

WORD ROOT

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
abdomin/o	abdomen	abdominal distention, abdominocentesis
acanth/o	thorny, spiny	acanthosis, acantholysis
acetabul/o	acetabulum (hip socket)	acetabuloplasty, acetabulectomy
acid/o	acid	acidophilic, acidosis
actin/o	ray, radius	Actinomyces, actinic keratosis
acou/o	hearing	acouesthesia, acoustic nerve
acr/o	extremities, height	acrocyanosis, acromegaly
adenoid/o	adenoids	adenoidectomy
aden/o	gland	adenoma, lymphadenitis
adrenal/o	adrenal gland	adrenalectomy, hyperadenocorticism
adren/o	adrenal gland	adrenogenital syndrome, adrenocorticotropin
aer/o	air, gas	aerobe, anaerobic, aeroembolism, aerosol
albumin/o	albumin	hypoalbuminemia, albuminuria
algesi/o	pain	algesiometer, algesiogenic
alveol/o	alveolus	alveolitis, alveolar proteinosis
ambly/o	dull, dim	amblychromasis, amblyopia
amni/o	amnion	diamniotic
amnion/o	amnion	diamnionic
amyl/o	starch	amyloidosis, amylase, amylose
an/o	anus	anorectal, anoperineal
andr/o	male	androgen, androblastoma
angi/o	vessel	angiography, lymphangiitis
anis/o	unequal, dissimilar	anisocoria, anisocytosis
ankyl/o	crooked, stiff, bent	ankylosing spondylitis, Ankylostoma
antr/o	antrum	antrectomy, antral
aort/o	aorta	aortography, aortitis
aponeur/o	aponeurosis	aponeurotomy
appendic/o	appendix	appendicitis
arche/o	first, beginning	archeocyte, archenteron

arteri/o	artery	arteriovenous fistula, arteriosclerosis
arteriol/o	arteriole (small artery)	arteriolosclerosis
arthr/o	joint	arthralgia, arthroscope, arthropathy
articul/o	joint	articulation
atel/o	imperfect, incomplete	atelectasis
ather/o	yellowish, fatty plaque	atherosclerosis, atheroma
atri/o	atrium	atrioseptal defect, atrioventricular node
audi/o	hearing	audiology, audiovisual, auditorium
aur/i,o	ear	auricular cartilage, aura
aut/o	self	autoregulation, autoimmune
axill/o	armpit	axillary lymph node
az/o	urea, nitrogen	azotemia, azide, diazonium

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
bacteri/o	bacteria	bactericidal, bacteriophage
bar/o	pressure	barotrauma, barometer
balan/o	glans penis	balanitis, balanic, balonoplasty
bas/o	base	basophil, basalioma, basolateral
bi/o	life	biopsy, biochemistry, symbiosis
bil/i	bile	biliary tract, hemobilia, bilirubin
blast/o	developing cell	fibroblast, myeloblast, neuroblast
blephar/o	eyelid	blepharoptosis, blepharoblast
brachi/o	arm	brachiocephalic, brachial artery
bronch/i,o	bronchus	bronchiole, bronchospasm, bronchiectasia
bronchiol/o	bronchiole	bronchiolitis
bucc/o	cheek	buccal, buccinator, buccula
burs/o	bursa (cavity)	peribursal, bursitis

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
calc/i	calcium	calcification, calcitonin, calcinosis
cancer/o	cancer	cancerization, cancerogenic, cancerous
carcin/o	cancer	adenocarcinoma, carcinoembryonic antigen
cardi/o	heart	cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, endocardium
carp/o	carpals (wrist bones)	carpectomy, carpal tunnel syndrome
caud/o	tail, toward the lower	caudal, caudate nucleus, caudad

	part of the body	
cec/o	cecum	cecostomy, cecoptosis, cecal
celi/o	abdomen	celiac artery, celiocentasis
cephal/o	head	encephalopathy, microcephaly, cephalic
cerebell/o	cerebellum	supracerebellar, olivopontocerebellar atrophy
cerebr/o	cerebrum, brain	cerebrospinal fluid, cerebroside
cerumin/o	cerumen (earwax)	ceruminosis
cervic/o	cervix	cervicofacial, cervicitis, endocervical
cheil/o	lip	cheiloplasty, cheilitis
chir/o	hand	chirospasm, chiropodalgia
cholangi/o	bile duct	cholangitis, cholangiocellular carcinoma
chol/e	gall, bile	cholesterol, cholestasis, choline
choledoch/o	common bile duct	choledocholith, choledochostomy
chondr/o	cartilage	chondrosarcoma, chondroitin sulfate
chori/o	chorion	choriocarcinoma, human chorionic gonadotropin
chrom/o	color	chromogen, chromosome, chromaffin cell
chromat/o	color	chromatin, chromatography
chron/o	time	synchronous, chronological
clavic/o	clavicle (collar bone)	clavicotomy
clavicul/o	clavicle (collar bone)	claviclectomy
col/o	colon	colostomy, colorectal, colitis
colp/o	vagina	colposcopy, colpospasm, colpitis
coni/o	dust	pneumoconiosis, coniophage
conjunctiv/o	conjunctiva	conjunctivitis
core/o	pupil	corectomy, corectasis
corne/o	cornea	corneal, corneosclera, corneal keratitis
coron/o	heart	coronary artery
cortic/o	cortex (outer layer of body organ)	corticospinal tract, corticosteroid
cor/o	pupil	cortical
cost/o	rib	corometer
crani/o	cranium(skull)	costophrenic angle
cry/o	cold	cranial nerve, craniotomy
crypt/o	hidden	cryosurgery, cryoglobulin
culd/o	cul-de-sac	cryptorchism, cryptococcosis, cryptic
cutane/o	skin	culdocentesis
		cutaneous lymphoma, cutaneomucosal

