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Introduction of Medical Terminology

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Medical Terms

➢ **It is the professional language of those who are directly or indirectly engaged in the art of healing .**

➢ **Terms dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and maintenance of health**

➢ **Our body organs(Anatomic structures) are of Latin terms, whereas diseases that affect these organs are Greek origin.**

Basic Elements of a Medical Word

1. Word Root

2. Combining Form

3. Suffix

4. Prefix

❖ These four parts of a word are known as ELEMENTS.

Word Root

➤ Main part or foundation of a word.

➤ All words have at least one word root.

➤ A word root may be used alone or combined with other elements to form a complete word.

➤ IE: SPEAK (word root) + ER (suffix) = SPEAKER (complete word)

➤ The word root usually refers to a body part.

➤ Some root words are derived from the Latin or Greek language.

Word Root Examples

- "dent" means tooth
- "dermat" means skin
- "cardi" means heart
- "gastr" means stomach
- "pancreat" means pancreas

Combining Forms

➢ Correct pronunciation of medical words is important.

➢ In order to make the pronunciation of word roots easier, sometimes it is necessary to insert a vowel after the root.

➢ The combination of a word root and a vowel is known as a COMBINING FORM.

➢Combining forms consist of a combining vowel.

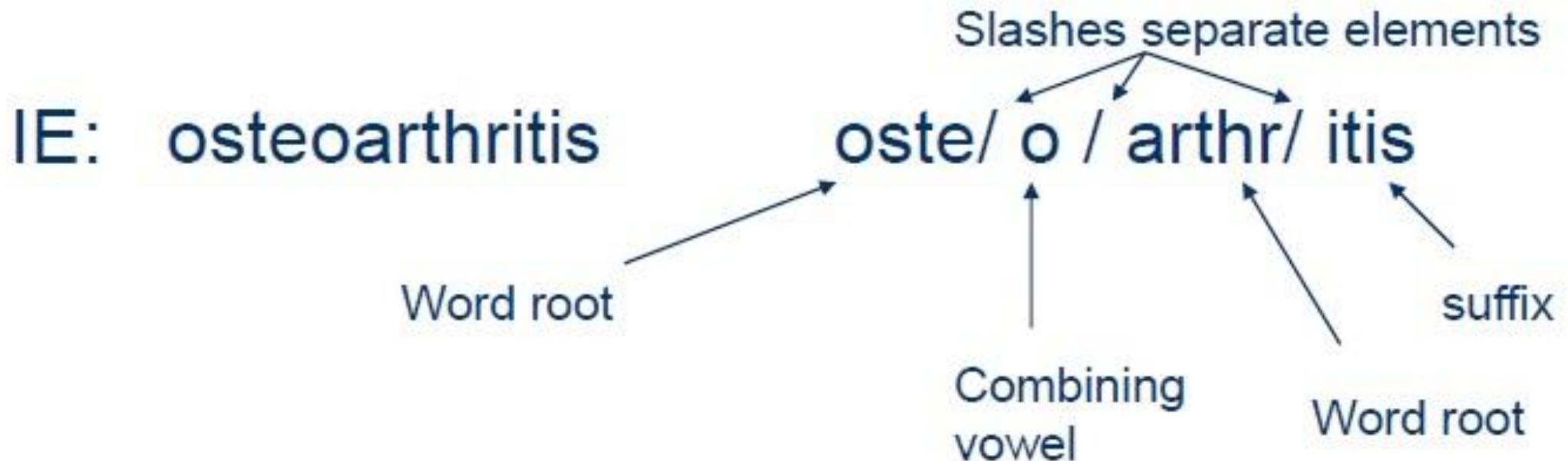➢The combining vowel is usually an "o", but others may be used.

IE: gastr / o   pronounced GASTRO.

Word root

Combining vowel

➢When a word has more than one root, a combining vowel is used to link the root to each other.

Slashes separate elements

IE: osteoarthritis   oste/ o / arthr/ itis

Word root

Combining
vowel

suffix

Word root

Word-Building System

➢By understanding the meanings of word roots, one can determine the meaning of complex medical terms by putting together the smaller parts.

➢Leukocytopenia
➢Word Roots: Leuk / (white)
➢cyt / (cell)
➢Combining Vowel / o /
➢Suffix: / penia (decrease)

Suffixes

➤A suffix is added to the END of a word root or combining form to modify its meaning.

➤By adding a suffix to the end of a word root, we create a noun or adjective with a different meaning.

➢A combining vowel is used between a word root and a suffix that begins with a consonant (not a vowel).

➢This is to make pronunciation easier.

➢Word root: scler / (hardening)

➢Suffix: / derma (skin)

➢Term: Scler / o / derma (hardening of the skin)

Combining vowel

Meanings of certain suffixes

➤ -oma (tumor) hematoma (blood tumor)

➤ scope (instrument to view)

➤ -rrhexis (rupture)

➤ -rrhea (flow or discharge)

❖ all begin with a consonant, therefore a combining vowel must be used between the word root and the suffix.

➤algia (pain)

➤edema (swelling)

➤uria (urine, urination)

❖These suffixes begin with a vowel, therefore a combining vowel is NOT used between the word root and the suffix.

