

## ***Integumentary System***

### ***Speaker: Heidi Jones***

The integumentary system is composed of the skin and its appendages, that being the hair, nails, and sweat and oil glands.

The skin is very important organ; it forms the protective covering for our body.

Let's start our discussion the anatomy of the skin and structure of the skin –

The outer layer of skin is referred to as the epidermis. In medical terms, *epi-* means on, upon or over, so epidermis would mean the outer or surrounding layer of the skin.

The keratin is referred to as the horny, or cornified layer of the skin. It is composed of protein.

The melanin is the color, or pigmentation of the skin.

The dermis, which also referred to as the “true skin” is the inner layer of skin.

Sudoriferous glands are also known as the sweat glands. These glands are tiny, coiled, structures that emerge through pores on the skin's surface.

Sebaceous glands are the glands that secrete sebum which is oil.

Hair is the compressed, keratinized cells that arise from hair follicles.

### **Combining Forms for the integumentary system:**

aut/o	self
bi/o	life
coni/o	dust
crypt/o	hidden
cutane/o, dermat/o, dermat/o	skin
heter/o	other
hidr/o	sweat
kerat/o	horny tissue, hard
myc/o	fungus

necr/o	death (cells, body)
onych/o, ungu/o	nail
pachy/o	thick
rhytid/o	wrinkles
seb/o	sebum (oil)
staphyl/o	grapelike clusters
strept/o	twisted chain
trich/o	hair
xer/o	dry

**Lets move onto some common prefixes that are used with the integumentary system:**

epi-	on, upon, over
intra-	within
para-	beside, beyond, around
per-	through
sub-	under, below

**Continuing with common suffixes that are used the integumentary system:**

-coccus (cocci)	berry-shaped
-ectomy	excision or surgical removal
-ia	diseased or abnormal state
-itis	inflammation
-malacia	softening
-opsy	view of, viewing
-phagia	eating or swallowing
-plasty	surgical repair

-rrhea	flow, excessive discharge
-tome	instrument used to cut

So let's have some fun and start to break the terms down for the integumentary system –

The first term is **dermatitis** – *itis* would be inflammation, and *derm/o* is skin; so you would have inflammation of the skin.

This next term is **hidradenitis** – again *itis* would be inflammation, *hidr/o* is sweat, and *aden/o* is gland; so you would have inflammation of a sweat gland.

The next term is **xeroderma** – *derm/o* is skin and *xer/o* is dry; so you would have dry skin.

The following are surgical terms that can be broken down –

Biopsy (Bx) is the removal of living tissue from the body to be viewed under the microscope.

Dermatoautoplasty is surgical repair using one's own skin also known as autograft.

Dermatoheteroplasty is the surgical repair using skin from others as known as a skin graft.

There are several diseases and disorders of the integumentary system that cannot be built from word parts. Let's review these:

An abscess is referred to as a collection of pus.

Basal cell carcinoma, also known as BCC is common in people who have had excessive sun exposure.

Candidiasis is also known as thrush.

Cicatrix is the medical term for scar.

Diaphoresis means profuse sweating.

Emollient is an agent that softens or soothes the skin.

Gangrene is defined as death of tissue caused by loss of blood supply followed by bacterial invasion.

Jaundice is a condition characterized by a yellow tinge to the skin.

Kaposi sarcoma is a cancerous condition that spreads through the skin to the lymph nodes and is frequently seen with AIDS.

Nevus is referred to as a birthmark.

Pediculosis is invasion into the skin and hair by lice.

Pruritus is severe itching.

Squamous cell carcinoma (SqCCa) is a malignant growth that develops from scale-like epithelial tissue.

Tinea is also called ringworm.

**To conclude, here are common abbreviations associated with the integumentary system:**

BCC	basal cell carcinoma
Bx	biopsy
CMV	cytomegalovirus
Decub	pressure ulcer
Derm	dermatology
I&D	incision and drainage
SLE	system lupus erythematosus
SqCCA	squamous cell carcinoma
Staph	staphylococcus
Strep	streptococcus
Subcat	subcutaneous
TD	transdermal