

## Section II. SUFFIXES - GENERAL INFORMATION AND DISEASES

Suffixes are the final element which we will study in analyzing medical terms. Normally, when reading or breaking down a medical word, begin with the suffix.

\*\*\*\*\*

199 When reading or breaking down a medical term, we usually begin with the \_\_\_\_\_.

suffix

\*\*\*\*\*

200 A suffix is a letter or syllable at the end of a word which adds meaning to the word.

A letter or syllable at the end of a word which adds to its meaning is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

suffix

\*\*\*\*\*

Like prefixes, suffixes could be placed into different categories of meaning.

201 Suffixes differ from prefixes, however, in that a suffix comes (before, after) the stem.

after

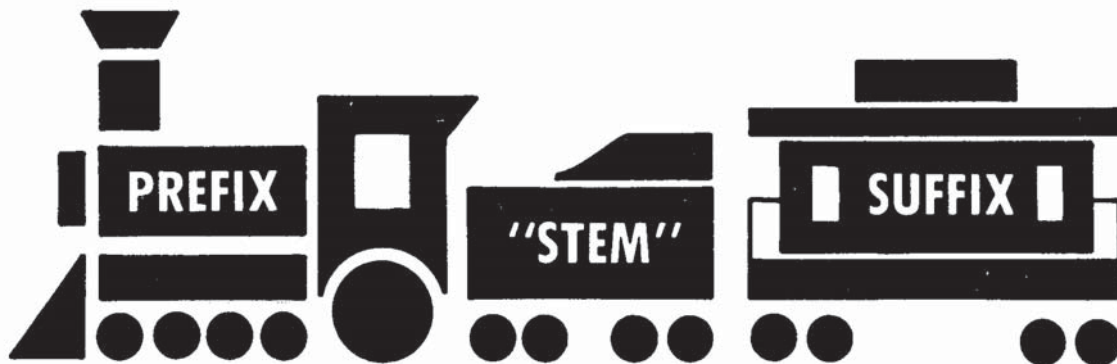
\*\*\*\*\*

Most suffixes are in common use in English, but a few are peculiar to medicine. The suffixes most commonly used to indicate disease are -itis, meaning inflammation; -oma, meaning tumor; and -osis, meaning condition, usually morbid.

202 Suffixes commonly used to indicate disease are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

itis/oma/osis

\*\*\*\*\*



203 To further reinforce what you have learned, please write the correct word in each of the blanks in the following sentences:

a. A letter or syllable at the end of a word which adds to its meaning is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

suffix (frame 199)

\*\*\*\*\*

b. When reading or breaking down a medical term, we usually begin with the \_\_\_\_\_.

prefix (frame 200)

\*\*\*\*\*

c. Suffixes differ from prefixes in that a suffix comes \_\_\_\_\_ (before, after) the stem.

after (frame 201)

\*\*\*\*\*

d. Suffixes commonly used to indicate disease are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

itis/oma/osis (frame 202)

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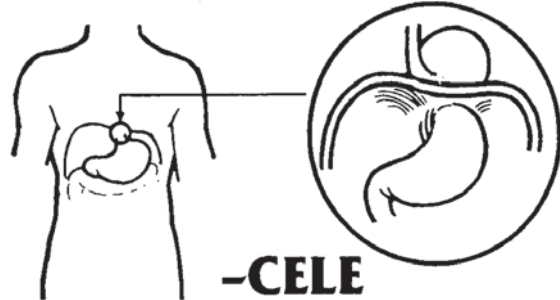
If you missed any of the questions in frame 203, please review the appropriate frame(s) before continuing to frame 204.

**Section III. SUFFIXES - PERTAINING TO DIAGNOSIS**

We will now look at the diagnostic suffixes.

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204 The suffix -cele means hernia, protrusion, or tumor. A gastrocele, then, is a protrusion or \_\_\_\_\_ of the stomach.



