

Let's learn about
the human digestive system!



What will I learn?

GIST cancer is one found in the digestive system. The main organs in which GIST cancer can be found will be shown through the following slides.

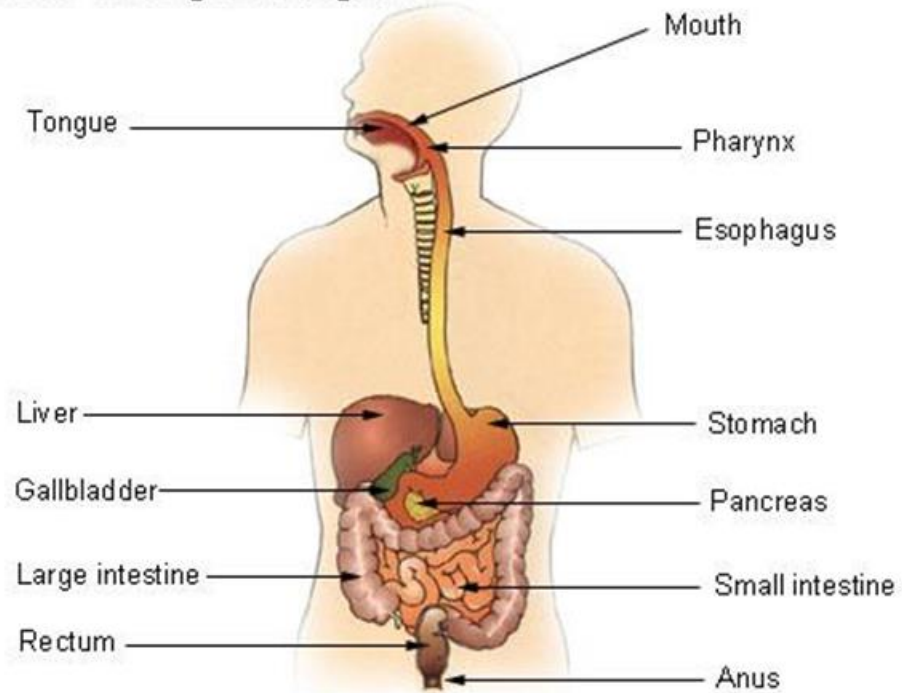


The Digestive System

- The digestive system, or digestive tract, is one of the main systems within the human body.
- It is made up of different organs that each have a certain job to complete.



Organs of the Digestive System



What does the digestive system do?

- The digestive system is the group of organs in the human body solely dedicated to breaking down food.
- Food has to be broken down in order to allow our bodies to gain the nutrients it needs to function properly.
- Food gets broken into two separate groups: usable sources and waste products.

Mouth



- o The mouth is the first organ in the digestive system.
- o The teeth and tongue are important in helping to break down food.
- o When you take a bite of food, using your teeth, your salivary glands are activated to produce saliva. This saliva mixes with the food and begins breaking the food down.

Lips

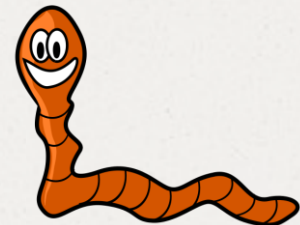
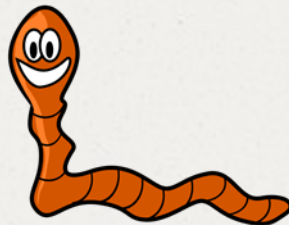


