ANATOMICAL TERMS
AND THEIR DERIVATION

Student Pocket Book.
Vade Mecum, L. (Latin).
Go with me.

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CHARLES E. OXNARD
ANATOMICAL TERMS

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World Scientific
NEW JERSEY • LONDON • SINGAPORE • BEIJING • SHANGHAI • HONG KONG • TAPE • CHENNAI
ANATOMICAL TERMS AND THEIR DERIVATION

Anatomy is gradually disappearing from the medical curriculum. This is partly because the curriculum is overcrowded and something has to go. It is also because medical education assumes that anatomy's main value is for surgery and will be learnt later by beginning surgeons. Yet anatomy for surgery is, paradoxically, the least of the reasons for doctors to know anatomy. There is, thus, a minor “surgery” of general practice that requires anatomy in situations where it cannot be “looked up.” The knife for a sebaceous cyst in the neck easily leads to paralysis of the trapezius if anatomical knowledge has gone (or never existed). The needle at the elbow or buttock readily causes problems if the simple anatomy is absent (or has disappeared). Even the finger (touching — palpation) or the eye (looking — observation) mislead if what is under the skin has been forgotten (or was never known).

Thus, the use of anatomy is widely misunderstood; it is certainly far wider than just surgery. Anatomy helps understand signs and symptoms. Do we know how the local anatomy of special skin regions relates to oedema: swelling of the back of hand and foot in the upright patient, swelling around the eyes in the lying patient, swelling of the genitalia (especially alarming to the patient in a cardiac bed) in the sitting patient? Anatomy is important in clinical tests. Do we understand: the opposite side test, pressing in left iliac fossa giving pain in right iliac fossa in appendicitis; the obturator test, flexing and medially rotating the right thigh causes pain from a pelvic appendix lying on the obturator muscle? Anatomy is important in everything we do in medicine. Do we know that accuracy in observation and
description stem first from observation and description in anatomy? Do we realize that anatomical terms are the vocabulary of medicine, not just anatomy: how doctors communicate with one another, and with the patient?

Learning anatomy is also widely misunderstood; it is certainly far wider than just memorization of facts. Of course, memorization is an important aid to learning in all disciplines. Paradoxically, this is one of the reasons for eliminating anatomy; it seems that it does not need to be learnt; it can be “looked up.” However, the information in texts, lists, pictures, notes, mnemonics and memory (rote-learning) though all useful initially, disappear in short order. Anatomy is only truly known through understanding the underlying science; development: how it came to be during a life time; evolution: how it came to be in myriads of life times; function: how it works; experience: how it is used; application: when it goes wrong.

Anatomy can be learnt from text-books, atlases, models, prosections and computers. This is second hand learning.

It can also be learnt from many bodies, of the living as well as the dead, of teachers, fellow students, health care colleagues, patients, and of one’s own body as well as the patient’s. This is powerful first hand learning: listening, speaking, discussing, using, and above all, questioning. Questioning is the final basis of learning. All this communication requires an interface between the language of medicine and the language of life.

All this leads to a new problem for today’s students. In prior times, students were often relatives of doctors or other professionals already possessing a medical flavour; they usually had English as their first language; they had biological and classical backgrounds; they already “knew” what the words meant. In today’s world, in contrast, many students are from language groups (Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East) far removed from English; many lack the classics and biology that utilize the words (in Australia, biological sciences are not
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

even required at entry); many are baffled by the language of medicine. Such students ask:

“Why do things have such complex names?”
“If only we knew the meaning it would be easier to understand!”

The teacher of the old days who could have enlightened them is almost extinct. The following text provides some of the information that those teachers might have given. It has been tested on medical students in the Universities of Tasmania and Western Australia. The student response has been most gratifying. The small pocket word book is truly a vade mecum that goes with the student into all parts of medicine.

Anatomy began as descriptive science in the days when Latin was the universal scientific language, and early anatomists described the structures they saw in that language, comparing them to common and familiar objects, or borrowing terms from the Greek and Arabic masters before them.

In anatomic terminology, common Latin or Greek words are used as such for any part of the body for which the ancients had a name. For many other structures, scientific names have been invented (1) by using certain classical words which appear to be descriptive of the part concerned, or (2) commonly, by combining Greek or Latin roots to form a new compound term. Memorization of such terms without understanding their meaning can lead to mental indigestion. Here, the roots are also presented from which many of these descriptive terms and compounds are derived, as an aid to comprehension. For practical convenience, the book is organised into abbreviations, prefixes and suffixes, general terms common to all body regions, short lists for each major body part, and an alphabetical list covering the entire body.

For a wider vocabulary, the use of a standard biological or medical dictionary is recommended.

Our thanks go to Ms Jill Aschman, Secretary of the Anatomy and Physiology Department who did the original word processing, and to Dr K. K. Phua and Ms Lim Sook Cheng of World Scientific. Most
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

important thanks of all go to generations of medical students in all the medical schools in which we have worked. Their questions about meanings have stimulated our answers and this pocket book.

Hobart and Perth

FPL
CEO
2006
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ABBREVIATIONS

AS. Anglo-Saxon
A. Arabic
dim. diminutive
F. French
Ger. German
G. Greek
L. Latin
NL. “New” Latin
OF. Old French
pl. plural
## COMMONLY USED PREFIXES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a-, an-</td>
<td>G. lacking, without</td>
<td>asexual, without sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ab-</td>
<td>L. away from</td>
<td>abduction, lead away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ad-</td>
<td>L. to, toward</td>
<td>adduction, lead towards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>af-</td>
<td>L. to, toward</td>
<td>afferent, bring towards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amphi-</td>
<td>G. on both sides, double</td>
<td>amphiarthrosis, two joints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>andro-</td>
<td>G. a male</td>
<td>androgen, male producing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ante-</td>
<td>L. forward, before</td>
<td>antebrachium, forearm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anti-</td>
<td>G. against, reverse, opposed to</td>
<td>antihelix, reverse coil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apo-</td>
<td>G. from</td>
<td>apocrine, secreting from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auto-</td>
<td>G. autos, self</td>
<td>autonomic, self governing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>basi-</td>
<td>L. pertaining to the base</td>
<td>basiocciput, occipital base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bi-</td>
<td>L. twice, double</td>
<td>bicipital, two heads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brachy-</td>
<td>G. short</td>
<td>brachycephaly, short head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cephalo-</td>
<td>G. head</td>
<td>cephalometry, head measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circum-</td>
<td>L. around, about</td>
<td>circumduction, lead around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chondro-</td>
<td>G. <em>chondras</em>, cartilage</td>
<td>chondrocyte, cartilage cell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Commonly Used Prefixes

- **co-, com-, con-** L. together, with constrictor, draw together
- **de-** L. away from, down deglutition, swallow down
- **di-, dia-** G. double, twice diaplegia, both sides
diaphragm, wall between
- **dis-** L. apart, away disarticulate, joint apart
- **e-, ecto-, ex-** G. on outer side ectoderm, outer layer
extradural, outside the dura
- **em-, en-** G. in, on embolism, wedge inside
- **endo-** G. within endocardium, within heart
- **epi-** G. upon, over epicardium, over heart
- **eu-** G. the better of eugenics, better generation
- **exo-** G. outside exophthalmos, bulging eye
- **extra-** L. outside extracellular, outside the cell
- **gastro-** G. *gaster*, stomach, belly gastrocolic reflex, stomach-colon reflex
- **helico-** G. twisted helicotrema, twisted hole
- **hemi-** G. half hemisphere, half a sphere
- **holo-** G. whole holocrine, whole secretion
- **homo-** G. one and the same homologous
- **hyper-** G. over, above, excessive hypertrophy, over growth
- **hypo-** G. under, deficient, below hypothalamus, below the thalamus
- **im-, in-** L. not immature, not mature
- **infra-** L. below infraorbital, below orbit
**Anatomical Terms and their Derivation**

inter-  
L. between  
intervertebral, between the vertebrae

intra-  
L. inside, within  
intramuscular, within muscle

intro-  
L. within, into  
introspection, look inside

iso-  
G. equal  
isometric, equal measure

macro-  
G. big, large  
microcyte, large cell

mega-  
G. great  
megalocyte, large cell

meta-  
G. change, after  
metacarpal, after the carpus (wrist)

mes-, meso-  
G. middle  
esogastrium

micro-  
G. small  
microscope, looking small

myo-  
G. mys, muscle  
combining form of muscle

neuro-  
G. neuron, nerve  
combining form of nerve (tendon, see aponeurosis)

omni-  
L. omnis, all  
omnipotent, all powerful

omphalo-  
G. combining form (omphalos)  
signifying the navel

oo-  
G. oon, egg  
oocyte, egg cell

ortho-  
G. orthos, straight, direct  
orthograde, straight walking

osteо-  
G. osteon, bone  
osteocyte, bone cell

para-  
G. by the side of  
paravertebral, beside the vertebrae

peri-  
G. around  
peritoneum, stretched around

post-  
L. after, behind  
postaxial, behind the axis

prae-, pre-  
L. before  
prenatal, before birth

pro-  
G. before, for  
pronephros, before kidney
### Commonly Used Prefixes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Medical Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>re-</td>
<td>L. again, back</td>
<td>reflect, turn back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>retro-</td>
<td>L. backward, behind</td>
<td>retroperitoneal, behind the peritoneum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>semi-</td>
<td>L. half</td>
<td>semimembranosus, half membranous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sub-</td>
<td>L. under</td>
<td>subclavious, under clavicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supra-</td>
<td>L. above</td>
<td>supraspinatous, above spine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sym-, syn-</td>
<td>G. together, with</td>
<td>symphysis, synostosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trans-</td>
<td>L. across</td>
<td>transpyloric, across pylorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ultra-</td>
<td>L. in excess, beyond</td>
<td>ultrasonic, beyond (audible) sounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### COMMONLY USED SUFFIXES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suffix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-algia</td>
<td>G. algos, pain</td>
<td>neuralgia, nerve pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-coele</td>
<td>G. koilia, hollow</td>
<td>blastocoele, hollow cell ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ectomy</td>
<td>G. ek-tome, cutting out</td>
<td>appendicectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-form</td>
<td>L. forma, shape</td>
<td>fusiform, spindle shaped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-graph</td>
<td>G. graphein, to write</td>
<td>radiograph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-itis</td>
<td>G. suffix indicating inflammation</td>
<td>conjunctivitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-logy</td>
<td>G. logos, treatise, word, study of</td>
<td>pathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-oid</td>
<td>G. eidos, form, resemblance</td>
<td>mastoid, breast shaped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-opia</td>
<td>G. opsis, sight</td>
<td>diplopia, double vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-pathy</td>
<td>G. pathos, suffering</td>
<td>sympathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-rhoa</td>
<td>G. rhein, to flow</td>
<td>diarrhoea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-scopy</td>
<td>G. skopein, to view</td>
<td>endoscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tomy</td>
<td>G. temnein, to cut</td>
<td>hysterectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-uria</td>
<td>G. ouron, urine</td>
<td>haematuria, blood in urine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TERMS COMMON TO ALL ANATOMICAL REGIONS

Abductor.     L. ab, away, + ducere, to lead.
Aberrant.     L. ab, away, + errare, to stray.
Accessory.    L. accessorius, supplementary.
Adductor.     L. ad, to, + ducere, to lead.
Adhesion.     L. adhaereo, to stick together.
Adipose.      L. adeps, fat.
Aditus.       L. aditus, opening.
Adnexa.       L. ad, to, + nexus, bound.
Adventia.     L. ad, to, + venire, to come.
Afferent.     L. ad, to, + ferre, to carry.
Agonist.      G. agonistes, rival.
Analogy.      G. ana, according to, + logos, treatise.
Anastomosis.  G. anastomoein, to bring to a mouth, cause to communicate.
Anatomy.      G. ana, apart, + tennein, to cut.
Anlage.       Ger. an, on, + legen, to lay (a laying on — primordium, precursor).
Annulus.      L. anulus (annulus), a ring.
Anomaly.      G. an, without, + nomos, law.
Antagonist.   G. anti, against, agonistes, rival.
Anteflexion.  L. ante, before, + flexere, to bend.
Anterior.     L. ante, before.
Anteversion.  L. ante, before, + versio, turning.
Apertura.     L. apertura, opening.
Apocrine.     G. apo, from, + krinein, to separate.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

**Aqueous.**  
L. *aqua*, water.

**Arrector.**  
L. *arrigere*, to raise, thus *arrectores pilorum*, small muscles in skin that erect the hairs.

**Artefact.**  

**Artery.**  
G. *aer*, air, + *terein*, to keep (L. *arteria*, windpipe); ancient belief that blood vessels contained air.

**Articulation.**  

**Aspera.**  
L. *asper*, rough.

**Asthenic.**  
G. *a*, without, + *sthenos*, strength.

**Atavistic.**  
L. *atavus*, grandfather.

**Ataxia.**  
G. *a*, without, + *taxis*, order.

**Atelectasis.**  
G. *ateles*, incomplete, + *ectasis*, expansion.

**Atresia.**  
G. *a*, without, + *tresis*, hole.

**Atrophy.**  
G. *a*, without, + *trophe*, nourishment.

**Autonomic.**  

**Axial.**  
L. *axis*, axle of a wheel, the line about which any body turns.

**Axis.**  
L. *axis*, axle of a wheel.

**Axon.**  
G. *axon*, axis.

**Basal.**  
L. *basis*, footing, base.

**Bifid.**  
L. *bis*, two, + *findere*, to cleave.

**Bifurcate.**  

**Bilateral.**  

**Biventer.**  

**Brevis.**  
L. *brevis*, short.

**Bulbus.**  
L. *bulbus*, bulb, swollen root.

**Bulla.**  
L. *bulla*, a bubble; hence spherical in shape.

**Bursa.**  
L. *bursa*, a purse; hence purse-shaped object.
Terms Common to All Anatomical Regions

Calcar.  L. calcar, spur.
Calcification.  L. calx, lime, + facere, to make.
Callosus.  L. as above, newly formed bone at fracture site.
Canaliculus.  L. canalis, watetpipe.
Cancellous.  L. cancelli, latticework.
Capillary.  L. capillaris, pertaining to the hair.
Capsule.  L. dim. of capsae, box.
Cardinal.  L. cardinals, pertaining to a door hinge, on which something important or fundamental hinges.
Cartilage.  L. cartilago, gristle, cartilage.
Caruncle.  L. dim. of caro, flesh, any fleshy eminence.
Cauda, caudal  L. cauda, tail.
Cava.  L. cavus, -a, -um, hollow or cave.
Cavernosus.  L. caverna, a hollow or cave.
Cavum.  L. cavum, a hollow or cave.
Chorda.  G. chorde, string of gut, cord.
Chorion.  G. chorion, skin.
Choroid.  G. chorion, skin, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Circumflex.  L. circum, around, + flexere, to bend.
Collagen.  G. kolla, glue, + L. gen, begetter of.
Collateral.  L. con, together, + latus, side.
Colliculus.  L. colliculus, little hill.
Colloid.  G. kolla, glue, + eidos, likeness, shape.
Comes.  L. comes, companion.
Comitans (pl. comitantes).  L. comitari, to accompany.
Commiissure.  L. commissura (cum + mittere), connection.
Communicans.  L. communicans, communicating.
Convolution.  L. con, together, + volvo, to roll.
Corpus (pl. corpora).  L. body.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corpuscle.</td>
<td>L. <em>corpusculum</em>, little body.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crista.</td>
<td>L. <em>crista</em>, crest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruciate.</td>
<td>L. <em>crux</em>, cross.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crus (pl. crura).</td>
<td>L. <em>crus</em>, leg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous.</td>
<td>L. <em>cutis</em>, skin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuticle.</td>
<td>L. <em>cutis</em>, skin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutis.</td>
<td>L. <em>cutis</em>, skin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyst (adj. cystic).</td>
<td>G. <em>kystis</em>, bag, bladder, pouch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decussation.</td>
<td>L. <em>decussatio</em>, intersection of two lines, as in Roman X.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dendrite.</td>
<td>G. <em>dendros</em>, tree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermal.</td>
<td>G. <em>derma</em>, skin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermis.</td>
<td>G. <em>derma</em>, skin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detritus.</td>
<td>L. <em>deterere</em>, to rub away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detrusor.</td>
<td>L. <em>detrudere</em>, to push down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distal.</td>
<td>L. <em>distare</em>, to stand apart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diverticulum.</td>
<td>L. <em>divertere</em>, to turn aside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorsal.</td>
<td>L. <em>dorsum</em>, back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duct.</td>
<td>L. <em>ducere</em>, to lead or draw.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ductule.</td>
<td>L. <em>ducere</em>, to lead, dim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effector.</td>
<td>L. <em>efficere</em>, to bring to pass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efferent.</td>
<td>L. <em>ex</em>, out, + <em>ferre</em>, to bear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eminence.</td>
<td>L. <em>e</em>, out, + <em>minere</em>, to jut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emissary.</td>
<td>L. <em>e</em>, out, + <em>mittere</em>, to send.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Terms Common to All Anatomical Regions

Endomysium. G. endon, within, + mys, muscle.
Endoneurium. G. endon, within, + neuron, nerve.
Endosteon. G. endon, within, + osteon, bone.
Endoskeleton. G. endon, within, + skeletos, dried up.
Endothelium. G. endon, within, + thele, nipple.
Epidermis. G. epi, on, + derma, skin.
Epimysium. G. epi, upon, + mys, muscle.
Epineurium. G. epi, on, + neuron, nerve.
Epithelium. G. epi, on, + thele, nipple.
Eversion. L. e, out, + vertere, to turn.
Exocrine. G. ex, out, + krinein, to separate.
Extension. L. extendo, extend.
Extensor. L. ex, out, + tendere, to stretch.
Extrinsic. L. extrinsecus, on the outside.
Exudate. L. ex, out, + sudare, to sweat.

Fascia (pl. -iae). L. fascia, band.
Fasciculus. L. fascis, bundle.
Fenestra. L. fenestra, window.
Fibre, Fiber. L. fibra, fibre, string, thread.
Fibril. NL. fibrilla, a little thread.
Fibroblast. L. fibra, fibre, + blastos, bud.
Fibrocartilage. L. fibra, fibre, + cartilago, gristle.
Filament. L. filamentum, thin fibre.
Fissure. L. fissura (findo), a cleft.
Fistula. L. fistula, pipe.
Flaccid. L. flaccidus, weak.
Flexor. L. flexus, bent.
Follicle. L. folliculus, a small bag.
Foramen. L. foramen, hole.
Form. L. forma, shape.
Fossa. L. fossa, ditch, channel, something dug.
Fundiform. L. funda, sling, + forma, shape, likeness.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Fundus. L. *fundus*, bottom.

Funicular. L. *funis*, rope.


Germinal. L. *germen*, bud, germ.

Germinative. L. *germen*, bud, germ.

Gestation. L. *gestare*, to bear.


Glia. G. *gloia*, glue.

Habitus. L. *habitus*, condition of the body.

Haemal, hemal. G. *haima*, blood.


Hilum. L. *hilum*, a small thing.


Hormone. G. *hormaein*, to excite.

Humor. L. *humor*, moisture, fluid.

Hypaxial. G. *hypo*, under, + L. *axis*, centre line, axis.

Implantation. L. *in*, in, + *plantere*, to plant.


Incisura. L. *incidere*, to cut into.

Inductor. L. *inducere*, to lead on, excite.


Insertion. L. *in*, in, + *serere*, to plant.

Integument. L. *in*, over, + *tegere*, to cover.
Terms Common to All Anatomical Regions

**Intercalated.** L. *inter*, between, + *calare*, to call, inserted or placed between.


**Interstitial.** L. *inter*, between, + *sistere*, to set, thus placed in spaces or gaps.

**Intima.** L. *intima*, innermost.

**Intrinsic.** L. *intrinsicus*, inward.

**Invagination.** L. *in*, in, + *vagina*, sheath.

**Inversion.** L. *in*, in, + *vertere*, to turn.

**Juxtaposition.** L. *juxta*, near, + *positio*, place.

**Karyocyte.** G. *karyon*, nucleus, nut, + *kytos*, cell.

**Karyolysis.** G. *karyon*, nucleus, nut, + *lysis*, loosening.

**Kinetic.** G. *kinesis*, movement.

**Lacerate.** L. *lacerare*, to tear.

**Lacuna.** L. *lacuna*, pond.

**Lamella.** L. dim. of *lamina*, leaf.

**Lamina (pl. -ae).** L. *lamina*, thin plate.

**Lateral.** L. *lateralis* (*latus*), pertaining to a side.


**Leukocyte.** G. *leukos*, white, + *kytos*, cell.

**Ligamentum.** L. *ligamentum*, a bandage.

**Lipid.** G. *lipos*, fat, + *eidos*, resemblance.

**Lobus.** G. *lobos*, lobe.

**Locus.** L. *locus*, place.

**Lymph.** L. *lympha*, spring water.

**Lymphocyte.** L. *lympha*, spring water, + G. *kytos*, cell.

**Macrophage.** G. *makros*, large, + *phagein*, to eat.

**Macroscopic.** G. *makros*, large, + *skopeo*, I see.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Marginal. L. marginalis (margo), bordering.
Matrix. L. matrix (mater), womb, groundwork, mold.
Medial. L. mediialis (medius), pertaining to the middle.
Median. L. medianus, in the middle.
Megaloblast. G. megas, big, + blastos, bud.
Membrane. L. membrana, skin.
Merocrine. G. meros, portion, + krinein, to separate.
Mesenchyme. G. mesos, middle, + en, in, + chymos, juice.
Mesoderm. G. mesos, middle, + derma, skin.
Mesothelium. G. mesos, middle, + thele, nipple, hence middle lining layer.
Metabolic. G. metabole, change.
Metaphase. G. meta, after, + phasis, appearance.
Metaplasia. G. meta, after, + plasma, formed, molded.
Microscope. G. mikros, small, + skopeo, I look.
Microsome. G. mikros, small, + soma, body.
Mitochondria. G. mitos, thread, + chondrion, grain.
Mitosis. G. mitos, thread.
Monocyte. G. monos, single, + kytos, cell.
Morphology. G. morphos, form, + logos, treatise.
Mucus. L. mucus, G. muxa, snivel, slippery secretion.
Muscle. L. musculus, little mouse.
Myology. G. mys, muscle, + logos, treatise.
Myotome. G. mys, myos, muscle, + tome, a cutting.