**-CELE**  
**GASTROCELE**

gas'tro-sel

hernia

\*\*\*\*\*

205 -Emia is the suffix for blood. A word we are all familiar with is leukemia, which is an abnormal amount of immature white blood cells. Hypoglycemia is a low amount of sugar in the \_\_\_\_\_.



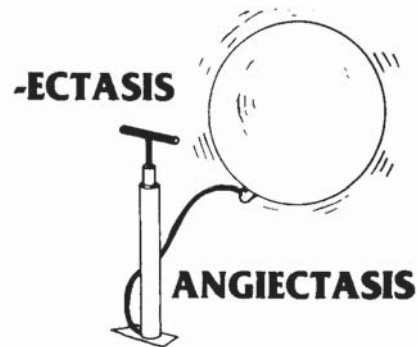
**LEUKEMIA**  
**HYPOGLYCEMIA**

lu-ke'me-ah  
hi"po-gli-se'me-ah

blood

\*\*\*\*\*

206 -Ectasis and -ectasia are suffixes meaning dilation, dilatation, or expansion. Angiectasis, then, is abnormal \_\_\_\_\_ of a blood vessel.



an"je-ek'tah-sis

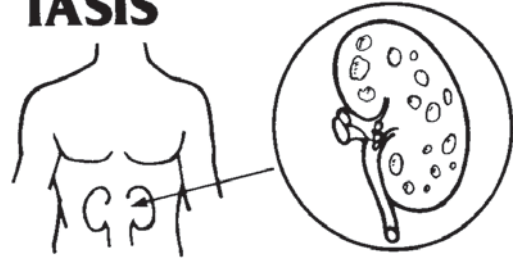
expanding/dilation/dilatation

\*\*\*\*\*

207 The suffix for condition, formation of, or presence of is -iasis. Nephrolithiasis, therefore, is a \_\_\_\_\_ of stones in the kidney.

nef"ro-li-thi'ah-sis

**IASIS**



**NEPHROLITHIASIS**

condition

\*\*\*\*\*

208 The suffix for inflammation is -itis. Encephalitis, then, is \_\_\_\_\_ of the brain.

en"sef-ah-li'tis

**-ITIS**



**ENCEPHALITIS**

inflammation

\*\*\*\*\*

209 The suffix for softening is -malacia. Therefore, chondromalacia is \_\_\_\_\_ of the cartilage.

kon"dro-mah-la'she-ah



**-MALACIA**

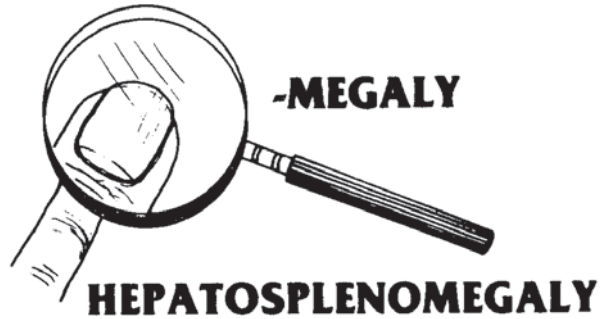
**CHONDROMALACIA**

softening

\*\*\*\*\*

210 The suffix for enlargement is -megaly. The stems for liver and spleen, as you will recall, are hepato and spleno. Hepatosplenomegaly, then, is \_\_\_\_\_ of the liver and spleen.

hep"ah-to-sple"no-meg'ah-le



enlargement

\*\*\*\*\*

211 The suffix for hardening is -sclerosis. The stem for artery, as you will recall, is arterio. Arteriosclerosis, then, is \_\_\_\_\_ of the arteries.

