

PREMIUM EDITION FOR NURSING STUDENTS

# *Medical Terminology*

NOTES READY TO STUDY

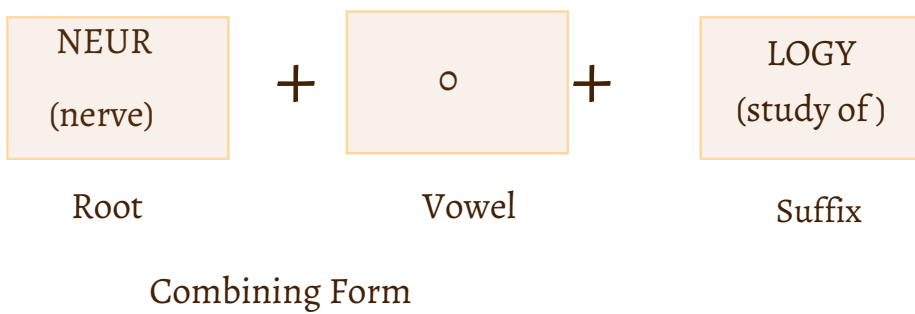


# Basic Terminology

The majority of medical phrases are built using the prefix, root, and suffix common structure. Prefixes: A prefix is a word component that modifies or alters the meaning of a term. Pre refers to something that is "before" and typically denotes place, direction, time, quality, or amount. Suffixes are the final components of words that change their meaning. It typically denotes an action, process, test, circumstance, or pathology. The term's noun, adjective, or verb status may also be indicated by the suffix.

Prefixes and suffixes are both prefixes and suffixes, but a word as a whole is not a prefix or suffix. The word's root is located between the prefix and suffix, and its "combining form" is used. Most

Root word + combining vowel = combining form.



Almost any set of word parts can be combined to form a medical term.

Prefix, root word, suffix  
 Root word, suffix  
 Root word, root word, suffix  
 Root word, root word, root word  
 Prefix, suffix

Prefix		Root		Suffix
gastr	o	enter		itis
(stomach)	+	intestines	+	(inflammation)
hyp	o	glyc		emia
(low)	+	sugar	+	(blood condition)
intra		crani		al
(within)	+	cranium	+	(pertaining to)

Prefix		Suffix
my		algia
(muscle)	+	(pain)
arth	o	plasty
(joint)	+	(surgical repair)
nephr	o	lith
(kidney)	+	(stone)



# Body Prefixes

Acous/o-	Hearing
Aden/o-	Gland
Adip/o-	Fat
Adren/o-	Gland
Angio/o-	Blood Vessel
Arteri/o-	Artery
Arthr/o-	Joint
Brachi(o)	Arm
Brach/i-	Bronchus
Bucc/o-	Cheek
Burs/o-	Bursa
Carcin/o-	Cancer
Cardi/o-	Heart
Carp(o)	Wrist
Cephal/o-	head
Chol-	Bile
Chondri-	Cartilage
Colp(o)	vagina
Coron-	Heart
Cost-	Rib
Crani/o-	Brain
Cutane-	Skin
Cyst/o-, Cysti-	Bladder or sac
Dactyl(o)	Finger, toe
Derm-, Dermat/o-	Skin
Duoden/o-	Duodenum
Encephal(o)	Brain
Enter/o	Intestine
Gastr-	Stomach
Gloss-	Tongue
Gluc(o)	Sweet, suger
Hem-, Hema-, Hemat-, Hemo-, Hemat/o-	Blood

Hepat/o-, Hepatico-	Liver
Hist/o-, Histo-	Tissue
Hydr/o	Water
Hyster/o-	Uterus
Ileo-	Ileum
Ischi/o-	Ischium
Kerat/o-	Corena (eye or skin)
Lacrim/o-	Tear (from your eyes)
Lact/o-, Lacti-	Milk
Laryng/o-	Larynx
Lingu/o-	Tongue
Lip/o-	Fat
Lymph/o-	Lymph
Mamm-, Mast/o-	Breast
Mening/o-	Meninges
Muscul/o-	Muscle
My/o-	Muscle
Myel/o-	Spinal cord or bone marrow
Nephr/o-	Kidney
Neur/i-, Neur/o-	Nerve
Oculo-	Eye
Onco-	Tumor;Bulk;Volume
Onych/o-	Fingernail;Toenail
Oo-	Egg; Ovary
Oophor/o-	Ovary
Op-, Opt-	Vision
Ophthalm/o-	Eye
Orchid/o-, Orchio-	Testis
Orth/o-	Straight; Normal; Correct
Osseo-	Bony
Ossi-	Bone
Ost-, Oste/o-	Bone



