

SURGICAL SUFFIXES

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

-centesis = surgical puncture. Example: **arthrocentesis** = puncture of a joint

-clasis = to break; surgical fracture. Example: **osteoclasis** = surgical fracture of a bone

-desis = binding, fixation . Example: **arthrodesis** = binding together of a joint

-ectomy = excision, removal. Example: **appendectomy** = excision of the appendix

-lysis = separation; destruction. Example: **thrombolysis** = destruction of blood clot

-pexy = fixation (of an organ) . Example: **mastopexy** = fixation of the breast(s)

-plasty = surgical repair. Example: **rhinoplasty** = surgical repair of the nose

-rrhaphy = suture. Example: **myorrhaphy** = suture of a muscle

-stomy = forming an opening. Example: **tracheostomy** = forming an opening into the trachea

-tome = instrument to cut. Example: **osteotome** = instrument to cut bone

-tomy = incision. Example: **tracheotomy** = incision = into the trachea

-tripsy = crushing. Example: **lithotripsy** = crushing a stone

DIAGNOSTIC, PATHOLOGICAL, AND RELATED SUFFIXES

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

Diagnostic

-gram = record, writing. Example: **electrocardiogram** = record of the electrical activity of the heart. It is abbreviated to **ECG**

-graph = instrument for recording. Example: **cardiograph** = instrument for recording electrical activity of the heart

-graphy = process of recording. Example: **angiography** = process of recording blood vessels

-meter = instrument for measuring. Example: **pelvimeter** = 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: **hepatocèle** = 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: **gastritis** = inflammation of the stomach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-phobia = fear. Example: **hemophobia** = fear of blood

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-rrhexis = rupture. Example: **arteriorrhesis** = rupture of an artery

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

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

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

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

-trophy = nourishment, development. Example: **dystrophy** = bad nourishment

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