

Chapter 8: Obstetrics

Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e – Student Companion by Kimberlee Carter; Marie Rutherford; and Connie Stevens

This book is intended as a companion to *Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e* (<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2/>).

Table of Contents

- Obstetrics
- Worksheet: Design Your Own Worksheet
- Activity: Scenario
- Activity: Definitions Using Word Parts

Licensing & Access Options

Except where otherwise noted, this OER is licensed under CC BY 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Please visit the web version of *Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e – Student Companion* (<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>) to access the complete book, interactive activities and ancillary resources.

Obstetrics

If you would like to review the textbook chapter content, please visit [Chapter 8: Obstetrics \[New Tab\]](#).

Learning Objectives

- Identify the common processes in obstetrics and explore procedures, diagnostics tests and common complications related to obstetrics
- Describe the specialty of obstetrics and other medical specialties associated with obstetrics
- Analyze, translate, and define medical terms and common abbreviations of obstetrics
- Practice the spelling and pronunciation of obstetric terminology

Key Word Components

Identify meanings of key word components of obstetrics:

Prefixes

- ante- (before)
- dys- (painful, labored, difficult)
- endo- (within)
- in-, intra- (within, inside)
- micro- (small)
- multi- (many)
- neo- (new)
- nulli- (none)
- post- (after)

- pre- (before)
- prim/i- (first)
- retro- (backward, behind)

Combining Forms

- amni/o (amnion, amniotic fluid)
- cephal/o (head)
- cervic/o (cervix)
- chori/o, chorion/o (chorion)
- colp/o (vagina)
- culd/o (rectouterine pouch)
- embryo/o (embryo)
- episi/o (vulva)
- esophag/o (esophagus)
- fet/i (fetus, unborn offspring)
- fet/o (fetus, unborn offspring)
- glact/o (milk)
- gravid/o (pregnancy)
- gynec/o (woman)
- hyster/o (uterus)
- lact/o (milk)
- mamm/o (breast)
- mast/o (breast)
- men/o (menstruation)
- metr/o (uterus)
- metri/o (uterus)
- nat/i (birth)
- nat/o (birth)
- obstetr/o (midwife)
- olig/o (scanty, few)
- omphal/o (umbilicus, navel)
- oophor/o (ovary)
- ov/o (ovary)
- ovari/o (ovary)
- ovul/o (ovary)
- par/o (to bear, labor, childbirth, give birth to)
- part/o (to bear, labor, childbirth, give birth to)
- perine/o (perineum)
- pseud/o (false)
- prim/i (first)
- pseud/o (false)
- puerper/o (childbirth)

- pylor/o (pylorus, pyloric sphincter)
- salping/o (uterine tube)
- terat/o (malformations)
- uter/o (uterus)
- vagin/o (vagina)
- vulv/o (vulva)

Suffixes

- -a (no meaning, noun ending)
- -al (pertaining to)
- -amnios (amnion, amniotic fluid)
- -arche/o (beginning, first)
- -cyesis (pregnancy)
- -e (noun ending, no meaning)
- -gen (substance that produced, agent that produced)
- -genic (producing, originating, causing)
- -graphy (process of recording)
- -ic (pertaining to)
- -is (noun suffix, no meaning)
- -itis (inflammation)
- -logist (specialist who studies and treats, physician who studies and treats)
- -logy (study of)
- -oid (resembling)
- -oma (tumor)
- -parous (having given birth)
- -rrhea (discharge, flow)
- -rrhexis (rupture)
- -salpinx (tube or uterine tube)
- -stenosis (constriction, narrowing)
- -tocia (birth, labor)
- -tomy (incision, cut into)
- -um (noun ending, no meaning)
- -us (noun ending, no meaning)
- -version (turned, turning, *for example turning the fetus*)

Obstetrics Words

Pronouncing and Defining Obstetrics Medical Terms

Obstetrics Words Not Easily Broken into Word Parts (Text version)

1. **abortion (AB) (ă-BOR-shŏn)**
 - termination of the pregnancy before the fetus is viable
2. **abruptio placentae (ă-BRŪP-shē-ō plā-SENT-ā)**
 - pre-mature separation of the placenta from the uterine wall
3. **Apgar score (AP-gar skŏr)**
 - Evaluation of a newborn's physical condition within one to five minutes after birth, which was developed by and named for Virginia Apgar (making this an eponym).
4. **Breech (brĕch)**
 - The position of the fetus is feet first. Ideally, the position of the fetus should be head first.
5. **Cesarean section (CS, C-section) (si-ZAR-ē-ăn SEK-shŏn)**
 - Delivery of the fetus through an abdominal incision
6. **cephalic presentation (sĕ-FAL-ĭk prĕ-zen-TĀ-shŏn)**
 - birth position in which any part of the head emerges first
7. **Cephalic version (sĕ-FAL-ĭk VĚR-zhŏn)**
 - pertaining to turning the head; this procedure is done on the fetus when they are in the head-down position.
8. **cerclage (sĕr-KLĀZH)**
 - Suturing of the cervix to prevent dilation and premature delivery

