaction, and abnormally repetitive behavior.
Kaposi's Sarcoma	A kind of malignancy of the skin that usually afflicts the elderly, or those who have problems in their immune system, like AIDS. It is characterized by purplish, soft papules or plaques which form nodules. The condition usually begins in the lower part of the leg and then spreads to other areas of the body, like the arms and hands, gradually.
Kartagener Syndrome	A hereditary condition characterized by inflammation and widening of the bronchi, or bronchiectasis, sinusitis, heart being located on the right side, or dextrocardia, and infertility.
Kawasaki Disease	A condition that is not related at all to the popular brand of motorbike with the same name, but is a disease whose origins are unknown. Children are the ones who are mainly affected by it. It causes fever, conjunctivitis, reddening of the mucous membranes in the mouth, swelling in the neck glands, gingivitis, and a raised, bright red rash that forms on the skin of the feet and hands, becoming like socks and gloves, which hardens and peels off.
Kearns-Sayre Syndrome	A neuromuscular condition characterized by three main features Pigmented material accumulating abnormally on the retina, referred to as atypical retinitis pigmentosa; Certain muscles of the eyes becoming paralyzed progressively, referred to as CPEO, or chronic progressive external ophthalmoplegia; and cardiomyopathy, or heart disease.
Keratitis	The cornea getting inflamed resulting in blurred vision and painful, watery eyes.
Keshan Disease	The deficiency of selenium, which is an essential mineral, causes this condition. It is a disease that affects the heart muscle, and is potentially fatal. It was discovered first in Keshan, a province in China,

hence its name. However it has been found in other places as well, and occurs in areas where the soil is deficient in selenium.

Ketoacidosis	Acidosis wherein ketone bodies get accumulated, which usually happens in patients afflicted by diabetes.
Ketone	A product that results from the breaking down of fat, which accumulates in the blood due to either inadequate levels of insulin or deficient intake of calories.
Knee Reconstruction	Surgically restoring the knee's biomechanics.
Labyrinth	The organ that helps the body to balance. Consisting of three semicircular shaped canals along with the vestibule, it is located in the inner part of the ear.
Labyrinthine Hydrops	Excessive accumulation of fluid in the labyrinth, or the organ of balance, which results in fullness or pressure in the ears, dizziness, loss of hearing and balance.
Lactase	An enzyme secreted in the small intestines which is required for digesting lactose, or milk sugar.
Laminectomy	Surgically removing a part of the lamina in order to make more space in the vertebral canal. It is usually done for treating spinal canal stenosis or disc herniation.
Landau-Kleffner Syndrome	A disorder that occurs in childhood wherein there is a sudden or gradual loss in the ability of understanding and using spoken language.
Laparoscope	A thin tube attached with a tiny video camera, which is used to examine the inside parts of the body and check the surfaces of organs.
Laparoscopic Colectomy	An operation wherein the gallbladder is removed with the help of a laparoscope. The laparoscope along with other surgical instruments are inserted through small incisions made in the abdomen. The camera attached to the laparoscope displays the gallbladder on a TV screen, which helps the doctor to remove it.
Laryngeal Neoplasms	Noncancerous or cancerous growths in the larynx, or voice box.
Laryngeal Paralysis	The loss of feeling or function in either one or both the vocal folds.
Laryngectomy	Surgically removing part or whole of the voice box or larynx.
Larynx	The structure of valves that lie between the windpipe, or trachea, and the upper throat, or pharynx. It consists of vocal cords which produce the vocalization in speech.
Lavage	The process wherein an organ, e.g. the stomach or bowel, is washed or cleansed, by flushing it out with water.
Laxatives	Also referred to as cathartics, these are medicines that are used for relieving constipation.
Lens	Also known as crystalline lens, this is the transparent, biconvex structure located behind the iris. Its function is to focus the rays of light on the retina to produce an image of the object seen.
Lesion	A wound or injury.
Levodopa (L-DOPA)	A drug used for treating Parkinson's Disease (PD). It changes into dopamine in the brain.
Lewy Body	A pink sphere that stains dying cells, which is considered to be a sign of Parkinson's Disease.
Ligament	A band or sheet of tough and fibrous tissue which connects bones, binding joints together.
Lipid	A fatty matter found in blood.
Lipoproteins	The primary means by which lipids or fatty substances are transported in the blood.
Lithotripsy Extracorporeal Shock Wave (ESWL)	A method by which gallstones and bile stones are broken up using shock waves with a specialized tool.
Living Will	A legal document addressed to the patient's family and physicians stating what type of treatment the patient wishes or does not wish when terminally ill.
Lumbar	Pertains to the lower back.

Magnetic Field Therapy	A method wherein an alternating magnetic field is used for generating an electric current within tissues, which results in changes in the flow of blood.
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)	A non-invasive technique which creates a two-dimensional image of an internal structure or organ, such as the spinal cord or the brain.
Malabsorption Syndromes	Conditions wherein the small intestine loses the ability to absorb nutrients from foods.
Malaise	A general sense of weakness, discomfort, fatigue, or feeling run down that may occur alone or with other symptoms.
Malignant Tumor	A mass of cells that are cancerous which can affect the tissues surrounding it, or spread to other parts of the body.
Mallet Finger	A condition caused by the rupturing of the finger's long extension tendon.
Malocclusion	A dental problem which is also known as 'bad bite'. It is caused due to missing, crooked, or crowded teeth, a misalignment of the jaw, or extra teeth.
Mammogram	An X-ray picture of the breast, usually used to check for breast cancer.
Manic Depression	See what is manic depression.
Manometry	Tests which measure the movements and pressure of the muscles of the gastrointestinal tract.
Mast Cells	Cells that synthesize as well as store histamines. These are found in most tissues of the body, especially just under the epithelial layer, around blood vessels, and serous cavities.
Mastitis	The inflammation of the milk ducts of the breast due to infection.
Mastoid	The temporal bone located behind the ear, at the skull's base.
McMurray Test	This is a test for checking if there is a lesion in the medial meniscus of the knee.
Meal Plan	A guide which helps people design their diet to include proper amounts of proteins, carbohydrates, minerals, vitamins, fiber, and calories.
Mean Blood Pressure	The average of the blood pressure, after taking into account the fall and rise which occurs with each beat of the heart. The estimation is usually made by taking the diastolic pressure and multiplying it by two, adding this with the systolic pressure, and dividing the resulting number by three.
Median Nerve	The nerve that runs down the arm, through the wrist's carpal tunnel. It services the first three fingers and the thumb of the hand. Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS) occurs when the median nerve gets inflamed.
Megacolon	Severe constipation resulting in the colon getting huge and swollen.
Meige Syndrome	This is a malfunction of movement which is characterized by forceful and involuntary muscular contractions of the tongue and jaw, referred to as oromandibular dystonia, along with muscular spasms around the eyes, called blepharospasm.
Melanocytes	Cells that are found in the epidermis' basal layer that produce melanin, which is the pigment of the skin.
Melanoma	Type of cancerous tumor in the skin.
Melena (Blood in Stool)	Stool containing blood, usually due to bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract.
Menetrier's Disease	Also referred to as Giant Hypertrophic Gastritis, it is a chronic disease causing large folds of tissue forming in the stomach's wall. There could be inflammation of the tissue and it may also contain ulcers. People afflicted with this disease have a high chance of getting stomach cancer.
Mesothelioma	See what is mesothelioma.
Moles	See meaning of moles on the face.
Mountain Sickness	See what is Altitude Sickness.

Mumps (Infectious Parotitis)	See what is Parotitis (Mumps).
Near Point of Accommodation	The point that is the closest at which an object can be perceived distinctly by the eye.
Near Point of Convergence	The maximum degree to which both the eyes can turn inward.
Needle Aspiration (Of the Breast)	This is a type of biopsy using a thin, hollow needle to remove a tumor's cells or fluid from a cyst by suction. The samples aspirated, or drawn up, are then examined under a microscope.
Neoadjuvant Therapy	Treatment like hormonal therapy or chemotherapy which a patient is given prior to undergoing surgery. This therapy is useful by helping to shrink tumors, such as those that occur in the breast, so that the surgical procedure for removing them becomes less complicated.
Nephrectomy	Surgically removing the kidney.
Nephropathy	Damage caused to the kidney due to long years of diabetes which involves high levels of glucose in the blood.
Nerve Conduction Test	A procedure that helps to determine the generation of nerve impulses.
Neural Mobilization	This is a technique by which the nerves are stretched gently to relieve the tension that may have accumulated in them which cause symptoms like radiating pain, tingling sensations, weakness, or numbness.
Neural Plasticity	The ability of the nervous system and the brain to adapt to changes brought about by new conditions, like after an injury.
Neural Tube Defect	A kind of birth defect, like spina bifida, resulting from the failure of the brain or the spinal cord developing normally in the fetus.
Neuralgia	A disorder of the nervous system which results in acute pain along the affected nerve's pathway.
Neuritis	The inflammation of nerve cells, or neurons, which is usually characterized by numbness, pain, or tingling in the affected area.
Neurofibromatosis	Also referred to as Von Recklinghausen's Disease, this is an inherited disorder wherein numerous spots and neurofibromas form on the skin, which are non-cancerous, often accompanied by abnormalities in development.
Neurogenic Communication Disorder	The inability to communicate with others due to hearing, language, and speech problems, which are caused by the nervous system becoming impaired.
Neuron	Also called a nerve cell, this is a unique kind of cell that is present both in the brain and the body, which is specialized for processing and transmitting information, either from one area of the brain to another, or from the brain to a part of the body and vice versa.
Neurotransmitters	Chemicals that occur naturally in the brain that transmit impulses, or messages, between nerve cells. They exist in the space, or synapse, that separates the terminal of the neuron transmitting the message, which is called the axon, from the terminal of the neuron receiving the message, called dendrite.
Nissen Fundoplication	An operation for sewing up the fundus, or the top area of the stomach, around the esophagus. It is carried out to stop the contents of the stomach from returning into the esophagus, a condition known as reflux, and for repairing a hiatal hernia (hiatus hernia).
Noise Induced Hearing Loss	Loss of hearing caused by either a single or repeated exposure to extremely loud sounds.
Non Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2 Diabetes)	Also called Type 2 Diabetes, this is a condition wherein either the body loses the ability of adequately using the insulin it produces to convert blood glucose into energy, or it produces too little insulin. This condition can be controlled by diet, weight loss, and exercise, or it could require using insulin injections or oral medications.
Non-Invasive Procedure	A diagnostic treatment or technique which does not involve making incisions in the body.
Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDS)	A category of drugs, such as ibuprofen, aspirin, nabumeton, and naproxen, used for relieving pain and inhibiting inflammation in diseases like arthritis, which are not steroids like prednisone.