# Body Prefixes

Ot/o-, auri, aud	Ear
Ovar/i-, Ovario-, Ovi-, Ovo-	Ovary
Phalang-	Phalanx
Pharyng/o-	Pharynx; Throat
Phleb/o-	Vein
Phren/i-, Phre-no-, Phrenico-	Diaphragm
Pleur-, Pleur/a-, Pleur/o-	Rib, pleura
Pneum/a- Pneumat/o-	Air; Lung
Proct/o-	Anus; Rectum
Prostat-	Prostate
Pseudo-	False
Psych/o-, Psyche-	Mind
Radio-	Radiation; Radius
Ren/o-	Kidney
Retin-	Retina (of the eye)
Rhin/o-	Nose
Salping/o-	Tube
Sarco-	Muscular, Flesh like
Schiz/o-	Split; Cleft
Sclera-, Sclero-	Hardness
Sigmoid/o-	Sigmoid colon
Sperma-, Sperm-, Spermato-	Sperm
Splen/o-	Spleen
Sten/o-	Narrowed; Blocked
Stern-	Sternum

Stom/a-, Stomat/o-	Mouth
Thorac/o-, Thoracico-	Chest
Thromb/o-	Blood clot
Thyr/o-	Thyroid gland
Trache/o-	Trachea
Tympan/o-	Eardrum
Ur/o-	Urine
Vagin-	Vagina
Varic/o-	Duct; Blood ves-sel
Vasculo-	Blood vessel
Ven/o-	Vein
Vertbr-	Vertebra; Spine

## Common Prefixes

A-, An-	Without; Lacking
Andr/o-	Male
Anti-	Against
Auto-	Self
Bio-	Life
Chem/o-	Chemistry
Fibr/o-	Fiber
Gluco-, Glyco-	Glucose; Sugar
Gyn/o-, Gynec-	Female
Hydr/o-	Water
Idio-	Self; One's own
Myc/o-	Fungus
Necr/o-	Death
Pharmaco-	Drug; Medicine
Somat/o-, Somatico-	Body; Bodily



# Prefixes

## Number & Quantity Prefixes

A, an	Absence of, without
Bi, di	Two
De	Down from, lack of
Dipl, diplo	Double
Equi	Equal
Hemi	Half
Mono, uni	One
Multi	Many
Pan	All, total
Poly, hyper, multi	Many
Quad, quadri	Four
Semi	Half
Tri	Three

## Size & Position Prefixes

Anti, contra	Against
Dors/o	Back
Epi	Upon, above
Endo, in, intra	In, within, inside
Gran	Grain or particle
Heter/o	Different
Hom/o	Same
Later/o	Middle
Macro, mega, megal	Large
Micro, mini	Small

## Color Prefixes

Chlor/o	Green
Chrom, Chromato	Color
Cirrh/o	Yellow
Cyano	Blue
Erythr/o, rube, eosin	Red
Leuk/o, leuc/o	White
Melan/o	Black

## Quality or Function Prefixes

A, de	Without
Anti, contra	Against
Auto	Self
Eti	Cause
Homo	Same
Iso	Equal or same
Mal	Bad
Ne	New
Olig, oligo	Little, deficient

## Time & Speed Prefixes

Ante	Before
Brady	Slow
Chron	Time, long time
Post	After
Pro, pre, ante	Before
Re	Again
Retro	Back/backward
Tachy	Fast

## Level Prefixes

Eu	Normal/good
Hyper, super	Above normal
Hypo	Below normal
Infra	Beneath
Inter	Between
Later/o	Side
Medi	Middle
Poly	Much
Supra	Above
Ultra	Beyond



