

Guide to the PRS List

This list is a tool to help you decode complex medical terms. You will first identify a term, and separate it into 2 or 3 segments. Then check the left column below. All of the word segments in the left column are a portion or segment of a longer medical term. When you find the segment you are interested in, look at the second column. You will find a brief meaning for that segment. Precede what you read with the words "pertaining to". Then check the third column where you will find an example of a word using the segment of interest.

Now about prefixes, roots and suffixes: You will not be asked to identify whether something is a prefix, root or suffix. If you would like to understand what prefixes, roots and suffixes are and how they are presented, read on. A prefix is seen at the beginning of a word. In the PRS List the prefixes have dashes after the letters to signify the continuation of letters. Those that are commonly suffixes and occur at the end of medical terms have dashes at the beginning. Roots often refer to a body part, e.g. tendonitis decoded is tendon (body part or root) and itis, meaning inflammation, is a suffix (describes the root). Many prefixes, roots, and suffixes are used interchangeably. This is not a comprehensive list; we present only the most common. If you are not finding what you need, let us know on the discussion board. Your study guide for each week will contain a list of terms for practicing decoding. The answers will be presented and discussed on the discussion board.

Here is a sample decoding:

You find the word erythrocyte. You do not know what it means.

First break the word into syllables: erythro and cyte

Find "erythro" on the PRS list: pertaining to red

Find "cyte" on the PRS List: pertaining to cell

Ah, ha, an erythrocyte is a red cell

Did you break the code to figure out that an erythrocyte is a red (blood) cell?

Beginners Prefix, Root, Suffix List for Decoding Complex Medical Terms

	<u>Pertaining to</u>	<u>Example</u>
A		
a--	absence of	apnea
ab--	away from	abduct
acous--	hearing	acoustic
ad--	toward	adduct
adeno--	gland	adenocarcinoma
adipo--	fat	adipose tissue
an--	without	anuria
angio--	vessel	angiogram
ante--	before	antepartum
anti--	against	antibiotic
--ase	enzyme	lipase
arthro/l	joint	arthritis
--asthenia	weakness	myasthenia
auri--	ear	auricular
B		
bi--	twice or double	bilateral
blepharo	eye lid	blepharospasm
brachi-	arm	brachial plexus
brady--	slow	bradycardia
C		
carcin--	cancer	carcinogenic
cardio--	heart	cardiomegaly
--cele	pouching	cystocele
--centesis	puncture	paracentesis
cephal--	head	hydrocephalic
cerebro-	brain	cerebral cortex
cholecysto-	gall bladder	cholecystectomy
chondro	cartilage	costochondral joint
--cidal	kill	bactericidal

coagula	curdle, clot	coagulate
contra--	opposite	contralateral
cranio--	skull	craniotomy
--crine	secrete	endocrine
cryo--	cold	cryogenics
cutane--	skin	subcutaneous
cyan--	blue	cyanotic
cysto--	bladder	cystotomy
cyto--	cell	cytology

D

de--	removal of, lack of	decompress
dermat	skin	dermatological
dextro	right	dextrocardia
dont/ent	teeth	dental
dorsi--	the back	dorsal
--dynia	pain	pleuradynia
dys--	difficulty	dyspnea

E

ec--	out, away	ectopic pregnancy
--ectomy	removal	appendectomy
edema	swelling	lymphedema
--emesis	vomiting	hematemesis
--emia	blood condition	anemia
encephalo--	brain	encephalitis
endo--	inside	endoscopy
entero	intestine	gastroenterologist
epi--	on, outside of	epidural
erythro	red	erythema or reddened skin
--esthesio	sensation	anesthesia

G

gastri/o	stomach	gastric
--genic	producing	cardiogenic shock
genito--	reproduction	genital

geri/o	old age	geriatric
gingiva	gum	gingival hyperplasia
glossal	tongue	glossopharyngeal nerve
glyco-	glucose, sugar	glycogen
--gram/ph	written, drawn	electrocardiogram
gyne--	woman	gynecology
--globin	protein	hemoglobin
globulin	protein	thyroglobulin

H

hemato--	blood	hematocrit
hemi--	half	hemiplegia
hemo--	blood	hemoglobin
hepato--	liver	hepatomegaly
homeo--	constant	homeostasis
hydro/a--	water	hydrocephalus
hyper--	high, excessive	hypertension
hypno --	sleep	hypnotic medication
hypo--	low	hypothyroidism
hyster--	uterus	hysterectomy

