

THE HUMAN PANCREAS

Anatomy & Physiology Reference Chart

[Anatomical Illustration]

ANATOMICAL STRUCTURE

- **Head** Tucked into the curve of the duodenum.
- **Body** The central main portion extending horizontally.
- **Tail** The tapered left end touching the spleen.
- **Pancreatic Duct** Joins the common bile duct to transport enzymes.

EXOCRINE FUNCTION (DIGESTION)

- **Amylase:** Breaks down carbohydrates into sugars.
- **Lipase:** Breaks down complex fats into fatty acids.
- **Proteases:** (Trypsin/Chymotrypsin) Digests proteins.
- **Bicarbonate:** Neutralizes acidic stomach chyme.

ENDOCRINE FUNCTION (HORMONES)

- **Insulin:** Beta cells; lowers blood glucose levels.
- **Glucagon:** Alpha cells; raises blood glucose levels.
- **Somatostatin:** Delta cells; regulates insulin/glucagon.
- **Islets of Langerhans:** Clusters of hormone-producing cells.

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