

**Language:** Is the ability to acquire and use complex systems of communication, particularly the human has ability to do so, and **a language** is any specific example of such a system.

**Terminology** special words or expressions used in relation to a particular subject or activity

**Medicine:** Is the science and practice of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. The word *medicine* is derived from Latin *medicus*, meaning "a physician". Medicine encompasses a variety of health care practices evolved to maintain and restore health by the prevention and treatment of illness.

**Dentistry:** Is a branch of medicine that is involved in the study, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases, disorders and conditions of the oral cavity, commonly in the dentition but also the oral mucosa, and of adjacent and related structures and tissues, particularly in the maxillofacial (jaw and facial) area.

**A TERM:** A word or phrase used to describe a thing or to express a concept, especially in a particular kind of language or branch of study,

Learning and understanding the roots of most words in the field of Health, Medicine, and Dentistry can help you to understand what is being discussed "ORIGIN OF MEDICAL TERMS". Hippocrates was a Greek physician and is known as the 'father of medicine.\*\* 75% of medical terms are based on terms are based on either Greek or Latin words

**Prefixes** are word beginnings, used to modify or qualify the meaning of word roots. They usually tell the reader what kind of where (or in what direction), or how many.

The term -PNEA relates to breathing, but it says nothing about the quality or kind of breathing. Adding the prefix DYS- qualifies it as difficult breathing.

**ABDOMINAL PAIN** is a rather broad term; it gives the reader no clue as to exactly where the pain is located either inside or outside the

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abdomen.

Adding the prefix **-INTRA** to **ABDOMINAL** pinpoints the location of the pain, for **INTRA-ABDOMINAL**. It means pain within the abdomen.

**Suffixes** are word endings that form nouns, adjectives, or verbs. Medical terms can have more than one suffix, and a suffix can appear in the middle of a compound term affixed to a combining form. A number of suffixes have specialized meanings. **ITIS** means inflammation; thus **ARTHRITIS** means inflammation of a joint

Some suffixes combine with word roots to form adjectives, words that modify nouns by indicating quality or quantity or by distinguishing one thing from another. **GASTRIC, CARDIAC, FIBROUS, ARTHRITIC, and DIAPHORETIC** are all examples of adjectives formed by adding suffixes (underlined) to word roots.

Some suffixes are added to word roots to express reduction in size, **-OLE** and **-ULE**, for example. An **ARTERIOLE** is smaller than an **ARTERY**, and a **VENULE** is smaller than a vein

Finally, some of what are commonly accepted as suffixes are actually the combination of a word root and a suffix. **-MEGALY** (enlargement) results from the combination of the word root **MEGAL** (large)

**Medical/Dental Terminology Word Roots**

<u>Prefixes</u>		<u>Suffixes</u>	
aden	gland	hepat	liver
angio	blood vessel	hemo	blood
arterio	artery	hydro	water
arthro	joint	hystero	uterus
carcin	cancer	leuko	white
cardio	heart	lingua	tongue
cephal	head	mamm, mast	breast
cerebro	brain	myelo	bone marrow
chem	drug	myo	muscle
chole	gall, bile	nephro, ren	kidney
colo	colon	neuro	nerve
costo	ribs	ocul, ophthal	eye
cranio	skull	oophor	ovary
cyan	blue	odont, dent	tooth
cysto	bladder, sac	osteo	bone
cyte	cell	oto	ear
derma	skin	ped, pod	foot
entero	intestine	phleb	vein
epidemi	among the people	pneumo.pulm	lung
erythro	red	psych	mind, soul
g astro	stomach	rhin	nose
gingiva	gum	salpingo	tube
gloss	tongue	thorac	thorax, chest
glyco	sugar	trach	trachea

Prefixes		Suffixes	
a, an	without	a, ac, al	pertaining to
ab	away from	algia	pain
ad	toward	ase	enzyme
ante	before	centre	puncture
anti	against	cide	causing death
aut	self	cente	puncture
bi	both, two	dipsia	thirst
brady	slow	ectomy	surgical removal
circum	round	emesis	vomit
contra	against	emia	blood
di	two	esthesia	sensation
diplo	double	genesis, genic origin, source	
dys	painful, difficult	gram, graph pictures, record	
ecto	outside	ia	a disease
endo, intra	inside	iasis	abnormal condition
epi	upper, above	ism	state of
hemi	half	itis	inflammation
hyper	excessive,, above, more than	lysis	destruction
hypo	deficient, below, less than	malacia	softening
inter	between	megaly	enlarged
later	side	oid	like, similar
lipo	fat	ologist	specialist
mal	bad, difficult	ology	study of
mega/macro	large	oma	tumor
micro	small	orrhagia	hemorrhage
mono, uni	one, single	orrhoea	flow
neo	new	osis	condition of
ortho	straight	ostomy	surgical opening
peri	around,	pathy	disease
poly	many, much	penia	deficiency
post	behind, after	phobia	fear
pre	before, in front of	plasty	surgical repair
pro	forward	plegia	stroke, paralysis
pseudo	false	pnea	breathing
retro	backward, behind	ptosis	drooping down
semi	half	sclerosis	hardening
sub	below	scope	picture, inspection
tachy	fast	stasis	stoppage
tele	distant, far	toxic	poisonous
trans	across	trophy	development, growth
ultra	beyond, excess	uria	Urine

**Homonyms**

Some words are very similar in sound and spelling, but have different meanings. These homonyms may cause confusion and alter the meaning of what is written so care must be taken to check the meaning and the spelling of a word when using these terms. Some common homonyms used in dentistry are:

**die:** tooth or bridge pattern used in prosthodontic dentistry **dye:** coloring material; may be used to indicate plaque **auxiliary:** helping subsidiary, such as a dental assistant **axillary:** underarm site; may be used to obtain body temperature **esthetics:** pertaining to beauty **aesthesia:** loss of pain sensation

**facial:** (a) pertaining to the face; (b) front surface of incisor tooth **fascial:** pertaining to the fibrous membrane on muscles **palpation:** use of hand or finger pressure to locate/examine **palpitation:** condition of racing or increased heartbeat **suture:** area or line where two bones unite, such as coronal suture **suture:** stitch or staple repairing or closing