全国高等医学院校“十三五”规划教材

A GUIDE TO MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

医学英语词汇进阶教程

卢凤香 苏 萍 李 强◎主 编

- 掌握医学英语词汇构词规律
- 破解医学英语词汇学习困境
- 提升医学专业英语综合能力

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A Guide to Medical Terminology

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A Guide to Medical Terminology

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前　言

著名语言学家威尔金斯（D. Wilkins）曾指出："没有语法，人们可以表达的事物寥寥无几；而没有词汇，人们则无法表达任何事物。"可以说词汇是英语学习的重要组成部分。对医学生而言，医学英语词汇的学习更加重要，因为医学英语词汇是医学生专业学习、医学研究和学术理论构建的基础。

医学英语词汇的特别之处在于其数量，仅病名就达 2 万以上，而且随着科学技术的不断发展，每年约 1500 多个新词加入进来，构成了浩渺的医学英语词汇海洋。但从另一个角度来看，医学英语词汇数量虽然庞大，但其构成词素却相对有限，且基本上源自拉丁语和拉丁化的古希腊语。据文献资料显示，医学英语词汇中，约 70%源于希腊语，25%源于拉丁语，不到 5%源于古英语，其余则源于法语、阿拉伯语、德语等。医学英语词汇除词源特点外，在词汇构成上也是特色突出，一般由前缀、词根和后缀三个部分组成。"词根"表明基本意思，"前缀"进一步揭示部位信息，"后缀"则表明与词根内容相关的如状况、发展、变化等信息。可以说，如果医学生能够掌握一定量的源于拉丁语和拉丁化的希腊语的词根以及一定数量的前缀和后缀，就相当于找到了进入医学英语词汇海洋大门的智能"钥匙"。

《医学英语词汇进阶教程》一书旨在引导医学生了解医学英语词汇的词源特点，掌握医学英语词汇的构词规律，破解医学英语词汇记忆难、拼写难的困境，进而快速、准确地扩展词汇量，为提高书面和口头医学专业英语表达能力奠定基础，从而提升医学专业英语的综合应用能力。

本书以人体系统为主线进行编写，分五部分。第一部分包含 1 个章节，对医学英语词汇的词源特点和构词特点进行简单介绍；第二部分包含 11 个章节，分别是皮肤系统、呼吸系统、泌尿系统、生殖系统（男性生殖系统和女性生殖系统）、产科、心血管和淋巴系统、消化系统、眼鼻耳、骨骼系统、神经系统和内分泌系统；第三部分为附录，包括 100 个常见前缀、100 个常见后缀和 200 个常见词根。第四和第五部分分别为习题答案和参考文献。其中第二部分的每个章节以层层铺垫、层层推进的方式进行编排。首先是章节目标，勾勒本章学习重点。然后是词缀预习，铺垫本章词汇扩展所需的主要前缀和后缀。其次是本章相关系统的解剖学基本词汇，再其次是与解剖学基本词汇相对应的拉丁文或希腊语的词根。接下来是由这些词根词缀扩展而来的诊断性词汇和治疗性词汇。最后是本系统中常用但又不符合上述

构词规律的专业词汇。为了实现章节学习目标，每个重点话题后都安排了如填空、选择、划线、补充等不同类型的练习。通过这些练习，学生可加深对本章节主要词汇构词特点的学习，进而牢记词汇构词规律。

本教材由首都医科大学卢凤香、苏萍和首都医科大学附属友谊医院李强担任主编，首都医科大学陈远亮、胡滨、王雅娟、杨波、孟倩、北京协和医学院王懿晴和内蒙古医科大学王云竹担任编者。本书在编写过程中还得到了首都医科大学各附属医院医学英语教研室、特别是附属友谊医院医学英语教研室骨科主任医师费琦的指点和帮助，在此表示衷心感谢。

由于编者水平所限，不足或谬误之处敬请读者不吝赐教。

卢凤香

2018 年 5 月于首都医科大学

Contents

Part I

Introduction

Chapter 1

Introduction to Medical Terminology

Objectives

Upon completion of this chapter, you should be able to:

1. know the etymology of the medical terminology
2. understand the three components of the medical terminology
3. grasp the rules of the plural form of the medical terminology

1. The etymology of medical terminology

Etymology is the study of the history of words, their origins, and how their form and meaning have changed over time. By extension, the term "the etymology of medical terminology" means the origin of the medical terminology.

