

# Skin Deep – The Integumentary System

## Course

Medical  
Terminology

## Unit XII

The  
Integumentary  
System

## Essential Question

What medical  
terms are  
associated with  
the  
integumentary  
system?

## TEKS

130.203 (c)  
(1) (A), (C), (F)  
(2)(A), (B), (C)  
(3) (A), (B), (C)  
(4) (A), (B)

## Prior Student Learning

Basic  
understanding of  
medical roots,  
prefixes, and  
suffixes

## Estimated time

2 hours

## Rationale

Healthcare professionals must have a comprehensive medical vocabulary in order to communicate effectively with other health professionals. They should be able to use terminology of the integumentary system to discuss common its conditions and diseases.

## Objectives

Upon completion of this lesson, the learner will be able to:

- define and decipher common terms associated with the integumentary system;
- identify the basic anatomy of the integumentary system;
- analyze unfamiliar terms using the knowledge of word roots, suffixes and prefixes gained in the course;
- identify the layers of the skin and the accessory structures associated with the skin
- research diseases which involve the integumentary system;

## Engage

Go to the website <http://cte.unt.edu/health/curriculum.html> and open the PowerPoint about tattoos and piercings. Show the PowerPoint and tell your students that they will be learning about the skin.

## Key Points

- I. Skin
  - A. The largest organ of the body
  - B. Composed of sweat and oil glands, nails, hair, and skin
  - C. A system of specialized tissue
    1. Glands that secrete fluids
    2. Nerves that carry impulses
    3. Blood vessels that assist in the regulation of body temperature
  - D. The body's covering
  - E. Protector
    1. A barrier against microorganisms
    2. Protects the organs from injury
    3. Maintains and regulates body temperature
    4. Acts as a receptor for sensation (hot, cold, touch, pain)
    5. Guards the deeper tissues against excessive loss of water, salts, and heat
  - F. Removes bodily waste products
- II. Three layers of the skin
  - A. Epidermis – a thin, cellular membrane layer

- B. Dermis – a dense, fibrous connective tissue
- C. Subcutaneous tissue – a fat-containing tissue that joins the skin to the underlying muscle

### III. Epidermis

- A. Outer layer of the skin
- B. Cellular layer of the skin
- C. Composed of epithelium – covers both the internal and external surfaces of the body
- D. No blood vessels, lymphatic vessels, connective tissue, cartilage, or fat
- E. Depends on the deeper dermis (or corium) layer and its network of capillaries for nourishment
- F. The deepest layer of the epidermis is the basal layer
  - 1. Cells in the basal layer are always growing and multiplying
  - 2. As basal layer cells divide, they are pushed upwards and away from the blood supply of the dermis layer by a steady stream of younger cells
  - 3. These cells shrink, lose their nuclei, die, and become filled with a hard protein called *keratin*. They are then called *horny cells*, reflecting their keratin composition
  - 4. Within 3 to 4 weeks after living as a basal cell in the deepest part of the epidermis, the horny keratinized cell is sloughed off from the surface of the skin
- G. Constantly renewing itself
  - 1. Cells die at the same rate at which they are born
  - 2. As new cells rise to the surface, old cells are sloughed off
- H. *Melanocytes* are found in the basal layer of the epidermis
  - 1. Contain melanin, a black pigment
  - 2. The amount of melanin accounts for the color differences in skin
  - 3. Darker skin possesses more active melanocytes, not a greater number of melanocytes
  - 4. Melanin in the epidermis is vital for protection against harmful ultraviolet radiation, which can manifest as skin cancer
  - 5. People who are incapable of forming melanin are called *albino*, meaning white
    - a. Their skin and hair are white
    - b. Their eyes are red; due to the absence of pigment, the tiny blood vessels are visible in the iris

### IV. Dermis

- A. Second layer of the skin, the *corium*
- B. Located just below the epidermis
- C. A living tissue composed of blood, lymph vessels, and nerve fibers

