

SURGICAL SUFFIXES

Another group involves the surgical suffixes. Examples of common surgical suffixes are:

- centesis*** = surgical puncture. Example: arthro***centesis*** = puncture of a joint
- clasis*** = to break; surgical fracture. Example: osteo***clasis*** = surgical fracture of a bone
- desis*** = binding, fixation . Example: arthro***desis*** = binding together of a joint
- ectomy*** = excision, removal. Example: append***ectomy*** = excision of the appendix
- lysis*** = separation; destruction. Example: thrombo***lysis*** = destruction of blood clot
- pexy*** = fixation (of an organ) . Example: masto***pexy*** = fixation of the breast(s)
- plasty*** = surgical repair. Example: rhino***plasty*** = surgical repair of the nose
- rrhaphy*** = suture. Example: myo***rrhaphy*** = suture of a muscle
- stomy*** = forming an opening. Example: tracheo***stomy*** = forming an opening into the trachea
- tome*** = instrument to cut. Example: osteo***tome*** = instrument to cut bone
- tomy*** = incision. Example: tracheo***tomy*** = incision = into the trachea
- tripsy*** = crushing. Example: litho***tripsy*** = crushing a stone

DIAGNOSTIC, PATHOLOGICAL, AND RELATED SUFFIXES

Examples of common diagnostic, pathological, and related suffixes are:

Diagnostic

- gram*** = record, writing. Example: electrocardio***gram*** = record of the electrical activity of the heart. It is abbreviated to ***ECG***
- graph*** = instrument for recording. Example: cardio***graph*** = instrument for recording electrical activity of the heart
- graphy*** = process of recording. Example: angio***graphy*** = process of recording blood vessels
- meter*** = instrument for measuring. Example: pelvi***meter*** = instrument for measuring pelvis

-metry = act of measuring. Example: **pelvimetry** = act or process of measuring the dimension of the pelvis

-scope = instrument for examining. Example: **endoscope** = instrument for examining within

-scopy = visual examination. Example: **endoscopy** = visual examination within

Pathological and related

-algia = pain. Example: **neuralgia** = pain of a nerve

-dynia = pain. Example: **otodynia** = pain in the ear; earache

-cele = hernia, swelling. Example: **hepatocoele** = hernia of the liver

-ectasis = dilation, expansion. Example: **bronchiectasis** = dilation or expansion of one or more bronchi

-edema = swelling. Example: **lymphedema** = swelling and accumulation of tissue fluid

-emesis = vomiting. Example: **hyperemesis** = excessive vomiting

-emia = blood condition. Example: **anemia** = blood condition caused by a decrease in red blood cells (erythrocytes)

-gen = forming, producing, origin. Example: **carcinogen** = forming, producing, or origin of cancer

-genesis = formation or production. Example: **carcinogenesis** = formation or production of cancer

-iasis = abnormal condition (produced by something specific). Example: **cholelithiasis** = abnormal condition of gallstones

-itis = inflammation. Example: gastr**itis** = inflammation of the stomach

-lith = stone, calculus. Example: chole**lith** = gallstone

-malacia = softening. Example: chondrom**alacia** = softening of the articular cartilage, usually involving the patella

-megaly = enlargement. Example: cardi**megaly** = enlargement of the heart

-oma = tumor. Example: neu**roma** = tumor composed of nerve tissue

-osis = abnormal condition, increase (used primarily with blood cells). Example: cyan**osis** = dark blue or purple discoloration of the skin. Another example: leukocyt**osis** = increase in the number of white blood cells.

-pathy = disease . Example: myo**pathy** = disease of muscle

-penia = decrease, deficiency. Example: erythro**penia** = decrease in red blood cells

-phagia = eating, swallowing. Example: dys**phagia** = inability or difficulty in swallowing

-phasia = speech. Example: a**phasia** = absence or impairment of speech

-phobia = fear. Example: hemoph**obia** = fear of blood

-plasia = formation, growth of cells, tissues, or organs. Example: dys**plasia** = abnormal formation or growth of cells, tissues, or organs

-plasm = formation, growth. Example: neo**plasm** = new formation or growth of tissue

-plegia = paralysis. Example: hemi**plegia** = paralysis of one side of the body

-ptosis = prolapse, downward displacement. Example: blephar**optosis** = drooping of the upper eyelid

-rrhage = bursting forth (of). Example: hemorr**hage** = bursting forth (of) blood

-rrhagia = bursting forth (of). Example: menorr**hagia** = profuse discharge of blood during menstruation

-rrhea = discharge, flow. Example: diarr**rrhea** = abnormally frequent discharge or flow of fluid fecal matter from the bowel

-rrhexis = rupture. Example: arteriorr**hexis** = rupture of an artery

-sclerosis = abnormal condition of hardening. Example: arterios**sclerosis** = abnormal condition of hardening of an artery

-spasm = involuntary contraction, twitching. Example: blepharosp**asm** = twitching of the eyelid

-stenosis = narrowing, stricture. Example: arteriost**stenosis** = abnormal narrowing of an artery

-toxic = poison. Example: hepat**otoxic** = poisonous to the liver

-trophy = nourishment, development. Example: dyst**rophy** = bad nourishment

-agogue = agent used to promote flow or secretion . Example: sial**agogue** = agent that increases the flow of saliva