Medical Terminology

Unit 5
Pathology,
Otorhinolaryngology,
and Prefixes dys-, brady-, tachy-, poly-, syn-

Cocc/i

- Cocc/i (plural): spherically shaped family of bacteria. Coccus (singular)
- Coccus = Grain or seeds
- Bacteria types:
  - Pneum/o/cocc/us Pneum/o/cocc/i
  - Mening/o/cocc/us Mening/o/cocc/i
  - Dipl/o/cocc/us Dipl/o/cocc/i
  - Gon/o/cocc/us Gon/o/cocc/i
  - Strept/o/cocc/us Strept/o/cocc/i
  - Staphyl/o/cocc/us Staphyl/o/cocc/i

Strep & Staph

- Strept/o = twisted chains or strips
  - Streptococcus pyogenes (B-hemolytic Group A Streptococcus) -> strep throat
  - Streptococcus pneumoniae -> pneumococcus pneumonia
- Staphyl/o = grow in clusters like grapes
  - Staphyle = bunch of grapes
  - Staphylococci -> skin infection, food poisoning

Bacillus

- Bacillus (Bacilli = plural): Rod shaped bacterium (bacteria = plural)
- Dipl/o/bacill/us: rod-shaped double bacillus
- Strept/o/bacillus: rod-shaped bacillus growing in twisted chains

Uvula

- Tissue hanging at the back of the mouth
- Also uses “Staphyl/o” combining form since it hangs like a bunch of grapes
- Staphyl/o/plasty: surgical repair of the uvula
- Staphyl/itis (uvul/itis): inflammation of uvula
- Staphyl/ectomy (uvul/ectomy): excision of the uvula

Py/o = pus

- Py/o/cele: hernia containing pus
- Py/o/gen/ic: something that produce pus
  - -genic = producing or forming
    - Oncogenic: promoting tumor production
    - Pathogenic: producing disease
- Py/o/thorax: accumulation of pus in the thoracic cavity
- Purulent: pus forming or pyogenic
-rrhea = flow or discharge

- Py/o/rrhea: flow or discharge of pus
  - Pyorrhea alveolaris: a disease of the teeth & gums
  - Pyorrhea salivaris: flow of pus from a salivary gland
- Dia/rrhea: to flow through. (the passage of fluid or unformed stools)
- Ot/o/rrhea: discharge from the ear(s)
- Rhin/o/rrhea: discharge from the nose

Ot/o = Ear

- Ot = ear
- Ot/o/scope: instrument used to examine the ear
- Ot/o/scopy: process of examining the ear with an otoscope
- Ot/ic: pertaining to ear

Ot/o = Ear

- Ot/itis: inflammation of the ear
  - Otitis media: middle ear infection
  - Otitis externa: outer ear (ear canal) infection
- Ear pain
  - Ot/o/dynia
  - Ot/o/algia
- as (auris sinistra): left ear
- ad (auris dextra): right ear

Tympan/o = Eardrum

- Tympanum = eardrum
- Membrana tympani dextra (MTD): Right eardrum
- Membrana tympani sinistra (MTS): Left eardrum
- Tympan/ic: pertaining to the eardrum
- Tympan/o/tomy: incision into the eardrum
  - Also called Myring/o/tomy
- Tympan/ectomy: excision of the eardrum
- Tympan/o/metry: process of measuring the function of the eardrum
- Tympan/ites: distended with gas- as tight as a drum

Tympanic Membrane

Normal | Otitis Media | Perforated
**Audi/o = hearing**

- **Audi/o/logy**: study of hearing
- **Audi/o/meter**: an instrument used to measure hearing
- **Audi/o/metry**: the process of measuring hearing
- **Audi/o/gram**: record made by the instrument used to test hearing
- **Audi/o/log/ist**: a hearing specialist

