

Medical Terminology

Root Words

<i>component</i>	<i>meaning</i>	<i>example</i>
ARTHRO	joints	arthritis = inflammation of joints
BLAST	germ, immature cell	blastoma = a cancer made of immature cells
BRACHIO	arms	brachial plexus
BRONCH	lungs, bronchial	bronchitis = swelling of the bronchial tubes
CARCIN	cancer	carcinogenic = cancer causing
CARDIO	heart	cardiotoxicity = toxicity to the heart
CEPHALO	head	cephalic = relating to the head
COLO	intestines	colostomy = incision into intestines
CRANIO	skull	craniotomy = cutting into the skull
CYTO	cell	cytotoxic = toxic to the cell
DERMA	skin	dermatitis = inflammation of the skin
HEMO	blood	hemorrhage, hemoglobin, hemorrhoid
HEPA	liver	hepatitis = liver inflammation
HIST	tissue	histology = study of tissue
HYSTER	uterus	hysterectomy = removal of uterus
LEUK	white	leukemia = white blood cell
MAMMO	breast	mammogram = breast image
MYO	muscle	myopathy = disease of the muscle
NEPHRO	kidney	nephrotoxic = harmful to the kidneys
NEURO	nerves	neuroblast = an immature nerve cell
ONCO	mass / tumor	oncology = the study of cancer
OSTEO	bone / bony tissue	osteosarcoma = bone cancer
PED	child	pediatric oncology = study of childhood cancer
PHLEB	vein	phlebotomy = incision into a vein
RENAL	kidneys	adrenal = next to the kidneys
SARCO	tissue	sarcoma = tumor of bone, muscle, or connective tissue
TOXO	poison	toxicology = study of poisons

Suffixes

<i>component</i>	<i>meaning</i>	<i>example</i>
-EMIA	condition of blood	anemia = without hemoglobin
-ECTOMY	excision / removal	nephrectomy = excision of a kidney
-ITIS	inflammation	hepatitis = inflammation of the liver
-OLOGY	study / science of	cytology = the study of cells
-OMA	tumor	retinoblastoma = tumor of the eye
-OTOMY	incision	craniotomy = incision into skull
-PATHY	disease	neuropathy = disease of the nervous system
-OSIS	disease / condition	necrosis = dying cells

Prefixes

<i>component</i>	<i>meaning</i>	<i>example</i>
AN-, A-	without / lack of	anemia = lack of red blood cells
AB-	away from	abnormal = away from the normal
AD-	near / toward	adrenal gland = gland near to the kidney
BI-	two / both	bilateral = both sides
DYS-	difficult / not	dysfunction = not working properly
ECTO-	outside	ectopic pregnancy = outside the uterine cavity
ENDO-	inside	endoscope = an instrument to look inside the body cavities or organs
EPI-	upon	epidermis = the outer layer of skin
GLUCO-	glucose	glucocorticoid = hormone regulating glucose metabolism
GLYC-	sugar	hyperglycemia = excessive blood sugar levels
HYPER-	excessive / above	hyperglycemia = excessive blood sugar levels
HYPО-	beneath / below	hypodermic = injection below the skin
INTER-	between	intercostal = between the ribs
INTRA-	within / inside	intravenous = into a vein
INFRA-		infraspinatus = within the spines of the scapula
PARA-	beside, about, near	parathyroid = beside the thyroid gland
PERI-	around	pericardium = membrane around the heart
PRE-	before	prenatal = before birth
POST-	after	post surgical stage = stage after surgery
SCLERO-	hardening / stiffening	scleroderma = hardening of the skin
SUB-	under / below	submucosa = tissue below mucus membrane
SUPRA-	above	supraspinatus = muscle above the spine (of scapula)
SYN-	together with	syndrome = group of symptoms occurring together