



كلية المستقبل الجامعة

قسم تقنيات البصريات

Medical Terminology

المصطلحات الطبية

المرحلة الأولى

2021-2022

Lecture two: Major suffixes

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Suffixes Explanation

Understanding the basic meanings of medical suffixes will help you decipher what your medical practitioner or professor is saying.

In general, the prefix or root word will refer to the body part in question, and the suffix refers to a procedure, condition, or disease of that body part.

By putting these terms together, you can better comprehend a condition or treatment.

Examples of Suffixes

Noun Suffixes

•-er

Meaning: someone who performs an action /Examples: helper, teacher

•-or

Meaning: a person who is something /Examples: distributor, translator

•-ity

Meaning: the state or condition of /Examples: probability, abnormality

•-ment

Meaning: the action or result of /Examples: movement, retirement

•-ful

Meaning: full of or notable of /Examples: grateful, beautiful

-less

Meaning: without something /Examples: hopeless, fearless

•-ness

Meaning: a state or quality /Examples: fondness, awareness, kindness, darkness

•-ion

Meaning: the action or process of /Examples: decision, revision

•-sion

Meaning: state or being /Examples: depression, confusion

•-ship

Meaning: position held/ Examples: worship, internship

Verb Suffixes

•-ed

Meaning: past-tense version of a verb /Examples: called, missed

•-en

Meaning: become /Examples: soften, strengthen

•-ing

Meaning: verb form/present participle of an action /Examples: swimming, driving, writing

Adverb Suffixes

• -ly

Meaning: in what manner something is being done /Examples: bravely, simply, honestly, gladly

• -ward

Meaning: in a certain direction /Examples: backward, afterward

• -wise

Meaning: in relation to /Examples: clockwise

Common Medical Suffixes Defined

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-algia	pain	neuralgia
-cardia	Of the heart	tachycardia
-ectomy	Surgery to remove	Vitreectomy
-emia	presence in the blood	Anemia, hypoglycemia
-genic	causing	Pathogenic
-gram	recording	cardiogram, mammogram
-iatrics/-iatry	specialty	pediatrics, psychiatry
-itis	inflammation	arthritis, laryngitis,
-lysis	deterioration or destruction	dialysis, paralysis
-ology	science of	pathology
-oma	swelling, tumor	Blastoma
-osis	condition, disease progress	diagnosis, prognosis
-otomy	surgical incision	Tracheotomy
-oxia	oxygen level	hypoxia
-pathy	disease	neuropathy, sociopathy
-phagia	swallowing	dysphagia
-phasia	speech	aphasia, dysphasia
-philia/-philic	attraction to	hemophilia, hydrophilic
-phobia	fear	arachnophobia, agoraphobia
-plasty	surgical repair	angioplasty, rhinoplasty
-rrhea	flow, discharge	Diarrhea

-scopy	exam with an instrument	colonoscopy, endoscopy
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