Obstruction	A blockage formed in the gastrointestinal tract which results in the obstruction of the passage of solids and liquids through it.
Occluded Artery	An artery in which the formation of plaque narrows it, thus impeding the flow of blood through it.
Occult	Symptoms or diseases which cannot be readily detected, either by laboratory tests or physical examination.
Ocular Hypertension	A condition wherein the eye's intraocular pressure is higher than normal, without any apparent defects in the visual field or damage to the optic nerve. In time, there are chances of this condition developing into glaucoma.
Olfaction	The faculty which helps us to discern scents.
Olfactometer	A device used for testing how intense a person's sense of smell is.
Oncogenes	Genes which promote the normal division of cells.
Oncologist	A physician specializing in the treatment of cancer, such as radiation oncologist, surgical oncologist, gynecologic oncologist, medical oncologist, and pediatric oncologist.
Oophorectomy	Surgically removing either one or both the ovaries.
Open Surgery	Cutting open the body and exposing the organs and structures involved during the surgical procedure.
Open-Set Speech Recognition	Not requiring visual clues to understand speech, also referred to as speech reading.
Oral And Maxillofacial Surgeon	A facial orthopedic surgeon who specializes in the treatment of a wide range of dental conditions, such as reconstructive surgery of the face and removing impacted teeth.
Oral Dissolution Therapy	Medicines taken orally to dissolve gallstones.
Oropharynx	The posterior region of the mouth which includes the base of the tongue, the tonsils and the soft palate.
Orthodontics	The field of dentistry which deals with the correction and prevention of abnormalities of the teeth, jaw, and bite.
Orthokeratology	Correcting refractive error by the use of contact lenses which change the cornea's shape.
Orthopedic Surgeon	Also referred to as an Orthopedist, he/she is a physician who specializes in Orthopedics i.e. diagnosing, treating, and managing the process of rehabilitation of patients suffering from disease or injury to the skeletal system.
Orthostatic Hypotension	A large drop in the blood pressure which occurs when a person stands up from a lying or seated position, which can result in dizziness, faintness, light-headedness, or an increase in the pulse.
Osteoblast	A cell which forms the minerals and tissue of the bone.
Osteocyte	A cell in the bone which maintains it as a living tissue.
Osteophyte	An abnormal, small and bony growth in the bone.
Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE)	A test to check hearing, using a microphone put in the ear canal, that measures the sounds, or acoustic emissions, which are generated in the inner ear.
Pacemaker	An electronic device which regulates the heartbeat, which is implanted surgically into the chest and heart of a patient.
Pain Threshold	The point wherein a stimulus causes pain to be felt.
Palliative Treatment	A treatment that alleviates the symptoms of a disease, for example reducing pain, without curing it. The main purpose of this is improving the quality of life of the patient.
Pallidotomy	An operation wherein the globus pallidus, a part of the brain, is lesioned to improve symptoms like rigidity, tremor, and bradykinesia.
Palsy	The loss in the ability of moving a part of the body due to the paralysis of a group of muscles or a muscle.

Papillary Stenosis	A condition wherein the openings of the pancreatic ducts and bile ducts become narrow.
Parietal Cells	The cells located in the wall of the stomach which produce hydrochloric acid.
Parkinsonism	The term with which a group of disorders that have similar features are referred to. The four main symptoms are tremor, postural instability, bradykinesia, and rigidity, which are brought about due to the loss of brain cells that produce dopamine.
Parosmia	An impairment of the olfactory senses which causes the individual to perceive odors that are non-existent.
Partial Colectomy	Surgically removing a portion of the large intestine.
Partial Mastectomy	A surgical procedure wherein a part of the breast is removed.
Patellar Tendonitis	An inflammation of the ligament of the patella, usually because of overuse.
Pathologist	A physician specializing in medical diagnosis by identifying diseases. He/she does this by studying tissues and cells under a microscope.
Pathology	The medical branch that deals with the study of the nature, causes and effects of various diseases.
Peak Flow Meter	A hand-held device that is inexpensive and portable, which is used for measuring the ability of blowing air from the lungs. Useful for checking the lung capacity of a patient, such as those afflicted with asthma.
Pepsin	An enzyme that is produced in the stomach for breaking down proteins.
Peptic Ulcer	An ulcer, generally caused by the Helicobacter pylori bacterium, which occurs in the lining of the stomach, esophagus, or duodenum. When it occurs in the stomach it is referred to as a gastric ulcer, and if in the duodenum, it is called a duodenal ulcer.
Pericardium	The membrane which the heart is surrounded by.
Perilymph Fistula	The leakage of the fluid of the inner ear into the middle ear which may be due to trauma of the head, barotrauma, or physical exertion.
Periodontal Diseases	Also referred to as gum diseases, these are serious infections caused by bacteria which damage the gums and the other tissues in the mouth that surround it.
Phlebectomy	Removal of a vein, or a segment of a vein.
Q Fever	It is an acute type of zoonotic (transmitted from animals) disease caused by the Coxiella burnetti bacteria. Besides the onset of sudden fever, the other symptoms include malaise, pneumonia, and headache.
Qaly	This stands for Quality Adjusted Life Year, which means a year in a person's life being adjusted according to its quality. For example, a year of perfect health is regarded as equivalent to 1.0 QALY. Likewise, a year wherein the person is ill would have a reduced value. For instance, a year of being bedridden would be calculated as having 0.5 QALY.
Qualified Health Claim	A claim that is granted authorization by the FDA, or the US Food and Drug Administration, which must be corroborated by convincing scientific basis about the relationship between a particular food and a condition related to health or disease. For instance, a qualified health claim was announced by the FDA in 2004, which stated that the chances of getting coronary heart disease was reduced if foods containing omega-3 fatty acids were included in the diet.
Quadriplegia	The weakening of all the four limbs, both legs and both arms, for instance, as a result of muscular dystrophy.
Quadruplegia	All the four limbs being afflicted with paralysis, which can be caused due to an accident which damages the upper part of the spinal cord, or stroke.
Quinacrine	A drug used to treat malaria. In cytogenetics, the branch of medicine that deals with the cellular factors of heredity, it is used as a dye to stain chromosomes.
Quincke's Disease	An angioneurotic edema, which is a type of localized swelling that occurs in the deep layers of fatty tissue and skin.

Quinine	The original drug against malaria. The term has been derived from 'kina', a Peruvian Indian word, which means 'bark of the tree' pertaining to the chinchona tree.
Quinquagenarian	A person in his/her fifties.
Quintan Fever	A fever that recurs every five days, which is a characteristic of trench fever.
Radial Keratotomy (RK)	A surgical method of correcting myopia by making incisions in the cornea in a radial pattern.
Radiation Therapy	Using radiation from neutron, x-rays, and various other sources to shrink tumors and kill cancerous cells.
Radiation Colitis	The colon getting inflamed due to radiation therapy.
Radical Mastectomy	Surgically removing the full breast, along with the ancillary lymph nodes, and the pectoral muscles.
Radical Prostatectomy	A surgical procedure wherein the prostate gland is removed along with the seminal vesicle glands that are attached to it.
Radiculopathy	A constriction of a nerve in the spinal column usually due to a slipped or herniated disc, which results in shooting pains.
Radioactivity	See what is Radioactivity.
Radioisotope	Injecting a radioactive substance into the body in order to make pictures with a nuclear scanner.
Radionuclide Scan	A small amount of a radioactive material injected into a vein in order to make an imaging scan. A machine checks the radioactivity levels in organs, which help in detecting tumors.
Radionuclide Ventriculography	A diagnostic method which is used for determining the size and shape of the chambers of the heart.
Range of Motion	Measuring the extent to which a joint can be moved, extended, or flexed.
Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA)	The recommended levels of essential nutrients that should be consumed by healthy people. This is set according to scientific basis by the Food and Nutrition Board.
Rectal Manometry	A test using a thin tube to which a balloon is attached which measures the movements and pressure of the sphincter and rectal muscles.
Rectocele	A condition wherein the lower wall of the vagina is weakened resulting in the rectum bulging into it.
Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome (RSDS)	A condition that is chronic which is characterized by pain that is severe and felt like a burning sensation, pathological changes in skin and bone, profuse sweating, swelling of tissue, and sensitivity to touch. It is caused because of the impairment of a nerve at the location of an injury, usually in the legs or arms.
Reflux	Also referred to as regurgitation, this is a condition wherein small amounts of the contents of the stomach, or gastric juices, return into the esophagus, and even into the mouth.
Reflux Esophagitis	Inflammation of the esophagus because of the contents of the stomach returning into it.
Refractive Error	The degree at which light reaches the back part of the eye; it includes hyperopia, astigmatism, and myopia.
Regional Anesthetic	An anesthetic that is used to numb a part of the body.
Regurgitation, Heart	A defective valve of the heart causing blood to flow backward.
Resting Tremor	A tremor in a limb increasing when it is at rest.
Retention Schedule	A retention schedule is a document listing all the titles of the records series, length of time each document or record will be retained as an active record
Rotator Cuff Tear	See what is Rotator Cuff Tear in Shoulder.
Sacroiliac Joint	A joint that lies betwixt the sacrum and ilium. It is a flat bone that helps to compose the pelvis.
Saline Solution	A solution made up of distilled water and sodium chloride.

Saliva	A clear fluid that is secreted by the mucous glands and salivary glands located in the mouth. It helps to moisten the mouth, starting the process of digesting starches.
Salpingectomy	Surgically removing either one or both the fallopian tubes.
Salpingo-Oophorectomy	Surgically removing both the fallopian tubes as well as the ovaries.
Saturated Fat	Fat which is found in the meat and skin of animals, dairy products, and certain vegetables.
Scapula	Also referred to as the shoulder blade, in human beings it is the triangular flat bones on each side of the shoulders.
Sciatica	A condition wherein there is acute and spasmodic pain along the sciatic nerve, which may be caused either by irritation of the nerve, or direct pressure on it.
Sclerotherapy	A method of arresting bleeding in the upper gastrointestinal tract. An endoscope is used to insert a needle through it to place clotting agents where there is bleeding.
Scotoma	A visual disorder wherein there is complete or partial loss of vision in an area of the eye, which is surrounded by an area wherein there is normal vision.
Seborrhea	A disease that affects the sebaceous glands which results in the excessive production of sebum, or a deterioration in its quality, which has the effect of creating an oily coat, scales, or crusts on the surface of the skin.
Sebum	An oily substance secreted by the sebaceous glands located in the skin.
Secretin	A hormone that is secreted in the duodenum. It results in stimulating the stomach to produce pepsin, the pancreas to produce digestive juices, and the liver to secrete bile.
Sedona Method	See what is Sedona method.
Sever's Disease	Also referred to as Calcaneal Apophysitis, this is a condition that affects children who are between 9-14 years of age, whose bone structure is not fully developed yet. It is characterized by tenderness and soreness in the heels, which can occur on children in this age group participating in sports like basketball, soccer, and other such activities which involve jumping and running.
Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis	This is a condition which affects children, wherein the ball, or the head, of the thigh bone, also called femoral head, slips out of the neck of the thigh bone, resulting in the hip joint becoming stiff and painful.
Tachycardia	A heart rate that exceeds the normal range. A heart rate over 100 beats per minute is generally accepted as tachycardia.
Tamoxifen	A drug that is an antagonist of estrogen, which is used for treating breast cancer.
Technetium Bone Scan	A radiological method of detecting stress fractures.
Telemetry Unit	A small-sized transmitter which has wires that place ECG patches on the chest. The unit then sends the information it detects about the heart to health care professionals, by way of radio transmission, for evaluation.
Tendonitis	An inflammation of either the covering of a tendon or the tendon itself. It is usually caused by repeated stress on the tendon which aggravates it.
Thallium Stress Test	A diagnostic test wherein a radioactive substance is introduced in the blood, the progress of which is tracked by x-ray pictures.
Thomas's Test	An examination for detecting whether a patient has fixed hip deformity.
Thoracotomy	A surgical incision made in the wall of the chest in order to open up the pleural cavity. It is useful for viewing the lung, to confirm cancer, or to find out the source of bleeding in the event of trauma to the chest.
Thrombolysis	The process wherein blood clots are dissolved or broken down.
Thrombolytic Drugs	The medications that are used for breaking down blood clots.