cyan/o	blue	cyanosis, hemocyanin, cyanocobalamine
cyes/i,o	pregnancy	cyesis, cyesedema
cyst/o	bladder, sac	cystostomy, cholecystitis, cystadenoma
cyt/o	cell	cytology, cytotoxic, thrombocytopenia

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
dacry/o	tear, tear duct	dacryostenosis, dacryon
dactyl/o	fingers or toes	polydactyly, arachnoidactylia
dent/i	tooth	dentist, denture, dentate, dentine
dermat/o	skin	dermatology, dermatitis, dermatomyositis
derm/o	skin	epidermal, dermoid cyst
dextr/o	right	dextrocardia, dextrose
diaphor/o	sweat	diaphoresis, diaphorase
diaphragmat/o	diaphragm	diaphragmatocele
dipl/o	two, double	diplopia, diploid, diplobacterium
dips/o	thirst	dipsomania, dipsia, dipsotherapy
diverticul/o	diverticulum	diverticulitis, diverticulosis
dors/i,o	back (of the body)	dorsolateral, dorsiflexion
duoden/o	duodenum	duodenectomy, duodenitis
dur/o	hard, dura mater	duroarachnoiditis, subdural hematoma
dynam/o	motion	hemodynamics, dynamism

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
ech/o	sound	echography, hypoechoic
ectop/o	located away from usual place	ectopic tissue, ectopism
electr/o	electricity, electrical	electroencephalography, electrophoresis activity
embryo/o	embryo, to be full	embryology, embryonic, polyembryoma
emmetr/o	a normal measure	emmetropia
encephal/o	brain	anencephaly, encephalomalacia
endocrin/o	endocrine	endocrinology, endocrinopathy
enter/o	intestines	Enterococcus, gastroenterology
epididym/o	epididymis	epididymitis, epididymovasectomy
epiglott/o	epiglottis	epiglottitis
episi/o	vulva	episioplasty, episiotomy

epitheli/o	epithelium	epithelioid cell, epithelioma
erythr/o	red	erythrocyte, erythremia, erythropoietin
esophag/o	esophagus	esophagitis, esophagojejunostomy
esthesi/o	sensation, sensitivity, feeling	esthesioneuroblastoma
eti/o	cause (of disease)	etiology, etiotropic

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
faci/o	face	facioplasty, facioplasia, facial palsy
femor/o	emur (upper leg bone)	femoral artery, femorotibial
ferr/i,o	iron	ferric, transferrin, ferrocyanide
fet/i,o	fetus, unborn child	fetoplacental relation, alpha-fetoprotein
fibr/o	fibrous tissue, fibers	fibrosis, fibroblast, fibril
fibul/o	fibula (lower leg bone)	fibulocalcaneal

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
galact/o	milk	galactose, agalactia, galactorrhea
gangli/o	ganglion	ganglioneuroma, paraganglioma
ganglion/o	ganglion	aganglionosis, ganglionic
gastr/o	stomach	gastritis, epigastric, epigastralgia
gen/o	origin, formation	organogenesis, carcinogenesis, gene
ger/o	old age, aged	progeria, geromorphism
geront/o	old age, aged	gerontology, gerontopia
gingiv/o	gum	gingivectomy, gingivitis
gli/o	neuroglia	glioma, oligodendroglia, gliosis
glomerul/o	glomerulus	glomerulonephritis, glomerulosclerosis
gloss/o	tongue	glossitis, macroglossia, glossopharyngeal
glyc/o	sugar	hypoglycemia, glycogen, triglyceride
glycos/o	sugar	glycosuria, glycoside, glycosylation
gluc/o	sweetness, sugar	glucocorticoid, glucose, glucuronic acid
gnath/o	jaw	prognathous, epignathus, Gnathostoma
gnos/o	knowledge	gnosis, gnosis
gon/o	seed, knee	gonad, gonalgia, Gonococcus
gravid/o	pregnancy	gravida, multigravida
gynec/o	woman	gynecology, gynecomastia
gyn/o	woman	gynogamete

