

Unit 6 Lesson 4

Understanding Suffixes

Understanding the meaning of prefixess, root, and suffixes can help you figure out many medical words.

A suffix is at the end of a word and signals information about the word. Here are some common suffixes that will give you clues about their meaning.

Suffix	Meaning	Suffix	Meaning
-algia	pain	-metry	measurement
-asis	condition, usually abnormal	-oma	tumor
-cele	hernia, pouching	-pathy	disease
-centesis	puncture and aspiration of	-penia	lack, deficiency
-cyte	cell	-phagia	to eat, swallow
-ectasis	dilation of, stretching	-phasia	speaking
-ectomy	excision, removal of	-phobia	an exaggerated fear
-emia	blood condition	-plasty	surgical repair or reshaping
-genesis	development, production, creation	-plegia	paralysis
-genic	producing, creating	-ptosis	falling, saggin, drooping
-gram	record	-rrhage, -rrhagia	excessive flow
-graph	a diagram, a recording instrument	-rrhaphy	stitching, suturing
-iasis	condition of	-rrhea	profuse flow, discharge
-ism	a condition	-scope	examination instrument
-itis	inflammation	-scopy	examination using a scope
-logy	the study of	-stasis	maintenance, maintaining a constant level
-lysis	destruction of, decomposition	-stomy, -ostomy	creation of an opening
-megaly	enlargement	-tomy, -otomy	incision, cutting into
-meter	measurement	uria	condition of the urine