Thrombosis	A condition wherein a blood clot forms in the heart or in a blood vessel.
Thyroplasty	Also referred to as Laryngeal Framework Surgery, it is a surgical method used for improving the voice by making alterations to the larynx's cartilages.
Thyroxine (T4)	This is a hormone that the thyroid gland secretes for regulating the metabolism.
Tinnitus (Ringing Ear)	A ringing, booming or buzzing sensation in the ears, which is usually a symptom of an infection of the ear, or the development of an impairment of hearing, or Ménière's disease.
Ubidecarenone	Also referred to as Coenzyme Q10, this is a compound that is required for an enzyme to function properly, which is a protein which quickens the rate at which chemical reactions occur in the body. It is used for producing energy in order to fuel the growth of cells and their maintenance.
Ulcer	A lesion that forms on the skin or the mucous membrane, like the lining of the stomach or the duodenum, which can become suppurated and lead to the necrosis of the tissue surrounding it.
Ulocarcinoma	A cancer which affects the gums, usually associated with using chewing tobacco.
Ultraviolet Radiation	Invisible rays that emanate from the sun. Exposure to UV rays can result in damaging the skin and even lead to melanoma and other kinds of skin cancer.
Upper GI Endoscopy	The internal examination of the stomach, esophagus, and duodenum with the help of an endoscope.
Upper Limb Tension (ULTT)	A test used for assessing pain.
Urea Breath Test	A test used for detecting infection caused by the Helicobacter pylori bacterium. Breath samples are measured for the presence of urease, which is an enzyme that is produced by the H. pylori.
Urge Incontinence	Urinary incontinence caused by the involuntary contractions of the bladder, which results in an urgent requirement for urination, and is usually accompanied by sudden evacuation of urine. This condition usually develops due to aging.
Urinary Retention	The inability of emptying the bladder.
Usher's Syndrome	A hereditary condition which causes deafness and blindness. A person afflicted with this condition essentially loses his/her peripheral vision progressively, usually starting with night blindness, which is also accompanied by congenital loss of hearing.
Vagotomy	A surgical procedure used for cutting the vagus nerve so that the stomach produces less acid.
Valgus Deformity	This is a condition wherein the distal portion of a joint or bone is angled outward.
Valvoplasty	The reparation of the heart valve through surgery.
Varices	Abnormally twisted or enlarged blood vessel, like those that are formed in the esophagus due to cirrhosis.
Varicose Vein	A condition wherein a vein, usually in the legs, becomes abnormally dilated and twisted, resulting in pain. This is usually caused by the valves located in the vein not working properly or the weakening of the walls of the vein.
Varus Deformity	This is a condition wherein the distal portion of a joint or bone is angled inward.
Vasodepressors	A drug that increases the blood pressure.
Vasodilator	A medication that is used to expand or dilate blood vessels.
Velocardiofacial Syndrome	A genetic condition which is characterized by heart defects, cleft palate, a distinctive facial appearance, feeding and speech problems, and minor problems in the ability to learn. The name has been derived from the Latin terms velum, which means palate, cardia, meaning the heart, and facies, which refers to the face.
Ventricular Fibrillation	A condition wherein there is unsynchronized and rapid contractions of the ventricles of the heart, which results in an impairment of the ability of pumping blood into the body.
Vestibular Neuritis	A condition wherein the vestibular nerve is infected. This is the nerve connecting the internal ear to the brain.

Vestibular System	The part of the internal ear, containing the semicircular canals, saccule, and utricle, which enables the body to maintain its balance, posture, and orientation. It also helps in regulating locomotion and other bodily movements.
Vestibule	The bony cavity located in the inner ear.
Vibrotactile Aids	Mechanical devices that help people afflicted with deafness in detecting and interpreting sound via the sense of touch.
Villi	Very small, hair-like structures that line the small intestine which help in absorbing nutrients from food.
Viral Hepatitis	A condition wherein the liver becomes inflamed due to being infected by any of five viruses, known as hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, D and E.
Vitrectomy	A surgical procedure to remove blood that accumulates sometimes behind the eyes of people afflicted with eye disease.
Vitreous Body	The jelly-like, clear substance which the center of the eye is filled with.
Volvulus	A condition wherein the stomach or the intestines are twisted abnormally, resulting in the blood supply being cut off to the area, or in obstruction in the intestines.
Waardenburg Syndrome	A hereditary disorder characterized by deafness, a white shock of hair in the front of the head, different coloring of the iris of each eye, white colored eyelashes, and the inner corners of the eyes being wide-set.
Wagner Syndrome	Also called Stickler syndrome, this is a fairly common hereditary disorder typified by extreme flexibility of the joints, distinctive facial features like flattened cheekbones and bridge of the nose, loss of hearing, and nearsightedness.
Walking Pneumonia	See what is Walking Pneumonia.
Walleye	A condition wherein there is leukoma, or white opacity, of the cornea, exotropia, or divergent strabismus, wherein the eyes are directed outward, or away from the nose, and staring, large eyes.
Warfarin	An anticoagulant medication used for preventing clotting of blood, and treating overly thickening of blood and blood clots. It is prescribed for reducing the risk of clots causing heart attacks or stroke.
Watermelon Stomach	Red sores that occur in parallel lines in the stomach which resemble the stripes on the surface of the watermelon.
Weaver Syndrome	This is a genetic condition wherein growth is accelerated and the age of the bone is abnormally advanced which is manifested at birth, abnormal increase in the tone of the muscles, or hypertonia, unusual appearance of the face and cranium, low-pitched hoarse cry, the inability to open the fingers fully, or camptodactyly.
Wedge Resection of the Lung	Surgically removing a small section of the lung, usually performed in order to carry out a biopsy of the lung.
Wet Brain	Also referred to as Cerebral Edema, it is a condition wherein excessive fluid accumulates in the brain.
Whiplash Injury	An overextension or hyperextension injury of the neck, usually caused due to the neck suddenly snapping when a fast-moving vehicle brakes suddenly, or is involved in a crash.
Whole Blood	Blood that contains all its elements, e.g. white and red blood cells, plasma, platelets, and so on. Whole blood is usually used for blood transfusions.
Xanax	Also referred to as Alprazolam, this is a sedative used for treating panic attacks, anxiety, muscle spasms, and insomnia.
Xanthelasma	Tiny, yellowish growths on the eyelids, which are caused by small fat deposits under the skin, due to hyperlipidemia, or abnormally elevated levels of fat in the blood.
Xanthine	A substance present in caffeine, theophylline, and theobromine. It is found in coffee, tea, and cola beverages.
Xanthoma	Firm, yellowish nodules that occur in skin, which is usually indicative of an underlying illness, like diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and so on.

Xanthopsia	A type of defect in the vision wherein objects appear to be unnaturally over-painted. Yellow is the color associated with xanthopsia.
Xenobiotic	Any substance present in an organism that is not produced normally by it, or is not expected to be found in it.
Xeroderma	A condition wherein the skin is abnormally dry, usually due to a lack of vitamin A, overexposure to the sun, systemic illness, or certain types of medications.
Xerostomia	A condition that causes dry mouth, which can be caused by various factors such as diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, drugs used for treating depression, radiation therapy for the cancer of the throat or mouth, HIV infection, and kidney failure.
X, Factor	This is a substance that is present in blood which is essential for the process of normal clotting. It is produced in the liver, and it requires vitamin K.
Xiphoid Process	Also referred to as the ensiform cartilage, it is the cartilaginous attachment found in the lower part of the sternum or breastbone. It usually becomes bony, or ossified, in adults.
YAG Laser Surgery	Using YAG, or Yttrium-Aluminum-Garnet, laser to perform surgery.
Yama	Also referred to as Caspase 3, this is an enzyme that has an important function in the programmed death of cells.
Yaws	A chronic disease, caused by a spirochete organism, that occurs commonly in humid, tropical regions. It is characterized by small protrusions on the face, feet, hands, and genital region.
Yeast Infection	Yeast overgrowth can result in yeast rash of the skin, thrush in the mouth, esophagus, digestive tract, vagina, and elsewhere in the body. Infections caused by yeast usually occur in moist parts of the body.
Yttrium	An uncommon elemental metal, the radioactive form of which is used in some kinds of immunotherapy, and radiation therapy.
Zaleplon	A hypnotic sedative, closely related to benzodiazepines, which affects the central nervous system.
Zenker's Diverticulum	Sacs that form in the esophagus due to an increase in pressure either inside it or around it.
Zellweger Syndrome	Also referred to as Cerebrohepatorenal Syndrome, this is a hereditary disorder wherein there is an absence or reduction of peroxisomes - cell structures that help the body to get rid of toxic matter - in the cells of the brain, liver, and kidneys.
Zidovudine	Formerly known as Azidothymidine, or AZT, this is a drug used for treating AIDS.
Zinsser Disease	Also referred to a Brill-Zinsser disease, it is a recrudescence of the epidemic form of typhus long after the first attack. Rickettsia prowazekii, which is the bacteria that causes typhus, can remain dormant for a number of years, and get reactivated when the host's defenses are low, causing a recurrence of typhus.
Zigote Intrafallopian Transfer (ZIFT)	An infertility treatment which wherein the eggs are removed from the ovaries of a woman and fertilized with the sperm from either her partner or from a donor, in the laboratory. Then either one or more of these fertilized eggs are inserted into the fallopian tubes.
Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome	This is a condition that is caused by a gastrinoma, which is a tumor, that usually occurs in the pancreas. The hormone gastrin is secreted by this tumor, which results in an increase in the production of gastric acid. This leads to recurrent and severe ulcers forming in the upper parts of the small intestine (the duodenum as well as the jejunum), the esophagus, and the stomach.
Zolmitriptan	A drug, which belongs to the tryptamine group of drugs, used for treating migraine.
Zoonosis	A disease that occurs in animals which humans can get infected with. Some of these diseases are rabies, transmitted by a bite from an infected animal; anthrax, which usually affects ruminants like sheep, cattle, horses, and goats, which humans can get by coming into contact with animals that are infected; psittacosis, an infection that is akin to influenza, which humans can get by coming in contact with the droppings of the birds infected by it.
Zygomycosis	A dangerous disease which is spread by a waterborne fungus.

