

# Physiology of Pancreas

# **Objectives:**

- Discuss the functional anatomy of the pancreas, its division into endocrine and exocrine organ and the role of each.
- Describe the role of the pancreas in digestion.
- Discuss the components of pancreatic juice and their role in digestion.
- List the proteolytic enzymes synthesized by the pancreas and their target.
- Discuss the mechanism of secretion of bicarbonate-rich secretions by the pancreas.
- Describe the mechanism of secretion and activation of pancreatic enzymes.
- Discuss the hormonal & neural mechanisms regulating pancreatic secretion.
- Potentiation of the secretory response
- Name and describe the phases of pancreatic secretion.

### Color index:

- Important.
- ✤ Girls slide only.
- Boys slide only.
- Dr's note.
- Extra information.





- The pancreas is an elongated organ that lies in the epigastric and left upper quadrant of the abdomen.
- It lies behind and below the stomach
- The Pancreas which lies parallel to and beneath the stomach is a large compound gland with most of its internal structure similar to that of the salivary glands.
- The pancreatic digestive enzymes are secreted by pancreatic acini, and large volumes of sodium bicarbonate solution are secreted by the small ductules and larger ducts leading from the acini.
- Pancreatic juice is secreted in response to the presence of chyme in the upper portions of the small intestine
- The pancreas is a mixed gland; endocrine & exocrine...

#### Pancreas has a:

Head: towards spleen ( in the concavity of the duodenum ) Tail : towards duodenum ( reach the spleen ) Body : extend to the left of the epigastric region **Parallel to stomach :** pancreatic duct that comes together with the bile duct.

There are many Anatomical variations that are important surgically. There is small accessory arise from Pancreatic duct that opens a bit superior to the main duct and can be seen in certain people.



#### What is the difference between endocrine and exocrine glands?

#### Exocrine\*

- Exo ? Because it secret its products into a duct system that takes it somewhere else " in GI system will secret into duct system then into duodenum".
- Constitute 90% of pancreas
- lined by Epithelial acinar cell ⇒ secretes Digestive enzymes of pancreas and these flow through ducts which lined by a different type of epithelial cells caned ductal cells.
   both عصبون ⇒ in the duct system of the pancreas, which then empties in the duodenum
- Made of acinar (grap like) & ductal cells Acinar cells are the factory of pancreatic enzymes
- Secretes digestive enzymes, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and water into duodenum





# End ? Because it Produce hormones and secret it directly in the blood

Endocrine

Constitute 2% of pancreas

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- Made of islets of langerhans Islands of specialized types of endocrine cells alpha and beta, each of them secret a hormone. Alpha cells> glucagon Beta cells> insulin
- Islet of Langerhans contain alpha, beta and delta cells.
  - In addition to the digestive functions it Secretes important hormones directly into blood such as :
  - **1- Insulin :** 60% from beta cells and is crucial for normal regulation of glucose, lipid and protein metabolism
  - **2- Glucagon :** 25% from alpha cell and is crucial for normal regulation of glucose, lipid and protein metabolism
     **3- Somatostatin :** 10% from delta cell

## Pancreatic Secretions "juice"

### The major functions of pancreatic secretion\*/The role of the pancreas\*

To neutralize the acids in the duodenal chyme to optimum range (PH= 7.0-8.0) for activity of pancreatic enzymes./Neutralize duodenal acidity arriving from stomach. All pancreatic enzymes that get released from the pancreatic duct towards lumen of duodenum are in their inactive form. They are activated by pancreatic juice, which has high levels of bicarbonate that will neutralize the pH. It increases pH from 3-4 to 7-8. Once the pH becomes 7-8, pancreatic enzymes can be activated.

Why is it important to neutralize acid arriving at the duodenum from the stomach? Pancreas يصب in the duodenum "which contain chyme from stomach, and highly Acidic" And the duodenal mucosa is not prepare to deal with this Acidity. So, pancreas has role in neutralize this chyme that is arriving from the stomach. Secondly, need to

continue digesting the nutrients in the chyme.

does the Alkalinization is only important to protect duodenal mucosa?
 Every enzyme has an Ideal pH where it can work. Pancreatic enzymes work at alkaline pH → So, The environment needs to become Alkalinization in order for these enzymes to work properly in the lumen of the duodenum. So to Summarize: 1\ To protect duodenal mucosa from the acidity.

2\ To provide the proper environment for pancreatic enzymes to work.



To prevent damage to duodenal mucosa by acid & pepsin.