# Prefixes & Suffixes

## Description Prefixes

Ankyl(o)	Stiff, crooked
Dis	Separation, taking apart
Dys	Difficult, painful, abnormal
Eu	Good, well
Gravida	Pregnant
Kypho	Bent, crooked
Neo	New
Lyso, Lys	Break down, destruction, dissolving
Mal	Bad, Abnormal
Ortho	Straight
Oxy	Sharp, acute, oxygen
Pan, pant/o	All or everywhere
Pseudo	False
Sten/o, stric	Narrow

## Other Suffixes

-acusis	Hearing
-agra	Excess pain
-analysis	Study of parts
-apheresis	Removal
-arche	Beginning
-ase	Enzyme
-astheno	Weakness
-ation	Process
-blast	Embryonic
-cide	Killing
-cidal	To kill
-crine	Secrete
-crit	Separation of
-cyte, -cytic	Cell
-derma	Skin
-genic	Causing
-globin, -globulin	Protein
-gust	Taste
-ia	Condition
-lith	Stone
-lytic	Reduce, destroy
-nesia	Memory
-ology	Study of
-opia	Vision
-osmia	Smell
-pepsia	Digestion
-physis	Growth
-ptosis	Drooping
-py	Pus
-taxis	Order
-trophy	Nourish, develop
-somnia	Sleep
-uria, -uresis	Urine

## Plural Suffixes

Singular	Plural	Example
-a	-ae	Bursa, bursae
-anx, -inx, -ynx	-nges	Phalanx, phalanges
-en	-ina	Foramen, foramina
-ex, -ix, -yx	-ices	Cervix, cervices
-is	-es	Diagnosis, diagnoses
-it is	-itides	Meningitis, meningities
-ma	-mata	Sarcoma, sarcomata
-on	-a	Ganglion, ganglia
-um	-a	Diverticulum, diverticula
-us	-es, -i	Plexus, plexuses and embolus, emboli
-x	-ces	Thorax, thoraces





# Suffixes

## Procedure & Surgical Suffixes

-centesis	Puncture
-clasis	Break, fracture
-desis	Binding, fixation
-ectomy	Excision, removal
-gram	Picture or record
-graph	product of a drawing, writing or recording
-graphy	Process of recording
-lysis	Separation
-meter	Device for measuring
-opsy	To view
-ostomy	Opening
-pexy	Fixation, move
-plasty	Repair, shape
-scope	instrument for viewing
-scopy	Visual exam
-stomy	Form opening
-tomy	Incision
-tripsy	Crush

## "Double R" Suffixes

-rrhage	Bleed, excess fluid discharge
-rrhagia	Bleed
-rrhapy	Surgical suturing
-rrhea	Flow, discharge
-rrhexis	Rupture

## Suffixes meaning "Abnormal Condition"

-ago	-ion
-esis	-ism
-ia -	-osis
iasis	

## Suffixes meaning "Pertaining To"

-ac	-eal	-ior
-al -	-ical	-ory
an -	-ial	-ous
ar -	-ic -	-tic
ary	ine	

## Disease Suffixes

-algia, dynia	Pain, suffering
-cele	Hernia, swelling
-ectasis	Stretch, dilate, expand
-edema	Swelling
-emesis	Vomiting
-emia	Blood
-gen	Producing
-genic	Causing
-gnosis	Knowing
-itis	Inflammation
-ly, -lysis	Dissolve, destroy
-megaly	Enlargement
-malacia	Softening
-mortem	Death
-necrosis	Tissue death
-oid	Resemble
oma	Tumor
-pathy	Disease
-penia	Deficiency
phagia	Eating
-phasia	Speech
-plegia	Paralysis
-pnea	Air, breathing
-sclerosis	Hardening
-sis	Process, action
-spasm	Contraction
-stasis	Stand, place, stop, control
-stenosis	Narrowing
-tension	Pressure



# Medication Administration

## Route

BUCC	Buccal
ETT	Endotracheal tube
ID	Intradermal
IM	Intramuscular
IN	Intranasal
inf	Infusion
inh INH	Inhalation
IO	Intraosseous
IV	Intravenous
NGT	Nasogastric tube
NPO	Nothing by mouth
PEG	Percutaneous endo scopic gastrostomy
RECT/PR	Rectally or per rectum
SC subQ	Subcutaneous
SL	Sublingual
supp	Suppository
TD	Transdermal
top	Topical
TPN	Total parenteral nutrition
VAG/PV	Vaginal or per vagina

Abbreviations are no longer recommended for the eye and ear.