List of Medical Roots, Suffixes and Prefixes

Prefix or suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
a-, an-	not, without	Ancient Greek ἀ-/άν- (a-/an-), without, not	Analgesic, apathy
ab-	away	Latin	Abduction
abdomin(o)-	Of or relating to the abdomen	Latin (abdōmen), abdomen, fat around the belly	Abdomen
-ac, -acal	pertaining to	Greek -ακός (-akos)	cardiac, hydrophobic, pharmacomaniacal
acanth(o)-	thorn or spine	Ancient Greek ἄκανθα (akantha), thorn	acanthion, acanthocyte, acanthoma, acanthulus
acous(io)-	Of or relating to hearing	Greek ἀκουστικός (acoustikos), of or for hearing	acoumeter, acoustician
acr(o)-	extremity, topmost	Greek ἄκρον (akron), highest or farthest point	Acrocrary, acromegaly, acroosteolysis, acroposthia
-acusis	hearing	Greek ἀκουστικός (acoustikos), of or for hearing	paracusis
-ad	toward, in the direction of		dorsad
ad-	increase, adherence, motion toward, very	Latin	Adduction
aden(o)-, aden(i)-	Of or relating to a gland	Ancient Greek ἀδήν, ἀδέν- (adēn, aden-), an acorn; a gland	Adenocarcinoma, adenology, adenotome, adenotyphus
adip(o)-	Of or relating to fat or fatty tissue	Latin (adepts, adip-), fat	Adipocyte
adren(o)-	Of or relating to adrenal glands	Latin	adrenal artery
-aemia (BrE)	blood condition	Greek ἀναιμία, without blood	Anaemia
aer(o)-	air, gas	Greek ἀήρ, ἄερος	Aerosinusitis
aesthesio- (BrE)	sensation	Greek αἴσθησις	Anesthesia
-al	pertaining to	Latin -alis	abdominal
alb-	Denoting a white or pale color	Latin albus, white	Albino
alge(si)-	pain	Greek ἄλγος	Analgesic
-algia	pain	Greek	Myalgia
alg(i)o-	pain	Greek	Myalgia
allo-	Denoting something as different, or as an addition	Ancient Greek ἄλλος (allos), another, other	Alloantigen, allopathy
ambi-	Denoting something as positioned on both sides; Describing both of two	Latin (ambi-, ambo), both, on both sides	Ambidextrous
amnio-	Pertaining to the membranous fetal sac (amnion)	Greek ἄμνιον	Amniocentesis
amph-, amphi-	on both sides	Greek ἀμφί (amphi)	Amphicrania, amphismela, amphomycin
an-	not, without	Greek	Analgesia
ana-	back, again, up	Greek	Anaplasia
an(o)	anus	Latin	
andr(o)-	pertaining to a man	Greek ἀνήρ, ἀνδρ-	Android, andrology
angi(o)-	blood vessel	Greek ἄγγεϊον	Angiogram
aniso-	Describing something as unequal	Ancient Greek ἀνίσος (anisos), unequal	Anisocytosis, anisotropic
ankyl(o)-, ancy(o)-	Denoting something as crooked or bent	Ancient Greek ἀγκύλος (ankýlos), crooked, curved	Ankylosis

ante-	Describing something as positioned in front of another thing	Latin (āntē), before, in front of	antepartum
anti-	Describing something as 'against' or 'opposed to' another	Ancient Greek αντι (anti), against	Antibody, antipsychotic
apo-	separated from, derived from	Ancient Greek από	Apoptosis
arch(i,e,o)	first, primitive		archinephron : first formed kidney
arsen(o)-	Of or pertaining to a male; masculine	Greek (arsein)	
arteri(o)-	Of or pertaining to an artery	Ancient Greek ἀρτηρία (artēria), a wind-pipe, artery (used distinctly versus a vein)	Arteriole, artery
arthr(o)-	Of or pertaining to the joints, limbs	Ancient Greek αρθρος (arthros), a joint, limb	Arthritis
articul(o)-	joint	Latin articulum	Articulation
-ary	pertaining to	Latin -arius	biliary tract
-ase	enzyme	Greek διάσταισις, division	Lactase
-asthenia	weakness	Greek, ἀσθένεια	Myasthenia gravis
atel(o)	imperfect or incomplete development		atelocardia : imperfect development of the heart
ather(o)-	fatty deposit, Soft gruel-like deposit		Atherosclerosis
-ation	process	Latin	Habitation, Lubrication
atri(o)-	an atrium (esp. heart atrium)		atrioventricular
aur(i)-	Of or pertaining to the ear	Latin (auris), the ear	Aural
aut(o)-	self	Greek αὐτο-	Autoimmune
aux(o)-	increase; growth		auxocardia : enlargement of the heart
axill-	Of or pertaining to the armpit [uncommon as a prefix]	Latin (axilla), armpit	Axilla
azo(to)	nitrogenous compound		azothermia : raised temperature due to nitrogenous substances in blood
balano-	Of the glans penis or glans clitoridis	Greek βάλανος - balanos, acorn, glans	Balanitis
bi-	twice, double	Latin	Binary
bio-	life	Ancient Greek βίος	Biology
blast(o)-	germ or bud	Greek βλαστός	Blastomere
blephar(o)-	Of or pertaining to the eyelid	Ancient Greek βλέφαρον (blépharon), eyelid	Blepharoplast
brachi(o)-	Of or relating to the arm	Latin (brachium), from Ancient Greek βραχίων (brachiōn), arm	Brachium of inferior colliculus
brachy-	Indicating 'short' or less commonly 'little'	Ancient Greek βραχύς (brachys), short, little, shallow	brachycephalic
brady-	'slow'	Ancient Greek βραδύς (bradys), slow	Bradycardia
bronch(i)-	bronchus		Bronchiolitis obliterans
bucc(o)-	Of or pertaining to the cheek	Latin (bucca), cheek	Buccolabial
burs(o)-	bursa (fluid sac between the bones)	Latin	Bursitis

capill-	Of or pertaining to hair	Latin (capillus), hair	Capillus
capit-	Pertaining to the head (as a whole)	Latin (caput, capit-), the head	Capitation
carcin(o)-	cancer	Greek καρκίνος (karkinos), crab	Carcinoma
cardi(o)-	Of or pertaining to the heart	Ancient Greek καρδία (kardía), heart	Cardiology
carp(o)-	Of or pertaining to the wrist	Latin (carpus) < Ancient Greek καρπός (karpós), wrist; NOTE: This root should not be confused with the mirror root carp(o)- meaning fruit.	Carpopedal
cata-	down, under	Greek κατά (kata)	Cataract
-cele	pouching, hernia	Ancient Greek κήλη (kēlē)	Hydrocele, Varicocele
-centesis	surgical puncture for aspiration	Ancient Greek κέντησις (kentēsis)	Amniocentesis
cephal(o)-	Of or pertaining to the head (as a whole)	Ancient Greek κεφαλή (képhalē), the head	Cephalalgia
cerat(o)-	Of or pertaining to the cornu; a horn	Ancient Greek κέρασ, κερατ- (kéras, kerat-), a horn	Ceratoid
cerebell(o)-	Of or pertaining to the cerebellum	Latin (cerebellum), little brain	Cerebellum
cerebr(o)-	Of or pertaining to the brain	Latin (cerebrum), brain	Cerebrology
cervic-	Of or pertaining to the neck, the cervix	Latin (cervix, cervic-), neck, cervix	Cervicodorsal
chem(o)-	chemistry, drug	Greek χημεία	Chemotherapy
chir(o)-, cheir(o)-	Of or pertaining to the hand	Ancient Greek χεῖρ, χειρο- (cheir, cheiro-), hand	Chiropractor
chlor(o)-	Denoting a green color	Ancient Greek χλωρός (chloros), green, yellow-green	Chlorophyll
chol(e)-	Of or pertaining to bile	Ancient Greek χολή (cholē), bile	Cholaemia
cholecyst(o)-	Of or pertaining to the gallbladder	Ancient Greek χοληκύστις (cholēkýstis), gallbladder < χολή (cholē), bile, gall + κύστις (kýstis), bladder	Cholecystectomy
chondr(i)o-	cartilage, gristle, granule, granular	Ancient Greek χονδρός (chondros)	Chondrocalcinosis
chrom(ato)-	color	Ancient Greek χρώμα	Hemochromatosis
-cidal, -cide	killing, destroying	Latin	bacteriocidal
cili-	Of or pertaining to the cilia, the eyelashes; eyelids	< Latin (cilium), eyelash; eyelid	Ciliary
circum-	Denoting something as 'around' another	Latin (circum), around	Circumcision
cis-	on this side	Latin (cis)	
clast	break	Greek κλαστός	osteoclast
co-	with, together, in association	Latin	coenzymes
col-, colo-, colono-	colon		Colonoscopy
colp(o)-	Of or pertaining to the vagina	Ancient Greek κόλπος (kólpos), bosom, womb; hollow, depth	Colposcopy
com-	with, together	Latin	
contra	against	Latin	Contraindicate
cor-	with, together	Latin	
cor-, core-, coro-	Of or pertaining to eye's pupil	Ancient Greek κόρη (kórē), girl, doll; pupil of the eye	Corectomy

