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Main Sources of Origin of Anatomical Terms Svitlitsky Andriy, Chernyavsky Artur, Matvieishyna Tetiana, Shcherbakov Maksym Основні джерела походження анатомічних термінів Світлицький Андрій, Чернявський Артур, Матвейшина Тетяна, Щербаков Максим	122
Peculiarities of regeneration of an experimental femur fracture in rats with intramedullary fixation with carbon-carbon composite material implants Bohdanov Pavlo Особливості регенерації експериментального перелому стегнової кістки щурів з інтрамедулярною фіксацією імплантатами з вуглець-вуглецевого композитного матеріалу Богданов Павло	129
Research activity of the kyiv anatomical school: from origins to the present day Yanchyshyn Andrii, Dzevulska Iryna, Malikov Olexandr Науково-дослідницька діяльність київської анатомічної школи: від витоків до сьогодення Янчишин Андрій, Дзевульська Ірина, Маліков Олександр	133
АЛФАВІТНИЙ ЗМІСТ	138

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Main Sources of Origin of Anatomical Terms

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Abstract: *the study of both human anatomy and medicine in general is based on knowledge of anatomical and medical terminology. However, for a student of higher medical education, there is a whole series of difficulties associated with memorizing a large number of specialized terms of Latin or Greek origin, which is a big problem when studying, first of all, human anatomy, where the number of terms is about 7.5 thousand. This article is a continuation of the work of the Department of Human Anatomy, Operative Surgery and Topographic Anatomy of ZSM-PhU with the study of anatomical terminology, which was started by Doctor of Sciences in Medicine, Professor M. A. Voloshyn. The aim of the study was to conduct an analysis of anatomical terms in order to study, systematize and exclusion of errors. In order to facilitate the understanding and memorization of specialized anatomical terms by the staff of the Department of Human Anatomy, Operative Surgery and Topographic Anatomy of ZSMPhU, together with the teachers of the Department of Foreign Languages of ZSMPhU, a classification of anatomical terms by origin has been developed and proposed. Materials and methods: the search and selection of scientific literature for a systematic review was carried out by the authors independently in the PubMed, Scopus and Cochrane databases using the keywords: "anatomy", "eponyms", "classification", "linguistics", "terminology" in the full texts of articles in English and Ukrainian based on the results of studies with the level of evidence I-III. All terms in human anatomy can be classified by the language of origin (linguistic classification) and by the connection of the term with the object or phenomenon of the surrounding world from which it originates (etymological classification). By language of origin (linguistic classification): 1. Latin (classical, postclassical); 2. Greek; 3. Arabic; 4. Old English; 5. other languages. According to the connection with the object or phenomenon of the surrounding world (etymological classification), terms are divided into anatomical names that reflect ancient ideas about living and inanimate objects of the surrounding world (terms whose origin is connected with objects of the inanimate world: cosmological terms; geological terms, as well as terms, the origin of which is related to the objects of the living world; terms of animalistic origin (terms, the origin of which is related to tableware, the origin of which is related to clothing and jewelry, the origin of which is related to furniture and toys, the origin of which is related to household tools and appliances, the origin of which is related to parts of the human dwelling, which are related to the domestic activity of a person and related to the military activity of a person), terms related to geometric figures, terms related to the names of colors, terms related to mythical or Biblical characters (terms related to Greek mythology, related to Roman mythology, related to Egyptian mythology, of biblical origin), eponyms, terms derived from the names of human body parts, terms related to certain functions of an organ, terms, related to certain characteristics of the object (shape, position, dimensions) and general terms, terms of uncertain origin and anachronisms. The proposed classification of anatomical terms by origin allows a deeper understanding of the historical, cultural, social and scientific meaning of some terms, makes them more understandable for students studying human anatomy.*

Key words: Anatomy, Eponyms, Classification, Linguistics, Terminology.