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
hem/o	blood	hemorrhage, hemophilia, hemorrhoid
hemat/o	blood	hematology, hematocrit, hematopoiesis
hepat/o	liver	hepatocyte, hepatitis, hepatology
herni/o	hernia	herniotomy, herniation, hernioplasty
heter/o	other	heterogenous, heterozygote, heterotopia
hidr/o	sweat	hidradenoma, hidradenitis
hist/o	tissue	histology, histoplasmosis, histamine
home/o	sameness, unchanging	homeostasis, homeothermia
hom/o	same	homosexual, homologous, homogeneous
humer/o	humerus (upper arm bone)	humeroscapular
hydr/o	water	dehydration, hydrops fetalis, hydrostatic
hymen/o	hymen	hymenal, hymenorrhaphy
hypn/o	sleep	hypnosis, hypnotherapy, hypnotism
hyster/o	uterus	hysterectomy, hysterics

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
ichthy/o	fish	ichthyosis, ichthyoid
ile/o	ileum	ileitis, ileocecal valve
ili/o	ilium	iliopelvic, iliac artery
immun/o	immune	immunostaining, immunization, immunity
irid/o	iris	iridoschisis, iridocyclitis
iri/o	iris	iritis
is/o	equal, same	isotope, isozyme, anisocoria
ischi/o	ischium	ischiatric nerve, ischiopubic
isch/o	deficiency, blockage	ischophonia, ischemia, ischuria

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
jejun/o	jejunum	jejunoileal, jejunitis

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
kal/i	potassium	hyperkalemia, hypokalemia
kary/o	nucleus	megakaryocyte, karyorrhexis, karyotype
kerat/o	cornea	keratoplasty, keratoconjunctivitis
kerat/o	horny tissue, hard	keratosis, keratinization

kin/e	movement	kinetics, kinetoplast, kinetochore
kinesi/o	movement, motion	kinesis, akinesia
kyph/o	hump	kyphosis, kyphorachitis

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
labi/o	lips	labiodental, labiomancy, labiate
labyrinth/o	labyrinth	labyrinthitis, labyrinthine, reflex
lacrim/o	tear duct, tear	nasolacrimal, lacrimation
lact/o	milk	lactogenic, lactose, lactoferrin
lamin/o	lamina (thin, flat plate or layer)	laminectomy, laminin
lapar/o	abdomen	laparotomy, laparoscope
laryng/o	larynx	laryngoscope, laryngectomy
later/o	side	ipsilateral, unilateral
lei/o	smooth	leiomyoma, leiotrichous
leuk/o	white	leukocyte, leukemia, leukoplakia
lingu/o	tongue	lingual, linguistic
lip/o	fat	lipoid, lipoprotein, liposarcoma
lith/o	stone, calculus	lithiasis, phlebolith, ethotomy
lob/o	lobe	lobotomy, lobectomy, lobar, lobule
lumb/o	lumber region, lower back	lumbago, thoracolumbar, lumbosacral
lymph/o	lymph	lymphoma, lymphoblast, lymphangictasia

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
macr/o	abnormal largeness	macroglobulin, macroscopic, macrohematuria
mamm/o	breast	mammography, mammalian, mammary body
mandibul/o	mandible (upper jawbone)	mandibulectomy, mandibulofacial
mast/o	breast	mastectomy, mastitis, mastopathy
mastoid/o	mastoid	mastoidectomy, mastoiditis
maxill/o	maxill (lower jawbone)	maxillectomy, maxillotomy
meat/o	meatus (opening)	meatal, meatoscope
melan/o	black	melanoma, melanin, melanosis
men/o	menstruation	amenorrhea, menopause, menarche
mening/i,o	meninges	meningioma, meningocele

menisc/o	meniscus (crescent)	meniscocyte (=sickle cell)
ment/o	mind	mentality, dementia
ment/o	chin	mentohyoid, mentolabial
metr/i,o	uterus	metrorrhagia, endometriosis, pyometra
micr/o	small	microscope, microdissection
mon/o	one	monoclonal, monocyte, monochrome
morph/o	form, shape	morphology, metamorphosis, monomorphic
muc/o	mucus, mucous membrane	mucosa, mucin, mucopolysaccharide
my/o	muscle	myoma, myalgia, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
myc/o	fungus	mycosis, mycobacterium, mycotic embolism
myel/o	bone marrow	myelofibrosis, myelogenous, myeloma
myel/o	spinal cord	myelitis, myelogram, myeloma
myelon/o	spinal cord	myelonic
myring/o	eardrum	myringotome, myringorupture
myx/o	mucus	myxoma, myxoid matrix, paramyxovirus

