

## MEDICAL PREFIXES, SUFFIXES, AND COMBINING FORMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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