Introduction

The study of both human anatomy and medicine in general is based on knowledge of anatomical and medical terminology (Gocht et al., 2023). However, for a student of higher medical education, there is a

whole series of difficulties associated with memorizing a large number of specialized terms of Latin or Greek origin, which is a big problem when studying, first of all, human anatomy, where the number of terms is about 7.5 thousand (Cherkasov et al., 2010;

Chmielewski, 2020). This article is a continuation of the work of the Department of Human Anatomy, Operative Surgery and Topographic Anatomy of ZSMPhU with the study of anatomical terminology, which was started by Doctor of Sciences in Medicine, Professor M. A. Voloshyn.

Aim

To conduct an analysis of anatomical terms in order to study them, systematize and eliminate errors.

Materials and methods

The search and selection of scientific literature for a systematic review was carried out by the authors independently in the PubMed, Scopus and Cochrane databases using the keywords: "anatomy", "eponyms", "classification", "linguistics", "terminology" in the full texts of articles in English and Ukrainian based on the results of studies with the level of evidence I-III.

Review and discussion

In order to facilitate the understanding and memorization of specialized anatomical terms by the staff of the Department of Human Anatomy, Operative Surgery and Topographic Anatomy of ZSMPhU, together with the teachers of the Department of Foreign Languages of ZSMPhU, a classification of anatomical terms by origin has been developed and proposed.

All terms in human anatomy can be classified by the language of origin (linguistic classification) and by the connection of the term with the object or phenomenon of the surrounding world from which it originates (etymological classification):

I. By language of origin (linguistic classification)

1. Latin (classical, postclassical)
2. Greek
3. Arabic
4. Old English
5. Other languages.

II. According to the connection of the term with the object or phenomenon of the surrounding world (etymological classification).

1. Anatomical names reflecting ancient ideas about animate and inanimate objects of the surrounding world.

1.1. Terms whose origin is connected with objects of the inanimate world.

- 1.1.1 Cosmological terms;
- 1.1.2 Hydrological terms;
- 1.1.3 Geological terms;
- 1.1.4 Meteorological terms.

1.2. Terms whose origin is connected with objects of the living world.

1.2.1 Terms of botanical origin;

1.2.2 Terms of animalistic origin.

2. Terms related to human life and activities.

2.1. Terms, the origin of which is connected with tableware;

2.2. Terms, the origin of which is related to clothing and jewelry;

2.3. Terms originating from furniture and toys;

2.4. Terms, the origin of which is connected with household tools and appliances;

2.5. Terms related to parts of a person's dwelling;

2.6. Terms related to a person's everyday activities;

2.7. Terms related to the military activity of a person.

3. Terms related to geometric figures.

4. Terms related to the names of colors.

5. Terms associated with mythical or Biblical characters.

5.1. The terms are related to Greek mythology;

5.2. The terms are related to Roman mythology;

5.3. The terms are associated with Egyptian mythology;

5.4. Terms of biblical origin.

6. Eponyms.

7. Terms derived from the names of human body parts.

8. Terms related to certain functions of the body.

9. Terms related to certain characteristics of the object (shape, position, dimensions).

9. General terms, terms of uncertain origin and anachronisms.

According to the **language of origin** of most terms in the anatomical lexicon, which can be traced, comes from classical Latin (62%), 24% of terms come from classical Greek, from Old English - 7%, from post-classical Latin - 3%, from other languages - 4%, therefore most of the terms considered in this article belong to terms of Latin origin or Latinized Greek terms (Lysanets et al., 2018; Iliopoulos et al., 2019; Neumann, 2023).

According to **the connection of the term with the object or phenomenon of the surrounding World** from which it originates, the largest group consists of terms whose origin is connected with objects of animate or inanimate nature. This is primarily due to the fact that the first method of scientific research in ancient times was the descriptive method (Ghosh, 2022). We analyzed more than 100 terms of this group, of which the largest number belongs to terms related to inanimate objects. These terms can be conventionally divided into 4 groups: 1) cosmological terms - related to luminaries,

2) hydrological - terms related to water, rivers, seas, lakes; 3) geological terms - related to the Earth; 4) meteorological terms - related to weather phenomena and conditions; 5) the terms are related to the landscape.

Examples of terms of the 1st group are:

- *Lunate* (lat. *os lunatum*, from *luna* - "moon") - one of the bones of the wrist.
- *Radius* (lat. *radius*, from lat. *radius* - "ray") - a long straight tubular bone of the forearm. Named so because it looks like a ray.

