

Medical Terminology

Unit 11 Descriptive Prefixes, Asepsis, and Pharmacology

Homo- = Same

- Homo/genized milk: Has the same amount of cream throughout
- Homo/gen/eous: Pertaining to the same throughout
- Homo/gland/ular: Pertaining to the same gland
- Homo/therm/al: Having the same body temperature all the time
- Homo/later/al: Pertaining to the same side
- Homo/sex/ual: Being attracted to the same sex

Hetero- = Different

- Heter/opia: Different vision in each eye
- Hetero/sexual: Being attracted to a different sex
- Hetero/gen/eous: Pertaining to different throughout
- Hetero/gen/esis: Production of offspring that have different characteristics in alternate generations

Syn-, Sym- = Together, Joined

- **Syn-** is used to mean fixed or joined except when it is followed by the sound of “b”, “m”, “f”, “ph” or “p”. Then **Sym-** is used.
 - Example: symbol, symphony, sympathy, symmetry
- Sym/pathy, Sym/pathetic: Suffering along with
 - Path/os = Suffering, Feeling
- Sym/physis: Growing together of parts

Sym- = Together, Joined

- Sym/path/ectomy: Excision of a sympathetic nerve
- Sym/path/oma: Tumor of a sympathetic nerve

Blephar/o = Eyelid

- Sym/blepharon: Eyelids have grown together, or adhesions of the eyelids



Pod/o = Foot

- Sym/podia: Lower extremities are grown together (united)



Super-, Supra- = Above

- **Super-** is used more frequently in modern English
- **Supra-** is used more frequently in straight medical words

Super-, Supra- = Above

- Super/fici/al
- Super/cili/ary
- Super/infect/ion
- Super/ior/ity
- Super/leth/al
- Super/numer/ary
- Supra/lumb/ar
- Supra/pub/ic
- Supra/mamm/ary
- Supra/ren/al
- Supra/inguin/al
- Supra/ren/o/pathy

A-, An- = Without, Lack of

- **A-** is used when followed by a consonant.
- **An-** is used when followed by a vowel
- Examples:
 - Akinesia
 - Aphasia
 - Apnea
 - Asepsis
 - Asymmetry
- Examples:
 - Analgesia
 - Anemia
 - Anisocytosis
 - Anhidrosis
 - Anorexia
 - Anuria

Prefixes

- **Epi-** ➤ Over, upon
- **Extra-** ➤ Outside of, beyond, in addition to
- **Infra-** ➤ Below, under
- **Sub-** ➤ Under, below
- **Meta-** ➤ Beyond, after, occurring later in a series

Epi- = Over, Upon

- Epi/gastr/ic: The region over the stomach
- Epi/splen/itis: Inflammation of the tissue over the spleen
- Epi/cyst/itis: Inflammation of the area over the bladder
- Epi/nephr/itis: Inflammation (of the tissue) upon the kidney
- Epi/nephr/ectomy: Excision of the tissue upon the kidney
- Epi/gastr/o/rrhaphy: Suture of the region over the stomach

Epi- = Over, Upon

Pertaining to:

- the tissue upon the skin (outer most layer) – Epi/derm/al
- the tissue covering the cranium – Epi/crani/al
- The area above the sternum – Epi/stern/al
- The tissue upon the heart – Epi/card/ial

Epididymis

- *Didymos* = testis
- Epi/didymis: Small oblong body resting upon the testicle, containing convoluted tubules. Involved in sperm production and transportation
- Epi/didym/itis: Inflammation of the epididymis
- Epi/didym/ectomy: Excision of the epididymis

Dur = Dura mater

- Epi/dur/al: Upon the dura (a layer of the meninges)
- Sub/dur/al: Below the dura mater

Extra- = Outside, Beyond

- Extra/nuclear: Outside or beyond the nucleus of a cell
- Extra/uterine: Outside or beyond the uterus

Extra- = Outside, Beyond

Outside of the:

- Joint Extra-/articul/ar
- Urinary bladder Extra/cyst/ic
- Dura mater (meninges) Extra/dur/al
- Genitals Extra/genit/al
- Liver Extra/hepat/ic
- Cerebrum Extra/cerebr/al

Mamm/o = Breast

- Mamm/o/gram: X-ray picture of the breast
- Mamm/o/graphy: Process of taking this X-ray of breast





Bi- = Both, Two

- Bi/later/al: Both sides, Both

Vs.

- Uni/later/al: One side

Infra- = Below, Under

- Infra/mammary: Below or under the mammary gland
- Infra/patell/ar: Below or under the patella (kneecap)

Sub- = Under, Below

- Sub/lingual: Below the tongue
- Sub/dural hematoma: A mass of clotted blood under the dura mater
- Sub/abdominal: Under the abdomen
- Sub/aur/al: Below the ear
 - *Auris* = ear
- Sub/cutan/eous: Below the skin

Stern/o = Sternum

- Supra/stern/al: Above the sternum
- Infra/stern/al, Sub/stern/al: Below the sternum

Cost/o = Ribs

- Supra/cost/al: Above the ribs
- Inter/cost/al: Muscles between the ribs
- Infra/cost/al, Sub/cost/al: Under the ribs

Pub/o = Pubis

- **Supra/pub/ic:** Above the pubis
- **Infra/pub/ic, Sub/pub/ic:** Under the pubis

Meta- = Beyond, After

- **Beyond, After, Occurring later in a series**
- **Meta/physics:** Study of things beyond the physical or of the spirit
- **Meta/carpals:** The bones of the hand that are beyond the carpals (wrist)
- **Meta/tarsals:** The bones of the foot that are beyond the tarsals (ankle)
- **Meta/stasis (singular):** Occurs when a disease spreads beyond its point of origin
- **Meta/stases (plural)**

