SECTION 16  ONCOLOGY

The word oncology simply means the study of tumors. There are more than 100 different types of cancers known to attack the human body. Through continued documentation of tumors, the treatments used, and the effects of these treatments, oncologists have made great strides in helping to combat the negative effects of these abnormal masses of tissue called tumors.

Word Elements (We will first look at some of the word elements that might be used in this system. Listen as each word element is being pronounced. Practice these word elements several times before going on to the next section.)

aden/o (ad e no) means gland
adeno

-algia (al’ je ah) means pain or suffering
algia

an- means without or not
an

angi/o (an’ je o) means blood or lymph vessel
angio

bas/o (ba so) means bottom or lowest part
baso
blast/o (blas to) means primitive cell or immature cell
blasto

carcin/o (kar si no) means cancerous
carcino

chem/o (ke mo) means chemical or drug
chemo

chondr/o (kon dro) means cartilage
chondro

cyst/o (sis to) means sac of fluid or bladder
cysto

dosi (do si) means dose
dosi-

-emia (em e a) means blood condition
emia

fibrin/o (fi brin o), fibr/o (fi bro) means fiber
fibrino, fibro
hem/o (he” mo) means blood
hemo

hist/o (his to) means tissue
histo

hyper- (hi per) means excessive, over, above
hyper

immun/o (im u no) means safe or protection
immuno

inter- (in ter) means between
inter

lei/o (li o) means smooth
leio

leiomy/o (li o mi o) means smooth muscle
leiomyo

lip/o (li po, lip o) means fat or lipid
lipo
-logy (lo je) means study of

logy

medull/o (med u lo) means soft inner part, inner section, middle

medullo

-megaly (meg a le) means enlargement

megaly

melan/o (mel a no) means black or darkness

melano

meta- (met’ a) means change

meta

metr/o (me tro, met ro) means an instrument used to measure or the uterus

metro

muta- (mu ta) means genetic change

muta

mutagen/o (mu ta jen o) means causing genetic change

mutageno
myel/o (mi e lo, mi el o) means bone marrow or spinal cord
myelo

my/o (mi o) means muscle
myo

ne/o (ne o) means new or strange
neo

-oid (oyd) means like or resembling
oid

-oma (o ma) means tumor or neoplasm
oma

onc/o (ong ko) is another word element that means tumor
onco

papill/o (pap i lo) means nipple-like or nipple-shaped
papillo

-pathy (path e) means disease or feeling, suffering
pathy
-plasia (pla ze a), -plasm (pla zm), -plaso (pla zo) means formation or growth
plasia, plasm, plaso

polyp/o (pol ip o) means tumor on a stem called a polyp (pol’ ip)
polypo

radi/o (ra de o) means x-rays or rays
radio

sarc/o (sar ko) means flesh; this word element is very similar to another word element
sacr/o (sa’ kro) which means sacrum, the next to the last part of the lower spine. Be careful not to confuse these two root words.
sarco

scirrh/o (skir o) means hard
scirrho

squam/o (skwa mo) means scaly
squamo

-therapy (ther’ a pe) means treatment
therapy
trans- (trans) means through or across

trans

Oncology Words

adenocarcinoma (ad” e no kar” sin o’ ma) is a malignant adenoma arising from a glandular organ

    aden/o means gland
    carcin/o means cancerous
    -oma means tumor

adenocarcinoma

adenopathy (ad e nop’ a the) is the enlargement of glands, especially lymph nodes

    aden/o means gland
    -pathy means disease

adenopathy

anemia (a ne’ me a) is the reduction below the normal number of erythrocytes, quantity of hemoglobin, or volume of packed red cells in blood

    an- means without
    -emia means blood condition

anemia

basal cell carcinoma (ba’ sal kar” si no’ ma) is a malignancy of the skin that rarely metastasizes
bas/o means bottom

carcin/o means cancerous

-oma means tumor

basal cell carcinoma

blastoma (blas to’ ma) is a neoplasm composed of immature, undifferentiated cells derived from the blastema of an organ or tissue

blast/o means immature

-oma means tumor

blastoma

carcinoma (kar’ si no’ ma) is a malignant new growth

carcin/o means cancerous

-oma means tumor

carcinoma

chemotherapy (ke” mo ther’ a pe) is the treatment of a disease by use of chemical reagents that have a specific and toxic effect upon disease-causing microorganisms

chem/o means chemical

-therapy means treatment

chemotherapy

chondrosarcoma (kon dro sar ko’ ma) is a malignant tumor originating from cartilage

chondr/o means cartilage
sarc/o means flesh

-oma means tumor

chondrosarcoma

cystalgia (sis tal’ je a) means pain in the bladder

cyst/o means sac of fluid

-algia means pain

cystalgia

dosimetrist (do sim’ e trist) is a health professional who calculates and plans the proper radiation dosage for treatment

dosi- means dose

metr/o means to measure

-ist means one who

dosimetrist

esophageal adenocarcinoma (e sof” a je’ al ad” e no kar” sin o’ ma) is a malignant adenoma arising from the esophagus

esophageal means pertaining to the esophagus

aden/o means gland

carcin/o means cancerous

-oma means tumor

esophageal adenocarcinoma

fibrinogen (fi brin’ o jen) is a kind of protein found in blood
fibrin/o means fiber

