

Common Root Words

Root Word	Meaning	Root Word	Meaning
abdomin-	abdomen	carotid	great arteries of the neck
acou-	hear	carp-	wrist
aden-	gland	cent-	a fraction in the metric system; one hundredth or 100
adip-	fat	cente-	to puncture (a body cavity)
alb-	white	cephal-	head
alges-	pain	cervic-	neck
andr-	male	chol-	bile
angi-	vessel	chondr-	cartilage
aorta	large artery exiting from the left ventricle of the heart	cili-	eyelid
aqua-	water	cleid(o)-	clavicle
arteri-	artery	cubitus	elbow
arthr-	joint	cyan-	blue
asphyxia	lack of oxygen or excess of carbon dioxide in the body that results in unconsciousness	cycl-	circle or cycle
asthen-	weak	cyst-	bladder
audi-	to hear	cyt-	cell
bi-	life; also two	derm(at)-	skin
bronch-	windpipe	digit	finger or toe
bucc-	cheek	ede-	swelling
bursa	pouch or sac	enter-	intestine
callus	hard, thick skin; also a meshwork of connective tissue that forms during the healing process after a fracture	erythr-	red
carcin-	cancer	esthe-	sensation or perception
cardi-	heart	febr-	fever
		-flex-	bend
		foramen	opening

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fract-	break	ot-	ear
gastr-	stomach	ov-	egg
gest-	carry, produce, congestion	palpate	to examine by touch
glyc(y)-	sweet	path-	disease
gno-	know	ped-	child or foot
-gram	something written or recorded	percuss	to examine by striking
graph-	write, record	phag-	eat
gyn(ec)-	female	pharyng-	throat
hem(at)-	blood	photo-	light
hepat(ic)-	liver	pleur-	rib, side
heter-	other, different	pneum(at)-	breath
hom-	the same	pneumo(n)-	lung
humerus	the bone in the upper arm	pod-	foot
hydr-	water	pseud-	false
idi-	separate, distinct	psych-	mind
iod(o)-	iodine	pto-	fall
lact-	milk	ptyal-	saliva
leuk-	white	pur-, py-	pus
lingu-	tongue	pyr-	fire-
mal-	abnormal	quadr, quar-, quat-	four
medi-	middle	radius	the forearm bone on the thumb side; also a line from the center of a circle or sphere to the edge
mega-	large	ren-	kidney
melan-	black	retina	inner nerve-containing layer of the eye
men-	month	rhin-	nose
mening-	membrane, usually refers to the meninges	sangui(n)-	blood
myel-	marrow or spinal cord	scler-	hard
my-	muscle	sebum	a fatty secretion of the sebaceous glands
nephr-	kidney	sect-	cut
neur-	nerve	sepsis	the presence of microorganisms or their toxins in the blood; also the toxic condition caused by such presence
ocul-	eye	sept-	wall, divider; also seven
ophthalm-	eye		
ost(e)-	bone		

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serum	the clear portion of body fluids, including blood	thorac-	chest
sinus	cavity, channel or hollow space	tom-	cut
som(a)-	body	toxic	poisonous
spir-	coil	trich-	hair
stasis	slowing or stopping of the normal flow of a fluid, such as blood	ur-	urine
stature	height	varic-	varicose vein
stern(o)-	sternum (breastbone)	vas-	vessel
stoma	any small opening on the surface of the body, such as a pore; also, the opening created in the abdominal wall for the passage of urine or feces	vertigo	a disordered sensation in which one's own body or the surroundings are perceived as moving or spinning
tach(y)-	rapid	viscer-	internal organs
tact-	touch	viscous	sticky
tetra-	four	xen-	foreign (material)
		xer-	dry