

Stomach- Digestive System

What is the Stomach?

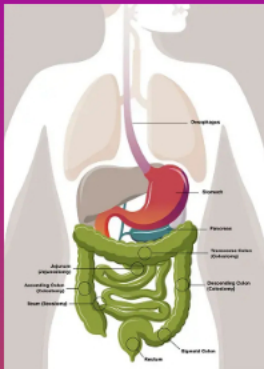
The stomach is a J-shaped organ that digests food. It produces enzymes[substances that create chemical reactions] and acids[digestive juices]. This mix of enzymes and digestive juices breaks down food so it can pass to your small intestine. Your stomach is part of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. The GI tract is a long tube that starts at your mouth. It runs to your anus, where stool [poop] leaves your body. The GI tract is a key part of your digestive system.

FUNCTION

What is the stomach's function?

Your stomach purpose is to digest food and send it to your small intestine. It has three functions:

1. Temporarily store food
2. Contract and relax to mix and break down food.
3. Produce enzymes and other specialized cells to digest food.



What is gastritis?

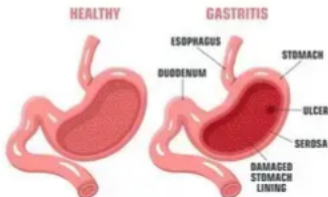
Gastritis is a general term for a group of conditions with one thing in common: inflammation of the lining of the stomach.

What are the symptoms of gastritis and gastropathy?

In some cases, gastritis and gastropathy cause symptoms of indigestion, also called dyspepsia. Symptoms may include If gastritis or gastropathy leads to erosions or ulcers, the stomach lining may bleed. If you have symptoms of bleeding in your stomach, seek medical help right away. Symptoms of bleeding in your stomach may include: pain or discomfort in the upper abdomen; nausea or vomiting; feeling full too soon during a meal; feeling too full after a meal; loss of appetite and weight loss.

Common causes of gastritis and gastropathy is *Helicobacter pylori* (H. Pylori). Gastritis. Infection with *H. pylori* bacteria causes *H. pylori* gastritis. Researchers are still studying how people become infected. *H. pylori* bacteria may spread from person to person through contact with an infected person's vomit, stool, or saliva. Food or water contaminated with an infected person's vomit, stool or saliva may also spread the bacteria from person to person.

GASTRITIS OF THE STOMACH



STOMACH ANATOMY



Where is the stomach located?

Your stomach sits in your upper abdomen on the left side of your body. The top of your stomach connects to a valve called the esophageal sphincter (a muscle at the end of your esophagus).

How big is your stomach?

The size of the stomach varies from person to person to person. Your stomach expands when full and deflates when empty. Because of this, your stomach size can vary depending on how recently and how much you have eaten.