cordi-	Of or pertaining to the heart [Uncommon as a prefix]	Latin (cor, cordi-), heart	Commotio cordis
cornu-	Applied to processes and parts of the body describing them likened or similar to horns	Latin (cornū), horn	
coron(o)-	crown	Latin corōna ("garland, crown")	
cost(o)-	Of or pertaining to the ribs	Latin (costa), rib	Costochondral
cox-	Of or relating to the hip, haunch, or hip-joint	Latin (coxa), hip	Coxopodite
crani(o)-	Belonging or relating to the cranium	Latin (cranium) < Ancient Greek κρᾶνίον (krānion), the cranium, skull, bones enclosing the brain	Craniology
-crine	to secrete	εκκρίνει ecrine	Endocrine
cry(o)-	cold	Greek κρύος	Cryoablation
cutane-	skin	Latin cutis	Subcutaneous
cyan(o)-	Denotes a blue color	Ancient Greek κύανος, κυάνεος (kýanos, kyáneos), blue	Cyanopsia
cycl-	circle, cycle	Greek κύκλος (kuklos)	
cyph(o)-	Denotes something as bent (uncommon as a prefix)	Ancient Greek κυφός (kýphós), bent, hunchback	Cyphosis
cyst(o)-, cyst(i)-	Of or pertaining to the urinary bladder	Ancient Greek κύστις (kýstis); bladder, cyst	Cystotomy
cyt(o)-	cell	Greek κύτος	Cytokine
-cyte	cell	Greek	Leukocyte
dacryo-	tear	Greek δάκρυ	
dactyl(o)-	Of or pertaining to a finger, toe	Ancient Greek δάκτυλος (dáktylos), finger, toe	Dactylogy
de-	away from, cessation	Latin de-	
dent-	Of or pertaining to teeth	Latin (dens, dentis), tooth	Dentist
dermat(o)-, dermat(o)-	Of or pertaining to the skin	Ancient Greek δέρμα, δέρματ- (dérma, démat-), skin, human skin	Dermatology
-desis	binding	Greek δέσις (desis)	arthrodesis
dextr(o)-	right, on the right side	Latin dexter	Dextrocardia
di-	two	Greek δι-	Diplopia
di-	apart, separation	Latin	
dia-	(same as Greek meaning)	Ancient Greek διά (diá), through, during, across	Diacetyl
dif-	apart, separation	Latin	
digit-	Of or pertaining to the finger [rare as a root]	Latin (digitus), finger, toe	Digit
-dipsia	suffix meaning "(condition of) thirst"		polydipsia hydrodipsia, oligodipsia
dis-	separation, taking apart	Latin dis-	Dissection
dors(o)-, dors(i)-	Of or pertaining to the back	Latin (dorsum), back	dorsal, Dorsocephalad
duodeno-	duodenum, twelve: upper part of the small intestine (twelve inches long on average), connects to the stomach	Latin duodeni	Duodenal atresia
dynam(o)-	force, energy, power	Greek δύναμις (dunamis)	
-dynia	pain		Vulvodynia
dys-	bad, difficult	Greek δυσ-	Dysphagia, dysphasia

-eal	pertaining to	Latin	adenohypophyseal, corneal, esophageal, perineal
ec-	out, away	Greek ἐκ- (ek-)	Ectopia, ectopic pregnancy
ect(o)-	outer, outside	Greek ἐκτός	Ectoblast, ectoderm
-ectasia, -ectasis	expansion, dilation	Ancient Greek ἔκτασις	Bronchiectasis, telangiectasia
-ectomy	Denotes a surgical operation or removal of a body part. Resection, excision	Ancient Greek ἐκτομή (ectomē), excision	Mastectomy
-emesis	vomiting condition	Greek ἔμεσις	Hematemesis
-emia	blood condition (AmE)	Greek ἀν-αιμία, without blood	Anemia
encephal(o)-	Of or pertaining to the brain. Also see Cerebro.	Ancient Greek ἐγκέφαλος (enképhalos), the brain	Encephalogram
endo-	Denotes something as 'inside' or 'within'	Ancient Greek ἔνδο- (endo-), inside, internal	Endocrinology, endospore
eosin(o)-	Red	Eosin comes from Eos, the Greek word for 'dawn' and the name of the Greek goddess of the dawn.	Eosinophil granulocyte
enter(o)-	Of or pertaining to the intestine	Ancient Greek ἔντερον (énteron), intestine	Gastroenterology
epi-	on, upon	Ancient Greek ἐπι- (epi-), before, upon, on, outside, outside of	Epicardium, epidermis, epidural, episclera, epistaxis
episi(o)-	Of or pertaining to the pubic region, the loins	Ancient Greek ἐπίσιον- (epísion), the pubic area, loins; vulva	Episiotomy
erythr(o)-	Denotes a red color	Ancient Greek ἐρυθρός (erythros), red	Erythrocyte
-esophageal, -esophago-	gullet (AmE)	Greek οἰσοφάγος (oisophágos)	
esthesio-	sensation (AmE)	Greek αἴσθησις (aisthēsis)	
eu-	true, good, well, new	Greek	Eukaryote
ex-	out of, away from	Latin	Excision, exophthalmos
exo-	Denotes something as 'outside' another	Ancient Greek ἔξω- (exo-), outside of, external	Exoskeleton
extra-	outside	Latin	Extradural hematoma
faci(o)-	Of or pertaining to the face	Latin (faciēs), the face, countenance	Facioplegic
fibr(o)	fiber		Fibroblast
filli-	fine, hair like		
-form, -iform	Used to form adjectives indicating 'having the form of'	Latin (forma), form, shape	Cuneiform
fossa	A hollow or depressed area; trench or channel	Latin (fossa), ditch, pit	fossa ovalis
front-	Of or pertaining to the forehead	Latin (frōns, front-), the forehead	Frontonasal
galact(o)-	milk	Greek γάλα, γαλακτ-	Galactorrhea
gastr(o)-	Of or pertaining to the stomach	Ancient Greek γαστήρ (gastēr), γαστρ-, stomach, belly	Gastric bypass
-gen	(1) Denotes the sense 'born in, from' (2) Denotes the sense 'of a certain kind'	Ancient Greek -γενής (-genēs) < γεν-νάειν (gen-náein), to be born	(1) Endogen; (2) Heterogenous
-genic	Formative, pertaining to producing	Greek	Cardiogenic shock
genu-	Of or pertaining to the knee	Latin (genū), knee	Genu valgum

gingiv-	Of or pertaining to the gums	Latin (gingīva), gum	Gingivitis
glauc(o)-	Denoting a grey or bluish-grey colour	Ancient Greek γλαυκός (glaukos), grey, bluish-grey	Glaucoma
gloss(o)-, glott(o)-	Of or pertaining to the tongue	Ancient Greek γλῶσσα, γλῶττα (glōssa, glōtta), tongue	Glossology
gluco-	sweet	Greek γλυκός, sweet	Glucocorticoid
glyco-	sugar		Glycolysis
gnath(o)-	Of or pertaining to the jaw	Ancient Greek γνάθος (gnáthos), jaw	Gnathodynamometer
-gnosis	knowledge	Greek	diagnosis, prognosis
gon(o)-	seed, semen; also, reproductive	Ancient Greek γόνος	Gonorrhea
-gram, -gramme	record or picture	Greek γράμμα (gramma)	Angiogram
-graph	instrument used to record data or picture	Ancient Greek -γραφία (-graphía), written, drawn, graphic interpretation	Electrocardiograph
-graphy	process of recording		Angiography
gyn(aec)o- (BrE), gyn(ec)o- (AmE)	woman	Greek γυνή, γυναικ-	Gynecomastia
halluc-	to wander in mind	Classical Latin to wander in mind	Hallucinosi
hemat-, haemato- (haem-, hem-)	Of or pertaining to blood	Latin (hæma) < Ancient Greek αίμα, αίματ- (haima, haimat-), blood	Hematology, older form Haematology
hema or hemo-	blood (AmE)	Greek	Hematological malignancy
hemangi or hemangio-	blood vessels		
hemi-	one-half	Ancient Greek ήμι- (hēmi-), "half"	Cerebral hemisphere
hepat- (hepatic-)	Of or pertaining to the liver	Ancient Greek ήπαρ, ήπατο- (hēpar, hēpato-), the liver	Hepatology
heter(o)-	Denotes something as 'the other' (of two), as an addition, or different	Ancient Greek ήτερος (héteros), the other (of two), another; different	Heterogeneous
hydr(o)-	sweat	Greek ιδρωτ-	Hyperhidrosis
hist(o)-, histio-	tissue	Greek ιστός	Histology
home(o)-	similar	Ancient Greek ήμοιος (homoios)	Homeopathy
hom(o)-	Denotes something as 'the same' as another or common	Ancient Greek ήμο- (homo-), the same, common	Homosexuality
humer(o)-	Of or pertaining to the shoulder (or [rarely] the upper arm)	Incorrect Etymology < Latin (umerus), shoulder	Humerus
hydr(o)-	water	Greek ύδωρ	Hydrophobe
hyper-	Denotes something as 'extreme' or 'beyond normal'	Ancient Greek ήπέρ (hyper), over, above; beyond, to the extreme	Hypertension
hyp(o)-	Denotes something as 'below normal'	Ancient Greek ήπ(ο)- (hypo-), below, under	Hypovolemia,
hyster(o)-	Of or pertaining to the womb, the uterus	Ancient Greek ύστέρα (hystéra), womb	Hysterectomy
-i-asis	condition	Greek -ίαισις	Mydriasi
iatr(o)-	Of or pertaining to medicine, or a physician [uncommon as a prefix; common as a suffix, see -iatry]	Ancient Greek ιάτρος (iātrós), healer, physician	Iatrochemistry
-iatry	Denotes a field in medicine of a certain body component	Ancient Greek ιάτρος (iātrós), healer, physician	Podiatry, Psychiatry

-ic	pertaining to	Greek -ικός (-ikos)	Hepatic artery
-icle	small	Latin	Ovarian follicle
-ics	organized knowledge, treatment	Latin -ica < Greek < -ικά	Obstetrics
idio-	self, one's own	Greek ἴδιος, idios, "one's own"	Idiopathic
ileo-	ileum	Greek ἰλεός	Ileocecal valve
infra-	below	Latin	Infrahyoid muscles
inter-	between, among	Latin	Interarticular ligament
intra-	within	Latin	Intracranial hemorrhage
ipsi-	same	Latin	Ipsilateral hemiparesis
irid(o)-	iris	Greek ἶρις	Iridectomy
isch-	restriction	Greek ἴσχω	Ischemia
ischio-	Of or pertaining to the ischium, the hip-joint	Ancient Greek ἰσχιόν (ischión), hip-joint, ischium	Ischioanal fossa
-ism	condition, disease		Dwarfism
-ismus	spasm, contraction	Greek -ισμός	Hemiballismus
iso-	Denoting something as being 'equal'	Ancient Greek ἴσος (isos), equal	Isotonic
-ist	one who specializes in	Greek -ιστής (-istes)	Pathologist
-ite	the nature of, resembling	Greek -ίτης	Hermaphrodite
-itis	inflammation		Tonsillitis
-ium	structure, tissue		pericardium
kal/i	potassium		
karyo-	nucleus	Greek κάρυον, "nut"	Eukaryote
kerat(o)-	cornea (eye or skin)	Greek	Keratoscope
kin(e)-, kin(o), kinesi(o)-	movement	Greek κινέω	Kinesthesia
koil(o)-	hollow	Greek κοῖλος (koilos)	Koilocyte
kyph(o)-	humped	Greek κυφός	Kyphoscoliosis
labi(o)-	Of or pertaining to the lip	Latin (labium), lip	Labiodental
lacrim(o)-	tear	Latin	Lacrimal canaliculi
lact(i)-, lact(o)	milk	Latin	Lactation
lapar(o)-	Of or pertaining to the abdomen-wall, flank	Ancient Greek λαπάρα (lapará), flank	Laparotomy
laryng(o)-	Of or pertaining to the larynx, the lower throat cavity where the voice box is	Ancient Greek λάρυγξ, λαρυγγ- (lárynx, laryng-), throat, gullet	Larynx
latero-	lateral	Latin	Lateral pectoral nerve
lei(o)-	smooth	Greek λείος	Leiomyoma
-leptosis, -lepsy	attack, seizure	Greek λῆψις	Epilepsy, narcolepsy
lept(o)-	light, slender	Greek λεπτός (leptos)	Leptomeningeal
leuc(o)-, leuk(o)-	Denoting a white color	Ancient Greek λευκός (leukos), white, bright	Leukocyte
lingu(a)-, lingu(o)-	Of or pertaining to the tongue	Latin (lingua), tongue	Linguistics
lip(o)-	fat	Greek λίπος	Liposuction
lith(o)-	stone, calculus	Greek λίθος	Lithotripsy
log(o)-	speech	Greek λόγος	
-logist	Denotes someone who studies a certain field: ____-logy	Ancient Greek λογιστής (logistēs), studier, practitioner	Oncologist, pathologist
-logy	Denotes the academic study or practice of a certain field; The	Ancient Greek λόγος (logos) study	hematology, urology