9. **colostrum (kō-LOS-trūm)**
 - thin, milky fluid secreted by the breast during pregnancy and the first few days after delivery
10. **congenital anomaly (kōn-JĚN-ĭ-tāl ā-NOM-ā-lē)**
 - abnormality present at birth
11. **eclampsia (e-KLAMP-sē-ā)**
 - a serious condition in pregnancy with hypertension; patients are at risk of coma, convulsions and even death.
12. **Ectopic pregnancy (ek-TOP-ik PREG-nān-sē)**
 - Pregnancy occurring outside the uterus, commonly in the fallopian tube.
13. **Induction (in-DŮK-shōn)**
 - The process of bringing on or starting labour. This may be done with a membrane sweep or through the use of IV oxytocin
14. **in vitro fertilization (IVF) (in VĚ-trō fĕrt-il-ĭ-ZĀ-shōn)**
 - method of fertilizing human ova outside the body and placing the zygote in the uterus
15. **lactation (lak-TĀ-shōn)**
 - secretion of milk
16. **lochia (LŌ-kē-ā)**
 - vaginal discharge after birth
17. **meconium (mē-KŌ-nē-ŭm)**
 - first stool of the newborn
18. **midwife (MĪD-wĭf)**
 - individual who practices midwifery
19. **craniocerebral**
 - practice of assisting in childbirth
20. **Obstetrician (ob-stĕ-TRISH-ān)**
 - Physician who specializes in obstetrics
21. **Obstetrics (OB) (ōb-STE-triks)**
 - medical specialty dealing with pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium
22. **parturition (pār-tū-RĪSH-ŭn)**

- act of giving birth
23. **placenta previa (plā-SENT-ā PRĒ-vē-ă)**
- abnormally low implantation of the placenta on the uterine wall, can result in hemorrhage and a c-section
24. **preeclampsia (prē-ĕ-KLAMP-sē-ă)**
- The abnormal condition in pregnancy where the patient experiences hypertension, edema and proteinuria is called, but with no convulsions. Can progress to eclampsia.
25. **premature infant (prē-mă-CHŪR IN-fănt)**
- infant born before completing 37 weeks of gestation (also called preterm infant)
26. **puerperium (pū-ĕr-PĒ-rē-ŭm)**
- period from delivery until the reproductive organs return to normal (approximately six weeks)
27. **quickening (KWĪK-ĕn-ĭng)**
- first feeling of movement of the fetus in utero by the pregnant woman
28. **stillborn (STIL-bōrn)**
- an infant that is born dead

Activity source: Obstetrics Words Not Built From Word Parts from *Medical Terminology*. by Grimm et al., licensed under CC BY 4.0. / Some H5P audio re-recorded by Tania Deane and David McCuaig and text version added.

Pronouncing and Defining Commonly Abbreviated Obstetrics Terms

Practice pronouncing and defining these commonly abbreviated obstetrics terms:

- AB (abortion)
- AFP (Alpha-fetoprotein test)
- AI (artificial insemination)
- CS, C-section (cesarean section)
- CVS (chorionic villus sampling)
- DOB (date of birth)
- EDD (expected or estimated date of delivery)

- FAS (fetal alcohol syndrome)
- FHR (fetal heart rate)
- G (gravida or pregnant)
- GPA (gravida, para, abortus – three figures representing a patient’s reproductive history)
- GYN (gynecology)
- IVF (in vitro fertilization)
- LH (luteinizing hormone)
- LMP (last menstrual period)
- multip (multipara)
- NB (newborn)
- OB (obstetrics)
- primip (primipara)
- RDS (respiratory distress syndrome)
- VBAC (vaginal birth after cesarean section)

Sorting Terms

Sort the terms from the word lists above into the following categories:

- **Disease and Disorder** (terms describing any deviation from normal structure and function)
- **Diagnostic** (terms related to process of identifying a disease, condition, or injury from its signs and symptoms)
- **Therapeutic** (terms related to treatment or curing of diseases)
- **Anatomic** (terms related to body structure)

