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Pancreatitis

The pancreas [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/pancreaticdiseases.html>] is a large gland behind the stomach and close to the first part of the small intestine. It secretes digestive juices into the small intestine through a tube called the pancreatic duct. The pancreas also releases the hormones insulin and glucagon into the bloodstream.

Pancreatitis is inflammation of the pancreas. It happens when digestive enzymes start digesting the pancreas itself. Pancreatitis can be acute or chronic. Either form is serious and can lead to complications.

Acute pancreatitis occurs suddenly and usually goes away in a few days with treatment. It is often caused by gallstones [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/gallstones.html>]. Common symptoms are severe pain in the upper abdomen, nausea, and vomiting. Treatment is usually a few days in the hospital for intravenous (IV) fluids, antibiotics, and medicines to relieve pain.

Chronic pancreatitis does not heal or improve. It gets worse over time and leads to permanent damage. The most common cause is heavy alcohol use [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/alcoholismandalcoholabuse.html>]. Other causes include cystic fibrosis [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/cysticfibrosis.html>] and other inherited disorders, high levels of calcium or fats in the blood, some medicines, and autoimmune conditions [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/autoimmunediseases.html>]. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, weight loss, and oily stools. Treatment may also be a few days in the hospital for intravenous (IV) fluids, medicines to relieve pain, and nutritional support. After that, you may need to start taking enzymes and eat a special diet. It is also important to not smoke or drink alcohol.

NIH: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Start Here

- Pancreatitis [<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/pancreatitis/basics/definition/CON-20028421?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Pancreatitis [<http://digestive.niddk.nih.gov/ddiseases/pubs/pancreatitis/>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)

Diagnosis/Symptoms

- Amylase Test [<https://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/amylase/tab/test>] (American Association for Clinical Chemistry)
- ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography) [<http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-topics/diagnostic-tests/ercp/Pages/diagnostic-test.aspx>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Available in Spanish [<http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/Pruebas-de-diagnostico/colangiopancreatografia-retrograda-endoscopica-CPRE/Pages/diagnostic-test.aspx>]
- Fecal Fat: The Test [<https://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/fecal-fat/tab/test>] (American Association for Clinical Chemistry)
- Lipase Test [<https://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/lipase/tab/test>] (American Association for Clinical Chemistry)
- Trypsin and Chymotrypsin Test [<https://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/trypsin/tab/test>] (American Association for Clinical Chemistry)
- Trypsinogen Test [<https://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/trypsinogen/tab/test>] (American Association for Clinical Chemistry)

Living With

- Hydration and Chronic Pancreatitis [<http://www.pancreasfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/FactSheetHydrationandCP.pdf>] (National Pancreas Foundation) - PDF
- Nutrition Advice and Recipes [<http://www.pancreasfoundation.org/patient-information/patientfamily-information/nutrition-advice-recipes/>]

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Related Issues

- Biliary Tract Disorders, Gallbladder Disorders, and Gallstone Pancreatitis [<http://patients.gi.org/topics/biliary-tract-disorders-gallbladder-disorders-and-gallstone-pancreatitis/>] (American College of Gastroenterology)
Available in Spanish [<http://patients.gi.org/recursos-en-espanol/trastornos-del-tracto-biliar-trastornos-de-la-vesicula-biliar-y-pancreatitis-por-calculos-biliares/>]

Specific Conditions

- Acute Pancreatitis (Beyond the Basics) [<http://www.uptodate.com/contents/acute-pancreatitis-beyond-the-basics?view=print>] (UpToDate)
- Chronic Pancreatitis (Beyond the Basics) [<http://www.uptodate.com/contents/chronic-pancreatitis-beyond-the-basics?view=print>] (UpToDate)

Genetics

- Genetics Home Reference: Hereditary pancreatitis [<http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/hereditary-pancreatitis>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Hereditary Pancreatitis [<http://pancreasfoundation.org/hereditary-pancreatitis/>] (National Pancreas Foundation) - PDF