ar-te"re-o-skle-ro'sis

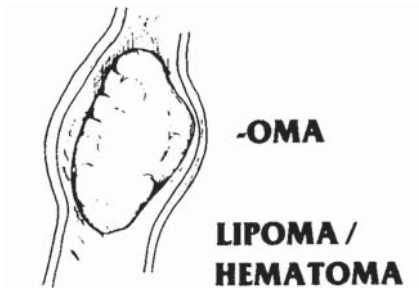


hardening

\*\*\*\*\*

212 The suffix for tumor is -oma; thus a lipoma is a fatty \_\_\_\_\_.

li-po'mah

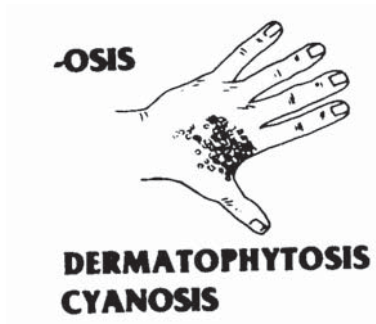


tumor

\*\*\*\*\*

213 The suffix for condition or disease is -osis. Dermatophytosis, then, is a \_\_\_\_\_ of fungus of the skin.

der"mah-to-fi-to'sis



condition

\*\*\*\*\*

214 The suffix for disease is -pathy. Thus, neuropathy is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the nerves.

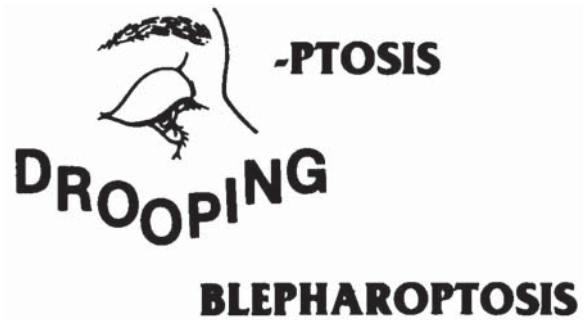
nu-rop'ah-the



disease

\*\*\*\*\*  
215 The suffix for prolapse or downward displacement is ptosis. The stem for eyelid, as you will recall, is blepharo. Therefore, a blepharoptosis is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the eyelid.

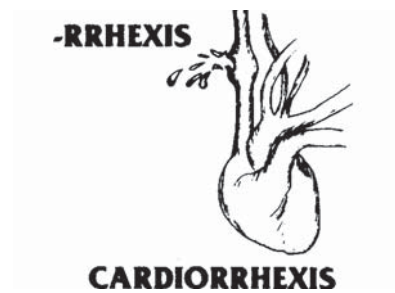
blef"ah-ro-to'sis



downward displacement

\*\*\*\*\*  
216 The suffix for rupture is -rrhexis. Cardiiorrhexis, then, is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the heart.

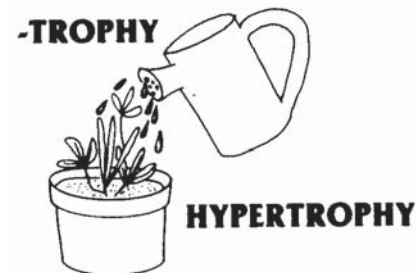
kar"de-o-rek'sis



rupture

\*\*\*\*\*  
217 The suffix for growth or nourishment is -trophy. The medical term for excessive \_\_\_\_\_, then, is hypertrophy.

hi-per'tro-fe

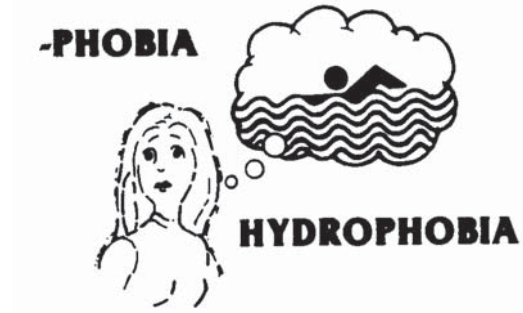


growth

\*\*\*\*\*

218 The suffix for fear is -phobia.  
Hydrophobia, then, is a \_\_\_\_\_  
of water.

hi"dro-fo'be-ah



fear

\*\*\*\*\*  
219 In review, give the meaning of each of  
the following diagnostic suffixes:

a. -cele means: \_\_\_\_\_

hernia, protrusion, tumor (frame 204)