Necrosis. G. nekrosis, a killing.
Necropsy. G. nekros, corpse, + opsis, sight.
Nerve. L. nervus, G. neuron, cordlike structure, nerve, tendon.
Neural. G. neuron, nerve.
Neuralgia. G. neuron, nerve, + algos, pain.
Terms Common to All Anatomical Regions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neuraxon.</td>
<td>G. neuron, nerve, + axon, axis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurilemma.</td>
<td>G. neuron, nerve, + lemma, husk, sheath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroblast.</td>
<td>G. neuron, nerve, + blastos, bud.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroectomy.</td>
<td>G. neuron, nerve, + ektome, excision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroglia.</td>
<td>G. neuron, nerve, + gloia, glue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurology.</td>
<td>G. neuron, nerve, + logos, treatise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuron.</td>
<td>G. neuron, cordlike structure, sinew, tendon; equivalent of L. nervus, hence, nerve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuropil.</td>
<td>G. neuron, nerve, + pilos, felt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuropore.</td>
<td>G. neuron, nerve, + poros, hole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Node.</td>
<td>L. nodus, knot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norma.</td>
<td>L. norma, rule, square used by carpenters, hence standard viewpoint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normoblast.</td>
<td>L. norma, rule, + blastos, bud.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nucleolus.</td>
<td>L. nucleus, nut. New derivation “small nucleus.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nucleus.</td>
<td>L. nucleus, nut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occlusion.</td>
<td>L. ob, before, + claudio, I close.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oedema, Edema.</td>
<td>G. oidema, swelling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oestrus, Estrus.</td>
<td>G. oistros, stinging insect, stung into activity at time of heat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oligodendroglia.</td>
<td>G. oligos, few, + dendron, tree, + gloia, glue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposition.</td>
<td>L. ob, in the way of, + positus, placed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ.</td>
<td>L. organum, implement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orifice.</td>
<td>L. orificium, opening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Os.</td>
<td>L. os, bone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osseous.</td>
<td>L. os (pl. ossea), bone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ossicle.</td>
<td>L. ossiculum, small bone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ossification.</td>
<td>L. os, bone, + facere, to make.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteone.</td>
<td>G. osteon, bone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteocyte.</td>
<td>G. osteon, bone, + kytos, cell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteology.</td>
<td>G. osteon, bone, + logos, treatise.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Osteolysis.  G. osteon, bone, + lysis, melting.
Ostium.  L. ostium, door.

Paradox.  G. para, alongside of, + doxa, belief.
Paraesthesia, G. para, alongside of, + aisthesis, sensation.
Parasthesia.  G. para, alongside of, + aisthesis, sensation.
Paraganglion.  G. para, along, beside, + ganglion, knot.
Paralysis.  G. para, alongside of, + lyein, to loosen.
Paramedian.  G. para, alongside of, + mesos, middle.
Paraplegia.  G. para, alongside of, + plesso, I strike.
Parasympathetic.  G. para, alongside of, + sympathetikos, sympathetic.
Paresis.  G. paresis, relaxation.
Pathology.  G. pathos, disease, + logos, treatise.
Perichondrium.  G. peri, around, + chondros, cartilage.
Perimysium.  G. peri, around, + mys, muscle.
Periosteum.  G. peri, around, + osteon, bone.
Phagocyte.  G. phagein, to eat, + kytos, cell.
Phenotype.  G. phainein, to display, + typos, type.
Physic.  G. physikos, natural.
Physis.  G. phyein, to generate, hence an outgrowth.
Piriform.  L. pirum, pear, + forma, shape, likeness.
Placode.  G. plax, anything flat.
Plantigrade.  L. planta, side of foot, + gradior, to walk.
Plasma.  G. plasma, something formed.
Platelet.  OF. plate, plate.
Pleomorphic.  G. pleon, more (or many) + G. morphos, forms.

Poikilocyte.  G. poikilos, diversified, + kytos, cell.
Polymorphonuclear.  G. polys, many, + morphe, form, + L. nucleus, nut; hence mixed term.
### Terms Common to All Anatomical Regions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pore.</td>
<td>L. porus</td>
<td>passage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porta.</td>
<td>L. porta (pl. -ae)</td>
<td>gate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portal.</td>
<td>L. porta (pl. -ae)</td>
<td>gate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portio.</td>
<td>L. portio</td>
<td>part</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porus.</td>
<td>G. poros</td>
<td>passage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primordial.</td>
<td>L. primordium</td>
<td>beginning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processus.</td>
<td>L. processus</td>
<td>going forwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prochordal.</td>
<td>G. pro, in front of, + chorda, cord.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profundus.</td>
<td>L. profundus</td>
<td>deep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progesterone.</td>
<td>G. pro, before, + gerere, to bear.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promontory.</td>
<td>G. promontorium, mountain ridge.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proprioceptor.</td>
<td>L. proprius, special, + capere, to take.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proptosis.</td>
<td>G. pro, before, + ptosis, falling.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosector.</td>
<td>G. pro, before, + L. secare, to cut.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proteoplasma.</td>
<td>G. protos, first, + plasma, form.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protuberance.</td>
<td>L. protubero, I swell.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximal.</td>
<td>L. proximus</td>
<td>next</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyknic.</td>
<td>G. pyknos, compact.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyknosis.</td>
<td>G. pyknos, compact.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyramid.</td>
<td>G. pyramis, pyramid.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyriform.</td>
<td>L. pirum, pear, + forma, shape.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadrangular.</td>
<td>L. quattuor, four + L. angulus, four angles.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadratus.</td>
<td>L. quadratus, squared.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadriceps.</td>
<td>L. quattuor, four, + caput, head.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadrigeminus.</td>
<td>L. quadrigeminus, four-fold, four.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radicle.</td>
<td>L. radix, root.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radix.</td>
<td>L. radix, root.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramify.</td>
<td>L. ramus, branch, + facere, to make.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramus.</td>
<td>L. ramus, branch.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raphe.</td>
<td>G. raphe, seam.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receptor.</td>
<td>L. recipere, to take back, receive.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Recess. L. recessus, retreat.
Reflect. L. reflecto, to turn back.
Reticulocyte. L. reticulum, little net, + kytos, cell.
Reticulum. L. reticulum, little net.
Retraction. L. re, back, + trahere, to draw.
Retractor. L. retrahere, to draw back.
Rostrum (pl. -a). L. rostrum, beak.
Rotator. L. rotare, to whirl about.

Sac. L. saccus, sack.
Sacculus. L. sacculus, a little bag.
Sagittal. L. sagittra, arrow; shape of sagittal suture including the lambdoid suture.
Sarcolemma. G. sarx, flesh, + lemma, husk, skin.
Scala. L. scala, staircase.
Sclerotic. G. skleros, hard.
Sebaceous. L. sebum, tallow, grease.
Sebum. L. sebum, tallow.
Sigmoid. G. sigma, Greek letter, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Sinister. L. sinister, left side or unlucky.
Sinus (pl. -us). L. sinus, curve, cavity, bosom.
Sinusoid. L. sinus, curve, cavity, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Soma. G. soma, body.
Somatic. G. soma (pl. somata), body.
Somatopleure. G. soma, body, + pleura, side.
Somite. G. soma, body, + suffix -ite, indicating origin.
Splanchnic. G. splanchna, viscera.
Spongiosum. G. spongia, sponge.
Spongiblast. G. spongia, sponge, + blastos, germ, bud.
Squamo-. L. squama, scale.
Terms Common to All Anatomical Regions

Stenosis. G. stenosis, narrowing.
Sthenic. G. sthenos, strength.
Stratum (pl. strata). L. stratum, layer.
Stria. L. stria, furrow.
Striatum. L. striatus, grooved, streaked.
Stroma. G. stroma, blanket.
Sulcus. L. sulcus, furrow.
Suture. L. sutura, seam, sewing together.
Sympathetic. G. syn, together, + pathein, to suffer.
Synapse. G. syn, together, + haptein, to fasten.
Synarthrosis. G. syn, together, + arthron, joint.
Synchondrosis. G. syn, together, + chondros, cartilage.
Syncytium. G. syn, together, + cytos, cell.
Syndesmosis. G. syn, together, + desmosis, band.
Syndrome. G. syndrome, occurrence.
Synergy. G. syn, together, + ergon, work.
Synostosis. G. syn, together, + osteon, bone.
Synovia. G. syn, together, + ovum, egg.

Tendon. L. tendere, to stretch.
Tensor. L. tendere, to stretch.
Teres. L.bero, I grind, rub.
Terminalis. L. terminare, to limit.
Theca. L. theca, envelope, sheath.
Thrombocyte. G. thrombos, lump, + kytos, cell.
Thrombus. G. thrombus, lump.
Tome. G. tennein, to cut.
Trabecula (pl. -ae). L. trabecula, a little beam.
Tract. L. tractus, wool drawn out for spinning.
Trophoblast. G. trope, nourishment, + blastos, bud.
Tuberosity. L. tuber, round smooth swelling.
Tunica. L. tunica, undergarment.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

**Unciform.** L. *uncus*, hook, + *forma*, shape.

**Uncinate.** L. *uncinatus*, furnished with a hook.

**Uncus.** L. *uncus*, hook.

**Valve.** L. *valva*, leaf of door.

**Valvula.** L. *valvula*, a little fold, valve.

**Vas.** L. *vas*, vessel.

**Vascular.** L. *vasculum*, small vessel.

**Vein.** L. *vena*, vein.

**Ventral.** L. *venter*, belly.

**Vertex.** L. *vertex*, whirl, whirlpool.

**Vestige.** L. *vestigium*, trace, footprint.

**Zona.** L. *zona*, belt, girdle.

**Zonula.** L. dim. of *zona*, belt, girdle.

**Zygote.** G. *zygoein*, to yoke together.
TERMS IMPORTANT IN THE
UPPER LIMB

Abductor. L. ab, away, + ducere, to lead.
Accessory. L. accessorius, supplementary.
Acromion. G. akron, height, extremity, + omos, shoulder.
Adductor. L. ad, to, + ducere, to lead.
Anconeus. G. agkon, elbow.
Angle. L. angulus, angle.
Annulus. L. anulus (annulus), a ring.
Ansa. L. ansa, handle.
Antebrachium. L. ante, before, + brachium, arm.
Anteflexion. L. ante, before, + flexere, to bend.
Anteversion. L. ante, before, + versio, turning.
Appendicular. adjectival form of versio.
Axilla. L. axilla, armpit.

Basilic. A. al-basilic, inner vein.
Biceps. L. bis, two, + caput, head.
Bipennate. L. bis, two, + pinna, feather.
Biventer. L. bis, two, + venter, belly.
Brachial. L. brachialis, belonging to the arm (upper arm).
Brachium (pl. -ia). L. brachium, arm, (upper arm).
Brevis. L. brevis, short.
Bursa. L. bursa, a purse; hence purse-shaped object.

Capitulum. L. dim. caput, small head.
**Anatomical Terms and their Derivation**

**Capsule.** L. dim. of caps, box.

**Caput (pl. capita).** L. caput, head.

**Carpus.** G. karpos, wrist.

**Cervical.** L. cervix, neck.

**Cingulum.** L. cingulum, girdle.

**Circumflex.** L. circum, around, + flexere, to bend.

**Clavicle.** L. clavicula, a little key.

**Collateral.** L. con, together, + latus, side.

**Collum.** L. collum, neck.

**Comes.** L. comes, companion.

**Comitans** (pl. comitantes). L. comitari, to accompany.

**Communicans.** L. communicans, communicating.

**Condyle.** G. kondylos, knuckle.

**Coraco-, corono-.** G. korax or corone, crow; hence crowlike.

**Coracoid.** G. korax, crow, + eidos, form, likeness.

**Corium.** G. chorion, skin, leather.

**Corpus** (pl. corpora). L. body.

**Crista.** L. crista, crest.

**Cubitus.** L. cubitus, elbow.

**Dactyl.** G. daktylos, finger.

**Deltoid.** G. delta, letter in Greek alphabet, triangular-shaped.

**Dermatome.** G. derma, skin, + temnein, to cut.

**Diaphysis.** G. dia, between, + physis, growth.

**Diarthrosis.** G. dia, through, + arthroun, to fasten by a joint.

**Digit.** L. digitus, finger.

**Disc.** L. discus, disc.

**Distal.** L. distare, to stand apart.

**Dorsal.** L. dorsum, back.
Terms Important in the Upper Limb

**Epicondyle.**  G. *epi*, on, + *kondylos*, knuckle.


**Epithelium.**  G. *epi*, on, + *thele*, nipple.

**Eversion.**  L. *e*, out, + *vertere*, to turn.

**Extension.**  L. *extendo*, extend.

**Extensor.**  L. *ex*, out, + *tendere*, to stretch.

**Extrinsic.**  L. *extrinsecus*, on the outside.

**Fascia (pl. -iae).**  L. *fascia*, band.

**Fasciculus.**  L. *fascis*, bundle.

**Flaccid.**  L. *flaccidus*, weak.

**Flexor.**  L. *flexus*, bent.

**Foramen.**  L. *foramen*, hole.

**Fossa.**  L. *fossa*, ditch, channel, something dug.

**Fusiform.**  L. *fusus*, spindle, + *forma*, shape, likeness.

**Ganglion.**  G. *ganglion*, a swelling under the skin.

**Ginglymus.**  G. *ginglymus*, hinge.


**Hamatum.**  L. *hamatus*, hook-shaped.

**Hamulus.**  L. dim. *hamus*, hook.

**Humerus.**  L. *humerus*, shoulder.

**Hyaline.**  G. *hyalos*, glass.

**Hypaxial.**  G. *hypo*, under, + L. *axis*, centre line, axis.

**Incisura.**  L. *incidere*, to cut into.

**Index.**  L. *index*, pointer.

**Infraspinous.**  L. *infra*, below, + *spina*, spine.

**Insertion.**  L. *in*, in, + *serere*, to plant.

**Integument.**  L. *in*, over, + *tegere*, to cover.

**Intercalated.**  L. *inter*, between, + *calare*, to call, inserted or placed between.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation


Intima. L. *intima*, innermost.

Intrinsic. L. *intrinsecus*, inward.


Inversion. L. *in*, in, + *vertere*, to turn.


Kinetic. G. *kinesis*, movement.

Labrum. L. *labrum*, rim.

Lateral. L. *lateralis* (*latus*), pertaining to a side.

Latissimus. L. superlative, *latus*, broad, therefore very broad.

Levator. L. *levare*, to raise.

Ligamentum. L. *ligamentum*, a bandage.

Locus. L. *locus*, place.

Longus. L. *longus*, long.

Lumbrical. L. *lumbricus*, earthworm.

Magnus, -a, -um. L. *magnus*, large.

Mammary. L. *mamma*, breast.

Mammillary. L. dim. *mammillaris* (*mamma*, -ae), little breast.

Manubrium. L. *manubrium*, handle, hilt (as of a sword).

Manus. L. *manus*, hand.

Marginal. L. *marginalis* (*margo*), bordering.

Matrix. L. *matrix* (*mater*), womb, groundwork, mold.


Minimus. L. *minimus*, least.
Terms Important in the Upper Limb

Nerve. L. nervus, G. neuron, cordlike structure, nerve, tendon.

Neural. G. neuron, nerve.

Neuralgia. G. neuron, nerve, + algos, pain.

Neuron. G. neuron, cordlike structure, sinew, tendon; equivalent of L. nervus, hence, nerve.

Node. L. nodus, knot.

Norma. L. norma, rule, square used by carpenters, hence standard viewpoint.

Olecranon. G. olene, elbow, + cranion, head.

Opposition. L. ob, in the way of, + positus, placed.

Os. L. os, bone.

Osseous. L. os (pl. ossa), bone.

Ossicle. L. ossiculum, small bone.

Ossification. L. os, bone, + facere, to make.

Osteology. G. osteon, bone, + logos, treatise.

Palma. L. palma, the (open) hand.

Paramedian. G. para, alongside of, + mesos, middle.

Parasternal. G. para, alongside of, + sternon, chest.

Parasympathetic. G. para, alongside of, + sympathetikos, sympathetic.


Pectoral. L. pectoralis (pectus), belonging to the breast.

Phalanges. G. phalanx, band of soldiers; singular phalanx, originally denoted whole set of bones of a digit not just one bone.

Pisiform. L. pisum, pea, + forma, shape.

Platysma. G. platysma, plate.


Pollex. L. pollex, thumb.

Pronator. L. pronare, to turn face downward.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Protuberance. L. protubero, I swell.
Proximal. L. proximus, next.

Quadrangular. L. quattuor four + L. angulus, four angles.

Radial. L. radius, rod, spoke.
Radicle. L. radix, root.
Radius. L. radius, rod, spoke.
Radix. L. radix, root.
Ramus. L. ramus, branch.
Raphe. G. raphe, seam.
Reflect. L. reflecto, to turn back.
Retraction. L. re, back, + trahere, to draw.
Retractor. L. retrahere, to draw back.
Rotator. L. rotare, to whirl about.

Sagittal. L. sagitta, arrow; shape of sagittal suture including the lambdoid suture.
Scalene. G. skalenos, uneven.
Scaphoid. G. skaphe, boat, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Scapula. L. scapulae, shoulder-blades.
Sesamoid. G. sesamen, sesame plant, or seed, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Sinister. L. sinister, left side or unlucky.
Somatic. G. soma (pl. somata), body.
Somite. G. soma, body, + suffix -ite, indicating origin.
Spina. L. spina, thorn.
Sternum. G. sternon, chest.
Supination. L. supinus, lying on the back.
Supinator. L. supinare, to bend backward.
Supraspinatus. L. supra, above, + spina, thorn.
Synapse. G. syn, together, + haptein, to fasten.
Synarthrosis. G. syn, together, + arthron, joint.
Terms Important in the Upper Limb

**Synchondrosis.**  G. syn, together, + chondros, cartilage.
**Syndesmosis.**  G. syn, together, + desmosis, band.
**Synergy.**  G. syn, together, + ergon, work.
**Synostosis.**  G. syn, together, + osteon, bone.
**Synovia.**  G. syn, together, + ovum, egg.

**Tendon.**  L. tendere, to stretch.
**Tensor.**  L. tendere, to stretch.
**Teres.**  L. tero, I grind, rub.
**Theca.**  L. theca, envelope, sheath.
**Thenar.**  G. thenar, hand.
**Trapezius.**  G. trapezion, small four-sided table.
**Triceps.**  L. tres, three, + caput, head.
**Triquetrum.**  L. triquetrus, three-cornered, triangular.
**Trochanter.**  G. trochos, wheel, pulley.
**Trochlea.**  G. trochilia, pulley.
**Tuberosity.**  L. tuber, round smooth swelling.

**Ulna.**  L. ulna, elbow.
**Uncus.**  L. uncus, hook.
**Unipennate.**  L. unus, one, + penna, feather.

**Ventral.**  L. venter, belly.
**Vestige.**  L. vestigium, trace, footprint.
**Volar.**  L. vola, palm of hand.

**Xiphoid.**  G. xiphos, sword, + eidos, shape, likeness.
TERMS IMPORTANT IN THE LOWER LIMB

Abductor. L. ab, away, + ducere, to lead.

Acetabulum. L. acetabulum, vinegar cup, shape of hip joint.

Adductor. L. ad, to, + ducere, to lead.

Adhesion. L. adhaereo, to stick together.

Adipose. L. adeps, fat.

Amphiarthrosis. G. amphi, on both sides, + arthrosis, joint.

Anastomosis. G. anastomoein, to bring to a mouth, cause to communicate.

Ankle. L. angulus, angle.

Annulus. L. annulus (annulus), a ring.

Anterior. L. ante, before.


Arcuate. L. arcualis, arch-shaped.

Artery. G. aer, air, + terein, to keep (L. arteia, windpipe); ancient belief that blood vessels contained air.

Articulation. L. artus, joint, articulatus, little joint, pl. articulationes, joints.

Aspera. L. asper, rough.

Axial. L. axis, axle of a wheel, the line about which any body turns.

Axis. L. axis, axle of a wheel.
Terms Important in the Lower Limb

Biceps. L. bis, two, + caput, head.
Bilateral. L. bi, two, + latus, side.
Bipennate. L. bis, two, + pinna, feather.
Brevis. L. brevis, short.
Bursa. L. bursa, a purse; hence purse-shaped object.

Calcaneus. L. calcaneus, heel.
Calcar. L. calcar, spur.
Calcification. L. calx, lime, + facere, to make.
Capsule. L. dim. of capsa, box.
Caput (pl. capita). L. caput, head.
Cauda, caudal. L. cauda, tail.
Cingulum. L. cingulum, girdle.
Circumflex. L. circum, around, + flexere, to bend.
Collateral. L. con, together, + latus, side.
Comes. L. comes, companion.
Comitans (pl. comitantes). L. comitari, to accompany.
Commissure. L. commissura (cum + mittere), connection.
Communicans. L. communicans, communicating.
Condyle. G. kondylos, knuckle.
Coxa. L. coxa, hip.
Crista. L. crista, crest.
Cruciate. L. crux, cross.
Crus (pl. crura). L. crus, leg.
Cuboid. G. kuboeides, cube-shaped.
Cuneiform. L. cuneus, wedge, + forma, shape, likeness.

Diaphysis. G. dia, between, + physi, growth.
Diarthrosis. G. dia, through, + arthroun, to fasten by a joint.
Digit. L. digitus, finger.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Disc. L. discus, disc.
Distal. L. distare, to stand apart.
Dorsal. L. dorsum, back.

