

Word Roots and Combining Forms

<i>Root Word</i>	<i>Combining Form</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Example</i>
A			
abdomen	abdomin/o	abdomen	abdominocentesis
achilles	achill/o	Achilles' heel	achillobursitis
acid	acid/o	acid (pH)	acidosis
acoust	acoust/o	hearing	acoustics
acr	acr/o	extremity	acroarthritis
actin	actin/o	ray	actinodermatitis
acu	acul/o	needle	acupuncture
aden	aden/o	gland	adenosis
adip	adip/o	fat	adipocyte
adren	adren/o	adrenal gland	adrenomegaly
aer	aer/o	air	aerophore
agglutin	agglutin/o	clumping	agglutination
albin	albin/o	white	albinuria
albumin	albumin/o	protein	albuminuria
alkali	alkali/o	basic (pH)	alkalosis
all	all/o	other	allochromasia
alveoli	alveol/o	small hole, air sac	alveoloclasia
ambly	ambly/o	dull	amblyopia
ambul	ambul/o	walk	ambulate
ametr	ametr/o	disproportionate	ametropia
amnion	amni/o	amnion	amniocentesis
amyl	amyl/o	starch	amylorrhea
andr	andr/o	man (male)	androgenus
angi	angi/o	vessel	angioplasty
angina	angin/o	choke	anginose

aniso	anis/o	unequal	anisocytosis
ankyl	ankyl/o	stiffened, crooked	ankylosis
anus	an/o	anus	anoscope
anthrac	anthrac/o	coal	anthracosis
antr	antr/o	cavity	antroscope
append	append/o	appendix	appendectomy
aort	aort/o	aorta	aortography
arachn	arachn/o	spider	arachnoid
arteri	artcri/o	artery	arterial
arthr	arthr/o	joint	arthroscope
atel	atel/o	imperfect, incomplete	atelectasis
ather	ather/o	fatty	atherosclerosis
atri	atri/o	atrium, chamber	atriomegaly
audi	audi/o	hear	audiology
aur	aur/o	ear	aural
axill	axill/o	armpit	axillary
B			
bacteri	bacteri/o	bacteria	bacteriuria
balan	balan/o	glans	balanitis
bas	bas/o	base (pH)	basophil
bip	bil/i	gall, bile	biliary
bilirubin	bilirubin/o	bilirubin	hyperbilirubinism
bio	bi/o	life	biosphere
blephar	blephar/o	eyelid	blepharitis
bol	bol/o	cast, throw	anabolic
brachy	brachy/o	arm	brachycephalic
bronch	bronch/o	bronchi	bronchitis
bucc	bucc/o	cheek	buccoocclusion
burs	burs/o	pouch	bursitis

C			
cac	cac/o	bad, diseased	cachexia
calc	calc/i	calcium	calciuria
calcane	calcane/o	heel bone	calcaneodynia
capn	capn/i	smoke, carbon dioxide	hypercapnia
carcin	carcin/o	cancer	carcinoma
cardi	cardi/o	heart	cardioplegia
carp	carp/o	wrist	carpopedal
cata	cat/a	down, downward	catatonic
caud	caud/o	tail	caudal
caus	caus/o	heat	causalgia
cecum	cec/o	cecum	cecoileostomy
celi	celi/o	abdomen	celioma
centr	centr/i	center	centrilobular
cephal	cephal/o	head	cephalhydrocele
cerebell	cerebell/o	little brain (cerebellum)	cerebellospinal
cerebr	cerebr/o	brain (cerebrum)	cerebromalacia
cerumin	cerumin/o	wax	ceruminolysis
cervic	cervic/o	neck	cervicofacial
cheil	cheil/o	lip	cheilosis
chem	chem/o	chemical	chemotherapy
chole	chole/o	gall, bile	cholecystogram
cholangi	cholangi/o	bile vessel	cholangioma
choledoch	choledoch/o	common bile duct	choledochotomy
cholester	cholester/o	cholesterol, fat	cholesterosis
chondr	chondr/o	cartilage	chondrocarcinoma
chori	chori/o	chorion	chorioadenoma
choroid	choroid/o	choroid	choroiditis
cine	cine/o	motion	cineradiography
cinemato	cinemat/o	motion	cinematoradiograph