**Phon/o**
- Voice or vocal sounds
- **Audi/o**
- Hearing
- **Phas/o**
- Speech
- **Phag/o**
- Eating

**Rhin/o = Nose**

- **Rhin/o/rhea**: discharge from the nose
- **Rhin/itis**: inflammation of the nose
- **Rhin/o/plasty**: surgical repair of the nose
- **Rhin/o/tomy**: incision of the nose
- **Rhin/o/lith**: calculus or stone in the nose

**Lith/o = Calculus, Stone**

- **Lith/o/genesis**: (noun) producing stones
- **Lith/o/gen/ic**: (adjective) producing stones
- **Lith/o/tomy**: incision for the removal of a stone
- **Lith/o/meter**: instrument for measuring size of calculi
- **Lith/o/logy**: science of dealing with or studying calculi or stones

**Chol/e = Gall bladder, bile**

- **Chol/e/lith**: gallstone
- **Chol/e/lith/iasis**: presence of gallstones in the gallbladder
  - -**iasis** = pathologic condition
  - -**Lith/iasis** = presence of stones
  - Trichomonas → trichomoniiasis
  - Yeast (monilia) → moniliasis
  - Filarial worm, causing lymph node inflammation → elephantiasis
  - Giardia lamblia → giardiasis

- **Chol/e/cyst**: Gall bladder
- **Chol/e/cyst/ogram**: an X-ray of the gallbladder
- **Chol/e/cyst/o/graphy**: the process of taking a gallbladder X-ray
- **Chol/e/cyst/itis**: inflammation of the gallbladder
- **Chol/e/cyst/otomy**: incision into the gallbladder
- **Chol/e/cyst/ectomy**: excision of the gallbladder
**Brady- = slow**
- Brady/cardia
- Brady/phag/ia
- Brady/peps/ia
  - Peps/o = digestion
- Slow heart action
- Slowness in eating or swallowing
- Slow digestion

**Tachy- = Fast, Rapid**
- Tachy/cardia
- Tachy/phag/ia
- Tachy/peps/ia
- Rapid heart action
- Fast eating
- Fast respiratory rate
- Tach/o/gram
  - Tachos = swiftness
- Record of the velocity of the blood flow

**Pne/o, -pnea = Breathing, Respiration**
- Pneia = breath
- Tachy/pnea: Rapid breathing
- Brady/pnea: Slow breathing
- A/pnea: Without breathing

**A-, An- = Without**
- A- precedes a consonant
- An- preceded a vowel
- A/gen/esis: without generation/origin (lack of development)
- A/peps/ia: cessation of digestion (without digestion)

**Genesis = Generation, Origin**
- A/gen/esis: failure to develop
- Carcin/o/gen/esis: development of cancer
- Carcin/o/gen/ic: pertaining to the development of cancer

**Dys- = Painful, Faulty**
- Prefix for painful, faulty, diseased, bad, difficult, or abnormal
- Dys/phag/ia: difficult swallowing
- Dys/trophy: poor development
- Dys/pnea: difficult breathing
- Dys/peps/ia: poor digestion
  - Peps/o, pep/tic = digestion
- Dys/men/o/rrhea: painful menstruation
- A/men/o/rrhea: absence of menstruation
  - Men = menstruation, -rrhea = flow
Therm/o = Heat
- Thermos = heat
- Therm/o/meter: an instrument to measure heat
- Therm/al or Therm/ic: pertaining to heat
- Therm/o/esthesi/a (or thermalgesia): oversensitivity to heat
- Therm/o/gensis: formation of heat
- Therm/o/phobia: abnormal fear of heat
- Therm/o/plegia: heatstroke (paralysis)
- Dia/therm/y: heating through tissue (treatment)  Dia- = through

Hyper/therm/ia: High body temperature
Hypo/therm/ia: Low body temperature

Normal Temperatures:
Oral: 98.6 degree Fahrenheit, 37 degree Celsius
Rectal: 99 degree Fahrenheit, 37.7 degree Celsius
Axillary: 97.6 degree Fahrenheit, 36.4 degree Celsius