- D. Contains hair follicles, sweat glands, and oil glands
  - E. Contains connective tissue cells and fibers
  - F. Composed of several types of connective tissues
    - 1. *Histiocytes* – protect the body by surrounding foreign materials
    - 2. *Fibroblasts* – act to repair injury
    - 3. *Mast cells* – contain histamine, a substance released in allergic reactions that causes itching
  - G. Fibers in the dermis are composed of *collagen*
    - 1. “Glue”
    - 2. A fibrous protein material found in bone, cartilage, tendons, and ligaments, as well as the skin
    - 3. Tough but flexible
    - 4. In infants, collagen is loose and delicate, but it becomes harder as the body ages
    - 5. Supports and protects the blood and nerve networks that pass through the dermis
  - H. Hair shafts are located in the dermis
    - 1. Hair shafts have bundles of involuntary muscles called *arrector pili* attached to the hair follicles
    - 2. When you are frightened or cold, these muscles contract, the hair stands up, and “goose bumps” appear
- V. Subcutaneous layer
- A. Made of connective tissue that specializes in the formation of fat
  - B. *Lipocytes* – plentiful in the subcutaneous layer, manufacture and store large amounts of fat
  - C. Important in protecting the deeper tissues of the body
  - D. Acts as a heat insulator
  - E. Connects the dermis to the muscles and organs below it
  - F. Fat tissue insulates the inner structures from temperature extremes
- VI. Sebaceous glands
- A. Produce an oily secretion called *sebum*
  - B. Carried to the edges of the skin by ducts and excreted through openings in the skin called pores
  - C. Lubricates the skin
  - D. Closely associated with hair follicles; their ducts open into the hair follicle
  - E. Influenced by sex hormones
    - 1. Causes them to be over active at puberty
      - a. Excess oil production of the skin at puberty
    - 2. Causes them to be underactive in old age
      - a. Drying of skin as we age
- VII. Sudoriferous glands

- A. Tiny coiled glands found on almost all body surfaces
- B. Produce a watery solution called *sweat*
  - 1. Helps cool the body
  - 2. Carried to the edges of the skin by ducts and excreted through openings in the skin called pores
  - 3. Perspiration (sweat) is almost pure water, dissolved materials such as salt making up less than 1%.
  - 4. Colorless and odorless
  - 5. The odor produced when sweat accumulates is due to the actions of bacteria
- C. Certain sweat glands, only active from puberty onward, are larger than ordinary sweat glands
- D. *Ceruminous glands* are classified as modified sweat glands
  - 1. Found in the ear canal
  - 2. Produce a yellow waxy substance called *cerumen* (ear wax)
- E. *Diaphoresis*
  - 1. comes from the Greek *dia*, meaning “through,” and *phoreo* meaning “I carry”
  - 2. “The carrying through of perspiration”
  - 3. Perspiration, especially when copious and medically induced.

#### VIII. Hair

- A. Composed of a network of *horny cells* (hold your giggles, please)
- B. Hair growth is similar to the growth of the skin’s epidermal layer
- C. Deep-lying cells in the hair roots move forward through the hair follicles (or shafts) that hold the hair fiber
- D. *Melanocytes* located at the root of the hair follicles supply the melanin pigment for the hair fiber
- E. Hair color depends on the amount of melanin present
- F. Because hormone production decreases as we get older, hair loses color and become transparent (gray)

#### IX. Nails

- A. Harder keratin plates that cover the dorsal surface of the last bone of each toe and finger
- B. Composed of horny cells that are cemented together and can extend indefinitely until cut or broken
- C. Nails grow in thickness and length by the division of the cells of the nerve root at the base of the nail plate
- D. Grow approximately 1mm a week
- E. May re-grow completely in 3-5 months
- F. Toenails grow more slowly than do fingernails