Eminence. L. e, out, + minere, to jut.
Emissary. L. e, out, +mittere, to send.
Epicondyle. G. epi, on, + kondylos, knuckle.
Epiphysis. G. epi, on, + physis, growth.
Eversion. L. e, out, + vertere, to turn.
Extension. L. extendo, extend.
Extensor. L. ex, out, + tendere, to stretch.
Extrinsic. L. extrinsecus, on the outside.

Falciform. L. falx, sickle, + forma, shape, likeness.
Fascia (pl. -iae). L. fascia, band.
Fasciculus. L. fascis, bundle.
Femur. L. femur, thigh.
Fibula. L. fibula, pin, skewer, brooch.
Flexor. L. flexus, bent.
Foramen. L. foramen, hole.
Fossa. L. fossa, ditch, channel, something dug.
Fulcrum. L. fulcrum, post.
Fusiform. L. fusus, spindle, + forma, shape, likeness.

Gastrocnemius. G. gaster, belly, + kneme, leg.
Gemellus. L. gemellus, twin.
Geniculate. L. geniculatus, with bent knee.
Genu. L. genu, knee.
Ginglymus. G. ginglymus, hinge.
Gluteus. G. gloutos, rump.
Gracilis. L. gracilis, thin.
Terms Important in the Lower Limb

Hernia. L. hernia, protrusion.
Hiatus. L. hiatus, gap.
Hilum. L. hilum, a small thing.
Hypaxial. G. hypo, under, + L. axis, centre line, axis.

Iliacus. See ilium.
Ilium. L. ileum, flank.
Incisura. L. incidere, to cut into.
Inductor. L. inducere, to lead on, excite.
Inguinal. L. inguina, groin.
Innominate. L. in, in, + nomen, name, unnamed bone, unnamed artery.

Insertion. L. in, in, + serere, to plant.
Intrinsic. L. intrinsecus, inward.
Invagination. L. in, in, + vagina, sheath.
Inversion. L. in, in, + vertere, to turn.
Ischium (pl. -ia). G. ischion, hip.

Kinetic. G. kinesis, movement.

Labrum. L. labrum, rim.
Lateral. L. lateralis (latus), pertaining to a side.
Ligamentum. L. ligamentum, a bandage.
Locus. L. locus, place.
Longus. L. longus, long.
Lumbrical. L. lumbricus, earthworm.

Magnus, -a, -um. L. magnus, large.
Marginal. L. marginalis (margo), bordering.
Medial. L. medialis (medius), pertaining to the middle.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Median. L. medianus, in the middle.
Meniscus. L. menis, crescent, half-moon, dim. of mene, moon.
Metatarsus. G. meta, after, + L. tarsus, ankle.
Minimus. L. minimus, least.
Nates. L. nates, buttocks.
Navicular. L. navicula, small boat.
Obliquus. L. obliquus, slanting.
Obturator. L. obturo, I stop up.
Os. L. os, bone.
Osseous. L. os (pl. ossa), bone.
Ossicle. L. ossiculum, small bone.
Ossification. L. os, bone, + facere, to make.
Osteone. G. osteon, bone.
Osteomalacia. G. osteon, bone, + malakia, softness.
Patella. L. patella, small pan.
Pedicle. L. pes, foot.
Pelvic. L. pelvis, basin.
Penniform. L. penna, feather, + forma, form, likeness.
Peroneal. G. perone, = L. fibula, pin; hence pertaining to needle-shaped leg bone.
Pes. L. pes, foot.
Phalanges. G. phalanx, band of soldiers; singular phalanx, originally denoted whole set of bones of a digit not just one bone.
Piriform. L. pirum, pear, + forma, shape, likeness.
Planta. L. planta, sole of the foot.
Plantigrade. L. planta, side of foot, + gradior, to walk.
Terms Important in the Lower Limb

**Platycnemia.** G. *platus*, flat, + *kneme*, knee; hence condition of side-to-side flattening of tibia giving prominence to its anterior border.

**Platymeria.** G. *platus*, flat, + *meros*, thigh; as previous for thigh.

**Popliteus.** L. *poples*, ham.

**Profundus.** L. *profundus*, deep.

**Promontory.** G. *promontorium*, mountain ridge.

**Pronator.** L. *pronare*, to turn face downward.

**Pronograde.** L. *pronus*, bent downward, + *gradus* step.

**Protuberance.** L. *protubero*, I swell.

**Proximal.** L. *proximus*, next.

**Psoas.** G. *psoa*, loin.

**Pubes.** L. *pubes*, mature.

**Pubis (pl. -es).** L. *pubes*, mature.

**Pyriform.** L. *pirum*, pear, + *forma*, shape.

**Quadrangular.** L. *quattuor* four + L. *angulus*, four angles.

**Quadriceps.** L. *quattuor*, four, + *caput*, head.

**Raphe.** G. *raphe*, seam.

**Reflect.** L. *reflecto*, to turn back.

**Retraction.** L. *re*, back, + *trahere*, to draw.

**Retractor.** L. *retrahere*, to draw back.

**Rotator.** L. *rotare*, to whirl about.

**Saphenous.** A. *al-safin*, hidden (later G. *sphenes*, visible).

**Sartorius.** L. *sartor*, tailor.

**Sciatic.** G. *ischion*, hip joint.

**Semilunar.** L. *semi*, half, + *luna*, moon.

**Semimembranosus.** L. *semi*, half, + *membranosus*, membrane.

**Semitendinosus.** L. *semi*, half, + *tendinosus*, tendon.
Sesamoid. G. *sesamen*, sesame plant, or seed,  
+ *eidos*, shape, likeness.

Sinister. L. *sinister*, left side or unlucky.

Soleus. L. *solea*, sandal, sole.

Spina. L. *spina*, thorn.

Supination. L. *supinus*, lying on the back.

Supinator. L. *supinare*, to bend backward.

Sural. L. *sura*, calf of leg.

Sustentaculum. L. *sustentaculum*, support.


Talipes. L. *talipedo*, weak in the feet (*talipes*, clubfoot).

Talonid. L. *talus*, ankle bone, + G. *eidos*, form, likeness.

Talus. L. *talus*, ankle-bone.

Tarsus. G. *tarsos*, sole of the foot.

Tendon. L. *tendere*, to stretch.

Tensor. L. *tendere*, to stretch.

Teres. L. *tero*, I grind, rub.

Tibia. L. *tibia*, long flute.

Tuberosity. L. *tuber*, round smooth swelling.

Ungual. L. *unguis*, claw, nail.


Valgus. L. *valgus*, bow-legged (Genu valgus now means knock-kneed).

Varus. L. *varus*, knock-kneed (term has become transposed, see Valgus).

Ventral. L. *venter*, belly.

Vincula. L. *vinculum*, band, cord.
TERMS IMPORTANT IN THE THORAX

Accessory. L. accessorius, supplementary.
Acinus. L. acinus, grape.
Adhesion. L. adhaereo, to stick together.
Adipose. L. adeps, fat.
Aditus. L. aditus, opening.
Adnexa. L. ad, to, + nexus, bound.
Adventia. L. ad, to, + venire, to come.
Afferent. L. ad, to, + ferre, to carry.
Alveolus. L. alveolus, little cavity.
Annulus. L. anulus (annulus), a ring.
Anterior. L. ante, before.
Atrium. L. atrium, court, entrance hall.
Auricle. L. dim., auricula, external ear, also shape of heart chamber.
Autonomic. G. autos, self, + nomos, law.
Axon. G. axon, axis.
Azygos. G. a, not, + zygon, yoke; hence, unpaired.

Bolus. G. bolos, mass.
Bronchiole. G. bronchiolus (dim. of bronchus, brechein, to moisten).
Bronchus. G. bronchia, end of windpipe.
Bulbus. L. bulbus, bulb, swollen root.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

**Bursa.** L. bursa, a purse; hence purse-shaped object.

**Cardiac.** G. kardiakos (kardia), pertaining to the heart.
**Carina.** L. carina, keel.
**Carotid.** G. karon, deep sleep (pressure on artery produces stupor).

**Cartilage.** L. cartilago, gristle, cartilage.
**Cava.** L. cavus, -a, -um, hollow or cave.
**Centrum.** L. centrum, centre.

**Chorda.** G. chorde, string of gut, cord.
**Circumflex.** L. circum, around, + flexere, to bend.
**Cisterna.** L. cisterna, reservoir.

**Collateral.** L. con, together, + latus, side.
**Comes.** L. comes, companion.
**Comitans** (pl. comitantes). L. comitari, to accompany.

**Communicans.** L. communicans, communicating.
**Conus.** L. conus, cone.
**Corno.** L. cornu, horn.
**Corona.** L. corona, crown.
**Coronary.** L. coronarius, pertaining to a wreath or crown; hence, encircling.

**Coronoid.** G. korax, crow, + eidos, form, likeness.

**Costa (adj. costal).** L. costa, rib.
**Crista.** L. crista, crest.
**Crus (pl. crura).** L. crus, leg.

**Deglutition.** L. deglutire, to swallow.
**Dermatome.** G. derma, skin, + temnein, to cut.

**Diaphragm.** G. dia, through, + phagma, wall.
**Diastole.** G. dia, through, + stellein, to send.
**Disc.** L. discus, disc.
Terms Important in the Thorax

**Diverticulum.** L. *divertere*, to turn aside.
**Dorsal.** L. *dorsum*, back.
**Duct.** L. *ducere*, to lead or draw.
**Ductule.** L. *ducere*, to lead, dim.

**Efferent.** L. *ex*, out, + *ferre*, to bear.
**Embolsus.** G. *embolos*, wedge, plug, anything inserted.
**Eminence.** L. *e*, out, + *minere*, to jut.
**Emsary.** L. *e*, out, + *mittere*, to send.
**Endocardium.** G. *endon*, within, + *kardia*, heart.
**Endochondral.** G. *endon*, within, + *chondros*, cartilage.
**Endomysium.** G. *endon*, within, + *mys*, muscle.
**Endoneurium.** G. *endon*, within, + *neuron*, nerve.
**Endosteum.** G. *endon*, within, + *osteon*, bone.
**Endothelim.** G. *endon*, within, + *thele*, nipple.
**Epicardium.** G. *epi*, on, + *kardia*, heart.
**Epidermis.** G. *epi*, on, + *derma*, skin.
**Epigastrium.** G. *epi*, upon, + *gaster*, belly.
**Epimysium.** G. *epi*, upon, + *mys*, muscle.
**Epineurium.** G. *epi*, on, + *neuron*, nerve.

**Extension.** L. *extendo*, extend.
**Extensor.** L. *ex*, out, + *tendere*, to stretch.
**Extravasation.** L. *extra*, outside, + *vas*, vessel.
**Extrinsic.** L. *extrinsecus*, on the outside.

**Fascia (pl. -iae).** L. *fascia*, band.
**Fenestra.** L. *fenestra*, window.
**Filament.** L. *filamentum*, thin fibre.
**Fistula.** L. *fistula*, pipe.
**Flaccid.** L. *flaccidus*, weak.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Flexor. L. flexus, bent.

Foramen. L. foramen, hole.

Gland. L. glandula, dim. glans, acorn, pellet.

Hernia. L. hernia, protrusion.

Hilum. L. hilum, a small thing.

Hypaxial. G. hypo, under, + L. axis, centre line, axis.

Incisura. L. incidere, to cut into.

Innervation. L. in, in, + nervus, nerve.

Insertion. L. in, in, + serere, to plant.

Integument. L. in, over, + tegere, to cover.

Intercalated. L. inter, between, + calare, to call, inserted or placed between.

Intercostal. L. inter, between, + costa, rib.

Interdigitating. L. inter, between, + digitus, digit, interlocked by finger-like processes.

Intervertebral. L. inter, between, + vertebra, joint.

Intima. L. intima, innermost.

Intrinsic. L. intrinsicus, inward.

Invagination. L. in, in, + vagina, sheath.

Inversion. L. in, in, + vertere, to turn.

Isthmus. G. isthmos, narrow connection.

Juxtaposition. L. juxta, near, + positio, place.

Kyphosis. G. kyphos, bent.

Lacerate. L. lacerare, to tear.

Lactation. L. lactare, to suckle.

Lamella. L. dim. of lamina, leaf.
Terms Important in the Thorax

Lamina (pl. -ae).  L. *lamina*, thin plate.
Lateral.  L. *lateralis* (*latu*), pertaining to a side.
Levator.  L. *levare*, to raise.
Ligamentum.  L. *ligamentum*, a bandage.
Lingula.  L. *lingula*, small tongue.
Lobus.  G. *lobos*, lobe.
Locus.  L. * locus*, place.
Lordosis.  G. *lordo*, I bend.
Lumen.  L. *lumen*, light, opening.
Lung.  AS. *lunge*, lung.

Mammary.  L. * mamma*, breast.
Mammillary.  L. dim. *mammillaris* (*mamma*, -ae), little breast.
Manubrium.  L. *manubrium*, handle, hilt (as of a sword).
Marginal.  L. *marginalis* (*margo*), bordering.
Medial.  L. *medialis* (*medius*), pertaining to the middle.
Median.  L. *medianus*, in the middle.
Mediastinum.  L. *mediastinus*, servant, drudge, but anatomical term mediastinum probably derived from *per medium tensum*, tight in the middle.
Membrane.  L. *membrana*, skin.
Mitral.  L. *mitra*, turban, but Hebrew priest headress the only head covering that the mitral valve resembles.
Muscle.  L. *musculus*, little mouse.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation


Neural. G. *neuron*, nerve.


Node. L. *nodus*, knot.

Oedema, Edema. G. *oidema*, swelling.


Esophagus.

Organ. L. *organum*, implement.

Orifice. L. *orificium*, opening.

Os. L. *os*, bone.

Osseous. L. *os* (pl. *ossa*), bone.

Ossicle. L. *ossiculum*, small bone.


Ostium. L. *ostium*, door.


Parenchyma. G. *parenchyma*, pouring out into the adjacent.

Parietal. L. *paries*, wall.
Terms Important in the Thorax

Parieties. L. *paries*, wall.
Pectoral. L. *pectoralis* (*pectus*), belonging to the breast.
Percussion. L. *percussio*, striking.
Peristalsis. G. *peristaltikos*, clapping and compressing.
Pleura. G. *pleura*, rib; ie related to the ribs.
Pneumatic. G. *pneumatikos*, pertaining to breath.
Precordium.
Proximal. L. *proximus*, next.
Pulmonary. L. *pulmo*, lung.
Pulmones. L. *pulmo*, lung.

Radicle. L. *radix*, root.
Radix. L. *radix*, root.
Ramify. L. *ramus*, branch, + *facere*, to make.
Ramus. L. *ramus*, branch.
Raphe. G. *raphe*, seam.
Recess. L. *recessus*, retreat.
Reflect. L. *reflecto*, to turn back.

Sac. L. *saccus*, sack.
Sacculus. L. *sacculus*, a little bag.
Septum. L. *saepturn*, fence.
Serratus. L. *serra*, saw.
Sinister. L. *sinister*, left side or unlucky.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Sinus (pl. -us). L. sinus, curve, cavity, bosom.
Sinusoid. L. sinus, curve, cavity, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Situs inversus L. situs, site, position, + inversus, inverted, viscerum. + viscerum, of the viscera.
Somatic. G. soma (pl. somata), body.
Somatopleure. G. soma, body, + pleura, side.
Somite. G. soma, body, + suffix -ite, indicating origin.
Sphincter. G. sphingein, to bind tight.
Splanchnic. G. splanchna, viscera.
Stenosis. G. stenosis, narrowing.
Sternum. G. sternon, chest.
Subcostal. L. sub, under, + costa, rib.
Supracostal. L. supra, above, + costa, rib.
Sympathetic. G. syn, together, + pathein, to suffer.
Synapse. G. syn, together, + haptein, to fasten.
Syncytium. G. syn, together, + cytos, cell.
Syndrome. G. syndrome, occurrence.
Systole. G. systole, contraction.

Theca. L. theca, envelope, sheath.
Thorax (pl. thoraces). G. thorax, breast-plate, breast.
Thrombus. G. thrombus, lump.
Thymus. G. thymos, thyme.
Trachea. G. tracheia, windpipe.
Truncus. L. truncus, trunk of tree.
Tunica. L. tunica, undergarment.

Vagus. L. vagus, wandering.
Valve. L. valva, leaf of door.
Valvula. L. valvula, a little fold, valve.
Vas. L. vas, vessel.
### Terms Important in the Thorax

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>L.</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<td>Vascular</td>
<td>vasculum</td>
<td>small vessel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vein</td>
<td>vena, vein</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Velum</td>
<td>velum, veil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventral</td>
<td>venter, belly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventricle</td>
<td>ventriculus, loculus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertebra</td>
<td>vertebra, joint</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertex</td>
<td>vertex, whirlpool</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincula</td>
<td>vinculum, band, cord</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visceral</td>
<td>viscera, entrails, bowels</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viscus</td>
<td>viscus, internal organ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiphoid</td>
<td>xiphos, + eidos, shape, likeness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zygapophysis</td>
<td>zygon, yoke, + apophysis, process of a bone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TERMS IMPORTANT IN THE ABDOMEN AND PELVIS

Abdomen. L. from *abdere* (?), to hide.
Aberrant. L. *ab*, away, + *errare*, to stray.
Abortion. L. *abortio*, to abort.
Absorption. L. *absortio*, to swallow.
Accessory. L. *accessorius*, supplementary.
Acinus. L. *acinus*, grape.
Adhesion. L. *adhaereo*, to stick together.
Adipose. L. *adeps*, fat.
Aditus. L. *aditus*, opening.
Adventia. L. *ad*, to, + *venire*, to come.
Afferent. L. *ad*, to, + *ferre*, to carry.
Alveolus. L. *alveolus*, little cavity.
Ampulla. L. *ampulla*, a flask or vessel swelling in the middle.
Anastomosis. G. *anastomoein*, to bring to a mouth, cause to communicate.
Annulus. L. *anulus (annulus)*, a ring.
Anterior. L. *ante*, before.

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### Terms Important in the Abdomen and Pelvis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anteversion</td>
<td>L. ante, before, + versio, turning.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antrum</td>
<td>G. antron, cave.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anus</td>
<td>L. anus, fundament.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aorta</td>
<td>G. aeiro, to raise.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apertura</td>
<td>L. apertura, opening.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendicular</td>
<td>adjectival form of appendix.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix</td>
<td>L. appendere, to hang upon.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arcuate</td>
<td>L. arcualis, arch-shaped.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arcus</td>
<td>L. arcus, bow.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atresia</td>
<td>G. a, without, + tresis, hole.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrium</td>
<td>L. atrium, court, entrance hall.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrophy</td>
<td>G. a, without, + trophe, nourishment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autonomic</td>
<td>G. autos, self, + nomos, law.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axial</td>
<td>L. axis, axle of a wheel, the line about which any body turns.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicuspid</td>
<td>L. bis, two, + cuspis, point.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bilateral</td>
<td>L. bi, two, + latus, side.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bile</td>
<td>L. bilis, bile.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biventer</td>
<td>L. bis, two, + venter, belly.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolus</td>
<td>G. bolos, mass.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Calyx (pl. calices)</td>
<td>L. calyx, husk, cup-shaped protective covering.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cauda, caudal</td>
<td>L. cauda, tail.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cava</td>
<td>L. cavus, -a, -um, hollow or cave.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cavernosus</td>
<td>L. caverna, a hollow or cave.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavum</td>
<td>L. cavum, a hollow or cave.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecum, Caecum</td>
<td>L. caecus, -a, -um, blind.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Celiac, Coeliac</td>
<td>G. koilia, belly.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celom (e), Coelom</td>
<td>G. koiloma, a hollow.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centrum</td>
<td>L. centrum, centre.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

**Choledochus.** G. *chole*, bile, + *dochos* (*dechomai*), container.

**Chyle.** G. *chyllos*, juice.

**Chyme.** G. *chymos*, juice.

**Circumflex.** L. *circum*, around, + *flexere*, to bend.

**Cisterna.** L. *cisterna*, reservoir.

**Cloaca.** L. *cloaca*, sewer, drain.

**Coccyx.** G. *kokkyx*, a cuckoo, hence a structure shaped like a cuckoo’s bill.

**Colon.** G. *kolon*, great gut.

**Comes.** L. *comes*, companion.

**Comitans** (pl. *comitantes*). L. *comitari*, to accompany.

**Commissure.** L. *commissura* (*cum* + *mittere*), connection.

**Communicans.** L. *communicans*, communicating.

**Coraco-, corono-.** G. *korax* or *corone*, crow; hence crowlike.

**Cornu.** L. *cornu*, horn.

**Corona.** L. *corona*, crown.

**Corpus** (pl. *corpora*). L. body.

**Cremaster.** G. *cremaster*, suspender.

**Crus** (pl. *cura*). L. *crus*, leg.

**Cyst** (adj. *cystic*). G. *kystis*, bag, bladder, pouch.

**Dartos.** G. *dartos*, skinned.

**Decidua,** (adj. *Deciduous*). L. *deciduus*, (*de* + *cano*), falling off.

**Defaecation,** L. *defaecare*, to cleanse.

**Defecation.**

**Deferens.** L. *de*, away, + *ferens*, carrying.

**Detritus.** L. *deterere*, to rub away.

**Detrusor.** L. *detrudere*, to push down.

**Diaphragm.** G. *dia*, through, + *phagma*, wall.
Terms Important in the Abdomen and Pelvis

Digastric.  G. dis, double, + gaster, belly.

Digestion.  L. dis, apart, + gerere, to carry.

Disc.  L. discus, disc.

Distal.  L. distare, to stand apart.

Diverticulum.  L. divertere, to turn aside.

Dorsal.  L. dorsum, back.

Duct.  L. ducere, to lead or draw.

Ductule.  L. ducere, to lead, dim.

Duodenum.  L. duodeni, twelve (meaning twelve fingerbreadths).

Ejaculatory.  L. e, out, + jacere, to throw.