cirrho	cirrh/o	yellow, tawny	cirrhosis
cis	cis/o	cut	excision
cistern	cistern/o	reservoir, cavity	cisternography
clavic	clavic/o	clavicle	clavicotomy
clavicul	clavicul/o	clavicle	clavicular
cleid	cleid/o	clavicle	cleidorrhexis
clon	clon/o	turmoil	clonogenic
coagul	coagul/o	clot	coagulopathy
coccidioid	coccidioid/o	fungus	coccidioidmycosis
coccyx	coceyg/o	tail bone	coccygodynia
cochle	cochle/o	snail	cochleotopic
coit	coit/o	coming together	coitis
coll	cull/o	glutinous, jelly-like	colragenitis
colon	colon/o	colon	colonoscopy
colp	colp/o	vagina	colporrhapy
condyl	condyl/o	knuckle	condyloma
coni	coni/o	dust	coniosis
copr	copr/o	feces, excrement	coprostasis
cord	cord/o	cord	cordotomy
coria	cori/o	pupil (eye)	diplocoria
cortic	cortic/o	cortex	corticosterone
cost	cost/o	rib	costosternal
cox	cox/o	hip	coxalgia
crani	crani/o	skull	craniotomy
cretin	cretin/o	cretin	cretinism
crin	crin/o	secrete	endocrinology
crypt	crypt/o	hidden	cryptorchism
culd	culd/o	cul-de-sac	culdocentesis
cutane	cutan/o	skin	subcutaneous
cycl	cycl/o	ciliary body	cycloplegia
cyst	cyst/o	bladder	cystistaxia

cyt	cyt/o	cell	cytoplasm
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D			
dacry	dacry/o	tear	dacryoma
dactyl	dactyl/o	finger, toe	dactylospasm
dem	dem/o	people	endemic
dendr	dendr/o	branched	dendritis
dent	dent/i	tooth	dentifrice
derm	derm/o	skin	dermomycosis
dermat	dermat/o	skin	dermatitis
didym	didym/o	testis	didymalgia
dilat	dilat/o	widen	dilation
dipl	dipl/o	double	diplopia
dips	dips/o	thirst	dipsomania
disk	disk/o	disk	diskectomy
diverticul	diverticul/o	diverticula	diverticulitis
dont	dont/o	tooth	oligodontia
dos	dos/i	giving	dosimeter
duoden	duoden/o	duodenum	duodenostomy
dur	dur/o	hard	duroarachnitis
E			
electr	electr/o	electricity	electrocardiogram
embol	embol/o	throwing in	embolism
emmetr	emmetr/o	ideal	emmetropia
emphys	emphys/o	inflate	emphysema
encephal	encephal/o	brain	encephalogram
enter	enter/o	intestine	enteritis
epidem	epidem/o	upon people	epidemic
epididym	epididym/o	epididymis	epididymectomy
episi	episi/o	vulva, pudenda	episiotomy

erythrocyt	erythrocyt/o	red blood cell	erythrocytosis
esophage	esophag/o	esophagus	esophagocele
esthesi	esthesi/o	feeling	anesthesia
F			
fasci	fasei/o	hand	fascioidis
fibr	fibr/o	fiber	fibroma
fibrin	fibrin/o	fiber	fibrinogen
fibul	fibul/o	fibula	fibular
fluor/o	fluor/o	fluorescence	fluoroscopy
foramin	foramin/o	foramen, opening	foraminoctomy
format	format/o	formation	malformation
G			
galact	galact/o	milk	galactorrhea
gangli	gangli/o	knot	ganglionectomy
gastr	gastr/o	stomach	gastritis
gcn	gen/o	beginning, origin	genesis
genet	genet/o	producing	genetics
genit	genit/o	genitals	genitourinary
genital	genital/o	genitals	hypogenitalia
ger	ger/o	old age	geriatric
geront	geront/o	aged	gerontology
gigant	gigant/o	giant	gigantism
gingiv	gingiv/o	gums	gingivitis
glandul	glandul/o	little acorn, gland	glandular
glomerul	glomerul/o	little ball	glomerulitis
gloss	gloss/o	tongue	glossopharyngeal
gluc	gluc/o	glucose, sugar	glucocorticoid
glyc	glyc/o	sugar	glycogenesis
gonad	gonad/o	ovaries, testes	gonadotropin