gen means to originate or produce

fibrinogen

fibrosarcoma (fi” bro sar ko’ ma) is a spindle-celled sarcoma containing much connective tissue

fibr/o means fiber

sarc/o means flesh

-oma means tumor

fibrosarcoma

hemangiosarcoma (he man” je o sar ko’ ma) is a malignant neoplasm originating from blood vessels

hem/o means blood

angi/o means blood vessels

sarc/o means flesh

-oma means tumor

hemangiosarcoma

histology (his tol’ o je) means the study of tissue

hist/o means tissue

-logy means study of

histology
hyperplasia (hi’ per pla’ ze a) is an abnormal increase in the number of cells in the normal tissue of an organ

hyper- means excessive
-plasia means formation or growth

hyperplasia

interstitial implant (in’ ter stish’ al) is a radioactive source placed directly into tissue rather than in a body cavity

inter- means between

interstitial implant

irradiation (i ra’ de a shun) is the treatment by x-ray

irradiation

leiomyosarcoma (li’ o mi’ o sar ko’ ma) is a combined leiomyoma (li o mi o’ ma) and sarcoma (sar ko’ ma)

lei/o means smooth
my/o means muscle
sarc/o means flesh
-oma means tumor

leiomyosarcoma

liposarcoma (lip’ o sar ko’ ma) is a malignant tumor derived from embryonal (em’ bre o nal) lipoblastic (lip’ o blast ik) cells

lip/o means fat
sarc/o means flesh
-oma means tumor

liposarcoma

malignant melanoma (mel’a no’ ma) is a darkly pigmented mole or tumor of the skin
meln/o means black or dark
-oma means tumor

malignant melanoma

medulloblast (me dul’ o blast) means undifferentiated cells of the neural tube, which may
develop into a neuroblast (nu’ ro blast) or spongioblasm (spun’ je o blast)
medull/o means inner part
-blast means immature cell

medulloblast

megaloblastoid (meg’ a lo blast oid) means resembling large nucleated cells
megal/o means large
-blast means immature cell
-oid means resembling

megaloblastoid

metastasis (me tas’ ta sis) is the process whereby cancer cells break away from the primary
site and begin secondary growths in other body parts

metastasis
mixed-tissue tumors are cancers arising from tissue that is capable of differentiating into epithelial and connective tissue

mixed-tissue tumors

multiple myeloma (mi e lo’ ma) is a neoplastic disease characterized by the infiltration of bone and bone marrow by myeloma cells forming multiple tumor masses

myel/o means bone marrow or spinal cord

-oma means tumor

multiple myeloma

mutagenesis (mu” ta jen’ e sis) is the induction of genetic mutation

mutagen/o means causing genetic change

mutagenesis

neoplasm (ne’ o plazm) is the new and abnormal formation of tissue as a tumor or growth

ne/o means new

-plasm means formation

neoplasm

oncogene (ong’ ko jen) is a special kind of gene that may cause cells to divide abnormally

onc/o means tumor

-gen means to originate or produce

-e is a noun suffix
oncogene

oncologist (ong kol’ o jist) is a person who specializes in the branch of medicine dealing with tumors

  onc/o means tumor
  -log means study of
  -ist means one who

oncologist

oncology (ong kol’ o je) is the branch of medicine dealing with tumors

  onc/o means tumor
  -logy means study of

oncology

palliative therapy (pal’ e a” tiv) is a treatment to relieve cancer symptoms even though remission seems unlikely

  palliate (pal e at) means cloaked

palliative therapy

papillated (pap’ i lat ed) means containing small, nipple-shaped projections or elevations

  papill/o means nipple-shaped or nipple-like

papillated

polypoid (pol’ e poid) means resembling a polyp (pol’ ip)
polyp/o means tumor on a stem

-oid means resembling or like

polypoid

prophylactic (pro fi lak’ tik) means tending to ward off disease

prophylactic

radiation therapy (ra de a’ shun) is the branch of medicine that utilizes radiation in the treatment of malignant neoplasms

radi/o means x-rays

radiation therapy

remission (ri mish’ un) is the temporary or permanent absence of cancer symptoms

remission

sarcoma (sar ko’ ma) is a cancer arising from connective tissue such as muscle or bone

sarc/o means flesh

-oma means tumor

sarcoma

scirrhous (skir’ rus) means hard or indurated

scirrh/o means hard

-ous means possessing or full of

scirrhous
squamous cell carcinoma (skwa’ mus) is a cancer consisting of flat, scaly, epithelial cells of the skin

squam/o means scale
carcin/o means cancerous
-oma means tumor

squamous cell carcinoma

stem cells are renewing cells which are replaced regularly

stem cells

T cells are the white blood cells that are important in the body’s immune system

T cells

TNM staging system is the system used to refer to the size and degree of invasion of a tumor in the local area, nodes, or distant sites

TNM staging system

transmutation (trans” mu ta’ shun) is the evolutionary change of one species into another

trans- means through
muta- means genetic change

transmutation
This ends the section on Oncology. If you have any questions, please ask your instructor for further clarification or refer to your textbook. You should repeat this section as many times as you feel is necessary to feel comfortable with the meaning and pronunciation of the words presented.