Write it out and designate right or left, or both.

## ABBREVIATIONS

d/c DC	Discontinue
dil	Dilute
OTC	Over the counter
pt	Patient
Rx	Prescription

## Dose Frequency

a.c	Before meals
p.c.	After meals
ad lib	As desired
ATC	Around the clock
b.i.d.	Twice daily
t.i.d.	Three times daily
q.i.d.	Four times daily
q	Every
AM	Morning
PM	Evening
d	Day
h hr	Hour
prn	As needed
q.o.d	Every other day
qAM	Every morning
qPM	Every evening
q.d	Everyday
stat	Now
X	# Of times
q2h	Every 2 hours

Bedtime: write it out Avoid using HS (hs) be cause it can be confused with half-strength.

## Dosage Forms

amp	Ampule
aq	Water
cap(s)	Capsule
gtt	Drop
liq	Liquid
MDI	Metered dose inhaler
neb	Nebulizer
NS	Normal saline
SOL	Solution
SUPP	Suppository
SUSP	Suspension
tab	Tablet
U	Unit
UD	Unit dose
ung	Ointment

## Units of Measure

EU	Equivalent units
g	Gram
gtt	Drop
h hr hrs	Hour(s)
kg	Kilogram
L	Liter
lb	Pound
mcg	Microgram
mEq	Milliequivalent
mg	Milligram
min	Minute
mL	Milliliter
oz	Ounce
Tbsp	Tablespoon
tsp	Teaspoon





# Body Planes

## Sagittal Plane :

- Divides body into right and left parts
- Mid-sagittal (through midline)
- Parasagittal (off the midline)

Sagittal Plane :

Frontal (Coronal) Plane Transverse

(Horizontal; Axial) Plane

## Frontal (Coronal) Plane

Divides body into anterior and posterior parts

## Transverse (Horizontal; Axial) Plane

Divides body into superior and inferior parts

## Body Regions

Abdomin	Abdomen
Cervic	Neck, cervix
Crani	Cranium
Gastr	Stomach
Ili	Ilium
Inguin	Groin
Lumb	Loins, lower back
Umbilic	Navel
Pelv/i, pelv/o	Pelvis
Spin	Spine
Thorac	Chest

## Position

Anter	Anterior, front
Caud	Tail
Dist	Farthest
Dors	Back
Infer	Lower body
Later	Side
Medi	Middle
Poster	Behind
Proxim	Near
Ventr	Belly side