Images

- Pancreatitis - slideshow [https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/presentations/100149_1.htm]
Available in Spanish [https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100149_1.htm]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Pancreatitis [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Pancreatitis%22>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Pancreatitis, Acute Necrotizing [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Pancreatitis,+Acute+Necrotizing%22>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Pancreatitis, Chronic [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Pancreatitis,+Chronic%22>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Acute Pancreatitis: Revised Atlanta Classification and the Role of Cross-Sectional... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26102416?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: Use of MDCT to Differentiate Autoimmune Pancreatitis From Ductal Adenocarcinoma... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26102377?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: Comparison of Existing Clinical Scoring Systems in Predicting Severity and... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26061329?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Pancreatitis -- see more articles [[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=pancreatitis\[majr\]+AND+english\[la\]+AND+humans\[mh\]+AND+\(guideline\[pt\]+OR+clinical+trial\[pt\]+OR+jsubsetk\[text\]+OR+jsubsetaim\[text\]+OR+jsubsetn\[text\]+OR+patient+education+handout\[pt\]\)+NOT+\(letter\[pt\]+OR+editorial\[pt\]+OR+case+reports\[pt\]\)+AND+%22last+1+Year%22\[edat\]&tool=MedlinePlus](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=pancreatitis[majr]+AND+english[la]+AND+humans[mh]+AND+(guideline[pt]+OR+clinical+trial[pt]+OR+jsubsetk[text]+OR+jsubsetaim[text]+OR+jsubsetn[text]+OR+patient+education+handout[pt])+NOT+(letter[pt]+OR+editorial[pt]+OR+case+reports[pt])+AND+%22last+1+Year%22[edat]&tool=MedlinePlus)]

Reference Desk

- Digestive Diseases Dictionary [<http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-topics/digestive-diseases/Pages/default.aspx>]  **Easy-to-Read** (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Available in Spanish [<http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/enfermedades-digestivas/Pages/default.aspx>]

Find an Expert

- ASGE: Find a Doctor [<http://www.asge.org/Apps/Membership/find-doctor1.aspx>] (American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy)
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [<http://www.niddk.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- Acute Pancreatitis in Children [<http://pancreasfoundation.org/patient-information/childrenpediatric-pancreatitis/acute-pancreatitis-in-children/>]

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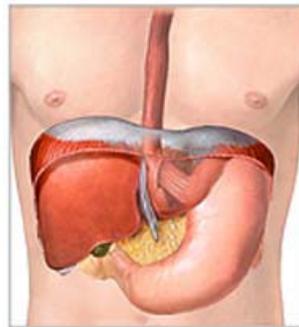
- Chronic Pancreatitis in Children [<http://pancreasfoundation.org/patient-information/childrenpediatric-pancreatitis/chronic-pancreatitis-in-children/>] (National Pancreas Foundation)
- Pancreatitis [<http://www.gikids.org/files/documents/digestive%20topics/english/Pancreatitis%20-%20English.pdf>] (North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition) - PDF

Women

- Acute Pancreatitis and Pregnancy [<http://pancreasfoundation.org/patient-information/acute-pancreatitis/pancreatitis-and-pregnancy/>] (National Pancreas Foundation)

Patient Handouts

- Abdominal tap [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003896.htm>]
Available in Spanish [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/003896.htm>]
- Acute pancreatitis [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000287.htm>]
Available in Spanish [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000287.htm>]
- Amylase - blood [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003464.htm>]
Available in Spanish [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/003464.htm>]
- Amylase - urine [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003607.htm>]
Available in Spanish [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/003607.htm>]
- Chronic pancreatitis [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000221.htm>]
Available in Spanish [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000221.htm>]
- ERCP [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/007479.htm>]
Available in Spanish [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/007479.htm>]
- Lipase test [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003465.htm>]
Available in Spanish [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/003465.htm>]
- Pancreatitis - discharge [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000201.htm>]
Available in Spanish [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000201.htm>]



*ADAM

MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- Abdominal CT scan [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003789.htm>]
- Abdominal MRI [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003796.htm>]
- Abdominal tap [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003896.htm>]
- Abdominal ultrasound [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003777.htm>]
- Acute pancreatitis [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000287.htm>]
- Amylase - blood [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003464.htm>]
- Amylase - urine [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003607.htm>]

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Chronic pancreatitis [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000221.htm>]

ERCP [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/007479.htm>]

Lipase test [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003465.htm>]

Pancreatitis - discharge [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000201.htm>]

Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiogram [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003820.htm>]

Trypsin and chymotrypsin in stool [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003594.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Pancreatic Diseases [<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/pancreaticdiseases.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Pancreatitis* is the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [<http://www.niddk.nih.gov/>]

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