

Decoding Doctorspeak

My experience of running a Medical Terminology course

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What is 'Introduction to Medical Terminology'?

A **fun, gentle, interactive** introduction to medical language – what it is, why we need it, and how to decode it

Basics of the course

- 2 hours
- Up to 12 people
- No special equipment but lots of bits of paper!

- Designed to be hands-on and interactive
 - Two individual activities
 - Four group activities

- Relaxed and informal atmosphere

Course structure – first half

- Learning objectives
- Activity - introductory quiz
- A brief overview of what medical terminology is
- How to build a medical word – prefixes, suffixes, and roots/stems
- Activity – roots/stems
- Activity – create your own medical word

HOW TO BUILD A MEDICAL WORD

Medical terms are built from the following blocks:

PREFIX

ROOT OR STEM

**COMBINING
VOWEL**

SUFFIX

En-

'within'

-cephal-

'head'

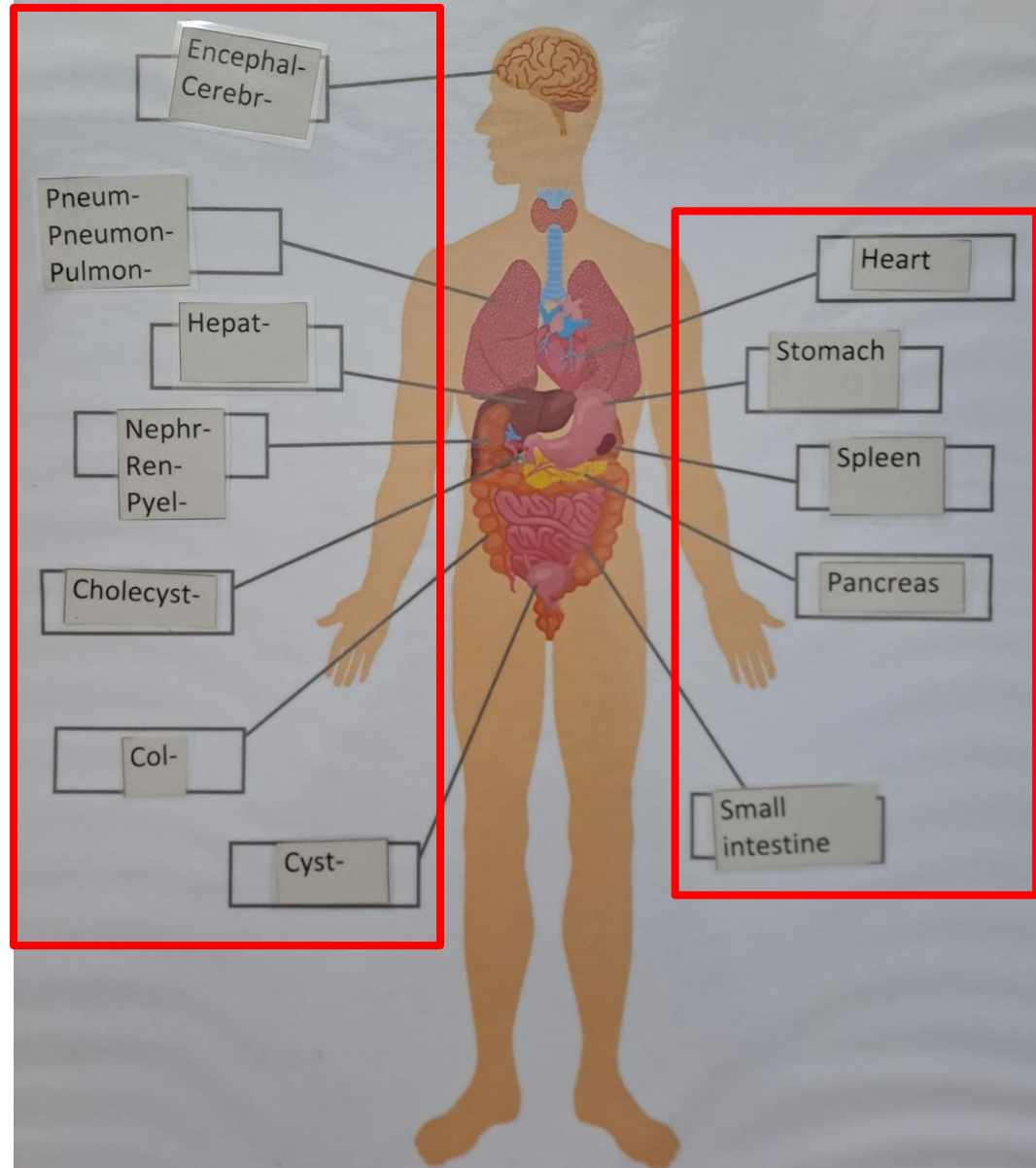
-o-

-gram

'a tracing or writing'

Meaning = a recording of brain waves

ORGANS OF THE HUMAN BODY



Course structure – second half

- Directional terms
- Activity – directional terms
- Anatomical planes
- Miscellaneous – Latin plurals, classification of diseases, useful words to know
- Activity - re-do of introductory quiz to self-assess learning
- Activity – patient records
- Activity – bingo
- Thank you and questions

PATIENT RECORD

NAME: Mary Smith

SEX: Female

DOB: 01/01/1980

HOSPITAL NO.: 418-000-001

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

- Tachycardia
- Hyperhidrosis
- Diarrhoea
- Dyspnoea
- Amenorrhoea
- Diplopia
- Ophthalmopathy
- Optic neuropathy

DIAGNOSIS:

Hyperthyroidism due to Graves' disease

TREATMENT:

Thyroidectomy

tachycardia



fast



heart



condition of

'condition of a fast heart rate'

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

Any questions?

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