



KANAKIA
Health Care

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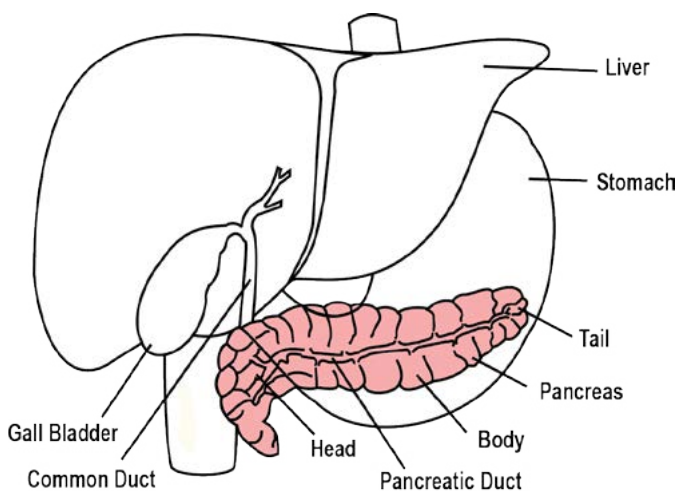
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Acute Pancreatitis

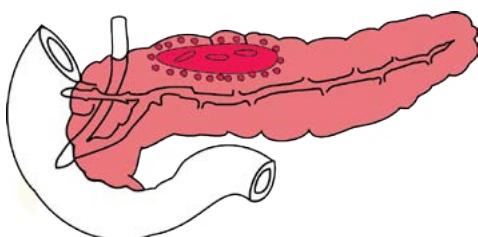
What is the pancreas?

The pancreas is an endocrine as well as digestive gland, situated between the stomach and backbone. It is around 6- 8 inches in length. It makes a mixture called the pancreatic juice which contains enzymes to digest proteins, starch and carbohydrates, fats and other nutrients. It also helps in absorption of nutrients. The pancreas has another important function, which is making insulin. The pancreas consists of the head, body and tail.



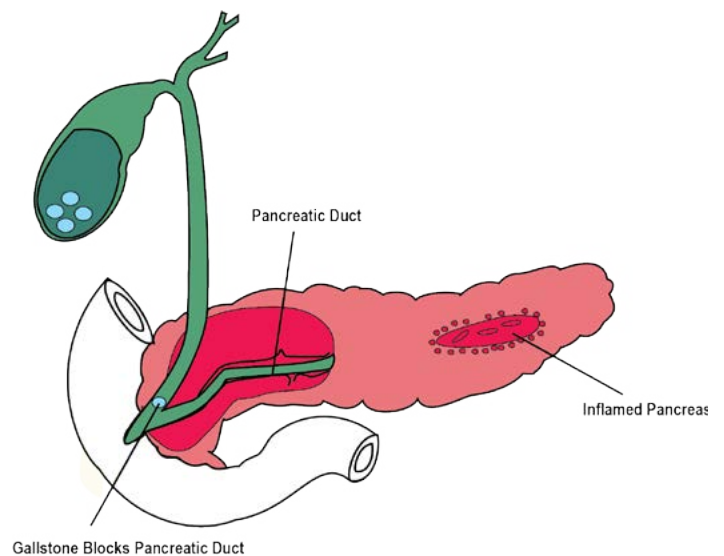
What is pancreatitis?

The inflammation of the pancreas is called pancreatitis. It causes sudden severe abdominal pain. It could be acute or chronic.



What are the causes of acute pancreatitis?

- Gallstones
- Moderate to heavy alcohol consumption over a period of years
- Certain medications
- Following an ERCP
- Hypertriglyceridemia
- Unexplained



What is the outcome of acute pancreatitis?

Most people will have an uneventful recovery. Some will however need intensive medical care. Some will progress to chronic pancreatitis.

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Acute Pancreatitis



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What are the symptoms of acute pancreatitis?

- Sudden, constant pain in the upper part of the abdomen involving the back in a band-like pattern. The pain decreases as the patient leans forward.
- If associated with gall stones, gall bladder pain occurs first. The pain travels to the back and right shoulder. It is constant, with nausea and vomiting.
- Fever
- Jaundice
- Rarely there is no pain at all
- Nausea, vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Swollen or tender abdomen
- Shock and coma in severe cases

- ICU monitoring may be required for severe cases
- Antibiotics if there is evidence of bacterial infection
- Low fat diet
- Pancreatic enzyme supplements
- Avoid smoking and alcohol
- Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) or surgery to remove gall stones if they are responsible for the pancreatitis may be advised
- Surgery for removal of the damaged part of the pancreas is sometimes necessary

How is acute pancreatitis diagnosed?

- Blood tests – pancreatic enzymes are raised
- Ultrasound, CT scan, endoscopic ultrasound or magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP)
- Investigations to find out the cause of the pancreatitis

What is the treatment for acute pancreatitis?

Treatment depends on the severity of the pancreatitis.

- Hospitalization for a few days for supportive care, medications and IV fluids

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