Ultra- = Beyond, In Excess

- **Ultra/violet:** Light waves that are beyond the violet frequency. (UV)
- **Ultra/son/ic:** Sound waves that are beyond the audible frequency
- **Ultra/son/o/graphy, son/o/graphy:** The process of making an image using ultrasound



Sepsis

- **Sepsis (n.):** A poisoned state. Infection caused by absorption of pathogenic bacteria and their products into the bloodstream
- **A/sepsis (n.):** A state without or lack of sepsis
- **Sept/ic (adj.):** Pertaining to sepsis or infected state
- **A/sept/ic (adj.):** Pertaining to condition free from infection

Sept/o, Seps/o = Infection

- **Sept/i/cemia:** An infection (poisoned state) in the bloodstream
- **Sept/o/py/emia:** Infection with pus in the bloodstream

Anti- = Against

- **Anti/pyretic:** An agent that works against a fever
- **Anti/toxin:** An agent that works against a toxin
- **Pyr/o/toxin:** Toxin produced by fever (heat)
- **Toxin =** A poisonous substance produced by an organism

Drugs that work against something

- Ant/acid
- Anti/anemic
- Anti/arrhythmic
- Anti/arthritis
- Anti/biotic
- Anti/cholinergic
- Anti/coagulant
- Anti/convulsant
- Anti/depressant
- Anti/diarrheal
- Anti/emetic
- Anti/fungal
- Anti/histamine
- Anti/hypertensive
- Anti-/inflammatory
- Anti/manic
- Anti/narcotic
- Anti/neoplastic, anti/tumor
- Anti/pruritic
- Anti/psychotic
- Anti/pyretic
- Anti/spasmodic
- Anti/toxin
- Anti/tussive

Anti- = Against

An agent that works against:

- Narcotics
- Living bacterial infections
- Rheumatic disease
- Spastic muscle
- Toxins
- Convulsive states
- Arthritic diseases
- Toxic state
- Sepsis
- Anti/narcotic
- Anti/biotic
- Anti/rheumatic
- Anti/spasmodic
- Anti/toxin
- Anti/convulsive
- Anti/arthritis
- Anti/toxic
- Anti/septic

Agents that fight pathogenic organisms

- Antiseptics
 - Agents that prevent sepsis by inhibiting growth of causative organisms.
 - May be inorganic or organic.
- Antibiotics
 - Mostly prescription drugs that inhibit growth or destroy microorganisms, especially bacteria.
 - Can be bacteriocidal (kill bacteria) or bacteriostatic (inhibit growth)
- Disinfectants
 - Chemical or physical agents that prevent infection by killing microorganisms.
 - Used to clean equipment or surfaces
- Sterilization
 - A process that kills organisms of all sorts.
 - i.e. autoclave, chemical sterilization

Contra- = Against

- Usually used with modern English words
- Contra/ry: Against each other
- Contra/indication (n.): Against indication
 - Contra/indicate (present tense verb)
 - Contra/indicated (past tense verb)
- Contra/ceptive: Against conception
- Contra/lateral: Opposite (against) side

Trans- = Across, Over

- Trans/port: To carry across or over
- Trans/position: Position across or over. Placement of an organ on the opposite side.
 - Cardiac transposition: the heart is on the right side of the body
 - Gastric transposition: the stomach is on the right side of the body
- Trans/fusion: Blood is passed across from one person to another
- Trans/luminal: Across the lumen

Trans- = Across, Over

- Trans/sexual ✓ A person who has changed sexes
- Trans/illumination ✓ Use of light across a tube to view organs
- Trans/vagin/al ✓ Across the vagina
- Trans/thorac/ic ✓ Across the thorax
- Trans/urethr/al ✓ Across the urethra
- Trans/fusion ✓ Transferring blood from one person to another

Trans- = Across, Over

- TURP = Transurethral resection of the prostate
 - When a prostate enlarges, one may have symptoms of weak urinary flow, urinary frequency, nocturia, and incomplete voidance. When a man has a benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH), prostatic tissue is resected by inserting a resectoscope in male urethra.

Catheter

- A catheter is a flexible tube.
- Trans/catheter: Through a catheter
- Catheterization: using a tube (catheter) inserted into the bladder or vessels to obtain specimens, to look, or to keep the vessel open

Abbreviation

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A, B, O, AB | • Blood types |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AAMA | • American Association of Medical Assistants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARDMS | • American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c̄ | • With |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cath | • Catheter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cm | • Centimeter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CMA | • Certified Medical Assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C&S | • Culture and sensitivity (antibiotic) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ftm | • Female to male |

Abbreviation

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inf | • Infusion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Met., mets., metas. | • Metastasis, metastases |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mtf | • Male to female |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RDMS | • Registered diagnostic medical sonographer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> S̄ | • Without |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subcu, subq, sc | • subcutaneously |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trans | • Transverse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TURP | • Transurethral resection of the prostate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> US | • Ultrasound |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UV | • Ultraviolet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> XM | • Cross match (as in blood type and cross match) |

Layman's Medical Terminology

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|--------------|-------------------------------|
| • Nitrate | • Cheaper than the day rate |
| • Dilate | • To live long |
| • Barium | • When treatment fails |
| • Rectum | • Dang you nearly killed him! |
| • Labor Pain | • Getting hurt at work |
| • Bacteria | • Back door of a cafeteria |
| • Tumor | • More than one |
| • Urine | • Opposite of "You're out" |