#### X. Integumentary root words

Root Word (Combining forms)	What It Means
Acanth/o	Thorny, spiny
Aden/o	Gland
Adip/o	Fat
Alb/o, Albin/o	White
Aut/o	Self
Bi/o	Life
Blephar/o	Eyelid
Carcin/o	Carcinoma (cancer)
Caus/o	Burn
Cutane/o	Skin
Cry/o	Cold
Cyan/o	Blue
De-	Lack of
Derm/o, dermat/o	Skin
Diaphor/o	Produce(s) sweating
Erythem/o	Red
Hidr/o	Sweat
Histi/o	Tissue
Ichthy/o	Dry, scaly
Kerat/o	Hard, horny
Leuk/o	White
Lip/o	Fat
Melan/o	Black
Myc/o	Fungus
Necr/o	Death (body or cell)
Onych/o	Nail
Pachy/o	Thick, heavy
Papill/o	Nipple-like
-phyte	Plant
Pil/o	Hair
Py/o	Pus
Rhytid/o	Wrinkle
Sclera/o	Hardening
Seb/o	Sebum
Squam/o	Scale
Steat/o	Fat, sebum
Trich/o	Hair
Ungu/o	Nail
Xer/o	Dry
Xanth/o	Yellow

#### XI. Common Integumentary prefixes and suffices

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Prefix	What It Means
Epi-	On, over, upon
Para-	Beside, beyond, around
Per-	Through
Sub-	Under, below
Suffix	What It Means
-itis	Inflammation
-malacia	Softening
-opsy	View of, viewing
-orrhoea	Flow, excessive discharge
-phagia	Eating or swallowing
-plasty	Surgical repair

## XII. Common Integumentary conditions

Condition	What it means
Alopecia	Hair loss; can result from the normal aging process or be drug- or illness-induced
Bulla	Large vesicle or blister
Cicatrix	Scar left by a healed wound
Comedo	Common blackhead caused by a buildup of sebum and keratin in a skin pore
Cyst	Small sac or pouch containing fluid or semisolid fluid
Ecchymosis	Purplish macular bruise, hemorrhaging into the skin
Fissure	Groove or crack-like sore
Keloid	Abnormally raised, thickened scar
Papule	A discolored lesion that lies flush with the skin (freckles, tattoo marks, and moles)
Papule	Solid elevation of the skin
Petechia	Small pinpoint hemorrhage
Polyp	Mushroom-like growth extending on a stalk
Pruritus	Itching, associated with forms of dermatitis
Purpura	Merging ecchymoses and petechiae over any part of the body
Pustule	Discrete raised area of pus on the skin
Ulcer	Open sore or erosion of the skin
Urticaria	Hives with localized swelling and itching
Vesicle	Collection of clear fluid (blister)
Vitiligo	Loss of pigment in an area of skin or a milk-white patch
Wart	Nipple like neoplasm of the skin; caused by papillomavirus

Wheal	Smooth elevated area that is red and itches (such as a hive)
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### XIII. Integumentary disease and pathology

Disease/Pathology	What it means
Acne	Inflammatory pustular eruption of skin
Burns	First degree burns – no blisters, superficial lesions mainly in the epidermis Second degree burns – partial thickness burn, damage to the epidermis and corium, blisters Third degree – full thickness burn; damaging the epidermis, dermis, and subcutaneous layer
Decubitus ulcer	Bedsore
Eczema	Inflammatory skin disease with reddened popular lesions – a common allergic reaction in children
Gangrene	Death of tissue associated with the loss of blood supply
Hemangioma	A cluster of blood vessels that make an abnormal but benign growth, often protruding from the skin – some birthmarks are hemangioma
Impetigo	Bacterial inflammatory skin disease presenting with vesicles, pustules, and crusted lesions – caused by bacteria
Keratosis	Thickened area of the epidermis
Leukoplakia	White, thickened patches on mucous membrane tissue of the tongue or cheek
Nevus	Mole
Pemphigus	Blistering (bullous) eruptions affecting the skin and mucous membranes (“pemphix” is the Greek word for blister)
Psoriasis	Chronic skin ailment with silver-gray scales covering red patches
Rubella	German measles (caused by a virus)
Rubeola	Measles (viral disease)
Scabies	A contagious, parasitic infection of the skin with intense pruritus (“scabere” means to scratch)
Scleroderma	Disorder affecting all connective tissue that causes abnormal tissue thickening usually on the fingers, hands, or face

Seborrheic Keratosis	Thick, flattened, beige/brown plaques that appear with age, commonly on the hands and face – sometimes called senile warts
Tinea	Infection of the skin caused by a fungus
Varicella	Chickenpox (viral disease)
Verruca	Warts

