

Chapter 1

Introduction to Medical Terminology

Word Parts Are the Key!

- **Three basic types of word parts are used to create complex medical terms:**

Word roots contain the basic meaning of the term. They usually, but not always, indicate the involved body part

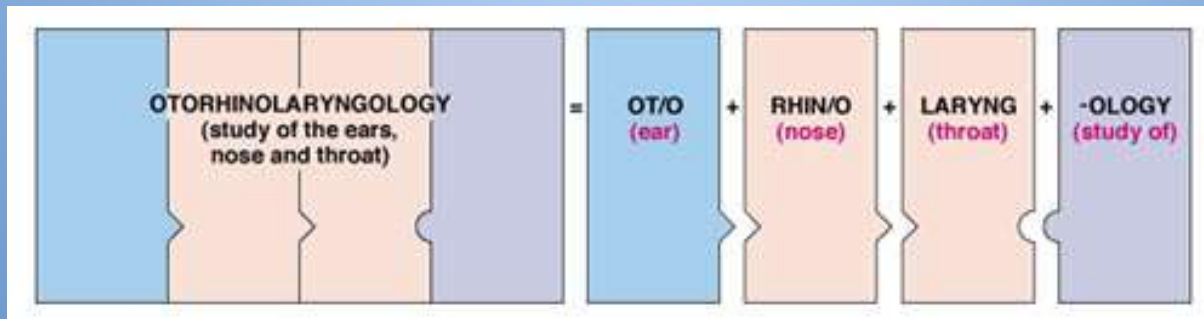
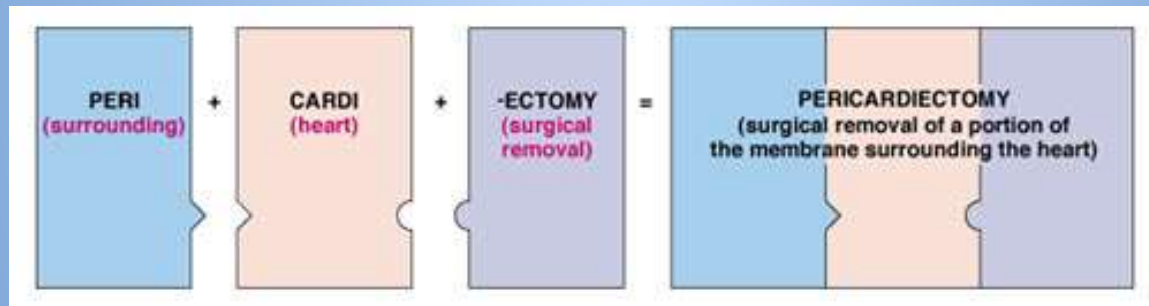
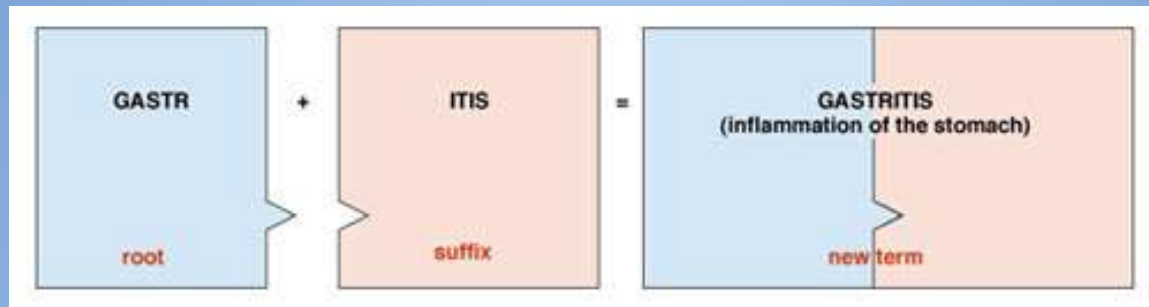
Suffixes usually, but not always, indicate the procedure, condition, disorder or disease. They always comes at the end of a word.