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
nan/o	dwarf	nanomelia, nanogram, nanophthalmia
narc/o	stupor	narcosis, narcolepsy, narcotism
nas/o	nose	paranasal, nasopharynx, nasolabial fold
nat/o	birth	neonate, natality, prenatal diagnosis
necr/o	death (cell, body)	necrosis, necrotizing angiitis, necropsy
nephr/o	kidney	nephron, nephropathy, nephrosclerosis
neur/o	nerve	neurosis, neuralgia, neuroblastoma
neutr/o	neither (neutral)	neutron, neutrophilia, neutralize
noct/i	night	nocturnal, nocturia, noctambulation
nyct/o	night	nyctophobia, nyctotyphlosis
nycta/o	night	nyctalgalia, nyctalopia

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
ocul/o	eye	oculomotor nerve, ocular, oculogyration
odont/o	tooth	odontalgia, odontogenic tumor
olig/o	scanty, few	oliguria, oligodendrocyte, oligosaccharide

omphal/o	umbilicus, navel	omphalocele, omphalophlebitis
onc/o	tumor	oncogene, oncologist, oncocyte
onych/o	nail	melanoonychia, onychophagia, pachyonychia
o/o	egg, ovum	oogenesis, oocyte, oocyst
oophor/o	ovary	oophorectomy, oophoritis
ophthalm/o	eye	ophthalmology, ophthalmoscope
opt/o	vision	optometer, optician
orchid/o	testis, testicle	orchidoepididymectomy
orchi/o	testis, testicle	orchiectomy, orchiopexy, orchitis
organ/o	organ	organogenesis, microorganism
or/o	mouth	oropharynx, oral, orolingual
orth/o	straight	orthopnea, orthopedics, orthostatic
oste/o	bone	osteoporosis, endosteum, osteosarcoma
ot/o	ear	otoplasty, otorhinopharyngology
ov/i,o	egg	ovulation, ovotestis, ovoid, oval
ox/i,o	oxygen	oxidant, peroxidation, dioxide

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
pachy/o	thick	pachymeningitis, pachyderma
palat/o	palate	palatine, palatoschisis
pancreat/o	pancreas	pancreatobiliary, pancreatitis
papill/o	nipple	papillary, papilloma, papillotubular
parathyroid/o	parathyroid gland	parathyroidectomy, hypoparathyroidism
par/o	bear, give birth to, labor	parity, viviparity
part/o	bear, give birth to, labor	postpartal
parthen/o	virgin	parthenogenesis, parthenophobia
patell/o	patella (knee cap)	patellectomy
path/o	disease	pathology, pathogenesis, pathogen
pector/o	chest	pectoral muscle, pectoriloguy
ped/o	child, foot	pediatrics, pedal, pedestrian
pelv/i,o	pelvis, pelvic bone	pelvimetry, pelviolithotomy
pept/o	digestion	peptide, peptone, Peptococcus
perine/o	perineum	perineal, perineotomy
peritone/o	peritoneum	peritoneal, retroperitoneum
petr/o	stone	osteopetrosis, petroleum

phac, phak/o	lens of the eye	phacolysis, phacomatosis, phacomalacia
phag/o	eat, swallow	phagocytosis, macrophage, erythrophagia
phalang/o	phalange (finger or toe bone)	phalangeal joint, metaphalanx
pharyng/o	pharynx	pharyngeal, nasopharyngitis
phas/o	speech	aphasia, dysphasia
phe/o	brown	pheochromocytoma, pheomelanin
phleb/o	vein	phlebectasis, phlebitis, phlebolith
phot/o	light	photosensitivity, photon
phren/o	mind	schizophrenia, phrenopathy
physi/o	nature	physiology, physiologist, physical
plasm/o	plasma	neoplasm, cytoplasmic, plasminogen
pleur/o	pleura	pleuritis, pleurisy, pleuralgia
pneumat/o	lung, air	pneumatoxis
pneum/o, pneumon/o	lung, air	pneumonectomy, pneumonitis, pneumothorax
pod/o	foot	podocyte, anthropol
poikil/o	varid, irregular	poikilocytosis, poikiloderma
poli/o	gray matter	poliomyelitis, poliovirus
polyp/o	polyp, small growth	polypectomy, polypoid
porphyr/o	purple	porphyrin, porphyria
poster/o	back (of body)	posterolateral
prim/i	first	primigravida, primordium
proct/o	rectum	proctology, proctitis, proctoscope
prostat/o	prostate gland	prostatic acid phosphatase, prostatitis
prote/o	protein	proteolysis, protease, proteoglycan
pseud/o	false	pseudopolyposis, pseudocyst, Pseudomonas
psych/o	mind	psychotherapy, psychology
pub/o	pubis	pubococcygeal. pubic
puerper/o	childbirth	puerperium, puerperal period
pulmon/o	lung	pulmonary artery, pulmonic
pupill/o	pupil	pupillotonia
py/o	pus	pyogenic, pyoderma, pyosalpinx
pyel/o	renal pelvis	pyelogram, pyelonephritis
pylor/o	pylorus (pyloric sphincter)	pylorospasm, pyloroplasty
pyr/o	fever, heat	pyrogen, pyrophosphate, pyroglobulin