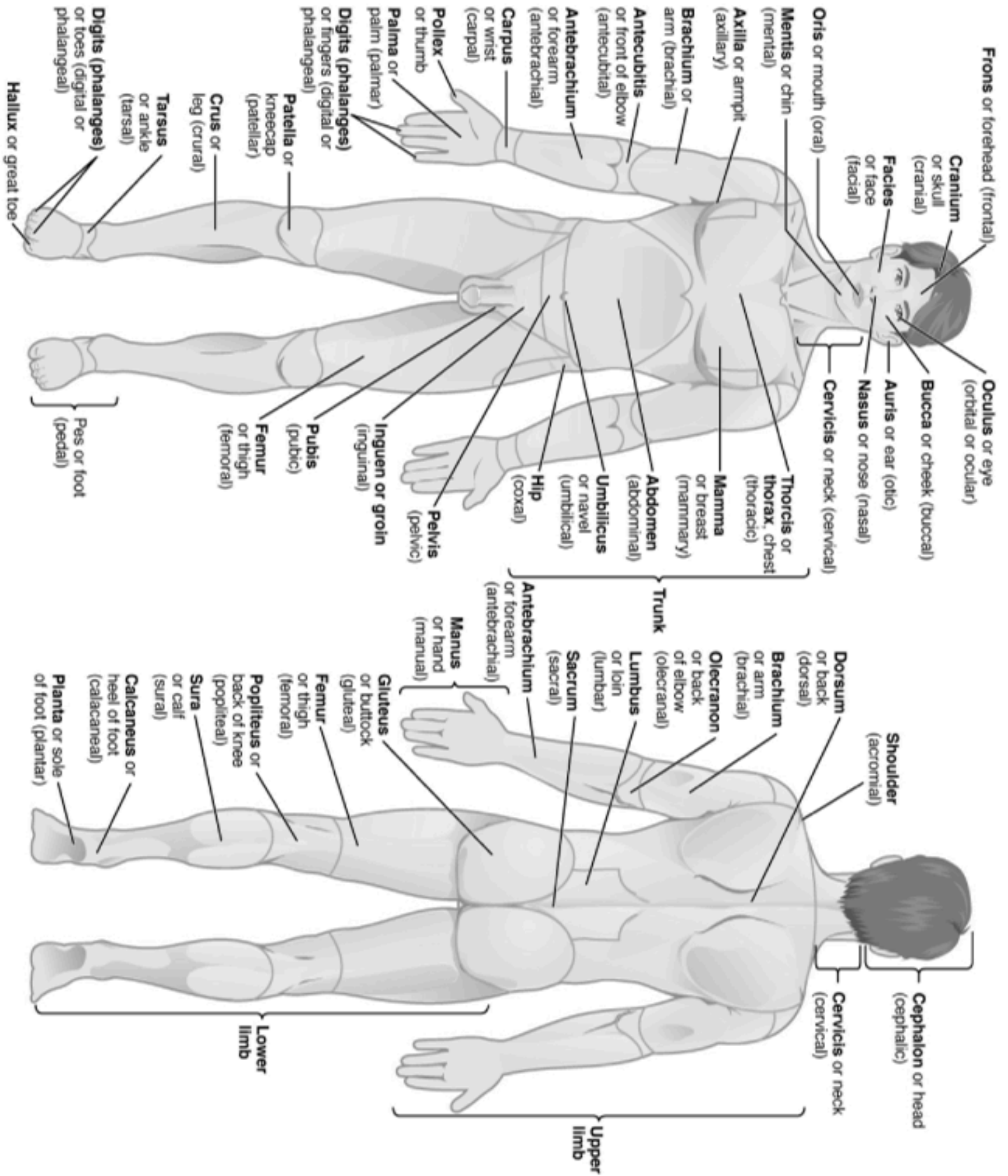


# Body Positions

Abduction	Move away.
Adduction	Move toward.
Anterior (Ventral)	Toward front.
Bilateral	Paired structures, one on each side.
Caudal	Toward lower body.
Cephalic	Toward the head.
Contralateral	Structures on the opposite side.
Deep	More internal.
Distal	Further from trunk or other point.
Dorsal recumbent	Laying on back with knees bent up in an outward position.
Eversion	Turned outward.
Fowlers	Sitting.
Inferior	Away from head, or below another part.
Inversion	Turned inward.
Ipsilateral	Structures on same side. Rt lung, Rt kidney
Lateral	Toward side.
Lithotomy	Laying on back with legs/feet in stirrups.
Medial	Imaginary midline dividing the body in half.
Palmar	Palm of hand
Parietal	Outer wall body cavity.
Posterior (Dorsal)	Toward back.
Prone	Laying flat with the chest down and the back up
Proximal	A part closer to the trunk, or closer to another specified point than another part.
Sims	Patient will roll to their left or right side and pillows are used.
Superficial (Peripheral)	Near the surface.
Superior	A part is above another part or closer to the head.
Supine	Lying on the back with legs flat.
Trendelenburg	Lying flat on the back with the feet raised higher than the head.