Medical Terms in Context

Place the following medical terms in context to complete the scenario below:

Obstetrics- Pathology Report (Text version)

Use the words below to fill in the pathology report:

- salpingectomy
- ectopic
- ultrasound
- fallopian
- tube
- clots
- cassettes
- microscopic
- pregnancy

OBSTETRICS – PATHOLOGY REPORT

PATIENT NAME: Bonnie PERRY

AGE: 34

SEX: Female

DOB: May 3

PATIENT ID: 900132

DATE OF ADMISSION AND SURGERY: June 14

ADMITTING DIAGNOSIS: Ectopic pregnancy

SURGEON: Adam Vance, MD, OB/GYN

PATHOLOGY ID: Specimen No. 05-S-899

SPECIMEN RECEIVED: June 14 Specimen Reported: June 18

SURGICAL PROCEDURE: Right partial _____[Blank 1].

CLINICAL HISTORY: This 34-year-old white female had an _____[Blank 2] pregnancy as proven by pelvic _____[Blank 3].

TISSUE RECEIVED: Right fallopian tube.

GROSS DESCRIPTION: The specimen designated right _____[Blank 4] tube was examined reveals the presence of a fallopian tube measuring 5.9 cm in length and 2.3 cm in average diameter. Sectioning of the _____[Blank 5] shows it to be distended with blood _____[Blank 6] and possible field tissue. The sections were taken, and placed in three _____[Blank 7], A through C, for embedding.

MICROSCOPIC DESCRIPTION: _____[Blank 8] examination performed.

MICROSCOPIC DIAGNOSIS: Ruptured tubal _____[Blank 9].

Joseph Gibbs, MD, Anatomic & Clinical Pathology

Note: Report samples (H5P and Pressbooks) are to encourage learners to identify correct medical terminology and do not represent the Association for Health Documentation Integrity (AHDI) formatting standards.

Check your Answers: ¹

Activity source: Obstetrics- Pathology Report by Heather Scudder, from *Building a Medical Terminology Foundation* by Kimberlee Carter and Marie Rutherford, licensed under CC BY- 4.0. / Text version added.

Test Your Knowledge

Test your knowledge by answering the questions below:

Obstetrics Glossary Reinforcement Activity (Text version)

1. Termination of a pregnancy before the fetus is viable is called _____. [Blank 1].
 - a. Abortion
 - b. Amniocentesis
 - c. Gestation
2. The abnormal condition in pregnancy where the patient experiences hypertension, edema and proteinuria is called _____. [Blank 2].
 - a. Hyperemesis Gravidia
 - b. Preeclampsia
 - c. Dystocia
3. When the embryo implants any other place but the inner endo-uterine lining it is called a(n) _____. [Blank 3].
 - a. Ectopic pregnancy
 - b. Placenta Previa
 - c. Zygote intrafallopian transfer
4. A condition where the infant's head is larger than the pelvic outlet and therefore will require a c-section is called _____. [Blank 4].
 - a. Cephalopelvic disproportion
 - b. Cephalic version
 - c. Induction
5. A test conducted on the pregnant woman to assess the fetal heart rate is called _____. [Blank 5].
 - a. Alpha-fetoprotein test
 - b. Non-stress test
 - c. Meconium staining

Check your Answers:²

Activity source: Obstetrics Glossary Reinforcement Activity by Kimberlee Carter, from *Building a Medical Terminology Foundation* by Kimberlee Carter and Marie Rutherford, licensed under CC BY- 4.0. / Text version added.

Attribution

Except where otherwise noted, this book is adapted from Medical Terminology by Grimm et al. (2022), Nicolet College, CC BY 4.0 International. / A derivative of Building a Medical Terminology Foundation by Carter & Rutherford (2020), and Anatomy and Physiology by Betts, et al., CC BY 4.0, which can be accessed for free at OpenStax Anatomy and Physiology (<https://openstax.org/books/anatomy-and-physiology/pages/1-introduction>).

Notes

1. 1.salpingectomy, 2.ectopic, 3.ultrasound, 4.fallopian, 5.tube, 6. clots, 7.cassettes, 8. Microscopic, 9.pregnancy
2. 1. Abortion, 2. Preeclampsia, 3. Ectopic pregnancy, 4. Cephalopelvic disproportion, 5.Non-stress test,



Design Your Own Worksheet

Chapter: _____

Instructions

Work through the chapter and locate the prefixes and suffixes and add them to the table below with their meaning.

Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefix	Meaning	Suffix	Meaning

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning

Instructions

Locate the combining forms (root) from this chapter and include them below. Find medical terms in the chapter which use the combining form as part of the term and list and define them in the space provided below.