	study of		
lymph(o)-	lymph	Greek λέμφος, λύμφη	Lymphedema
lys(o)-, -lytic	dissolution	Greek	Lysosome
-lysis	Destruction, separation	Greek λύσις	Paralysis
macr(o)-	large, long	Greek μακρός	Macrophage
-malacia	softening	Greek μαλακία	Osteomalacia
mamm(o)-	Of or pertaining to the breast	Latin (mamma), breast; udder	Mammogram
mammill(o)-	Of or pertaining to the nipple	Latin (mammilla), nipple	
manu-	Of or pertaining to the hand	Latin (manus), hand	Manufacture
mast(o)-	Of or pertaining to the breast	Ancient Greek μαστός (mastós), breast, women's breast; man's pectoral muscle	Mastectomy
meg(a)-, megal(o)-, -megaly	enlargement	Greek μέγας	Splenomegaly
melan(o)-	black color	Ancient Greek μέλας, μελανο- (melas, melano-), black; dark	Melanin
melos	extremity	Ancient Greek μέλος	erythromelalgia
mening(o)-	membrane	Greek μῆνιγξ, μηνιγγ-	Meningitis
mero-	part	Greek μέρος (meros), part	merocrine, meroblastic
mes(o)-	middle	Ancient Greek μέσος (mesos), "middle"	Mesoderm
meta-	after, behind	Greek μετά	Metacarpus
-meter	instrument used to measure or count	Greek μέτρον	Sphygmomanometer
-metry	process of measuring	Greek -μετρία	Optometry
metr(o)-	Pertaining to conditions or instruments of the uterus	Ancient Greek μήτρα (mētrā), womb, uterus	Metrorrhagia
micro-	denoting something as small, or relating to smallness	Ancient Greek μικρός (mikros), small	Microscope
mon(o)-	single	Greek μονός	Infectious mononucleosis
morph(o)-	form, shape	Greek μορφή	Morphology
muscul(o)-	muscle	Latin	Musculoskeletal system
my(o)-	Of or relating to muscle	Ancient Greek μῦς, μυ- (mys, my-), muscle; mouse; mussel	Myoblast
myc(o)-	fungus	Greek μύκης, μυκητ-	Onychomycosis
myel(o)-	Of or relating to bone marrow	Ancient Greek μυελόν (myelon), marrow; bone-marrow	Myeloblast
myring(o)-	eardrum	Latin myringa	Myringotomy
myx(o)-	mucus	Greek μύξα	Myxoma
narc(o)-	numb, sleep	Greek νάρκη	narcolepsy
nas(o)-	Of or pertaining to the nose	Latin (nāsum), nose	nasal
necr(o)-	death	Greek νεκρός	Necrosis, necrotizing fasciitis
neo-	new	Greek νέος	Neoplasm
nephr(o)-	Of or pertaining to the kidney	Ancient Greek νεφρός (nephros), kidney	Nephrology
nerv-	Of or pertaining to nerves and the nervous system [Uncommon as a root: neuro- mostly always used]	Latin (nervus), tendon; nerve; Cognate with the Greek νευρον (neuron) (see below)	Nerve
neur(i)-, neur(o)-	Of or pertaining to nerves and the nervous system	Ancient Greek νεῦρον (neuron), tendon, sinew; nerve	Neurofibromatosis
normo-	normal	Latin	Normocapnia

ocul(o)-	Of or pertaining to the eye	Latin (oculus), the eye	Oculist
odont(o)-	Of or pertaining to teeth	Ancient Greek ὀδοῦς, ὀδοντ- (odoús, odont-), tooth	orthodontist
odyn(o)-	pain	Greek ὀδύνη	stomatodynia
-oesophageal, oesophago- (BrE)	gullet	Greek οἰσοφάγος	
-oid	resemblance to	Greek -οειδής	Sarcoidosis
ole	small or little	Latin	
olig(o)-	Denoting something as 'having little, having few'	Ancient Greek ὀλίγος (oligos), few	Oligotrophy
om(o)-	Of or pertaining to the shoulder	Ancient Greek ὠμός (ōmos), shoulder	Omoplate
-oma (singular), -omata (plural)	tumor, mass, collection	Greek -ωμα	Sarcoma, teratoma
omphal(o)-	Of or pertaining to the navel, the umbilicus	Ancient Greek ὀμφαλός (omphalós), navel, belly-button	Omphalotomy
onco-	tumor, bulk, volume	Greek ὄγκος	Oncology
onych(o)-	Of or pertaining to the nail (of a finger or toe)	Ancient Greek ὄνυξ, ὄνυχο- (ónyx, ónycho-), nail; claw; talon	Onychophagy
oo-	Of or pertaining to the an egg, a woman's egg, the ovum	Ancient Greek ὠόν, ὠο- (ōón, ōo-), egg, ovum	Oogenesis
oophor(o)-	Of or pertaining to the woman's ovary	Neoclassical Greek ὠοφόρον (ōophóron), ovary, egg-bearing	Oophorectomy
ophthalm(o)-	Of or pertaining to the eye	Ancient Greek ὀφθαλμός (ophthalmós), the eye	Ophthalmology
optic(o)-	Of or relating to chemical properties of the eye	Middle French (optique) < Greek ὀπτικός (optikós); ὠψ (opsi), vision. Cognate with Latin oculus, relating to the eye	Opticochemical, biopsy
or(o)-	Of or pertaining to the mouth	Latin (ōs, or-), mouth	Oral
orchi(o)-, orchid(o)-, orch(o)-	testis	Greek ὄρχις (orkhis, orkhi-)	Orchiectomy, orchidectomy
orth(o)-	Denoting something as straight or correct	Ancient Greek ὀρθός (orthos), straight, correct, normal	Orthodontist
-osis	a condition, disease or increase	Greek -ωσις	Harlequin type ichthyosis, psychosis, osteoperosis
osseo-	bony	Latin	
ossi-	bone	Latin	Peripheral ossifying fibroma
ost(e)-, oste(o)-	bone	Greek ὀστέον	Osteoporosis
ot(o)-	Of or pertaining to the ear	Ancient Greek οὔς, ὠτ- (ous, ōt-), the ear	Otopathy
-ous	pertaining to	Latin -osus	
ovari(o)-	Of or pertaining to the ovaries	Latin (ōvarium), ovary	Ovariectomy
ovo-, ovi-, ov-	Of or pertaining to the eggs, the ovum	Latin (ōvum), egg, ovum	Ovogenesis
oxo-	addition of oxygen	Greek ὀξύς	
oxy-	sharp, acid, acute, oxygen	Greek ὀξύς(oxus)	
pachy-	thick	Greek παχύς	pachyderma
palpebr-	Of or pertaining to the eyelid [uncommon as a root]	Latin (palpebra), eyelid	Palpebra
pan-, pant(o)-	Denoting something as 'complete' or containing 'everything'	Ancient Greek πᾶς, παν- (pas, pan-), all, every	panophobia, panopticon
papill-	Of or pertaining to the nipple (of the chest/breast)	Latin (papilla), nipple; diminutive of papula (see below)	Papillitis
papul(o)-	Indicates papulosity, a small	Latin (papula), pimple, pustle; a	Papulation

	elevation or swelling in the skin, a pimple, swelling	small elevation or swelling in the skin	
para-	alongside of, abnormal	Ancient Greek παρά (para)	
-paresis	slight paralysis	Greek πάρεσις	hemiparesis
parvo-	small	Latin parvus	Parvovirus
path(o)-	disease	Greek πάθος	Pathology
-pathy	Denotes (with a negative sense) a disease, or disorder	Ancient Greek πάθος (pathos), suffering, accident	sociopathy, neuropathy
pauci-	Few	Latin paucus	Pauci-immune
ped-, -ped-, -pes	Of or pertaining to the foot; -footed	Latin pēs, pēd-, foot	Pedoscope
pelv(i)-, pelv(o)-	hip bone	Latin	Pelvis
-penia	deficiency	Greek πενία	osteopenia
peo-	Of or pertaining to the penis	Greek πέος (peos)	Peotomy
-pepsia	Denotes something relating to digestion, or the digestive tract.	Ancient Greek πεπτός (peptós) cooked, digested < πέσσω (péssō) I boil, cook; digest	Dyspepsia
per-	through	Latin	
peri-	Denoting something with a position 'surrounding' or 'around' another	Ancient Greek περί (peri), around	Periodontal
-pexy	fixation	Greek πήξις	Nephropexy
phaco-	lens-shaped	Greek φακός	phacolysis, phacometer, phacoscotoma
-phage, -phagia	Forms terms denoting conditions relating to eating or ingestion	Ancient Greek φαγία (phagía) eating < φαγεῖν (phagein) to eat	Sarcophagia
-phago-	eating, devouring	Greek -φάγος	phagocyte
phagist-:	Forms nouns that denote a person who 'feeds on' the first element or part of the word	Ancient Greek φαγιστής (phagistēs) eater; see -phagia	Lotophagi
-phagy	Forms nouns that denotes 'feeding on' the first element or part of the word	Ancient Greek φαγία (phagia) eating; see -phagia	Anthropophagy
phallo-	phallus	Greek φαλλός (phallos)	Aphallia
pharmaco-	drug, medication	Greek φάρμακον	pharmacology
pharyng(o)-	Of or pertaining to the pharynx, the upper throat cavity	Ancient Greek φάρυγξ, φαρυγγ- (phárynx, pháryng-), throat, windpipe; chasm	Pharyngitis, Pharyngoscopy
-phil(ia)	attraction for	Greek φιλία	Hemophilia
phleb(o)-	Of or pertaining to the (blood) veins, a vein	Ancient Greek φλέψ, φλεβ- (phleps, phlebo-), blood-vessel, vein	Phlebography, Phlebotomy
-phobia	exaggerated fear, sensitivity	Greek φόβος	arachnophobia
phon(o)-	sound	Greek φωνή	phonograph, symphony
phos-	Of or pertaining to light or its chemical properties, now historic and used rarely. See the common root phot(o)- below.	Ancient Greek φῶς, φωτ- (phōs, phōt-), light	Phosphene
phot(o)-	Of or pertaining to light	Ancient Greek φῶς, φωτ- (phōs, phōt-), light	Photopathy
piri-	Pear	Latin pirum, pear	Piriformis
phren(i)-, phren(o)-, phrenico	the mind	Greek φρήν, φρεν-	Phrenic nerve, schizophrenia, diaphragm

