

Medical Terminology

Definition: Medical terminology is a **language** used to **describe** anatomical structures, procedures, conditions, processes, and treatments.

Greeks are considered the founders of rational medicine, and medical terms are primarily derived from **Greek** and **Latin**.

When Is Medical Terminology Used?

Professionals use medical terminology throughout the **patient care journey**, from the moment a patient enters the **front door** of a hospital or doctor's office to the time of **discharge**, **healthcare providers** depend on key medical terminology to **ensure** that patients receive the proper treatment.

Objectives of studying medical terminology:

1. **Analyze** words by dividing them into parts.
2. **Relate** the terms to the structure and function of the human body.
3. Be **aware** of spelling and pronunciation problems.

Key benefits:

1. **Improve efficiency:** Using standardized abbreviations or acronyms – can help patients receive the care and medications they need faster.
2. **Facilitate communication:** By using the same universal medical terminology to provide progress updates and discuss treatment plan changes, all members of the patient's treatment team can communicate more easily.
3. **Standardize documentation:** By using standardized medical terminology to document patient symptoms and diagnoses, healthcare workers can make a seamless transition from one job to the next.

Composition of a medical term

A medical term mostly consists of the following: (**Prefix, Root, Suffix, combining Vowel**)



1. Prefixes: A prefix modifies the meaning of the word root. It may **indicate** a location, type, quality, body category, or quantity.

The prefix is **optional** and does not appear in all medical terms. It may express size, number, level, or even time or speed (note the table below).

Size	
large	macro-, mega(lo)-
small	micro-
Number	
half	semi-
equal	equi-
many	poly-
Level	
above normal	hyper-
below normal	hypo-
normal/good	eu-
Time or Speed	
before	pro-, pre-, ante-
after	post-

2. Root: A root is the **essential component** of a word. That signifies a disease, procedure, or body part.

Some roots appear at the **beginning** of a word, whereas others appear after a prefix, before a suffix, or between a prefix and a suffix. A medical word may include **multiple roots**.

This frequently occurs when referencing more than one body part or system.

For example, cardio-pulmonary means pertaining to the heart and lungs; gastro-entero-logy means the study of the stomach and intestines.

The table below shows a number of the body parts and their corresponding roots.

brain	enceph
eye	ophthalm, ocul
nose	rhin
heart	cardi
veins	ven, phleb
liver	hepat
stomach	gastr
intestine (usually small)	enter

3. **Suffix:** Medical terms always end with a suffix. The suffix usually **indicates** a specialty, test, procedure, function, condition/disorder, or status. As in the following table:

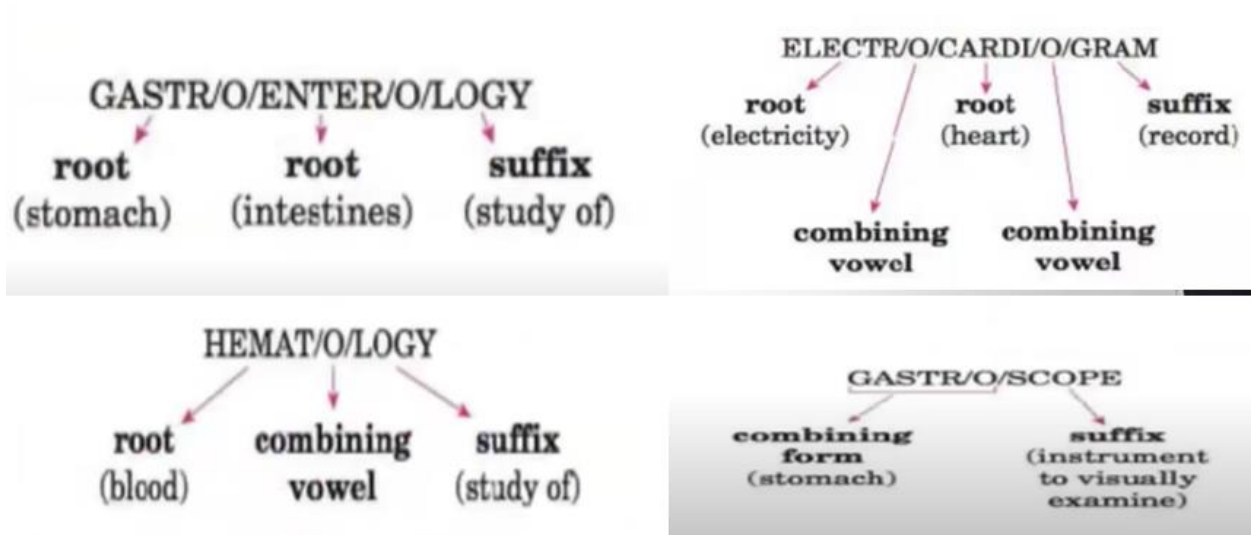
Basic Noun and Adjective Suffixes	
(noun form)	-a, -e, -um, -is
causing	-genic
Tests and Procedures	
removal of	-ectomy
Pathology or Function	
blood (condition of)	-emia
inflammation	-itis
disease	-pathy
excessive flow	-rrhag(e/ia)

Eponym: An eponym is a medical term that's derived from the name of a person, usually the scientist who discovered the corresponding body part or disease. Many procedures and tests are also named after the persons who invented them.

Examples of eponyms for medical conditions include:

- **Addison's disease**, a syndrome resulting from insufficient production of hormones from the cortex of the adrenal gland.
- **Alzheimer's disease**, a type of irreversible dementia.
- **Cushing's syndrome**, a syndrome resulting from the production of excess cortisol from the adrenal cortex.

The following are analyzed medical terms:



Q/ Analyze the following medical terms:

(Gastroenteritis, cardiology, subgastric, carcinoma, arthritis, radiologist, veterinarian).