Ant	Anterior	PA	Posteroanterior
AP	Anteroposterior	post	Posterior
Bx, bx	biopsy	Sx	Symptom
Dx	Diagnosis	Tx	Treatment
LAT, lat	Lateral	U/L	Upper & Lower





# Abdominal Quadrants

## Right Hypochondriac Region

Liver  
Right Kidney  
Gallbladder  
Large/small Intestine

## Epigastric Region

Liver & Pancreas  
Stomach & Spleen  
Duodenum  
Adrenal Glands

## Left Hypochondriac Region

Liver & Spleen  
Stomach & Pancreas  
Left Kidney  
Large/small Intestine

## Right Lumbar Region

Ascending Colon  
Small Intestine  
Right Kidney

## Umbilical Region

Duodenum  
Small Intestine  
Transverse  
Colon

## Left Lumbar Region

Descending Colon  
Small Intestine  
Left Kidney

## Right Iliac Region

Appendix  
Cecum  
Ascending Colon  
Small Intestine

## Hypogastric Region

Bladder  
Sigmoid Colon  
Small Intestine  
Reproductive Organs

## Left Iliac Region

Sigmoid Colon  
Descending Colon  
Small Intestine

## Right Upper Quadrant

Pancreas  
Right Kidney  
Gallbladder  
Bile Duct  
Liver  
Transverse Colon  
Ascending Colon  
Duodenum  
Intestines

## Left Upper Quadrant

Diaphragm  
Stomach  
Spleen  
Liver  
Duodenum  
Pancreas  
Left kidney  
Adrenal glands  
Descending Colon

## Right Lower Quadrant

Appendix  
Colon  
Cecum  
Uterus  
Right ovary  
Right fallopian tube

## Left Lower Quadrant

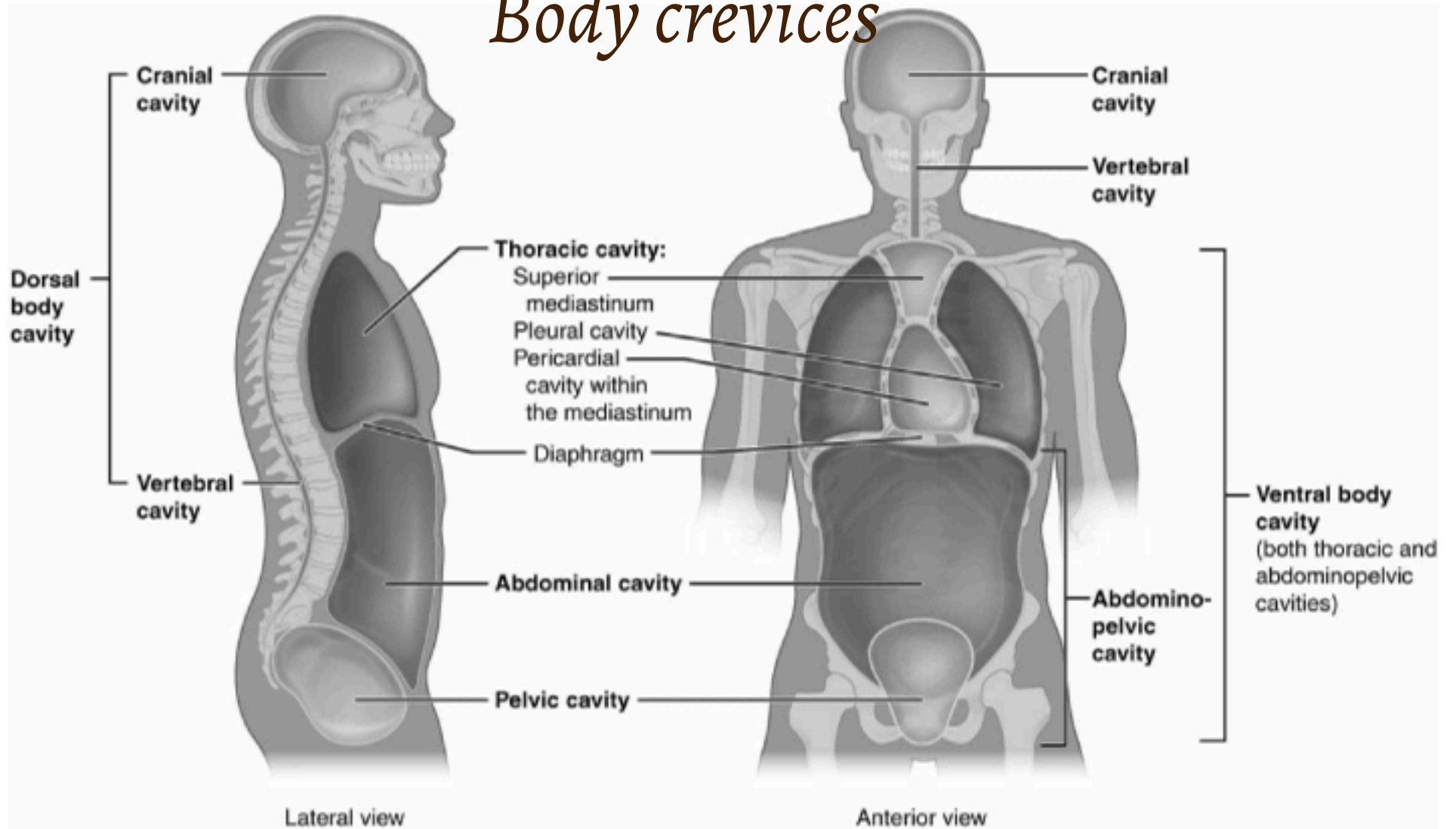
Sigmoid colon  
Uterus  
Left ovary  
Left fallopian tube  
Small intestine  
Umbilicus & Bladder  
Rectum & Anus