Examples of terms of the 2nd group are:

- *Lacrimal pathway* (lat. *rivus lacrimalis*, from lat. *rivus* - "stream", further from Proindo-Hebrew **reie* - "to flow, run".) - is not a structural permanent tissue formation, it is formed functionally in the form of a small tubule between the beveled rear edge the lower eyelid and the front surface of the eyeball. When closing the eyelids, including when blinking, there is a narrow slit or tube. Stretches along the edge of the eyelids from the outer to the inner edge of the eyelids (in fact, *rivus* is a river; a stream in Latin would be *rivulus*).
- *Lacrimal lake* (lat. *lacus lacrimalis*, from lat. *lacus* "bath, tub, pit", related to Greek *λάκκος* "pond for waterfowl; pit, ditch; pond, pool") - a small cup-shaped cavity between the mucous membranes of the conjunctiva, sclera and lower eyelid (when the eyelids are closed and between the upper eyelid) in the inner (medial) corner of the eye slit, located around the lacrimal space. Filled with tear fluid.

Examples of terms of the 3rd group are:

- *Petrous part of the temporal bone* (lat. *pars petrosa*, from lat. 1. *lapis*; *silex*; *saxum*; *petra*; *calculus*; 2. *lithos* - "stone") - part of the temporal bone.
- From the second Latin name of stones comes another anatomical term - "otolith" (from Greek *οὖς*, (n. *ωτος*) - "ear" and *λίθος* - "stone"), or *statolith* (from Greek *στατός* - "immobile") - solid formations located on the surface of cells that perceive various mechanical stimuli; part of the balance organ in some invertebrates, all vertebrates and humans.
- *Salivary gland* (lat. *glandula salivaria* - from the Latin adjective *salivaria*, salivary, comes from the word *saliva*, which goes back to the root **saliv-*, the general meaning of which, reflected in other Indo-European languages, is "liquid dirt") - digestive glands of the oral cavity.

Examples of terms of the 4th group are:

- *Artery* (lat. *arteria*, from lat. *aer* - "air", *tereo* - "hold") - ancient doctors, when they dissected and prepared corpses, discovered two systems of vessels: some were filled with dark blood, they were called veins, others were empty - arteries.
- *Vortex of heart* (lat. *vertex cordis*, from lat. *vortex*; *verte* - "vortex") - part of the surface fibers of the myocardium of the ventricles at the apex of the heart, which bend like a loop, were called *vertex*, *verticis*, which in Latin means "whirlpool of water, wind or flame, vortex mass". The name of the veins of the eye - *vorticose veins* (*vena vorticososa*) is also related to the name of the vortex (lat. *vortex*). *Vorticose veins* end with main trunks that leave the eyes through the oblique scleral canals behind the equator on the sides of the vertical meridian (they are also called *Rüish veins*).

Examples of terms of the 5th group are:

- *Pharynx* (*pharynx* is a Greekism, in the original - *φάρυγξ*. In turn, the Greek word first sounded like *φάρυξ*, and then in its popularization it was equated to the related *φάρυγξ* ("gorge")) - a part of the alimentary canal.

- *Ischial tuberosity* (lat. *tuber ischiadicum*, from lat. *tuber* - "hill, bump") - an outgrowth of ischium.

Also, a sufficiently large group (about 100 terms) are terms related to living nature. Terms of animal origin (animalistic) come from the names of certain species of animals or parts of the animal's body. The terms of plant origin (botanical) are also related to the names of plants or their parts.

- *Cauda equina* (lat. *cauda equina*, from *equinus*, - "horse", in turn, from lat. *equus* - "horse") - a bundle of coccygeal, sacral and lumbar spinal roots, apparently due to the external similarity of the tail and this anatomical structure. The time of the appearance of the term in anatomy is probably 1889 (when the disease of the spinal roots was first described).
- *Appendix or Vermiform appendix* (lat. *appendix vermiformis*, from lat. *vermis* - worm) is a peripheral lymphoid organ located on the dome of the caecum of humans and some vertebrates.
- *Pes anserinus* (nervous) (lat. *pes anserinus* - referring to or resembling a goose, from lat. *anser* - "goose") - formed by the muscle branches of the facial nerve.

