

Medical Terminology Made Easy

Many medical terms refer to various parts of the body. By learning to recognize the “word roots” for some of these parts, you can understand complicated medical terms. The following is a list of word roots, many of them derived from Latin or Greek, for various structures of the body.

Cardio = heart *derm = skin* *gastro- stomach*
Hepat – liver *myo = muscle* *nephro =kidney*
Neuro = nerve *odont-= tooth* *osteo = bone*
Oto = ear

Using the list of word roots as a guide, see if you can match each definition in Column I with the correct medical term in Column II. Knowledge of the following word endings, or suffixes, and word roots will also be helpful:

-itis (infection, inflammation) *-ology (the study of)* *-ectomy (surgical removal)*
-osis (abnormal or diseased) *-gram (recorded)* *electro- (electricity)*
tachy- (swift) *-algia (pain)*

Column I

- _____ 1. Inflammation of the stomach
- _____ 2. Branch of medicine concerned with the study
of the nervous system
- _____ 3. Malfunction of the kidneys
- _____ 4. Inflammation of the liver
- _____ 5. Abnormally rapid beating of the heart
- _____ 6. Small mirror used by dentists to view the teeth
- _____ 7. Infection of the bone marrow by bacteria
- _____ 8. Pain in a muscle or muscles
- _____ 9. Surgical removal of a kidney
- _____ 10. Graph showing the heartbeat

Column II

- A. Dermatologist
- B. Electrocardiogram
- C. Endocarditis
- D. Gastrectomy
- E. Gastritis
- F. Hepatitis
- G. Hypodermic
- H. Myalgia
- I. Myasthenia gravis
- J. Nephrosis