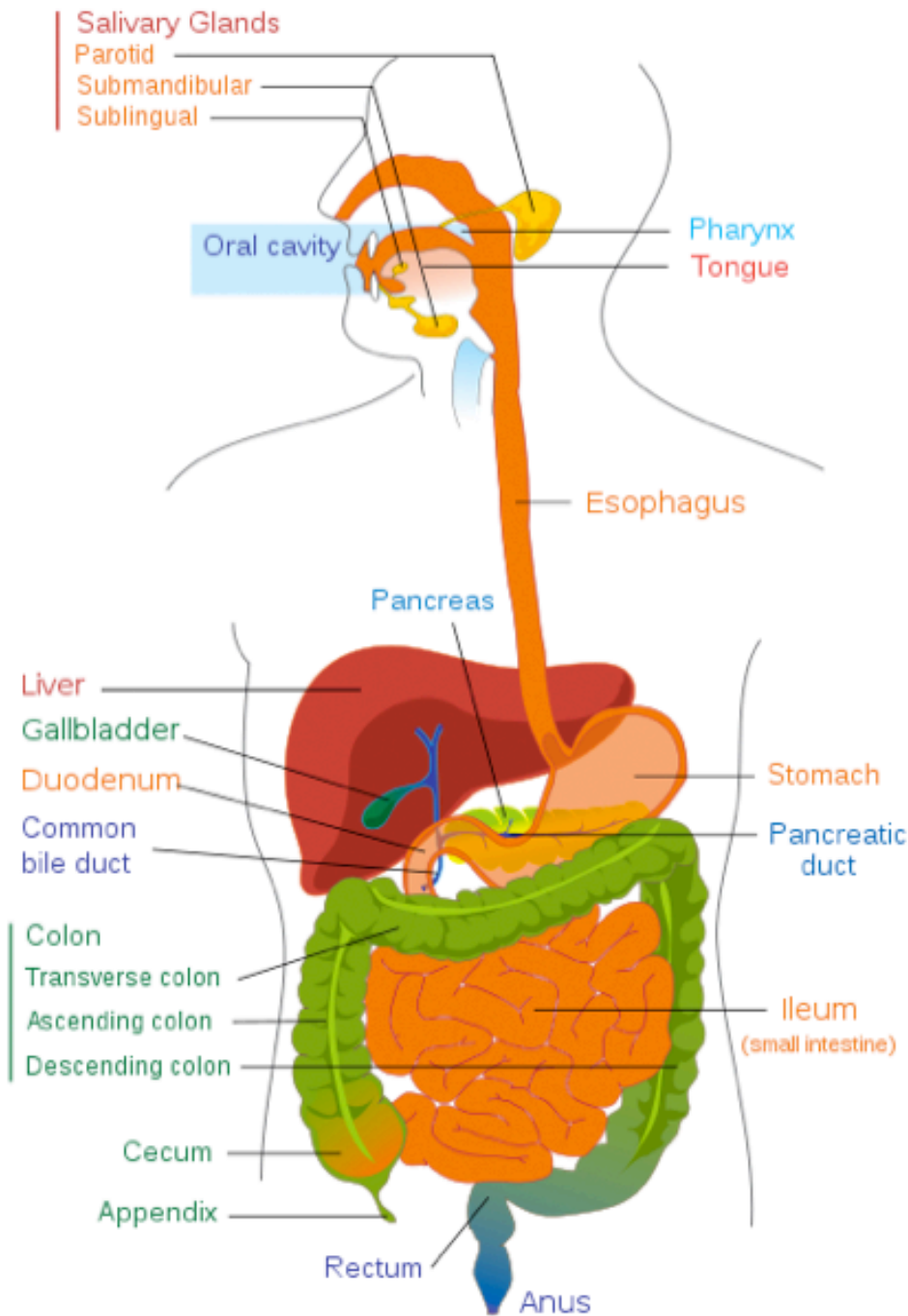


## Notes: Digestive Organs



source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Digestive\\_system\\_diagram\\_edit.svg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Digestive_system_diagram_edit.svg)

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.

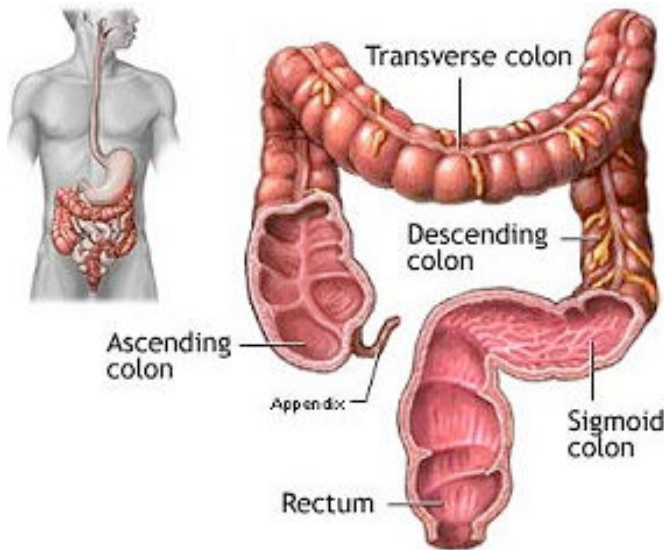
Most of the digestive organs (like the stomach and intestines) are tube-like and contain the food as it makes its way through the body. The digestive system is

essentially a long, twisting tube that runs from the mouth to the anus, plus a few other organs (like the liver and pancreas) that produce or store digestive chemicals.

