

The Pancreas

The pancreas is a kind of gland organ. It can be found in the abdomen. It is a component of the digestive system that creates insulin as well as other vital enzymes and hormones that aid in the breakdown of meals.

The pancreas has both an endocrine and an exocrine role since it distributes fluids straight into the circulation.

The pancreas secretes enzymes, or digestive juices, into the small intestine. There, it continues to break down food that has passed through the stomach.

The pancreas also manufactures and secretes the hormone insulin into the circulation, where it controls the body's glucose or sugar level. Diabetes can be caused by insulin control issues.

Pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer are two more potential health issues.

Features

The pancreas is a 6 to 8 inches long organ. It runs across the abdomen horizontally.

The stomach links to the first segment of the small intestine, the duodenum, on the right side of the abdomen.

At this stage, partly digested food moves from the stomach into the small intestine, where it mixes with pancreatic secretions.

The pancreas's thin portion extends to the left side of the belly, adjacent to the spleen.

A duct crosses the length of the pancreas, linked by multiple tiny branches from glandular tissue. The end of this duct connects to a similar duct that originates in the liver and transports bile to the duodenum.

Exocrine tissue accounts for approximately 95% of the pancreas. It produces pancreatic enzymes to help in digestion. Every day, a healthy pancreas produces around 2.2 pints (1 liter) of these enzymes.

The remaining 5% is made up of hundreds of thousands of islets of Langerhans, which are endocrine cells. These clusters of grape-like cells create essential hormones that regulate pancreas output and blood sugar levels.

Function

To digest the food we consume, a functioning pancreas creates chemicals.

Exocrine tissues release a transparent, watery, alkaline fluid containing a variety of enzymes. These break down food into little molecules that the intestines can absorb.