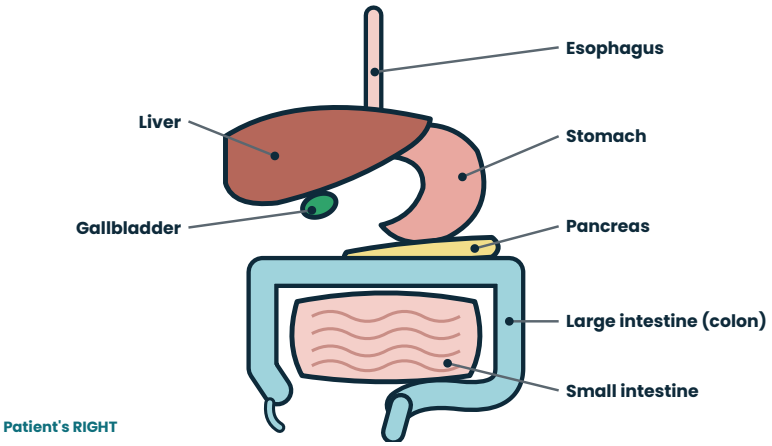
Digestive System

Study Sheet · Learn It with Prof. Melanie

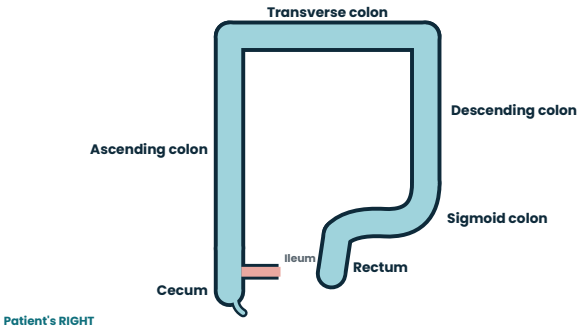
1 Anatomy



2 Key Organs

- **Stomach:** acid + pepsin → chyme
- **Small intestine:** duodenum, jejunum, ileum; villi absorb
- **Large intestine:** absorbs water
- **Liver:** makes bile; detoxifies
- **Gallbladder:** stores bile
- **Pancreas:** enzymes + insulin

3 Large Intestine



4 Digestion

Amylase	Starch (mouth, pancreas)
Pepsin	Protein (stomach)
Lipase	Fat (pancreas)
Bile	Emulsifies fat
Lactase	Milk sugar

Peristalsis moves food · **Bolus** → **chyme** · colon bacteria make **vitamin K**

5 Upper GI Conditions

GERD	Acid reflux; heartburn	**Peptic ulcer**	H. pylori or NSAIDs
Hiatal hernia	Stomach through diaphragm	**Gastroenteritis**	Vomiting, diarrhea; dehydration
Hematemesis	Vomiting blood	**Melena**	Black, tarry stool (upper GI)

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6 Lower GI Conditions

Condition	Key facts	Condition	Key facts
Appendicitis	RLQ pain; emergency	**Celiac disease**	Gluten; gluten-free diet
Diverticulitis	Inflamed colon pouches	**IBS**	Pain, bowel changes
Crohn's	Mouth to anus, patches	**C. diff**	After antibiotics; soap and water
Ulcerative colitis	Colon and rectum only	**Hemorrhoids**	Bright red blood

7 Liver, Gallbladder, Pancreas

Cholelithiasis	Gallstones; RUQ pain
Pancreatitis	Pain to back; ↑ amylase, lipase
Cirrhosis	Scarring; jaundice, ascites
Hep A, E	Fecal-oral
Hep B, C, D	Blood, body fluids
Vaccines	Hep A and B (none for C)

8 Colorectal Screening

Ages	45–75 (USPSTF)
FIT	Every year; no diet rules
hs-gFOBT	Yearly; avoid red meat, vit C, NSAIDs
Stool DNA-FIT	Every 1–3 years
Sigmoidoscopy, CTC	Every 5 years
Colonoscopy	Every 10 years

9 Procedures and MA Role

- **Colonoscopy prep:** clear liquids (no red or purple), bowel prep, NPO as directed, adult driver
- **EGD:** esophagus, stomach, duodenum · **H. pylori:** breath or stool antigen test · **LFTs:** ALT, AST, bilirubin
- Label stool kits with two identifiers; complete the requisition; follow kit instructions

10 Word Parts

Part	Meaning	Part	Meaning	Part	Meaning
gastr/o	Stomach	**hepat/o**	Liver	**-phagia**	Eating, swallowing
enter/o	Small intestine	**chol/e**	Bile	**-emesis**	Vomiting
col/o	Colon	**lith/o**	Stone	**-ostomy**	New opening

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