**Introduction to Medical Terminology and Abbreviations Study Guide**

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| **Common Prefixes** | | | |
|  | a-, an-, in- | Absence of or without |  |
|  | Ambi- | Both |  |
|  | Bi- | Two |  |
|  | Di- | Double or twice |  |
|  | Ab- | Away from |  |
|  | Ad- | Toward |  |
|  | Anti- | Against |  |
|  | Auto- | Self |  |
|  | Brady- | Slow |  |
|  | Con- | Together |  |
|  | Contra- | Opposite or against |  |
|  | Circum- | Around |  |
|  | Dia- | Across or through |  |
|  | Dys- | Difficult or painful |  |
|  | Epi- | Upon or above |  |
|  | Eu- | Good or normal |  |
|  | Ex-, Exo-, Extra- | Outside or external |  |
|  | Hemi- | Half |  |
|  | Hyper- | Excessive or above |  |
|  | Hypo- | Beneath or below |  |
|  | Inter- | Between |  |
|  | Iso- | Equal or same |  |
|  | Macro- | Large |  |
|  | Micro- | Small |  |
|  | Mono- | Single or one |  |
|  | Multi- | Many |  |
|  | Neo- | New |  |
|  | Post- | After |  |
|  | Poly- | Much |  |
|  | Pre- | Before |  |
|  | Oligo- | Deficiency |  |
|  | Quad- | Four |  |
|  | Retro- | Behind or back |  |
|  | Semi- | Half |  |
|  | Tachy- | Fast or rapid |  |
|  | Tox- | Poison or toxin |  |
|  | Tri- | Three |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Suffixes that have same meaning:**

-ac, -al, -ar, -ary, - al,- ial,

-ic, -ical, -ory, -ous, -tic, - tous

All of these mean “pertaining to”

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| **Common Suffixes** | | | |
|  | -algesia, -algesic, -algia | Pain |  |
|  | -centesis | Surgical puncture |  |
|  | -cidal, -cide | Destroy or kill |  |
|  | -dipsia | Thirst |  |
|  | -dynia | Pain |  |
|  | -ectasis | Dilation |  |
|  | -ectomy | Surgical removal |  |
|  | -emia | Condition of the blood |  |
|  | -emesis | Vomit or vomiting |  |
|  | -iatrist, -ician,-ist | Specialist |  |
|  | -gen, -genesis, -genic | Create |  |
|  | -graphy | Process of recording |  |
|  | -ia, -ism | Condition |  |
|  | -itis | Inflammation |  |
|  | -kinesis | Movement |  |
|  | -logist, -ologist | Specialist in the study of |  |
|  | -logy, -ology | Study of |  |
|  | -lysis | Destruction |  |
|  | -malacia | Softening |  |
|  | -metry | Measurement |  |
|  | -necrosis | Tissue death |  |
|  | -opia, -opsia, opsis, -opsy | View of or vision |  |
|  | -osis | Abnormal condition |  |
|  | -paresis | Partial paralysis |  |
|  | -pexy | Surgical fixation |  |
|  | -phagia | Eating or swallowing |  |
|  | -phasia | Speech |  |
|  | -phobia | Fear |  |
|  | -plasty | Surgical repair |  |
|  | -plegia | paralysis |  |
|  | -plegic | Pertaining to paralysis |  |
|  | -pnea | Breathing |  |
|  | -ptosis | Drooping |  |
|  | -rrhage, -rrhagia | Bursting forth |  |
|  | -rrhaphy | Suture or suturing |  |
|  | -rrhea | Flow or discharge |  |
|  | -rrhexis | Rupture |  |
|  | -sclerosis | Hardening |  |
|  | -scope | Viewing instrument |  |
|  | -scopy | Visual examination |  |
|  | -stenosis | Narrowing |  |
|  | -therapy | Treatment |  |
|  | -tomy | Incision or cut into |  |
|  | -tripsy | Crushing |  |
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| **Common Anatomical Directions** | | | |
|  | Abduction | Movement away the body |  |
|  | Adduction | Movement toward the body |  |
|  | Anterior or anter/o | Toward or near the front |  |
|  | Distal or dist/o | Further away from the point of origin |  |
|  | Dorsal or dors/o | Back or posterior |  |
|  | Inferior or infer/o | Beneath or closer to the feet |  |
|  | Lateral or later/o | Toward the side; away from the midline |  |
|  | Medial or medi/o | Toward the middle or midline |  |
|  | Posterior or poster/o | Toward the back |  |
|  | Prone | Lying on stomach with face looking down |  |
|  | Proximal or proxim/o | Closer to the point of origin |  |
|  | Superior or super/o | Above or near the head |  |
|  | Supine | Lying on back with face looking up |  |
|  | Ventral or ventr/o | Front or anterior |  |
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| **Common Abbreviations** | | | |
|  | ROM | Range of motion |  |
|  | PRN | As needed |  |
|  | STAT | Immediately |  |
|  | NPO | Nothing by mouth (nothing to eat or drink) |  |
|  | O2 | oxygen |  |
|  | NKA | No known allergies |  |
|  | CPR | Cardiopulmonary resuscitation |  |
|  | DNR | Do not resuscitate |  |