-plasia	formation, development	Greek πλάσις	Achondroplasia
-plasty	surgical repair, reconstruction	Greek πλαστός	rhinoplasty
-plegia	paralysis	Greek πληγή	paraplegia
pleio-	more, excessive, multiple	Greek pleion	pleiomorphism
pleur(o)-, pleur(a)	Of or pertaining to the ribs	Latin (pleura) from Ancient Greek πλευρόν (pleurón), rib, side of the body	Pleurogenous
-plexy	stroke or seizure	Greek πλῆξις	Cataplexy
pneum(o)-	Of or pertaining to the lungs	Ancient Greek πνεύμων, πνευμον- (pneumōn, pneumon-), lung < πνεῦμα (pneuma), wind, spirit	Pneumonocyte, Pneumonia
pneumat(o)-	air, lung	Ancient Greek	
pod-, -pod-, -pus	Of or pertaining to the foot, -footed	Ancient Greek πούς, ποδ- (πούς, pod-), foot	Podiatry
-poiesis	production		hematopoiesis
polio-	Denoting a grey color	Ancient Greek πολίος (poliós), grey	Poliomyelitis
poly-	Denotes a 'plurality' of something	Ancient Greek πολυς (polys), much, many	Polymyositis
por(o)-	pore, porous		
porphyr(o)-	Denotes a purple color	Ancient Greek πορπύρα (porphýra), purple	Porphyroblast
post-	Denotes something as 'after' or 'behind' another	Latin (post), after, behind	Postoperation, Postmortem
pre-	Denotes something as 'before' another (in [physical] position or time)	Medieval Latin (pre-) < (Classical) Latin (præ), before, in front of	Prematurity
presby(o)-	old age	Greek	Presbyopia
prim-	Denotes something as 'first' or 'most-important'	Latin prīmus, first, most important	Primary
pro-	Denotes something as 'before' another (in [physical] position or time)	Ancient Greek προ (pro), before, in front of	Procephalic
proct(o)-	anus, rectum		proctology
prosop(o)-	face	Greek (prosopon), face, mask	Prosopagnosia
prot(o)-	Denotes something as 'first' or 'most important'	Ancient Greek πρωτος (prōtos), first; principal, most important	Protoneuron
pseud(o)-	Denotes something false or fake	Ancient Greek	
psych(e)-, psych(o)	Of or pertaining to the mind	Ancient Greek ψυχή (psyché), breath, life, soul	Psychology, psychiatry
pterygo-	Pertaining to a wing	Greek	Lateral pterygoid plate
psor-	Itching		Psoriasis
-ptosis	falling, drooping, downward placement, prolapse		Apoptosis, nephroptosis
-ptysis	(a spitting), spitting, hemoptysis, the spitting of blood derived from the lungs or bronchial tubes		hemoptysis
pulmon-, pulmo-	Of or relating to the lungs.	Latin (pulmo, pulmōn-, usually used in plural), a lung	pulmonary
pyel(o)-	pelvis	Ancient Greek (pyelos)	Pyelonephritis
pyo-	pus	Greek πύον	Pyometra

pyro-	fever	Greek πῦρ, πυρετός	Antipyretic
quadr(i)-	four	Latin	quadriceps
radio-	radiation	Latin	radiowave
re-	again, backward	Latin	relapse
rect(o)-	rectum	Latin	
ren(o)-	Of or pertaining to the kidney	Latin (rēnes), kidney	renal
reticul(o)-	net	Latin	reticulocyte
retro-	backward, behind	Latin	retroversion, retroverted
rhabd(o)-	rod shaped, striated	Greek ράβδος	rhabdomyolysis
rhachi(o)-	spine	Greek ράχις	rachial, rachialgia, rachidian, rachiotherapy
rhin(o)-	Of or pertaining to the nose	Ancient Greek ρίς, ῥίνο- (rhīs, rhīno-), nose	rhinoceros, rhinoplasty
rhod(o)-	Denoting a rose-red color	Ancient Greek ῥόδον (rhōdon), rose	rhodophyte
-rrhage	burst forth	Greek -ρραγία	Hemorrhage
-rrhagia	rapid flow of blood	Greek -ρραγία	
-rrhaphy	surgical suturing	Greek ραφή	
-rrhea (AmE)	flowing, discharge	Greek -ρροια	Galactorrhea, Diarrhea
-rrhexis	rupture	Greek ῥήξις	
-rrhoea (BrE)	flowing, discharge	Greek -ρροια	diarrhoea
rubr(o)-	Of or pertaining to the red nucleus of the brain	Latin (ruber), red	Rubrospinal
salping(o)-	Of or pertaining to tubes e.g. fallopian tubes	Ancient Greek σάλπιγξ, σαλπιγγ-, (sálpinx, salpingo-) trumpet (literally)	Salpingectomy, Salpingopharyngeus muscle
sangui-, sanguine-	Of or pertaining to blood	Latin (sanguis, sanguin-), blood	Sanguine
sarco-	muscular, fleshlike	Greek σάρξ, σαρκ-	sarcoma
schist(o)-	split, cleft	Greek σχιστός (schistos)	
schiz(o)-	Denoting something 'split' or 'double-sided'	Ancient Greek σχίζω; Irregular formation of the verb σχίζειν (schizein), to cut, split	Schizophrenia
scler(o)-	hardness	Greek σκληρός	atherosclerosis
-sclerosis	hardening of the skin	Greek	Multiple sclerosis
scoli(o)-	twisted	Greek σκολιός (skolios)	scoliosis
-scope	instrument for viewing	Greek -σκόπος	stethoscope
-scopy	use of instrument for viewing	Greek -σκοπία	endoscopy
scoto-	darkness	Greek skotos	scotopic vision
semi-	one-half, partly	Latin	
sial(o)-	saliva, salivary gland	Greek σιάλος (sialos)	sialagogue
sigmoid(o)-	sigmoid, S-shaped curvature	Greek σιγμοειδής	sigmoid colon
sinistr(o)-	left, left side	Latin	
sinus-	Of or pertaining to the sinus	Latin (sinus), a curve, bend, bay	Sinusitis
sito-	food, grain	Greek σῖτος	
somat(o)-, somatico-	body, bodily	Greek σῶμα	
-spadias	slit, fissure	Greek	hypospadias, epispadias
spasmo-	spasm	Greek σπασμός	Spasmodic dysphonia
sperma-, spermo-, spermato-	semen, spermatozoa	Greek σπέρμα (sperma)	Spermatogenesis
splanchn(i)-, splanchn(o)-	viscera	Greek σπλάγχνον	
splen(o)-	spleen	Greek σπλήν, σπλην-	Splenectomy

spondyl(o)-	Of or pertaining to the spine, the vertebra	Greek σπόνδυλος / σφόνδυλος, (spóndylos, sphóndylos), the spine	Spondylitis
squamos(o)-	Denoting something as 'full of scales' or 'scaly'	Latin sqāmōsus, full of scales; scaly	Squamous cell
-stasis	stop, stand	Greek στάσις	
-staxis	dripping, trickling	Greek στακτός	
sten(o)-	Denoting something as 'narrow in shape' or pertaining to narrowness	Ancient Greek στενός (stenos); narrow, short	Stenography
-stenosis	abnormal narrowing in a blood vessel or other tubular organ or structure	Ancient Greek στενός (stenos), narrow; short	Stenosis, Restenosis
steth(o)-	Of or pertaining to the upper chest, chest, the area above the breast and under the neck	Ancient Greek στῆθος (stēthos), chest, cuirass	Stethoscope
stheno-	strength, force, power	Greek σθένος	
stom(a)	mouth	Greek στόμα	stomatognathic system
stomat(o)-	Of or pertaining to the mouth	Ancient Greek στόμα, στοματ- (stóma, stomat-), mouth	Stomatogastric
-stomy	creation of an opening	Greek -στομία	colostomy
sub-	beneath	Latin	subcutaneous tissue
super-	in excess, above, superior	Latin	superior vena cava
supra-	above, excessive	Latin	supraorbital vein
sy, syl-, sym-, syn-, sys-	Indicates similarity, likeness, or being together; Assimilates before some consonants: before l to syl-, s to sys-, before a labial consonant to sym-.	Ancient Greek συν- (syn), with, together	Synalgia, synesthesia, syssarcosis
tachy-	Denoting something as fast, irregularly fast	Ancient Greek ταχύς (tachys), fast, quickly	Tachycardia
-tension, -tensive	pressure	Latin	Hypertension
tetan-	rigid, tense		tetanus
thec-	case, sheath	Ancient Greekθήκη (theke)	Intrathecal
thel(e)-, thel(o)-	Of or pertaining to a nipple [uncommon as a prefix]	Ancient Greekθηλή (thēlē), a teat, nipple	Theleplasty
thely-	Denoting something as 'relating to a woman, feminine'	Ancient Greekθήλυς (thēlys), female, feminine	Thelygenous
therap(o)-	treatment	Ancient Greek (therapeía)	hydrotherapy
therm(o)-	heat	Ancient Greekθερμός (thermós)	
thorac(i)-, thorac(o)-, thoracico-	Of or pertaining to the upper chest, chest; the area above the breast and under the neck	Latin (thōrāx) < Ancient Greek θώραξ (thōrax), chest, cuirass	Thorax
thromb(o)-	Of or relating to a blood clot, clotting of blood	Ancient Greek θρόμβος (thrómbo), lump, piece, clot of blood	Thrombus, Thrombocytopenia
thyr(o)-	thyroid	Greek θυρεο-ειδής	
thym(o)(ia)-	emotions	Greek: "thymos," spirit, soul; courage; breath, mind, emotions	dysthymia
-tic	pertaining to	Greek -τικός	
toco-	childbirth	Greek τόκος	
-tome	cutting instrument	Greek τομή	
-tomy	act of cutting; incising, incision	Greek -τομία	Gastrotomy

