

section presents common suffixes and prefixes used to construct medical terms. Some of these elements have already been introduced, but they are now reinforced in the appropriate categorized tables below. Similar tables are included for each chapter in the book. The common elements in this section of the chapter will be reinforced throughout the textbook in numerous medical terms.

Surgical Suffixes

Common suffixes associated with surgical procedures, their meanings, and an example of a related term are listed in the following table. First, study the suffix and its meaning and practice pronouncing the term aloud. Then use the information provided to complete the meaning of each term. You may also refer to *Appendix A: Glossary of Medical Word Elements* to complete this exercise. To build a working vocabulary of medical terms and understand how those terms are used in the health care industry, it is important that you complete all of these exercises. The first one is completed for you.

Suffix	Term	Meaning
-centesis surgical puncture	arthr/o/centesis ăr-thrō-sĕn-TĒ-sĭs <i>arthr/o:</i> joint	<i>Surgical puncture of a joint</i>
-clasis to break; surgical fracture	oste/o/clasis ōs-tĕ-ŌK-lă-sĭs <i>oste/o:</i> bone	
-desis binding, fixation (of a bone or joint)	arthr/o/desis ăr-thrō-DĒ-sĭs <i>arthr/o:</i> joint	
-ectomy excision, removal	append/ectomy ăp-ĕn-DĒK-tō-mĕ <i>append:</i> appendix	
-lysis separation; destruction; loosening	thromb/o/lysis thrŏm-BŎL-ĭ-sĭs <i>thromb/o:</i> blood clot	
-pexy fixation (of an organ)	mast/o/pexy MĀS-tō-pĕks-ĕ <i>mast/o:</i> breast	
-plasty surgical repair	rhin/o/plasty RĪ-nō-plăs-tĕ <i>rhin/o:</i> nose	
-rrhaphy suture	my/o/rrhaphy mĭ-OR-ă-fĕ <i>my/o:</i> muscle	

(Continued)

Suffix	Term	Meaning
-stomy forming an opening (mouth)	trache/o/stomy trā-kē-ŌS-tō-mē <i>trache/o</i> : trachea (windpipe)	
-tome instrument to cut	oste/o/tome ŌS-tē-ō-tōm <i>oste/o</i> : bone	
-tomy incision	trache/o/tomy trā-kē-ŌT-ō-mē <i>trache/o</i> : trachea (windpipe)	
-tripsy crushing	lith/o/tripsy LĪTH-ō-trīp-sē <i>lith/o</i> : stone, calculus	
Pronunciation Help Long Sound ā in rāte ē in rēbirth ī in īsle ō in ōver ū in ūnite Short Sound ă in ălone ě in ěver ĭ in ĭt ȏ in nȏt ȕ in cȕt		



Competency Verification: Check your answers in Appendix B, Answer Key, page 359. If you are not satisfied with your level of comprehension, review the terms in the table and retake the review.

Diagnostic Suffixes

Common suffixes associated with diagnostic procedures, their meanings, and an example of a related term are listed in the following table. First, study the suffix and its meaning and practice pronouncing the term aloud. Then use the information provided to complete the meaning of each term. You may also refer to *Appendix A: Glossary of Medical Word Elements* to complete this exercise. To build a working vocabulary of medical terms and understand how those terms are used in the health care field, it is important that you complete all of these exercises. The first one is completed for you.

Suffix	Term	Meaning
-gram record, writing	electr/o/cardi/o/gram ē-lĕk-trō-KĀR-dē-ō-grām <i>electr/o</i> : electricity <i>cardi/o</i> : heart	Record of electrical activity of the heart
-graph instrument for recording	cardi/o/graph KĀR-dē-ō-grāf <i>cardi/o</i> : heart	
-graphy process of recording	angi/o/graphy ăn-jē-ŌG-ră-fē <i>angi/o</i> : vessel (usually blood or lymph)	

Suffix	Term	Meaning
-meter instrument for measuring	pelv/i/meter* pĕl-VĪM-ĕ-tēr <i>pelv/i</i> : pelvis	
-metry act of measuring	pelv/i/metry* pĕl-VĪM-ĕ-trē <i>pelv/i</i> : pelvis	
-scope instrument for examining	endo/scope ĒN-dō-skōp <i>endo-</i> : in, within	
-scopy visual examination	endo/scopy ĕn-DŌS-kō-pē <i>endo-</i> : in, within	
Pronunciation Help Long Sound ā in rāte ē in rēbirth ī in īsle ō in ōver ū in ūnite Short Sound ă in ălone ĕ in ĕver ĭ in ĭt ă in nŏt ŭ in cŭt		

*The i in pelv/i/meter and pelv/i/metry are exceptions to the rule of using the connecting vowel o.



Competency Verification: Check your answers in Appendix B, Answer Key, page 360. If you are not satisfied with your level of comprehension, review the terms in the table and retake the review.