goni	goni/o	angle	gonioscope
granul	granul/o	granular	granulocyte
gravid	gravid/o	pregnant	primigravida
gynec	gynec/o	female	gynecology
H			
halat	halat/o	breathe	inhalation
hem	hem/o	blood	hemoglobin
hemat	hemat/o	blood	hematocrit
hepat	hepat/o	liver	hepatoma
herni	herni/o	hernia	herniotomy
hidr	hidr/o	sweat	anhidrosis
hirsut	hirsut/o	hair	hirsutism
hist	hist/o	tissue	histology
hol	hol/o	whole	holography
humer	humer/o	humerus	humeral
hydr	hydr/o	water	hydrocele
hymen	hymen/o	hymen	hymenectomy
hypo	hypn/o	sleep	hypnosis
hyster	hyster/o	womb, uterus	hysterectomy
I			
ichthy	ichthy/o	fish (scaly)	ichthyososis
icter	icter/o	jaundice	icterogenic
ile	ile/o	ileum	ileostomy
ili	ili/o	ilium	iliosacral
immun	immun/o	safe, protect	immunotherapy
insul	insul/o	pancreatic islets	insuloma
insulin	insulin/o	insulin	insulinogenic
ion	ion/o	ion	ionoradioscope
irid	irid/o	Iris	iridomalacia

ischem	ischem/o	hold back	ischemic
ischi	ischi/o	hip	ischiodynia
J			
jejun	jejun/o	jejunum	jejunotomy
K			
kary	kary/o	nucleu (cell)	karyotype
kel	kel/o	tumor	keloid
kerat	kerat/o	cornea	kkeratitis
ket	ket/o	ketone	ketosis
kinesi	kinesi/o, kinesi o	motion	bradykinesia
kinet	kinet/o	motion	kinetosis
kyph	kyph/o	hump	kyphosis
L			
labyrinth	labyrinth/o	maze	labyrinthitis
lacrim	lacrim/o	tear	lacrimotomy
lamin	lamin/o	shin plate	laminectomy
lapar	lapar/o	flank, abdomen	laparotomy
laryng	laryng/o	larynx	laryngoscope
later	later/o	side	lateroflexion
laxat	laxat/o	loosen	laxative
lei	lei/o	smooth	leiomyosarcoma
letharg	letharg/o	drowsiness	lethargy
lingu	lingu/o	tongue	nigralingua
lip	lip/o	fat	lipotrophy
lith	lith/o	stone	lithotripsy
lob	lob/o	lobe	lobotomy
log	log/o	word, study	logomania
lord	lord/o	bending, curvature	lordosis
lumb	lumb/o	loin	lumbodynia

lymph	lymph/o	lymph, lymph gland	lymphoma
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M			
mamm	mamm/o	breast	mammogram
mandibul	mandibul/o	lower jaw	mandibular
mast	mast/a	breast	mastectomy
maxill	maxill/o	upper jaw	maxillotomy
meat	meat/o	passage	meatotomy
mediastin	mediastin/o	mediastinum	mediastinitis
medull	medull/o	marrow, spinal	medulloepithelioma
melan	melan/o	black	melanoma
men	men/o	month, (menstruate)	dysmenorrhea
mening	mening/o	membrane	meningitis
menisc	menic/o	crescent shape	menicitis
metr	metr/o	uterus	metritis
micturit	micturit/o	urinate	micturition
mitr	mitr/o	mitral valve	mitral
morph	morph/o	form, shape	morphology
muc	muc/o	mucous	mucositis
muscul	muscul/o	muscle	musculoskeletal
my	my/o	muscle	myoblast
myc	myc/o	fungus	mycosis
myel	myel/o	spinal cord	myeloma
myring	myring/o	membrane	myringoplasty
N			
narc	narc/o	night, sleep	narcosis
nas	nas/o	nose	nasogastric
necr	necr/o	death	necrosis
nephr	nephr/o	kidney	nephrema
neur	neur/o	nerve	neuroma

neutr	neutr/o	neither, neutral (pH)	neutrophyl
noct	noct/o	night	nocturia
nucle	nuclc/o	nucleus, central	nuclear
nyct	nyct/o	night	nyctalgia
nyctal	nyctal/o	blind, night	nyctalopia
O			
ocul	ocul/o	eye	oculopupillary
olecran	olecran/o	elbow	olecranarthopatby
oment	oment/o	omentun	omentectomy
omphal	omphal/o	umbilicus	omphalitis
onc	onc/o	tumor	oncology
onych	onych/o	nail	onychitis
oophor	oophor/o	ovary	oophoritis
ophthalm	ophthalm/o	eye	ophthalmopathy
opt	opt/o	eye	optomyometer
orchi	orchi/o	testicle	orchitis
orchid	orchid/o	testicle	orchidopexy
organ	organ/o	organ	organomegaly
oscill	oscill/o	swing	oscillopsia
osm	osm/o	smell	anosmia
oste	oste/o	bone	osteorrhapy
ot	ot/o	ear	otosclerosis
ov	ov/i	egg	oviduct
ov	ov/o	egg	ovoplasm
ovul	ovul/o	egg, ovum	ovulate
ox	ox/o	oxygen	anoxia
oxy	oxy/o	oxygen	oxytoxin
P			
palat	palat/o	palate	palatitis