The terms of plant origin (botanical) are also related to the names of plants or their parts.

- *Glans penis (clitorus)*, which is usually called the *glans penis (clitoridis)*, comes from Latin. *gland* - "acorn, chestnut" - an expanded structure at the distal end of human penis (*clitoris*). Also, from the name "acorn" comes the noun *glandula* - "gland" (it is a diminutive form of the word *glans (glandis)*).
- *Pisiform (lat. os pisiforme, from lat. pisum - "pea", forme - "similar")* - a bone of the proximal row of the wrist.
- *Fungiform papillae of the tongue (lat. papilla fungiformis, from lat. fungus- "mushroom")* - mace-shaped protrusions on the tongue, usually red in color. They are located on the tip of the tongue, scattered among the filiform papillae, but mainly present on the tip and sides of the tongue.

A fairly large group consists of **terms related to the everyday life and activities of a person**. This includes anatomical names related to human life and derived from the names of parts of ancient human dwellings, household items (clothes, toys, furniture, dishes), household appliances and tools (Turliuc et al., 2016).

- *Patella (lat. patella, from lat. patena - "bowl, small bowl for sacrifice")* is a sesamoid bone.
- *Omental bursa or Lesser sac (lat. bursa omentalis, from lat. bursa - "bag")* is a closed cavity between organs or structures.
- *Perinephric fat or Perirenal fat capsule (lat. capsula adipose renis, from lat. capsula - diminutive of capsula - "box, drawer, bag")* - accumulation of adipose tissue around the kidney.

In a separate group, it is expedient to include terms derived from certain types of human activity in everyday life, or military activity (because military activity in those days occupied a large part of a person's life).

- *Pylorus (lat. pylorus - Latinized by Celsus, Greek. πυλωρός (pylōrós - "gatekeeper"))*, formed from *πύλη (pylē - "door", "gate")* + *οὔρος (oûros, "guard")* - the transitional part from the stomach to the duodenum.
- *Sartorius (lat. m. sartorius, from lat. sartorius - "tailor")* - the longest muscle in the body, which is most activated when you sit with your legs crossed. Because of the position that activates it, the muscle was named "sartorius," which is Latin for "tailor." In the past, tailors sat cross-legged while pinning hems.
- *Thorax (Gr. thorax θώραξ (thōrāx) - shell, armor, protection) - a complex bone formation.*

- *Uterine tube (Gr. salpinx - "battle trumpet, trombone")* - internal female genital organ.

The terms whose names are related to geometric shapes. This group includes the names of anatomical formations that have a certain geometric shape. Example:

- *Trapezium (lat. os trapezium, from lat. trapezium - trapezium) - a bone of the distal row of the wrist.*
- *Rhomboid fossa (lat. fossa rhomboidea, from lat. rhombus - "rhomb")* - depression on the back surface of the medulla oblongata.

Color terms are a relatively small group of terms that are derived from color names. Example:

- *White substance of the brain (lat. substantia alba medullae, from lat. albus - "white")* - a cluster of nerve cell processes.
- *Tuber cinereum (lat. tuber cinerum, from lat. cinereum - "ashy")* - elevation on the surface of the hypothalamus.
- *Substantia nigra (lat. substantia nigra, from lat. niger - "black")* - formation of the midbrain.

Terms related to mythical or biblical characters.

This group includes terms derived from the names of ancient Greek mythical characters: gods, heroes (Karakis, 2019; Lysanets et al., 2023). Example:

- *Calcaneal (Achilles) tendon (lat. tendo calcanei (Achillesi), from Achilles, or Achilles (Greek: Αχιλλεύς) - the hero of the Trojan War, the son of the Myrmidonian king Peleus and the nereid Thetis, who, according to one version, in aim of hardening her son, bathed him in the waters of the underground river Styx, so Achilles had the only vulnerable place - the heel, which was held by his mother while bathing.*

The terms are related to Roman mythology.