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
quadr/i	four	quadrant, quadriceps muscle

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
rachi/o	vertebra, spinal or vertebral column	rachischisis, rachiocentesis, rachiomyelitis
radic/o	nerve root	radicle, radicotomy
radicul/o	nerve root	radiculitis, myeloradiculopathy
radi/o	radius (lower arm bone)	radiocarpal
rect/o	rectum	rectocele, rectoscopy
ren/o	kidney	adrenal, renin, renovascular hypertension
reticul/o	network	reticular, reticulocyte, reticulosis
retin/o	retina	retinopathy, retinoblastoma
rhabd/o	rod-shaped, striated	rhabdomyosarcoma, Rhabditis
rhin/o	nose	rhinorrhea, rhinitis, rhinoscleroma
rhytid/o	wrinkles	rhytidoplasty

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
salping/o	fallopian (uterine) tube	salpingotomy, salpingitis
sarc/o	flesh, connective tissue	sarcoma, sarcoplasmic reticulum
scapul/o	scapula (shoulder bone)	scapulectomy
scler/o	sclera, hard	arteriosclerosis, episclera, sclerotherapy
scoli/o	crooked, curved	scoliosis, scolimeter
seb/o	sebum (oil)	seborrhea, sebaceous gland
sial/o	saliva	sialolith, sialadenitis, sialic acid
sider/o	iron	siderophages, hemosiderosis, sideroblast
sigmoid/o	sigmoid	sigmoidoscope, sigmoidectomy
sinister/o	left	sinistral, sinister
sin/o sinus/o	sinus	sinoatrial node, sinusoid
somat/o	body	somatostatin, somatic mutation
somn/i,o	sleep	somnolence
son/o	sound	ultrasonic, sonicator
spermat/o	spermatozoan, sperm	spermatogonia, spermatocele
sperm/o	spermatozoan, sperm	spermine
sphygm/o	pulse	sphygmomanometer

spir/o	breathe, breathing	spirometer, spirometry
splen/o	spleen	asplenia, polysplenia, splenomegaly
spondyl/o	vertebra, spinal or vertebral column	spondylolysis, spondylitis
staped/o	stapes (middle ear bone)	stapedial
staphyl/o	grape-like clusters	Staphylococcus
steat/o	fatty	steatorrhea, steatocystoma
stern/o	sternum (breastbone)	sternocleidomastoid muscle
steth/o	chest	stethoscope, stethomyositis
stomat/o	mouth	stomatitis, stomatodysodia
strept/o	twisted chains	Streptobacillus, streptolysin
synovi/o	synovia, synovial membrane	synovitis, synovioma
system/o	system	systematic, systematology

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
tars/o	tarsals (ankle bones)	tarsotomy, metatarsal
tars/o	edge of eyelid, tarsal (instep of foot)	tarsitis, tarsoorbital
tendin/o	tendon	tendinous, tendinitis
tend/o	tendon	tendosynovitis
ten/o	tendon	tenoplasty
terat/o	malformed fetus	teratoma, teratogenesis
test/o	testis, testicle	testicular, testosterone
therm/o	heat	hypothermia, thermometer, thermotherapy
thorac/o	thorax (chest)	thoracic duct, thoracolumbar spine
thromb/o	clot	thrombolysis, thromboembolism, thrombin
thym/o	thymus gland	thymectomy, thymoma, thymosin
thyroid/o	thyroid gland	thyroidectomy, thyroiditis, hyperthyroidism
thyr/o	thyroid gland	thyroglossal duct, thyroglobulin
tibi/o	tibia (lower leg bone)	tibioperoneal
toc/o	labor	eutocia, tocus, tocophenol
tom/o	cut, section	tomography, tomotocia
ton/o	tension, pressure	atonic, tonofilament, hypertonic
tonsill/o	tonsils	tonsillitis, tonsillectomy

top/o	place	ectopia, topography, topology
toxic/o	poison	toxicology, toxicosis, toxicoderma
trachel/o	neck, necklike	trachelectomy, trachelocyllosis
trache/o	trachea	tracheostomy, tracheobronchitis
trich/o	hair	Trichomonas, Trichophyton, trichilemmal
tympan/o	eardrum, middle ear	tympanometry, tympanoplasty