#### XIV. Cancerous Lesions

##### A. Basal cell carcinoma

1. Malignant tumor of the basal cell layer of the epidermis
2. The most frequent type of skin cancer
3. Slow-growing tumor of the basal layer of the epidermis
4. Usually occurs on the upper half of the face, near the nose, and is non-metastasizing

##### B. Squamous cell carcinoma

1. Malignant tumor of the squamous epithelial cells of the epidermis
2. The tumor may grow in places other than the skin – wherever squamous epithelium is found (mouth, larynx, bladder, esophagus, etc.)
3. It may arise from actinic (sun-related) keratoses and metastasize to the lymph nodes.
4. The treatment for both basal and squamous cell carcinomas is surgical excision or radiation therapy.

##### C. Malignant melanoma

1. Cancerous tumor composed of melanocytes
2. Tumors often metastasize into the lungs, liver, and brain after arising in areas of the body where pigmented cells occur
3. Treatment includes excision of the tumor, regional lymphadenectomy and chemotherapy to prevent metastases

##### D. Mycosis fungoides

1. A rare, chronic skin disease caused by the infiltration of malignant lymphocytes
2. Characterized by generalized erythroderma and large reddish raised areas (tumors) that spread and ulcerate
3. Treatment with topical nitrogen mustard and radiation can be effective in controlling the disease

#### XV. Laboratory Test

##### A. Bacterial analysis

1. Samples of purulent material or exudates are collected and sent to the lab for examination
2. Samples are examined to determine what type of bacteria

are present

B. Fungal test

1. Scrapings from skin lesions are placed in a growth medium for several weeks
2. Examined microscopically for evidence of fungal growth

XVI. Clinical Procedures

A. Skin biopsy

1. Lesion is removed from the skin and sent to the pathology lab for examination
2. A *punch biopsy* (in cases where complete excision is not feasible) involves the use of a surgical instrument that removes a core of tissue by rotation of its sharp, circular edge

B. Skin testing for allergy or disease

1. The *patch test* is performed by applying a small piece of gauze or filter paper to the skin
2. A suspected allergy-causing substance is placed on the piece of gauze
3. If the area becomes reddened or swollen, the result is considered positive (the person has an allergy to that substance)
4. The *scratch test*
  - a. Scratches are made in the skin
  - b. There is a small amount of test material in the scratches
  - c. The test is “negative” if no reaction occurs
5. *Intradermal tests* are done by injection of a reactive substance between layers of the skin
  - a. Observing the skin for a reaction
  - b. This test is used for detection of sensitivity to infectious agents such as
    - i. Tuberculosis
      - a) Mantoux test
      - b) PPD test
    - ii. Diphtheria

C. Debridement

1. Removal of dirt, foreign material, or damaged tissue from a wound to prevent infection and promote healing

D. Incisions and drainage

1. Involve cutting open a lesion, such as an abscess, to remove or drain its contents

E. Sclerotherapy

1. Used in the treatment of varicose veins. Injecting the vein with a sclerosing solution irritates the tissue, causes swelling, and closes off the vein

F. Blepharoplasty

- 1. Surgical reduction of the upper and lower eyelids
- G. Cryotherapy
  - 1. Involves destruction of tissue by freezing it with liquid nitrogen
- H. Dermabrasion
  - 1. Scraping away the top layer of skin using sandpaper or wire brushes to remove tattoos or disfigured skin
- I. Dermatoplasty
  - 1. Surgical reconstruction of the skin. Typically, the surgical replacement of injured or diseased skin
- J. Electrolysis
  - 1. Destruction of tissue by electricity; used to remove unwanted body hair
- K. Laser therapy
  - 1. Removal of skin lesions such as papillomas and hemangiomas using an intense beam of light. This can also be used to remove tattoos or warts from around the nails or on the soles of the feet
- L. Liposuction
  - 1. Surgical removal of fat from subcutaneous tissue by means of suction
- M. Rhytidectomy
  - 1. Removal of wrinkles by removal of excess facial skin (facelift)