Prefixes usually, but not always, indicate location, time, number or status. They always come at the beginning of the word.

Word Part Guidelines

- A word root cannot stand alone. A suffix must be added to complete the term.
- The rules for the use of combining vowels apply when a suffix is added to a word root
- When a prefix is necessary, it is always placed at the beginning of the word.

Word Parts Are the Key!

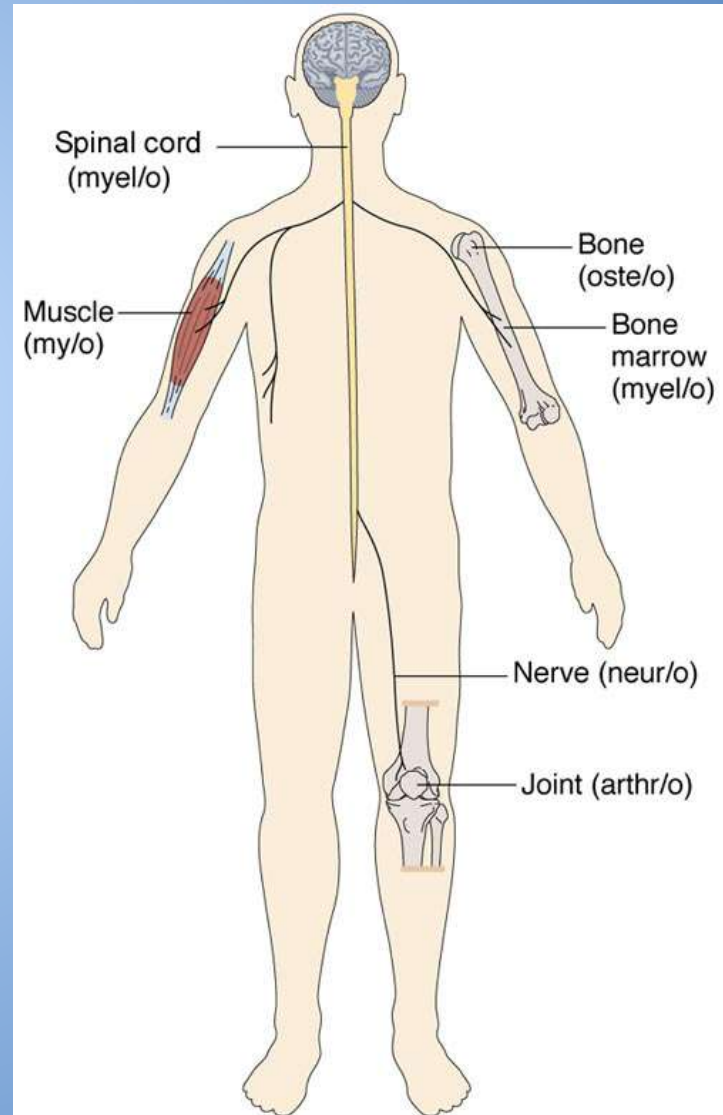


Word Roots

- Examples:

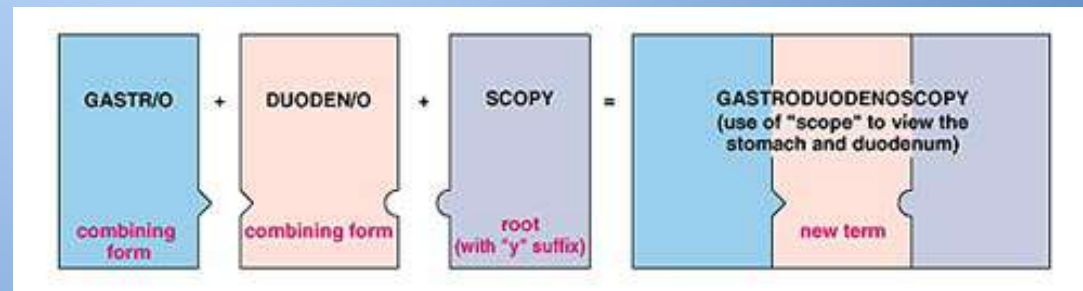
- cardi = heart
- gastr = stomach
- neur = nerve

Note: Word roots do not mean pertaining to or relating to; that meaning comes from the suffix.



