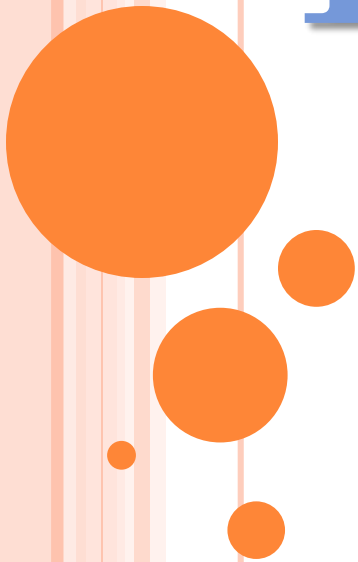


MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY



WORD ELEMENTS

A medical word consists of some or all of the following elements:

- Word root
- Combining form
- Suffix
- Prefix.



- How you combine these elements and whether all or some of them are present in a medical word determine the meaning of a word.
- Medical terminology is not difficult to learn when you understand how the elements are combined to form a word. To develop a medical vocabulary, you must understand the *elements* or *parts* that form the medical words.



WORD ROOTS

- A word root is the main part of a word; all medical words have at least one word root.
- In the words *teacher*, *teaches*, *teaching*, the word root is ***teach***.
In the words *speaker*, *speaks*, *speaking*, the word root is ***speak***.



- e.g.: Identify the roots in the following words:

Word	Root
reader	read
spending	spend
playful	play



- *Note:* A word root may be used **alone** or combined **with other elements** to form another word with a **different meaning**.
- Review the following examples to see how roots are used alone or with other elements to form words. The meaning of each term in the right hand column is also provided.



Root as a Complete Word	Root as a Part of a Word
alcohol	<i>alcohol</i>ism (condition marked by impaired control over alcohol use)
sperm	<i>sperm</i>icide (agent that kills sperm)
thyroid	<i>thyroid</i>ectomy (excision of the thyroid gland)




- In medical words, the root usually indicates a **body part (anatomical structure)**.
- For example, the root in *cardi/al*, *cardi/ac*, and *cardi/o/gram* is ***cardi*** and it means **heart**.



COMMON ROOTS OF MEDICAL TERMS

ROOT	REFERS TO
card /i/o	Heart
derm /o, dermat /o	Skin
ger /o, geront /o	Aged
hem /o, hemat /o	Blood
neur /o	A nerve cell, the nervous system
oste /o	Bone
path /o	Disease
psych /o	Mind



- You will find that the roots in medical words are usually derived from Greek or Latin words. Some examples include ***dent*** in the word ***dentlist***, ***pancreat*** in the word ***pancreatlitis***, and ***dermat*** in the word ***dermat/o/logist***.
- *dent* means **tooth**, *pancreat* means **pancreas**, and *dermat* means **skin**.



COMBINING FORMS

- A *combining form* (CF) is created when a word root is combined with a **vowel**.
- This vowel is usually an **o**. The vowel has no meaning of its own, but enables two word elements to be linked.




- Like the word root, the *CF* is the basic part on which other elements are added to build a complete word. In this text, a combining form will be listed as word root/vowel, such as *dent/o* and *gastr/o*.



○ A word **root** + a **vowel** (usually an **o**) forms a new element known as a ***combining form (CF)***.

○ A combining vowel is attached to the word root in order to make a word easier to pronounce.



SUFFIXES

- A suffix is a word element located at **the end of a word**. Substituting one suffix for another suffix changes the meaning of the word. In medical terminology, a suffix usually indicates a **procedure, condition, or disease**.



- Although the suffix is last in a medical term, it most often comes first in its definition.
- e.g. : **appendicitis** means: “**Inflammation (-itis) of the appendix.**” So the suffix, in this case **-itis**, provides us with the first word of the defining phrase.
- A suffix that stands alone will be preceded by a hyphen (-).



COMMON SUFFIXES OF MEDICAL TERMS

SUFFIX	MEANING
-algia	pain
-derm	Skin
-dynia	pain
-itis	inflammation
-logy	Study of, specialty of
-path/y	Disease



THREE RULES OF WORD BUILDING:

- There are three important rules of word building:
- *Rule 1:* A **word root** links a **suffix** that begins with a **vowel**.
- *Rule 2:* A combining form (**root + o**) links a **suffix** that begins with a **consonant**.
- *Rule 3:* A combining form (**root + o**) links a root to another root to form a compound word. (**This rule holds true even if the next root begins with a vowel.**)



- **Rule 1:** A **word root** links a **suffix** that begins with a **vowel**.
- e.g.: Link the following roots with suffixes, each of which begins with a vowel.

Word Root	Suffix	Medical Term
tonsill	-itis	tonsill/itis
gastr	-ectomy	gastr/ectomy
arthr	-itis	arthr/itis



- **Rule 2:** A combining form (**root + o**) links a **suffix** that begins with a **consonant**.
- e.g.: Change the following roots to combining forms and link them with suffixes that begin with a consonant.

Word Root	Suffix	Medical Term
scler	-derma	scler/o/derma
mast	-dynia	mast/o/dynia
arthr	-plasty	arthr/o/plasty



- **Rule 3:** A combining form (**root + o**) links a **root to another root** to form a compound word. (**This rule holds true even if the next root begins with a vowel.**)
- oste + chondr + -oma *becomes*
oste/o/chondr/oma
- gastr + enter + -itis *becomes*
gastr/o/enter/itis



- e.g.: Form a word with *carcin* and *-oma*
- carcin/oma
- Summarize the rule that applies in this frame.?
- Rule 1: A word **root** links a **suffix** that begins with a **vowel**.



○ e.g.: from the previous word elements define:

○ 1. psychology :

The study of mental processes and behavior

○ 2. pathology:

The study of disease processes

○ 3. Hematology:

The study of blood and blood disorders

Suggested questions:

Define the following medical terms:

(Alcoholism, Appendicitis, Pathology).

Give the meaning of the following roots and suffixes:

(-algia, hemo, -pathy).

What are the rules of word building?

Form a medical term out of the following roots and suffixes:

(chondr , -itis), (mast, -dynia), (gastr, -ectomy).



•Match each of the following roots and suffixes in the first column with the appropriate meaning in the second column:

Column 1	Column 2
neuro	pain
-derm	Specialty of
-dynia	Nerve cell
gero	Skin
-logy	age



Thank you

