

# Medical Terminology Glossary

200+ prefixes, suffixes, and root words — essential for CPC exam

## 1. Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example
<b>a-, an-</b>	without, absence of	apnea (without breathing)
<b>ab-</b>	away from	abduction (away from midline)
<b>ad-</b>	toward	adduction (toward midline)
<b>ante-</b>	before, forward	antepartum (before birth)
<b>anti-</b>	against	anticoagulant (against clotting)
<b>bi-</b>	two, both	bilateral (both sides)
<b>brady-</b>	slow	bradycardia (slow heart rate)
<b>co-, con-</b>	together, with	congenital (present at birth)
<b>dys-</b>	painful, difficult, abnormal	dyspnea (difficulty breathing)
<b>ecto-</b>	outside	ectopic (outside normal position)
<b>endo-</b>	within, inside	endoscopy (viewing inside)
<b>epi-</b>	upon, above	epidermis (upon the skin)
<b>eu-</b>	normal, good	eupnea (normal breathing)
<b>ex-, exo-</b>	out, away from	excision (cutting out)
<b>hemi-</b>	half	hemiplegia (paralysis of half)
<b>hyper-</b>	above, excessive	hypertension (high blood pressure)
<b>hypo-</b>	below, deficient	hypoglycemia (low blood sugar)
<b>inter-</b>	between	intervertebral (between vertebrae)
<b>intra-</b>	within	intravenous (within a vein)
<b>macro-</b>	large	macroscopic (large scale)
<b>micro-</b>	small	microscopic (small scale)
<b>neo-</b>	new	neoplasm (new growth)

<b>peri-</b>	surrounding, around	pericardium (around the heart)
<b>poly-</b>	many, much	polyuria (excessive urination)
<b>post-</b>	after, behind	postoperative (after surgery)
<b>pre-</b>	before	preoperative (before surgery)
<b>sub-</b>	under, below	subcutaneous (under the skin)
<b>supra-</b>	above, over	suprarenal (above the kidney)
<b>tachy-</b>	rapid, fast	tachycardia (rapid heart rate)
<b>trans-</b>	through, across	transdermal (through the skin)
<b>uni-</b>	one	unilateral (one side)

## 2. Common Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
<b>-algia</b>	pain	neuralgia (nerve pain)
<b>-cele</b>	hernia, protrusion	cystocele (bladder hernia)
<b>-centesis</b>	surgical puncture to remove fluid	thoracentesis (chest puncture)
<b>-cide</b>	killing, destroying	bactericide (kills bacteria)
<b>-cyte</b>	cell	erythrocyte (red blood cell)
<b>-desis</b>	surgical binding/fusion	arthrodesis (joint fusion)
<b>-dynia</b>	pain	cardiodynia (heart pain)
<b>-ectomy</b>	surgical removal	appendectomy (removal of appendix)
<b>-emia</b>	blood condition	anemia (low red blood cells)
<b>-gram</b>	record, image	electrocardiogram (heart record)
<b>-graphy</b>	process of recording	radiography (X-ray imaging)
<b>-itis</b>	inflammation	appendicitis (inflamed appendix)
<b>-logy</b>	study of	cardiology (study of heart)
<b>-lysis</b>	breakdown, destruction	hemolysis (destruction of blood cells)
<b>-malacia</b>	softening	osteomalacia (bone softening)
<b>-megaly</b>	enlargement	hepatomegaly (enlarged liver)
<b>-oma</b>	tumor, mass	carcinoma (cancerous tumor)
<b>-osis</b>	condition, process	fibrosis (fibrous tissue condition)
<b>-ostomy</b>	creation of opening	colostomy (opening in colon)
<b>-otomy</b>	incision into	laparotomy (incision into abdomen)
<b>-pathy</b>	disease	neuropathy (nerve disease)
<b>-penia</b>	deficiency	leukopenia (low white blood cells)
<b>-pexy</b>	surgical fixation	nephropexy (kidney fixation)
<b>-plasty</b>	surgical repair/reconstruction	rhinoplasty (nose reconstruction)
<b>-plegia</b>	paralysis	paraplegia (lower body paralysis)
<b>-rrhagia</b>	excessive flow/hemorrhage	menorrhagia (heavy menstrual flow)
<b>-rrhaphy</b>	surgical suture/repair	herniorrhaphy (hernia repair)
<b>-rrhea</b>	flow, discharge	diarrhea (frequent liquid stool)
<b>-sclerosis</b>	hardening	arteriosclerosis (artery hardening)

<b>-scope</b>	instrument for viewing	endoscope (instrument to view inside)
<b>-scopy</b>	visual examination	colonoscopy (viewing the colon)
<b>-stenosis</b>	narrowing	aortic stenosis (aortic narrowing)
<b>-therapy</b>	treatment	chemotherapy (chemical treatment)
<b>-tomy</b>	incision	appendectomy incision component
<b>-uria</b>	urine condition	hematuria (blood in urine)

### 3. Body System Combining Forms

System	Combining Form	Meaning	Example
Cardiovascular	<b>cardi/o</b>	heart	cardiology
Cardiovascular	<b>angi/o, vas/o</b>	vessel	angioplasty
Cardiovascular	<b>phleb/o, ven/o</b>	vein	phlebotomy
Respiratory	<b>pneum/o, pulm/o</b>	lung	pneumonia
Respiratory	<b>bronch/o</b>	bronchus	bronchoscopy
Respiratory	<b>rhin/o</b>	nose	rhinoplasty
Digestive	<b>gastr/o</b>	stomach	gastroscopy
Digestive	<b>hepat/o</b>	liver	hepatitis
Digestive	<b>col/o, colon/o</b>	colon	colonoscopy
Digestive	<b>cholecyst/o</b>	gallbladder	cholecystectomy
Urinary	<b>nephro/o, ren/o</b>	kidney	nephrology
Urinary	<b>cyst/o</b>	bladder	cystoscopy
Urinary	<b>ureter/o</b>	ureter	ureteroscopy
Musculoskeletal	<b>oste/o</b>	bone	osteoporosis
Musculoskeletal	<b>arthr/o</b>	joint	arthroscopy
Musculoskeletal	<b>my/o, muscul/o</b>	muscle	myopathy
Nervous System	<b>neur/o</b>	nerve	neurology
Nervous System	<b>encephal/o</b>	brain	encephalitis
Nervous System	<b>myel/o</b>	spinal cord/bone marrow	myelopathy
Integumentary	<b>derm/o, dermat/o</b>	skin	dermatology
Integumentary	<b>kerat/o</b>	hard, horny tissue	keratosis
Blood	<b>hem/o, hemat/o</b>	blood	hematology
Blood	<b>erythr/o</b>	red	erythrocyte
Blood	<b>leuk/o</b>	white	leukocyte
Endocrine	<b>thyroid/o</b>	thyroid gland	thyroidectomy
Endocrine	<b>adren/o</b>	adrenal gland	adrenalectomy
Eye	<b>ophthalm/o</b>	eye	ophthalmology
Ear	<b>ot/o</b>	ear	otoscopy

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