

Word Parts Work Together

Types of word parts work together to form complex medical terms. The word parts or the word root, also known as the "**combining form suffix and prefix**".

A **word root** usually, but not always, indicates the involved body part. For example, **arthro** means joint. A suffix usually, but not always, indicates the procedure, condition, disorder, or disease. The suffix **-itis** means inflammation and together these parts form **arthritis** which means inflammation of a joint or joints.

A prefix usually, but not always, indicates location, time, number, or status. As an example, **pre-** means before. The word **natal** means pertaining to birth. Add the prefix **pre-** and the term becomes **prenatal** meaning the time and events before birth.