Example:

- *Mons pubis (mons Venus) (lat. mons pubis, from Venus (lat. Venus))* - the ancient Roman goddess of love, beauty, desire, sex, fertility, spring, gardens, prosperity and victory. She was depicted accompanied by three graces - the goddesses of beauty, joy and feminine attractiveness).

The terms are associated with Egyptian mythology.

Example:

- *Ammon's horn (hippocampus) (lat. Cornu Ammonis) - Amon (Eg. imn) is a hidden god of the sky, the priests identified him with the sun god Ra, calling him Amon-Ra. Amun's sacred animals were a goose and a ram. That is why he*

was sometimes depicted as a man with a ram's head and twisted horns.

Terms of Biblical origin that are associated with the names of biblical characters (Woo et al., 2022). These terms are:

- *Laryngeal prominence (Adam's apple) (Greek prominentia laryngea (pomum Adami), from Adam (Hebrew אָדָם; Greek Αδάμ)) – in Abrahamic religions, the first man, the father of the human race.*

A fairly large group of **anatomical terms are eponymous terms**. Eponym (Greek ἐπώνυμος, lit. "the one who gave the name") - a deity, an outstanding person or a hero, in whose honor the object received its name (Kumar et al., 2022). In previous works, over 2,000 eponymous terms found in human anatomy were analyzed. Unfortunately, today eponymous terms are almost completely excluded from official anatomical terminology, but they continue to be widely used in both anatomy and medicine (FIPAT, 2019; Duque Parra et al., 2020).

- *Confluence of sinuses of Herophilus. Herophilus (Greek: Ηρόφιλος, end of IV - first half of III century BC) - ancient Greek anatomist and surgeon.*
- *Da Vinci valve. Leonardo da Vinci (ital. Leonardo da Vinci; 1452 - 1519) - Italian mathematician, artist (painter, sculptor, architect), scientist (anatomist, naturalist), inventor, writer, musician, one of the greatest representatives of the art of the High Renaissance.*

Terms derived from the names of human parts.

A fairly small group of terms. Example:

- *Condyle (Greek condylus, from Latin condylus – "fist") - a rounded process of a long tubular bone.*
- *Duodenum (lat. duodenum - ancient Greek doctors called the section of the small intestine closest to the stomach dodecadactylon enteron (Greek dodeca "twelve" + dactylos "finger", enteron "intestine"), not exactly counting 12 transverse fingers in it.*

Terms related to certain functions of the body.

First of all, this group includes the names of muscles that are determined by the specific function of the muscle:

- *Levator scapulae (lat. m. levator scapulae, from lat. elevo — I lift) is a deep muscle of the back.*
- *Extensor digitorum (hand) (lat. m. extensor digitorum, from lat. extension – to stretch) is a muscle of the back group of the forearm.*

Terms related to certain characteristics of the object (shape, position, dimensions).

- *Fascia lata (lat. fascia lata, from lat. latus – "wide") - superficial fascia of the thigh.*
- *Deep artery of arm or profunda brachii artery (lat. a. profunda brachii from lat. profundus – "deep") - a branch of brachial artery.*

General terms, terms of uncertain origin and anachronisms. This rather large group consists of terms of origin of a general nature - for example, these are terms of a non-systematic nature, which are very difficult to attribute to any of the above groups (for example: philtrum). This also includes terms whose meaning in different languages is somewhat different (for example: procerus). This group also includes some anachronisms - terms that were previously used and then were removed from the official nomenclature, although preserved in the historical aspect (Neumann, 2024). Example:

- *"Anatomical snuffbox" (tabatiere anatomique [French: tabatiere anatomique] anatomical snuffbox) - is called a fossa (lat. fossa arteria radialis) that is formed when the thumb is abducted between the tendons of the long abductor thumb muscle and the flexor brevis, on one side, and its long extensor - from the other. Anatomists who followed the fashion of the XVIII-XIX centuries. tobacco, so as not to take it with dirty hands, tobacco was poured into this hole.*
- *Pia mater (lat. pia mater, from lat. pia - "pious, gentle"; mater - not only "mother", but also generally "source, basis"). In translation - "soft mother". Thus, in the Middle Ages, the Arabic terms denoting these coats were translated into Latin; in the Arabic language, some concepts were defined in terms of kinship and the word "mother" also meant "birth, content, feeding".*

Conclusions. The proposed classification of anatomical terms by origin allows a deeper understanding of the historical, cultural, social and scientific meaning of some terms, makes them more understandable for students studying human anatomy.

