

Common Medical Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example
Ambi-	Both	Ambidextrous
Aniso-	Unequal	Anisocytosis
Dys-	Bad, painful, difficult	Dyslexia
Eu-	Good, normal	Eukaryote
Hetero-	Different	Heterogeneous
Homo-	Same	Homogeneous
Hyper-	Excessive, above	Hypertension
Hypo-	Lack, below	Hypoglycemic
Iso-	Equal, same	Isotope
Mal-	Bad, poor	Malnutrition
Megalo-	Large	Megalomania

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-algia	Pain	Myalgia
-asthenia	Weakness (may also be a standalone term)	Neurocirculatory asthenia
-emia	Blood	Hypoglycemia
-iasis	Condition of	Elephantiasis
-itis	Inflammation	Bronchitis
-lysis	Destruction, break down	Dialysis
-lytic	Destroy, break down	Hydrolytic
-oid	Like	Haploid
-oma	Tumor	Fibroma
-opathy	Disease of	Neuropathy
-orrhagia	Hemorrhage	Metrorrhagia
-orrhea	Flow or discharge	Diarrhea
-osis	Abnormal condition of	Tuberculosis
-paresis	Slight paralysis	Hemiparesis
-plasia	Growth	Achondroplasia
-plegia	Paralysis	Quadraplegia
-pnea	Breathing	Sleep apnea

Here's a list of suffixes common to surgical procedures:

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-centesis	Puncture a cavity to remove fluid	Amniocentesis
-ectomy	Surgical removal or excision	Hysterectomy
-ostomy	A new permanent opening	Tracheostomy
-otomy	Cutting into, incision	Gastrotomy
-orrhaphy	Surgical repair or suture	Gastrorrhaphy
-opexy	Surgical fixation	Nephropexy
-oplasty	Surgical repair	Rhinoplasty
-otripsy	Crushing or destroying	Lithotripsy