\*\*\*\*\*  
b. -emia means: \_\_\_\_\_

in the blood (frame 205)

\*\*\*\*\*  
c. -ectasis means: \_\_\_\_\_

dilation, dilatation, or expansion  
(frame 206)

\*\*\*\*\*  
d. -iasis means: \_\_\_\_\_

condition, formation of, presence of  
(frame 207)

\*\*\*\*\*  
e. -itis means: \_\_\_\_\_

inflammation (frame 208)

\*\*\*\*\*  
f. -malacia means: \_\_\_\_\_

softening (frame 209)

\*\*\*\*\*  
g. -megaly means: \_\_\_\_\_

enlargement (frame 210)

h. -sclerosis means: \_\_\_\_\_

hardening (frame 211)

\*\*\*\*\*

i. -oma means: \_\_\_\_\_

tumor (frame 212)

\*\*\*\*\*

j. -osis means: \_\_\_\_\_

condition (frame 213)

\*\*\*\*\*

k. -pathy means: \_\_\_\_\_

disease (frame 214)

\*\*\*\*\*

l. -ptosis means: \_\_\_\_\_

prolapse/downward displacement  
(frame 215)

\*\*\*\*\*

m. -rrhexis means: \_\_\_\_\_

rupture (frame 216)

\*\*\*\*\*

n. -trophy means: \_\_\_\_\_

growth/nourishment (frame 217)

\*\*\*\*\*

o. -phobia means: \_\_\_\_\_

fear (frame 218)

\*\*\*\*\*

220 To further review what you have learned, please write the correct word in each of the blanks in the following sentences.

a. A gastrocele is a protrusion or \_\_\_\_\_ of the stomach.

hernia (frame 204)

\*\*\*\*\*



b. Hypoglycemia is a low amount of sugar in the \_\_\_\_\_.

blood (frame 205)

\*\*\*\*\*

c. Angiectasis is abnormal \_\_\_\_\_ of a blood vessel.

dilation (frame 206)

\*\*\*\*\*

d. Nephrolithiasis is a \_\_\_\_\_ of stones in the kidney.

dilation (frame 206)

\*\*\*\*\*

e. Encephalitis is \_\_\_\_\_ of the brain.

inflammation (frame 208)

\*\*\*\*\*

f. Chondromalacia is \_\_\_\_\_ of the cartilage.

softening (frame 209)

\*\*\*\*\*

g. Hepatosplenomegaly is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the liver and spleen.

enlargement (frame 210)

\*\*\*\*\*

h. Arteriosclerosis is \_\_\_\_\_ of the arteries.

hardening (frame 211)

\*\*\*\*\*

i. A lipoma is a fatty \_\_\_\_\_.

tumor (frame 212)

\*\*\*\*\*

j. Dermatophytosis is a fungus \_\_\_\_\_ of the skin.

condition (frame 213)

\*\*\*\*\*

k. Neuropathy is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the nerves.

disease (frame 214)

\*\*\*\*\*

l. Blepharoptosis is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the eyelid.

downward displacement (frame 215)

\*\*\*\*\*

m. Cardiorrhesis is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the heart.

rupture (frame 216)

\*\*\*\*\*

n. Hypertrophy is the medical term for excessive \_\_\_\_\_.

growth (frame 217)

\*\*\*\*\*

o. Hydrophobia is a \_\_\_\_\_ of water.

fear (frame 218)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you missed any of the questions in frames 219 and 220, please review the appropriate frame(s) before continuing to frame 221.

**Section IV. SUFFIXES - PERTAINING TO OPERATIVE PROCEDURES**

Now let's look at the operative suffixes.

