



The pancreas is a gland located in upper abdomen, tucked behind the stomach and close to the gallbladder, liver, and small intestine. It is both an exocrine gland and an endocrine gland. As an exocrine gland, it produces digestive juices that contain enzymes to help break down food in the small intestine. These juices flow down a tube called the pancreatic duct, which connects with the common bile duct and empties into the duodenum, the first part of the small intestine.

The endocrine system of the pancreas consists of glands that release hormones into your blood, controlling many of your body's functions. The pancreas produces hormones such as insulin and glucagon that control blood sugar. It is located behind the stomach and in front of the spine, and is about 6 inches long. The pancreas can be affected by various conditions, including diabetes, pancreatitis, and pancreatic cancer.