When Galen in the second century carried out autopsies, he found that the second portion of the small intestine was usually empty, and called this part of the gut the jejunum, meaning empty, dry. We have a few English words with the same root:

- jejune: insipid, from Webster's Second Edition
- jejunation: fasting, from Webster's Second Edition
- jejunator: one who fasts, from Webster's Second Edition
- jejunium propheticum: prophetic fast by tribal priests and shamans to induce visions, from Encyclopædia Britannica

But the great majority of jejun-words relate to the jejunum, a word of logologic interest for its double J, and therefore for the letter patterns that can be made from its compound forms. But how many such words are there?

Webster's Second and Third Editions allow but 16. Three major medical dictionaries permit 25 more. But, a review of the Index Medicus for the past 20 years or so, under the headings Jejunum and Jejunal Diseases, shows 49 more, in the titles of articles written in English and many more in the translations of the titles of foreign-language articles. I estimate more than 200 different English jejun-words are to be found in respectable medical sources.

The rules for making up medical words on the spot are so clear in many cases that authors and editors never question them. There is no doubt, for example, that if anyone cared to refer to the region anatomically behind the jejunum, it would be retrojejunal, though I lack a citation. Numbers of words are multiplied by equivalent roots for medical terms: esophago-/oesophago, hepatico-/hepato-, pancreatico-/pancreato-. The placement of hyphens is variable, and in the list below I have retained the hyphen only where I have not come across a non-hyphenated form of the word. For the word postjejunoileal, you may choose between two locations for the hyphen. Many of the nouns ending in -stomy or -tomy are, in fact, turned to verbs in medical parlance, although finding examples in medical writings is a bit difficult; two examples are included.

vide more jejun-words. The translations to English of foreign-language summaries are not included except to note wirsungojejunostomies, perhaps the most remarkable of all.

aortojejunual
appendico-jejunual
cardiojejunopexy
cholecystojejunostomy
cholecystojejunocystostomy
choledochojejunal
choledochojejunostomy
colo-jejunal
cystojejunostomy
23B
duodenoojejunual
duodenoojejunectomy
duodenoojejunoleitis
2 BDS
duodenoojejunostomy
esophagojejunoduodenal
esophagojejunogastrostomosis
esophagojejunogastrostomy
esophagojejunoplasty
BD
esophagojejunostomy
23B
gastrojejunual
B
gastrojejunitis
DS
gastrojejuncolic
gastrojejuncutaneous
gastrojejunoesophageal
23BDS
gastrojejunojeyunal
D
hepaticocholedochojejunostomy
hepaticocholedochojejunostomy
hepaticojejunual
hepaticojejunoduodenostomy
BD
hepaticojejunostomy
hepaticojejunostomy
BD
hepaticojejunostomy
hepaticojejunostomy
S
hepatocholedochojejunostomy
B
hepatojejunual
heptojejunostomy
ileoojejunual
S
ileoojejunitis
ileum-jejunum
inter-jejunual
intrahepatocholedoctojejunostomy
intrajejunual
B
jejunual
23BDS
jejunual
jejunual-ileal
jejunual-loop
jejunectomized
23BDS
jejunectomy

Editor's Note:  some technical terms related to jejunum have been highlighted in the text, where appropriate, instead of being included directly in the list of terms.
Editor’s Note: Admittedly, few people are interested in obscure medical terms relating to the jejunum. However, this article should instead be viewed as an illustration of the fact that dictionaries not only differ in their opinion of what words to include, but leave out a considerable number of words in actual use.