

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

ORGAN

PRIMARY FUNCTION

Mouth

Mechanical breakdown via chewing; chemical digestion of carbohydrates starts via salivary amylase.

Esophagus

Transports food bolus to the stomach through rhythmic muscular contractions (peristalsis).

Stomach

Churns food into chyme; secretes gastric acid and enzymes to begin protein digestion.

Small Intestine

Major site of chemical digestion and nutrient absorption into the bloodstream.

Liver & Gallbladder

Production and storage of bile to emulsify fats for easier digestion.

Pancreas

Secretes digestive enzymes (lipase, protease, amylase) and neutralizes stomach acid.

Large Intestine

Absorbs water and electrolytes; houses beneficial bacteria; forms and stores feces.

Rectum & Anus

Final storage of waste and controlled elimination from the body.