Tips to Learn Medical Terminology, Fast

Learn Greek and Latin Roots

Before anything else, you must understand that most medical terms are derived from Latin or Greek. By learning the Greek and Latin roots most often used in medicine, you'll be able to quickly and easily figure out the meaning of almost any term you'll come across in your career.

Flashcards

Flashcards are a great option for visual learners. Cards can give you a visual cue to connect with the medical terminology you're learning. Plus, flashcards are cheap!

Play Games

Everyone loves a good game, and games can help you learn medical terminology in a way which isn't as boring as traditional learning methods. This is especially helpful when you play games in a group and with some sort of a prize.

The easiest game to play is "Medical Terminology Jeopardy." Make index cards with categories based on Latin or Greek or body parts, then have cards for the descriptions of the medical terms which have the answer on the back. You can play this Jeopardy game as individuals or as a team.

Create Your Own Acronyms

You can memorize a group of similar or related words by creating acronyms. Just take one letter of each word and form a single new word or a phrase.

Example: Let's say you want to memorize the causes of "erythema nodosum" (definition: inflammation of the fat under the skin). This condition is usually caused by drugs, infections, pregnancy, OCP, ulcerative colitis or tuberculosis.

We take the initial letter of each cause and see if we can create a meaningful word or phrase (in this case, we already did that). Then we get the acronym: DIP OUT

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