Medical Terminology

Unit 11
Descriptive Prefixes, Asepsis, and Pharmacology

Homo- = Same

- Homo/gen/ized 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/ther/mal: Having the same body temperature all the time
- Homo/lat/er/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/numet/ary
- Supra/lumb/ar
- Supra/pub/ic
- Supra/mammary
- Supra/ren/al
- Supra/inguin/al
- Supra/ren/o/pathy

A-, An- = Without, Lack of

- A- is used when followed by a consonant.
  - Examples:
    - Akinesia
    - Aphasia
    - Apnea
    - Asepsis
    - Asymmetry
- An- is used when followed by a vowel
  - 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/rraphy: Suture of the region over the stomach
### Epi- = Over, Upon

Pertaining to:
- the tissue upon the skin (outer most layer)
- the tissue covering the cranium
- The area above the sternum
- The tissue upon the heart

- Epi/derm/al
- Epi/cran/i/al
- Epi/stern/al
- 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

### 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/late/ral: Both sides, Both
  
  Vs.
  
- Uni/late/ral: 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 hematom: 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anti/acid</th>
<th>Anti/histamine</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti/anemic</td>
<td>Anti/hypertensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti/arrhythmic</td>
<td>Anti/inflammatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti/arthritic</td>
<td>Anti/manic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti/biotic</td>
<td>Anti/narcotic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti/cholinergic</td>
<td>Anti/neoplastic, anti/tumor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti/coagulant</td>
<td>Anti/pruritic</td>
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<td>Anti/convulsant</td>
<td>Anti/psychotic</td>
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<td>Anti/depressant</td>
<td>Anti/spasmodic</td>
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<td>Anti/diarrheal</td>
<td>Anti/toxin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti/emetic</td>
<td>Anti/toxic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti/fungal</td>
<td>Anti/septic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Anti- = Against

- **An agent that works against:**
  - Narcotics
  - Living bacterial infections
  - Rheumatic disease
  - Spastic muscle
  - Toxins
  - Convulsive states
  - Arthritic diseases
  - Toxic state
  - Sepsis

### 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

- **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

- **Transsexual**
- **Trans/illumin/ation**
- **Trans/vagin/al**
- **Trans/thorac/ic**
- **Trans/urethr/al**
- **Trans/fusion**

- A person who has changed sexes
- Use of light across a tube to view organs
- Across the vagina
- Across the thorax
- Across the urethra
- 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**

- A, B, O, AB
- AAMA
- ARDMS
- c
- Cath
- Cm
- CMA
- C&S
- ftm
- Inf
- Met., mets., metas.
- mtf
- RDMS
- S
- Subcu, subq, sc
- Trans
- TURP
- US
- UV
- XM
- Infusion
- Metastasis, metastases
- Male to female
- Registered diagnostic medical sonographer
- Without
- subcutaneously
- Transverse
- Transurethral resection of the prostate
- Ultrasound
- Ultraviolet
- Cross match (as in blood type and cross match)

**Layman’s Medical Terminology**

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