As Dr. John Dirckx has put it, "Medical terminology brings us into contact with the history of medicine, of human ideas, and of the human struggle to understand the forces of nature that determine human destiny and mortality." It is the language used to describe human body, including its components, the processes, the conditions affecting it, and the procedures performed upon it.

Medical terminology has an extensive and rich history in Latin and Greek languages. When the Romans conquered Greece around 146 BC, the knowledge and language of both cultures merged, resulting in new medical concepts regarding disease treatment and containment. Much of the medical terminology we use today is attributed to Hippocrates, who is considered the "father of medicine", and Claudius Galen, known as the "Father of Anatomy", one of the most legendary doctors in the Roman Empire. Therefore, it's frequently found that many medical words have been formed from one or more roots—forms used or adapted from Latin or Greek—and many are modified by a prefix, a suffix, or both. A knowledge of important Latin and Greek roots and affixes will reveal the meanings of many other words.

2. Basic components of medical terminology

Medical terminology is structured into **THREE** primary parts: the **word root**, the **prefix** and the **suffix**. The word root is generally located in the middle of the word and signifies the basic

meaning. The prefix comes before the word root and identifies the word's meaning by revealing further information about location and area of the body. The suffix, at the end of a word, works as an inflectional ending that conveys definite features, including the circumstances, development and protocol regarding the condition. For example, the word "nephroma".

nephro-, means kidney
-oma, means tumor

Therefore, by breaking it down we come to know that "nephroma" literally means a tumor of kidney.

Take another example, the word "trachelocystitis".

trachelo-, relates to the neck or to a neck-like structure
cyst-, means a bladderlike structure (especially one containing fluid)
-itis, means inflammation

Thus we can see that the word "trachelocystitis" is the inflammation of the neck of the bladder.

Take one more example, the word "neurogenic sarcoma".

neuro-, relates to nerve or to the nervous system
genic-, means creating or causing
sarcoma, denotes a usually malignant tumor

So, we can easily catch the denotation that the word "neurogenic sarcoma" is a nerve forming tumor.

Medical terminology also includes the so-called **combining vowels**, usually **O** or **I** and less frequently **E**, placed between two elements of a medical term to make the term easier to pronounce, which help ease the pronunciation between a word root and the prefix or suffix. For example:

gastr/ **o** /enteric
nephr/ **o** /ptosis
hepat/ **o** /malcia
nephr/ **o** /blast/oma

cardi/ **o** / myo/pathy
electr/ **o** /cardi/ **o** /gram
oste/ **o** / arthr/ **o** /pathy
ox/ **i** /meter
pelv/ **i** /metry
cyes/ **i** / ology
bronch/ **i** / ectasis
chol/ **e** / cyst/ **o** / gram

It should be noted that the combining vowels follow the rules in most of the cases:

(1) A combining vowel is used when the suffix begins with a consonant.

(2) A combining vowel is always used when 2 or more root elements are joined.

(3) A combining vowel is used when connecting two word roots, even if vowels are present at the junction.

(4) A combining vowel is not used when the suffix begins with a vowel (A-E-I-O-U).

(5) Not all medical terms will have combining vowels.

When the root is joined with a combining vowel, a **combining form** comes into being. Therefore, the combining form for *liver* is *hepat/o* and the term *hepatotomy* is composed of a combining form *hepat/o* and a suffix *-tomy* (meaning *a surgical cutting of*).

3. The plural form of the medical terminology

Medical plurals are a bit different from the Standard English variety. However, there are some rules to follow.

(1) Change the **A** ending to AE

vertebra (Sing.) ⟶ vertebrae (Plur.)
axilla (Sing.) ⟶ axillae (Plur.)
conjunctiva (Sing.) ⟶ conjunctivae (Plur.)
scapula (Sing.) ⟶ scapulae (Plur.)
sclera (Sing.) ⟶ sclerae (Plur.)

