

Support Your Body Systems for Better Health

# Digestive & Immune System

# The System functions:

The digestive system is a group of organs working together to convert food into energy and basic nutrients to feed the entire body. Food passes through a long tube in the body known as the alimentary canal or the gastrointestinal tract (GI tract). Accessory organs of the digestive system include the teeth, tongue, salivary glands, liver, gallbladder and pancreas.

#### Six major functions take place in the digestive system:

- 1 Ingestion The intake of food through the mouth. The mouth and stomach are responsible for storing food while it is waiting to be digested.
- 2 Secretion The digestive system secretes approximately 7 liters of fluid throughout the day. This includes saliva, mucus, hydrochloric acid, enzymes and bile which are used to moisten and break down food.
- **Mixing and Movement -** This includes three main processes to move food through the digestive tract and increase absorption. They include swallowing, peristalsis and segmentation.
- **Digestion -** Digestion is the process of turning large pieces of food into its chemical components. This begins with chewing food and is continued through the muscular mixing that takes place in the stomach and intestines.

# Digestive System at a Glance



- **Absorption –** Absorption begins in the stomach with simple molecules like water and alcohol being absorbed directly into the bloodstream. Most absorption takes place in the walls of the small intestine.
- 6 **Excretion –** Finally, the excretion of waste removes indigestible substances from the body so that they don't accumulate in the gut.

The immune system is the body's defense system against viruses, bacteria and fungi. The immune system works to keep harmful agents out of the body and attack those that enter.

# **Associated organs:**

Salivary glands, pancreas, liver, gallbladder





## What you can do to support a healthy Digestive & Immune System:

**Recommended Dietary Supplements:** Essential D<sup>™</sup>, MyFloraDaily Prebiotic, MyFloraDaily Probiotic, Nopalea<sup>™</sup>, Vital C<sup>™</sup>, Zamu Protect.<sup>™</sup>

**Amazon Herb Supplements:** Aqua Algae, Camu Gold, Enviro Defense, Fiberzon, Fiberzon Capsules, Fortify, Illumniation, ProDigest, Rainforest Treasure Tea, Sangre de Drago.

**Essential Vitamins & Minerals:** Magnesium, Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B6, Biotin, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Zinc.

#### Foods to Include:

Fruit	Vegetables	Protein /Dairy	Nut & Seeds	Miscellaneous
Raspberries	Spinach	Wild Caught Salmon	Flaxseed	Lentils
Pear	Broccoli	Organic Pasture Raised Chicken	Chia Seeds	Beans (black, lima)
Apple	Brussels Sprouts	Greek Yogurt	Hemp Seeds	Coconut Oil
Banana	Artichoke	Kefir	Pistachios	Kombucha
Figs	Carrots		Pecans	Kimchi

**Note:** Be sure to do your best to shop organic, grass-fed, free-range, unprocessed and low sodium.







# What you can do to support a healthy Digestive & Immune System (continued):

Daily morning cleanse: 8-12oz of lemon water

## Foods you should avoid or limit:

Do your best to read the labels on packaged food. If the names are too hard to pronounce, they are likely chemical based ingredients and not very good for you.

- Processed and high-sodium foods such as cured ham, bacon, sausage and potato chips
- Foods that contain all-purpose flour such as pizza, bagels, pretzels, white bread, and flour tortillas
- Artificial sweeteners containing Sucralose such as yogurt, cereal, whole grain muffins and breads and microwave popcorn
- Beware of "reduced sugar" labels which are usually loaded with artificial sweeteners such as fruit juice, ketchup, jams, jelly, syrup, soda, sports drinks, ice cream and salad dressings. Below is a list of artificial sweeteners you should try to avoid:
- Aspartame Equal NutraSweet Sorbitol Acesulfame Glucin Nutrinova Sucralose potassium Kaltame Phenylalanine Twinsweet Alitame Mogrosides Saccharin ■ Sweet 'N Low Cyclamate Neotame ■ Splenda Xylitol
  - Dulcin

#### **Recommended Activities:**

Physical activity is essential for good health. New studies show even 15 minutes of elevated heart rate from activity has numerous benefits. Find activities you enjoy doing and aim for at least 15 minutes 4 to 5 times per week.

**CARDIO:** Biking, Hiking, Walking, Running, Swimming, Dancing, Zumba

**STRENGTH:** Weight Training, Pilates, Vigorous Yoga, P90X, Crossfit, Barre

FLEXIBILITY: Yoga and Stretching







# **Additional Information:**

**Common Symptoms:** Common signs and symptoms associated with the digestive and immune system include heartburn, bloating, flatulence, poor appetite, cravings, trouble swallowing, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, nausea, abdominal pain and slow healing infections.

#### **Common Disorders:**

- Auto-Immune Deficiency Abnormally low or over activity of the immune system.
- Bowel Obstruction Blockage of intestines not allowing food to process or pass through.
- Cancer Abnormal cells destroy healthy tissue.
- Crohn's Disease Chronic inflammatory bowel disease that affects the lining of the digestive tract.
- **Colitis** Inflammation of the colon.
- Fatty Liver Disease The accumulation of liver fat in people who drink little or no alcohol.
- Hemorrhoids Swollen and inflamed veins in the rectum and anus that cause discomfort and bleeding.
- **Hepatitis** An inflammation of the liver.
- Jaundice Liver condition that causes yellowing of skin and eyes.
- Leaky Gut Chronic inflammation through the body that causes intestinal permeability.
- Liver Disease Any condition that damages the liver and prevents it from functioning properly.



- **Pancreatitis** Inflammation of the pancreas.
- **Stool Incontinence –** Loss of bowel control.
- Ulcers Sore that develops on the lining of the mouth, esophagus, stomach or small intestine.