REVIEW

➢A combining vowel **IS** used to link one root to another root, and before a suffix that begins with a consonant.

➢A combining vowel **IS NOT** used before a suffix that begins with a vowel.

Prefixes

❑A prefix is a syllable or syllables placed BEFORE a word or word root to alter its meaning or create a new word.
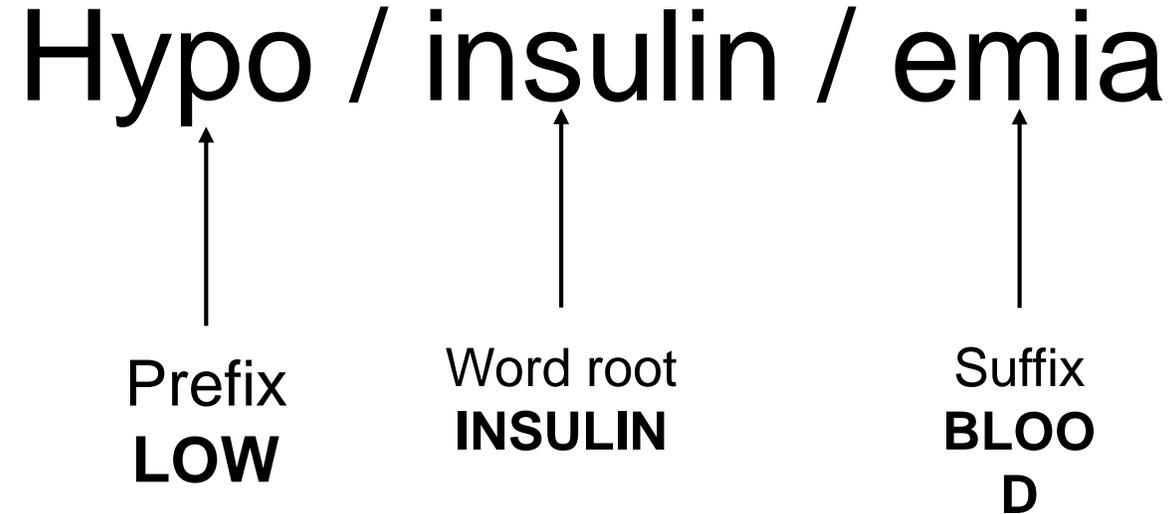
❖Some prefixes:

➢Hyper-(excessive)

➢Pre-(before)

➢Post-(after)

➢Homo-(same)

➢Hypo-(under)

Hypoinsulinemia

Hypo / insulin / emia

Prefix
LOW

Word root
INSULIN

Suffix
**BLOO
D**

❖ Notice that there is no combining vowel in this word because the prefix ends with a vowel and the suffix begins with a vowel.

Analyzing the structure of words

❖Now, let`s explore some common building blocks. in the lists of examples, you will see the building block, then its meaning, then its use in the full word, where the building block is shown in italics.

ROOT: The root of a word can stand alone and have meaning.

root	Meaning	Example
aden	gland	Adenitis
cardi	heart	pericarditis
cephal	Head	Encephalogram
derm	Skin	Dermatosis
Gastr	Stomach	Gastroscopy
hydr	Water	Hydrophobia
myo	Muscle	Myalgia
neurO	Nerve	Neuritis
pnea	Breath	Dyspnea

Prefix

Recall that a prefix is a letter or group of letters placed before a word to Change (modify) its meaning.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
a-	without, not	Apnea
Ante-	before (in time or place)	Ante flexion
Dys-	bad, painful, difficult	dysfunction (Note: this is an example in which y serves as a vowel.)
endo-	Within	Endocrine
retro-	behind, backward	Retrograde

Suffix

❖Recall that a suffix is a letter or group of letters placed after a word to change (modify) its meaning.

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-algia	Pain, painful condition	Neuralgia
-cele	Herniation or bulging	Hydrocele
-itis	Inflammation	Gastritis
-ology	Study or science of	Cardiology
-pathy	Disease	Myopathy

COMMONLY USED TERMS

➢ **Abnormal** ab-is a word beginning, or prefix, often used in medical terms. It Means away from.

➢ **Anemia** an-is prefix meaning not or without. –emia is a word ending, or suffix, meaning blood condition.

➢ **Appendectomy** -ectomy is a suffix used in surgical terms; it means taking out (excision) or removing; append-refers to the appendix.

➢ **Arthritis** arthr is a word root meaning joint; -it is a suffix meaning inflammation.

➢**Diarrhea** dia- is a prefix meaning through; -rhea is a suffix meaning flow.

➢**Hydrophobia** hydro-is a root meaning water; -phobia means fear it is the medical term for rabies, a disease in which the victim fears water because swallowing it leads to painful spasms.

➢**Hypodermic** the prefix hypo- means beneath; the suffix –dermic means having to do with the skin. A hypodermic syringe (needle) injects fluid beneath the skin.

➢**Neuralgia** neur- is the root for nerve; the word ending-algia means pain in the body part it follows.

➢**Tracheotomy** trache is the medical root for trachea (the windpipe); -otomy is A surgical suffix that means a cutting or incision.

For listening ………………Any Question