

Medical Terminology Study Guide

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Quick Study ACADEMIC MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY THE BASICS

FOUNDATION OF MEDICAL WORDS

A. Structure
Most medical words are composed of two or more terms. To define a medical word:
• divide the word into its terms
• analyze the terms
• define the word

Examples:
Pericarditis
peri = around; *card* = heart; *itis* = inflammation
Inflammation around the heart

Oncology
onco = tumor, mass; *logy* = study of
Study of tumors

B. Terms
Term + Term (____ + ____ = medical word)
There are five categories of terms:
1. **Prefix** - beginning of a word
(ex. *pre* ____; *post* ____)
Designated by a "____" after the term.
2. **Suffix** - ending of a word
(ex. ____ *ology*; ____ *itis*)
Designated by a "____" before the term.
3. **Root** - foundation/base of a word
(ex. *hepat*; *gast*)
4. **Combining vowel** - vowel (usually "o") added to a root (ex. *gastro*).
Use a combining vowel when joining:
a. Root to another root (ex. *gastrohepatitis*)
b. Root to a suffix beginning with a consonant (ex. *cardiomegaly*)
5. **Combining form** - root + vowel (ex. *hepat/o*; *gastro/o*)
Designated by a "/" between the root and the vowel

Examples:
Hyperleukocytosis
hyper (prefix) = excessive
leuko (combining form) = white
cyt (root) = cell
osis (suffix) = condition of
Definition: condition of excessive white blood cells (leukocytes)

Hematotoxic
hemato (combining form) = blood
tox (root) = poison
ic (suffix) = pertaining to
Definition: pertaining to blood poisoning

TIPS:
1. Some terms have more than one definition. To determine the correct definition in a particular medical word, analyze the other terms in the word.
Example: Polionephritis
polio = gray (matter)
neph = spinal cord, bone marrow
itis = inflammation
Definition: Inflammation of the gray matter of the spinal cord. The bone marrow does not have gray matter.
2. Some terms may function as a root/combining form in one word and a suffix in another word. Classification depends upon the specific medical word.
Examples: Cytology
cyto (combining form) = cell
logy (suffix) = study of
Definition: Study of cells
Erythrocyte
erythro (combining form) = red
cyte (suffix) = cell
Definition: Red blood cell

THE HUMAN BODY

A. Development
Cells - tissues - organs - systems - organism

1. Cells: Major Components
a. Cell membrane
b. Cytoplasm
c. Nucleus

2. Tissues: Primary Types
a. Connective
b. Epithelium
c. Muscle
d. Nervous

3. Organs
a. Composed of two or more different tissues
b. Have specific functions

4. Systems: Related organs with common functions

5. Organism: A living person

B. Cavities
A space containing organs

1. Dorsal
a. Cranial
b. Vertebral (spinal)

2. Ventral
a. Abdominal
b. Pelvic
c. Thoracic

C. Planes
An imaginary flat surface

1. Frontal - anterior/posterior
2. Sagittal - right/left
3. Transverse - upper/lower

D. Positions
A reference point for location or direction.

1. Anterior/Ventral - front of the body
Posterior/Dorsal - back of the body
2. Deep - away from the surface
Superficial - on the surface
3. Inferior - situated below
Superior - situated above
4. Lateral - pertaining to the side
5. Medial - pertaining to the middle
6. Prone - lying face down
Supine - lying face up