XVII. Abbreviations

Abbreviation or acronym	What it means
Bx	Biopsy
Derm.	Dermatology
DLE	Discoid lupus erythematosus
SLE	Systemic lupus erythematosus
Subcu.	Subcutaneous
Ung.	ointment

XVIII. Common Integumentary vocabulary

Word	What it Means
Abrasion	Scraping away of the superficial layer of injured skin
Adenoma	Glandular tumor
Albinism	Lack of pigment in the skin, hair, and eyes
Albino	Person with skin deficient in pigment or melanin
Adipose	Pertaining to fat
Anhidrosis	Lack of sweat
Bullae	Blisters on the skin
Collagen	Structural protein found in skin and connective tissues

Cuticle	Band of the epidermis extending from nail wall to nail surface
Dermatitis	Inflammation of the skin
Dermatology	Study of the skin and its diseases
Dermatologist	Physician who specialized in skin and its diseases
Diaphoresis	Profuse sweating
Epithelium	Layer of skin forming the outer and inner surfaces of the body
Erythema	Red discoloration of the skin
Histioma	Fatty tumor of the sebaceous gland
Hypodermic	Under the skin
Hyperhidrosis	Excessive growth of the outer layer of skin
Keratin	Hard protein material found in epidermis, hair, and nails
Lipocyte	Fat cell
Lipoma	Tissue or mass containing fat
Lunula	Half-moon shaped white area at the base of a nail
Melanin	Black pigment formed by melanocytes
Onychomycosis	Fungal infection of a nail
Seborrhea	Increased discharge of sebum from glands

### Activity

- I. Make flash cards of integumentary system terms and practice putting the terms together with prefixes and suffixes to make new terms.
- II. Complete Integumentary System Terms Worksheet.
- III. Review media terms with the students using review games such as the “Fly Swatter Game” or the “Flash Card Drill” (see the Medical Terminology Activity Lesson Plan - [http://texashste.com/documents/curriculum/principles/medical\\_terminology\\_activities.pdf](http://texashste.com/documents/curriculum/principles/medical_terminology_activities.pdf)).
- IV. Research and report on diseases and disorders of the integumentary system.

### Assessment

Successful completion of the activities

### Materials

Medical terminology book  
List of integumentary terms  
Index cards  
Markers  
Data projector  
Computer

### Accommodations for Learning Differences

For reinforcement, the student will practice terms using flash cards of the integumentary system.

For enrichment, the student will choose a disease related to the integumentary system and research it using the internet. They will share their findings with the class using multimedia technology.

### **National and State Education Standards**

National Healthcare Foundation Standards and Accountability Criteria:

Foundation Standard 2: Communications

2.21 Use roots, prefixes, and suffixes to communicate information

2.22 Use medical abbreviations to communicate information

### **TEKS**

130.203 (c) (1) The student recognizes the terminology related to the health science industry. The student is expected to:

- (A) identify abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols;
- (C) practice word building skills;
- (F) define and accurately spell occupationally specific terms such as those relating to the body systems, surgical and diagnostic procedures, diseases and treatments

130.203 (c) (2)

- (A) demonstrate appropriate verbal and written strategies such as correct pronunciation of medical terms and spelling in a variety of health science scenarios
- (B) employ increasingly precise language to communicate
- (C) translate technical material related to the health science industry

130.203 (c) (3)

- (A) examine medical and dental dictionaries and multimedia resources;
- (B) integrate resources to interpret technical materials;
- (C) investigate electronic media such as the internet with appropriate supervision

130.203 (c) (4) The student interprets medical abbreviations. The student is expected to:

- (A) distinguish medical abbreviations used throughout the health science industry; and
- (B) translate medical abbreviations in simulated technical material such as physician progress notes, radiological reports, and laboratory reports.

### **Texas College Readiness Standards**

English and Language Arts,

Understand new vocabulary and concepts and use them accurately in reading, speaking, and writing.

1. Identify new words and concepts acquired through study of their relationships to other words and concepts.

2. Apply knowledge of roots and affixes to infer the meanings of new words.

3. Use reference guides to confirm the meanings of new words or concepts.

*Cross-Disciplinary Standards,*

I. Key Cognitive Skills D. Academic Behavior: 1. Self monitor learning needs and seek assistance when needed, 3. Strive for accuracy and precision, 4. Persevere to complete and master task. E. Work habits: 1. Work independently, 2. Work collaboratively

II. Foundation Skills A. 2. Use a variety of strategies to understand the meaning of new words. 4. Identify the key information and supporting details.

## INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM TERMINOLOGY

epiderm/o-	outer layer of skin
epidermis	
epidermitis	
epidermoma	
epidermal/epidermic	
epidermatoplasty	
epidermodysplasia	
epidermomycosis	
derm/o-, dermat/o-	true skin
dermis	
dermabrasion	
dermalgia	
Contact dermatitis	
Actinic dermatitis	
dermatologist	
dermatology	
dermatofibroma	
dermatome	
dermatosis	
Dermatorrhagia	
dermopathy/dermatopathy	
dermophlebitis	
hypodermic	
intra-dermal	
cutane/o-, cut/o	
subcutaneous	
kerat/o- horny (though)	changes in skin cells
keratin	
keratinization	
keratoma	
keratosis	
Actinic keratosis	
onych/o-	nail
onychalgia	
onychectomy	
onychitis	
onychocryptosis	
onychodystrophy	
onychomalacia	

onychomycosis	
onychophagy	
onychotomy	
ungu/a-	nail
ungual	
ungula phalanx	
trich/o-	hair
Trichogenous	
Trichomatosis	
trichoesthesia	
trichomegaly	
trichophagia	
trichoschisis	
trichorrhea	
pil/o-	hair
pilonidal cyst	
pilous-hirsutism	
sudor/o-, sud/o-	sweat
diaphoresis	
Sudatoria	
Sudatorium	
Sudoriferous glands	
hidr/o-	sweat
hidradenitis	
hidrosadenitis	
hidradenoma	
hidrocystoma	
hidrorrhea	
anhidrosis	
hyperhidrosis	
seb/o-	oily (sebum)
Sebaceous glands	
seborrhea	
sebum	
seborrhagia	
papill/o-	nipple-like elevations of the dermis
papillectomy	
papilloma	

papillary	
pachy/	thick
pachyblepharon	
pachyderma	
pachyonychia	
pachypodous	
pachyrrhinc	
rhytid/	wrinkle
rhytidectomy	
rhytidoplasty	
myc/o-	fungus
mycosis	
Mycostasis	
mycology	
Mycostate	
mycoid	
xero/-	dry
xerasia	
xeroderma	
xerocheilia	
Xerosis	
xerostomia	
necr/o-	pertaining to death
necrocytosis	
necrology	
necrologist	
necromania	
necronectomy	
necrophobia	
necrosis	
<b>Other related terms</b>	
abrasion	
abscess	
acne	
adipose	
alopecia	
areola	
albinism	
albino	
adipose	

Biopsy	
anhidrosis	
bleb	
bullae	
carbuncle	
chilblain	
cicatrix	
contusion	
Collagen	
Cuticle	
debridement	
Decubitus ulcer	
ecchymosis	
eczema	
emollient	
erythema	
exfoliation	
fissure	
furuncle	
gangrene	
hemangioma	
herpes	
impetigo	
Kaposi's sarcoma	
keloid	
laceration	
lesion	
Leukoplakia	
lunula	
Lyme disease	
macule	
melanin	
nevus (pl. nevi)	
nodule	
pallor	
papule	
pediculosis	
pemphigus	
petechiae	
pruritis	
psoriasis	
pustule	
scabies	
Systemic lupus	
tincture	