Emboliformis.  G. embolos, wedge, + L. forma, shape.

Embolus.  G. embolos, wedge, plug, anything inserted.

Endometrium.  G. endon, within, + metra, womb.

Endothelium.  G. endon, within, + thele, nipple.

Epididymis.  G. epi, on, + didmoi, testicles.

Epigastrium.  G. epi, upon, + gaster, belly.

Epiploic.  G. epiploon, caul, omentum.

Epispadias.  G. epi, upon, + N.L. spadius, F. spadon, eunuch, F. span, to draw

Erector.  L. erectus, erect.

Exomphalos.  G. ex, out, + omphalos, navel.

Excretion.  L. (excretus) ex, out, + cernere, to sift.

Extravasation.  L. extra, outside, + vas, vessel.

Extrinsic.  L. extrinsecus, on the outside.

Exudate.  L. ex, out, + sudare, to sweat.

Faeces, Feces.  L. faex, dregs.

Falciform.  L. falx, sickle, + forma, shape, likeness.

Falx.  L. falx, falcis, sickle.

Fascia (pl. -iae).  L. fascia, band.

Fasciculus.  L. fascis, bundle.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Fenestra. L. *fenestra*, window.
Fetus, Foetus. L. *fetus*, offspring.
Filum. L. *filum*, thread.
Fimbria. L. *fimbriae*, threads, fringe.
Fissure. L. *fissura* (*findo*), a cleft.
Fistula. L. *fistula*, pipe.
Follicle. L. *folliculus*, a small bag.
Foramen. L. *foramen*, hole.
Fornix. L. *fornix*, arch or vault.
Fossa. L. *fossa*, ditch, channel, something dug.
Fourchette. F. *fourchette*, fork.
Fraenum, Frenum. L. *fraenum*, bridge.
Frenulum. L. dim. *fraenum*, a little bridge.
Fundus. L. *fundus*, bottom.

Genital. L. *genitalis* (*gigno*), pertaining to birth.
Germinal. L. *germen*, bud, germ.
Germinative. L. *germen*, bud, germ.
Gestation. L. *gestare*, to bear.
Glans. L. *glans*, acorn.
Glomerulus. L. dim. of *glomerus*, a ball.
Gonad. G. *gone*, seed.
Granulation. L. dim. *granum*, grain.
Granulum. L. *granulum*, small grain.
Gravid. L. *gravid*, pregnant.
Gubernaculum. L. *gubernaculum*, helm.
Terms Important in the Abdomen and Pelvis

**Haemal, hemal.** G. *haima*, blood.
**Hemoglobin, Haemoglobin.** G. *haima*, blood, + L. *globus*, sphere.
**Hemopoietic, Haemopoietic.** G. *haima*, blood, + *poietikos*, creative.
**Hepar.** G. *hepar*, liver.
**Hepatic.** L. *hepar*, liver.
**Hernia.** L. *hernia*, protrusion.
**Hiatus.** L. *hiatus*, gap.
**Hilum.** L. *hilum*, a small thing.
**Hydrocoele, Hydrocele.** G. *hydor*, water, + *koilos*, hollow.
**Hymen.** G. *hymen*, membrane.
**Hypaxial.** G. *hypo*, under, + L. *axis*, centre line, axis.
**Hypospadias.** G. *hypo*, under, + N.L. *spadius*, F. *spadon*, F. *span*, to draw.

**Icterus.** G. *ikteros*, jaundice.
**Ileum.** G. *eilein*, to wind or turn.
**Implantation.** L. *in*, in, + *plantere*, to plant.
**Impression.** L. *in*, in, + *premere*, to press.
**Incisura.** L. *incidere*, to cut into.
**Inguinal.** L. *inguina*, groin.
**Innervation.** L. *in*, in, + *nervus*, nerve.
**Intercostal.** L. *inter*, between, + *costa*, rib.
**Intervertebral.** L. *inter*, between, + *vertebra*, joint.
**Intestine.** L. *intus*, within, or L. *intestina*, guts, entrails.
**Intima.** L. *intima*, innermost.
**Intrinsic.** L. *intrinsicus*, inward.
**Introitus.** L. *intro*, within, + *ire*, to go.
**Invagination.** L. *in*, in, + *vagina*, sheath.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Inversion. L. in, in, + vertere, to turn.

Isthmus. G. isthmos, narrow connection.

Jejunum. L. jejunus, empty (of food), that part of intestine that appears empty.

Juxtaposition. L. juxta, near, + positio, place.

Labial. L. labialis (labia), pertaining to lips.

Labium. L. labium, lip.

Labrum. L. labrum, rim.

Lacteals. L. lactare, to suckle.

Laparotomy. L. lapara, flank, + tome, section, cut.

Lien. L. lien, spleen.

Lieno-. L. lien, spleen from original L. spleen (the sp having been dropped).

Ligamentum. L. ligamentum, a bandage.

Ligature. L. ligare, to bind.

Liver. AS. lifer, liver.

Lobus. G. lobos, lobe.

Locus. L. locus, place.

Lordosis. G. lordoo, I bend.

Lumbar. L. lumbare, apron for the loins.

Lumen. L. lumen, light, opening.

Lung. AS. lunge, lung.

Luteum. L. luteus, yellow.

Marginal. L. marginalis (margo), bordering.

Matrix. L. matrix (mater), womb, groundwork, mold.


Medial. L. medialis (medius), pertaining to the middle.

Median. L. medianus, in the middle.

Membrane. L. membrana, skin.

Menopause. G. men, month, + pausis, cessation.
Terms Important in the Abdomen and Pelvis


Mucus. L. *mucus*, G. *muxa*, snivel, slippery secretion.


Navel. AS. *nafe*, centre of hub of wheel.

Necrosis. G. *nekrosis*, a killing.


Neural. G. *neuron*, nerve.


Node. L. *nodus*, knot.


Organ. L. *organum*, implement.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Orifice. L. orificium, opening.
Os. L. os, bone.
Osseous. L. os (pl. ossea), bone.
Ossicle. L. ossiculum, small bone.
Ossification. L. os, bone, + facere, to make.
Osteone. G. osteon, bone.
Osteocyte. G. osteon, bone, + kytos, cell.
Osteology. G. osteon, bone, + logos, treatise.
Osteolysis. G. osteon, bone, + lysis, melting.
Ostium. L. ostium, door.
Ovary. L. ovum, egg.
Oviduct. L. ovum, egg, + ductus, duct, tube.
Oviparous. L. ovum, egg, + parus, giving birth by laying eggs.
Ovum (pl. ova). L. ovum, egg.
Oxynotic. G. oxyntos, making acid.
Oxytocin. G. oxys, swift, + tokos, birth.
Pampiniform. L. pampineus, full of or wrapped around with vine leaves, + forma, likeness.
Pancreas. G. pan, all, + kreas, flesh.
Panniculus. L. panniculus, small piece of cloth; hence covering of deeper tissues.
Paracentesis. G. para, alongside of, + kentesis, puncture.
Paradidymis. G. para, alongside of, + didymos, double, hence alongside the testes.
Paraganglion. G. para, along, beside, + ganglion, knot.
Paramedian. G. para, alongside of, + mesos, middle.
Parametrium. G. para, alongside of, + metra, womb.
Paraplegia. G. para, alongside of, + plesso, I strike.
Parasympathetic. G. para, alongside of, + sympatheticos, sympathetic.
Terms Important in the Abdomen and Pelvis

**Parenchyma.** G. parenchyma, pouring out into the adjacent.

**Paresis.** G. paresis, relaxation.

**Parietal.** L. paries, wall.

**Parieties.** L. paries, wall.

**Paroophoron.** G. para, alongside of, + oon, egg, +pherein, to bear.

**Parous.** L. pario, to bear.

**Parthenogenesis.** G. parthos, virgin, + genesis, birth.

**Penis.** L. penis, tail.

**Pepsin.** G. pepsis, digestion.

**Pepsinogen.** G. pepsis, digestion, + gennao, I produce.

**Percussion.** L. percussio, striking.

**Perichondrium.** G. peri, around, + chondros, cartilage.

**Perimysium.** G. peri, around, + mys, muscle.

**Perineum.** G. perinaion, perineum.

**Periosteum.** G. peri, around, + osteon, bone.

**Peristalsis.** G. peristaltikos, clasping and compressing.

**Peritoneum.** G. peri, around, + teinein, to stretch.

**Phallic.** G. phallikos, pertaining to the penis.

**Phallus.** G. phallos, phallus; penis was a later meaning.

**Phrenic.** G. phren, diaphragm.

**Placenta.** L. placenta, a flat cake.

**Plexus (pl. -us).** L. plexus, plaiting, braid.

**Porta.** L. porta (pl. -ae), gate.

**Portal.** L. porta (pl. -ae), gate.

**Portio.** L. portio, part.

**Pregnancy.** L. prae, before, + gnascor, to be born.

**Prepuce.** L. praeputium, foreskin.

**Processus.** L. processus, going forwards.

**Proctodeum.** G. prokto, anus, + hodaio, pertaining to a way.

**Promontory.** G. promontorium, mountain ridge.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

**Pronephros.** G. pro, before, + nephros, kidney.

**Prostate.** L. pro, in front, + stare, to stand.

**Psoas.** G. psoa, loin.

**Pubes.** L. pubes, mature.

**Pubis (pl. -es).** L. pubes, mature.

**Pudendal.** L. pudere, to be ashamed.

**Pyelogram.** G. pyelos, tub, trough, + gramma, mark.

**Pyelograph.** G. pyelos, tub, trough, + graphein, to draw.

**Pylorus.** G. pylouros, gate-keeper.

**Ramify.** L. ramus, branch, + facere, to make.

**Ramus.** L. ramus, branch.

**Raphe.** G. raphe, seam.

**Recess.** L. recessus, retreat.

**Rectum, rectus.** L. rectus, straight.

**Renal.** L. renes, kidneys.

**Restiform.** L. restis, rope, + forma, shape, form.

**Sac.** L. saccus, sack.

**Sacculus.** L. sacculus, a little bag.

**Salpinx.** G. salpinx, trumpet.

**Sarcolemma.** G. sarx, flesh, + lemma, husk, skin.

**Scoliosis.** G. skoliosis, curvature.

**Scrotum.** L. scrotum, skin.

**Semen.** L. semen, seed.

**Semilunar.** L. semi, half, + luna, moon.

**Seminiferous.** L. semen, seed, + ferre, to bear.

**Septum.** L. saeptum, fence.

**Serum.** L. serum, whey.

**Sigmoid.** G. sigma, Greek letters, + eidos, shape, likeness.

**Sinister.** L. sinister, left side or unlucky.

**Sinus (pl. -us).** L. sinus, curve, cavity, bosom.
Terms Important in the Abdomen and Pelvis

Sinusoid. L. sinus, curve, cavity, + eidos, shape, likeness.

Situs inversus L. situs, site, position, + inversus, inverted, + viscerum, of the viscera.

Smegma. G. smegma, soap.

Somatic. G. soma (pl. somata), body.

Somatopleure. G. soma, body, + pleura, side.

Somite. G. soma, body, + suffix -ite, indicating origin.

Sperm. G. sperma, seed.

Spermatocyte. G. sperma, seed, + kytos, cell.

Spermatogenesis. G. sperma, seed, + genesis, origin.

Spermatogonium. G. sperma, seed, + gone, generation.

Spermatozoon (pl. -a). G. sperma, seed, + zoon, animal.

Sphincter. G. sphingein, to bind tight.

Splanchnic. G. splanchna, viscera.

Splanchnology. G. splanknon, viscus, + logos, treatise.

Spleen. L. splen, spleen.

Spongiosum. G. spongia, sponge.

Spongioblast. G. spongia, sponge, + blastos, germ, bud.

Stenosis. G. stenosis, narrowing.

Stomach. G. stomachos, gullet, oesophagus.

Stomodeum, Stomatodeum. G. stoma, mouth, + odaios, pertaining to a way.

Subcostal. L. sub, under, + costa, rib.

Supracostal. L. supra, above, + costa, rib.

Sympathetic. G. syn, together, + pathein, to suffer.

Sympysis. G. syn, together, + physis, growth.

Syndrome. G. syndrome, occurrence.

Taenia, Tenia. L. taenia, band, ribbon.

Terminalis. L. terminare, to limit.

Testicle. L. testiculus, testis.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Testis. L. *testis*, testicle; a witness.
Theca. L. *theca*, envelope, sheath.
Tract. L. *tractus*, wool drawn out for spinning.
Trigone. L. *trigonum*, triangle.
Truncus. L. *truncus*, trunk of tree.
Tuberculum. L. *tuberculum*, a small hump.
Tunica. L. *tunica*, undergarment.

Umbilicus. L. *umbilicus*, navel.
Urea. G. *ouron*, urine.
Urethra. G. *ouethra*, word invented by Hippocrates (c. 460 B.C.).
Urine. G. *ouron*, urine.
Uterus. L. *uterus*, womb.

Vagina. L. *vagina*, sheath.
Valve. L. *valva*, leaf of door.
Valvula. L. *valvula*, a little fold, valve.
Vas. L. *vas*, vessel.
Vein. L. *vena*, vein.
Venter. L. *venter*, belly.
Ventral. L. *venter*, belly.
Vernix. L. *vernatio*, shedding of snake skin.
Vertebra. L. *vertebra*, joint.
Vertex. L. *vertex*, whirl, whirlpool.
Vesica. L. *vesica*, bladder.
Vesicle. L. *vesicula*, a small bladder.
Vestibulum. L. *vestibulum*, entrance court.
Terms Important in the Abdomen and Pelvis

Vestige. L. *vestigium*, trace, footprint.
Villus (pl. villi). L. *villus*, hair.
Visceral. L. *viscera*, entrails, bowels.
Viscus. L. *viscus*, internal organ.
Vitelline. L. *vitellus*, yolk of egg.
Vitellus. L. *vitellus*, little calf (became transferred to yolk of egg by Celsus c. 10 A.D.).
Volvulus. L. *volvulus*, twisted.
Vulva. L. *volva*, cover.

Zona. L. *zona*, belt, girdle.
Zonula. L. dim. of *zona*, belt, girdle.
 TERMS IMPORTANT IN THE HEAD AND NECK

Abducens. L. ab, away, + ducens, leading.
Aberrant. L. ab, away, + errare, to stray.
Accessory. L. accessorius, supplementary.
Acinus. L. acinus, grape.
Acoustic. G. akoustikos, pertaining to hearing.
Acrania. G. a, without, + krania, heads.
Adductor. L. ad, to, + ducere, to lead.
Adenoid. G. aden, acorn, + eidos, form, likeness.
Aditus. L. aditus, opening.
Afferent. L. ad, to, + ferre, to carry.
Agnathism. G. a, without, + gnathos, jaw.
Ala. L. ala, wing.
Ambiguus. L. amb, both ways, + agere, to drive.
Ampulla. L. ampulla, a flask or vessel swelling in the middle.
Amygdaloid. G. amydale, almond, + eidos, form, likeness.
Anencephaly. G. an, without, + enkephalos, brain.
Annulus. L. anulus (annulus), a ring.
Ansa. L.ansa, handle.
Antihelix. G. anti, against, before, + helix, coil.
Antitragus. G. anti, against, before, + tragus, goat,
(perhaps the small tuft of hair growing here was likened to a goat’s beard?).
Antrum. G. antron, cave.
Aphasia. G. a, without, + phasis, speech.
**Terms Important in the Head and Neck**


Aqueous. L. *aqua*, water.


Arcuate. L. *arcualis*, arch-shaped.

Arcus. L. *arcus*, bow.


Asterion. G. *aster*, star.

Ataxia. G. *a*, without, + *taxis*, order.


Atrium. L. *atrium*, court, entrance hall.

Atrophy. G. *a*, without, + *trophe*, nourishment.

Auditory. L. *audire*, to hear.

Auricle. L. dim., *auricula*, external ear.


Axial. L. *axis*, axle of a wheel, the line about which any body turns.

Baroreceptor. G. *baros*, weight (pressure receptor).

Basion. G. *basis*, footing, base.


Blepharal. G. *blepharon*, eyelid.

Bolus. G. *bolos*, mass.

Branchial. L. *branchiae*, or G., *branchia*, gills.


Bregma. G. *brechein*, to moisten, (thought most humid part of infant skull).

Buccal. L. *bucca*, cheek.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Bulbus. L. *bulbus*, bulb, swollen root.
Bulla. L. *bulla*, a bubble; hence spherical in shape.
Bursa. L. *bursa*, a purse; hence purse-shaped object.

Callosum. L. *callosus*, -a, -um, thick-skinned, also a beam or rafter.
Calvaria. L. *calvus*, bald.
Canine. L. *canis*, dog.
Canthus. G. *kanthos*, rim on a wheel.
Caput (pl. *capita*). L. *caput*, head.
Carotid. G. *karon*, deep sleep (pressure on artery produces stupor).
Caruncle. L. dim. of *caro*, flesh, any fleshy eminence.
Cava. L. *cavus*, -a, -um, hollow or cave.
Cavernosus. L. *caverna*, a hollow or cave.
Cavum. L. *cavum*, a hollow or cave.
Cementum. L. *caementum*, rough stone.
Centrum. L. *centrum*, centre.
Cephalic. G. *kephale*, head.
Cerebrum. L. *cerebrum*, brain.
Cervical. L. *cervix*, neck.
Chiasma. G. *chiasma*, figure of X.
Choana (pl. -ae). G. *choane*, funnel.
Ciliary. L. *cilium* (pl. *cilia*), eyelash.
Circumflex. L. *circum*, around, + *flexere*, to bend.
Cisterna. L. *cisterna*, reservoir.
Clastrum. L. *clastrum*, barrier.
Cochlea. L. *cochlea* (G., *kochlias*), spiral, snail shell.
Collum. L. *collum*, neck.
Terms Important in the Head and Neck

**Comes.**  L. *comes*, companion.

**Comitans**  (pl. *comitantes*).  L. *comitari*, to accompany.

**Commissure.**  L. *comissura* (*cum* + *mittere*), connection.

**Communicans.**  L. *communicans*, communicating.

**Concha.**  L. *concha*, bivalve, oyster shell.

**Conjunctiva.**  L. *conj*, together + *jungo*, I join, hence connecting.

**Constrictor.**  L. *constringere*, to draw together.

**Conus.**  L. *conus*, cone.

**Convolution.**  L. *con*, together, + *volvo*, to roll.

**Copula.**  L. *copula*, tie (from *copulare*, to copulate).

**Cornea.**  L. *corneus*, horny.

**Cornu.**  L. *cornu*, horn.

**Corona.**  L. *corona*, crown.

**Coronary.**  L. *coronarius*, pertaining to a wreath or crown; hence, encircling.

**Coronoid.**  G. *korax*, crow, + *eidos*, form, likeness.

**Corpus**  (pl. *corpora*).  L. body.

**Corticeg.**  L. *con*, together + *ruga*, wrinkle.

**Cortex**  (adj. *cortical*).  L. *cortex*, bark, rind.

**Corticofugal.**  L. *cortex*, bark of a tree, + *fugere*, to flee.

**Corticopetal.**  L. *cortex*, bark of a tree, + *petere*, to seek.

**Cranial.**  G. *kranion*, skull.

**Cranium**  (adj. *cranial*).  G. *kranion*, skull.

**Cribriform.**  L. *cribrum*, sieve, + *forma*, form.

**Cricoid.**  G. *krikos*, ring, + *eidos*, form, likeness.

**Crista.**  L. *crista*, crest.

**Crista galli.**  L. *crista*, crest + L. *gallus*, cock, hence cock’s comb.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Cruciate. L. crux, cross.
Crus (pl. crura). L. crus, leg.
Culmen. L. culmen, top.
Cupula. L. cupula, a small cask or cup.
Cuspis. L. cuspid, point.

Dacryon. G. dakryon, tear.
Decussation. L. decussatio, intersection of two lines, as in Roman X.
Dendrite. G. dendros, tree.
Dens. L. dens, tooth.
Dentine. L. dens, tooth.
Dentition. L. dentitis, cutting of teeth.
Detrusor. L. detrudere, to push down.
Diastema (pl. -ata). G. diastema, interval.
Diencephalon. G. dia, through, + enkephalos, brain.
Diploë. G. diploë, fold.
Diplopia. G. diplous, double, + opsis, vision.
Disc. L. discus, disc.
Diverticulum. L. divertere, to turn aside.
Dolichocephalic. G. dolichos, long + G. kephale, head.
Duct. L. ducere, to lead or draw.
Ductule. L. ducere, to lead, dim.
Dura. L. dura, hard, strong.

Eminence. L. e, out, + minere, to jut.
Emissary. L. e, out, + mittere, to send.
Encephalocele, Encephalocoele. G. enkephalos, brain, + koilos, hollow.
Encephalocele. G. en, within, + kephalos, head.
Endocranium. G. endon, within, + kranion, skull.
Endolymph. G. endon, within, + L. lympha, water.
Ependyma. G. epi, upon, + endyma, garment.
Terms Important in the Head and Neck


Facialis. L. *facies*, face.
Facies. L. *facies*, face.
Falx. L. *falx*, *falcis*, sickle.
Fasciculus. L. *fascis*, bundle.
Fastigius. L. *fastigium*, slope.
Fauces. L. *faux*, throat.
Fenestra. L. *fenestra*, window.
Fissure. L. *fissura* (*findo*), a cleft.
Flavum. L. *flavus*, yellow.
Flocculus. NL. dim. *floccus*, a tuft of wool.
Follicle. L. *folliculus*, a small bag.
Fontanelle. F. *fontanelle*, a small fountain.
Foramen. L. *foramen*, hole.
Fornix. L. *fornix*, arch or vault.
Fossa. L. *fossa*, ditch, channel, something dug.
Fourchette. F. *fourchette*, fork.
Fovea. L. *fovea*, small pit.
Fraenum, Frenum. L. *fraenum*, bridge.
Frenulum. L. dim. *fraenum*, a little bridge.
Frontal. L. *frons*, *frontis*, forehead, brow.
Fundus. L. *fundus*, bottom.
Funicular. L. *funis*, rope.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Galea. L. galea, leather helmet.
Gallus. L. gallus, cock.
Genial. G. geneion, chin.
Genioglossus. G. geneion, chin, + glossa, tongue.
Geniohyoid. G. geneion, chin, + hyoeides, U-shaped.
Glabella. L. glaber, smooth.
Glia. G. gloia, glue.
Globus. L. globus, sphere.
Glossal. G. glossa, tongue.
Glossopharyngeus. G. glossa, tongue, + pharynx, throat.
Glottis. G. glottis, mouth of the windpipe.
Gnathion. G. gnathos, jaw.
Griseum. L. griseus, bluish.
Gyrus (pl. gyri). G. gyros, a turn.