TERMS	DEFINITIONS	WORDS
acid/o	acid, sour, bitter	acidity
acu-	needle	acupuncture
acut/o, acut/o	sharp, severe	subacute
adip/o	fat	adiponecrosis
aer/o	air, gas	aerophagy
agit/o	rapidity, restlessness	agitation
algia	pain	cephalgia
ambulo	to walk	ambulatory
anomal/o	irregular	anomaly
anthrac/o	coal, carbon, carbuncle	anthracosis
anthrop/o	man, human being	anthropometry
astr/o	astrum	astrology
aphth/o	ulcer	aphthosis
apic/o	apex	apicotomy
aqu/o	water	aquarium
atm/o	atmos, vapor	atmosphere
axia	axis	abaxial
bar/o	weight, pressure	barometer
bary-	heavy, dull, hard	baryphonia
-baria	walking	bariatrics
bath/o, batho-	deep, depth	bathycardia
bio-, bio	life, living	biogenesis
blast-	early embryonic stage, immature	blastocyte
-calcula	to compute	abaculus
calen	heat	calorimetry
exempt/o	heat	exemptoria
capsul/o, caps/o	capsule, container	capsulitis
carcin/o	cancer	carcinoma
carin-	carries, notches	carinogenic
-cataphasia	affirmation	acataphasia
cathart/o, cathart/o	cleansing, purging	catharsis
-cathisia, -kathisia	sitting	acathisia
caud/o	tail	caudal
cav/o, cav/o	hollow, cavity	cavitation
chem/o	chemical, chemistry	chemosurgery
chron/o	time, timing	chronobiology
clin/o	to slope, bend	clinoccephaly
-coimesis	sleeping	decoimesis
-coma	deep sleep	secomia
consci/o	awareness, aware	inconscience
constrict/o	narrowing, binding	vasoconstriction
contus/o	to bruise	contusion
corpor/o	body	corporeal
critic/o	crisis, dangerous	critical
cry/o	cold	cryotherapy
cyt/o, cyte	cell	cytotoxic
dem/o	people	epidemic
desicc/o	to dry	electrodesiccation
dilat/o	enlarge, expand	vasodilation
dolich/o	long	dolichofacial
dolor/o	pain	dolorogenic
dors/o	back	dorsoventral
duct/o	to lead	conduction
dynam/o	power, strength	dynamometer
-dynia	pain	gastrodynia
-dys-	bad, difficult, painful	dysphasia
echin/o	spiny, prickly	echinocyte
ectrio	congenital absence	ectropion
ele/o	oil	eleoma
emmetr/o	the correct measure, proportioned	emmetropia
enantio	opposite, opposed	enantiodonts
equi-	equality, equal	equilibrium
erubesc/o	irritation	erubescence
etio-	cause	etiology
eu-	good, normal, well	eubiotics
-facient	to cause, make happen	lipofacient
febril	fever	febrilephobia
fil/o, fili-,	thread, threadlike	filamentous
filament/o		
-form	specified shape, form	moldform
frig/o, frigid/o	cold	frigorous
funct/o	performance	dysfunctional
gel/o	to freeze, congeal	gelosis
gemell/o	twins	gemellology
-gen-, gen/o	producing, generating	pathogen
-genesis	production, formation	neogenesis
-genit	produced by, forming	carcinogenic
ger/o, geront/o	aged, old age	geriatrics
-grade	step	centigrade
hapl/o	simple, single	haploid
hered-	hereditary	heredoinnunity
-hexia	condition	conhexia
hist/o	tissue	histoclastic
homoeo-	likeness, constant, sameness	homeodynamics
hydr/o	water, hydrogen	hydrolysis
iatrio	treatment, physician	iatriogenic
-ician	specialist	clinician

Medical Terminology Study Guide: Mastering the Language of Medicine

Decoding the complex world of medical terminology can feel daunting, but mastering it is crucial for anyone in the healthcare field, from aspiring medical professionals to curious patients. This comprehensive medical terminology study guide provides a structured approach to learning and retaining this essential vocabulary. We'll equip you with effective strategies, helpful resources, and a clear roadmap for success, transforming medical jargon into understandable concepts. This guide is designed to help you conquer medical terminology, regardless of your current knowledge level.

1. Understanding the Building Blocks: Prefixes, Suffixes, and Root Words

Medical terms are rarely single words; they are typically constructed from prefixes, suffixes, and root words. Grasping these components is the cornerstone of understanding medical terminology.

Prefixes: These come at the beginning of a word and modify its meaning. For example, the prefix "tachy-" means rapid (tachycardia - rapid heart rate). Learning common prefixes like "hypo-," "hyper-," "brady-," and "a-" (without) is a significant first step.