pancreat	pancreat/o	pancreas	pancreatitis
papill	papill/o	papilla	papilledema
par	par/o	bear	paroxysm
parathyr	parathyr/o	parathyroid gland	parathyroidism
patell	patell/o	patella, knee cap	patellapexy
path	path/o	disease	pathology
ped	ped/o	foot	pedal
ped	ped/i	child	pediatrics
pedicul	pedicul/o	louse	pediculosis
pen	pen/o	penis	penitis
pept	pept/o	digest	peptogenic
perine	perine/o	perineum	perineocele
phac	phac/o	lens	phacosclerosis
phag	phag/u	eat, engulf	phagocyte
phalange	phalang/o	finger, toe	phalangectomy
pharmac	pharmac/o	drug	pharmacotherapy
pharyng	pharyng/o	pharynx	pharyngitis
phe	phe/o	dusky, muzzle	pheochromocytoma phinuicis
phim	phim/o	muscle	phimosis
phleb	phleb/o	vein	phlebitis
phon	phon/o	sound, voice	phonopathy
phragm	phragm/o	partition	diaphragm
phragma	phragmat/o	partition	diaphragmatocele
phren	phren/o, phren/o	diaphragm	phrenoplegia
physi	physi/o	nature	physiology
physic	physic/o	nature	physician
pineal	pineal/o	pineal body	pinealoma
pin	pin/o	drink, pinlitary gland	pinocytosis, pituularism
pituitar	pituitary/o	pituitary gland	pituitarism

pleur	pleur/o	pleura	pleuritis
pneum	pneum/o	air	pneumothorax
pneumon	pneumon/o, pncumon/o	lung	pneumonitis
poikil	poikil/o	irregular shape, passage	poikilocytosis, poronla
por	por/o	passage	poroma
porphyr	porphry/o	porphyrin, purple	porphyrinuria
presby	presby/o	old	presbycusis
proct	proct/o	rectum, anus	proctatestomy, proctalgia
prostat	prostat/o	prostate	prostatectomy
psych	psych/o	mind	psychology
pteryg	pteryg/o	winglike	pterygomandibular
ptyal	ptyal/o	salvia	ptyalorrhea, plyalorrhca
pub	pub/o	pubis	pubovesical
pulm	pulm/o	lung	pulmometer, pulna nectonly
pulmon	pulmon/o	lung	pulmonectomy
pupill	pupill/o	pupil	pupillary
py	py/o	pus	pyorrhea
pyel	pyel/o	renal pelvis	pyelonephritis
pylor	pylor/o	pyloris	pyloroplasty
pyr	pyr/o	fire	pyrogenic
pyret	pyret/o	fever	pyretogenic

R			
rachi	rachi/o	spine	rachiomylitis
radi	radi/o	ray, radius	radionecrosis
radiat	radiat/o	radiant	radiation
radic	radic/o	root	radicotomy
radicul	radicul/o	root	radiculitis

rect	rect/o	rectum, loosen	rectocele, relaxation
ren	ren/o	kidney	renogastric
reticul	reticul/o	net, network	reticulocyte
retin	retin/o	retina	retinitis
rhabd	rhabd/o	rod	rhabdomyoma
rhin	rhin/o	nose	rhinorrhagia
rhythm	rhythm/o	rhythm	arrhythmia
rhytid	rhytid/o	wrinkle	rhytidectomy
S			
sacr	sacr/o	sacrum	sacrodynia
salping	salping/o	tube	salpingoexy
sanguin	sanguin/o	blood	consanguinity
sarc	sarc/o	flesh	sarcoma
scapul	scapul/o	scapula	scapulopexy
schiz	schiz/o	split	schizophrenia
scler	scler/o	hard, fibrous	scleroderma
scoli	scoli/o	curvature	scoliosis
scot	scot/o	dark	scotoma
seb	seb/o	oil	seborrhea
senil	senile/o	old	senilism
ser	ser/o	serum	serology
sial	sial/o	saliva	sialadenitis
sid	sid/o	iron	sideropenia
sigmoid	sigmoid/o	sigmoid, colon	sigmoidoscope
sin	sin/o	curve	sinoatrial
sit	sit/o	foot	sitotherapy
somat	somat/o	body	somatotrophic
somn	somn/o	sleep	somnambulism
son	son/o	sound	sonogram

