

Analyzing Medical Terms

Root: the central meaning of a word. **Ex:** *arthr* itis; arthr meaning joint.

Suffixes: always comes at the end of the word. **Ex:** *arthr itis*; itis meaning inflammation of.

Prefixes: always at the beginning of the word. **Ex:** *peri* arthritis; peri meaning around.

The Body's Organization

Tissues

Muscle: both voluntary and involuntary muscles.

Connective: supports the internal structures.

Nervous: transmit electrical pulses that control body activity.

Epithelial: covers and protects structures by lining body organs.

Anatomical Position: standing erect, palms facing forward, arms at sides, and feet parallel pointing forward.

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Word Elements

Cutane/o - skin, **cyte, cyt/o** - cell
Derm/o , **dermat/o** - skin
Onych/o - nail **Pil/o** - hair **Seb/o** - sebum (oil, fat) **Sudor/i** - sweat

Albin/o - white **Cirrh/o, jaund/o, xanth/o** - yellow **Cyan/o** - blue **Epi** - upon **Erythr/o** - red **Fero** - "to carry" **Ichthy/o** - dry, scaly

Kerat/o - hornlike **Melan/o** - black **Myc/o** - fungus **Scler/o** - hardening **Sub** - below **Xer/o** - dry

algia - pain **Amphi** - both sides
Ankyl/o - stiff, fused, closed
Arthr/o - joint **Brachi/o** - arm
Calcane/o - calcaneus, heel bone
Carp/o - wrist **Cervic/o** - neck
Cheir/o - hand **Chondr/o** - cartilage **Cost/o** - rib **Crani/o** - cranium **Dactyl/o** - finger, toe

desis - stabilize or fuse **ectomy** - removal of, excision of **Electro/o** - electricity **Femur/o** - femur, thighbone **gram** - written record of **Humer/o** - humerus **-itis** - inflammation **Kinesi/o** - movement **kinesia** - movement **Kyph/o** - hump **logy** - study of **Lord/o** - swayback, curve **Lumb/o** - lower back

malacia - softening **My/o** - muscle **Myel/o** - bone marrow **oma** - tumor
Orth/o - correct, straight **Os/te/o** - bone **Ped/o** - foot, child **Pelv/o** - pelvis **Phalang/o** - bones of the finger, and toes **physis** - to grow
plasty - surgical repair **porosis** - porous **scopy** - to visually examine

Word Elements (cont)

Spondyl/o,vertebr/o - vertebrae
Syn - joined together **Thorac/o** - thorax, chest **Zygo** -joined (yoked) together

Word Elements

Fasci/o - fibrous membrane **Fibr/o** - fiber **Hemi** - half **Ligament/o** - ligament **Muscul/o** - muscle **My/o** - muscle

Para - beside, beyond, near
paresis - partial or incomplete paralysis **plegia** - paralysis **Quadri** - four **Sthen/o** - strength **Tend/o** - tendon **Ton/o** - tone

Arachn/o spider **Cephal/o** head
Cerebell/o the cerebellum
Cerebr/o the cerebrum **Cortic/o** outer layer or covering
Encephal/o brain **Gangli/o, ganglion/o** ganglia (singular: ganglion) **Gli/o** glue **Hydr/o** water

Iatro/o physician: to treat **mania** suffix "morbid attraction to"
Meningi/o a membrane **Ment/o** referring to the mind **mnesia** memory **Myel/o** with nervous system: spinal cord and medulla oblongata **Neur/o** a nerve cell; nervous system **oid** like **paresis** weakness, loss of movement

phasia speech **phobia** suffix; morbid or unreasonable fear **plegia** paralyzed **Psych/o** referring to the mind **Schiz/o** to split **Spin/o** referring to the spinal cord



By mcmenamink15

Not published yet.
 Last updated 30th October, 2016.
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