HUMAN DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

The human digestive system is a complex series of organs and glands that processes food. In order to use the food we eat, our body has to break the food down into smaller molecules that it can process; it also has to excrete waste.

The Digestive Process1

. The start of the process - the mouth: The digestive process begins in the mouth. Food is partly broken down by the process of chewing and by the chemical action of salivary enzymes (these enzymes are produced by the salivary glands and break down starches into.

On the way to the stomach: the esophagus - After being chewed and swallowed, the food enters the esophagus. The esophagus is a long tube that runs from the mouth to the stomach. It uses rhythmic, wave-like muscle movements (called peristalsis) to force food from the throat into the stomach. This muscle movement gives us the ability to eat or drink even when were upside-down.

In the stomach - The stomach is a large, sack-like organ that churns the food and balles it in a very strong acid (gastric acid). Food in the stomach that is partly digested as defined with stomach acids is called chyme.

In the small intestine - After being in the stomach, rood enters the duodenum, the first part of the small intestine. It then enters the regultum and then the ibrum (the final part of the small intestine). In the small intestine, bile (produced in the layer and stored in the gall bladder), pancreatic encenes, and other discation (the wates produced by the inner wall of the small intestine help in the breakdown.

In the large intestine - After passing through the small intestine, food passes into the large intestine. In the large intestine, some of the water and electrolytes (chemicals like sodium) are removed from the food. Many microbes (bacteria like Bacteroides, Lactobacillus acidophilus, Escherichia coli, and Klebsiella) in the large intestine help in the digestion process. The first part of the large intestine is called the cecum (the appendix is connected to the cecum). Food then travels upward in the ascending colon.

The food travels across the abdomen in the transverse colon, goes back down the other side of the body in the descending colon, and then through the sigmoid colon.5. The end of the process - Solid waste is then stored in the rectum until it is excreted via the anus.

Key Players Other organs that play a key role in digestion include the liver, gallbladder, and pancreas. The pancreas is a gland organ located behind the stomach that manufactures a cocktail of enzymes that are pumped into the duodenum. A duct also connects the duodenum to the gallbladder. This pear-shaped sac squeezes out green-brown bile, a waste product collected from the liver that contains acids for dissolving fatty