Chapter 5
Medical Terminology

Health Care
Science
Technology
Objectives

- Identify the 4 medical technology word parts.
- Build and break apart medical terms to create or define medical terminology.
- Know how to “read” medical terms.
- Use the common medical terminology for each body system.
- List common medical abbreviations.
Understanding Medical Terminology 5-1

- Using Word Parts to Build Medical Terminology
- Decoding Medical Terms
Using Word Parts to Build Medical Terminology

- **Word root (WR)** – The basic meaning of the medical term, usually from Latin or Greek words.

- **Examples:**
  - neur = nerve
  - cost = rib
Using Word Parts to Build Medical Terminology (cont.)

- Combining form (CF) – Word root plus a vowel, usually an “o”, to help in pronunciation.
- Examples:
  - neur/o = nerve
  - cost/o = rib
Using Word Parts to Build Medical Terminology (cont.)

- **Suffix (S)** – Attached to the end of a word, to change the meaning to a noun, adjective, or verb. All medical terms have suffixes.

- **Examples:**
  - -ectomy = excision or surgical removal (N)
  - -al = pertaining to (A)
Using Word Parts to Build Medical Terminology (cont.)

- **Prefix (P)** – Attached to the beginning of a word, to describe, modify, or limit. Not all medical terms have prefixes.

  - **Examples:**
    - trans – across, through
    - intra – in, within
    - sub – less than, under
Decoding Medical Terms

- Start with the suffix (the word ending), and define the suffix.
- Go to the prefix; define the prefix.
- Then, go to the middle of the word; define the word root, combining form, or both if both exist in the same word.
- Combine the definitions.
Section 5-1
Apply Your Knowledge

When defining a medical term, you should start with which part?

Answer:

When defining a medical term, you should start with the suffix.
Building Medical Terms 5-2

- Compound Words
Compound Words

Prefix | Word | Root | Suffix
Combining Forms: Transneurocostal
  - Suffix - al = pertaining to
  - Prefix trans = across
  - Combining form neur/o = nerve
  - Word root cost = rib

Definition: Pertaining to across the nerves of the ribs.
In compound words, what forms are used between word roots?

Answer:

In compound words, combining forms are used between word roots.
Frequently Used Word Parts 5-3

- Frequently Used Suffixes
- Frequently Used Prefixes
- Plural Forms
- Commonly Used Word Roots
- Descriptive Terms
- Directional Terms
- Word Parts for Colors
Plural Forms

- When a singular word ends in *y*, the plural is often formed by changing *y* to *i* and adding *es*.
- When a singular word ends in *a*, add *e* to form the plural.
- If a singular word ends in *um*, change the *um* to *a* to form the plural.
Section 5-3
Apply Your Knowledge

What is the plural form of each of the following?

- emergency: emergencies
- fimbria: fimbriae
- atrium: atra
Organ Systems 5-4 (cont.)

- Endocrine System
- Lymphatic System
- Sensory System
- Reproductive Systems
- Integumentary System
Organ Systems

- Word parts can be divided to represent the systems of the body.
- These word parts are used to describe diseases and conditions related to each of the systems.
Organ Systems (cont.)

- **Cardiovascular System**
  - Angiogram – image of a blood vessel.

- **Respiratory System**
  - Adenoidectomy – removal of the adenoids.

- **Nervous System**
  - Cerebellum – posterior portion of the brain.

- **Digestive System**
  - Appendicitis – inflammation of the appendix.
Organ Systems (cont.)

- **Muscular System**
  - Myositis – inflammation of a muscle.

- **Skeletal System**
  - Arthritis – inflammation of a joint.

- **Urinary System**
  - Cystopexy – surgical fixation of the bladder.

- **Endocrine System**
  - Glucogenesis – production of glucose.
Organ Systems (cont.)

- Lymphatic System
  - Lymphoid – resembling lymph.

- Sensory System
  - Conjunctivitis – inflammation of the conjunctiva.

- Reproductive System
  - Hysterectomy – removal of the uterus.

- Integumentary System
  - Dermatology – study of skin and its diseases.
### Identify the condition or procedure identified by each of the following terms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hematology</td>
<td>Study of the blood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracheotomy</td>
<td>Cutting into the trachea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhinitis</td>
<td>Inflammation of the nose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastritis</td>
<td>Inflammation of the stomach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharyngitis</td>
<td>Inflammation of the pharynx.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoarthritis</td>
<td>Inflammation of the bones and joints.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Identify the condition or procedure identified by each of the following terms:

- **Nephrology**  
  Study of the kidney.

- **Pancreatitis**  
  Inflammation of the pancreas.

- **Mastectomy**  
  Removal of the breast.

- **Ophthalmoscopy**  
  Visual examination of eye.

- **Amenorrhea**  
  Without menstruation.

- **Dermatitis**  
  Inflammation of the skin.
Medical Abbreviations 5-5

- Abbreviations of Organ Systems
- Cardiovascular System
- Respiratory System
- Nervous System
- Digestive System
- Muscular System
- Skeletal System
- Urinary System
Medical Abbreviations 5-5 (cont.)

- Endocrine System
- Lymphatic System
- Sensory System
- Reproductive System
- General Abbreviations
- Commonly Used Medical Abbreviations
Medical Abbreviations

- **System Abbreviations**: “When in doubt spell it out.”
  - Example: CXR = chest X ray

- Abbreviations can consist of the first letter in each word in the term.
  - Example: ER = emergency room

- Abbreviations can be from Latin or Greek.
  - Example: Abbreviation for Latin phrase *ante cibum* is a.c. = before meals
What do the following orders mean?

- VS q4h  
  Vital signs every 4 hours.

- NPO  
  Nothing by mouth.

- BUN, FBS, and MRI in am  
  Blood urea nitrogen, fasting blood sugar, and magnetic resonance imaging in the morning.