

■ A medical word consists of:

- *Word root*
- *Combining form*
- *Suffix*
- *Prefix*

Word Roots

- The core of a medical term
- Contains the fundamental meaning
- Most are derived from Greek or Latin
 - *Ex. Greek word *derm* and Latin word *cutane* both refer to the skin*

Examples of Word Roots

<i>Greek or Latin Word</i>	<i>Word Root</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Nephros (Gr)	Nephr	Kidney
Oris (L)	Or	Mouth
Renes (L)	Ren	Kidney
Dermatos (Gr)	Derm	Skin

Combining Form

- Word root to which a vowel is added
- Enables two elements to be connected

Examples of Combining Forms

Word Root	Vowel	Combining Form	Meaning
Gastr	O	Gastr/o	stomach
Hepat	O	Hepat/o	Liver
Immun	O	Immun/o	Immune, safe
Oste	O	Oste/o	bone

Defining Medical Words

- Rule #1
 - Define the suffix or last part of the word

- Rule #2
 - Define the first part of the word (word, root, combining form, or prefix)

- Rule #3
 - Define the middle parts of the word

Example of Defining Rules "Gastroenteritis"

Combining Form	Middle	Suffix
Gastr/o	Enter/	-itis
Stomach	Intestine	inflammation
Rule 2	Rule 3	Rule 1

- Definition - inflammation of the stomach and intestine

Building Medical Words

■ Rule #1

- A word root links a suffix that begins with a vowel
- Example
 - Hepat/ + -itis = hepatitis
 - Inflammation of the liver

■ Rule #2

- A combining form links a suffix that begins with a consonant
- Example
 - Hepat/o + cyte = hepatocyte
 - Liver cell

Building Medical Words

■ Rule #3

- Use a combining form to link a root to another root to form a compound word

- Example

■ Oste/o + chondr/ + -itis
osteochondritis

- Inflammation of bone and cartilage

VOWELS

a 

e 

i 

o 

u 

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