



# **MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY**

**The Language of the Health  
Profession**

# ORIGIN OF MEDICAL TERMS

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- Hippocrates was a Greek physician and is known as the “father of medicine.”
- 75% of medical terms are based on either Greek or Latin words.

# ROOT WORDS

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- A root is the foundation or basic meaning of a word.
- May appear with a prefix or suffix, or between a prefix or suffix.
- cardi - root for heart
- hepat- root for liver
- neur - root for nerve
- nephro - root for kidney
- cyt- root for cell

# PREFIX

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- Pre - prefix means before
- peri- prefix means around
- hemi - prefix means half
- Macro - prefix means large
- Micro - prefix means small
- neo- prefix means new
- The prefix is a part of the word that precedes the word root and changes its meaning.
- Often indicates location, time, or size.



# SUFFIX

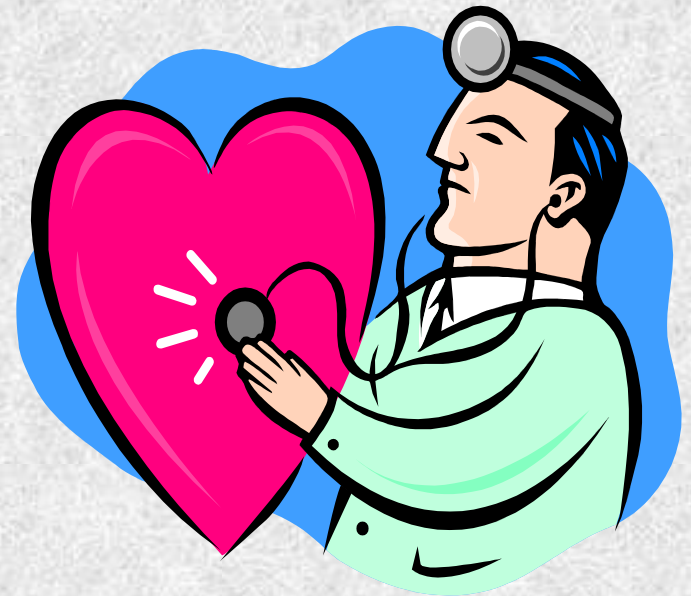
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- A suffix is the word ending that follows the word root and changes its meaning.
- Often indicates the procedure, condition, disorder, or disease.
- -itis - suffix means inflammation
- -ology - suffix means the study of
- -ectomy- suffix means surgical removal-plast- suffix means surgical repair

# Cardiology

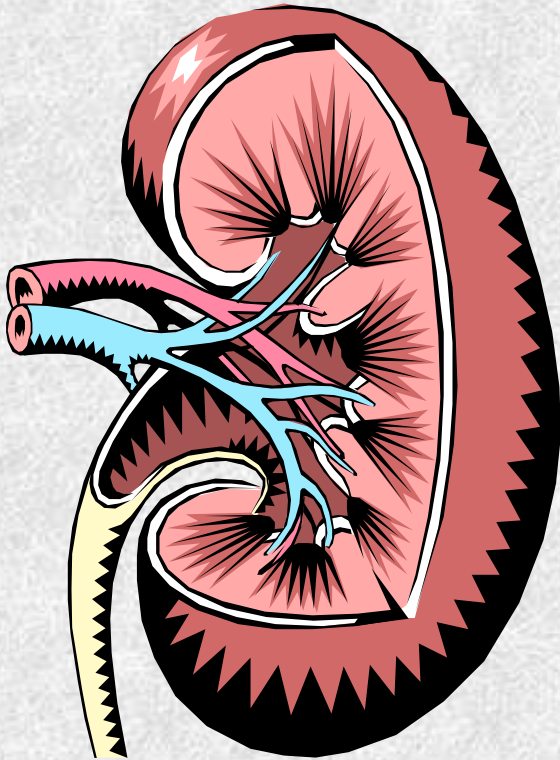
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- Cardi - root means heart.
- -ology - suffix means the study of.
- Cardiology - the study of the heart.



# Nephritis

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- Nephro - root words means kidney
- -itis suffix means inflammation
- Nephritis means inflammation of the kidney

# Break down and define the following medical terms ???

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- pericarditis
- leukocyte
- hepatitis
- neuroplasty