Pathological Suffixes

Common suffixes associated with pathological (disease) conditions, their meanings, and an example of a related term are listed in the following table. First, study the suffix and its meaning and practice pronouncing the term aloud. Then use the information provided to complete the meaning of each term. You may also refer to *Appendix A: Glossary of Medical Word Elements* to complete this exercise. To build a working vocabulary of medical terms and understand how those terms are used in the health care industry, it is important that you complete all of these exercises. The first one is completed for you.

Suffix	Term	Meaning
-algia, -dynia pain	neur/algia nū-RĀL-jē-ă <i>neur</i> : nerve	Pain in a nerve
	ot/o/dynia ō-tō-DĪN-ĕ-ă <i>ot/o</i> : ear	
-cele hernia, swelling	hepat/o/cele hĕ-PĀT-ō-sĕl <i>hepat/o</i> : liver	

(Continued)

Suffix	Term	Meaning
-ectasis dilation, expansion	bronchi/ectasis brōng-kē-ĔK-tā-sīs <i>bronchi</i> : bronchus (plural, bronchi)	
-edema swelling	lymph/edema līm-f-ē-DE-mā <i>lymph</i> : lymph	
-emesis vomiting	hyper/emesis hī-pēr-ĔM-ē-sīs <i>hyper-</i> : excessive, above normal	
-emia blood condition	an/emia ā-NE-mē-ā <i>an-</i> : without, not	
-iasis abnormal condition (produced by something specific)	chol/e/lith/iasis* kō-lē-lī-THĪ-ā-sīs <i>chol/e</i> : bile, gall <i>lith</i> : stone, calculus	
-itis inflammation	gastr/itis gās-TRĪ-tīs <i>gastr</i> : stomach	
-lith stone, calculus	chol/e/lith* KŌ-lē-līth <i>chol/e</i> : bile, gall	
-malacia softening	chondr/o/malacia kōn-drō-mā-LĀ-shē-ā <i>chondr/o</i> : cartilage	
-megaly enlargement	cardi/o/megaly kār-dē-ō-MEG-ā-lē <i>cardi/o</i> : heart	
-oma tumor	neur/oma nū-RŌ-mā <i>neur</i> : nerve	
-osis abnormal condition; increase (used primarily with blood cells)	cyan/osis sī-ā-NŌ-sīs <i>cyan</i> : blue	
-pathy disease	my/o/pathy mī-ŌP-ā-thē <i>my/o</i> : muscle	

*The e in chol/e/lithiasis and chol/e/lith are exceptions to the rule of using the connecting vowel o.

Suffix	Term	Meaning
-penia decrease, deficiency	erythr/o/penia ĕ-rĭth-rō-PĒ-nĕ-ă <i>erythr/o</i> : red	
-phobia fear	hem/o/phobia hĕ-mō-FŌ-bĕ-ă <i>hem/o</i> : blood	
-plegia paralysis	hemi/plegia hĕm-ĕ-PLĒ-jĕ-ă <i>hemi-</i> : one half	
-rrhage, -rrhagia bursting (of)	hem/o/rrhage HĒM-ĕ-rĭj <i>hem/o</i> : blood	
	men/o/rrhagia mĕn-ō-RĀ-jĕ-ă <i>men/o</i> : menses, menstruation	
-rrhea discharge, flow	dia/rrhea dĭ-ă-RĒ-ă <i>dia-</i> : through, across	
-rrhexis rupture	arteri/o/rrhexis ăr-tĕ-rĕ-ō-RĒK-sĭs <i>arteri/o</i> : artery	
-stenosis narrowing, stricture	arteri/o/stenosis ăr-tĕ-rĕ-ō-stĕ-NŌ-sĭs <i>arteri/o</i> : artery	
-toxic poison	hepat/o/toxic HEP-ă-tō-tŏk-sĭk <i>hepat/o</i> : liver	
-trophy nourishment, development	dys/trophy DĪS-trō-fĕ <i>dys-</i> : bad; painful; difficult	
Pronunciation Help Long Sound Short Sound ā in rāte ă in ălone ē in rēbirth ě in ěver ī in īsle ĭ in ĭt ō in ōver ȳ in nȳt ū in ūnite ŭ in cŭt		



Competency Verification: Check your answers in Appendix B, Answer Key, pages 360–361. If you are not satisfied with your level of comprehension, review the terms in the table and retake the review.

Review Activity 1-9**Common Prefixes**

Common prefixes, their meanings, and an example of a related term are listed in the following table. First, study the prefix and its meaning and practice pronouncing the term aloud. Then use the information in the following table to complete the meaning of the terms. You may also refer to *Appendix A: Glossary of Medical Word Elements* to complete this exercise. To understand the meaning of medical terms, it is important to engage actively in activities of this type. Complete all of the exercises, and you will master medical terminology. The first one is completed for you.