tono-	tone, tension, pressure	Greek τόνος	
-tony	tension	Greek -τονία	
top(o)-	place, topical	Greek τόπος	Topical anesthetic
tort(i)-	twisted	Latin tortus	Torticollis
tox(i)-, tox(o)-, toxic(o)-	toxin, poison	Greek τοξικόν	Toxoplasmosis
trache(a)-	trachea	Greek τραχεία	Tracheotomy
trachel(o)-	Of or pertaining to the neck	Ancient Greek τράχηλος (tráchēlos), neck	tracheloplasty
trans-	Denoting something as moving or situated 'across' or 'through'	Latin (trāns), across, through	Transfusion
trich(i)-, trichia, trich(o)-	Of or pertaining to hair, hair-like structure	Ancient Greek θρίξ, τριχ(ο)- (thrix, trich(o)-), hair	Trichocyst
-tripsy	crushing	Greek τρίψις	Lithotripsy
-trophy	nourishment, development	Greek -τροφία, τροφή	Pseudohypertrophy
tympan(o)-	eardrum	Greek τύμπανον	Tympanocentesis
-ula, -ule	small	Latin	Nodule
ultra-	beyond, excessive	Latin	
umbilic-	Of or pertaining to the navel, the umbilicus	Latin (umbilicus), navel, belly-button	Umbilical
ungui-	Of or pertaining to the nail, a claw	Latin (unguis), nail, claw	Unguiform, Ungual
un(i)-	one	Latin (unus)	Unilateral hearing loss
ur(o)-	Of or pertaining to urine, the urinary system; (specifically) pertaining to the physiological chemistry of urine	Ancient Greek οὔρον (ouron), urine	Urology
uri(c)-, urico-	uric acid	Greek ούρικός	
urin-	Of or pertaining to urine, the urinary system	Latin (ūrīna), urine < Ancient Greek ουρον (ouron), see above.	Uriniferous
uter(o)-	Of or pertaining to the uterus or womb	Latin (uterus), womb, uterus	Uterus
vagin-	Of or pertaining to the vagina	Latin (vāgīna), sheath, scabbard	Vagina
varic(o)-	swollen or twisted vein	Latin varix	varicose
vas(o)-	duct, blood vessel	Latin	vasoconstriction
vasculo-	blood vessel	Latin vāsculum	
ven-	Of or pertaining to the (blood) veins, a vein (used in terms pertaining to the vascular system)	Latin (vēna), blood-vessel, vein	Vein, Venospasm
ventr(o)-	Of or pertaining to the belly; the stomach cavities	Latin (venter), the belly, the stomach; the womb	Ventrodorsal
ventricul(o)-	Of or pertaining to the ventricles; any hollow region inside an organ	Latin (venter), the ventricles of the heart, the ventricles of the brain	Cardiac ventriculography
-version	turning	Latin versiō	anteversion, retroversion
vesic(o)-	Of or pertaining to the bladder	Latin (vēsīca), bladder; blister	Vesica, vesical arteries
viscer(o)-	Of or pertaining to the internal organs, the viscera	Latin (viscera), internal organs; plural of (viscerum), internal organ	Viscera
xanth(o)-	Denoting a yellow color, an abnormally yellow color	Ancient Greek ξανθός (xanthós), yellow	Xanthopathy
xen(o)-	Foreign, different	Greek ξένος (xenos), stranger	Xenograft
xer(o)-	dry, desert-like	Greek ξερός (xeros), dry	Xerostomia

-y	condition or process of	Latin -ia < Greek -ία	Surgery
zo(o)-	animal, animal life	Greek ζῷον	zoology
zym(o)-	fermentation	Greek ζύμη	enzyme, lysozyme

Roots of Body Concepts

Bodily concept	Greek root	Latin root	Other root
Digestion	-pepsia	-	-
Disease	-pathy	-	-
Eating	-phagia	-	-

Roots of Body Parts and Components

(internal anatomy, external anatomy, body fluids, body substances)

Body part or component	Greek root	Latin root	Other root
abdomen	lapar(o)-	abdomin-	-
aorta	aort(o)-	aort(o)-	-
arm	brachi(o)-	-	-
armpit	-	axill-	-
artery	arteri(o)-	-	-
back	-	dors-	-
big toe	-	allic-	-
bladder	cyst(o)-	vesic(o)-	-
blood	haemat-, hemat- (haem-, hem-)	sangui-, sanguine-	-
blood clot	thromb(o)-	-	-
blood vessel	angi(o)-	vascul-, vas-	-
body	somat-, som-	corpor-	-
bone	oste(o)-	ossi-	-
bone marrow, marrow	myel(o)-	medull-	-
brain	encephal(o)-	cerebr(o)-	-
breast	mast(o)-	mamm(o)-	-
chest	steth(o)-	-	-
cheek	-Zygomatic	bucc-	-
ear	ot(o)-	aur(i)-	-
eggs, ova	oo-	ov-	-
eye	ophthalm(o)-	ocul(o)-	optic(o)- [French]
eyelid	blephar(o)-	cili-; palpebr-	-
face	prosop(o)-	faci(o)-	-
fallopian tubes	salping(o)-	-	-
fat, fatty tissue	lip(o)-	adip-	-
finger	dactyl(o)-	digit-	-
forehead	-	front(o)-	-
gallbladder	cholecyst(o)-	fell-	-
genitals, sexually undifferentiated	gon(o)-, phall(o)-	-	-
gland	aden(o)-	-	-
glans penis or clitoridis	balan(o)-	-	-
gums	-	gingiv-	-
hair	trich(o)-	capill-	-

hand	cheir(o)-, chir(o)-	manu-	-
head	cephal(o)-	capit(o)-	-
heart	cardi(o)-	cordi-	-
hip, hip-joint	-	cox-	-
horn	cerat(o)-	cornu-	-
intestine	enter(o)-	-	-
jaw	gnath(o)-	-	-
kidney	nephr(o)-	ren-	-
knee	gon-	genu-	-
lip	cheil(o)-, chil(o)-	labi(o)-	-
liver	hepat(o)- (hepatic-)	jecor-	-
loins, pubic region	episi(o)-	pubend-	-
lungs	pneumon-	pulmon(i)- (pulmo-)	-
marrow, bone marrow	myel(o)-	medull-	-
mind	psych-	ment-	-
mouth	stomat(o)-	or-	-
muscle	my(o)-	-	-
nail	onych(o)-	ungui-	-
navel	omphal(o)-	umbilic-	-
neck	trachel(o)-	cervic-	-
nerve; the nervous system	neur(o)-	nerv-	-
nipple, teat	thele-	papill-, mammill-	-
nose	rhin(o)-	nas-	-
ovary	oophor(o)-	ovari(o)-	-
pelvis	pyel(o)-	pelv(i)-	-
penis	pe(o)-	-	-
pupil (of the eye)	cor-, core-, coro-	-	-
rib	pleur(o)-	cost(o)-	-
rib cage	thorac(i)-, thorac(o)-	-	-
shoulder	om(o)-	humer(o)-	-
sinus	-	sinus-	-
skin	dermat(o)- (derm-)	cut-, cuticul-	-
skull	crani(o)-	-	-
stomach	gastr(o)-	ventr(o)-	-
testis	orchi(o)-, orchid(o)-	-	-
throat (upper throat cavity)	pharyng(o)-	-	-
throat (lower throat cavity/voice box)	laryng(o)-	-	-
thumb	-	pollic-	-
tooth	odont(o)-	dent(i)-	-
tongue	gloss-, glott-	lingu(a)-	-
toe	dactyl(o)-	digit-	-
tumour	cel-, onc(o)-	tum-	-
ureter	ureter(o)-	ureter(o)-	-
urethra	urethr(o)-, urethr(a)-	urethr(o)-, urethr(a)-	-
urine, urinary System	ur(o)-	urin(o)-	-
uterine tubes	sarping(o)-	sarping(o)-	-
uterus	hyster(o)-, metr(o)-	uter(o)-	-

vagina	colp(o)-	vagin-	-
vein	phleb(o)-	ven-	-
vulva	episi(o)-	vulv-	-
womb	hyster(o)-, metr(o)-	uter(o)-	-
wrist	carp(o)-	carp(o)-	-

Roots of Color

Color	Greek root in English	Latin root in English	Other root
black	melano-	nigr-	-
blue	cyano-	-	-
gray, grey	polio-	-	-
green	chlor(o)-	vir-	-
purple	porphyr(o)-	purpur-, purpureo-	-
red	erythr(o)-, rhod(o)-	rub-, rubr-	-
red-orange	cirrh(o)-	-	-
white	leuc-, leuk-	alb-	-
yellow	xanth(o)-	flav-	jaun - [French]

Roots of Descriptions (size, shape, strength, etc.)

Description	Greek root in English	Latin root in English	Other root
bad, incorrect	cac(o)-, dys-	mal(e)-	-
bent, crooked	ankyl(o)-	prav(i)-	-
big	mega-, megal(o)-	magn(i)-	-
biggest	megist-	maxim-	-
broad, wide	eury-	lat(i)-	-
cold	cry(o)-	frig(i)-	-
dead	necr(o)-	mort-	-
equal	is(o)-	equ(i)-	-
false	pseud(o)-	fals(i)-	-
female, feminine	thely-	-	-
flat	platy-	plan(i)-	-
good, well	eu-	ben(e)-, bon(i)-	-
great	mega-, megal(o)-	magn(i)-	-
hard	scler(o)-	dur(i)-	-
heavy	bar(o)-	grav(i)-	-
hollow	coel(o)-	cav(i)-	-
huge	megal(o)-	magn(i)-	-
incorrect, bad	cac(o)-, dys-	mal(e)-	-
irregular	poikil(o)	-	-
large; extremely large	mega-	magn(i)-	-
largest	megist-	maxim-	-
long	macr(o)-	long(i)-	-
male, masculine	arseno-	vir-	-
narrow	sten(o)-	angust(i)-	-
new	neo-	nov(i)-	-
normal, correct	orth(o)-	rect(i)-	-

old	paleo-	veter-	-
sharp	oxy-	ac-	-
short	brachy-	brev(i)-	-
small	micr(o)-	parv(i)- (rare)	-
smallest	-	minim-	-
slow	brady-	tard(i)-	-
fast	tachy-	celer-	-
soft	malac(o)-	moll(i)-	-
straight	orth(o)-	rect(i)-	-
thick	pachy-	crass(i)-	-
varied, various	poikilo-	vari-	-
well, good	eu-	ben(e)-	-
wide, broad	eury-	lat(i)-	-

Roots of Position

Description	Greek root in English	Latin root in English	Other root
around	peri-	circum-	-
left	levo-	laev(o)-, sinistr-	-
middle	mes(o)-	medi-	-
right	dexi(o)-	dextr(o)-	-
surrounding	peri-	circum-	-

Roots of Quantity

Description	Greek root in English	Latin root in English	Other root
double	diplo-	dupli-	-
equal	iso-	equi-	-
few	oligo-	pauci-	-
half	hemi-	semi-	demi- (French)
many, much	poly-	multi-	-
twice	dis-	bis-	-