

101 common medical and physiological root words

root	meaning	examples
<i>a-, an-</i>	without, lacking	aphasia, analgesia
<i>ab-</i>	away from	abnormal, abduction
<i>ad-</i>	in the direction of, toward	adrenal, adduction
<i>aden-</i>	relating to a gland	adenovirus, adenoid
<i>adip(o)-</i>	fat, fatty	adipocyte, adipose tissue
<i>alka-</i>	alkalinity, high pH	alkaline minerals, alka seltzer
<i>allo-</i>	the opposite of, different, other	allopathic, alloimmune
<i>ana-</i>	synthesis, excess, or separation	anaphylaxis, anabolism
<i>ante-</i>	in front, before	anterior, antepartum
<i>anti-</i>	against	antibiotic, antibody
<i>arthr-</i>	relating to the joints	arthritis, arthroscopy
<i>athero-</i>	lipid containing lesion, fatty deposit	atherosclerosis, atherothrombosis
<i>-ase</i>	an enzyme	lipase, lactase
<i>auto-</i>	self	autophagy, autolyze
<i>bio-</i>	life	biology, bioresonance
<i>-blast-</i>	germinate or bud, immature	lymphoblast, blastoma
<i>carcin-</i>	cancer	carcinogen, carcinoma
<i>cardi-</i>	of the heart	cardiac arrest, cardiovascular
<i>cata-</i>	down, under	cataracts, catabolism
<i>chem-</i>	chemical, drug	chemotherapy, chemical imbalance
<i>chron-</i>	time	chronic pain, chronometer
<i>-cide</i>	killing of	pesticide, homicide
<i>cyto-, -cyte</i>	relating to a cell	cytokine, leukocyte
<i>de-</i>	to take away	degenerative, deformed
<i>-demi</i>	of a population of people	endemic, pandemic
<i>-derm-</i>	of the skin	dermatitis, epidermis
<i>dis-</i>	separate, apart	distended, disease, dislocated
<i>dys-</i>	abnormal, ill	dysphoria, dysentery
<i>ecto-</i>	outer or external	ectomorph, ectopic
<i>-ectomy</i>	surgical removal of	vasectomy, hysterectomy
<i>-emia</i>	of the blood	toxemia, anemia
<i>endo-</i>	inside	endogenous, endocrine
<i>epi-</i>	above, upon	epidermis, epigenetics, epinephrine
<i>-esthesi-</i>	sensation, feeling	anesthesia, synesthesia
<i>exo-</i>	outside	exomorph, exogenous
<i>fasci-</i>	tissue band, membrane	fascial release, plantar fasciitis
<i>fibro-</i>	scarring, fibrous	cystic fibrosis, fibroblast
<i>gast-</i>	of the stomach	gastrointestinal, gastric
<i>-gen(esis)</i>	growth or generation, produces	ketogenic, genetic, adaptogen, gender
<i>gluc-, glyc-</i>	sugar	glucose, gluten, glycogen, glycolysis
<i>hem-</i>	iron or blood	hemoglobin, hemorrhoids
<i>hyster-</i>	the womb	hysterectomy, hysterical
<i>homeo-</i>	same, similar	homeopathy, homeostasis
<i>hyper-</i>	high or above	hypertension, hyperventilate
<i>hypo-</i>	low or below	hypoglycemia, hypodermic
<i>-ia</i>	condition	hypothermia, tachycardia
<i>-ic</i>	defining	anemic, medic
<i>in-</i>	poor, not	insomnia, indigestion
<i>-ine</i>	an amino acid	cysteine, lysine, alanine, glycine
	hormone, neurotransmitter	epinephrine, adrenaline

<i>-intra</i>	within	intravenous, intracellular
<i>-itis</i>	swelling, inflammation	arthritis, laryngitis
<i>kine-</i>	movement	kinesthetics, akinetic
<i>lact-</i>	breast milk	lactose, lactase
<i>-lepsy</i>	seizure or sudden attack	epilepsy, narcolepsy
<i>leuk-</i>	white; white blood cells	leukemia, leukocyte
<i>lip-</i>	fat	liposuction, lipid
<i>-lysis</i>	destruction or breaking down	autolysis, paralysis
<i>macro-</i>	large scale	macrobiotic, macronutrients
<i>mal-</i>	bad	malignant, malaria
<i>melan-</i>	black; melanin in skin	melanoma, melanin
<i>meso-</i>	middle	mesomorph, mesothelioma
<i>meta-</i>	relating to the overall, beyond	metastasize, metabolism
<i>micro-</i>	small scale	microorganism, microscope
<i>myo-</i>	muscle	myocarditis, myalgia
<i>nano-</i>	1 billionth, ultra small	nanotech, nanogram
<i>nephr(o)-</i>	kidneys	nephritis, nephrology
<i>neuro-</i>	of the nerves or brain	neurosurgeon, neurodivergent
<i>-oid</i>	resemblance to	alkaloid, opioid
<i>-ology</i>	the study of	psychology, physiology
<i>-oma</i>	tumor or mass	lymphoma, glaucoma
<i>onco-</i>	cancer, tumor, mass	oncologist, oncogenesis
<i>-opsy</i>	examination or inspection	autopsy, biopsy
<i>ortho-</i>	correct, straight	orthopedic, orthodontist
<i>-ose</i>	a sugar	glucose, fructose
<i>-osis</i>	diseased condition of	ketosis, acidosis
<i>oste(o)-</i>	bone	osteoporosis, osteomyelitis
<i>-(o)tomy</i>	surgical operation on	lobotomy, phlebotomy
<i>pan-</i>	all	pancytopenia, pandemic
<i>-paresis</i>	weakness, slight paralysis	gastroparesis, hemiparesis
<i>-path</i>	one who suffers from a disease	sociopath, psychopath
	one who treats a disease	naturopath, osteopath
<i>-penia</i>	lack, deficiency	leukopenia, glycopenia
<i>peri-</i>	around, surrounding	pericarditis, perineum
<i>-phobi(a)</i>	fear	claustrophobia, germophobic
<i>physi-</i>	of the body	physician, physical
<i>-plasm-</i>	formation, substance	cytoplasm, plasma
<i>pneu-, -pnea</i>	breathing, of the lungs	sleep apnea, pneumonia
<i>post-</i>	of the back, behind, after	posterior, post-operative
<i>psych-</i>	of the mind	psychosis, psychiatrist
<i>-rrhage</i>	to break, burst forth	hemorrhage, menorrhagia
<i>-rrhea</i>	flow, discharge	gonorrhoea, diarrhea
<i>rub-</i>	red	rubella, rubrospinal
<i>-scop</i>	to view	endoscopic, laryngoscope
<i>-scler-</i>	hard, hardening	multiple sclerosis, arteriosclerosis
<i>-stasis</i>	a state of	metastasis, homeostasis
<i>sten(o)-</i>	narrow, short	stent, stenosis
<i>sub-</i>	below, under	subcutaneous, subacute
<i>sym-</i>	together	symbiotic, symptom
<i>tox-</i>	toxic	toxemia, toxicology
<i>vas(o)-</i>	duct, vessel	vasoconstriction, vasectomy
<i>vascul(o)-</i>	blood vessel	cardiovascular, vasculopathy
<i>-zyme</i>	fermentation	enzyme, lysozyme