Tinea pedis	
ulcer	
urticaria	
verruca	
vesicle	
wart	
wheal	

## INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM TERMINOLOGY- Key

epiderm/o-	Outer layer of the skin
epidermis	Outer layer of the skin
epidermitis	Inflammation of the superficial layers of the skin
epidermoma	Tumor of the skin
epidermal/epidermic	Pertaining to the skin
epidermatoplasty	Grafting with pieces of epidermis with the underlying layer of the corium
epidermodysplasia	Generalized warts
epidermomycosis	Skin disease caused by a fungus
derm/o-, dermat/o-	True skin
dermis	Layer of the skin lying immediately under the epidermis – “true skin”
dermabrasion	Surgical procedure for removing acne scars, nevi, tattoos or wrinkles of the skin
dermalgia	Pain localized in the skin
Contact dermatitis	Inflammation of the skin due to contact with an irritant
Actinic dermatitis	Reaction of the skin to sunlight
dermatologist	A physician who specializes in treating diseases of the skin
dermatology	Science of the skin and its diseases
dermatofibroma	A nonmalignant skin fibroma
dermatome	Instrument for incising the skin or for cutting thin slices for transplantation of skin
dermatosis	Any disease of the skin in which inflammation is not a feature
Dermatorrhagia	Excessive secretion of the sebaceous glands
dermopathy/dermatopathy	Any skin disease
dermophlebitis	Inflammation of superficial veins and the surrounding skin
hypodermic	Under the skin
intra-dermal	Within the dermis
cutane/o-, cut/o	Skin
subcutaneous	Beneath the skin
kerat/o- horny (though)	Changes in skin cells
keratin	A tough protein substance in hair, nails, and horny tissue

keratinization	Process of keratin formation
keratoma	A callosity; a horny growth
keratosis	Thickened area of the epidermis
Actinic keratosis	A horny, keratotic, premalignant lesion of the skin caused by excess exposure to sunlight
onych/o-	Nail
onychalgia	Pain in the nail
onychectomy	Surgical removal of the nail
onychitis	Inflammation of the nail bed
onychocryptosis	Detachment of the nail from the nail bed
onychodystrophy	Any maldevelopment of a nail
onychomalacia	Abnormal softening of the nail
onychomycosis	Fungal infection of the nails
onychophagy	Nail biting
onychotomy	Surgical incision of a fingernail or toenail
ungu/a-	Nail
ungual	Pertaining to or resembling the nail
ungula phalanx	Terminal phalanx of each finger and toe
trich/o-	Hair
Trichogenous	Promotion of hair growth
Trichomatosis	Entangled, matted hair caused by skin fungus
trichoesthesia	Sensation felt when the hair is touched
trichomegaly	Long, coarse brows
trichophagia	Eating hair
trichoschisis	Splitting of the hairs
trichorrhea	Rapid loss of hair
pil/o-	Hair
pilonidal cyst	Containing hair in a cyst
pilous-hirsutism	Excessive growth of hair
sudor/o-, sud/o-	Sweat
diaphoresis	Sweating
Sudatoria	Excessive sweating
Sudatorium	Hot air bath or any bath to induce perspiration
Sudoriferous glands	Glands producing sweat
hidr/o-	Sweat
hidradenitis	Inflammation of the sweat glands

hidrosadenitis	Inflammation of the sweat glands
hidradenoma	Adenoma of the sweat glands
hidrocystoma	Cystic tumor of the sweat glands
hidrorrhea	Abnormal sweating
anhidrosis	Diminished or complete absence of the secretion of sweat
hyperhidrosis	Sweating more than what would be expected considering the temperature of the environment
seb/o-	Oily (sebum)
Sebaceous glands	Oil-secreting gland of the skin
seborrhea	Increase in the amount of sebaceous secretion
sebum	A fatty secretion of the sebaceous gland
seborrhagia	Excessive secretions of the sebaceous glands
papill/o-	Nipple-like elevations of the dermis
papillectomy	Excision of any papilla
papilloma	A benign epithelia tumor
papillary	Concerning a nipple
pachy/	Thick
pachyblepharon	A thickening of the border of the eyelid
pachyderma	Unusual thickness of the skin
pachyonychia	Abnormal thickening of the fingernails or toenails
pachypodous	Having abnormally thick feet
pachyrrhinc	Having a thick, flat nose
rhytid/	Wrinkle
rhytidectomy	Excision of wrinkles using plastic surgery
rhytidoplasty	Elimination of facial wrinkles using plastic surgery
myc/o-	Fungus
mycosis	Any disease induced by a fungus
Mycostasis	Stopping the growth of fungi
mycology	The science and study of fungi
Mycostate	Any agent that stops the growth of fungi
mycoid	Fungus-like
xero/-	Dry
xerasia	Dry, brittle hair

