

Advanced Medical Terminology

Advanced Medical Terminology – Study Notes

1. Foundations of Medical Language

Aspect	Details
Etymology	Most terms derive from Greek (e.g., <i>cardio</i> “heart”) and Latin (e.g., <i>itis</i> “inflammation”).
Word-building units	- Prefixes (pre-, hypo-, hyper-) - Roots (cardi-, neuro-, hepat-) - Suffixes (-ectomy, -ology, -emia)
Pronunciation guides	Use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) or simple phonetic cues (e.g., “/kərˈdeɪʃoʊ/ – cardio”).
Abbreviation rules	Capitalized abbreviations for proper nouns (e.g., MRI , CBC); lowercase for common descriptors (e.g., q.d. , p.o.).

2. Major Word-Building Patterns

Pattern	Example	Meaning
Root + Suffix	<i>Nephritis</i>	Inflammation of the kidney
Prefix + Root	<i>Hypoglycemia</i>	Low blood sugar
Root + Prefix + Suffix	<i>Hypertension</i>	Elevated blood pressure
Combining forms (root + vowel connector)	<i>Gastroenterology</i>	Study of stomach and intestines
Eponyms (named after a person)	<i>Parkinson’s disease</i>	Neurodegenerative disorder described by James Parkinson
Descriptive terms	<i>Idiopathic</i>	Of unknown cause

3. Common Prefixes & Suffixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example
a- / an-	Without, lack of	<i>Aphasia</i> – loss of language
anti-	Against	<i>Antibiotic</i> – agent against bacteria

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Prefix	Meaning	Example
brady?	Slow	<i>Bradycardia</i> – slow heart rate
dys?	Difficult, abnormal	<i>Dyspnea</i> – difficult breathing
hyper?	Excessive	<i>Hypertension</i> – high blood pressure
hypo?	Below normal	<i>Hypothermia</i> – low body temperature
mega?	Large	<i>Megacolon</i> – enlarged colon
poly?	Many	<i>Polyuria</i> – excessive urination
Suffix	Meaning	Example
?algia	Pain	<i>Neuralgia</i> – nerve pain
?ectomy	Surgical removal	<i>Appendectomy</i> – removal of appendix
?emia	Blood condition	<i>Anemia</i> – deficiency of red cells
?itis	Inflammation	<i>Appendicitis</i> – appendix inflammation
?ology	Study of	<i>Hematology</i> – study of blood
?oma	Tumor, mass	<i>Carcinoma</i> – malignant tumor
?pathy	Disease	<i>Neuropathy</i> – nerve disease
?phobia	Fear	<i>Hemophobia</i> – fear of blood

4. System-Based Terminology

System	Key Roots & Terms
Cardiovascular	<i>Cardio?</i> (heart), <i>?vascular</i> (vess