



Medical Terminology in the Interaction of Language and Society

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Abstract: This article discusses medical terms and their linguistic structure. Medical terms are analyzed from a linguistic point of view.

Key words: term, prefix, suffix, root words.

Everyone comes into contact with medical terminology at some point in their lives, whether during their own visits to the doctor or reading a medical document or report. It's safe to say that this language can be difficult to understand, almost sounding like a foreign language.

The truth is, like all specialised terminology, medical terminology has a system. That is, once you grasp the basic framework, it becomes much easier to understand exactly what a term is referring to – no matter how complicated it looks. [1]

The terminology of Medicine is largely inextricably linked with the terms of the Greek and Latin language. When applied to medical terminology in practice, it is directly mirrored to anatomy and chemistry. For example, tissue, cell, substances, reaction, etc. In medical terminology, there are some such prefixes and affixes that people, if they know it, spontaneously understand what it is about. Of these, "hyper" means "to exceed the norm and tense". "Hypertension" - an increase in blood pressure, hyperthermia - an increase in body temperature, hyperglycemia-means an increase in sugar levels in the body, or rather "hypo" - a decrease; hypotonia-a decrease in blood pressure, hypothermia-a decrease in body temperature from the Meir, hypoglycemia-a decrease in sugar levels...- the suffix "itis" means "inflammation", the meaning changes even when it is added to the stem. Gastro-stomach, gastritis-inflammation of the stomach, bronchitis-inflammation of the bronchi,...- "logos" - science or subject, "-logo" - the person who studies this subject...

This is a list of roots, suffixes, and prefixes used in medical terminology, their meanings, and their etymologies. Most of them are combining forms in New Latin and hence international scientific vocabulary. There are a few general rules about how they combine. First, prefixes and suffixes, most of which are derived from ancient Greek or classical Latin, have a droppable -o-. As a general rule, this -o- almost always acts as a joint-stem to connect two consonantal roots (e.g. arthr- + -o- + -logy = arthrology), but generally, the -o- is dropped when connecting to a vowel-stem (e.g. arthr- + -itis = arthritis, instead of arthr-o-itis). Second, medical roots generally go together according to language, i.e., Greek prefixes occur with Greek suffixes and Latin prefixes with Latin suffixes. Although international scientific vocabulary is not stringent about segregating combining forms of different languages, it is advisable when coining new words not to mix different lingual roots.[2]

For example, the word Gastroenteritis can be broken down into a prefix 'gastro', a root word 'enter', and a suffix 'itis':

Gastro – stomach

Enter – intestines

Itis – Inflammation

Through this breakdown, we can understand that Gastroenteritis means inflammation of the stomach and small intestine.

Medical terminology is quite vast, but we've listed some of the most common medical terminology prefixes, suffixes root words and abbreviations for you below. These alone will help you interpret hundreds of medical terms.

Prefixes: "a(n)" -absence of, "ante" - before, "anti"- against, "aut(o)"- self, "bi, bis"- double, twice, two, "extra"-outside-"hemi" - half, "hyper"-excessive, high, "hypo" - deficient, low, "eu"-normal, "tachy" -fast, quick, ...

Root words: "ophthalm(o)"-eye, "path(o)" disease, "ped(o)"-child, "phag(o)"-eat, destroy, "pharmaco"-drug, "rachi(o)"- spine, "ren(o)"- kidneys, "rhin(o)" - nose, "somat(o)"-body, "stom"-mouth, opening, "therm(o)"- heat, ...

Suffixes: "derma"-skin, "gen" - become, originate, "gram, graph"-write, record, "itis"-inflammation, "opsy"- examination, "osis"- condition, "scope"-; instrument, "scopy" -examination, "sten(o)" narrow, compressed, "therapy"- treatment.... [1]

REFERENCES:

1. [<https://ehlion.com/magazine/medical-terminology-list/>]
2. [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_medical_roots,_suffixes_and_prefixes]