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Construction of Medical Terms



Medical Word Elements

Medical terms are built by combining and connecting word parts called elements. Word elements include Prefixes, Word Roots, Combining Vowels and Suffixes.

- Word Root (WR): The core of a word. This element provides the term's central meaning. Medical terms may have more than one WR. Examples: pod = foot; hyster = uterus; febr = fever
- Combining Vowel (CV): Word Roots sometimes need a Combining Vowel to join them to other word elements. The vowel "o" is most commonly used. Vowels "a, e, i, u and y" are also used, but less often. Examples: pod / o; hyster / o; febr / I
- Combining Form (CF): A Word Root and its Combining Vowel together are called a Combining Form.
 Examples: podo; hystero; febri
- Prefix (P): Only used at beginning of word. Examples: anti- = against; intra- = within; brady- = slow
- Suffix (S): Only used at end of the term, to complete the word. The suffix indicates whether the word is a noun or an adjective. The following suffix elements make the term a noun: a, e, ia, is, on, um, us, y. These suffix elements make the term an adjective: ac, ic, al, ar, eal, eous, ous. A suffix ending means pertaining to. Examples: hysterectomy, (noun); thoracic (adjective).

Construction of Medical Terms



Rules for Constructing Medical Terms

Element Order: The first part in a medical term's definition is usually the last element in the medical term. The last element of the medical term is usually the first part of the definition. *Example:* psychologist = one who (ist), studys (log), mind (psych)

Combining Elements: In the case of a medical term with multiple Word Roots, when adding another WR, Combining Vowel from the previous WR is usually retained.

Examples: gastr/o/enter/itis; leuk/o/cyt/o/penia

Prefix: A Prefix is usually not modified when added to a WR.

Suffix: A Suffix that begins with a consonant is usually preceded by a Combining Vowel. A Suffix that begins with a vowel is usually added directly to the Word Root. Examples: carcin / o / cyte; crypt / orchid

Analyzing Medical Terms

Slash Marks: Insert between each element of the term.

Identify the Elements: Label each element as a WR, CV, CF, P and S.

Examples: cardi (WR) / o (CV) / log (WR) / ist (S); hypo (P) / gloss (WR) / al (s)

Medical Conditions Medical Terminology Flashcards

Print 4 slides per page and you will be able to cut and fold the printout to easily make flashcards.

Medical Conditions: Card 1 - Front

Noun: algesia

Adj: algesic

Medical Conditions: Card 1 - Back

pain

Medical Conditions: Card 2 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 2 - Back

vision condition

Medical Conditions: Card 3 - Front

Medical Conditions: Card 3 - Back

without

Medical Conditions: Card 4 - Front

- oma Suffix Medical Conditions: Card 4 - Back

tumor, growth

Medical Conditions: Card 5 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 5 - Back

inflammation

Medical Conditions: Card 6 - Front

Adj: cryptic

Medical Conditions: Card 6 - Back

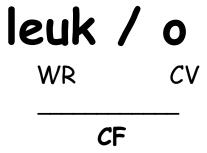
hidden

Medical Conditions: Card 7 - Front

Medical Conditions: Card 7 - Back

red

Medical Conditions: Card 8 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 8 - Back

white

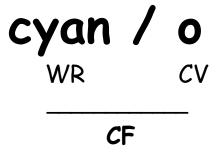
Medical Conditions: Card 9 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 9 - Back

fast, rapid

Medical Conditions: Card 10 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 10 - Back

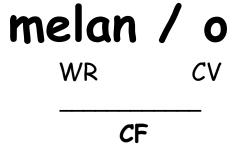
blue

Medical Conditions: Card 11 - Front

Medical Conditions: Card 11 - Back

hard

Medical Conditions: Card 12 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 12 - Back

black

Medical Conditions: Card 13 - Front

hyper hypo Prefix

Medical Conditions: Card 13 - Back

above, more than normal
 below, less than normal

Medical Conditions: Card 14 - Front

1. hom / o
2. heter / o
WR CV
CF

Medical Conditions: Card 14 - Back

same different

Medical Conditions: Card 15 - Front

Medical Conditions: Card 15 - Back

same, equal

Medical Conditions: Card 16 - Front

Noun: sanguine

Adj: sanguinous

Medical Conditions: Card 16 - Back

blood

Medical Conditions: Card 17 - Front

Noun: sepsis

Adj: septic

Medical Conditions: Card 17 - Back

infection, infected

Medical Conditions: Card 18 - Front

Adj: plegic

Medical Conditions: Card 18 - Back

paralysis

Medical Conditions: Card 19 - Front

Adj: febrile

Medical Conditions: Card 19 - Back

fever, elevated temperature

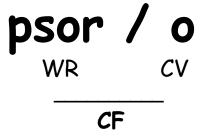
Medical Conditions: Card 20 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 20 - Back

narrowed, constricted

Medical Conditions: Card 21 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 21 - Back

itching

Medical Conditions: Card 22 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 22 - Back

