

abortifacient	Produces premature childbirth
abscesses	Circumscribed collection of pus, in any part of the body, formed by the disintegration and stretching of the tissues, with accumulation of pus cells, usually due to infection by bacteria.
acaricide	Kills acari (mites), esp. the sp. causing itch (ex. sulfur).
alexipharmic (used for)	Expelling or counteracting poison; antidotal.
alterative	Is presumed to alter (i.e., modify or affect) the course of a disease for the better; often by stimulating nutrition and repair and promoting the expulsion of waste matter; thus to improve morbid conditions by modifying metabolism inducing a gradual return to normal function; usually given over long periods in convalescence and in treating chronic diseases. (Cf. discutient, resolvent). Ex.: organic (or plant): sarsaparilla, codliver oil and other vitamin materials; inorganic (or mineral): mercurials, As_2O_3 , sulfur, iodides.
amenorrhoea	Absence or suppression of the menstrual discharge from any cause other than pregnancy or the menopause.
amoebic dysentery	(See dysentery) A disease attended with inflammation and often ulceration of the large intestine, and characterized by griping pains, constant desire to evacuate the bowels, and the discharge of mucus and blood. It is caused by pathogenic microorganisms in the intestinal canal. It may be acute or chronic, sporadic or epidemic. Amoebic, or tropical, dysentery is caused by amoebae (<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>), and is usually ulcerative.
anaemia	A condition in which the red corpuscles of the blood are reduced in number or deficient in hemoglobin. Pallor of the skin and mucous membranes, shortness of breath, and palpitation of the heart are prominent symptoms. Primary or idiopathic anemia is called pernicious anemia. Secondary anemia results from loss of blood by hemorrhage, from internal destruction of red corpuscles as a result of poisons produced by disease, or from toxic interference with blood formation. 2. Physiol. Deficiency of blood supplied to any given organ; as, cerebral anemia in fainting.

analgesic	Relieves or reduces perception of or sensitivity to pain by quieting (or depressing) nerve sensory centers, or by reducing conductivity of nerve fibers (without sensibly affecting other parts of body). Types: (a) general or systemic (ex. morphine, codeine, acetanilid, aspirin); (b) local (ex. aconite; methyl salicylate; liniments).
anaphrodisiac	Allays (lessens) or depresses (reduces) sexual desire (appetite) or ability (function, activity); act by lessening excitability or depressing genital centers. Ex.: cocaine, camphor, tobacco, belladonna, henbane, stramonium, bromides, opium, vegetable diet, purgation.
ancylostomiasis	Infestation with worms of <i>Ancylostoma</i> or closely allied genera, esp. <i>A. duodenale</i> or the tropical American species <i>Necator americanus</i> ; specif., a severe anemia caused by the sucking of blood from the small intestine by large numbers of these parasites; called also hookworm disease, miner's anemia, brickmaker's anemia, Egyptian chlorosis, uncinariasis.
anesthetic	Numbs or paralyzes or destroys feeling or sensation temporarily, esp. of pain. Types: (a) general: affects whole system by bringing unconsciousness and (general) anesthesia (ex. CHCl_3 , N_2O , Et_2O , EtBr); (b) local: acts on specific parts of system (paralysis of sensory nerves of local area) (ex. cocaine, extreme cold (through ether spray)). (c) spinal: actually form of local a. induced by injection into spinal subarachnoid space (ex. Nupercaine). (d) others: rectal and intravenous: used to induce general anesthesia; pre-operative; refrigeration; etc.
angina angina	(Not-listed) Any inflammatory affection of the throat*
anidrotic	Checks (or prevents) or lessens (or reduces) sweating (or perspiration) (the opposite of diaphoretic). Ex.: ergot, opium, belladonna, hyoscyamus, stramonium, zinc salts, talcum, acids locally; local cold (Cf. antihydrotic).
anodyne	Analgesic. (allays pain).
anorexia	Want of appetite, without a loathing of food.
anthelmintic	Provides remedy or cure for worms, usually in the alimentary tract; which destroys (vermicide) or expels (vermifuge) worms inhabiting the intestinal canal; also cf. tenifuge, tenicide, etc.

*or fauces, as quinsy or croup, esp. such as tends to produce spasmodic suffocative attacks.

anthrax	2. Med. and Veter. (a) A carbuncle. (b) a malignant pustule, a characteristic lesion of the disease anthrax. (c) an infectious, and usually fatal, disease of animals, esp. cattle and sheep, and occasionally man, to whom it may be transmitted by inoculation. It is characterized by ulcerations of the skin, enlargement of the spleen, and general collapse, and is caused by Bacillus (syn. Bacterium) anthracis. Called also splenic fever, woolsorter's disease, milzbrand, charbon, and, from its lesion, malignant pustule. (d) Blackleg; used with the qualifying word symptomatic. 3. The microorganism causing anthrax.
antibiotic	Combats variously bacteria, Rickettsiae, viruses, protozoa, etc., and is derived from the bodies of plants, particularly the fungi (ex. tetracycline).
antidote	Counteracts poison (by chemical, physiological, or physical means); ex., starch for iodine, tannic acid for digitalis (gives insol. tannate).
antifebrile	Antipyretic
antilithic	Prevents formation or aids in solution of calculi (stones of various ducts of body, esp. urinary and to lesser extent biliary concretions) (ex. water, Li and other metallic salts).
antiperiodic	Checks symptoms of periodic febrile disease; sometimes specif. antimalarial; (ex., quinine in malaria).
antiphlogistic	Reduces or allays inflammation (swelling, redness, heat) esp. in bronchial area; term becoming obsolete (ex. cold locally, aconite, clay poultice).
antipruritic	Is used to relieve itching (ex. phenol).
antipyretic	Reduces febrile temperatures of body (ex. quinine, antipyrine, aconite, camphor, acetanilid).
antiseptic	Inhibits (or retards) or prevents the growth and reproduction or arrests the development of bacteria or other microorganisms causative of infection or other deleterious processes (ex. alcohol, $KMnO_4$). Types: digestive, intestinal, ophthalmic, oral, genital, urinary, etc.
aperient	Mild laxative, causing no irritation (ex. manna, sulfur).

aperitive	Is aperient; stimulates appetite.
aphrodisiac	Stimulates sex desire (appetite) or power (ability) (ex. cantharis, nux vomica, cannabis, blood; meat diet).
ascaricide	Destroys round worms.
ascarifuge	(Not listed)
ascites	The collection of serous fluid in the cavity of the abdomen; dropsy of the peritoneum.
asthma	A disease characterized by difficulty of breathing (due to a spasmodic contraction of the bronchi), recurring at intervals, accompanied with a wheezing sound, a sense of constriction in the chest, a cough, and expectoration. Commonly called bronchial asthma. Cf. cardiac asthma.
astringent	Contracts tissues and checks secretions (as perspiration), allays inflammation, acts as styptic (stops capillary blood flow), stimulates epithelial growth locally, hardens tissues to form crust on surface, hence acts as antiseptic and protective (ex. tannic acid, alum, silver nitrate, ferric chloride, lead acetate, witch-hazel).