I

--ia	condition	anemia
--iac	pertaining to	cardiac
--iasis	abn. condition	cholelithiasis
iatro--	physician	iatrogenic fluid overload
infra--	below	infraclavicular lymph nodes
inter--	between	intercostal space
intra--	within	intracranial pressure
ipsi--	the same	ipsilateral
--ismus	spasm	strabismus
iso--	equal	isotonic solution
--itis	inflammation	arthritis

J

juxto--	next to	juxtaposition
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K

kypho--	humped	kyphotic spine
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L

labia/o	lip	nasolabial fold
lacrim	tear	lacrimal gland
lacta/o	milk	lactation
laparo	abdomen	laparoscopy
leuko	white	leukocyte
lingua	tongue	sublingual gland
lip	fat	lipoma
--listhesis	dislocation	spondylolisthesis
lith/o	stone	cholelithiasis
--lysis	dissolve	bacteriolytic

M

mal--	bad	malodorous
--malacia	softening	osteomalacia
--megaly	enlargement	cardiomegaly
melan/o	black	melanous stool
--meter	to measure	thermometer
mort--	dead	post mortem
my/o--	muscle	myositis
myc/o --	fungus	mycotic toenails
myel/o--	spinal cord	myelogram
myel/o	bone marrow	myelogenous

N

narco--	sleep	narcotic
naso--	nose	nasal
neo--	new	neoplasm
nephro--	kidney	nephritis

O

--odyn	painful	pleuradynia
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--oma	mass, tumor	lipoma
onc/o	tumor	oncology
ophthalm--	eye	ophthalmologist
optic	eye, vision	optic nerve
--orexia	appetite	dysorexia
ortho--	straight, upright	orthodontist
--osis	disease	psychosis
ossi--	bone	ossification
oto--	ear	otoscope
oxi--	oxygen	oxidation

P

--paresis	weakness	hemiparesis
--pathy	disease	neuropathy
--pectoris	chest	pectoral muscles
ped, pes	foot	dorsalis pedis
--penia	deficiency	ostopenia
--pepsia	stomach	dyspepsia
per--	through	percutaneous insertion
peri--	around	periorbital fracture
--phagia	eating, swallowing	dysphagia
--phasia	speak	aphasia
--phlebo	blood, vein	phlebotomy
--phobia	fear of	claustrophobia
photo--	light	photophobia
--plasia	growth	hyperplasia
--plasty	repair	rhinoplasty
--plegia	paralysis	quadriplegic
pleura/o	the ribs	pleural cavity
--pnea	breathing	dyspnea
pneumo--	lung	pneumothorax
--poly	many, much	polyphagia
post--	after	postmortem
presby--	old age	presbyopia
procto--	rectum	proctology

psyc--	mind	psychotropic drug
pyo--	puss	pyogenic bacteria
pyro--	fever	antipyretic drug

R

--rrhage	burst forth	hemorrhage
--rrhaphy	suturing	herniorrhaphy
--rrhoea	out flowing	diarrheal stool

S

sanguine	blood	serosanguinous
sarco--	muscle	sarcoma
schiz--	split	schizophrenic delusion
scler/o	harding	atherosclerotic vessels
scope	view	arthroscopic knee surgery
semi--	half, part	semiconscious state
sero--	serum	serology
somat/o--	body	somatic complaint
spondylo--	spine	spondylodiscitis
--stalsis	contraction	peristalsis of the intestine
--stasis/ic	stop	hemostatic agent
--staxis	dripping	epistaxis
stoma-	mouth	stomatitis
--stomy	opening	colonostomy
sub--	beneath	subcutaneous
super/ra--	above	supra ventricular tachycardia

T

tachy--	rapid	tachycardia
--tension	pressure	hypertension
tetan-	rigid	tetanus
therm--	heat	thermometer
thorax--	upper chest	thoracotomy
thrombo--	blood clot	deep vein thrombosis
trans--	across	transfusion
--tripsy	crushing	lithotripsy for kidney stone

--trophy	development	hypertrophy
tympan/o-	eardrum	tympanic membrane

U

uni--	one	unilateral
uri/o--	urine	urinalysis

V

vaso--	vessel	vasoconstriction
ven--	vein	peripheral venous catheter
ventro--	belly, front	ventral hernia
vesico--	bladder	vesico-vaginal fissure
viscera--	internal organs	visceral cavity

X

xero--	dry	xerostomia
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Z

--zyme	fermentation	enzyme
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