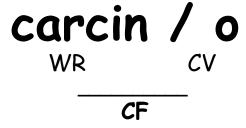
widening

Medical Conditions: Card 23 - Front

- penia Suffix Medical Conditions: Card 23 - Back

deficiency

Medical Conditions: Card 24 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 24 - Back

cancer

Medical Conditions: Card 25 - Front

Adj: plegic

Medical Conditions: Card 25 - Back

enlarged

Medical Conditions: Card 26 - Front

agglutin - Prefix

Medical Conditions: Card 26 - Back

clumping, sticking together

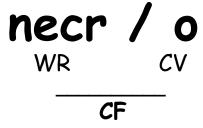
Medical Conditions: Card 27 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 27 - Back

condition of, increase in #

Medical Conditions: Card 28 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 28 - Back

dead tissue

Medical Conditions: Card 29 - Front

Medical Conditions: Card 29 - Back

sleep

Medical Conditions: Card 30 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 30 - Back

pain

Medical Conditions: Card 31 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 31 - Back

resembling

Medical Conditions: Card 32 - Front

Noun: malacia

Medical Conditions: Card 32 - Back

softening of tissue

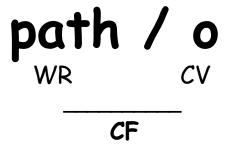
Medical Conditions: Card 33 - Front

- trophy Suffix

Medical Conditions: Card 33 - Back

development

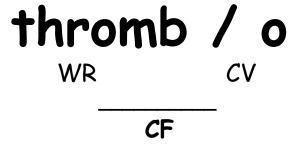
Medical Conditions: Card 34 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 34 - Back

disease

Medical Conditions: Card 35 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 35 - Back

clot

Medical Conditions: Card 36 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 36 - Back

vision

Medical Conditions: Card 37 - Front

- edema Suffix

Medical Conditions: Card 37 - Back

swelling

Anatomy: Card 38 (combo) - Front

- 1. algesia
 - 2. algia
- 3. ectasia
- 4. esthesia
 - 5. phasia

Anatomy: Card 38 (combo) - Back

- sensitivity to pain
 pain
- 3. stretching, dilation
 - 4. feeling, sensation5. speech

Medical Conditions: Card 39 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 39 - Back

discharge, flow

Medical Conditions: Card 40 - Front

- rrhagia Suffix

Medical Conditions: Card 40 - Back

excessive flow, hemorrhage

Medical Conditions: Card 41 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 41 - Back

herniation, hernia

Medical Conditions: Card 42 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 42 - Back

slow

Medical Conditions: Card 43 - Front

- lysis
Suffix

Medical Conditions: Card 43 - Back

breakdown, destruction

Medical Conditions: Card 44 - Front

- ptosis Suffix

Medical Conditions: Card 44 - Back

downward displacement, prolapse

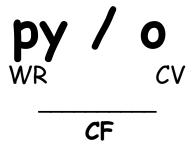
Medical Conditions: Card 45 - Front

- plasia Suffix

Medical Conditions: Card 45 - Back

formation, development

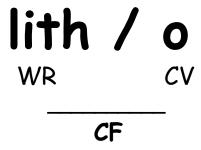
Medical Conditions: Card 46 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 46 - Back

pus

Medical Conditions: Card 47 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 47 - Back

stone

Medical Conditions: Card 48 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 48 - Back

difficult, painful

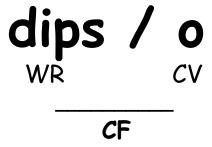
Medical Conditions: Card 49 - Front

- ectasia Suffix

Medical Conditions: Card 49 - Back

stretching, dilation

Medical Conditions: Card 50 - Front



Medical Conditions: Card 50 - Back

thirst