# pericarditis

Pericaridits

Peri-

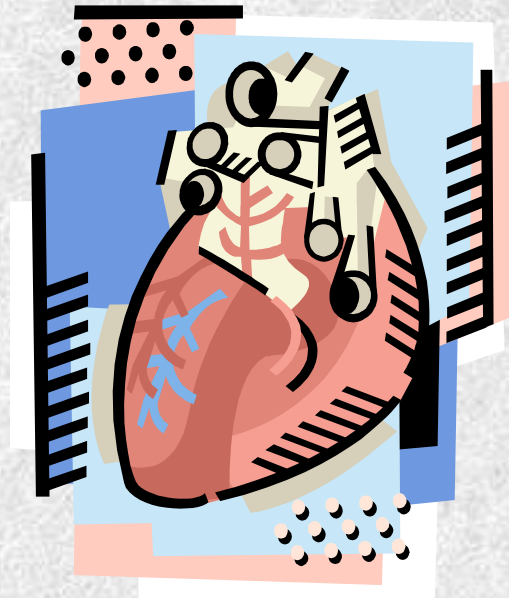
means around

-cardi-

means the heart

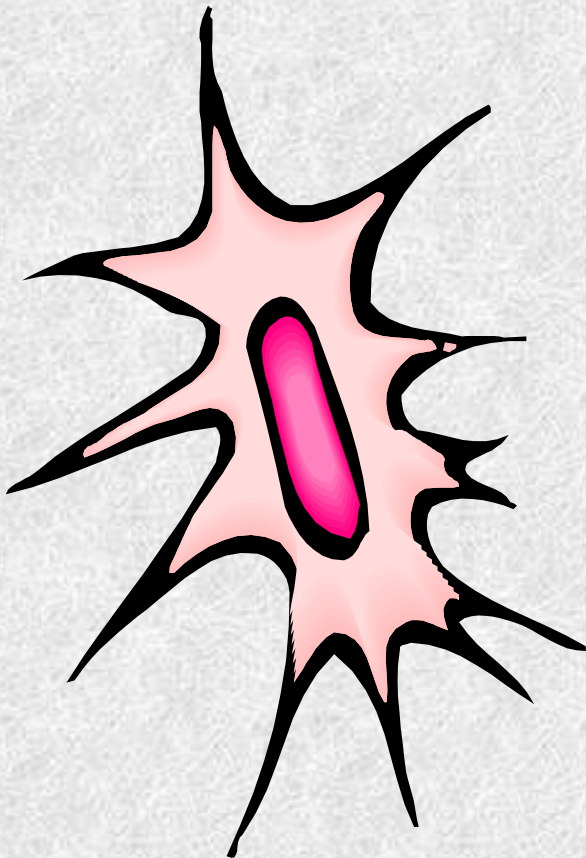
-itis

means inflammation



# Leukocyte & Erythrocyte

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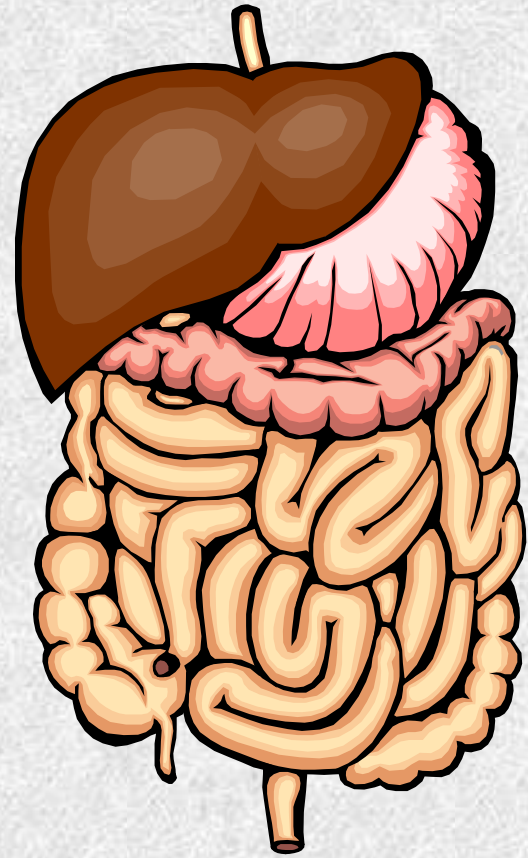


- leuko- prefix means white
- Erythro- prefix means red
- cyte - root word means cell
- leukocyte means white cell
- Erythrocyte means red cell

# Hepatitis

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- hepat - root word means liver
- -itis - suffix means inflammation
- hepatitis - means inflammation of the liver



# Neuroplasty

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- neuro - root word means nerve or nerves
- -plasty - suffix means surgical repair
- neuroplasty means surgical repair of the nerve



# Combining Forms

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- Combining form consists of the word root and a connecting vowel to make it easier to pronounce and attach another root word or suffix.
- Combining form for heart is cardi
- Combining form associated with cells is cyt (Example: Leukocyte)

# Basic Rules for the Combining Vowel

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- The combining vowel is not used when the suffix begins with a vowel.  
(neuritis)
- The combining vowel is used when the suffix begins with a consonant.  
(neuroplasty)

# THE END

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