**anus** - the opening at the end of the digestive system from which feces (waste) exits the body.

**appendix** - a small sac located on the cecum.

**ascending colon** - the part of the large intestine that run upwards; it is located after the cecum.



source: <http://www.coloniccleansing.org/images/colon.jpg>

**cecum** - the first part of the large intestine; the appendix is connected to the cecum.

**descending colon** - the part of the large intestine that run downwards after the transverse colon and before the sigmoid colon.

**duodenum** - the first part of the small intestine; it is C-shaped and runs from the stomach to the jejunum.

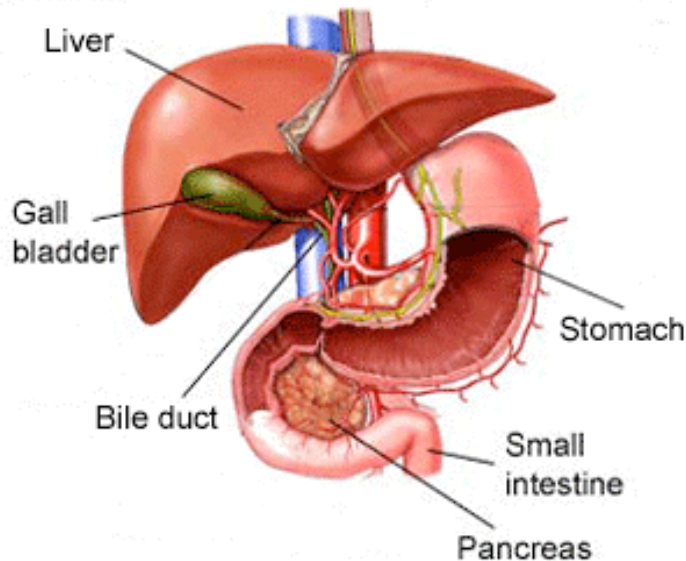
**esophagus** - the long tube between the mouth and the stomach. It uses rhythmic muscle movements (called peristalsis) to force food from the throat into the stomach.

**gall bladder** - a small, sac-like organ located by the duodenum. It stores and releases bile (a digestive chemical which is produced in the liver) into the small intestine.

**ileum** - the last part of the small intestine before the large intestine begins.

**jejunum** - the long, coiled mid-section of the small intestine; it is between the duodenum and the ileum.

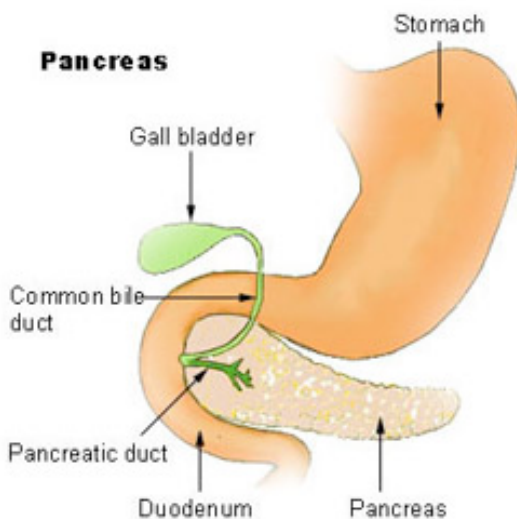
**liver** - a large organ located above and in front of the stomach. It filters toxins from the blood, and makes bile (which breaks down fats) and some blood proteins.



source: <http://locationofliver.net/wp-content/uploads/Location-Of-Liver.gif>

**mouth** - the first part of the digestive system, where food enters the body. Chewing and salivary enzymes in the mouth are the beginning of the digestive process (breaking down the food).

**pancreas** - an enzyme-producing gland located below the stomach and above the intestines. Enzymes from the pancreas help in the digestion of carbohydrates, fats and proteins in the small intestine.

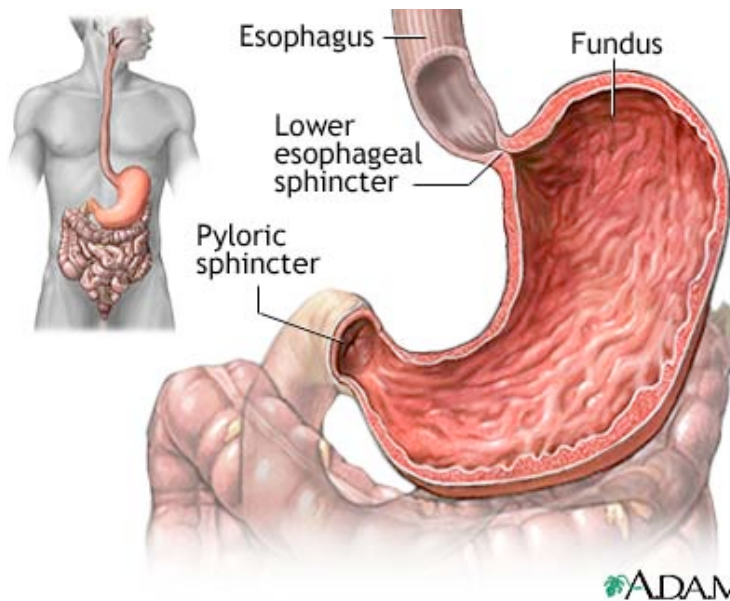


source: <http://training.seer.cancer.gov/images/anatomy/endocrine/pancreas.jpg>

**rectum** - the lower part of the large intestine, where feces are stored before they are excreted from the body.

**sigmoid colon** - the part of the large intestine between the descending colon and the rectum.

**stomach** - a sack-like, muscular organ that is attached to the esophagus. When food enters the stomach, it is churned in an acid bath.



source: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/images/ency/fullsize/19223.jpg>

**transverse colon** - the part of the large intestine that runs horizontally across the abdomen.