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dictionary

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sur·ger·y  (sûr jə-rē)

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n. pl. sur·ger·ies

1. The branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of injury, deformity, and disease by the use of instruments.
2.
 - a. Treatment based on such medicine, typically involving the removal or replacement of diseased tissue by cutting: *The athlete had surgery on his knee.*
 - b. A procedure that is part of this treatment; an operation: *The doctor performed three surgeries this morning.*
3. An operating room or a laboratory of a surgeon or of a hospital's surgical staff: *How long has the patient been in surgery?*
4. *Chiefly British*
 - a. A physician's, dentist's, or veterinarian's office.
 - b. The period during which a physician, dentist, or veterinarian consults with or treats patients in the office.

[Middle English *surgerie*, from Old French, alteration of *cirurgerie*, from *cirurgie*, from Latin *chīrūrgia*, from Greek *kheirourgīā*, from *kheirourgos*, working by hand : *kheir*, hand; see **ghes-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *ergon*, work; see **werg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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