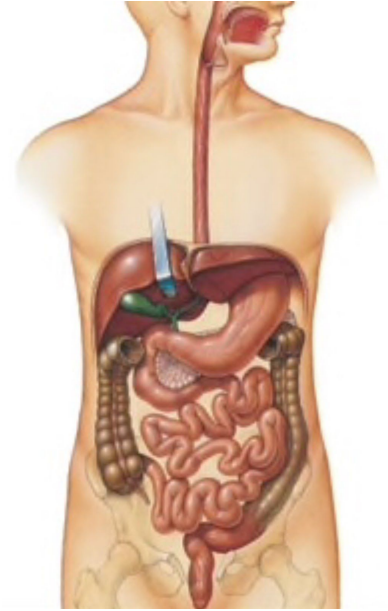


Gastrointestinal (GI) Primer Draft

What is GI?

Gastroenterologists specialize in the gastrointestinal system. GI doctors monitor and treat diseases of the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, colon and rectum, pancreas, gallbladder, bile ducts and liver. Typically, patients are referred to gastroenterologists by other physicians such as a primary care physician.



Common Terms:

- Abdomen- Area between the chest and the hips that contains the stomach, small intestine, large intestine, liver, gall bladder, pancreas, and spleen
- Acute- Sudden onset of symptoms
- Anus- The opening of the rectum
- Bile- Secretions of the liver that aid in digestion and absorption, and stimulate peristalsis
- Biliary tract- Gall bladder and the bile ducts
- Bowel- The intestines
- Cell- The basic unit of any living organism. It is a small, watery, compartment filled with chemicals and a complete copy of the organism's genome
- Chronic- Symptoms occurring over a long period of time
- Colon- The large intestine
- Congenital- Conditions existing at birth, but not through heredity.

Common Ailments:

- Aganglionosis- Absence of nerve cells
- Anal fissure- A cut in anal canal
- Celiac disease- An allergic reaction of the lining of the small intestine in response to the protein gliadin (a component of gluten). Gliadin is found in wheat, rye, barley, and oats. Celiac disease is also called celiac sprue, and gluten intolerance.
- Colitis- Inflammation of the colon



Common Treatment:

- Colostomy- A surgically created opening of the colon to the abdominal wall, allowing the diversion of fecal waste.
- Colectomy- Removal of part or the entire colon
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Helpful tips:

- *BODY*