

Section IX – Digestive System

The digestive system refers to the alimentary canal or gastrointestinal tract. It consists of organs and glands that break down food products to be used by the body as a source of energy through absorption of nutrients and to eliminate solid waste products. The GI tract begins at the mouth, where food is ingested and ends at the anus, where waste products are eliminated from the body.

Medical Terms

Combining Forms

gingiv/o	gums
stomat/o, or/o	mouth
dent/o, odont/o	teeth
labi/o	lip
maxill/o	jaw
sial/o	saliva, salivary glands
abdomin/o	abdomen
gastr/o	stomach
lingu/o, gloss/o	tongue
myc/o	fungus
orth/o	straight
esophag/o	esophagus
carcin/o	cancer
rect/o	rectum
proct/o	rectum and anus
sigmoid/o	sigmoid
ile/o	ileum
col/o	colon
duoden/o	duodenum
enter/o	intestine
hepat/o	liver
chol/e, chol/o	bile, gall
cholecyst/o	gall bladder
pancreat/o	pancreas
cyst/o	bladder
an/o	anus

Suffixes

-rrhea	discharge, flow
-orexia	appetite
-emesis	vomiting
-pepsia	digestion
-phagia	swallowing, eating
-lith	stone

Medical Terms

Mouth (or/o, stomat/o)

- or/al, stomat/ic – pertaining to the mouth
- stomat/o/dynia – pain in the mouth
- sub/lingu/al – pertaining to under the tongue
- sub/maxill/ary – pertaining to under the jaw

Salivary Glands (sial/o)

- sial/o/rrhea – excessive flow of saliva
- sial/o/aden/itis – inflammation of the salivary glands

Teeth (odont/o, dent/o)

- dent/ist – specialist in the study of teeth
- orth/o/dont/ist – specialist in straight teeth
- gingiv/itis – inflammation of the gums

Stomach (gastr/o)

- gastr/o/dynia – pain in the stomach
- gastr/o/esophag/itis – inflammation of the stomach and esophagus
- gastr/o/enter/ologist – specialist in stomach and intestines
- nas/o/gastr/ic – pertaining to the nose and stomach

Vomiting (-emesis)

- hemat/emesis – vomiting blood
- hyper/emesis – excessive vomiting

Swallowing, eating (-phagia)

- dys/phagia – difficulty eat or swallowing
- aer/o/phagia – swallowing air

Small intestine and Colon (enter/o, col/o)

- enter/o/pathy – intestinal disease
- enter/o/rrhaphy – suture intestines
- proct/itis – inflammation of the rectum and anus
- sigmoid/o/scopy – visual exam of the sigmoid colon
- rect/o/plasty – surgical repair of the rectum

Liver (hepat/o)

- hepat/ectomy – excision of the liver
- hepat/o/dynia – pain in the liver
- hepat/ic – pertaining to the liver
- hepat/o/megaly – enlargement of the liver
- hepat/oma – tumor in the liver

Gallbladder (cholecyst/o)

- cholecyst/ectomy – excision of the gallbladder
- cholecyst/o/lith – stone in the gallbladder
- cholecyst/o/gram – record of the gallbladder

Pancreas (pancreat/o)

- pancreat/o/lith/osis – abnormal condition of stones in the pancreas
- pancreat/oma – tumor in the pancreas

Abbreviations

b&b	bowel and bladder
bm	bowel movement
CA	cancer
G-tube	gastrostomy tube
NG	nasogastric tube
GI	gastrointestinal
DNR	do not resuscitate
GERD	gastroesophageal reflux disease
NPO	nothing by mouth
N&V	nausea and vomiting
PRN	as needed
UGI	upper gastrointestinal series (x-rays)

Worksheet – Section IX – Digestive System

Complete the following matching

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|----|---|
| _____ 1. | polyphagia | A. | a visual examination of the stomach |
| _____ 2. | choledoch | B. | bad, difficult digestion |
| _____ 3. | cholecystectomy | C. | record of the gallbladder |
| _____ 4. | cholecystogram | D. | vomiting blood |
| _____ 5. | cholelithiasis | E. | glands that secrete saliva |
| _____ 6. | duodenotomy | F. | excessive eating |
| _____ 7. | dyspepsia | G. | pain in the mouth |
| _____ 8. | dysphagia | H. | an incision of the duodenum |
| _____ 9. | anorexia | I. | enlargement of the liver |
| _____ 10. | gastroscopy | J. | difficult swallowing |
| _____ 11. | hematemesis | K. | removal of the gallbladder |
| _____ 12. | hepatomegaly | L. | pertaining to the tongue & gums |
| _____ 13. | ileostomy | M. | incision of the sigmoid colon |
| _____ 14. | linguogingival | N. | surgical repair of the rectum |
| _____ 15. | rectoplasty | O. | inflammation of the gums |
| _____ 16. | salivary glands | P. | formation of a new opening into the ileum |
| _____ 17. | stomatagia | Q. | abnormal condition of gallstones |
| _____ 18. | sigmoidotomy | R. | lack of appetite |
| _____ 19. | gingivitis | S. | bile duct |
| _____ 20. | hyperemesis | T. | excessive vomiting |

Write out the following terms.

21. gastrectomy –
22. appendectomy –
23. enteropathy –
24. colonoscopy –
25. rectocele –
26. proctodynia –
27. hepatomegaly –
28. esophagoscope –
29. proctosigmoidoscopy –
30. stomatoplasty –

Define the following medical terms.

31. dysphagia –
32. aerophagia –
33. esophagitis –
34. gastrologist –
35. endoscopy –
36. lingual –
37. glossitis –
38. labial –

Vocabulary

- 39. alimentary canal –
- 40. palate –
- 41. edentulous –
- 42. mastication –
- 43. hiatal hernia –
- 44. pyrosis –
- 45. dehydration –
- 46. inguinal hernia
- 47. emetics –
- 48. occult blood –
- 49. halitosis –
- 50. bolus -