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Home → Health Topics → Pancreatic Diseases

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/pancreaticdiseases.html>

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>] NIH (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>] NIH (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)

Genetics

- Shwachman-Diamond syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/shwachman-diamond-syndrome>] NIH (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>] NIH (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 pancreaticobiliary 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+%5Bdat%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

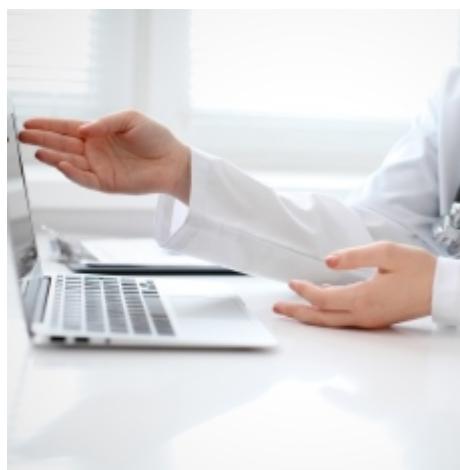
- Pancreas Basics [<https://pathology.jhu.edu/pancreas/basics>] (Johns Hopkins University, Department of Pathology)

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>]

Amylase - urine [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003607.htm>]

Annular pancreas [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001142.htm>]

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

Fecal fat [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003588.htm>]

Glucagon blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003716.htm>]

Insulinoma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000387.htm>]

Lactate dehydrogenase test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003471.htm>]

LDH isoenzyme blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003499.htm>]

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

Macroamylasemia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001216.htm>]

Pancreas divisum [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000247.htm>]

Pancreatic abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000270.htm>]

Pancreatic pseudocyst [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000272.htm>]

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

Secretin stimulation test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003892.htm>]

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

Trypsinogen test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003560.htm>]

Zollinger-Ellison syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000325.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Cystic Fibrosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/cysticfibrosis.html>]

Pancreas Transplantation [<https://medlineplus.gov/pancreastransplantation.html>]

Pancreatic Cancer [<https://medlineplus.gov/pancreaticcancer.html>]

Pancreatitis [<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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