\*\*\*\*\*  
221 The suffix for removal or excision is -ectomy. The stem, salpingo, means tube, and the stem, oophoro, means ovary. A salpingo-oophorectomy, therefore, is the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of tubes and ovaries.

sal-ping"go-o"of-o-rek'to-me

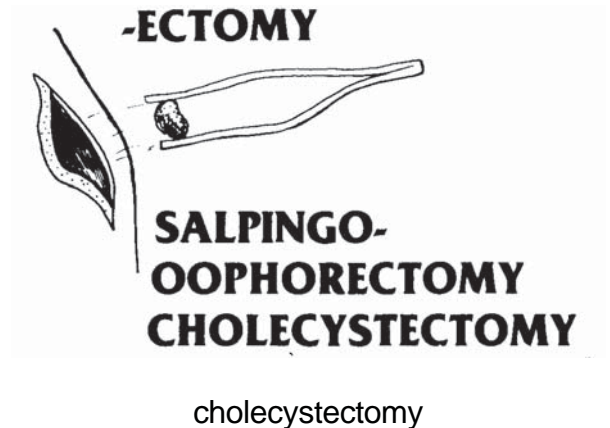
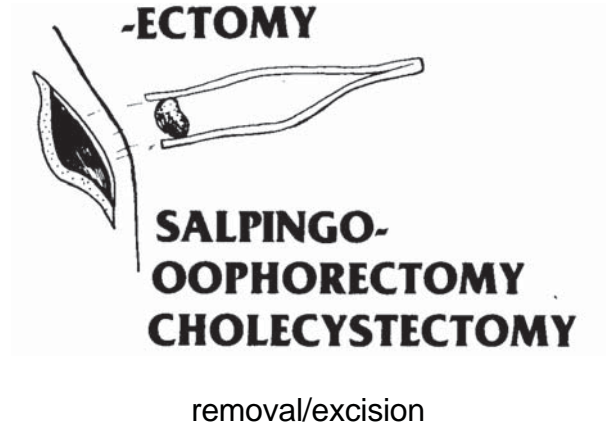
\*\*\*\*\*  
222 The stem cholecysto, as you recall, means gallbladder. Removal or excision of the gallbladder, therefore, is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

ko"le-sis-tek'to-me

\*\*\*\*\*  
223 The suffix for inspection or examination is -scopy. A bronchoscopy, then is an \_\_\_\_\_ of the bronchi.

brong-kos'ko-pe

\*\*\*\*\*



224 -stomy is the suffix meaning surgical creation of an artificial opening. Therefore, a colostomy is an \_\_\_\_\_ into the colon.

ko-los'to-me

\*\*\*\*\*

225 -tomy is the suffix meaning incision or cutting into. A laparotomy, then, is an \_\_\_\_\_ in the abdominal wall.

lap-ah-rot'o-me

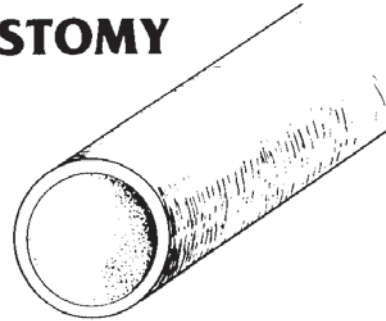
\*\*\*\*\*

226 The suffix for binding or fixation is -desis. Arthrodesis, then, is the medical term for surgical \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ of a joint.

