

Medical Word Parts: Suffixes

- Characteristics of a **Suffix**
 - A suffix is a word part that is at the end of a word.
 - A suffix modifies or clarifies the medical meaning of the combining form.
 - A suffix is a single letter or group of letters that begins with a hyphen.
 - Most medical words contain a suffix.
 - Indicates a procedure, a condition, or a disease.



Figure 1-4 Suffix.

Suffixes for Adjective Forms

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
-ac	pertaining to	cardiac (pertaining to the heart)
-al	pertaining to	intestinal (pertaining to the intestine)
-ar	pertaining to	muscular (pertaining to the muscle)
-ary	pertaining to	urinary (pertaining the urine)

Suffixes for Adjective Forms

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
-ic	pertaining to	pelvic (pertaining to the pelvis)
-ine	pertaining to	uterine (pertaining to the uterus)
-ive	pertaining to	Digestive (pertaining to digestion)
-ous	pertaining to	venous (pertaining to the vein)

Suffixes for Processes

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
-ation	a process; being or having	urination (a process of [making] urine)
-ion	action; condition	digestion (action of breaking down)
-lysis	process of breaking down or destroying	hemolysis (process of breaking down or destroying blood)

Suffixes for Diseases and Conditions

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
-ia	condition; state; thing	pneumonia (condition of the lung)
-ism	process; disease from a specific cause	hypothyroidism (disease from the specific cause of deficient thyroid hormone)
-itis	inflammation of; infection of	tonsillitis (inflammation of the tonsil)
-megaly	Enlargement	cardiomegaly (enlargement of the heart)
-oma	tumor; mass	neuroma (tumor of the nerve)
-osis	condition; abnormal condition; process	psychosis (abnormal condition of the mind)
-pathy	disease, suffering	arthropathy (disease of the joint)

Suffixes for Medical Specialties/Specialists, and Procedures

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
-ectomy	surgical excision	mastectomy (surgical excision [removal] of the breast)
-graphy	process of recording	arthrography (process of recording [the structure] of a joint)
-iatry	medical treatment	psychiatry (medical treatment for the mind)
-itian	a skilled professional or expert	dietitian (a skilled professional or expert in foods and diet)

Suffixes for Medical Specialties/Specialists, and Procedures (cont'd)

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
-logy	the study of	cardiology (the study of the heart)
-scopy	process of using an instrument to examine	gastroscopy (process of using an instrument to examine the stomach)
-stomy	surgically created opening	tracheostomy (surgically created opening in the trachea)

Medical Word Parts: Prefixes

- Characteristics of a Prefix
 - A prefix is a word part that is at the beginning of a word.
 - Tells the how, why, where, when, how much, how many, position, direction, time or status
 - A prefix is a single letter or group of letters that ends with a hyphen.
 - Occasionally, a medical word has two prefixes.



Figure 1-5 Prefix

Prefixes for Location or Direction

<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
endo-	innermost; within	endotracheal (pertaining to within the trachea)
epi-	upon, above	epidermal (pertaining to upon the skin)
inter-	between	intercostal (pertaining to between the ribs)
intra-	within	intravenous (pertaining to within a vein)

Prefixes for Location or Direction

<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
peri-	around	pericardial (pertaining to around the heart)
post-	after; behind	postnasal (pertaining to behind the nose)
pre-	Before; in front of	premenstrual (pertaining to before menstruation)
sub-	below; underneath; less than	subcutaneous (pertaining to underneath the skin)
trans-	across; through	transvaginal (pertaining to through the vagina)

Prefixes for Amount, Number, or Speed

<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
bi-	two	bilateral (pertaining to two sides)
brady-	slow	bradycardia (condition of a slow heart)
hemi-	one half	hemiplegia (condition of one half [of the body] with paralysis)
hyper-	above; more than normal	hypertension (condition of more than normal pressure)

Prefixes for Amount, Number, or Speed

<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
hypo-	below; deficient	hypothyroidism (disease from a specific cause of deficient thyroid gland [hormone])
mono-	one; single	mononucleosis (abnormal condition of [white blood cells that each have] one [large] nucleus)
poly-	many; much	polyneuritis (inflammation of many nerves)
quadri-	four	quadriplegia (condition of four [limbs] with paralysis)

Prefixes for Amount, Number, or Speed

<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
tachy-	fast	tachycardia (condition of a fast heart)
tri-	three	trigeminal (pertaining to three [nerve branches in a] group)

Prefixes for Degree or Quality

<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
a-	away from; without	aspermia (condition [of being] without sperm)
an-	without; not	anesthesia (condition [of being] without sensation)
anti-	against	antibiotic (pertaining to against living organisms)
de-	reversal of; without	dementia (condition [of being] without a mind)

Prefixes for Degree or Quality

<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Medical Meaning</i>	<i>Example and Definition</i>
dys-	painful; difficult; abnormal	dysphagia (condition of painful or difficult eating and swallowing)
eu-	normal; good	euthyroidism (process of normal thyroid gland [function])
mal-	bad; inadequate	malnutrition (being or having inadequate nourishment)
re-	again and again	respiration (a process of again and again breathing)