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
uln/o	ulna (lower arm bone)	ulnocarpal, ulnar deviation
ungu/o	nail	ungual, unguligradation
ureter/o	ureter	hydroureter, ureterscope
urethr/o	urethra	urethroscope, urethritis
urin/o	urine, urinary tract	urinometry, urinalysis, uriniferous
ur/o	urine, urinary tract	urology, urobilinogen, uremia
uter/o	uterus	intrauterine, uterovaginal
uvul/o	uvula	uvulitis, uvulectomy

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
vagin/o	vagina	vaginitis, bacterial vaginosis
valvul/o	valve	valvuloplasty
vas/o	vessel, duct	vasodilation, vasotomy, vasa vasorum
ven/o	vein	venous, venoocclusive disease
ventricul/o	ventricle	ventriculitis, intraventricular
verd/o	green	biliverdin, verdohemoglobin
vertebr/o	vertebra, spinal or verebral column	paravertebral, invertebrate
vesic/o	bladder, sac	vesical, vesicoureteral, vesicle
vesicul/o	seminal vesicles	vesiculogram, vesiculitis
vir/o	virus	viremia, virology, viruria, virocyte
viscer/o	internal organs	visceral, visceroLOGY
vulv/o	vulva	vulvar, vulvovaginitis

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WORD ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
xanth/o	yellow	xanthoma, xanthogranuloma, xanthochromia
xer/o	dry	xeroderma, xerosis

P R E F I X

A B C D E H I J
M N P R S T U X

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
a-	without or absence of	ataxia, aplasia, aphasia, atypia
ab-	from, away from	absorption, abduct, abnormal
ad-	to, toward	adhesion, adduct, adrenal
an-	without or absence of	anorexia, anesthesia, anaerobic, anemia
ana-	up, again, backward	anaphylactic shock, analysis, anaplasia
ante-	before	antenatal, antefebriole, anteflexion
anti-	against	antibody, antitrypsin, antithrombin
apo-	upon	apoprotein, apoplexy, aponeurosis

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
bi-	two	bicuspid, bilateral, bicarbonate, biphasic
bin-	two	binaural, binocular
brady-	slow	bradycardia, bradykinin

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
cata-	down	cataplasia, cataract, catabolism
circum-	around	circumocular, circumcision, circumference
con-	together	congenital, concentric, conjugation
contra-	against	contralateral, contraindication

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
de-	from, down from, lack of	deformity, dehydration, deoxyribonucleic acid
di-	two, twice	dimer, diminobenzidine, nitrogen dioxide
diplo-	double	diplopia, diploid
dia-	through	diaphragm, dialysis, diarrhea, diaper
dis-	to, undo, free from	disorientation, disinfection, dissociation

dys- difficult, labored, painful, abnormal dysuria, dysfunction, dystrophy, dysplasia

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
e-	out	eruption, evert, effusion, efferent
ecto-	outside, outer	ectoderm, ectopic, ectocervix
endo-	within	endoplasmic reticulum, endoscopy, endorphin
epi-	on, upon, over	epidermis, epicardium, epiglottis, epistaxis
eso-	inward	esogastritis, esophoria
eu-	normal, good	euthyroid, eutopic, euphoria
ex-	outside, outward	exacerbation, excise, extraction, external
exo-	outside, outward	exotoxin, exostosis, exophthalmus
extra-	outside of, beyond	extracellular, extrauterine, extravasation

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
hemi-	half	hemithyroidectomy, hemisphere, hemiparesis
hyper-	above, excessive	hypertrophy, hypertension, hyperemia
hypo-	below, incomplete, deficient	hypoplasia, hypoventilation, hypophysis

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
in-	in, into, not	incision, indigestion, incontinence
infra-	under, below	infraclavicular, infrascapular
inter-	between	intermittent, intercostal, intercellular
intra-	within	intravenous, intracranial, intracytoplasmic

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
juxta-	near, beside	juxtaposition, juxtaosseous, juxtaglomerular

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
mal-	bad	malnutrition, malformation, malignancy
mega-	large	megacolon, megakaryocyte
megalo-	mally large	cardiomegaly, megaloblast, megalopenia
meso-	middle	mesencephalon, mesocolon, mesentery
meta-	after, beyond, change	metabolism, metastasis, metamorphosis
micro-	small	microsurgery, microcephalic, microscope

multi- many multiple, multicentric, multinucleated

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
neo-	new	neoplastic, neonate, neocortex
nulli-	none	nullipara, nulliparity

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
pachy-	thick	pachyderma, pachygyria
pan-	all, total	panencephalitis, pancytopenia
para-	beside, beyond, around	paraneoplastic, paranasal, paraplegia
per-	though	percutaneous, pertrochanteric, perforation
peri-	surrounding (outer)	pericyte, pericardium, peripheral
pleo-	increase, too much	pleomorphism, pleocytosis
poly-	many, much	polyposis, polyneuropathy, polyclonal
post-	after	postnasal, postpartal, postprandial
pre-	in front of, before	precancerous, prepuce, pretibial
pro-	before	prolapse, progression, promyelocyte