sperm	sperm/o	seed	spermolysis
spermat	spermt/o	seed	spermatocyst
sphincter	sphincter/o	closure	sphincteroplasty
sphygm	sphygm/o	pulse	sphygmomanometer
spin	spin/o	thorn, spine	spinocerebellar
spir	spir/o	breath	spirometer
spir	spir/o	coil	spiradenoma
splen	splen/o	spleen	splenectomy
spondyl	spondyl/o	vertebra	spondylitis
staped	staped/o	stapes, stirrup	stapedectomy
staphyl	staphyl/o	cluster, uvula	staphyloplasty
steat	steat/o	fat	steatolysis
sten	sten/o	narrowing	stenosis
stern	stern/o	sternum	sternalgia
steth	steth/o	chest	stethoscope
stigmat	stigmat/o	point	stigmatism
stomat	stomat/o	mouth, opening	stomatitis
strept	strept/o	chain	streptococcus
sympath	sympathy/o	sympathy	sympathectomy
syphil	syphil/o	syphilis	syphilopsychosis
T			
tars	tars/o	ankle bone	tarsectomy
ten	ten/o	tendon	tenorrhagia
tendin	tendin/o	tendon	tendinitis
tendon	tendon/o	tendon	tendonitis
tenon	tenon/o	tendon	tendonitis
terat	terat/o	monster	teratoma
test	test/o	testis	testalgia
thalass	thalass/o	sea	thalassemia
than	than/o	death	euthanasia

thel	thel/o	nipple	thelorrhagia
therm	therm/o	heat	hydrothermic
thromb	thromb/o	blood clot	thrombosis
thym	thym/o	thymus	thymopexy
thyr	thyr/o	thyroid	thyroptoss
tibi	tibi/o	tibia	tibial
tinnit	tinnit/o	jingling	tinnitus
toc	toc/o	birth	tocology
tom	tom/o	cut	tomography
ton	ton/o	tone, tension	tonography
tonsill	tonsill/o	tonsil	tonsillitis
top	top/o	place	topography
torti	torti/o	twisted	torticollis
toxic	toxic/o	poison	toxicology
trache	trache/o	trachea	tracheostomy
traumat	traumat/o	wound, injure	traumatology
trephinat	trephinat/o	bore	trephination
trich	trich/o	hair	trichomycosis
trigon	trigon/o	trigone	trigonitis
trop	trop/o	turn	neurotropism
tubercul	tubercul/o	swelling	tuberculosis
tympan	tympan/o	drum	tympanitis
U			
ul	ul/o	scar	ulectomy
ulcer	ulcer/o	surface excavation	ulcerogenic
uln	uln/o	elbow	ulnad
ungu	ungu/o	nail	ungula
ur	ur/o	urine	uremia
ureter	ureter/o	ureter	ureterolith
urethr	urethr/o	urethra	urethrocystitis

urin	urin/i	urine	uriniparous
urinat	urinat/o	urine	urination
uter	uter/o	uterus	uteralgia
uve	uve/o	uvea	uveitis
V			
vagin	vagin/o	vagina	vaginectom
vag	vag/o	vagus nerve, wondering	vagotomy
varic	varic/o	twisted vein	varicocele
vas	vas/o	vessel, duct	vasotripsy
vascul	vascul/o	small vessel	vasculopathy
vector	vector/o	carrier	vectorcardiogram
ven	ven/o	vein	venostasis
vener	vener/o	desire, love (sexual intercourse)	veneral
veni	veni/o	vein	venisuture
ventricul	ventricul/o	ventricle	ventriculitis
vertehr	vertebr/o	vertebra	vertebrectomy
vertig	vertig/o	dizziness	vertigo
vesic	vesic/o	vesicle	vesicocele
vesicul	vesicul/o	vesicle	vesiculotomy
vir	vir/o	virus	viruria
viril	viril/o	masculine	virilism
viscer	viscer/o	body organs	visceroenic
vitamin	vitamin/o	vitamin	hypervitaminosis
vitre	vitre/o	vitreous humor	vitreous
X			
xanth	xanth/o	yellow	xanthemia
xen	xen/o	alien, foreign	xenophobia
xiph	xiph/o	sword	xiphoid

Z			
zo	zo/o	animal	zooderma
zon	zon/o	encircling area	zonesthesia
zyg	zyg/o	joined	zygodactyly