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There are no potential or apparent conflicts of interest related to this manuscript at the time of publication and are not anticipated.

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Основні джерела походження анатомічних термінів

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Анотація: вивчення як анатомії людини, так і медицини в цілому базується на знанні анатомічної та медичної термінології. Однак для здобувача вищої медичної освіти виникає ціла низка складнощів пов'язаних із запам'ятовуванням великої кількості спеціалізованих термінів латинського або грецького походження, що є великою проблемою при вивченні, в першу чергу анатомії людини, де кількість термінів складає біля 7,5 тисяч. Наведена стаття є продовженням роботи кафедри Анатомії людини, оперативної хірургії та топографічної анатомії ЗДМФУ з вивченням анатомічної термінології, яка була розпочата д.мед.н., професором Волошиним М. А. Метою дослідження було провести аналіз анатомічних термінів з метою їх вивчення, систематизації та виключення помилок. Для полегшення розуміння і запам'ятовування анатомічних спеціалізованих термінів співробітниками кафедри Анатомії людини, оперативної хірургії та топографічної анатомії ЗДМФУ сумісно з викладачами кафедри Іноземних мов ЗДМФУ розроблено і запропоновано класифікацію анатомічних термінів за походженням. Матеріали і методи: пошук і відбір наукової літератури для систематичного огляду проведений авторами незалежно в базах даних PubMed, Scopus та Cochrane за ключовими словами: «анатомія», «епоніми», «класифікація», «лінгвістика», «термінологія» у повних текстах статей англійською та українською мовами за результатами досліджень з рівнем доказовості I–III. Всі терміни в анатомії людини можна класифікувати за мовою походження (лінгвістична класифікація) та за зв'язком терміну з об'єктом або явищем навколишнього Світу від якого він походить (етимологічна класифікація). За мовою походження (лінгвістична класифікація): 1. латина (класична, посткласична); 2. грецька; 3. арабська; 4. староанглійська; 5. інші мови. За зв'язком з об'єктом або явищем навколишнього Світу (етимологічна класифікація) терміни поділяються на анатомічні назви, що відображають античні уявлення про живі та неживі об'єкти навколишнього світу (терміни, походження яких пов'язане з об'єктами неживого світу: космологічні терміни; гідрологічні терміни; геологічні терміни; метеорологічні терміни, а також терміни, походження яких пов'язане з об'єктами живого світу: терміни ботанічного походження; терміни анімалістичного походження), терміни, що пов'язані з побутом та діяльністю людини (терміни, походження яких пов'язане з посудом, походження яких пов'язане з одягом та прикрасами, походження яких пов'язане з меблями та іграшками, походження яких пов'язане зі побутовими знаряддями та приладами, пов'язані з частинами житла людини, пов'язані з побутовою діяльністю людини, а також пов'язані з військовою діяльністю людини), терміни, що пов'язані з геометричними фігурами, терміни, що пов'язані з назвами кольорів, терміни, що пов'язані з міфічними, або Біблійними персонажами (терміни пов'язані з грецькою міфологією, пов'язані з римською міфологією, пов'язані з єгипетською міфологією, біблейського походження), епоніми, терміни, що походять від назв частин тіла людини, терміни, що пов'язані з певними функціями органу, терміни, що пов'язані з певними характеристиками об'єкту (форма, положення, розміри) та загальні терміни, терміни невизначеного походження та анахронізми. Запропонована класифікація анатомічних термінів за походженням дозволяє глибше зрозуміти історичне, культурне, соціальне та наукове значення деяких термінів, робить їх більш зрозумілими для студентів, що вивчають анатомію людини.

Ключові слова: анатомія, епоніми, класифікація, лінгвістика, термінологія.



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