(2) Change the **UM** ending to **A**

acetabulum (Sing.) ⟶ acetabula (Plur.)
atrium (Sing.) ⟶ atria (Plur.)
bacterium (Sing.) ⟶ bacteria (Plur.)
labium (Sing.) ⟶ labia (Plur.)
medium (Sing.) ⟶ media (Plur.)

(3) Change the **US** ending to **I**

bronchus (Sing.) ⟶ bronchi (Plur.)
coccus (Sing.) ⟶ cocci (Plur.)
fungus (Sing.) ⟶ fungi (Plur.)
glomerulus (Sing.) ⟶ glomeruli (Plur.)
syllabus (Sing.) ⟶ syllabi (Plur.) (but syllabuses is also acceptable)

Note: there are some exceptions to this rule, like the following words:

corpus (Sing.) ⟶ corpora (Plur.)
meatus (Sing.) ⟶ meatus (Plur.) (stays the same)
plexus (Sing.) ⟶ plexuses (Plur.)
viscus (Sing.) ⟶ viscera (Plur.)

(4) Change the **IS** ending to **ES**

diagnosis (Sing.) ⟶ diagnoses (Plur.)
exostosis (Sing.) ⟶ exostoses (Plur.)
metastasis (Sing.) ⟶ metastases (Plur.)
prognosis (Sing.) ⟶ prognoses (Plur.)
testis (Sing.) ⟶ testes (Plur.)

Note, there are some exceptions to this rule, like the following words:

epididymis (Sing.) ⟶ epididymides (Plur.)
femur (Sing.) ⟶ femora (Plur.)
iris (Sing.) ⟶ irides (Plur.)

(5) Change the **MA** or **OMA** ending to **MATA**

carcinoma (Sing.) ⟶ carcinomata (Plur.)
condyloma (Sing.) ⟶ condylomata (Plur.)
fibroma (Sing.) ⟶ fibromata (Plur.)
leiomyoma (Sing.) ⟶ leiomyomata (Plur.)

For some of the medical terms, their English plurals are also acceptable. For example:

condyloma (Sing.) ⟶ condylomas (Plur.)
carcinoma (Sing.) ⟶ carcinomas (Plur.)
leiomyoma (Sing.) ⟶ leiomyomas (Plur.)
fibroma (Sing.) ⟶ fibromas (Plur.)

(6) Change the **X** to **C** and add **ES** when a term ends in **YX, AX, OR IX.**

calyx (Sing.) ⟶ calyces (Plur.)

thorax (Sing.) ⟶ thoraces (Plur.)

appendix (Sing.) ⟶ appendices (Plur.)

(7) Change the **X** to **G** and add **ES** when a term ends in NX.

larynx (Sing.) ⟶ larynges (Plur.)

phalanx (Sing.) ⟶ phalanges (Plur.)

(8) For Latin medical terms that consist of a noun and an adjective, pluralize both terms.

condyloma acuminatum (Sing.) ⟶ condylomata acuminate (Plur.)

placenta previa (Sing.) ⟶ placentae previae (Plur.)

verruca vulgaris (Sing.) ⟶ verrucae vulgares (Plur.)

It should be noted that there are always some exceptions to all these above mentioned plural rules.

Exercise

1. What is the definition of ETYMOLOGY?
2. Think and answer why the medical terminology is closely related to Latin and Greek.
3. Put forward at least FIVE medical terms formed with roots, and/or prefix, and/or suffixes. Then analyze their formation features.
4. Put forward more words according to the EIGHT rules of forming plurals.

Part II

Body Systems

Chapter 2

Integumentary System

Objectives

Upon completion of this chapter, you should be able to:

1. define the anatomical terms of the Integumentary System
2. write the definitions of the word parts frequently used in the System
3. define the diagnostic terms related to the System
4. define the surgical terms related to the System
5. define other additional terms related to the System

Part One Affixes Preparation

Prefixes frequently used in the System

1. auto- ····· self
2. epi- ····· on, upon, over
3. heter- ····· other
4. hypo- ····· below
5. intra- ····· within
6. pachy- ····· thick
7. para- ····· beside, beyond, around
8. per- ····· through
9. sub- ····· under, below
10. trans- ····· through
11. xer- ····· dry

Suffixes frequently used in the System

1. -ectomy ····· excision or surgical removal