**Suffixes**

Suffixes indicate a procedure, condition, disorder or disease and form nouns or adjectives. They are added to the end of the root giving it essential meaning.

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| **Suffixes related to pathology** |
| **Suffix** | **Meaning** | **Suffix** | **Meaning** |
| **-aemia** | blood, blood condition | **-pathy** | disease or disorder |
| **-algia** | pain | -**penia** | condition of deficiency, decrease |
| **-cele** | herniation, protrusion | **-phagia** | swallowing, eating |
| **-chezia** | passage of stools | **-philia** | attraction for |
| **-dynia** | pain | **-phobia** | fear of |
| **-ectasis** | expansion, distension, dilation | **-phthisis** | decay |
| **-emesis** | abnormal condition of vomiting | **-plasia** | formation |
| **-genic** | pertaining to the production of | **-plegia** | paralysis |
| **-genesis** | production of | **-ptosis** | downward displacement, prolapse |
| **-iasis** | process, state, diseased condition | -**ptysis** | condition of spitting or coughing up |
| **-itis** | inflammation | **-pyosis** | suppuration |
| **-listhesis** | abnormal condition of slipping | **-rrhage, rrhagia** | excessive discharge, excessive flow, bursting forth  |
| **-lithiasis** | presence of stones | **-rrhoea** | flow, discharge |
| **-lysis** | dissolution, degeneration | **-rrhexis** | rupture |
| **-malacia** | softening | **-schisis** | splitting |
| **-megaly** | enlargement | **-sclerosis** | hardening |
| **-necrosis** | death | **-spasm**  | sudden involuntary contraction  |
| **-oedema** | swelling | **-stenosis** | narrowing, stricture |
| **-oma** | tumour, mass | **-trophy** | nourishment, development |
| **-osis** | abnormal condition | **-uria** | urine |
| **-paresis** | slight paralysis |  |  |

**Exercise:** Complete the following terms with an appropriate suffix

1. black cell tumour melanocyt………………
2. splitting of a vertebra spondylo…………………
3. herniation of the stomach gastro……………………
4. narrowing of the trachea tracheo……………………
5. softening of a gland adeno……………………
6. excessive development hyper……………………
7. death of a blood vessel angio……………………
8. fear of being in open or public places agora……………………
9. protein in the urine protein……………………
10. dilation of a blood vessel angi……………………
11. a decrease in the number of white blood cells leuko……………………
12. enlargement of the liver hepato……………………
13. diseased condition in which the fungus *Candida albicans*

is presentcandid……………………

1. paralysis of all four extremities quadri……………………
2. excessive amount of lipids in the blood hyperlipid……………………
3. inflammation of the tonsils tonsil……………………
4. excessive discharge of blood haemo……………………
5. pain in the nerves neur……………………
6. pertaining to production of disease patho……………………
7. rupture of the heart wall cardio……………………
8. production of pus pyo……………………
9. blood in the vomit haemat……………………
10. involuntary contraction of the nerves neuro……………………
11. dissolution of blood haemato……………………
12. difficult or painful menstrual discharge dysmeno……………………

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| Suffixes referring to therapeutic and surgical interventions |
| Suffix | Meaning | Suffix | Meaning |
| -centesis | surgical puncture for aspiration of fluid | **-desis** | surgical fusing or binding |
| -ectomy | surgical removal | **-plasty** | surgical repair  |
| -lysis | process of breaking down or destroying | **-rrhaphy** | surgical suture |
| -pexy | surgical fixation | **-tomy** | surgical incision |
| -tripsy | process of crushing  | **-stomy** | surgical creation of an opening |

**Exercise:** Complete the following terms with an appropriate suffix

1. breaking down of fat lipo……………………
2. procedure to puncture for aspiration of amniotic fluid amnio…………………
3. process of crushing calculi litho……………………
4. creation of an opening in the trachea tracheo………………
5. surgical removal of (a) breast(s) mast……………………
6. procedure to fuse joints together arthro…………………
7. surgical repair of the nose rhino……………………
8. surgical suturing of a hernia hernio…………………
9. fixation of the caecum caeco……………………
10. incision into the abdomen lapar…………………

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| **Suffixes referring to diagnostic procedures and records** |
| Suffix | Meaning | Suffix | Meaning |
| **-graphy** | process of recording  | **-metry** | process of measuring  |
| **-gram** | a graphic record  | **-scopy** | process of visualisation  |

**Exercise:** Complete the following terms with an appropriate suffix

1. measurement of the head cephalo…………………
2. recording of the heart action and function cardio……………………
3. visual examination of the rectum and the anus procto……………………
4. a graphic record of breathing spiro……………………..

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| Suffixes referring to instruments and devices  |  |  |
| Suffix | Meaning | Suffix | Meaning |
| **-graph** | instrument used to record | **-tome** | instrument used to cut |
| **-meter** | instrument used for measuring | **-tripter** | instrument used to crush |
| **-scope** | instrument used to examine | **-trite** | instrument used to remove |

**Exercise:** Complete the following terms with an appropriate suffix

1. an instrument used for examining the chest stetho………………
2. an instrument used to cut (thin slices of) the skin derma………………
3. an instrument used for crushing calculi litho…………………
4. an instrument for the removal of carious bone osteo……………….
5. an instrument for measuring the oxygen saturation of arterial blood oxi……………………
6. an instrument used for recording the electrical activity of the brain

 electroencephalo…………………..

**Exercise:** Match each suffix with its corresponding meaning

**Suffix**  **Meaning**

………… –plegia 1. attraction for

………… –schisis 2. spitting or coughing up

………… –phthisis 3. abnormal or diseased condition

………… –trophy 4. surgical puncture

………… –genic 5. urine

………… –osis 6. splitting

………… –philia 7. surgical suture

………… –ptysis 8. pertaining to formation or production of

………… –gram 9. slight or incomplete paralysis

………… -tripsy 10. growth

………… –lysis 11. condition of paralysis

………… –centesis 12. creating a surgical opening

………… –oma 13. decay

………… –uria 14. surgical binding

………… –rrhaphy 15. a graphic record

………… -stomy 16. procedure for crushing

………… –pexy 17. procedure for dissolution

………… -paresis 18. vomiting

………… -emesis 19. tumour

………… -desis 20. surgical fixation

**Exercise:** Complete the terms with an appropriate suffix related to pathology

1. narrowing of the uterus utero……………………
2. death of a bone osteo……………………
3. glucose in the urine glycos……………………
4. formation or presence of calculi lith……………………….
5. splitting of the retina’s neurosensory layers retino………………….
6. slight paralysis of one side of the body hemi……………………
7. enlargement of the spleen spleno…………………
8. intolerance to visual perception of light photo………………….
9. new formation (of tissue) neo……………………..
10. any disease or disorder of the nervous system neuro………………….
11. a diseased condition characterised by

bluish discolouration of the skin cyan……………………

1. attraction to water hydro………………….
2. downward displacement of the kidneys nephro……………….
3. hardening of the arteries arterio………………..
4. softening of cartilage chondro………………