

Medical Terminology: Prefixes

- **a/an:** without, lack of
- **ab:** away from
- **abdomi:** referring to abdomen
- **acro:** an extremity
- **ad:** to, toward
- **adeno:** referring to gland
- **ana:** up, back, again
- **angio:** referring to vessel
- **ante:** before, forward
- **anti:** against, opposed to
- **arterio:** referring to artery
- **arthro:** referring to a joint
- **auto:** self
- **bi, bis:** twice, double, in two's
- **bio:** life
- **blasto:** referring to germ or cell
- **blepharo:** referring to an eyelid
- **brady:** slow
- **branchy:** short, around
- **carcino:** malignant
- **circum:** around
- **co, col, com, con:** with, together
- **contra:** against, opposite
- **cyano:** blue
- **di:** twice, double
- **dia:** through, between, completely
- **de:** down from
- **dors:** back
- **dys:** difficult, painful, abnormal
- **ecto, ectomy:** to cut out; remove
- **electro:** pertaining to electricity
- **end:** inside
- **endo:** in, inner [layer]; within; inside of
- **epi:** upon, on, above
- **erythro:** referring to anything red or erythrocytes (red blood cells)
- **eu:** easy, good, normal
- **exo:** outside, outer
- **extra:** outside; in addition to
- **glyco:** sugar
- **hemi:** half
- **heter:** other, different
- **homeo, homo:** same, similar, alike
- **hydro:** water
- **hyper:** beyond, excessive, over

- **hypo:** less, under, below, deficient
- **infra:** beneath, below
- **inter:** between, among
- **intra:** within
- **iso:** equal, like
- **itis:** inflammation
- **kinetic:** movement
- **latero:** side
- **leuko:** anything white or leukocytes (white blood cells)
- **leuko:** white
- **litho:** referring to a stone
- **macro:** large, great
- **mal:** bad, abnormal
- **med, medi:** middle
- **mega, megal:** great, large
- **melano:** black
- **micro:** small
- **mono:** one
- **morph:** shape
- **myopathy:** damage to the muscle
- **mega, megaly:** enlargement
- **neo:** new
- **noct:** night
- **oligo:** little, deficient
- **para:** near, beside, apart from, by the side of
- **patho:** disease
- **per:** through
- **peri:** outer [layer], around
- **poly:** much, many, multiple
- **post:** after, behind
- **pre, pro:** before, preceding, in front of
- **pseudo:** false
- **quad, quadri, quar, quat:** four, in fours
- **retro:** backward, located behind
- **sclera, sclero:** hard; or related to sclera
- **semi:** half
- **sub:** below, beneath, under
- **super:** above, over
- **tachy:** fast
- **trans:** across, through, beyond
- **tri:** three, in three's
- **uni:** one; single or singly

Reference

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