LLQ	Left lower quadrant
LUQ	Left upper quadrant

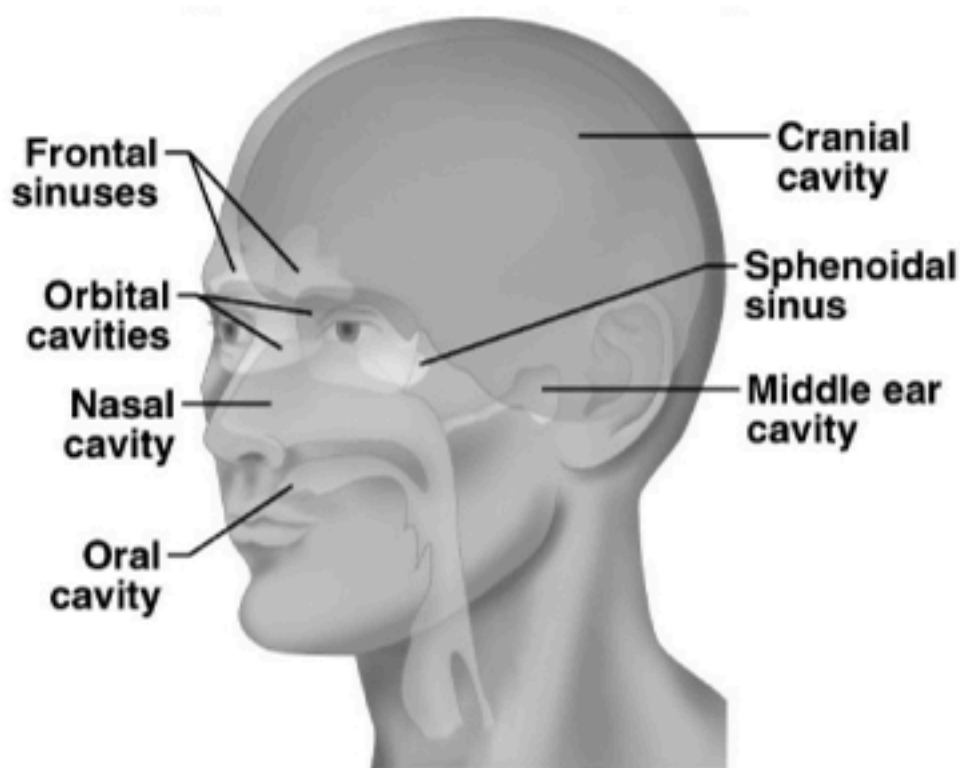
RLQ	Right lower quadrant
RUQ	Right upper quadrant



# Body crevices



## Body crevices



The dorsal cavity is along the head and back. contains brain and nervous system organs. contains nervous system organs.

1. The skull's cranial cavity
2. Spinal Cord-Spinal Cavity

Ventral Cavity: A region along the body's front. Contains organs that keep everything in balance.

- 1) Thoracic cavity: the heart, thorax, and chest
- 2.) Digestive organs in the abdominal cavity.
- 3.) Reproductive and excretory organs are located in the pelvic cavity.