ar'thro-de'sis

\*\*\*\*\*

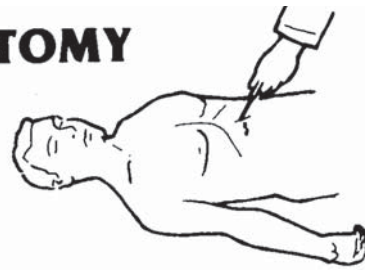
**-STOMY**



**COLOSTOMY**

artificial opening

**-TOMY**



**LAPAROTOMY**

incision

**-DESIS**

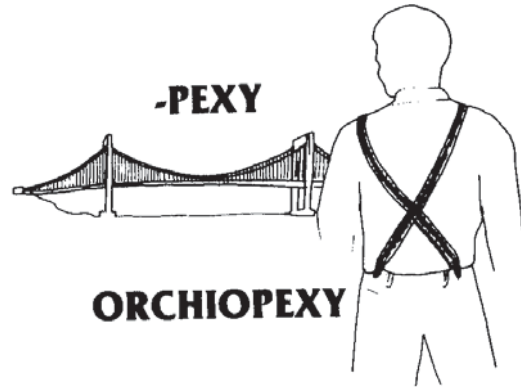


**ARTHRODESIS**

binding/fixation

227 The suffix for suspension or fixation is -pexy. An orchiopexy is \_\_\_\_\_ of an undescended testis.

or"ke-o-pek'se



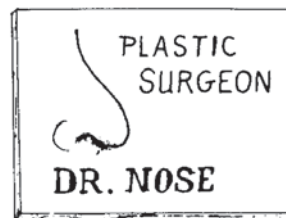
**ORCHIOPEXY**

suspension/fixation

\*\*\*\*\*

228 The suffix for plastic repair of is -plasty. Tympano, as you recall, is the stem for eardrum. Tympanoplasty, then, is the term for \_\_\_\_\_ of the eardrum.

tim"pah-no-plas'te



**-PLASTY**

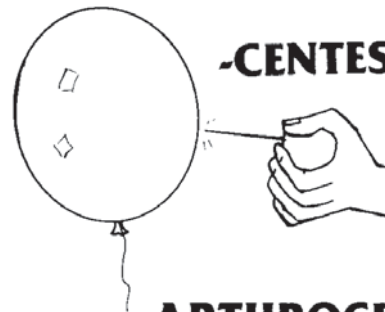
**TYMPANOPLASTY/  
RHINOPLASTY**

plastic repair

\*\*\*\*\*

229 The suffix -centesis means puncture. Arthrocentesis, therefore, means \_\_\_\_\_ of a joint for the removal of fluid.

ar"thro-sen-te'sis



**-CENTESIS**

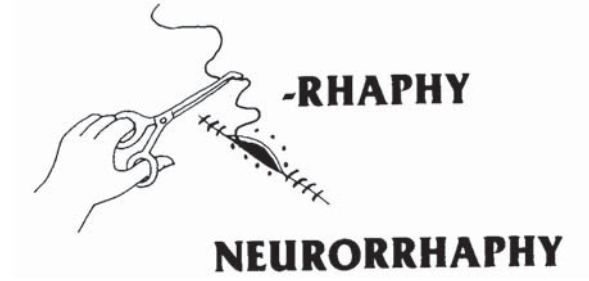
**ARTHROCENTESIS**

puncture

\*\*\*\*\*

230 The suffix for suture repair is -rrhaphy. Neurorrhaphy is the medical term for \_\_\_\_\_ of the nerve.

nu-ror'ah-fe



suture repair

\*\*\*\*\*  
231 In review, write the meaning of each of the following operative suffixes in the blank provided.

a. -ectomy means: \_\_\_\_\_

removal/excision (frame 221)

\*\*\*\*\*  
b. -scopy means: \_\_\_\_\_

inspection/examination (frame 223)

\*\*\*\*\*  
c. -stomy means: \_\_\_\_\_

artificial opening into (frame 224)

\*\*\*\*\*  
d. -tomy means: \_\_\_\_\_

incision/cutting (frame 225)

\*\*\*\*\*  
e. -desis means: \_\_\_\_\_

binding/fixation (frame 226)

\*\*\*\*\*  
f. -pexy means: \_\_\_\_\_

suspension/fixation  
(frame 227)

\*\*\*\*\*  
g. -plasty means: \_\_\_\_\_

plastic repair (frame 228)

h. -centesis means: \_\_\_\_\_

puncture (frame 229)