Habenula. L. habena, strap.
Hemiplegia. G. hemi, half, + plege, stroke.
Hemisphere. G. hemi, half, + sphaira, ball.
Hernia. L. hernia, protrusion.
Hiatus. L. hiatus, gap.
Hilum. L. hilum, a small thing.
Hippocampus. G. hippos, horse, + kampos, sea monster.
Hydrocephalus. G. hydor, water, + kephale, head.
Hyoid. G. hyoeides, U-shaped.
Hypaxial. G. hypo, under, + L. axis, centre line, axis.
Hypoglossal. G. hypo, under, + glossa, tongue.
Hypophysis. G. hypo, under, + physis, growth.
Hypothalamus. G. hypo, under, + thalamos, chamber, couch.

Icterus. G. ikteros, jaundice.
Incisor. L. incisus (incidere), cut.
Incisura. L. incidere, to cut into.
Infundibulum. L. infundibulum, a funnel.
Terms Important in the Head and Neck

- **Inion.** G. *inion*, back of head.
- **Insula.** L. *insula*, island.
- **Intima.** L. *intima*, innermost.
- **Intrinsic.** L. *intrinsecus*, inward.
- **Invagination.** L. *in*, in, + *vagina*, sheath.
- **Iris.** G. *iris*, rainbow.
- **Isthmus.** G. *isthmos*, narrow connection.
- **Jugal.** L. *jugum*, yoke.
- **Jugular.** L. *jugularis* (*jugulum*), pertaining to the neck.
- **Jugum.** L. *jugum*, yoke.
- **Labial.** L. *labialis* (*labia*), pertaining to lips.
- **Labium.** L. *labium*, lip.
- **Labrum.** L. *labrum*, rim.
- **Labyrinth.** G. *labyrinthos*, maze.
- **Lacerate.** L. *lacerare*, to tear.
- **Lacrimal.** L. *lacrima*, tear.
- **Lacuna.** L. *lacuna*, pond.
- **Lacus.** L. *lacus*, lake.
- **Lambdoid.** G. *lambda*, shaped like Greek letter L.
- **Lamella.** L. dim. of *lamina*, leaf.
- **Lamina (pl. -ae).** L. *lamina*, thin plate.
- **Larynx.** G. *larynx*, upper part of windpipe.
- **Leminiscus.** G. *leminiskos*, band.
- **Lemma.** G. *lemma*, skin.
- **Lens.** L. *lens*, lentil.
- **Limbus.** L. *limbus*, border.
- **Limen.** L. *limen*, threshold.
- **Ling-.** L. *lingua*, tongue.
- **Lingual.** L. *lingua*, tongue.
- **Lingula.** L. *lingula*, small tongue.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Lobus. G. lobos, lobe.
Locus. L. locus, place.
Lucidum. L. lucidus (lux), full of light, clear.
Lumen. L. lumen, light, opening.
Lunate. L. luna, moon.

Macula. L. macula, spot, stain.
Malar. L. mala, cheek bone.
Malleus. L. malleus, hammer.
Mandible. L. mando, I chew.
Marginal. L. marginalis (margo), bordering.
Masseter. G. masseter, chewer.
Mastication. L. masticatio, chewing.
Mastoid. G. mastos, breast, + eidos, form, likeness.
Mater. A. mater, wrap or nutrient.
Matrix. L. matrix (mater), womb, groundwork, mold.
Maxilla. L. maxilla, jaw, now bone of upper jaw.
Medulla. L. medulla, marrow, pith.
Meninges. G. meninx, membrane.
Meningocele, Meningocele. G. meninx, membrane, + koilos, hollow.
Meninges. (pl. meninges).
Mental. L. mentum, chin.
Mesencephalon. G. mesos, middle, + en, in, + kephale, head.
Metathalamus. G. meta, after, + thalamus, chamber.
Metencephalon. G. meta, after, + enkephalos, brain.
Metopic. G. metopon, forehead.
Microcephaly. G. mikros, small, + kephale, head.
Microdont. G. mikros, small, + odous, tooth.
Microglia. G. mikros, small, + gloia, glue.
Microsmatic. G. mikros, small, + osmaomai, to smell.
Terms Important in the Head and Neck

**Modiolus.** L. *modiolus*, hub.

**Molar.** L. *molaris (mola)*, pertaining to a millstone.

**Myelencephalon.** G. *myelos*, marrow, + *enkephalos*, brain.

**Mylohyoid.** G. *myle*, mill, + *hypoedides*, U-shaped.

**Naris (pl. -es).** L. *naris*, nostril.

**Nasion.** L. *nasus*, nose.


**Nerve.** L. *nervus*, G. *neuron*, cordlike structure, nerve, tendon.

**Neural.** G. *neuron*, nerve.

**Neuralgia.** G. *neuron*, nerve, + *algos*, pain.

**Neuraxon.** G. *neuron*, nerve, + *axon*, axis.

**Neurilemma.** G. *neuron*, nerve, + *lemma*, husk, sheath.

**Neuroblast.** G. *neuron*, nerve, + *blastos*, bud.

**Neuroectomy.** G. *neuron*, nerve, + *ektome*, excision.

**Neuroglia.** G. *neuron*, nerve, + *gloia*, glue.

**Neurology.** G. *neuron*, nerve, + *logos*, treatise.

**Neuron.** G. *neuron*, cordlike structure, sinew, tendon; equivalent of L. *nervus*, hence, nerve.

**Nigra.** L. *niger*, black.

**Nictitating.** L. *nictare*, to wink.

**Node.** L. *nodus*, knot.

**Notochord.** G. *noton*, back, + *chorde*, cord.

**Nucha.** L. *nucha*, nape of neck.

**Nuchal.** L. *nucha*, nape of neck.

**Nystagmus.** G. *nystagma*, short sleep (during which rhythmic head movements occur), modern use, rhythmic eye movements.

**Obelion.** G. *obelos*, pointed pillar.

**Occipital.** L. *occipitum*, back of head.

**Occlusion.** L. *ob*, before, + *claudio*, I close.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Oculomotor. L. oculus, eye, + motor, mover.
Odontoblast. G. odous, tooth, + blastos, bud.
Odontoid. G. odous, tooth, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Oligodendroglia. G. oligos, few, + dendron, tree, + gloia, glue.
Omohyoid. G. omos, shoulder, + G. hyoeides, U-shaped; thus muscle passing from shoulder to U-shaped hyoid bone.
Opisthion. G. opisthios, posterior.
Ophthalmic. G. ophthalmos, eye.
Optic. G. opsis, sight.
Oral. L. os, oris, mouth; (compare L. os, bone, below).
Ora serrata. L. ora, edge, + serra, saw.
Orbit. L. orbis, anything circular.
Orifice. L. orificium, opening.
Os. L. os, bone.
Osseous. L. os (pl. ossa), bone.
Ossicle. L. ossiculum, small bone.
Ossification. L. os, bone, + facere, to make.
Osteone. G. osteon, bone.
Osteocyte. G. osteon, bone, + kytos, cell.
Osteology. G. osteon, bone, + logos, treatise.
Osteolysis. G. osteon, bone, + lysis, melting.
Osteomalacia. G. osteon, bone, + malakia, softness.
Ostium. L. ostium, door.
Otic. G. otikos, belonging to the ear.
Otolith. G. ous, otos, ear, + lithos, stone.
Pachymeninges. G. pachys, thick, + meninx, membrane.
Palate. L. palatum, palate.
Pallidus. L. pallidus, pale.
Pallium. L. pallium, cloak.
Palpebra. L. palpebra, eyelid.
Terms Important in the Head and Neck

**Papilloedema**  

**Papilledema**

**Paraesthesia**  

**Paresthesia**

**Paraflocculus.**  
G. *para*, alongside of, + L. *floccus*, flock of wool.

**Paraganglion.**  

**Paralysis.**  

**Paraplegia.**  

**Parasympathetic.**  

**Parathyroid.**  

**Paraxial.**  
G. *para*, alongside of, + L. *axis*, axle.

**Paresis.**  
G. *paresis*, relaxation.

**Parotid.**  
G. *para*, near, + *ous, otos*, ear.

**Periodontal.**  
G. *peri*, around, + *odontos*, tooth.

**Petrosal.**  
L. *petrosus*, rocky.

**Petrous.**  
L. *petrosus*, rocky.

**Pharynx.**  
G. *pharynx*, throat.

**Philtrum.**  
G. *philtron*, love potion, anything that awakens love.

**Phonation.**  
G. *phone*, voice.

**Pia.**  
L. *pius*, delicate.

**Pilus.**  
L. *pilus*, hair.

**Pineal.**  
L. *pinea*, pine cone.

**Pinna (pl. -ae).**  
L. *penna, pinna*, feather; hence, wing.

**Piriform.**  
L. *pirum*, pear, + *forma*, shape, likeness.

**Pituitary.**  
L. *pituita*, slime, phlegm; at one time believed to secrete a mucous material from the brain into the nose.

**Platycephaly.**  
G. *platys*, flat, + *kephale*, head.

**Platysma.**  
G. *platysma*, plate.
**Anatomical Terms and their Derivation**

- **Plexus** (pl. -us). L. *plexus*, plaiting, braid.
- **Plica.** L. *plicare*, to fold.
- **Pneumatic.** G. *pneumatikos*, pertaining to breath.
- **Pons.** L. *pons*, *pontis*, bridge.
- **Popliteus.** L. *poples*, ham.
- **Pore.** L. *porus*, passage.
- **Porta.** L. *porta* (pl. -ae), gate.
- **Portal.** L. *porta* (pl. -ae), gate.
- **Portio.** L. *portio*, part.
- **Porus.** G. *poros*, passage.
- **Premolar.** L. *pre*, in front, + *molaris*, molar.
- **Presbyopia.** G. *presbys*, old man, + *opsis*, sight.
- **Procerus.** L. *procerus*, tall, extended.
- **Processus.** L. *processus*, going forwards.
- **Prochordal.** G. *pro*, in front of, + *chorde*, cord.
- **Prognathism.** G. *pro*, in front of, + *gnathos*, jaw.
- **Promontory.** G. *promontorium*, mountain ridge.
- **Proptosis.** G. *pro*, before, + *ptosis*, falling.
- **Prosencephalon.** G. *pro*, before, + *enkephalos*, brain.
- **Prosthion.** G. *prosthen*, before.
- **Protuberance.** L. *protubero*, I swell.
- **Pterygoid.** G. *pteryx*, wing, + *eidos*, likeness, shape.
- **Ptosis.** G. *ptosis*, fall.
- **Pulvinar.** L. *pulvinar*, cushioned couch.
- **Punctum.** L. *punctum*, point.
- **Pupil.** L. *pupa*, girl.
- **Putamen.** L. *putamen*, shell, husk.
- **Pyramid.** G. *pyramis*, pyramid.
- **Pyriform.** L. *pirum*, pear, + *forma*, shape.
- **Quadrigeminus.** L. *quadrigeminus*, four-fold, four.
Terms Important in the Head and Neck

Recess.  
L. recessus, retreat.
Reflect.  
L. reflecto, to turn back.
Retina.  
L. rete, net.
Rhinal.  
G. rhis, nose.
Rhinencephalon.  
G. rhis, nose, + enkephalos, brain.
Rhinion.  
G. rhinion, nostril.
Rhombencephalon.  
G. rhombos, rhomboid, + enkephalos, brain.
Rima.  
L. rima, cleft.
Risorius.  
L. risus, laughter.
Rostrum (pl. -a).  
L. rostrum, beak.
Ruga (pl. -ae).  
L. ruga, wrinkle.
Sac.  
L. saccus, sack.
Sacculus.  
L. sacculus, a little bag.
Salivary.  
L. saliva, saliva.
Scala.  
L. scala, staircase.
Scalene.  
G. skalenos, uneven.
Scalp.  
Teutonic. skalp, shell.
Sclera.  
G. skleros, hard.
Sclerotic.  
G. skleros, hard.
Sella turcica.  
L. sella, saddle, + turcica, Turkish.
Semilunar.  
L. semi, half, + luna, moon.
Septum.  
L. saeptum, fence.
Sialogram.  
G. sialon, saliva, + gramma, mark.
Sigmoid.  
G. sigma, Greek letter S, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Sinister.  
L. sinister, left side or unlucky.
Sinus (pl. -us).  
L. sinus, curve, cavity, bosom.
Sphenoid.  
G. sphen, wedge, + eidos, likeness, shape.
Stapes.  
L. stapes, stirrup.
Strabismus.  
G. strabismos, squinting.
Stratum (pl. strata).  
L. stratum, layer.
Stria.  
L. stria, furrow.
### Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Striatum</td>
<td>L. <em>striatus</em>, grooved, streaked.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sublingual</td>
<td>L. <em>sub</em>, under, + <em>lingua</em>, tongue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submandibular</td>
<td>L. <em>sub</em>, under, + <em>mandibula</em>, jaw.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substantia</td>
<td>L. <em>substantia</em>, substance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sulcus</td>
<td>L. <em>sulcus</em>, furrow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustentaculum</td>
<td>L. <em>sustentaculum</em>, support.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taenia, Tenia</td>
<td>L. <em>taenia</em>, band, ribbon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapetum</td>
<td>L. <em>tapete</em>, carpet, tapestry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tectum</td>
<td>L. <em>tectum</em> (<em>tego</em>), roof.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tegmen</td>
<td>L. <em>tegmen</em>, covering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tegmentum</td>
<td>L. <em>tegumentum</em>, covering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tela</td>
<td>L. <em>tela</em>, web.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tentorium</td>
<td>L. <em>tentorium</em>, tent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teres</td>
<td>L. <em>tero</em>, I grind, rub.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminalis</td>
<td>L. <em>terminare</em>, to limit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thalamus</td>
<td>G. <em>thalamos</em>, chamber.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theca</td>
<td>L. <em>theca</em>, envelope, sheath.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tonsil</td>
<td>L. <em>tonsilla</em>, mooring post.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tragus</td>
<td>G. <em>tragos</em>, goat, from small tuft of hair (goat’s beard) in this region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tympanic</td>
<td>L. <em>tymanum</em>, drum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uvea</td>
<td>L. <em>uva</em>, grape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uvula</td>
<td>L. <em>uva</em>, grape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vallate</td>
<td>L. <em>vallum</em>, rampart, walled.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valleculea</td>
<td>L. dim. of <em>vallus</em>, fossa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valve</td>
<td>L. <em>valva</em>, leaf of door.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Terms Important in the Head and Neck

Valvula. L. valvula, a little fold, valve.
Velum. L. velum, veil.
Ventricle. L. ventriculus, little cavity, loculus.
Vermiform. L. vermis, worm, + forma, shape.
Vermis. L. vermis, worm.
Vertebr.a. L. vertebra, joint.
Vertex. L. vertex, whirl, whirlpool.
Vestibulum. L. vestibulum, entrance court.
Vestige. L. vestigium, trace, footprint.
Vitreus, vitreous. L. vitreus, of glass; hence, transparent.
Vomer. L. vomer, ploughshare.

Zygapophysis. G. zygon, yoke, + apophysis, process of a bone.
TERMS SPECIFIC TO THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Abducens. L. ab, away, + ducens, leading.
Aberrant. L. ab, away, + errare, to stray.
Accessory. L. accessorius, supplementary.
Acoustic. G. akoustikos, pertaining to hearing.
Aditus. L. aditus, opening.
Afferent. L. ad, to, + ferre, to carry.
Ala. L. ala, wing.
Ambiguous. L. amb, both ways, + agere, to drive.
Amygdaloid. G. amydale, almond, + eidos, form, likeness.
Annulus. L. anulus (annulus), a ring.
Ansa. L. ansa, handle.
Antrum. G. antron, cave.
Aphasia. G. a, without, + phasis, speech.
Aphonia. G. a, without, + phone, voice.
Apophysis. G. apo, from, + physis, growth.
Aqueduct. L. aqua, water, + ducere, to lead.
Aqueous. L. aqua, water.
Arachnoïd. G. arachnes, spider, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Arbor vitae. L. arbor, tree, + vitae, of life.
Archipallium. G. archi, principal, + pallium, cloak.
Arcuate. L. arcualis, arch-shaped.
Arcus. L. arcus, bow.
Ataxia. G. a, without, + taxis, order.
Auditory. L. audire, to hear.
### Terms Specific to the Nervous System

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<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Axon</td>
<td>G. <em>axon</em>, axis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baroreceptor</td>
<td>G. <em>baros</em>, weight (pressure receptor).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basilic</td>
<td>A. <em>al-basilic</em>, inner vein.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulbus</td>
<td>L. <em>bulbus</em>, bulb, swollen root.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callosum</td>
<td>L. <em>callosus</em>, -a, -um, thick-skinned, also a beam or rafter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calyx (pl. calices)</td>
<td>L. <em>calyx</em>, husk, cup-shaped protective covering.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cauda, caudal</td>
<td>L. <em>cauda</em>, tail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cava</td>
<td>L. <em>cavus</em>, -a, -um, hollow or cave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavernosus</td>
<td>L. <em>caverna</em>, a hollow or cave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cavum</td>
<td>L. <em>cavum</em>, a hollow or cave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celiac, Coeliac</td>
<td>G. <em>koilia</em>, belly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrum</td>
<td>L. <em>cerebrum</em>, brain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiasma</td>
<td>G. <em>chiasma</em>, figure of X.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ciliary</td>
<td>L. <em>cilium</em> (pl. <em>cilia</em>), eyelash.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cisterna</td>
<td>L. <em>cisterna</em>, reservoir.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claustrum</td>
<td>L. <em>claustrum</em>, barrier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochlea</td>
<td>L. <em>cochlea</em> (G., <em>kochlias</em>), spiral, snail shell.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colliculus</td>
<td>L. <em>colliculus</em>, little hill.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissure</td>
<td>L. <em>commissura</em> (<em>cum</em> + <em>mittere</em>), connection.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicans</td>
<td>L. <em>communicans</em>, communicating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concha</td>
<td>L. <em>concha</em>, bivalve, oyster shell.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convolution</td>
<td>L. <em>con</em>, together, + <em>volvo</em>, to roll.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copula</td>
<td>L. <em>copula</em>, tie (from <em>copulare</em>, to copulate).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corpus</td>
<td>L. body.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(pl. corpora)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Cortex</td>
<td>L. <em>cortex</em>, bark, rind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(adj. cortical)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticofugal</td>
<td>L. <em>cortex</em>, bark of a tree, + <em>fugere</em>, to flee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotyledon</td>
<td>G. <em>kotyledon</em>, cup-shaped hollow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culmen</td>
<td>L. <em>culmen</em>, top.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decussation</td>
<td>L. <em>decussatio</em>, intersection of two lines, as in Roman X.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dendrite</td>
<td>G. <em>dendros</em>, tree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatome</td>
<td>G. <em>derma</em>, skin, + <em>temnein</em>, to cut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diverticulum</td>
<td>L. <em>divertere</em>, to turn aside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dura</td>
<td>L. <em>dura</em>, hard, strong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysarthria</td>
<td>G. <em>dys</em>, hard, <em>arthron</em>, joint, hence disjointed speech.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efferent</td>
<td>L. <em>ex</em>, out, + <em>ferre</em>, to bear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encephalon</td>
<td>G. <em>en</em>, within, + <em>kephalos</em>, head.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endolymph</td>
<td>G. <em>endon</em>, within, + L. <em>lympha</em>, water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endoneurium</td>
<td>G. <em>endon</em>, within, + <em>neuron</em>, nerve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ependyma</td>
<td>G. <em>epi</em>, upon, + <em>endyma</em>, garment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falciform</td>
<td>L. <em>falcis</em>, sickle, + <em>forma</em>, shape, likeness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falx</td>
<td>L. <em>falcis</em>, sickle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fastigius</td>
<td>L. <em>fastigium</em>, slope.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fenestra</td>
<td>L. <em>fenestra</em>, window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibre, Fiber</td>
<td>L. <em>fibra</em>, fibre, string, thread.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Terms Specific to the Nervous System

Fibril. NL. *fibrilla*, a little thread.
Filament. L. *filamentum*, thin fibre.
Filum. L. *filum*, thread.
Fimbria. L. *fimbriae*, threads, fringe.
Fissure. L. *fissura* (*findo*), a cleft.
Flocculus. NL. dim. *flocus*, a tuft of wool.
Follicle. L. *folliculus*, a small bag.
Fornix. L. *fornix*, arch or vault.
Fourchette. F. *fourchette*, fork.
Fovea. L. *fovea*, small pit.
Fundus. L. *fundus*, bottom.
Funicular. L. *funis*, rope.

Ganglion. G. *ganglion*, a swelling under the skin.
Genu. L. *genu*, knee.
Glia. G. *gloia*, glue.
Globus. L. *globus*, sphere.
Griseum. L. *griseus*, bluish.
Gyrus (pl. gyri). G. *gyros*, a turn.

Habenua. L. *habena*, strap.
Hernia. L. *hernia*, protrusion.
Hiatus. L. *hiatus*, gap.
Hilum. L. *hilum*, a small thing.
Hypaxial. G. *hypo*, under, + L. *axis*, centre line, axis.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Hypophysis.  G. hypo, under, + physis, growth.
Hypothalamus.  G. hypo, under, + thalamos, chamber, couch.