Combining Forms

- Created by adding a vowel (usually the letter “o”) to the end of a word root.
- Used when **connecting word roots**
or
When the word root is joined to a
suffix that begins with a consonant.
- Examples:
 - cardi/o = heart
 - gastr/o = stomach
 - neur/o = nerve



Suffixes

- Suffixes usually, but not always, indicate the procedure, condition, disorder, or disease.
- Examples:
 - cardiomegaly
 - gastralgia
 - neuritis

Prefixes

- Prefixes usually, but not always, indicate location, time, number, or status.
- Examples:
 - *per*icardium
 - *epi*gastric
 - *poly*neuritis

Words Indicating Color

Root Word	Definition	Example
Cyan/o	Blue	Cyanosis is a blue discoloration of the skin. (Cyan = blue; -osis = condition)
Erythr/o	Red	Erythrocytes are mature red blood cells (Erythro = red; cytes = cells)
Melan/o	Black	Melanosis is any condition of unusual deposits of black pigment in different parts of body (melan/o=black; -osis=condition)
Leuk/o	White	Leukocyte is a white blood cell (leuko = white; cyte = blood cell)
Poli/o	Grey	Poliomyelitis is a viral infection of the gray matter of the spinal cord (polio=gray; myel = spinal cord; -itis = inflammation)

Determining Meanings on the Basis of Word Parts



- Always start at the end of the word (suffix) and work forward.
- Separate the word parts, identify the meaning of each
- Consider the context (since some words have different meanings)
- **Decipher these medical terms based on their word parts:**
 - Cardiologist: _____
 - Hepatitis: _____
 - Neuralgia: _____

Determining Meanings on the Basis of Word Parts

- **More Practice** — first, highlight the suffix (what does it mean?). Second, circle the root (definition??). If there is a prefix, highlight it in a different color (what does it mean?). Now add them all together and what do you get????
- Pericarditis: _____
- Hepatomegaly: _____
- Gastritis: _____
- Hyperemesis: _____

Basic Medical Terms

- A **sign** is evidence of disease; **objective**: visual findings
- A **symptom** can be observed only by the patient; **subjective**: patient tells you what they are feeling but its can't be seen
- A **syndrome** is a set of signs and symptoms that occur together as part of a specific disease process
- **Diagnosis** is the identification of the disease
- **Prognosis** is a forecast or prediction of the probably course and outcome of a disorder
- An **acute** disease has rapid onset and relatively short duration
- A **chronic** disease has a long duration and are rarely cured
- **Remission** is the disappearance of the symptoms of disease without having achieved a cure. Can be temporary.
- An **eponym** is a disease, structure, operation or procedure named for the person who discovered it

Differential Diagnosis

- A differential diagnosis attempts to determine which one of several diseases may be producing the symptoms

Condition Described

- Some diseases are named for the condition described.
- For example, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) is a persistent overwhelming fatigue that does not resolve with bed rest.

Acronym

- An acronym is a word formed from the initial letter or letters of the major parts of a compound term.

BREAKDOWN

- Medical terms include pertinent word parts, not all the time
- Breakdown can sometimes be misleading
- Knowing the breakdown will help with the learning process
- Breakdown alone will not always give you the entire meaning of the term
- Useful tool for identifying procedure, anatomical site or condition

EXAMPLES

- LEUK/EMIA - literally means blood condition of white; actual meaning is large increase in the number of cancerous abnormal white blood cells
- AUT/O/PSY - literally means process of viewing self; actual meaning is exam of dead body (with one's own eyes) to determine cause of death