\*\*\*\*\*

i. -rrhaphy means: \_\_\_\_\_

suture repair (frame 230)

\*\*\*\*\*

232 To further review what you have learned, please write the correct word in each of the blanks in the following sentences.

a. A salpingo-oophorectomy is the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of tubes and ovaries.

removal/excision (frame 221)

\*\*\*\*\*

b. A bronchoscopy is an \_\_\_\_\_ of the bronchi.

examination/inspection (frame 223)

\*\*\*\*\*

c. A colostomy is an \_\_\_\_\_ the colon.

artificial opening into (frame 224)

\*\*\*\*\*

d. A laparotomy is an \_\_\_\_\_ into the abdominal wall.

incision (frame 225)

\*\*\*\*\*

e. Arthrodesis is the medical term for a surgical \_\_\_\_\_ of a joint.

fixation (frame 226)

\*\*\*\*\*

f. An orchiopexy is \_\_\_\_\_ of an undescended testis.

suspension/fixation (frame 227)

\*\*\*\*\*

g. Rhinoplasty is the term for \_\_\_\_\_ of the nose.

plastic repair (frame 228)

\*\*\*\*\*

h. Arthrocentesis is removal of fluid from a joint by \_\_\_\_\_.

puncture (frame 229)

\*\*\*\*\*

i. Neurorrhaphy is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the nerve.

suture repair (frame 230)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you missed any of the questions in frames 231 and 232, please review the appropriate frame(s) before continuing to frame 233.



**Section V. SUFFIXES - PERTAINING TO SYMPTOMS**

We will now study the symptomatic suffixes.

\*\*\*\*\*

233 -algia is a suffix meaning pain. Dentalgia, then, is the medical term for a \_\_\_\_\_ in the tooth.



den-tal'je-ah

pain

\*\*\*\*\*

234 -genic is the suffix for producing or originating. Pyo, as you recall, is the stem for pus. Pyogenic, then, is the term for \_\_\_\_\_ pus.



pi"o-jen'ik

**PYOGENIC**

producing

\*\*\*\*\*

235 -lysis is a suffix meaning destruction or breakdown. Hemolysis, therefore, means the \_\_\_\_\_ of red blood cells.



he-mol'i-sis

**HEMOLYSIS**

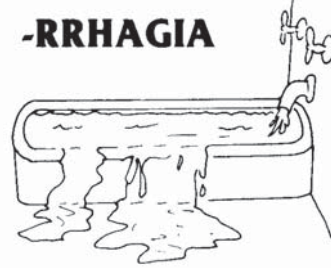
destruction

\*\*\*\*\*

236 -rrhagia is the suffix meaning excessive flow or discharge. Thus, hemorrhage is a term meaning \_\_\_\_\_ of blood.

hem'or-ij

**-RRHAGIA**



**HEMORRHAGE**

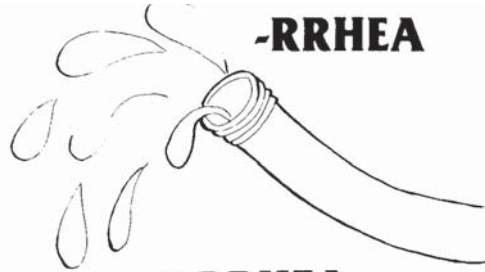
excessive flow/discharge

\*\*\*\*\*

237 Another suffix meaning excessive discharge or flow is -rrhea. Diarrhea is the medical term for \_\_\_\_\_ of the bowel.

di"ah-re'ah

**-RRHEA**



**DIARRHEA**

excessive discharge

\*\*\*\*\*

238 -penia is the suffix meaning decrease or deficiency. Erythropenia means a \_\_\_\_\_ of red blood cells.

e-rith"ro-pe'ne-ah

**-PENIA**



**LEUKOPENIA**

deficiency/decrease

\*\*\*\*\*

239 -spasm is the suffix meaning involuntary contraction. The medical term myospasm, then, means an \_\_\_\_\_ of the muscle.