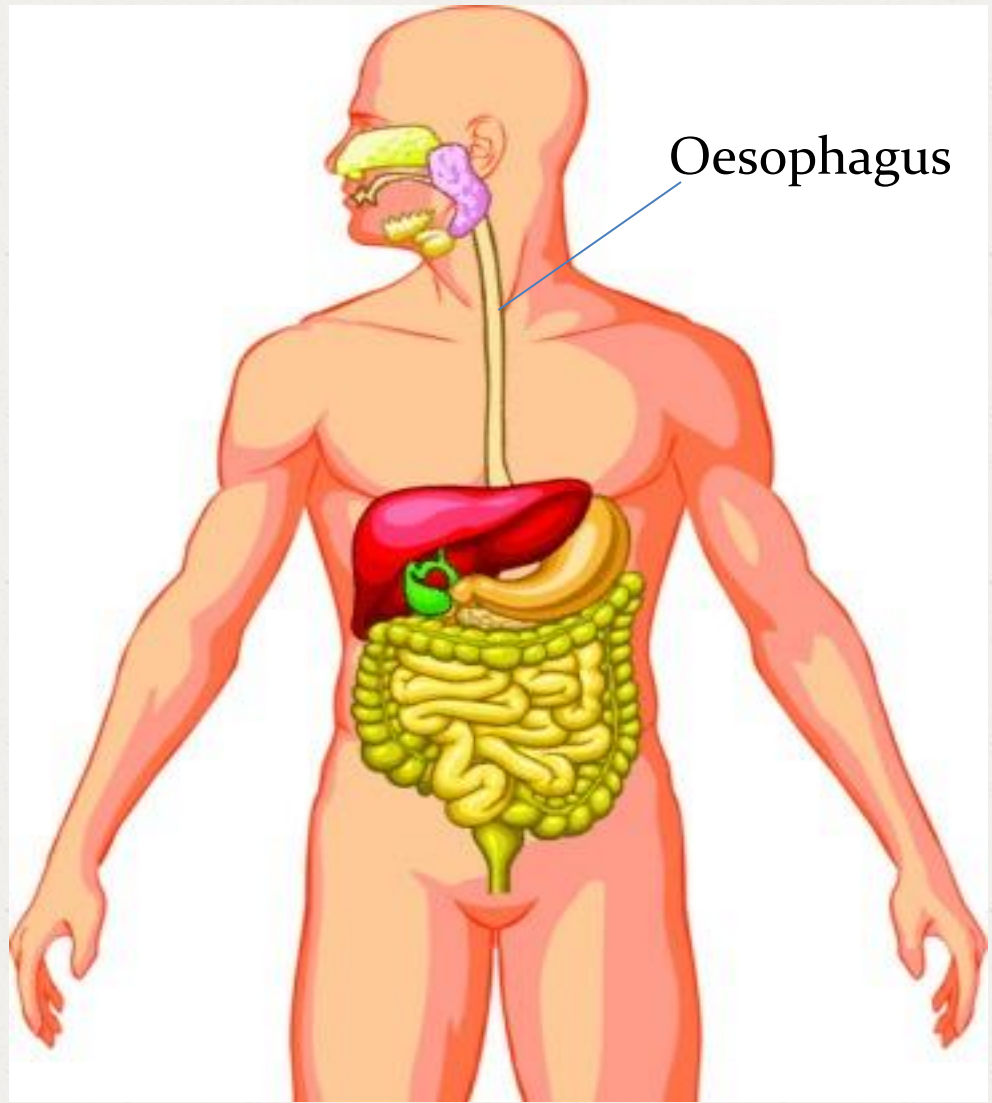
Teeth

Tongue

Esophagus/Oesophagus

- The oesophagus is a long worm like tube which can be up to 30 centimetres in length.
- When food is swallowed, it goes down the oesophagus via the pharynx.
- Food is moved down the tube by the muscle contracting and pushing it downwards .
- The main role of the oesophagus is to carry food to the stomach and continue the process of digestion.





Oesophagus

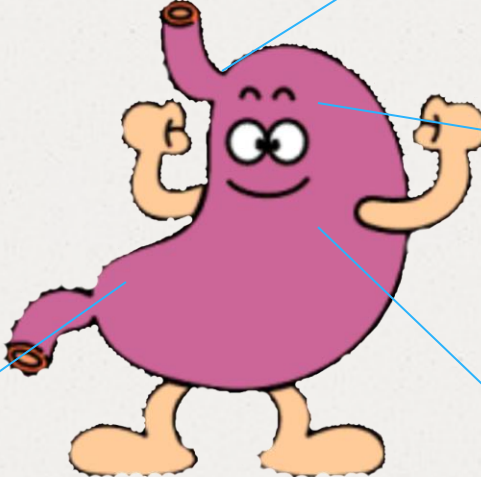


Stomach



- The end of the oesophagus is connected to the top of the stomach, known as the cardia notch.
- The main parts of the stomach are the fundus, the body and the duodenum.
- Our stomach is the 'food holder' of the body and can hold up to 1 1/2 litres of liquid at one time. Food stays in the stomach for up to 2 hours after it is eaten.

Cardia Notch



Fundus

Duodenum

Body

Role of Stomach

- The stomach has another role alongside holding food.
- Acids and digestive enzymes are released in the body of the stomach. This, along with the contraction of muscle, assist in breaking down food into smaller particles prior to being used by the body.



Small intestine

- The small intestine, also known as the small bowel, follows the is composed of duodenum, jejunum and the ileum.
- The main role of this organ is to aid digestion with aid from the digestive enzymes produced by the pancreas.
- The length of the small intestine can be anywhere from 6 to 7 metres.



Large intestine

- The large intestine is attached to the small intestine, and is also known as the large bowel or the colon
- The job of the large intestine is to take water from the waste created previously and put it back into the body.
- It gets the 'large' part of the name from its diameter not length. It is actually much shorter in length than the small intestine, maybe only 5 feet long.



The Liver

- o The liver is an organ found to the right of the stomach.
- o The liver has three big jobs for your body. It cleans the blood, it stores energy for your body in a sugar form known as glycogen, and it produces a liquid called bile which is needed for digestion.



Let's round up what we have learned!

- o GIST tumours are a cancer of the digestive system.
- o They can appear in any of the organs that you have just read about.
- o BUT this doesn't mean it will present in *all* of them at one time, and in fact may never appear in all of the digestive organs shown in these slides.

