

Pancreatitis

What is the Pancreas?

The pancreas is an organ located in the upper abdomen, situated between the stomach and liver. It secretes digestive juices and the hormone insulin, which aids in the digestion of fats and the regulation of blood sugar levels.

What is Pancreatitis?

Pancreatitis is the inflammation of the pancreas. It can be categorized into two types: acute and chronic.

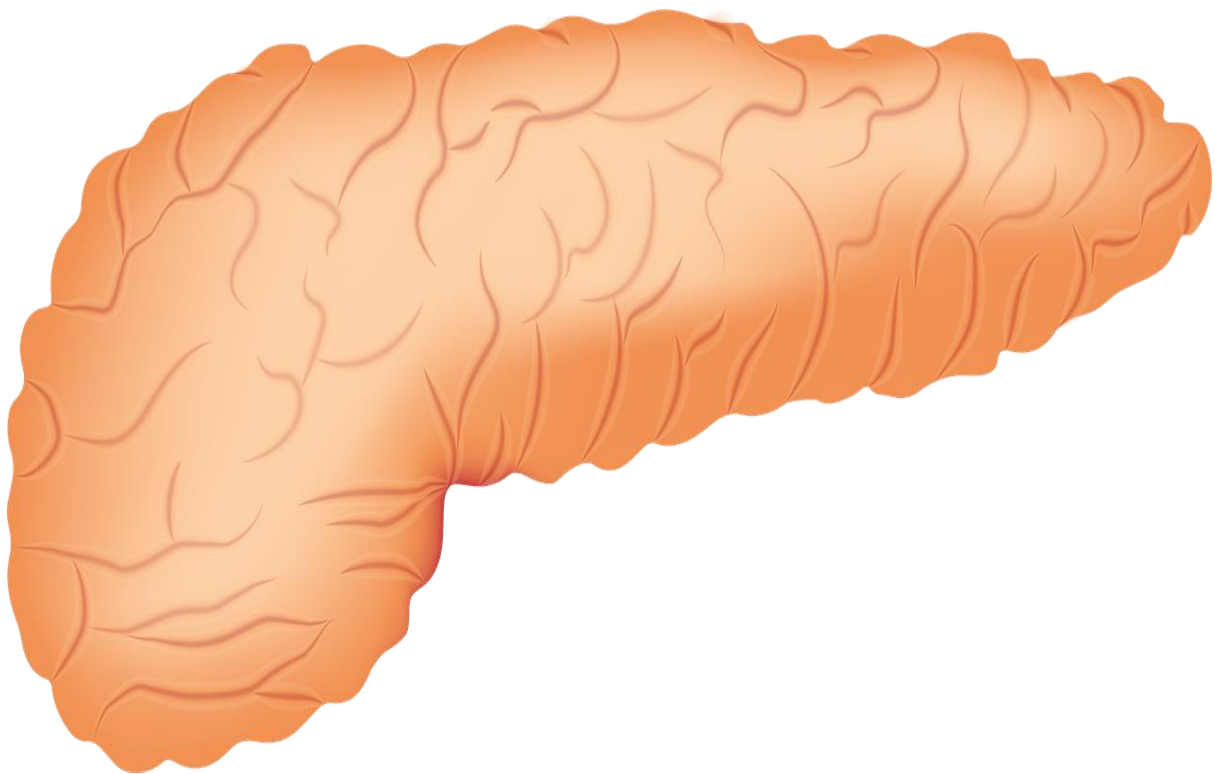


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Types of Pancreatitis

Acute Pancreatitis

- **Duration:** Occurs suddenly and resolves in a short time.
- **Severity:** Can resolve without complications, but may affect other organs like the lungs and can be life-threatening.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Abdominal pain
 - Fever
 - Increased heart rate
 - Vomiting

Chronic Pancreatitis

- **Duration:** Develops over a long period.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Nausea
 - Diabetes
 - Persistent abdominal pain
 - Weight loss

Causes

Acute Pancreatitis

- Alcohol consumption
- Gallstones
- Infections
- Medications
- Metabolic disorders
- Surgery
- Trauma
- Unknown causes (15%)

Chronic Pancreatitis

- Elevated triglyceride levels
- Gallstones
- Hereditary disorders (e.g., cystic fibrosis)
- Long-term alcohol use
- Lupus
- Medications
- Unknown causes (20-30%)

Investigations

To diagnose pancreatitis, the following investigations may be performed:

- Blood tests
- Ultrasound scan (USS) of the abdomen
- CT scan or MRI of the abdomen

Treatment

The treatment for pancreatitis depends on its cause. Hospital admission is often required for:

- Medications
- Surgery

If you experience symptoms of pancreatitis, seek medical attention promptly to prevent complications.