Impar.  L. impar, unequal.
Impression.  L. in, in, + premere, to press.
Incisura.  L. incidere, to cut into.
Indusium.  L. indusium, tunic.
Infundibulum.  L. infundibulum, a funnel.
Innervation.  L. in, in, + nervus, nerve.
Insula.  L. insula, island.
Intrinsic.  L. intrinsecus, inward.
Invagination.  L. in, in, + vagina, sheath.
Isthmus.  G. isthmos, narrow connection.

Jugular.  L. jugularis (jugulum), pertaining to the neck.
Jugum.  L. jugum, yoke.

Kinetic.  G. kinesis, movement.

Labyrinth.  G. labyrinthos, maze.
Lacuna.  L. lacuna, pond.
Lamina (pl. -ae).  L. lamina, thin plate.
Leminiscus.  G. leminiskos, band.
Leptomeninges.  G. leptos, thin, + meninx, membrane.
Limbus.  L. limbus, border.
Limen.  L. limen, threshold.
Lingula.  L. lingula, small tongue.
Lobus.  G. lobos, lobe.
Lucidum.  L. lucidus (lux), full of light, clear.
Lumen.  L. lumen, light, opening.
Lunate.  L. luna, moon.
Terms Specific to the Nervous System

Macula. L. *macula*, spot, stain.
Mater. A. *mater*, wrap or nutrient.
Matrix. L. *matrix* (*mater*), womb, groundwork, mold.
Medulla. L. *medulla*, marrow, pith.
Meninges. G. *meninx*, membrane.
Meingocele.
Mydriasis. G. *mydriasis*, dilation of pupil.

Neural. G. *neuron*, nerve.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Neuron.  G. neuron, cordlike structure, sinew, tendon; equivalent of L. nervus, hence, nerve.
Neuropil.  G. neuron, nerve, + pilos, felt.
Neuropore.  G. neuron, nerve, + poros, hole.
Nigra.  L. niger, black.
Node.  L. nodus, knot.
Nystagmus.  G. nyctagmu, short sleep (during which rhythmic head movements occur), modern use, rhythmic eye movements.

Oculomotor.  L. oculus, eye, + motor, mover.
Olfactory.  L. olere, to smell, + facere, to make.
Oligodendroglia.  G. oligos, few, + dendron, tree, + gloia, glue.
Ophthalmic.  G. opthalmos, eye.
Optic.  G. opsis, sight.
Ostium.  L. ostium, door.
Otic.  G. otikos, belonging to the ear.
Otolith.  G. ous, otos, ear, + lithos, stone.
Pachymeninges.  G. pachys, thick, + meninx, membrane.
Pallidus.  L. pallidus, pale.
Pallium.  L. pallium, cloak.
Papilloedema, Papilledema.  L. papilla, nipple, + oedema, swelling.
Paraesthesia, Paresthesia.  G. para, alongside of, + aisthesis, sensation.
Paraflocculus.  G. para, alongside of, + L. floccus, flock of wool.
Paraganglion.  G. para, along, beside, + ganglion, knot.
Paralysis.  G. para, alongside of, + lyein, to loosen.
Paraplegia.  G. para, alongside of, + plesso, I strike.
Parasympathetic.  G. para, alongside of, + sympathetikos, sympathetic.
Terms Specific to the Nervous System

Parenchyma. G. parenchyma, pouring out into the adjacent.
Paresis. G. paresis, relaxation.
Parietal. L. paries, wall.
Parieties. L. paries, wall.
Pedicle. L. pes, foot.
Pedunculus. L. pediculus, a little foot.
Pellucida. L. per, through, + lucere, to shine.
Perilymph. G. peri, around, + L. lympha, fluid.
Perineum. G. perinaion, perineum.
Petrosal. L. petrosus, rocky.
Petrous. L. petrosus, rocky.
Phonation. G. phone, voice.
Photoreceptor. G. phos, light, + recipio, I receive.
Phrenic. G. phren, diaphragm.
Pla. L. pius, delicate.
Piriform. L. pirum, pear, + forma, shape, likeness.
Pituitary. L. pituita, slime, phlegm; at one time believed to secrete a mucous material from the brain into the nose.
Placode. G. plax, anything flat.
Plica. L. plicare, to fold.
Pons. L. pons, pontis, bridge.
Presbyopia. G. presbys, old man, + opsis, sight.
Processus. L. processus, going forwards.
Prochordal. G. pro, in front of, + chord, cord.
Profundus. L. profundus, deep.
Proprioceptor. L. proprius, special, + capere, to take.
Proptosis. G. pro, before, + ptosis, falling.
Prosencephalon. G. pro, before, + enkephalos, brain.
Pulvinar. L. pulvinar, cushioned couch.
Punctum. L. punctum, point.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Pupil. L. *pupa*, girl.
Putamen. L. *putamen*, shell, husk.
Pyramid. G. *pyramis*, pyramid.

Quadrigeminus. L. *quadrigeminus*, four-fold, four.

Radicle. L. *radix*, root.
Radix. L. *radix*, root.
Ramify. L. *ramus*, branch, + *facere*, to make.
Ramus. L. *ramus*, branch.
Raphe. G. *raphe*, seam.
Receptor. L. *recipere*, to take back, receive.
Recess. L. *recessus*, retreat.
Reticulum. L. *reticulum*, little net.
Retina. L. *rete*, net.

Sac. L. *saccus*, sack.
Sacculus. L. *sacculus*, a little bag.
Scala. L. *scala*, staircase.
Sclera. G. *skleros*, hard.
Sclerotic. G. *skleros*, hard.
Septum. L. *saeptum*, fence.
Sinister. L. *sinister*, left side or unlucky.
Terms Specific to the Nervous System

Somite. G. *soma*, body, + suffix *-ite*, indicating origin.
Spina. L. *spina*, thorn.
Strabismus. G. *strabismos*, squinting.
Stratum (pl. strata). L. *stratum*, layer.
Stria. L. *stria*, furrow.
Striatum. L. *striatus*, grooved, streaked.
Substantia. L. *substantia*, substance.
Sulcus. L. *sulcus*, furrow.

Tabular. L. *tabula*, board, table.
Tapetum. L. *tapete*, carpet, tapestry.
Tectum. L. *tectum* (*tego*), roof.
Tegmen. L. *tegmen*, covering.
Tegmentum. L. *tegumentum*, covering.
Tela. L. *tela*, web.
Tentorium. L. *tentorium*, tent.
Terminalis. L. *terminare*, to limit.
Thalamus. G. *thalamos*, chamber.
Theca. L. *theca*, envelope, sheath.
Tract. L. *tractus*, wool drawn out for spinning.
Trigeminus. L. *trigeminus*, born three together.
Tunica. L. *tunica*, undergarment.

Uncinate. L. *uncinatus*, furnished with a hook.
### Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Latin Derivation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uncus</td>
<td>L. <em>uncus</em>, hook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uvea</td>
<td>L. <em>uva</em>, grape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vagus</td>
<td>L. <em>vagus</em>, wandering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Velum</td>
<td>L. <em>velum</em>, veil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventricle</td>
<td>L. <em>ventriculus</em>, little cavity, loculus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermis</td>
<td>L. <em>vermis</em>, worm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestibulum</td>
<td>L. <em>vestibulum</em>, entrance court.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zona</td>
<td>L. <em>zona</em>, belt, girdle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zonula</td>
<td>L. dim. of <em>zona</em>, belt, girdle.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ALPHABETICAL LIST OF TERMS

A

Abdomen. L. from abderea (?), to hide.
Abducens. L. ab, away, + ducens, leading.
Abductor. L. ab, away, + ducere, to lead.
Aberrant. L. ab, away, + errare, to stray.
Abortion. L. abortio, to abort.
Absorption. L. absorptio, to swallow.
Accessory. L. accessorius, supplementary.
Acetabulum. L. acetabulum, vinegar cup, shape of hip joint.
Acinus. L. acinus, grape.
Acoustic. G. akoustikos, pertaining to hearing.
Acrania. G. a, without, + kraonia, heads.
Acromegaly. G. akros, extremity, + megale, great.
Acromion. G. akron, height, extremity, + omos, shoulder.
Adductor. L. ad, to, + ducere, to lead.
Adenoid. G. aden, acorn, + eidos, form, likeness.
Adhesion. L. adhaereo, to stick together.
Adipose. L. adeps, fat.
Aditus. L. aditus, opening.
Adnexa. L. ad, to, + nexus, bound.
Adolescence. L. adolesco, to grow up.
Adrenal. L. ad, near, + renes, kidneys.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Adventia. L. ad, to, + venire, to come.
Afferent. L. ad, to, + ferre, to carry.
Agnathism. G. a, without, + gnathos, jaw.
Agonist. G. agonistes, rival.
Ala. L. ala, wing.
Allantois. G. allas, sausage, + eidos, form, appearance.
Alveolus. L. alveolus, little cavity.
Amastia. G. a, without, + mastos, breast.
Ambiguus. L. amb, both ways, + agere, to drive.
Amnion. G. amnion, fetal membrane.
Amphiarthrosis. G. amphi, on both sides, + arthrosis, joint.
Ampulla. L. ampulla, a flask or vessel swelling in the middle.
Amygdaloid. G. amydale, almond, + eidos, form, likeness.
Analogy. G. ana, according to, + logos, treatise.
Anastomosis. G. anastomoein, to bring to a mouth, cause to communicate.
Anatomy. G. ana, apart, + tennein, to cut.
Anconeus. G. agkon, elbow.
Androgen. G. andros, man, + gennan, to produce.
Android. G. andros, man, + eidos, form, likeness.
Anencephaly. G. an, without, + enkephalos, brain.
Angiology. G. angeion, vessel, + logos, treatise.
Angle. L. angulus, angle.
Ankle. L. angulus, angle.
Ankylosis. G. ankylosis, stiffening of the joint.
Anlage. Ger. an, on, + legen, to lay (a laying on — primordium, precursor).
Annulus. L. anulus (annulus), a ring.
Anomaly. G. an, without, + nomos, law.
Ansa. L. ansa, handle.
### Alphabetical List of Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Origin/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antagonist</td>
<td>G. <em>anti</em>, against, <em>agonistes</em>, rival.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antebrachium</td>
<td>L. <em>ante</em>, before, + <em>brachium</em>, arm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anteflexion</td>
<td>L. <em>ante</em>, before, + <em>flexere</em>, to bend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anterior</td>
<td>L. <em>ante</em>, before.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anteversion</td>
<td>L. <em>ante</em>, before, + <em>versio</em>, turning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antihelix</td>
<td>G. <em>anti</em>, against, before, + <em>helix</em>, coil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antitragus</td>
<td>G. <em>anti</em>, against, before, + <em>tragus</em>, goat, (perhaps the small tuft of hair growing here was likened to a goat’s beard?).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antrum</td>
<td>G. <em>antron</em>, cave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anus</td>
<td>L. <em>anus</em>, fundament.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aorta</td>
<td>G. <em>aeiro</em>, to raise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apertura</td>
<td>L. <em>apertura</em>, opening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aphasia</td>
<td>G. <em>a</em>, without, + <em>phasis</em>, speech.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aphonía</td>
<td>G. <em>a</em>, without, + <em>phone</em>, voice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apocrine</td>
<td>G. <em>apo</em>, from, + <em>krinein</em>, to separate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apophysis</td>
<td>G. <em>apo</em>, from, + <em>physis</em>, growth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendicular</td>
<td>adjectival form of appendix.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix</td>
<td>L. <em>appendere</em>, to hang upon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aqueduct</td>
<td>L. <em>aqua</em>, water, + <em>ducre</em>, to lead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aqueous</td>
<td>L. <em>aqua</em>, water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arachnodactylí</td>
<td>as previous, spider fingers, Marfans syndrome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arcuate</td>
<td>L. <em>arcualis</em>, arch-shaped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arcus</td>
<td>L. <em>arcus</em>, bow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areola</td>
<td>L. <em>areola</em> (dim. of <em>area</em>, open space).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Derivation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrector</td>
<td>L. <em>arrigere</em>, to raise, thus arrectores pilorum, small muscles in skin that erect the hairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artery</td>
<td>G. <em>aer</em>, air, + <em>terein</em>, to keep (L. <em>arteria</em>, windpipe). ancient belief that blood vessels contained air.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspera</td>
<td>L. <em>asper</em>, rough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asterion</td>
<td>G. <em>aster</em>, star.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthenic</td>
<td>G. <em>a</em>, without, + <em>sthenos</em>, strength.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atavistic</td>
<td>L. <em>atavus</em>, grandfather.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ataxia</td>
<td>G. <em>a</em>, without, + <em>taxis</em>, order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlas</td>
<td>G. <em>atlao</em>, I sustain (Greek god who bears the world).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atresia</td>
<td>G. <em>a</em>, without, + <em>tresis</em>, hole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrium</td>
<td>L. <em>atrium</em>, court, entrance hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrophy</td>
<td>G. <em>a</em>, without, + <em>trophe</em>, nourishment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditory</td>
<td>L. <em>audire</em>, to hear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auricle</td>
<td>L. dim., <em>auricula</em>, external ear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axial</td>
<td>L. <em>axis</em>, axle of a wheel, the line about which any body turns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axilla</td>
<td>L. <em>axilla</em>, armpit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axis</td>
<td>L. <em>axis</em>, axle of a wheel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axon</td>
<td>G. <em>axon</em>, axis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azygos</td>
<td>G. <em>a</em>, not, + <em>zygon</em>, yoke; hence, unpaired.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Alphabetical List of Terms

#### B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baroreceptor.</td>
<td>G. baros, weight (pressure receptor).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basal.</td>
<td>L. basis, footing, base.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basilic.</td>
<td>A. al-basilic, inner vein.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basion.</td>
<td>G. basis, footing, base.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basisphenoid.</td>
<td>G. basis, base, + sphenoeides, wedgeshaped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biceps.</td>
<td>L. bis, two, + caput, head.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicornuate.</td>
<td>L. bis, two, + cornua, horns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicuspid.</td>
<td>L. bis, two, + cuspis, point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bifid.</td>
<td>L. bis, two, + findere, to cleave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bifurcate.</td>
<td>L. bis, two, + furca, fork.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral.</td>
<td>L. bi, two, + latus, side.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bile.</td>
<td>L. bilis, bile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bipennate.</td>
<td>L. bis, two, + pinna, feather.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biventer.</td>
<td>L. bis, two, + venter, belly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blepharal.</td>
<td>G. blepharon, eyelid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolus.</td>
<td>G. bolos, mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brachial.</td>
<td>L. brachialis, belonging to the arm (upper arm).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brachium</td>
<td>L. brachium, arm, (upper arm).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branchial.</td>
<td>L. branchiae, or G. branchia, gills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brachycephalic.</td>
<td>G. brachys, short, + kephale, head.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bregma.</td>
<td>G. brechein, to moisten, (thought most humid part of infant skull).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brevis.</td>
<td>L. brevis, short.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronchiale.</td>
<td>G. bronchiolus (dim. of bronchus, brechein, to moisten).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronchus.</td>
<td>G. bronchia, end of windpipe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buccal.</td>
<td>L. bucca, cheek.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulbus.</td>
<td>L. bulbus, bulb, swollen root.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

**Bulla.** L. *bulla*, a bubble; hence spherical in shape.

**Bursa.** L. *bursa*, a purse; hence purse-shaped object.

**C**

**Calcaneus.** L. *calcaneus*, heel.

**Calcar.** L. *calcar*, spur.

**Calcification.** L. *calx*, lime, + *facere*, to make.

**Callosum.** L. *callosus*, -a, -um, thick-skinned, also a beam or rafter.

**Callosum.** L. as above, newly formed bone at fracture site.

**Calvaria.** L. *calvus*, bald.

**Calyx** (pl. *calices*). L. *calyx*, husk, cup-shaped protective covering.

**Canaliculus.** L. *canalis*, watetpipe.

**Cancellous.** L. *cancelli*, latticework.

**Canine.** L. *canis*, dog.

**Cannula.** L. dim. *canna*, reed.

**Canthus.** G. *kanthos*, rim on a wheel.

**Capillary.** L. *capillaris*, pertaining to the hair.

**Capitulum.** L. dim. *caput*, small head.

**Capsule.** L. dim. of *capsa*, box.

**Caput** (pl. *capita*).

**Cardiac.** G. *kardiakos* (*kardia*), pertaining to the heart.

**Cardinal.** L. *cardinalis*, pertaining to a door hinge, on which something important or fundamental hinges.

**Carina.** L. *carina*, keel.

**Carneae.** L. *carneus*, fleshy.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Carnivorous. L. carno, flesh, + vorare, to devour.
Carnosus. L. carnosus, fleshy.
Carotid. G. karon, deep sleep (pressure on artery produces stupor).
Carpu. G. karpos, wrist.
Cartilage. L. cartilago, gristle, cartilage.
Caruncle. L. dim. of caro, flesh, any fleshy eminence.
Catheter. G. kata, down, + heimi, thrust.
Cauda, caudal. L. cauda, tail.
Cava. L. cavus, -a, -um, hollow or cave.
Cavernosus. L. caverna, a hollow or cave.
Cavum. L. cavum, a hollow or cave.
Cecum, Caecum. L. caecus, -a, -um, blind.
Celiac, Coeliac. G. koilia, belly.
Celom (e), Coelom. G. koiloma, a hollow.
Cementum. L. caementum, rough stone.
Centrum. L. centrum, centre.
Cephalic. G. kephale, head.
Cerebellum. L. dim. cerebrum, brain.
Cerebrum. L. cerebrum, brain.
Cervical. L. cervix, neck.
Chiasma. G. chiasma, figure of X.
Chirurgery. G. cheir, hand, + ergon, work, (hence surgery).
Choana (pl. -ae). G. choane, funnel.
Choledochus. G. chole, bile, + dochos (dechomai), container.
Chorda. G. chorde, string of gut, cord.
Chorion. G. chorion, skin.
Choroid. G. chorion, skin, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Chromatolysis. G. chroma, colour, + lysis, dissolution.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Chyle.  G. *chylos*, juice.
Chyme.  G. *chymos*, juice.
Ciliary.  L. *cilium* (pl. *cilia*), eyelash.
Cingulum.  L. *cingulum*, girdle.
Circumflex.  L. *circum*, around, + *flexere*, to bend.
Cisterna.  L. *cisterna*, reservoir.
Claustrum.  L. *claustrum*, barrier.
Clava.  L. *clava*, club.
Clavicle.  L. *clavicula*, a little key.
Climacteric.  G. *klimakter*, top of ladder (from *klimax*, ladder).
Cloaca.  L. *cloaca*, sewer, drain.
Coccyx.  G. *kokkyx*, a cuckoo, hence a structure shaped like a cuckoo’s bill.
Cochlea.  L. *cochlea* (G. *kochlias*), spiral, snail shell.
Colliculus.  L. *colliculus*, little hill.
Collum.  L. *collum*, neck.
Colon.  G. *kolon*, great gut.
Comes.  L. *comes*, companion.
Comitans (pl. *comitantes*).  L. *comitari*, to accompany.
Commissure.  L. *comissura* (cum + *mittere*), connection.
Communicans.  L. *communicans*, communicating.
Concha.  L. *concha*, bivalve, oyster shell.
Condyle.  G. *kondylös*, knuckle.
Conjunctiva.  L. *conj*, together + *jungo*, I join, hence connecting.
Constrictor.  L. *constringere*, to draw together.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Conus. L. conus, cone.
Convolution. L. con, together, + volvo, to roll.
Copula. L. copula, tie (from copulare, to copulate).
Coraco-, corono-. G. korax or corone, crow; hence crowlike.
Coracoid. G. korax, crow, + eidos, form, likeness.
Corium. G. chorion, skin, leather.
Cornea. L. corneus, horny.
Cornu. L. cornu, horn.
Corona. L. corona, crown.
Coronary. L. coronarius, pertaining to a wreath or crown; hence, encircling.
Coronoid. G. korax, crow, + eidos, form, likeness.
Corpus (pl. corpora). L. body.
Corpuscle. L. corpusculum, little body.
Corrugator. L. con, together + ruga, wrinkle.
Cortex (adj. cortical). L. cortex, bark, rind.
Corticofugal. L. cortex, bark of a tree, + fugere, to flee.
Corticopetal. L. cortex, bark of a tree, + petere, to seek.
Costa (adj. costal). L. costa, rib.
Cotyledon. G. kotyledon, cup-shaped hollow.
Coxa. L. coxa, hip.
Cranial G. kranion, skull.
Craniun. G. kranion, skull.
(Cranial). (adj. cranial).
Cremaster. G. cremaster, suspender.
Cribriform. L. cribrum, sieve, + forma, form.
Cricoid. G. krikos, ring, + eidos, form, likeness.
Crista. L. crista, crest.
Crista galli. L. crista, crest + L. gallus, cock, hence cock’s comb.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Cruciate. L. crux, cross.
Crus (pl. crura). L. crus, leg.
Cubitus. L. cubitus, elbow.
Cuboid. G. kuboeides, cube-shaped.
Culmen. L. culmen, top.
Cuneiform. L. cuneus, wedge, + forma, shape, likeness.
Cupula. L. cupula, a small cask or cup.
Cuspis. L. cuspis, point.
Cutaneous. L. cutis, skin.
Cuticle. L. cutis, skin.
Cutis. L. cutis, skin.
Cyst (adj. cystic). G. kystis, bag, bladder, pouch.
Cytology. G. kytos, cell, + logos, treatise.
Cytoplasm. G. kytos, cell, + plasma, plasma, anything molded.