Low Grade Fever: 99.5 – 101.4 degree Fahrenheit
True Fever: > or = to 101.5 degree Fahrenheit

[ ] degree Fahrenheit = ( ) degree Celsius x 9/5 + 32
( ) degree Celsius = 5/9 x { ( ) degree in Fahrenheit – 32}

Micro = small
- Micro/cyst: a very small cyst
- Micro/cephal/us: abnormally small head
- Micro/cyte (adj.= microcytic): a very small cell
- Micro/cardia: condition of having a small heart
- Micro/gram: 1/1000 of a milligram
- Micro/surgery: Surgery performed on minute structures using a microscope and small instruments

Macro- = Large
- Macro/cyte: a very large cell
- Macro scop/ic: can be seen with the naked eyes
- Macro/cephal/us: an abnormally large head
- Macro/blast: a large embryonic cell
- Macro/cocc/us: a very large coccus

Dactyl/o = fingers
- Dactil/o = fingers
- Abnormally large fingers or toes:
  - Macro/dactyl/ia
  - Dactyl/o/megaly
- Dactyl/itis: inflammation of a digit
- Dactyl/o/spasm: cramp or spasm of a digit
- Dactyl/o/gram: a fingerprint
- Poly/dactyl/ism: too many fingers or toes
Syn- = With, Together

- Syn/dactyl/ism: joining together of 2 or more digits
- Syn/erg/ism: the action where 2 or more drugs or organs working together to produce an increased effect. Syn/erg/ic/istic (adj.)
  - Syn: = join, erg = work, -ism = condition, state
- Syn/erg/etic: describes muscles that work together
- Syn/arthr/osis: immovable joint
- Syn/drome: variety of symptoms occurring together. The complete picture of a disease.

Drom/o = Run

- Drom/o/mania: Insane impulse to wander or roam
- Syn/drome: A variety of symptoms occurring (running along) together
  - Korsakoff’s syndrome
  - Fetal alcohol syndrome
  - Sudden infant death syndrome
  - Reye’s syndrome
- Pro/drome: Running before (a disease). Symptoms that precede a disease.
  - i.e. “aura” of migraine, sneezes of a common cold

Dips = Thirst

- Dipsia = thirst
- Poly/dipsia: Excessive thirst
  - Can be caused by:
    - Eating too much salt
    - Diabetes, high blood sugar, spilling sugar in urine
    - Upset in pituitary gland secretion of hormones
    - Dehydration
    - Psychological, mental illness
- Dips/o/mania: an old term for alcoholism

Abbreviation

- AA ➢ Alcoholics Anonymous
- ACOA ➢ Adult Children of Alcoholics
- ad ➢ Right ear, auris dextra
- AFB ➢ Acid fast bacillus (i.e. TB)
- Al-Anon ➢ AA support group for spouses of alcoholics
- Al-Anon ➢ AA support groups for children of alcoholics
- AS ➢ Left ear, auris sinistra
- AU ➢ Both ears, Auris uterque
- C° ➢ Celsius
- C&S ➢ Culture and Sensitivity
- CO2 ➢ Carbon dioxide
- DM ➢ Diabetes mellitus
- F ➢ Fahrenheit degrees

Abbreviation

- FAS ➢ Fetal alcohol syndrome
- GB ➢ Gallbladder
- GNID ➢ Gram negative intracellular diplococcus
- HBV ➢ Hepatitis B virus
- HIV ➢ Human immunodeficiency virus
- HPV ➢ Human papilloma virus
- HSV ➢ Herpes simplex virus
- LMP ➢ Last menstrual period
- mcg (µg) ➢ Microgram
- mg ➢ Milligram
- MTD ➢ Right ear drum (membrana tympani dextra)
- MTS ➢ Left eardrum (membrana tympani sinistra)
“The ringing in your ears -- I think I can help.”