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
re-	back	reflex, remission, reconstruction
retro-	back, behind	retroperitoneum, retrograde, retrogression

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
semi-	half	semilunar, seminormal, semicoma
sub-	under, below	subside, sublingual, subacute
super-	over, above	superacute, supernatant, superficial
supra-	above	supraoptic, suprabasal, supraventricular
sym-	together, joined	symbiosis, sympathetic, symmetry
syn-	together, joined	synapse, syncope, synthesis, synergism

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
tachy-	fast, rapid	tachypnea, tachycardia
tetra-	four	tetraplegia, tetramethyl, tetralogy
trans-	through, across, beyond	transmission, transportation, transhepatic
tri-	three	triad, tricuspid valve, triiodothyronine

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
ultra-	beyond, excess	ultrasonic, ultraviolet, ultrafiltration
uni-	one	unicellular, unilocular, uniform
un-	not	unconsciousness, unsaturated

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P R E F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
xero-	dry	xerosis, xeroderma

S U F F I X

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S U F F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-ac	pertaining to	cardiac, celiac, ileac, ischiac
-agra	excessive pain	clidagra, celiagra, melagra, pellagra
-al	pertaining to	skeletal, bronchial, psychological
-algia	pain	myalgia, gastralgia, gonalgia, arthralgia
-apheresis	removal	plasmapheresis
-ar	pertaining to	muscular, ocular, molar, hilar
-ary	pertaining to	urinary, pulmonary
-ase	enzyme	lipase, elastase, peroxidase, amylase
-asthenia	weakness	myasthenia gravis, thrombasthenia
-atresia	absence of a normal body opening, occlusion, closure	duodenal atresia

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S U F F I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-capnia	pertaining to carbon dioxide	hypercapnia, hypocapnia
-cele	hernia, protrusion	cystocele, meningocele, mucocele
-centesis	surgical puncture to aspirate fluid	celiocentesis, thoracocentesis
-cidal	killing	bactericidal, suicidal
-clasia	break	osteoclasia
-clasis	break	karyoclasia
-cle	little	article, particle

-clysis	irrigating, washing	enteroclysis
-coccus (pl.cocci)	berry shaped (a form of bacterium)	Streptococcus, Enterococcus
-crit	to separate	hematocrit
-cule	little	animalcule
-cyte	cell	thrombocyte, oocyte, keratinocyte

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SUFF I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-desis	surgical fixation, fusion	pleurodesis
-drome	run, running	syndrome, palindrome
-dynia	pain	cephalodynia, coccydynia

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SUFF I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-eal	pertaining to	esophageal, pharyngeal, coccygeal
-ectasis	stretching out, dilatation, expansion	bronchiectasis, lymphangiectasis, telangiectasis
-ectomy	excision or surgical removal	tonsillectomy, splenectomy, gastrectomy
-ectopia	displacement	ectopia
-emesis	vomiting	hematemesis, emesis
-emia	blood condition	hyperemia, hypokelema, leukemia, anemia
-er	one who	killer, helper, inducer
-esis	condition	amniocentesis, diaphoresis

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SUFF I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-form	resembling	cerebriform, fusiform, storiform, plexiform

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SUFF I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-gen	substance or agent that produces or causes	allergen, pathogen, glycogen, pyrogen oxygen, nitrogen, fibrinogen
-genesis	origin, cause	cytogenesis, pathogenesis
-genic	producing, originating, causing	pathogenic, iatrogenic, cardiogenic
-gram	record, X-ray film	sonogram, encephalogram, air bronchogram
-graph	instrument used to record	spiograph, micrograph
-graphy	process of recording, X-ray filming	roentgenography, radiography

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SUFF I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-ia	condition of diseased or abnormal state	insomnia, anemia, pneumonia, hyperplasia
-ial	pertaining to	axial, myocardial, facial
-iasis	condition	amebiasis, elephantiasis, nephrolithiasis
-iatry	physician, treatment	psychiatry
-ic	pertaining to	pelvic, hyperplastic, gastric, toxic
-ician	one who	clinician, technician, orthopedician
-ictal	seizure, attack	postictal, preictal
-ism	state of	hirsutism, anabolism, hyperthyroidism
-itis	inflammation	esophagitis, gastritis, colitis, osteitis

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SUFF I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-lalia	speech, bubble	echolalia
-lepsy	seizure	narcolepsy, epilepsy
-let	little	tumorlet, ringlet, doublet, triplet
-lysis	loosing, dissolution, separating	hemolysis, rhabdomyolysis, analysis