D

Dacryon. G. dakryon, tear.
Dactyl. G. daktylos, finger.
Dartos. G. dartos, skinned.
Decussation. L. decussatio, intersection of two lines, as in Roman X.
Defaecation, Defecation. L. defaecare, to cleanse.
Deferens. L. de, away, + ferens, carrying.
Deglutition. L. deglutire, to swallow.
Deltoid. G. delta, letter in Greek alphabet, triangular-shaped.
Dendrite. G. dendros, tree.
Dens. L. dens, tooth.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Dentine. L. dens, tooth.
Dentition. L. dentitis, cutting of teeth.
Depressor. L. de, down, + premere, to press.
Dermal. G. derma, skin.
Dermatoglyphics. G. derma, skin, + glyphin, to carve.
Dermatome. G. derma, skin, + temnein, to cut.
Dermis. G. derma, skin.
Detritus. L. deterere, to rub away.
Detrusor. L. detrudere, to push down.
Diagnosis. G. dia, through, + gnosis, knowledge.
Diaphragm. G. dia, through, + phragma, wall.
Diaphysis. G. dia, between, + physis, growth.
Diarthrosis. G. dia, through, + arthroun, to fasten by a joint.

Diastema (pl. -ata). G. diastema, interval.
Diastole. G. dia, through, + stellein, to send.
Diencephalon. G. dia, through, + enkephalos, brain.
Digastric. G. dis, double, + gaster, belly.
Digestion. L. dis, apart, + gerere, to carry.
Digit. L. digitus, finger.
Diploë. G. diploë, fold.
Diploid. G. diploos, twofold.
Diplopia. G. diploos, double, + opsis, vision.
Disc. L. discus, disc.
Distal. L. distare, to stand apart.
Diverticulum. L. divertere, to turn aside.
Dizygotic. G. dis, twice, + zygo, join together.
Dolichocephalic. G. dolichos, long + G. kephale, head.
Dorsal. L. dorsum, back.
Duct. L. ducere, to lead or draw.
Ductule. L. ducere, to lead, dim.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Duodenum.  L. *duodeni*, twelve (meaning twelve fingerbreadths).
Dura.  L. *dura*, hard, strong.

E

Ectopia.  G. *ektopos*, distant.
Effector.  L. *efficere*, to bring to pass.
Efferent.  L. *ex*, out, + *ferre*, to bear.
Elastin.  G. *elastikos*, impulsive.
Embolius.  G. *embolos*, wedge, plug, anything inserted.
Embryo.  G. *embryon*, fruit in the womb, from
         G. *bryein*, to grow.
Eminence.  L. *ej*, out, + *minere*, to jut.
Endocrine.  G. *endon*, within, + *krinein*, to separate.
Endolympth.  G. *endon*, within, + L. *lympha*, water.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Epiploic. G. *epiploon*, caul, omentum.
Erector. L. *erectus*, erect.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Exophthalmos.  G. ex, out, + ophthalmos, eye.
Exoskeleton.  G. ex, out, + skeleton, skeleton.
Extension.  L. extendo, extend.
Extensor.  L. ex, out, + tendere, to stretch.
Extravasation.  L. extra, outside, + vas, vessel.
Extrinsic.  L. extrinsecus, on the outside.
Exudate.  L. ex, out, + sudare, to sweat.

F

Facet.  F. facette, face.
Facialis.  L. facies, face.
Facies.  L. facies, face.
Faeces, Feces.  L. faex, dregs.
Falciform.  L. falx, sickle, + forma, shape, likeness.
Falx.  L. falx, falcis, sickle.
Fascia (pl. -iae).  L. fascia, band.
Fasciculus.  L. fascis, bundle.
Fastigius.  L. fastigium, slope.
Fauces.  L. faux, throat.
Femur.  L. femur, thigh.
Fenestra.  L. fenestra, window.
Fetus, Foetus.  L. fetus, offspring.
Fibre, Fiber.  L. fibra, fibre, string, thread.
Fibril.  NL. fibrilla, a little thread.
Fibroblast.  L. fibra, fibre, + blastos, bud.
Fibrocartilage.  L. fibra, fibre, + cartilago, gristle.
Fibula.  L. fibula, pin, skewer, brooch.
Filament.  L. filamentum, thin fibre.
Filum.  L. filum, thread.
Fimbria.  L. fimbriae, threads, fringe.
Fissure.  L. fissura (findo), a cleft.
**Alphabetical List of Terms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fistula.</td>
<td>L. <em>fistula</em>, pipe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flavum.</td>
<td>L. <em>flavus</em>, yellow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexor.</td>
<td>L. <em>flexus</em>, bent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flocculus.</td>
<td>NL. dim. <em>floccus</em>, a tuft of wool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folia.</td>
<td>L. <em>folium</em>, leaf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follicle.</td>
<td>L. <em>folliculus</em>, a small bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fontanelle.</td>
<td>F. <em>fontanelle</em>, a small fountain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foramen.</td>
<td>L. <em>foramen</em>, hole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forceps.</td>
<td>L. <em>forceps</em>, pincers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form.</td>
<td>L. <em>forma</em>, shape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fornix.</td>
<td>L. <em>fornix</em>, arch or vault.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fossa.</td>
<td>L. <em>fossa</em>, ditch, channel, something dug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourchette.</td>
<td>F. <em>fourchette</em>, fork.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fovea.</td>
<td>L. <em>fovea</em>, small pit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraenum, Frenum.</td>
<td>L. <em>fraenum</em>, bridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frenulum.</td>
<td>L. dim. <em>fraenum</em>, a little bridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontal.</td>
<td>L. <em>frons</em>, <em>frontis</em>, forehead, brow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulcrum.</td>
<td>L. <em>fulcrum</em>, post.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundus.</td>
<td>L. <em>fundus</em>, bottom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funicular.</td>
<td>L. <em>funis</em>, rope.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**G**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Galea.</td>
<td>L. <em>galea</em>, leather helmet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallus.</td>
<td>L. <em>gallus</em>, cock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gametes.</td>
<td>G. <em>gametes</em>, spouse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ganglion.</td>
<td>G. <em>ganglion</em>, a swelling under the skin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrula.</td>
<td>NL. dim. from G. <em>gaster</em>, stomach.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Anatomical Terms and their Derivation**

- **Gemellus.** L. *gemellus*, twin.
- **Genial.** G. *geneion*, chin.
- **Geniculate.** L. *geniculatus*, with bent knee.
- **Genioglossus.** G. *geneion*, chin, + *glossa*, tongue.
- **Geniohyoid.** G. *geneion*, chin, + *hyoeides*, U-shaped.
- **Genital.** L. *genitalis* (*gigno*), pertaining to birth.
- **Genu.** L. *genu*, knee.
- **Germinal.** L. *germen*, bud, germ.
- **Germinative.** L. *germen*, bud, germ.
- **Gestation.** L. *gestare*, to bear.
- **Ginglymus.** G. *ginglymus*, hinge.
- **Glabella.** L. *glaber*, smooth.
- **Glans.** L. *glans*, acorn.
- **Glenoid.** G. *glene*, socket, + *eidos*, form, likeness.
- **Glia.** G. *gloia*, glue.
- **Globus.** L. *globus*, sphere.
- **Glomerulus.** L. dim. of *glomus*, a ball.
- **Glossal.** G. *glossa*, tongue.
- **Glossopharyngeus.** G. *glossa*, tongue, + *pharynx*, throat.
- **Glottis.** G. *glottis*, mouth of the windpipe.
- **Gluteus.** G. *gloutos*, rump.
- **Gnathion.** G. *gnathos*, jaw.
- **Gomphosis.** G. *gomphos*, wedge-shaped nail.
- **Gonad.** G. *gone*, seed.
- **Gonion.** G. *gonia*, angle.
- **Gracilis.** L. *gracilis*, thin.
- **Granulation.** L. dim. *granum*, grain.
- **Granulum.** L. *granulum*, small grain.
- **Gravid.** L. *gravid*, pregnant.
- **Griseum.** L. *griseus*, bluish.
- **Gubernaculum.** L. *gubernaculum*, helm.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Gynaecomastia, Gynecomastia. G. gyne, woman, + mastos, breast.
G. gyros, a turn.
Gyrus (pl. gyri).

H
Habenula. L. habena, strap.
Habitus. L. habitus, condition of the body.
Haemal, hemal. G. haima, blood.
Hallux. L. hallux, big toe.
Hamatum. L. hamatus, hook-shaped.
Hamulus. L. dim. hamus, hook.
Haploid. G. haplos, plain.
Hemiplegia. G. hemi, half, + plege, stroke.
Hemisphere. G. hemi, half, + sphaira, ball.
Hemoglobin, Haemoglobin. G. haima, blood, + L. globus, sphere.
Haemoglobin.
Hemopoietic, Haemopoietic. G. haima, blood, + poietikos, creative.
Hepatic. L. hepar, liver.
Hernia. L. hernia, protrusion.
Hiatus. L. hiatus, gap.
Hilum. L. hilum, a small thing.
Hippocampus. G. hippos, horse, + kamos, sea monster.
Histology. G. histos, web, + logos, treatise.
Holocrine. G. holos, whole, + krinein, to separate.
Homology. G. homos, same, + logos, treatise.
Hormone. G. hormaein, to excite.
Humerus. L. humerus, shoulder.
Humor. L. humor, moisture, fluid.
Hyaline. G. hyalos, glass.
Hydrocephalus. G. hydor, water, + kephale, head.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Hydrocoele, Hydrocele.  G. hydro, water, + koilos, hollow.
Hymen.  G. hymen, membrane.
Hyoid.  G. hyoeides, U-shaped.
Hypaxial.  G. hypo, under, + L. axis, centre line, axis.
Hypoglossal.  G. hypo, under, + glossa, tongue.
Hypophysis.  G. hypo, under, + physis, growth.
Hypospadias.  G. hypo, under, + N.L. spadias, F. spadon, eunuch, F. span, to draw.
Hypothalamus.  G. hypo, under, + thalamos, chamber, couch.

I

Icterus.  G. ikteros, jaundice.
Ileum.  G. eilein, to wind or turn.
Iliacus.  See ilium.
Ilium.  L. ileum, flank.
Ima.  L. ima, lowest.
Impar.  L. impar, unequal.
Implantation.  L. in, in, + plantere, to plant.
Impression.  L. in, in, + premere, to press.
Incisor.  L. incisus (incidere), cut.
Incisura.  L. incidere, to cut into.
Incus.  L. incus, anvil.
Index.  L. index, pointer.
Inductor.  L. inducere, to lead on, excite.
Indusium.  L. indusium, tunic.
Infraspinous.  L. infra, below, + spina, spine.
Infundibulum.  L. infundibulum, a funnel.
Ingual.  L. inguina, groin.
Inion.  G. inion, back of head.
Innervation.  L. in, in, + nervus, nerve.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Innominate. L. in, in, + nomen, name, unnamed bone, unnamed artery.
Insertion. L. in, in, + serere, to plant.
Insula. L. insula, island.
Integument. L. in, over, + tegere, to cover.
Intercalated. L. inter, between, + calare, to call, inserted or placed between.
Intercostal. L. inter, between, + costa, rib.
Interdigitating. L. inter, between, + digitus, digit, interlocked by finger-like processes.
Interstitial. L. inter, between, + sistere, to set, thus placed in spaces or gaps.
Intervertebral. L. inter, between, + vertebra, joint.
Intestine. L. intus, within, or L. intestina, guts, entrails.
Intima. L. intima, innermost.
Intrinsic. L. intrinsicus, inward.
Introitus. L. intro, within, + ire, to go.
Invagination. L. in, in, + vagina, sheath.
Inversion. L. in, in, + vertere, to turn.
Iris. G. iris, rainbow.
Ischium (pl. -ia). G. ischion, hip.
Isthmus. G. isthmos, narrow connection.

J

Jejunum. L. jejunos, empty (of food), that part of intestine that appears empty.
Jugal. L. jugum, yoke.
Jugular. L. jugularis (jugulum), pertaining to the neck.
Jugum. L. jugum, yoke.
Juxtaposition. L. juxta, near, + positio, place.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

K
Karyocyte. G. karyon, nucleus, nut, + kytos, cell.
Karyolysis. G. karyon, nucleus, nut, + lysis, loosening.
Keratin. G. keras, horn.
Kinetic. G. kinesis, movement.
Kyphosis. G. kyphos, bent.

L
Labial. L. labialis (labia), pertaining to lips.
Labium. L. labium, lip.
Labrum. L. labrum, rim.
Labyrinth. G. labyrinthos, maze.
Lacerate. L. lacerare, to tear.
Lacrimal. L. lacrima, tear.
Lactation. L. lactare, to suckle.
Lacteals. L. lactare, to suckle.
Lacuna. L. lacuna, pond.
Lacus. L. lacus, lake.
Lambdoid. G. lambda, shaped like Greek letter L.
Lamella. L. dim. of lamina, leaf.
Lamina (pl. -ae). L. lamina, thin plate.
Lanugo. L. lanugo, fine hair.
Laparotomy. L. lapara, flank, + tome, section, cut.
Larynx. G. larynx, upper part of windpipe.
Lateral. L. lateralis (latus), pertaining to a side.
Latissimus. L. superlative, latus, broad, therefore very broad.
Leminiscus. G. leminiskos, band.
Lemma. G. lemma, skin.
### Alphabetical List of Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lens</td>
<td>L. <em>lens</em>, lentil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leucocyte</td>
<td>G. <em>leukos</em>, white, + <em>kytos</em>, cell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukocyte</td>
<td>G. <em>leukos</em>, white, + <em>kytos</em>, cell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levator</td>
<td>L. <em>levare</em>, to raise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lien</td>
<td>L. <em>lien</em>, spleen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieno-</td>
<td>L. <em>lien</em>, spleen from original L. <em>spleen</em> (the sp having been dropped).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligamentum</td>
<td>L. <em>ligamentum</em>, a bandage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligature</td>
<td>L. <em>ligare</em>, to bind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limbus</td>
<td>L. <em>limbus</em>, border.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limen</td>
<td>L. <em>limen</em>, threshold.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ling-</td>
<td>L. <em>lingua</em>, tongue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lingual</td>
<td>L. <em>lingua</em>, tongue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lingula</td>
<td>L. <em>lingula</em>, small tongue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>AS. <em>lifer</em>, liver.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobus</td>
<td>G. <em>lobos</em>, lobe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locus</td>
<td>L. <em>locus</em>, place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longus</td>
<td>L. <em>longus</em>, long.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lordosis</td>
<td>G. <em>lordoo</em>, I bend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucidum</td>
<td>L. <em>lucidus</em> (<em>lux</em>), full of light, clear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbar</td>
<td>L. <em>lumbare</em>, apron for the loins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbrical</td>
<td>L. <em>lumbricus</em>, earthworm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumen</td>
<td>L. <em>lumen</em>, light, opening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunate</td>
<td>L. <em>luna</em>, moon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>AS. <em>lunge</em>, lung.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luteum</td>
<td>L. <em>luteus</em>, yellow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymph</td>
<td>L. <em>lympha</em>, spring water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocyte</td>
<td>L. <em>lympha</em>, spring water, + G. <em>kytos</em>, cell.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

**M**

- **Macrophage.**  G. *makros*, large, + *phagein*, to eat.
- **Macrosopic.**  G. *makros*, large, + *skopeo*, I see.
- **Macula.**  L. *macula*, spot, stain.
- **Magnus, -a, -um.**  L. *magnus*, large.
- **Malar.**  L. *mala*, cheek bone.
- **Malleus.**  L. *malleus*, hammer.
- **Mammary.**  L. *mamma*, breast.
- **Mammillary.**  L. dim. *mammillaris* (*mamma*, -ae), little breast.
- **Mandible.**  L. *mando*, I chew.
- **Manubrium.**  L. *manubrium*, handle, hilt (as of a sword).
- **Manus.**  L. *manus*, hand.
- **Marginal.**  L. *marginalis* (*margo*), bordering.
- **Masseter.**  G. *masseter*, chewer.
- **Mastication.**  L. *masticatio*, chewing.
- **Mastoid.**  G. *mastos*, breast, + *eidos*, form, likeness.
- **Mater.**  A. *mater*, wrap or nutrient.
- **Matrix.**  L. *matrix* (*mater*), womb, groundwork, mold.
- **Maxilla.**  L. *maxilla*, jaw, now bone of upper jaw.
- **Meatus (pl. -us).**  L. *meatus*, passage.
- **Medial.**  L. *medialis* (*medius*), pertaining to the middle.
- **Median.**  L. *medianus*, in the middle.
- **Mediastinum.**  L. *mediastinus*, servant, drudge, but anatomical term mediastinum probably derived from *per medium tensum*, tight in the middle.
- **Medulla.**  L. *medulla*, marrow, pith.
- **Megaloblast.**  G. *megas*, big, + *blastos*, bud.
- **Meiosis.**  G. *meion*, less.
- **Melanin.**  G. *melas*, black.
- **Membrane.**  L. *membrana*, skin.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Meninges. G. meninx, membrane.
Meningocoele. G. meninx, membrane, + koilos, hollow.
Meningocele. Meninx.
Meniscus. L. menis, crescent, half-moon, dim. of mene, moon.
Meninx (pl. meninges).
Menopause. G. men, month, + pausis, cessation.
Menstruation. G. men, month, L. menstruus, pertaining to a month.
Mental. L. mentum, chin.
Merocrine. G. meros, portion, + krinein, to separate.
Mesencephalon. G. mesos, middle, + en, in, + kephale, head.
Mesenchyme. G. mesos, middle, + en, in, + chymos, juice.
Mesentery. G. mesos, midway between, + enteron, gut.
Mesocolon. G. mesos, middle, + kolon, great gut.
Mesoderm. G. mesos, middle, + derma, skin.
Mesogastrium. G. mesos, middle, + gaster, stomach.
Mesonephros. G. mesos, middle, + nephros, kidney.
Mesosalpinx. G. mesos, middle, + salpinx, tube.
Mesothelium. G. mesos, middle, + thele, nipple, hence middle lining layer.
Mesovarium. G. mesos, middle, + L. ovarium, ovary.
Metabolic. G. metabole, change.
Metacarpus. G. meta, after, + L. carpus, wrist.
Metamorphosis. G. meta, after + morphe, form, signifying change.
Metanephros. G. meta, after, + nephros, kidney.
Metaphase. G. meta, after, + phasis, appearance.
Metaphysis. G. meta, after, + physis, growth.
Metaplasia. G. meta, after, + plasma, formed, molded.
Metatarsus. G. meta, after, + L. tarsus, ankle.
Metathalamus. G. meta, after, + thalamus, chamber.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Metencephalon. G. meta, after, + enkephalos, brain.
Metopic. G. metopon, forehead.
Microcephaly. G. mikros, small, + kephale, head.
Microdont. G. mikros, small, + odous, tooth.
Microglia. G. mikros, small, + gloia, glue.
Microscope. G. mikros, small, + skopeo, I look.
Microsmatic. G. mikros, small, + osmaomai, to smell.
Microsome. G. mikros, small, + soma, body.
Microtome. G. mikros, small, + tome, cutting.
Minimus. L. minimus, least.
Mitochondria. G. mitos, thread, + chondrion, grain.
Mitosis. G. mitos, thread.
Mitral. L. mitra, turban, but Hebrew priest headress the only head covering that the mitral valve resembles.
Modiolus. L. modiolus, hub.
Molar. L. molaris (mola), pertaining to a millstone.
Mono-. G. monos, alone.
Monocyte. G. monos, single, + kytos, cell.
Mons. L. mons, mountain.
Morph-. G. morphe, shape.
Morphology. G. morphos, form, + logos, treatise.
Morula. L. morus, mulberry.
Mucus. L. mucus, G. muxa, snivel, slippery secretion.
Multifidus. L. multifidus, much divided.
Multiparous. L. multus, many, + parire, to give birth.
Muscle. L. musculus, little mouse.
Mydriasis. G. mydriasis, dilation of pupil.
Myelencephalon. G. myelos, marrow, + enkephalos, brain.
Myelin. G. myelos, marrow.
Myenteric. G. mys, muscle, + enteron, gut.
Mylohyoid. G. myle, mill, + hyoeides, U-shaped.
Myocardium. G. mys, myos, muscle, + kardia, heart.
Alphabetical List of Terms


N

N.A.  Nomina Anatomica.
Nasion.  L. *nasus*, nose.
Nates.  L. *nates*, buttocks.
Navel.  AS. *nafæ*, centre of hub of wheel.
Navicular.  L. *navicula*, small boat.
Necrosis.  G. *nekrosis*, a killing.
Neo-.  G. *neos*, new.
Neural.  G. *neuron*, nerve.
Nictitans.  L. *nictare*, to wink.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Nigra.  L. niger, black.
Nictitating.  L. nictare, to wink.
Node.  L. nodus, knot.
Norma.  L. norma, rule, square used by carpenters, hence standard viewpoint.
Normoblast.  L. norma, rule, + blastos, bud.
Notochord.  G. noton, back, + chorde, cord.
Nucha.  L. nucha, nape of neck.
Nuchal.  L. nucha, nape of neck.
Nucleolus.  L. nucleus, nut. New derivation “small nucleus.”
Nucleus.  L. nucleus, nut.
Nystagmus.  G. nystagma, short sleep (during which rhythmic head movements occur), modern use, rhythmic eye movements.

