

Introduction to Medical Terminology

1. Why Learn Medical Terminology?

2. Building Blocks of Medical Words

3. Common Prefixes

[illegible]

Introduction to Medical Terminology

a? / an?	Without, lack of	<i>anemia</i> (lack of blood)
ab?	Away from	<i>abduction</i> (movement away from midline)
ad?	Toward, addition	<i>adduction</i> (movement toward midline)
ante?	Before (in time/space)	<i>anterior</i> (front)
contra? / counter?	Against	<i>contralateral</i> (opposite side)
hyper?	Excessive, above normal	<i>hypertension</i>
hypo?	Below normal, deficient	<i>hypoglycemia</i>
post?	After, behind	<i>postoperative</i>
pre?	Before	<i>prenatal</i>
sub?	Under, below	<i>subcutaneous</i>

4. Common Suffixes

Suffix	Part of Speech	Meaning	Example
?algia	Noun	Pain	<i>neuralgia</i> (nerve pain)
?ectomy	Noun	Surgical removal	<i>appendectomy</i>
?emia	Noun	Blood condition	<i>anemia</i>
?itis	Noun	Inflammation	<i>tonsillitis</i>
?logy	Noun	Study of	<i>dermatology</i>
?ology	Noun	Specialty	<i>cardiology</i>
?oma	Noun	Tumor, mass	<i>carcinoma</i>
?osis	Noun		