



[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → Pancreatic Diseases

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Pancreatic Diseases

The pancreas is a gland behind your stomach and in front of your spine. It produces juices that help break down food and hormones that help control blood sugar [<https://medlineplus.gov/bloodglucose.html>] levels. Problems with the pancreas can lead to many health problems. These include:








- Pancreatitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/pancreatitis.html>] , or inflammation of the pancreas: This happens when digestive enzymes start digesting the pancreas itself
- Pancreatic cancer [<https://medlineplus.gov/pancreaticcancer.html>]
- Cystic fibrosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/cysticfibrosis.html>] , a genetic disorder in which thick, sticky mucus can also block tubes in your pancreas

The pancreas also plays a role in diabetes. In type 1 diabetes [<https://medlineplus.gov/diabetestype1.html>] , the beta cells of the pancreas no longer make insulin because the body's immune system has attacked them. In type 2 diabetes [<https://medlineplus.gov/diabetestype2.html>] , the pancreas loses the ability to secrete enough insulin in response to meals.

Start Here

- Pancreas Disease [<https://pancreasfoundation.org/pancreas-disease/>] (National Pancreas Foundation)
- Power of Your Pancreas: Keep Your Digestive Juices Flowing [<https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2017/02/power-your-pancreas>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Diagnosis and Tests

- Amylase Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/amylase-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-amilasa/>]
- Chymotrypsin in Stool [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/chymotrypsin-in-stool/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/quimotripsina-en-heces/>]
- Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diagnostic-tests/endoscopic-retrograde-cholangiopancreatography>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/pruebas-diagnosticas/colangiopancreatografia-retrograda-endoscopica>]
- Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH) Isoenzymes Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/lactate-dehydrogenase-ldh-isoenzymes-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/examen-de-isoenzimas-de-la-lactato-deshidrogenasa-ldh/>]
- Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH) Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/lactate-dehydrogenase-ldh-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-lactato-deshidrogenasa-ldh/>]
- Lipase Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/lipase-tests/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-lipasa/>]
- Stool Elastase [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/stool-elastase/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/elastasa-fecal/>]



Treatments and Therapies

- Pain Management [<https://pancreasfoundation.org/patient-resources/pain-management/>] (National Pancreas Foundation)


Living With

- A Black/African American's Guide to Pancreas Disease [<https://pancreasfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/BlackAfrican-American-Guide-2024.pdf>] (National Pancreas Foundation) - **PDF**


Specifics

- Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency (EPI) [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/digestive-diseases/exocrine-pancreatic-insufficiency>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/enfermedades-digestivas/insuficiencia-pancreatica-exocrina>]
- Hyperinsulinemia: Is It Diabetes? [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/type-2-diabetes/expert-answers/hyperinsulinemia/FAQ-20058488?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/type-2-diabetes/expert-answers/hyperinsulinemia/FAQ-20058488?p=1>]
- Pancreatic Cysts [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/pancreatic-cysts/symptoms-causes/syc-20375993?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/pancreatic-cysts/symptoms-causes/syc-20375993?p=1>]
- Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/digestive-diseases/zollinger-ellison-syndrome>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)


Genetics

- Shwachman-Diamond syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/shwachman-diamond-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Videos and Tutorials

- Animated Pancreas Patient [<https://www.animatedpancreaspatient.com/en-pancreas/home>] **Easy-to-Read**  (National Pancreas Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.pancreasanimado.com/es/home.aspx>]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Pancreatic Diseases [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Pancreatic+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles


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

- Article: Obesity and Pancreatic Diseases: From Inflammation to Oncogenesis and the Impact... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40732935>]
- Article: Management and outcomes of patients with obstructive jaundice from pancreatobiliary diseases... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40721730>]
- Article: The role of free fatty acid receptors activation in pancreatic disorders. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40652884>]
- Pancreatic Diseases -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Pancreatic+Diseases%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Reference Desk

- Pancreas Basics [<https://pathology.jhu.edu/pancreas/basics>] (Johns Hopkins University, Department of Pathology)

Find an Expert

- ASGE: Find a Doctor [<https://www.asge.org/find-a-doctor-results>] (American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy)
- Find an Endocrinologist [<https://www.endocrine.org/patient-engagement/find-an-endocrinologist-directory>] (Endocrine Society)
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov>] 
- NPF Centers of Excellence [<https://pancreasfoundation.org/patient-resources/npf-centers-of-excellence/>] (National Pancreas Foundation)

Patient Handouts

- Acute pancreatitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000287.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000287.htm>]
- Amylase - blood [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003464.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003464.htm>]
- Annular pancreas [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001142.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001142.htm>]
- ERCP [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007479.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007479.htm>]
- Lipase test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003465.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003465.htm>]
- Pancreatic pseudocyst [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000272.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000272.htm>]
- Zollinger-Ellison syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000325.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000325.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- Abdominal CT scan [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003789.htm>]
- Abdominal MRI scan [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003796.htm>]
- Abdominal tap [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003896.htm>]
- Abdominal ultrasound [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003777.htm>]
- Acute pancreatitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000287.htm>]

[Amylase - blood \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003464.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003464.htm)

[Amylase - urine \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003607.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003607.htm)

[Annular pancreas \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001142.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001142.htm)

[ERCP \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007479.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007479.htm)

[Fecal fat \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003588.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003588.htm)

[Glucagon blood test \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003716.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003716.htm)

[Insulinoma \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000387.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000387.htm)

[Lactate dehydrogenase test \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003471.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003471.htm)

[LDH isoenzyme blood test \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003499.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003499.htm)

[Lipase test \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003465.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003465.htm)

[Macroamylasemia \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001216.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001216.htm)

[Pancreas divisum \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000247.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000247.htm)

[Pancreatic abscess \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000270.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000270.htm)

[Pancreatic pseudocyst \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000272.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000272.htm)

[Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiogram \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003820.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003820.htm)

[Secretin stimulation test \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003892.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003892.htm)

[Trypsin and chymotrypsin in stool \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003594.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003594.htm)

[Trypsinogen test \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003560.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003560.htm)

[Zollinger-Ellison syndrome \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000325.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000325.htm)

Related Health Topics

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[Pancreas Transplantation \[https://medlineplus.gov/pancreastransplantation.html\]](https://medlineplus.gov/pancreastransplantation.html)

[Pancreatic Cancer \[https://medlineplus.gov/pancreaticcancer.html\]](https://medlineplus.gov/pancreaticcancer.html)

[Pancreatitis \[https://medlineplus.gov/pancreatitis.html\]](https://medlineplus.gov/pancreatitis.html)

National Institutes of Health

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

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