



Medical Terminology

Lecture three

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Major Prefix

- A prefix usually, but not always, indicates location, time, number, or status.
- A prefix is added to the beginning of a word to influence the meaning of that term.
- Not all medical terms contain prefixes, but if present, the prefix can have an important influence on the meaning of the term.

1. Prefixes – Numbers

| Prefixes | Meaning | Example |
|----------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| mono | one | Monocular نواة واحدة |
| uni | one | Unicellular وحيد الخلية |
| Prim | first | Primitive بدائي |
| semi | Half,partial | Semisolid نصف صلب |
| di | two | Dimorphic ثنائي الشكل |
| tri | 3 | Tricuspid ثلاثي الصمام |
| tetra | 4 | Tetrahydrofolate رباعي الهيدروفولات |
| multi | many | Multicentric عديد المراكز |
| poli | Many,much | Polymorphism عديد الاشكال |

2. Prefixes – Colors

| Prefixes | Meaning | Example |
|----------|---------|--------------|
| cyan | blue | cyanosis |
| eryth | red | erythrocytes |
| leuk | white | leukocytes |
| melan | black | melanoma |
| xanth | yellow | xanthoderma |

3. Prefixes – Negative

| Prefixes | Meaning | Example |
|----------|---------|----------------------------------|
| anti | against | Antidote ترياق |
| contra | against | contraception مانع الحمل |
| dis | remove | Dissect يحلل |
| in | note | insignificant عديم الاهمية |
| im | note | immobilization تجميد (غير متحرك) |

4. Prefixes – Degree

| Prefixes | Meaning | Example |
|----------|---------|----------------------------------|
| hyper | over | Hypertention زيادة في ضغط الدم |
| hypo | under | hypoxia نقص الاوكسجين |
| oligo | few | Oligomenorrhea ندرة الطمث |
| pan | all | Pancytopenia قلة الكريات الشاملة |
| super | above | Supernumerary الزيادة عن الحد |

5. Prefixes – Size and comparison

| Prefixes | Meaning | Example |
|----------|---------|----------------------------|
| equi | equal | Equilateral متساوي الاضلاع |
| hetero | unequal | heterogeneous لا متجانس |
| homo | same | Homogeneous متجانس |
| re | again | Pseudoplegia شلل كاذب |
| pseudo | false | regurgitation ارتجاع |

6. Prefixes – Time and Position

| Prefixes | Meaning | Example |
|-----------|----------|------------------------------------|
| ante | before | Antenatal قبل الولادة |
| pre | before | Predisposing استعداد |
| post | after | postmenopausal بعد سن اليأس |
| Ex , ecto | outside | Ectopic pregnancy الحمل خارج الرحم |
| syn | together | synapse تشابك عصبي |

7. Prefixes – Directions

| Prefixes | Meaning | Example |
|----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| circum | around | circumoral حول الفم |
| intra | within | within المثانة داخل |
| epi | On , over | epithelium النسيج الطلائي |
| supra | above | retroperitoneal فوق الكتف |
| inter | between | intercostal بين الاضلاع |

| | | |
|----|-----------|--------------------------|
| ab | Away from | Abduction بعيدة عن الجسم |
| ad | toward | adduction قريبة من الجسم |

8. Prefixes – type

Auto-:self الذات

co-:with, together مع , سوياً

cry-:cold بارد

Crypto-:hidden مخفي

Dys-:difficult ,painful ,abnormal ,bad صعبة ، مؤلمة ، غير طبيعية ، سيئة

glyco- , **gluco-**:sweet ,sugar حلو , سكر

gyn- , **gyneco-**:female أنثى