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SUFF I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-malacia	softening	osteomalacia, encephalomalacia
-mania	madness, insane desire	maniac, onomatomania
-megaly	enlargement	hepatomegaly, cardiomegaly, splenomegaly
-meter	instrumental used to measure	ergometer, thermometer, parameter
-metry	measurement	spirometry, morphometry
-morphic	form, shape	monomorphic, pleomorphic, polymorphic

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SUFF I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-odia	smell	polypodia, sympodia
-odynia	pain	cardiodynia, gastrodynia
-oid	resembling	muroid, osteoid, amyloid, adenoid, lipoid
-ole	little	arteriole
-ologist	one who studies and practices (specialist)	physiologist, pathologist, cytologist
-ology	study of	physiology, radiology, pathology
-oma	tumor, swelling	osteoma, teratoma, hepatoma, carcinoma
-opia	vision (condition)	diplopia, gerontopia, nyctalopia

-opsy	to view	biopsy, necropsy, autopsy
-orrhagia	rapid flow of blood	metrorrhagia
-orrhaphy	suturing, repairing	cystorrhaphy, hymenorrhaphy
-orrhea	flow, excessive discharge	amenorrhea, galactorrhea
-orrhexis	rupture	karyorrhexis, enterorrhexis
-osis	abnormal condition (means increased when used with blood cell word roots)	neurosis, diverticulosis, alkalosis leucocytosis, erythrocytosis
-ostomy	creation of an artificial opening	cholecystostomy, colostomy, tracheostomy, gastrostomy
-ous	pertaining to	venous, mucous, cutaneous, ferrous
-oxia	pertaining to oxygen	hypoxia, anoxia, asphyxia

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SUFFIX	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-paresis	slight paralysis	hemiparesis
-pathy	disease	encephalopathy, neuropathy, mastopathy
-penia	abnormal reduction in number	leukopenia, thromocytopenia, lymphopenia
-pepsia	digestion	dyspepsia, apepsia
-pexy	surgical fixation, suspension	uteropexy, nephropexy
-phagia	eating, swallowing	omniphagia, erythrophagia
-phasia	speech	aphasia
-phil	cells with staining reactions	neutrophil, basophil, acidophil, oxyphil, chlorophil
-philia	love	eosinophilia, hemophilia
-philic	attracting, absorbing	hydrophilic, neutrophilic, basophilic
-phobia	abnormal fear of or aversion to specific, objects or things	chromophobia, phobophobia, hydrophobia, laliophobia
-phonia	pertaining to sound, or voice	dysphonia, aphonia
-phoria	feeling	euphoria
-physis	growth	hypophysis, epiphysis, metaphysis
-plasia	formation, development, a growth	hyperplasia, hypoplasia, dysplasia, aplasia, desmoplasia
-plasm	growth, substance, formation	cytoplasm, neoplasm, ergastoplasm
-plasty	plastic or surgical repair	septoplasty, tympanoplasty
-plegia	paralysis	paraplegia, tetraplegia
-pnea	breathing	dyspnea, orthopnea, tachypnea

-poiesis	formation	erythropoiesis, hematopoiesis
-porosis	passage	osteoporosis
-prandial	meal	postprandial, preprandial
-praxia	in front of, before	apraxia, dyspraxia
-ptosis	dropping, sagging, prolapse	nephroptosis, ptosis, gastroptosis
-ptysis	spitting	hemoptysis

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SUFFIX	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-rhage	bursting	hemorrhage, lymphorrhage
-rhea	flow, discharge	diarrhea, lymphorrhea, amenorrhea

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SUFFIX	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-salpinx	fallopian tube	hydrosalpinx, pyosalpinx
-sarcoma	malignant tumor	osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma
-schisis	split, fissure	retinoschisis
-sclerosis	hardening	glomerulosclerosis, atherosclerosis
-scope	instrument used for visual examination	cystoscope, stethoscope, endoscope uteroscope, telescope
-scopy	visual examination	laparoscopy, bronchoscopy, proctoscopy
-sepsis	infection	asepsis
-spasm	sudden involuntary muscle contraction	angiospasm, bronchospasm, colpospasm
-stalsis	contraction	peristalsis
-stasis	control, stop	menostasis, cholestasis, hemostasis
-stenosis	constriction, narrowing	tracheostenosis
-stomy	surgical creation of an opening	colostomy, cutaneostomy, tracheostomy

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SUFFIX	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-thorax	chest	pneumothorax, hydrothorax
-tocia	birth, labor	tomotocia
-tome	instrument used to cut	dermatome, microtome
-tomy	incision, cutting	laparotomy, anatomy, thoracotomy
-tripsy	surgical crushing	lithotripsy
-trophy	nourishment, development	atrophy, dystrophy, hypertrophy
-tropic	acting on	gonadotropic, corticotropic

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SUFF I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-ule	little	venule, tubule, granule, lobule
-uria	urine, urination	pollakiuria, oliguria, anuria

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SUFF I X	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
-y	condition of	atony, telepathy