Locate chapter words without combining form. List them below.

Locate words from the chapter not built from word parts that you should memorize. List them below.



Scenario - Obstetrics

Instructions

Read aloud the following paragraph, paying close attention to the correct pronunciation of each medical term. Use the phonetic spelling provided with the term to guide you. At the conclusion of reading the paragraph and using this document, compose a list of the bolded medical terms and translate their correct meaning. Be sure to number each term in your list.

Scenario:

Erica, a 28-year-old healthy female walked into her doctor's office with complaints of nausea, vomiting, extreme fatigue throughout the day, increased urination and noted breast sensitivity while in the shower. She explained to Dr. Schott she had just come back from a weekend of camping with friends and had done a lot of hiking and eating. Erica was thinking she ate something that was spoiled. Her breasts are often tender due to **FCC (Fibrocytic Breast Changes)**.

To start the assessment, the doctor asked Erica if she had noticed a change in her weight or appetite since the nausea began. Erica denied either. Next the doctor asked if Erica noted a change in her menstrual periods. Erica admitted to it being two months since her last period which she didn't think anything of, because she had been late before. Based on Erica's medical history from past records, Erica stands with a **nulligravida (nŭl-ĭ-GRĀV-ĭ-dă) nullipara (nŭl-ĪP-ă-ră)** status. Erica had the idea of being pregnant in the back of her mind and was hoping her symptoms were not a case of **pseudocyesis (soo-dō-sĭ-Ē-sĭs)**.

Blood work and further physical assessment by Dr. Schott indicated Erica was indeed pregnant. Her status now changed to **primigravida (pri-mĭ-GRAV-ĭd-ă)** nullipara.

Six months have gone by, and Erica's **antepartum (ăn-tē-PĀR-tŭm)** period went well, except for a 5 day stretch of **hyperemesis gravida (hĭ-pĕr-EM-ĕ-sĭs GRĀV-ĭ-dă)** which had her hospitalized for a day of IV fluids and hydration. The fetal heart rate FHR has been in the range of 132 – 152 bpm and Erica admitted the baby has been quite active.

At the beginning of her 8th month of pregnancy, Erica reported to Dr. Schott that the baby was not as active as it had been last month. Dr. Schott ordered fetal heart monitor testing on the baby during the clinic visit and did note a change. Dr. Schott suggested that an **amniocentesis (am-nē-ō-sen-TĒ-sĭs)** be completed, to check the baby's lung function and to look for any genetic/chromosomal conditions. The amniocentesis test results came back negative for both.

By this time, Erica is two weeks over-due. Dr. Schott has noted that there hasn't been a change in the growth of the fetus since the past two visits. Because she is now post term, a test to detect **Oligohydramnios (ōl-ĭg-ō-hī-DRĀM-nē-ōs)** was ordered. Instead of waiting for **amniorrhesis (am-nē-ō-REK-sis)** to occur, Dr. Schott performed an **Amniotomy (am-nē-OT-ō-mē)**, and the labor process began.

An **episiotomy (i-piz-ē-OT-ō-mē)** needed to be performed during the birth of the child to prevent un-necessary tearing of the vaginal wall. Erica gave birth to a healthy, 7-pound baby boy. The baby's APGAR score was 8, showing low numbers in respiratory effort. For this reason, Dr. Schott referred the baby to Dr. McGraw, a **neonatologist (nē-ō-nā-TŌL-ō-jĭst)**, for closer observation of the growth and development of the baby.

Dr. Schott updated Erica's chart to reflect that her status now changed to **multigravida (mŭl-tĭ-GRĀV-ĭ-dă)** **multipara (mŭl-TĪP-ă-ră)**.



Definitions Using Word Parts - Obstetrics

Instructions

Type the terms from the numbered list found below. For each term keyed, divide the combining form, suffix, and prefix with a slash to show the individual word parts. Then define the term in your own words according to the rules provided in the resource (reading from the suffix, then back to the beginning of the word, then across). Be sure to number each term in your document.

Example

hepat/itis - inflammation of the liver

Define the following terms by breaking into word parts:

1. Amniocentesis
2. Amniorrhexis
3. Antepartum
4. Episiotomy
5. Hyperemesis gravida
6. Lactogenic
7. Lactorrhea
8. Multigravida
9. Multipara (multip)
10. Neonatologist
11. Nulligravida
12. Oligohydramnios
13. Postpartum

14. **Primigravida**
15. **Primipara (primip)**
16. **Pseudocyesis**
17. **Teratogenic**