mi'o-spazm

**-SPASM**



**MYOSPASM**

involuntary contraction

\*\*\*\*\*

240 The suffixes -ic, -ac, -al, and -ar mean pertaining to. Cardiovascular, for example, means \_\_\_\_\_ the heart and vessels.

kar"de-o-vas'ku-lar

\*\*\*\*\*

241 Here's another example: Intercostal means \_\_\_\_\_ between the ribs.

in"ter-kos'tal

\*\*\*\*\*

242 Otoscopic means \_\_\_\_\_ an examination of the ear.

o'to-skop-ik

\*\*\*\*\*

243 Finally, cardiac means \_\_\_\_\_ the heart.

kar'de-ak

\*\*\*\*\*

**-IC/-AC/-AL/-AR**



**INTERCOSTAL  
CARDIOVASCULAR**

pertaining to

**-IC/-AC/-AL/-AR**



**INTERCOSTAL  
CARDIOVASCULAR**

pertaining to

**-IC/-AC/-AL/-AR**



**OTOSCOPIC**

pertaining to

**-IC/-AC/-AL/-AR**



**CARDIAC**

pertaining to

244 In review, write the meaning of each of the following symptomatic suffixes:

a. -algia means: \_\_\_\_\_

pain (frame 233)

\*\*\*\*\*

b. -genic means: \_\_\_\_\_

producing (frame 234)

\*\*\*\*\*

c. -lysis means: \_\_\_\_\_

destruction (frame 235)

\*\*\*\*\*

d. -rrhagia means: \_\_\_\_\_

excessive discharge/flow (frame 236)

\*\*\*\*\*

e. -rrhea means: \_\_\_\_\_

excessive discharge (frame 237)

\*\*\*\*\*

f. -penia means: \_\_\_\_\_

deficiency (frame 238)

\*\*\*\*\*

g. -ic, -ac, -al, and -ar mean:

\_\_\_\_\_

pertaining to (frame 240)

\*\*\*\*\*

h. -spasm means: \_\_\_\_\_

involuntary contraction (frame 239)

\*\*\*\*\*

245 To further reinforce what you have learned, please write the correct word in the blanks in the following sentences.

a. Dentalgia is the medical term for a \_\_\_\_\_ in the tooth.

pain (frame 233)

\*\*\*\*\*

b. Pyogenic is the term for \_\_\_\_\_ pus.

producing (frame 234)

\*\*\*\*\*

c. Hemolysis means the \_\_\_\_\_ of red blood cells.

destruction (frame 235)

\*\*\*\*\*

d. Hemorrhage is a term meaning \_\_\_\_\_ of blood.

excessive discharge/flow (frame 236)

\*\*\*\*\*

e. Erythropenia means a \_\_\_\_\_ of red blood cells.

deficiency (frame 237)

\*\*\*\*\*

f. Diarrhea is the medical term for \_\_\_\_\_ of the bowel.

excessive discharge (frame 238)

\*\*\*\*\*

g. Myospasm is the medical term for \_\_\_\_\_ of a muscle.

involuntary contraction (frame 239)

\*\*\*\*\*

h. Cardiovascular means \_\_\_\_\_ the heart and vessels.

pertaining to (frame 240)

\*\*\*\*\*

i. Intercostal means \_\_\_\_\_ between the ribs.

pertaining to (frame 241)

\*\*\*\*\*

j. Otosopic means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ an examination of the  
ear.

pertaining to (frame 242)

\*\*\*\*\*

k. Cardiac means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the heart.

pertaining to (frame 243)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you missed any of the questions in frames 244 and 245, please review the appropriate frame(s) before continuing.

## CONGRATULATIONS

You have completed the last lesson on medical terminology. With your knowledge of prefixes, stems, and suffixes, you should be able to recognize and define most medical terms.

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*Continue with Self-Assessment*