xeroderma	Roughness and dryness of the skin
xerocheilia	Dryness of the lips
Xerosis	Abnormal dryness of the skin
xerostomia	Dry mouth
necr/o-	Pertaining to death
necrocytosis	Cellular death or decomposition
necrology	Study of mortality statistics
necrologist	A student of mortality statistics
necromania	Abnormal interest in dead bodies or in death
necronectomy	Excision of a necrotic part
necrophobia	Abnormal aversion to dead bodies
necrosis	Death of areas of tissue or bone surrounded by healthy parts
<b>Other related terms</b>	
abrasion	Scraping away of the superficial layer of injured skin
abscess	Collection of pus in any body part
acne	Inflammatory, pustular eruption of the skin
adipose	Pertaining to fat
alopecia	Hair loss; can result from the normal aging process or be drug or illness-induced
areola	A small space or cavity in a tissue
albinism	Lack of pigment in skin, hair, and eyes
albino	Person with skin deficient in pigment or melanin
adipose	Pertaining to fat
Biopsy	Obtaining a tissue sample for microscopic examination
anhidrosis	Lack of sweat
bleb	An irregularly shaped elevation of the epidermis
bullae	A large blister or vesicle filled with fluid
carbuncle	Abscess of the skin, formed by two or more boils merging
chilblain	An inflammatory swelling or sore caused by exposure to cold
cicatrix	A scar left by a wounded area
contusion	Bruise
Collagen	Structural protein found in the skin and connective tissues
Cuticle	Band of epidermis extending from nail wall to nail surface
debridement	Removal of dirt, foreign material, or

	damaged tissue from a wound to prevent infection and promote healing
Decubitus ulcer	Bedsore
ecchymosis	The skin discoloration caused by the escape of blood into the tissues from ruptured blood vessels.
eczema	Inflammatory skin disease with reddened lesions; a common allergic reaction in children
emollient	Agent that will soften and sooth
erythema	Red discoloration of the skin
exfoliation	Shedding or casting off of a body surface
fissure	A groove, natural division, cleft, split or deep furrow
furuncle	Boil
gangrene	Death of tissue associated with a loss of blood supply
hemangioma	A cluster of blood vessels that make an abnormal but benign growth often protruding from the skin – some birthmarks are hemangioma
herpes	Blisters caused by a virus
impetigo	Bacterial inflammatory skin disease presenting with vesicles, pustules, and crusted lesions; caused by bacteria
Kaposi's sarcoma	A vascular malignancy that appears on skin or mucous membranes
keloid	Exuberant scar that forms at the place of the injury and spreads beyond
laceration	Cut or irregular tear of the flesh
lesion	Infected patch of skin
Leukoplakia	White, thickened patches on mucous membrane tissue of the tongue or cheek.
lunula	A crescent shaped area
Lyme disease	Inflammatory disorder accompanied by distinctive skin lesions. Caused by tick bits.
macule	A flat spot on the skin whose color may be lighter or darker
melanin	Black pigment formed by melanocytes
nevus (pl. nevi)	Mole
nodule	A small node or cluster of cells
pallor	Lack of color, paleness
papule	Small bump or pimple
pediculosis	Infestation of lice
pemphigus	Blistering (bullous) eruptions affecting the

	skin and mucous membranes (“pemphix” is the Greek word for blister)
petechiae	Small pinpoint hemorrhage
pruritis	A tingling or faintly burning skin sensation that promotes a person to scratch
psoriasis	Chronic skin ailment with silvery-gray scales covering red patches
pustule	Discrete raised area of pus on the skin
scabies	A highly communicable skin disease caused by itch mites
Systemic lupus	Chronic inflammatory disease of connective tissue – unknown etiology
tincture	An alcoholic extract of vegetable or animal substances
Tinea pedis	A fungal infection of the foot
ulcer	Lesion of the skin
urticaria	Multiple swollen raised areas on the skin that are itchy
verruca	Wart
vesicle	Collection of clear fluid (blister)
wart	Nipple like neoplasm of the skin; caused by papillomaviruse
wheal	Smooth, elevated area that is red and itches (such as a hive)