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## ASSIMILATION OF LATIN DIMINUTIVES IN MEDICAL ENGLISH

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**Relevance.** Assimilation refers to the phonetic, graphic, grammatical and semantic adaptation of borrowed words to the system of the recipient language. There are possible options for the transition of words from language to language without any modifications, or words acquire a new set of features. Latin (alongside with Greek) has been the most significant donor to Medical English over centuries, with borrowed words demonstrating different degrees of assimilation.

**Aim:** to analyze the specifics and degree of assimilation of Latin borrowings with diminutive suffixes in medical English.

**Materials and methods.** Data for the study (64 words) were collected using Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine, a handbook of internal medicine (approx. 4,000 pages) written and edited by an international team of researchers and practitioners, which makes it possible to exclude the authors' "preferences" of certain word variants. The words under study have the diminutive suffixes -ul-, -cul-, -ell-, -ill-, -ol- or the final element -cle. The words were divided into three groups depending on the gender (masculine, feminine, neuter) of the motivating Latin noun and subjected to structural and semantic analysis. The attribution of borrowed words to one of the "genera" and the names of the groups can be considered conditional for the purposes of the study due to the actual absence of this category in modern English. The possibility of using different variants of the same word was verified using the Collins Online Dictionary and Merriam-Webster Dictionary, as well as other English-language medical reference books.

**Results and their discussion.** In the feminine group (27 words), words with the suffixes -ul-, -ell-, -ill-, -ol- remained unchanged (scapula, lamella, foveola). In four cases, nouns with these suffixes had a reduction of the ending -a, and the traditional "mute" -e appeared (venula – venule). Such words demonstrate variability (areola – areole) and the possibility of using, along with the traditional English -s, the Latin plural ending (areolas – areolae). All nouns of this group transformed the suffix -cul- (five words) into the final -cle (auricula – auricle). The dictionaries do not give variable forms for such words.

In the neuter group (15 words), ten words did not have any changes (frenulum, speculum, cerebellum). Five words showed partial assimilation, and in four cases there was a reduction of the Latin ending -um and the replacement of the suffix -cul- with the final -cle (tubercle, reticle). It is interesting that in cases where dictionaries offer two competing variants in modern English (reticulum – reticle), the authors of medical texts choose the Latin variant, which is marked in the dictionary as "anat", "biol", "pathol". The appearance of the final -e was recorded only in one word without the suffix -cul- (granule); the dictionaries did not register the variability.

In the masculine group (22 words), three words without suffix -cul- have not undergone changes (aleolus, anulus, volvulus). In other cases, the reduction of the Latin ending -us and the addition of the English mute -e (ductule, bronchiole) is recorded. Among the words with the suffix -cul- three subgroups can be distinguished: words that have completely preserved their Latin appearance (canaliculus, colliculus); words that have adapted to modern English by converting -cul(a) into the final -cle (follicle, fascicle); words recorded in dictionaries in two variants (utriculus – utricle). In the final subgroup, medical sources prefer the original Latin version, which is confirmed by the dictionary marks "anat", "biol", "pathol".

**Conclusions:** the study revealed 55% of partial and 45% of full borrowings. We have recorded Latin ending reduction with the addition of the final -e, partial loss of the suffix and ending, as well as the transition of the Latin word to English without changes. All the changes occurred as a result of adaptation to the lexical and grammatical structure of English. Most often, assimilation can be observed in words with the diminutive suffixes -cul-, -ul-, -ol-.