O

Obelion.  G. obelos, pointed pillar.
Obliquus.  L. obliquus, slanting.
Obturator.  L. obturo, I stop up.
Occipital.  L. occipitum, back of head.
Occlusion.  L. ob, before, + claudio, I close.
Oculomotor.  L. oculus, eye, + motor, mover.
Odontoblast.  G. odous, tooth, + blastos, bud.
Odontoid.  G. odous, tooth, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Oedema, Edema.  G. oidema, swelling.
Oesophagus, Esophagus.  G. oisein (phero), to carry, + phagein, to eat.
Oestrus, Estrus.  G. oistros, stinging insect, stung into activity at time of heat.
Olecranon.  G. olene, elbow, + kranion, head.
Olfactory.  L. olere, to smell, + facere, to make.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Oligodendroglia.  G. oligos, few, + dendron, tree, + gloia, glue.
Omentum.  L. omentum, adipose membrane enclosing the bowels.
Omohyoid.  G. omos, shoulder, + G. hypoeides, U-shaped; thus muscle passing from shoulder to U-shaped hyoid bone.
Ontogeny.  G. onta, things that exist, + gennan, to beget.
Oocyte.  G. oon, egg, + kylos, hollow body.
Oogenesis.  G. oon, egg, + genesis, birth.
Oogonium.  G. oon, egg, + gonos, offspring.
Operculum.  L. operculum, corner or lid.
Opisthion.  G. opisthios, posterior.
Ophthalmic.  G. ophthalmos, eye.
Opposition.  L. ob, in the way of, + positus, placed.
Optic.  G. opsis, sight.
Oral.  L. os, oris, mouth; (compare L. os, bone, below).
Ora serrata.  L. ora, edge, + serra, saw.
Orbit.  L. orbis, anything circular.
Organ.  L. organum, implement.
Orifice.  L. orificium, opening.
Os.  L. os, bone.
Osseous.  L. os (pl. ossa), bone.
Ossicle.  L. ossiculum, small bone.
Ossification.  L. os, bone, + facere, to make.
Osteone.  G. osteon, bone.
Osteocyte.  G. osteon, bone, + kytos, cell.
Osteology.  G. osteon, bone, + logos, treatise.
Osteolysis.  G. osteon, bone, + lysis, melting.
Osteomalacia.  G. osteon, bone, + malakia, softness.
Ostium.  L. ostium, door.
Otic.  G. otikos, belonging to the ear.
Otolith.  G. ous, otos, ear, + lithos, stone.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Ovary. L. ovum, egg.
Oviduct. L. ovm, egg, + ductus, duct, tube.
Oviparous. L. ovum, egg, + parus, giving birth by laying eggs.
Ovum (pl. ova). L. ovum, egg.
Oxynitec. G. oxyntos, making acid.
Oxytocin. G. oxys, swift, + tokos, birth.

P

Pachymeninges. G. pachys, thick, + meninx, membrane.
Palate. L. palatum, palate.
Pallidus. L. pallidus, pale.
Pallium. L. pallium, cloak.
Palma. L. palma, the (open) hand.
Palpebra. L. palpebra, eyelid.
Pampiniform. L. pampineus, full of or wrapped around with vine leaves, + forma, likeness.
Pancreas. G. pan, all, + kreas, flesh.
Panniculus. L. panniculus, small piece of cloth; hence covering of deeper tissues.
Papilla. L. papilla, nipple of breast.
Papilloedema, Papilledema. L. papilla, nipple, + oedema, swelling.
Paracentesis. G. para, alongside of, + kentesis, puncture.
Paradidymis. G. para, alongside of, + didymos, double, hence alongside the testes.
Paradox. G. para, alongside of, + doxa, belief.
Paraesthesia, Paresthesia. G. para, alongside of, + aisthesis, sensation.
Paraflocculus. G. para, alongside of, + L. floccus, flock of wool.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Parenchyma.  G. *parenchyma*, pouring out into the adjacent.
Paresis.  G. *paresis*, relaxation.
Parietal.  L. *paries*, wall.
Parieties.  L. *paries*, wall.
Parous.  L. *pario*, to bear.
Pars.  L. *pars*, part.
Patella.  L. *patella*, small pan.
Patulous.  L. *patulus*, standing open.
Pecten.  L. *pecten*, comb.
Pectoral.  L. *pectoralis* (*pectus*), belonging to the breast.
Pedicle.  L. *pes*, foot.
Pedunculus.  L. *pediculus*, a little foot.
Pellucida.  L. *per*, through, + *lucere*, to shine.
Pelvic.  L. *pelvis*, basin.
Penis.  L. *penis*, tail.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Penniform.
L. *penna*, feather, + *forma*, form, likeness.

Pepsin.
G. *pepsis*, digestion.

Pepsinogen.
G. *pepsis*, digestion, + *gennao*, I produce.

Percussion.
L. *percussio*, striking.

Pericardial.
G. *peri*, around, + *kardia*, heart.

Perichondrium.
G. *peri*, around, + *chondros*, cartilage.

Perilymph.
G. *peri*, around, + L. *lympha*, fluid.

Perimysium.
G. *peri*, around, + *mys*, muscle.

Perineum.
G. *perinaion*, perineum.

Periodontal.
G. *peri*, around, + *odous*, tooth.

Periosteum.
G. *peri*, around, + * osteon*, bone.

Peristalsis.
G. *peristaltikos*, clasping and compressing.

Peritoneum.
G. *peri*, around, + *teinein*, to stretch.

Peroneal.
G. *perone*, = L. *fibula*, pin; hence pertaining to needle-shaped leg bone.

Pes.
L. *pes*, foot.

Petrosal.
L. *petrosus*, rocky.

Petrosus.
L. *petrosus*, rocky.

Phagocyte.
G. *phagein*, to eat, + *kytos*, cell.

Phalanges.
G. *phalanx*, band of soldiers; singular *phalanx*, originally denoted whole set of bones of a digit not just one bone.

Phallic.
G. *phallikos*, pertaining to the penis.

Phallus.
G. *phallos*, phallus; penis was a later meaning.

Pharynx.
G. *pharynx*, throat.

Phenotype.
G. *phainein*, to display, + *typos*, type.

Philtrum.
G. *philtron*, love potion, anything that awakens love.

Phonation.
G. *phone*, voice.

Photoreceptor.

Phrenic.
G. *phren*, diaphragm.
Alphabetical List of Terms

**Physic.** G. *physikos*, natural.
**Physis.** G. *phyein*, to generate, hence an outgrowth.
**Pia.** L. *pius*, delicate.
**Pilus.** L. *pilus*, hair.
**Pineal.** L. *pinea*, pine cone.
**Pinna (pl. -ae).** L. *penna*, *pinna*, feather; hence, wing.
**Piriform.** L. *pirum*, pear, + *forma*, shape, likeness.
**Pisiform.** L. *pisum*, pea, + *forma*, shape.
**Pituitary.** L. *pituita*, slime, phlegm; at one time believed to secrete a mucous material from the brain into the nose.
**Placenta.** L. *placenta*, a flat cake.
**Placode.** G. *plax*, anything flat.
**Planta.** L. *planta*, sole of the foot.
**Plantigrade.** L. *planta*, side of foot, + *gradior*, to walk.
**Plasma.** G. *plasma*, something formed.
**Platelet.** OF. *plate*, plate.
**Platycephaly.** G. *platys*, flat, + *kephale*, head.
**Platycnemia.** G. *platys*, flat, + *kneme*, knee; hence condition of side-to-side flattening of tibia giving prominence to its anterior border.
**Platymeria.** G. *platys*, flat, + *meros*, thigh; as previous for thigh.
**Platysma.** G. *platysma*, plate.
**Pleomorphic.** G. *pleon*, more (or many) + G. *morphos*, forms.
**Pleura.** G. *pleura*, rib; i.e. related to the ribs.
**Plexus (pl. -us).** L. *plexus*, plaiting, braid.
**Plica.** L. *plicare*, to fold.
**Pneumatic.** G. *pneumatikos*, pertaining to breath.
**Pod.** G. *pous, podos*, foot.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Poikilocyte.  
G. poikilos, diversified, + kytos, cell.

Pollex.  
L. pollex, thumb.

Polymorphonuclear.  
G. polys, many, + morphe, form,  
+ L. nucleus, nut; hence mixed term.

Pons.  
L. pons, pontis, bridge.

Popliteus.  
L. poples, ham.

Pore.  
L. porus, passage.

Porta.  
L. porta (pl. -ae), gate.

Portal.  
L. porta (pl. -ae), gate.

Portio.  
L. portio, part.

Porus.  
G. poros, passage.

Praecordium, Precordium.  
L. prae, in front of, + cordis, of the heart.

Pregnancy.  
L. prae, before, + gnascor, to be born.

Premolar.  
L. pre, in front, + molaris, molar.

Prepuce.  
L. praeputium, foreskin.

Presbyopia.  
G. presbys, old man, + opsis, sight.

Primordial.  
L. primordium, beginning.

Procerus.  
L. procerus, tall, extended.

Processus.  
L. processus, going forwards.

Prochordal.  
G. pro, in front of, + chorde, cord.

Proctodeum.  
G. proktos, anus, + hodaios, pertaining to a way.

Profundus.  
L. profundus, deep.

Progeria.  
G. pro, before, + geras, old age.

Progesterone.  
G. pro, before, + gerere, to bear.

Prognathism.  
G. pro, in front of, + gnathos, jaw.

Promontory.  
G. promontorium, mountain ridge.

Pronator.  
L. pronare, to turn face downward.

Pronephros.  
G. pro, before, + nephros, kidney.

Pronograde.  
L. pronus, bent downward, + gradus step.

Prophase.  
G. pro, before, + phainein, to show.

Proprioceptor.  
L. proprius, special, + capere, to take.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Proptosis. G. pro, before, + ptosis, falling.
Prosector. G. pro, before, + L. secare, to cut.
Prosencephalon. G. pro, before, + enkephalos, brain.
Prostate. L. pro, in front, + stare, to stand.
Prosthion. G. prosthene, before.
Proto-. G. protos, first.
Protoplasm. G. protos, first, + plasma, form.
Protuberance. L. protubero, I swell.
Proximal. L. proximus, next.
Psoas. G. psos, loin.
Pterygoid. G. pteryx, wing, + eidos, likeness, shape.
Ptosis. G. ptosis, fall.
Puberty. L. pubes, mature.
Pubes. L. pubes, mature.
Pudendal. L. pudere, to be ashamed.
Pulmonary. L. pulmo, lung.
Pulmones. L. pulmo, lung.
Pulpa. L. pulpa, soft part of animal body.
Pulvinar. L. pulvinar, cushioned couch.
Punctum. L. punctum, point.
Pupil. L. pupa, girl.
Putamen. L. putamen, shell, husk.
Pyelogram. G. pyelos, tub, trough, + gramma, mark.
Pyelograph. G. pyelos, tub, trough, + graphein, to draw.
Pyknic. G. pyknos, compact.
Pyknosis. G. pyknos, compact.
Pylorus. G. pylouros, gate-keeper.
Pyramid. G. pyramis, pyramid.
Pyriform. L. pirum, pear, + forma, shape.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Q

Quadrangular. L. _quattuor_ four + L. _angulus_, four angles.
Quadratus. L. _quadratus_, squared.
Quadriceps. L. _quattuor_, four, + _caput_, head.
Quadrigeminus. L. _quadrigeminus_, four-fold, four.
Quadruplets. L. _quadruplaris_, fourfold.

R

Racemose. L. _racemosus_, clustering.
Radial. L. _radius_, rod, spoke.
Radicle. L. _radix_, root.
Radius. L. _radius_, rod, spoke.
Radix. L. _radix_, root.
Ramify. L. _ramus_, branch, + _facere_, to make.
Ramus. L. _ramus_, branch.
Raphe. G. _raphe_, seam.
Receptor. L. _recipere_, to take back, receive.
Recess. L. _recessus_, retreat.
Rectum, rectus. L. _rectus_, straight.
Reflect. L. _reflecto_, to turn back.
Renal. L. _renes_, kidneys.
Restiform. L. _restis_, rope, + _forma_, shape, form.
Rete. L. _rete_, network.
Reticulocyte. L. _reticulum_, little net, + _kytos_, cell.
Reticulum. L. _reticulum_, little net.
Retina. L. _rete_, net.
Retinaculum. L. _retinaculum_, band.
Retraction. L. _re_, back, + _trahere_, to draw.
Retractor. L. _retrahere_, to draw back.
Rhinal. G. _rhis_, nose.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Rhinion. G. rhinion, nostril.
Ribosome. G. ribose, an aldopentose, + soma, body.
Rima. L. rima, cleft.
Risorius. L. risus, laughter.
Rostrum (pl. -a). L. rostrum, beak.
Rotator. L. rotare, to whirl about.
Ruga (pl. -ae). L. ruga, wrinkle.

S
Sac. L. saccus, sack.
Sacculus. L. sacculus, a little bag.
Sacrum. L. sacer, sacred.
Sagittal. L. sagitta, arrow; shape of sagittal suture including the lambdoid suture.
Salivary. L. saliva, saliva.
Salpinx. G. salpinx, trumpet.
Saphenous. A. al-safin, hidden (later G. saphenes, visible).
Sarcolemma. G. sarx, flesh, + lemma, husk, skin.
Sartorius. L. sartor, tailor.
Scala. L. scala, staircase.
Scalene. G. skalenos, uneven.
Scalp. Teutonic. skalp, shell.
Scalpel. L. scalprum, knife.
Scaphoid. G. skaphe, boat, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Scapula. L. scapulae, shoulder-blades.
Sciatic. G. ischion, hip joint.
Sclera. G. skleros, hard.
Sclerotic. G. skleros, hard.
Scoliosis. G. skoliosis, curvature.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Scrotum.  L. scrotum, skin.
Sebaceous.  L. sebum, tallow, grease.
Sebum.  L. sebum, tallow.
Sella turcica.  L. sella, saddle, + turcica, Turkish.
Semen.  L. semen, seed.
Semilunar.  L. semi, half, + luna, moon.
Semimembranosus.  L. semi, half, + membranosus, membrane.
Seminiferous.  L. semen, seed, + ferre, to bear.
Semitendinosus.  L. semi, half, + tendinosus, tendon.
Septum.  L. saeptum, fence.
Serratus.  L. serra, saw.
Serum.  L. serum, whey.
Sesamoid.  G. sesamen, sesame plant, or seed, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Sialogram.  G. sialon, saliva, + gramma, mark.
Sigmoid.  G. sigma, Greek letter, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Sinister.  L. sinister, left side or unlucky.
Sinus (pl. -us).  L. sinus, curve, cavity, bosom.
Sinusoid.  L. sinus, curve, cavity, + eidos, shape, likeness.
Situs inversus  L. situs, site, position, + inversus, inverted,
viscerum.  + viscerum, of the viscera.
Skeleton.  G. skeletos, dried.
Smegma.  G. smegma, soap.
Soleus.  L. solea, sandal, sole.
Soma.  G. soma, body.
Somatic.  G. soma (pl. somata), body.
Somatopleure.  G. soma, body, + pleura, side.
Somite.  G. soma, body, + suffix -ite, indicating origin.
Sperm.  G. sperma, seed.
Spermatocyte.  G. sperma, seed, + kytos, cell.
Spermatogenesis.  G. sperma, seed, + genesis, origin.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Sphincter.  G. *sphingein*, to bind tight.
Spina.  L. *spina*, thorn.
Splanchnic.  G. *splanchna*, viscera.
Spleen.  L. *splen*, spleen.
Squamos-.  L. *squama*, scale.
Stapes.  L. *stapes*, stirrup.
Stenosis.  G. *stenosis*, narrowing.
Sternum.  G. *sternon*, chest.
Sthenic.  G. *sthenos*, strength.
Stomach.  G. *stomachos*, gullet, oesophagus.
Strabismus.  G. *strabismos*, squinting.
Stratum (pl. strata).  L. *stratum*, layer.
Stria.  L. *stria*, furrow.
Striatum.  L. *striatus*, grooved, streaked.
Stroma.  G. *stroma*, blanket.
Substantia.  L. *substantia*, substance.
Sulcus.  L. *sulcus*, furrow.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Supination. L. supinus, lying on the back.
Supinator. L. supinare, to bend backward.
Supracostal. L. supra, above, + costa, rib.
Supraspinatus. L. supra, above, + spina, thorn.
Surgery. L. chirurgia, from G. cheir, hand, + ergon, work.
Sural. L. sura, calf of leg.
Sustentaculum. L. sustentaculum, support.
Suture. L. sutura, seam, sewing together.
Sympathetic. G. syn, together, + pathein, to suffer.
Symphysis. G. syn, together, + physis, growth.
Synapse. G. syn, together, + haptein, to fasten.
Synarthrosis. G. syn, together, + arthron, joint.
Synchrondrosis. G. syn, together, + chondros, cartilage.
Synctium. G. syn, together, + cytos, cell.
Syndesmosis. G. syn, together, + desmosis, band.
Syndrome. G. syndrome, occurrence.
Synergy. G. syn, together, + ergon, work.
Synostosis. G. syn, together, + osteon, bone.
Synovia. G. syn, together, + ovum, egg.
Systole. G. systole, contraction.

T

Tabular. L. tabula, board, table.
Taenia, Tenia. L. taenia, band, ribbon.
Talipes. L. talipedo, weak in the feet (talipes, clubfoot).
Talonid. L. talus, ankle bone, + G. eidos, form, likeness.
Talus. L. talus, ankle-bone.
Tapetum. L. tapete, carpet, tapestry.
Tarsus. G. tarsos, sole of the foot.
Tectum. L. tectum (tego), roof.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Tegmen. L. tegmen, covering.
Tegmentum. L. tegumentum, covering.
Tela. L. tela, web.
Telencephalon. G. telos, end, + enkephalos, brain.
Telophase. G. tele, far, distant, + phasis, stage.
Temporal. L. temporals, belonging to time.
Temporal. L. tempora, the temples.
Temporalis. L. tempus, time.
Tendon. L. tendere, to stretch.
Tensor. L. tendere, to stretch.
Tentorium. L. tentorium, tent.
Teres. L. tero, I grind, rub.
Terminalis. L. terminare, to limit.
Testicle. L. testiculus, testis.
Testis. L. testis, testicle; a witness.
Tetany. G. tetanus, stiffness.
Thalamus. G. thalamos, chamber.
Theca. L. theca, envelope, sheath.
Thenar. G. thenar, hand.
Theory. G. theoreo, I consider, contemplate.
Thorax (pl. thoraces). G. thorax, breast-plate, breast.
Thrombocyte. G. thrombos, lump, + kytos, cell.
Thrombus. G. thrombus, lump.
Thymus. G. thymos, thyme.
Thyroid. G. thyreos, shield, + eidos, form.
Tibia. L. tibia, long flute.
Tonsil. L. tonsilla, mooring post.
Tome. G. tennein, to cut.
Trabecula (pl. -ae). L. trabecula, a little beam.
Trachea. G. tracheia, windpipe.
Tract. L. tractus, wool drawn out for spinning.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Tragus. G. tragos, goat, from small tuft of hair (goat’s beard) in this region.
Trapezius. G. trapezion, small four-sided table.
Triceps. L. tres, three, + caput, head.
Tricuspid. L. tres, three, + cuspis, point.
Trigeminus. L. trigeminus, born three together.
Trigone. L. trigonum, triangle.
Triquetrum. L. triquetrus, three-cornered, triangular.
Trochanter. G. trochos, wheel, pulley.
Trochlea. G. trochilia, pulley.
Trophoblast. G. trophe, nourishment, + blastos, bud.
Truncus. L. truncus, trunk of tree.
Tuberculum. L. tuberculum, a small hump.
Tuberosity. L. tuber, round smooth swelling.
Tunica. L. tunica, undergarment.
Tympanic. L. tympanum, drum.

U

Ulna. L. ulna, elbow.
Umbilicus. L. umbilicus, navel.
Unciform. L. uncus, hook, + forma, shape.
Uncinate. L. uncinatus, furnished with a hook.
Uncus. L. uncus, hook.
Ungual. L. unguis, claw, nail.
Unipennate. L. unus, one, + penna, feather.
Urachus. G. ouron, urine, + cheo, I pour.
Urea. G. ouron, urine.
Ureter. G. ouron, urine, + tereo, to preserve.
Urethra. G. ouethra, word invented by Hippocrates (c. 460 B.C.).
Urine. G. ouron, urine.
Urogenital. G. ouron, urine, + L. genitalis, genital.
Alphabetical List of Terms

Uterus.  L. *uterus*, womb.
Utriculus.  L. *utriculus*, small skin or leather bottle.
Uvea.  L. *uva*, grape.
Uvula.  L. *uva*, grape.

V

Vagina.  L. *vagina*, sheath.
Vagus.  L. *vagus*, wandering.
Vallate.  L. *vallum*, rampart, walled.
Vallecula.  L. dim. of *vallus*, fossa.
Valve.  L. *valva*, leaf of door.
Valvula.  L. *valvula*, a little fold, valve.
Varus.  L. *varus*, knock-kneed (term has become transposed, see Valgus).
Vas.  L. *vas*, vessel.
Vascular.  L. *vasculum*, small vessel.
Vein.  L. *vena*, vein.
Velum.  L. *velum*, veil.
Venter.  L. *venter*, belly.
Ventral.  L. *venter*, belly.
Ventricle.  L. *ventriculus*, little cavity, loculus.
Vermis.  L. *vermis*, worm.
Vernix.  L. *vernatio*, shedding of snake skin.
Vertebra.  L. *vertebra*, joint.
Vertex.  L. *vertex*, whirl, whirlpool.
Vesica.  L. *vesica*, bladder.
Vesicle.  L. *vesicula*, a small bladder.
Vestibulum.  L. *vestibulum*, entrance court.
Anatomical Terms and their Derivation

Vestige. L. *vestigium*, trace, footprint.
Villus (pl. villi). L. *villus*, hair.
Vincula. L. *vinculum*, band, cord.
Visceral. L. *viscera*, entrails, bowels.
Viscus. L. *viscus*, internal organ.
Vitelline. L. *vitellus*, yolk of egg.
Vitellus. L. *vitellus*, little calf (became transferred to yolk of egg by Celsus c. 10 A.D.).
Vitreus, vitreous. L. *vitreus*, of glass; hence, transparent.
Volar. L. *vola*, palm of hand.
Volvulus. L. *volvulus*, twisted.
Vomer. L. *vomer*, ploughshare.
Vorticosae. L. *vertex*, whirl, whirlpool.
Vulva. L. *volva*, cover.

X


Z

Zona. L. *zona*, belt, girdle.
Zonula. L. dim. of *zona*, belt, girdle.
Zygoma. G. *zygoma*, yoke.
Zygomatic. G. *zygoma*, yoke.
Zygote. G. *zygoein*, to yoke together.