Prefix	Term	Meaning
a-*, an-† without, not	a/mast/ia ă-MĀS-tē-ă <i>mast</i> : breast <i>-ia</i> : condition	Without a breast
	an/esthesia ăn-ēs-THĒ-zē-ă <i>-esthesia</i> : feeling	
circum-, peri- around	circum/duction sēr-kūm-DŪK-shŭn <i>-duction</i> : act of leading, bringing, conducting	
	peri/odont/al pēr-ē-ō-DŌN-tāl <i>odont</i> : teeth <i>-al</i> : pertaining to	
dia-, trans- through, across	dia/therm/y DĪ-ă-thēr-mē <i>therm</i> : heat <i>-y</i> : condition, process	
	trans/vagin/al trāns-VĀJ-ĭn-āl <i>vagin</i> : vagina <i>-al</i> : pertaining to	

Prefix	Term	Meaning
dipl-, diplo- double	dipl/opia dīp-LŌ-pē-ă <i>-opia</i> : vision	
	diplo/bacteri/al dīp-lō-băk-TĒR-ē-ăl <i>bacteri</i> : bacteria <i>-al</i> : pertaining to	
dys- bad, painful, difficult	dys/ponia dis-FŌ-nē-ă <i>-ponia</i> : voice	
endo-, intra- in, within	endo/crine ĒN-dō-krīn <i>-crine</i> : secrete	
	intra/muscul/ar īn-tră-MŪS-kū-lăr <i>muscul</i> : muscle <i>-ar</i> : pertaining to	
homo-, homeo- same	homo/graft HŌ-mō-grăft <i>-graft</i> : transplantation	
	homeo/plasia hō-mē-ō-PLĂ-zē-ă <i>-plasia</i> : formation, growth	
hypo- under, below, deficient	hypo/derm/ic hī-pō-DĒR-mīk <i>derm</i> : skin <i>-ic</i> : pertaining to	
macro- large	macro/cyte MĀK-rō-sīt <i>-cyte</i> : cell	
micro- small	micro/scope MĪ-krō-skōp <i>-scope</i> : instrument for examining	
mono-, uni- one	mono/therapy MŌN-ō-thēr-ă-pē <i>-therapy</i> : treatment	

(Continued)

Prefix	Term	Meaning
	uni/nucle/ar ū-nī-NŪ-klē-ār <i>nucle</i> : nucleus <i>-ar</i> : pertaining to	
post- after, behind	post/nat/al pōst-NĀ-tāl <i>nat</i> : birth <i>-al</i> : pertaining to	
pre-, pro- before, in front of	pre/nat/al prē-NĀ-tāl <i>nat</i> : birth <i>-al</i> : pertaining to	
	pro/gnosis prōg-NŌ-sīs <i>-gnosis</i> : knowing	
primi- first	primi/gravida prī-mī-GRĀV-ī-dă <i>-gravida</i> : pregnant woman	
retro- backward, behind	retro/version rēt-rō-VĒR-zhŭn <i>-version</i> : turning	
super- upper, above	super/ior soo-PĒ-rē-or <i>-ior</i> : pertaining to	
Pronunciation Help Long Sound ā in rāte ē in rēbirth ī in īsle ō in ōver ū in ūnite Short Sound ă in ălone ě in ěver ĭ in ĭt ǒ in nǒt ǔ in cŭt		

*The prefix a- is usually used before a consonant. †The prefix an- is usually used before a vowel.



Competency Verification: Check your answers in Appendix B, Answer Key, pages 361–362. If you are not satisfied with your level of comprehension, review the terms in the table and retake the review.



DavisPlus

Visit the *Medical Terminology Express* online resource center at [DavisPlus](#) for an audio exercise of the terms in this table. Other activities are also available to reinforce content.



Medical Language Lab
Turning terminology into language

Visit the Medical Language Lab at [medicallanguagelab.com](#) to enhance your study and reinforce this chapter's word elements with the flash-card activity. We recommend you complete the flash-card activity before continuing with the next section.

Medical Vocabulary Recall

Match the medical term(s) below with the definitions in the numbered list.

appendectomy	gastritis	hyperemesis	neuroma	primigravida
chondromalacia	hepatocoele	mastopexy	pelvimetry	rhinoplasty
dysphonia	hemophobia	myopathy	postnatal	tracheotomy

1. _____ is a surgical repair of the nose (to change shape or size).
2. _____ refers to a woman pregnant for the first time.
3. _____ is the act of measuring the pelvis.
4. _____ refers to a hernia or swelling of the liver.
5. _____ is an excision of the appendix.
6. _____ means excessive or above abnormal vomiting.
7. _____ is a surgical fixation of the breast(s).
8. _____ is an inflammation of the stomach.
9. _____ refers to a disease of muscle(s).
10. _____ pertains to (the period) after birth.
11. _____ means difficulty in speaking.
12. _____ is an incision of the trachea.
13. _____ is a tumor composed of nerve cells.
14. _____ means a softening of cartilage.
15. _____ refers to a fear of blood.



Competency Verification: Check your answers in Appendix B, Answer Key, page 363. If you are not satisfied with your level of comprehension, review the terms in the table and retake the review.

Correct Answers: _____ $\times 6.67 =$ _____ % Score