

UPPER DIGESTIVE SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

ORGAN	PRIMARY FUNCTION	KEY PROCESSES
Mouth & Salivary Glands	Ingestion and initial breakdown of food.	<i>Mechanical mastication; Salivary amylase begins starch digestion.</i>
Pharynx	Transition pathway for the bolus.	<i>Involuntary swallowing reflex; routing food away from trachea.</i>
Esophagus	Transportation to the stomach.	<i>Peristaltic waves; Lower esophageal sphincter regulation.</i>
Stomach	Chemical and mechanical churning.	<i>HCl production; Pepsin activates protein breakdown; Chyme formation.</i>
Duodenum	Neutralization and major chemical digestion.	<i>Receives bile and pancreatic enzymes; begins nutrient absorption.</i>

