



Major Suffixes — Suffixes Denoting a State or Condition

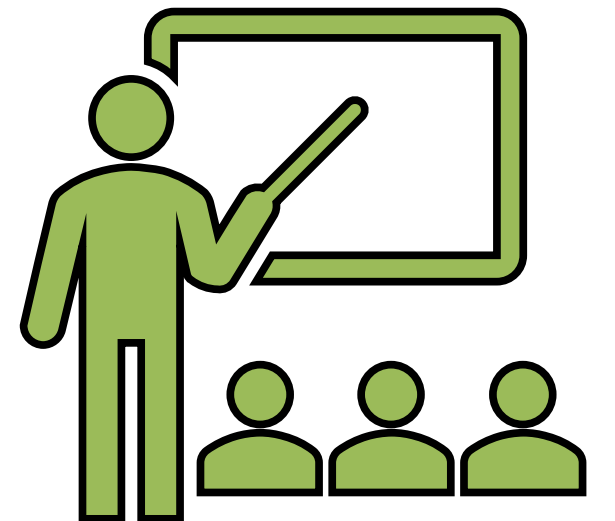
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Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lecture, students should be able to:

1. Define the term *suffix* in medical terminology.
2. Recognize common suffixes that denote a state or condition.
3. Identify the meaning of medical terms formed with these suffixes.
4. Apply the learned suffixes to interpret medical and optical terms.



Introduction

suffix is a word part added **at the end** of a root word.

It often changes the **meaning** or **grammatical function** of the word.

In medical terms, suffixes often describe:

- Disease or condition
- Procedure
- Disorder or state

Example:

hepat/o (liver) + -itis (inflammation) → **hepatitis** (inflammation of the liver)



Suffix – “-ia”

Suffix – “-ia”

Meaning: condition or state

Examples:

Anemia – condition of low red blood cells

Myopia – condition of nearsightedness (common in optics)

Aphasia – condition of loss of speech

Tip: “-ia” usually describes a disease or unhealthy condition.



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Suffix – “-ism”

Suffix – “-ism”

Meaning: state, condition, or theory

Examples:

Hyperthyroidism – condition of overactive thyroid gland

Astigmatism – condition where the eye’s surface is irregular

Alcoholism – condition of alcohol dependence

Note: Often used for **disease names** or **behavioral conditions**.



Suffix – “-osis”

Suffix – “-osis”

Meaning: abnormal condition or increase

Examples:

Cyanosis – bluish discoloration of the skin due to lack of oxygen

Keratinosis – condition of thickened skin

Neurosis – mental or nerve-related disorder

Tip: “-osis” usually indicates a **pathological condition**.



osis

Suffix – “-iasis”

Suffix – “-iasis”

Meaning: abnormal or diseased condition (especially caused by something specific)

Examples:

Lithiasis – condition of stone formation (like in kidney)

Trichomoniasis – infection caused by a parasite

Onchocerciasis – eye infection caused by worms (river blindness)

iasis

Suffix – “-y”

Suffix – “-y”

Meaning: condition or process

Examples:

Atrophy – condition of without nourishment (wasting away of tissue)

Dysentery – condition of painful intestine

Remedy: Remember “-y” = “condition or process”



Suffixes – “-tion” + “-sion”

Suffixes – “-tion” and “-sion”

Meaning: process or state

Examples:

Infection – state of being invaded by microorganisms

Tension – state of being stretched or strained

Vision – process of seeing

Note: Often used in words describing **body functions or processes**.

Tion
+
sion

Suffix

Suffix	Meaning	Example	Meaning of Example
-ia	condition	Myopia	Nearsightedness
-ism	condition, theory	Astigmatism	Irregular eye curvature
-osis	abnormal condition	Cyanosis	Bluish skin color
-iasis	diseased condition	Lithiasis	Stone formation
-y	condition, process	Atrophy	Wasting away of tissue
-tion / -sion	process, state	Vision	Process of seeing

Questions

Combine root + suffix to form medical terms:

neur/o + **osis** (abnormal condition) → **neurosis**

kerat/o + **osis** (condition) → **keratosis**

my/o + **pathy** (disease condition) → **myopathy**

opt/o + **vision** (process of seeing) → **optovision**



Questions

Choose the correct meaning:

1. “Astigmatism” means:
 - A. Loss of vision
 - B. Irregular curvature of the eye
 - C. Inflammation of the cornea
 - D. Pressure in the eye
2. “Cyanosis” indicates:
 - A. Yellow skin
 - B. Blue discoloration
 - C. Red rash
 - D. White patches
3. “Hyperthyroidism” means:
 - A. Low thyroid activity
 - B. Overactive thyroid
 - C. No thyroid gland
 - D. Swollen thyroid

(Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-B)





THANK

YOU

