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Medical Terminology Made Easy

Many medical and biology terms refer to various parts of the body. By learning to recognize the "word roots" for some of these parts, you can understand complicated medical terms. The following is a list of word roots, many of them derived from Latin or Greek, for various structures of the body.

cardi- = heart derm- = skin gastr- = stomach hepat- = liver neph- = kidney
 nephro- = kidney neur- = nerve odont- = tooth oculo- = eye otic- = ear

Using the list (selected) of word roots as a guide, see if you can match each definition in Column I with the correct medical term in Column II. Knowledge (not memory) of the following word endings, or suffixes, and word roots will also be helpful: -itis (inflammation), -ology (the study of), -ectomy (surgical removal), -osis (abnormal or disease), -spasm (spasmed), -electro- (electricity), -algia- (pain), and -algia (pain).

- | Column I | Column II |
|--|----------------------|
| ___ 1. Inflammation of the stomach | A. Dermatologist |
| ___ 2. Branch of medicine concerned with the study of the nervous system | B. Electrocardiogram |
| ___ 3. Malfunction of the kidneys | C. Endocarditis |
| ___ 4. Inflammation of the liver | D. Otolaryngology |
| ___ 5. Abnormally rapid beating of the heart | E. Otitis |
| ___ 6. Small mirrors used by dentists to view the teeth | F. Hepatitis |
| ___ 7. Infection of the bone marrow by bacteria | G. Hypertension |
| ___ 8. Pain a muscle or muscles | H. Myalgia |
| ___ 9. Surgical removal of a kidney | I. Myasthenia gravis |
| ___ 10. Graph showing the heartbeat | J. Nephrosis |
| ___ 11. Destruction of bone by surgery or disease | K. Nephrotoxic |
| ___ 12. Disease in which you focus at the roots of the teeth | L. Neurogia |
| ___ 13. Injection of fluid under the skin by means of a syringe | M. Neurology |
| ___ 14. Fungal infection of the external ear and ear canal | N. Otolaryngologist |
| ___ 15. General inflammation of the peripheral nervous system | O. Periodontitis |
| ___ 16. Inflammation of the heart lining | P. Otopneumonia |
| ___ 17. Specialist in diagnosis and treatment of skin diseases | Q. Polyneuritis |
| ___ 18. Surgical removal of part of the stomach | R. Osteoclasts |
| ___ 19. Nerve pain along a peripheral nerve | S. Otitomycosis |
| ___ 20. Disease in which the muscles are weak and tire easily | T. Tachycardia |



MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

COMMON PREFIXES

a-, an-	not, without, away
aut-	self
brady-	slow
dia-	apart, through
end-	within, inside
exo-	outside of, without
epi-	above
hyper-	excessive
hypo-	insufficient
inter-	between
intra-	middle
media-	medium
medial-	middle
medi-	middle
medio-	within
normo-	normal
per-	through
peri-	around
physi-	physiology
poly-	many
pro-	before, for, in front of
re-	back, again
retro-	behind, back
sub-	under, below
syn-	union or association
sym-	union or association
tachy-	fast
trans-	across, through

VOCABULARY REVIEW

Fill in the blank with the correct vocabulary terms from this chapter.

1. An alphanumeric number issued by the insurance company giving approval of a procedure or service is a(n) _____.
2. The amount payable by insurance companies for a monetary loss to an individual insured by the company, under each coverage, is known as _____.
3. In the United States, Health Care practitioners render services; _____ receiving payment.
4. Active duty military personnel, family members of active duty personnel, military retirees and their eligible family members under the age of 65, in the survivors of all uniformed services are covered by _____.
5. The health benefits program run by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that helps eligible beneficiaries pay the cost of specific healthcare services and supplies is the (give acronym) _____.
6. _____ provides periodic payments to replace income when an insured person is unable to work as a result of illness, injury, or disease.
7. The _____ is the day on which insurance coverage begins seven benefits are payable.
8. _____ is the process of confirming health insurance coverage for the patient for the medical service and the day of service.
9. The term for limitations on an insurance contract for which benefits are not payable is _____.



Combining Forms and Terminology

Combining Form	Meaning
• bucc/o	_____
• cec/o	_____
• celi/o	_____
• cheil/o	_____
• chol/e	_____
• cholangi/o	_____
• cholecyst/o	_____
• choledoch/o	_____



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