MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

The Language of the Health Profession

ORIGIN OF MEDICAL TERMS

- Hippocrates was a Greek physician and is known as the "father of medicine."
- 75% of medical terms are based on either Greek or Latin words.

ROOT WORDS

- A root is the foundation or basic meaning of a word.
- May appear with a prefix or suffix, or between a prefix or suffix.
- cardi - root for heart
- hepat - root for liver
- neur - root for nerve
- nephr - root for kidney
- cyt - root for cell

PREFIX

- The prefix is a part of the word that precedes the word root and changes its meaning.
- Often indicates location, time, or number.
- Pro - prefix means before
- peri - prefix means around
- hemi - prefix means half
- micro - prefix means large
- neo - prefix means new

SUFFIX

- A suffix is the word ending that follows the word root and changes its meaning.
- Often indicates the procedure, condition, disorder, or disease.
- -itis - suffix means inflammation
- -ology - suffix means the study of
- -ectomy - suffix means surgical removal
- -plast - suffix means surgical repair

Cardiology

- Cardi - root means heart.
- -ology - suffix means the study of.
- Cardiology - the study of the heart.
Nephritis
- Neph - root word means kidney
- -itis suffix means inflammation
- Nephritis means inflammation of the kidney

**Break down and define the following medical terms.**
- pericarditis
- leukocyte
- hepatitis
- neuroplasty

**Pericarditis**
- Peri- means around
- cardi- means the heart
- -itis means inflammation

**Leukocyte**
- leuko- prefix means white
- cyte - root word means cell
- leukocyte means white cell

**Hepatitis**
- hepat - root word means liver
- -itis - suffix means inflammation
- hepatitis - means inflammation of the liver

**Neuroplasty**
- neuro - root word means nerve or nerves
- -plasty - suffix means surgical repair
- neuroplasty means surgical repair of the nerve
Combining Forms

- Combining form consists of the word root and a connecting vowel to make it easier to pronounce and attach another root word or suffix.
- Combining form for heart is cardi
- Combining form associated with cells is cyt

Basic Rules for the Combining Vowel

- The combining vowel is not used when the suffix begins with a vowel. (neuritis)
- The combining vowel is used when the suffix begins with a consonant. (neuroplasty)

THE END