

## **Appendix A – Medical Word Roots, Prefixes, Suffixes and Combining Forms**

### **Medical Word Element**

<b><u>Medical Word Element</u></b>	<b><u>Meaning</u></b>
a-, an-	without, not
ab-	away from
-ac	pertaining to
acr/o	extremities
acou-, acous/o	hearing
aden/o	gland
adip/o	fat
adren/o, adrenal/o	adrenal glands
aer/o	air
-al	pertaining to
alb, alb/o	white
algia, algesia	pain
an/o	anus
angi/o	vessel (blood, lymph)
ante-	before
anter/o	front, anterior
anti-	against
aort/o	aorta
append/o, appendic/o	appendix
aque/o	water
-ar	pertaining to
arteri/o	artery
arthr/o	joint
ather/o	fatty plaque
-ary	pertaining to
atri/o	atrium
audi/o	hearing
au/o, aur/I	ear
auto-	self
bi-	2, double
blephar/o	eyelid
brady-	slow
bronchi/o, bronch/o	bronchus
calcane/o	calcaneum (heel bone)
calc/o	calcium
carcin/o	cancer
cardi/o	heart
carp/o	carpus (wrist bones)
-cele	hernia, swelling
-centesis	surgical puncture
cephal/o	head
cerebr/o	cerebrum

cerebell/o	cerebellum
cervic/o	neck
chlor/o	green
chol/e	bile, gall
cholecyst/o	gallbladder
choledoch/o	bile duct
chondr/o	cartilage
choroid/o	choroids
col/o, colon/o	colon
coren/o	cornea
cost/o	ribs
crani/o	cranium
-crine, crin/o	secretion
cry/o	cold
-cusis, -cusia	hearing
cutane/o	skin
cyan/o	blue
cyst/o	bladder
-cyte, cyt/o	cell
dacry/o	tear
dent/o, dent/I	teeth, tooth
-derma, dermat/o	skin
-desis	binding, fixation
dia-	through
dipl/o	double
-dipsia, dips/o	thirst
dist/o	far, farthest
duoden/o	duodenum
-dynia,	pain
dys -	difficult
-ectasis, ectasia	dilation, expansion
-ectomy	excision, removal
-edema	swelling
electr/o	electric
-emesis	vomiting
-emia	blood
en-	in
end/o	within, inner
encephal/o	brain
enter/o	intestine (usually small)
epi-	above, upon
eso-	inner
erg/o	wprk
esophag/o	esophagus
-esthesia	sensation, feeling
eu-	good

exo-	out of, away from
femor/o	femur
fibul/o	fibula
fibr/o	fiber
gastr/o	stomach
-gen, genesis	producing, forming
gingiv/o	gums
-glia	gluelike
glomerul/o	glomerus
gloss/o	tongue
gluc/o, glyc/o	sugar, glucose
-gram	record
-graphy	process of recording
hemangi/o	blood vessel
hemat/o, hem/o	blood
hemi-	half
hepat/o	liver
hidr/o	sweat
hist/o	tissue
homo-	same, like
humer/o	humerus
hydr/o	water
hyper-	excessive
hypo-	under, below
-ia	pertaining
-iasis	abnormal condition (produces by something specified)
-ic	pertaining to
icle-	small
ile.o	ileum
in-,im-	not
infra-	below
inter-	between
intra-	within
irid/o	iris
-ism	condition
-ist	specialist
-itis	inflammation
-ium	converts word root to a noun
jejun/o	jejunum
kerat/o	cornea, hard tissue
kin/e, kinesi/o	movement
labi/o	lip
lapar/o	abdomen, abdominal wall
laryng/o	larynx
lateri-, later/o	lateral, one side

-lepsy	seizure
leuk/o	white
lingu/o	tongue
lip/o	fat
-lith, lith/o	stone, calculus
lob/o	lobe
log/o, -logy	study of
-logist	specialist in the study of
lumb/o	lumbar
lymphangi/o	lymph vessel
lymph/o	lymph
-lysis	separation, destruction, loosening
macro-	large
mal-	bad
-malacia	softening
maxill/o	jaw
megal/o, -megaly	enlargement
melan/o	black
mening/o	meninges
-meter	measure, instrument for measuring
metacarp/o	metacarpus (bones of the hand)
micro-	small
mon/o	single
muc/o	mucus
myc/o	fungus
muscul/o, my/o	muscle
myel/o	spinal cord, bone marrow
myring/o	tympanic membrane
nas/o	nose
nat/o	birth
necr/o	death
neo-	new
nephr/o	kidney
neur/o, neur/i	nerve
noct/o	night
ocul/o	eye
odont/o	teeth
-oid	resembling
-ole	small
olig/o	scanty, little
-oma	tumor
onych/o	nail
ophthalm/o	eye
-opia	vision
or/o	mouth
orth/o	straight

-osis	abnormal condition
oste/o	bone
ot/o	ear
-ous	pertaining to
pancreat/o	pancreas
para-	near, besides, around
patell/o	knee cap
-pathy	disease
pelv/i, pelv/o	pelvis
-penia	decrease, deficiency
-pepsia	digestion
peri-	around
-pexy	fixation
-phagia, phag/o	swallow, eat
phalng/o	phalanges (fingers & toes)
pharyng/o	pharynx
-phasia	speech
phon/o	sound
pheleb/o	vein
-phobia	fear
-plasia, -plasm	formation, growth
-plasty	surgical repair
-plegia	paralysis
pleur/o	pleura
pluri-	several, more
-pnea, pne/o	breathing
pneum/o, pneumon/o	lung, air
poly-	many, much, multiple
polyp/o	polyp
post-	after, behind
poster/o	back, behind
presby/o	old age
pre-	before
proct/o	anus, rectum
proxim/o	near, nearest
-ptosis	prolapse, falling, drooping
pyel/o	renal pelvis
py/o	pus
pyr/o	fire
quadri-	4
radi/o	x-rays, radiation
ren/o	kidney
rhin/o	nose
-rrhage, rrhagia	bursting forth
-rrhaphy	suture
-rrhea	flow discharge

-rrhexis	rupture
sacr/o	sacrum
scler/o	hardening
-scope	instrument to view
-scopy	visual examination
semi-	half
sial/o	saliva, salivary glands
sigmoid/o	sigmoid colon
-spasm	involuntary contraction, twitching
spin/o	spine
spondyl/o	vertebrae
-stenosis	stricture, narrowing
stern/o	sternum
stomat/o	mouth
-stomy	forming a new opening or mouth
sub-	under, beneath, less than normal, inferior
supra-	above, in excess, superior
tachy-	fast, rapid
tend/o, teno-, ten-	tendon
-therapy	treatment
therm/o	heat
thorac/o, thora-	chest
thromb/o	blood clot
thym/o	thymus gland
thyr/o, thyroid/o	thyroid gland
tibi/o	tibia
-tome	instrument to cut
-tomy	incision, cut into
tox, toxic/o	poison
trache/o	trachea
tri-	3
trich/o	hair
-tripsy	crushing
tympan/o	tympanic membrane
uni-	1
ureter/o	ureter
urethr/o	urethra
-uria	urine, urination
urin/o	urine, urinary tract
vascul/o, vas/o	blood vessel
ven/o	vein
ventricular/o	ventricle (brain or heart)
vesic/o	bladder
vertebr/o	vertebrae
xanth/o	yellow
xer/o	dry