

A- = prefix denoting without

Apnoea = cessation of breathing

Ab = away from (*Latin*)

Abembryonic = away from or opposite the embryo

Ad = towards, beside (*Latin*) .

Adaxial = towards the main axis

-aemia = suffix denoting a specified bio-chemical condition of the blood

Anaemia = reduction in the amount of haemoglobin in the blood

An- = prefix denoting without, lacking

Anaerobe = an organism that is able to live and grow in the absence of free oxygen

Angio- = prefix denoting blood or lymph vessels

Angiogenesis = the formation of new blood vessels

Ante = before (*Latin*)

Antenatal = before birth

(N.B. do not confuse with Anti- = opposite, against)

Anti- = opposite, against

Anticoagulant = a drug that prevents the clotting of blood

(N.B. do not confuse with Ante- = before)

-ase = suffix denoting enzyme that breaks down a substance

Lactase = enzyme that breaks down lactose into glucose and galactose

Aural = relating to the ear (*auricula* = ear, *Latin*)

Auriscope = apparatus used to examine the eardrum and passage leading to it

(N.B. do not confuse with oral = relating to the mouth)

Bi = two

Bilateral = Having or formed of two sides; two-sided.

Broncho- = prefix denoting bronchial tree

Bronchitis = inflammation of the bronchi

Cardi- = prefix denoting the heart

Cardiomegaly = enlargement of the heart

Cephal- = prefix denoting the head

Cephalalgia = pain in the head

Cyst- = prefix denoting a bladder esp. the urinary bladder

Cystitis = inflammation of the urinary bladder, often caused by infection

Cyto- = prefix denoting cell or cytoplasm Cytokinesis= division of the

Cytokinesis= division of cytoplasm in the cell

-cyte = suffix denoting cell or cytoplasm

Erythrocyte= red blood cell

Di- = prefix denoting two (*Latin*)

dioxide= a compound having two oxygen atoms (CO₂ or carbon dioxide).

Dia- = through, throughout

Diarrhea = frequent bowel evacuations abnormally liquid feces

Dis- = reversed or separated

Disinfection = removal of infection

Dors- = prefix denoting the back (from *dorsum, Latin*)

Dorsoventral = extending from back to front surface

Dys- = abnormal, painful

Dysentery= painful symptoms inside the digestion system

-ectomy = cutting and removing

Appendicectomy = removal of the appendix

Endo = within

Endogenous = arising within a tissue

Epi = above, surrounding

Epidermis = outer parts of skin

Erythr- = prefix denoting redness

Erythrocyte = red blood cell

Exo = outside

Exogenous = something not usually found within tissue.

Fissure = a groove or cleft (*from fissilis = split, Latin*)

Oblique fissure = divides lung into lobes and runs around the lung

Horizontal fissure = divides right lung into 3 lobes and extends laterally to meet the oblique fissure.

Flex- = bend (*from flexus, Latin*)

Flexion = movement of joint, like Lateral flexion = bending to the side

-genous = arising from (*Latin*)

exogenous = something that comes from outside the body

Haemo-, haem-, haemato-, -aem- (us hemo- etc.) = relating to blood

haemostasis = arrest of bleeding

Hemi- = prefix that in medicine denotes the right or left half of the body

Hemianaesthesia = anaesthesia of one side of the body

Hepat- = prefix denoting the liver

Hepatic artery = artery that supplies the liver

Hetero = different, varied

Heterozygous = describes an individual in whom the pairs of genes determining a particular characteristic are dissimilar

Histo- = prefix denoting tissue

Histogenesis = the formation of tissues

Homo = the same

Homogeneous, homogenous = having uniform properties

Hydr- = prefix denoting water or a watery fluid (*Latin*)

Hydrocele = accumulation of watery liquid in a sac.

Hyper = above normal

Hyperglycaemia = an excess of blood glucose in the blood stream.

Hypo = below, less than normal

Hypotension = condition of the arterial blood pressure is abnormally low

In vitro = literally translated as 'in glass'. Usually refers to a procedure carried out isolated from body and maintained in a tissue bath. (*vitrum = glass, Latin*)

In vivo = a procedure carried out with tissue in normal position within the body. (*vivo = I live, Latin*)

Inter = between (*Latin*) (*N.B. do not confuse with intra!*)

Intercellular = between cells

Intra = inside (*Latin*)

Intracellular = inside cells

-itis = suffix denoting inflammation of an organ, tissue etc.