Suffixes: Located at the end of a word, suffixes often indicate a procedure, condition, or body part. Examples include "-itis" (inflammation), "-ectomy" (surgical removal), and "-oma" (tumor). Mastering suffixes like "-algia" (pain), "-pathy" (disease), and "-logy" (study of) is key.

Root Words: These form the core of the medical term and often refer to a body part or organ.

Understanding roots like "cardi-" (heart), "hepat-" (liver), and "derm-" (skin) will unlock the meaning of many medical terms.

Effective Strategies for Learning Prefixes, Suffixes, and Root Words:

Flashcards: Create flashcards for each prefix, suffix, and root word, including their meaning and an example word. Regular review is crucial.

Mnemonics: Utilize memory aids like acronyms or rhymes to help you remember difficult terms.

Spaced Repetition Systems (SRS): Use apps like Anki to optimize your learning by reviewing terms at increasing intervals.

2. Mastering Common Medical Terms Across Body Systems

Once you've grasped the building blocks, it's time to apply your knowledge to specific body systems. This systematic approach prevents information overload and allows for focused learning.

Cardiovascular System: Familiarize yourself with terms relating to the heart and blood vessels, such as arrhythmia, atherosclerosis, and hypertension.

Respiratory System: Learn terminology related to the lungs and breathing, including pneumonia, bronchitis, and asthma.

Gastrointestinal System: Master terms associated with the digestive system, such as gastritis, colitis, and hepatitis.

Nervous System: Understand terms related to the brain, spinal cord, and nerves, including neuropathy, meningitis, and encephalitis.

Musculoskeletal System: Learn terms related to muscles, bones, and joints, such as arthritis, osteoporosis, and myalgia.

3. Utilizing Medical Terminology Resources and Tools

Many valuable resources can assist your learning journey beyond this study guide.

Medical Dictionaries: Invest in a comprehensive medical dictionary, either physical or digital, for quick lookups and detailed explanations.

Online Resources: Numerous websites and online courses offer interactive lessons, quizzes, and flashcards to enhance your learning.

Medical Terminology Textbooks: Consider supplementing this guide with a comprehensive textbook to deepen your understanding and expand your vocabulary.

Study Groups: Collaborating with others can make learning more engaging and help clarify confusing concepts.

4. Practice Makes Perfect: Utilizing Real-World Applications

The best way to solidify your knowledge of medical terminology is through consistent practice.

Engage with medical texts, articles, and case studies to apply your newly acquired vocabulary. Try to decode unfamiliar medical terms encountered in everyday life or during your studies.

5. Strategies for Retention and Long-Term Success

Maintaining your medical terminology knowledge requires ongoing effort. Regular review sessions, consistent practice, and the use of memory techniques are essential for long-term retention.

Consider creating a personalized study schedule that fits your learning style and available time.

Conclusion:

Mastering medical terminology is a journey, not a sprint. By following the strategies outlined in this study guide, utilizing available resources, and committing to consistent practice, you'll significantly improve your understanding and confidently navigate the language of medicine. Remember, the key is breaking down complex terms into manageable components and consistently reinforcing your learning.

FAQs:

1. Are there any specific apps recommended for learning medical terminology? Yes, Anki, Memrise, and Quizlet are popular choices for spaced repetition and flashcard learning. Many offer pre-made medical terminology decks.

2. How long does it typically take to master medical terminology? The time required varies based on individual learning styles and prior knowledge. Consistent effort over several weeks or months is generally necessary.
3. What is the best way to study for a medical terminology exam? Create practice quizzes, use flashcards, and review key concepts frequently. Focus on understanding the building blocks (prefixes, suffixes, roots) and their application in various medical contexts.
4. Can this study guide be used for non-medical professionals? Absolutely! Anyone interested in understanding medical information more easily can benefit from this guide.
5. Where can I find more practice questions and quizzes? Many online resources and textbooks offer practice exercises. Search for "medical terminology practice quizzes" online to find numerous options.

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This book will be a valuable resource for nurses and other healthcare professionals who deal with Spanish speaking patients. It is a guide that contains the key and most frequently used healthcare terms. It will also be useful for Spanish speaking nurses who want to have a better communication while interacting with English speaking healthcare professionals.

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