Arthritis = inflammation of a joint

Kal- = relating to potassium (*Kalium – hence symbol K, Latin*)

Hypokalaemia = low blood potassium

Hyperkalaemia = high blood potassium

-logy = suffix denoting field of study

Cytology = study of cells

-lysis = disruption, destruction or release

Haemolysis = destruction of red cells

Mening- = relating to the meninges (membranes covering the brain) (*Greek*)

Meningitis = inflammation of the meninges

Muco- = prefix denoting mucus (*Latin*)

Mucosa = mucous/moist membrane that lines many structures and cavities

e.g. nasal cavity

My- = prefix denoting muscle

Myoblast = a cell that develops into a muscle fibre

Nephro- = prefix denoting the kidneys (*Greek*)

(*N.B see renal = relating to the kidney, Latin*)

Nephritis = inflammation of the kidney

Neuro- = prefix denoting nerves or the nervous system

Neurone = basic functional unit of the nervous system;

Normo = normal (*Latin*)

Normocapnic = normal carbon dioxide levels within the blood.

-oma = suffix denoting a tumour

Lymphoma = tumour of the lymph nodes

Oral = relating to the mouth (*os, oris = mouth, Latin*)

Oral cavity = the mouth

Ortho- = prefix denoting straight

Orthodontics = branch of dentistry concerned with the treatment of the irregularities of the teeth.

-osis = a diseased condition that involves the preceding part of the word
e.g. Tuberculosis, Nephrosis

Oste(o)- = relating to bone [Grk]

Para = alongside (*Latin*)

Parathyroid = gland beside the thyroid

Paranasal = near the nasal cavity

Peri = surrounding or around (*Latin*)

Perineurium = sheath around nerve.

Perinatal = around the time of birth.

-physis = growth

Hypophysis = outgrowth under the brain i.e. the pituitary gland

-plegic = suffix denoting paralysis

Diplegia = paralysis of both sides of the body, particularly the legs

Pneumo- = prefix denoting the presence of air or gas

Pneumothorax = air in the pleural cavity

Pneumon- = prefix denoting the lungs

Pneumonectomy = surgical removal of the lung

Poly- = prefix denoting many, multiple

Polysaccharide = carbohydrate formed from many monosaccharide molecules

Post = after, behind (*Latin*)

Posteroanterior = from the back to the front

Proximal = situated close to the origin or point of attachment or close to the median line of the body (*from proximus = nearest, Latin*)

Quadri- = prefix denoting four (*Latin*)

Quadriplegia = paralysis affecting all four limbs

Renal = relates to the kidney (*Latin*) (*nephro-* = prefix denoting the kidney, *Greek*)

Renal tubule = fine tubular part of nephron through which water and certain dissolved substances are reabsorbed back into the blood

-rrhage = denotes excessive or abnormal flow or discharge from an organ

haemorrhage = excessive bleeding

-rrhoea = flow or discharge from an organ or part

Diarrhoea = frequent bowel evacuations or passage of abnormally soft faeces.

Sagittal = an anatomical plane that divides the body longitudinally into left and right parts, parallel to the median plane.

-stoma = mouth

Stoma = in surgery, an artificial opening of a tube

Sub = under, beneath (*Latin*)

Subcutaneous = beneath the skin

Super = above (*Latin*)

Superior = situated uppermost in the body related to another structure or surface, Superficial = situated at or close to a surface

Supra = above (*Latin*)

Suprarenal = above the kidney

Tachy- = prefix denoting fast, rapid

Tachypnoea = rapid breathing, Tachycardia = rapid heart beat

-thermic = relating to temperature (*Latin*)

Exothermic = a reaction in which heat is given out

-tomy = cutting

Lobotomy = incising a lobe of an organ, Gastrotomy = incision into the stomach

Topo- = prefix denoting place, position and location

Topical = local, used for a drug that is applied directly on the treated part

Toxi- = prefix denoting poisonous, toxic

Toxin = poison produced by a living organism, usually a bacterium

Tri- = prefix denoting three (*Latin*)

Triceps = a muscle with three heads of origin

Uni- = prefix denoting one

Unilateral = in anatomy, relating to or affecting one side of the body or one side of an organ or other part

-uresis = relating to or appearing in the urine

diuresis = extra urine

Vaso- = relating to a vessel, usually a blood vessel (*Latin*)