To produce enzymes involved in the digestion of dietary carbohydrate, fat, and protein./To digest dietary nutrients

### Constituents of pancreatic secretion "juice"



### Flow of Pancreatic Secretion into Duodenum<sup>3</sup>

🖉 Click here to check an extra helpful picture 🛛 Only in boys slides

- The combined product of enzymes and NaCo3 flows through a long pancreatic duct
- Pancreatic duct joins the hepatic duct immediately before it empties into the duodenum through the papilla of Vater, surrounded by sphincter of Oddi



## Pancreatic Secretions

#### Only in girls slides

Acinar cell	Ductal cell		
secrete the pancreatic digestive enzymes	secrete NaHCO3 solution	Acini Acinar cell O Digestive O Digestive O Przyme	
Secrete a protein-rich (digestive enzymes) secretion in an isotonic plasma-like fluid.	Secretes a HCO3- rich fluid that alkalinizes & hydrates the protein-rich secretion of acinar cells ([HCO3] =145mEq/L).	Ducts Duct cell	
Constitute 25% of total pancreatic secretion.	Constitute 75% of pancreatic secretion.Secreted by s cells of the duodenum, stimulate ductal cells to produce bicarb rich solution	Fig. 5.4 Secretory unit showing the cellular locations of the different secretions. Because it's rich in digestive enzymes and the solution is low, they are thick. So, to flow into the duct need solution to carry it, will come from ductal cells which will secret bicarb rich solution to wash out these digestive enzymes and carry it through the duct all system until they arrive the duodenum.	
Stimulated by CCK & Ach.	Stimulated by Secretin. Effects of Secretin are potentiated by CCK & Ach.		

#### Only in girls slides

Why don't these enzymes (secreted from acini) digest the pancreas?

1 Secreted as proenzymes (inactive form) which get activated in the lumen of the intestine.

The same cells secrete a substance "trypsin inhibitor". Discussed Later

#### Only in boys slides

2

- Pancreatic secretions contain many enzymes for digesting proteins, carbohydrates, and fats, and large quantities of HCO3 ions
- The most important pancreatic enzymes for digesting proteins are:



Trypsin, chymotrypsin and carboxypolypeptidase are released from the pancreatic duct in their inactive form (otherwise they can digest the pancreatic duct and tissue).

### **Pancreatic Enzymes**



How do we guarantee that enzymes stay in their inactive form at the pancreatic duct and tissues? trypsin inhibitor released by acinar cells

Trypsin will be inhibited first, then the rest will stay in their inactive form until they reach the lumen of duodenum and trypsin inhibitor becomes degraded.

#### Activation of Trypsinogen in duodenal Lumen\*/ Activation of Pancreatic enzyme precursors in small intestine\*(M)



When these enzymes are released into the lumen of duodenum, they get exposed to enteropeptidase/enterokinase also known as the brush border enzyme that comes from the mucosal epithelial cells of duodenum. They work on trypsinogen **first** and activate it, then trypsin will activate other trypsinogen and the other enzymes (chymotrypsinogen and procarboxypeptidase)

### Pancreatic secretion Only in boys slides

The pancreatic enzyme for digesting carbohydrates is pancreatic amylase, which hydrolyzes starches, glycogen and most other carbohydrates (except cellulose) to form mostly disaccharides and a few tri-saccharides

### **Carbohydrate Digestion**



 α- amylase is the only enzyme needed from pancreas to break down starch into a disaccharide form. If we ingest a disaccharide we don't need an enzyme from the pancreas since it can be digested to a monosaccharide by brush border enzymes of mucosal luminal layer of epithelium. Remember carbs should be in a monosaccharide form to be absorbed.

### Pancreatic secretion

Only in boys slides





Bicarb leave the cell into through the lumen side in exchange for CI- (from acinar cells or recirculation from inside the cell into out ) CL- recycle for this to happen. H+ leave the cells into the blood in exchange for Na+ ( which move down its gradient because it's higher in outside than inside the cells "due to Na+ K+ atpase"). So this is secondary active transport.

#### In Cystic fibrosis

One of the CI- channels called cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductor.

In certain people has genetic mutation in this CI- channel, this mean it will not do its job, there will not be recycling CI-, so no secretion of bicarb. So the secretion "from pancreas" will be thick, The risk of blockage of these ducts system " of pancreas" increases, so these people can develop pancreatitis "due to blockage of the ducts from thick juices". In addition to pancreatitis, they also suffer that the secretion of the lungs are thick causing obstructive problems in the lungs

So this is what happen in cystic fibrosis, their secretion become thick, blockage in the pancreas that can lead to pancreatitis. In the lung, obstruction of the airways.

### Pancreatic secretions and Bicarbonate ions (HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>)

- The pancreas secrets about 1 L/day of HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> rich fluid from the epithelial cells of the ductules and ducts.
- The osmolarity of pancreatic fluid is equal to that of plasma. Isotonic
- HCO3<sup>-</sup> concentration increases with increasing secretion rate. If you activate the pancreatic tissue to release more pancreatic enzymes -> bicarbonate concentration and production.

### Flow Rate and Pancreatic Secretion

Graph explained by both doctors

Stimulating the pancreatic tissue will benefit the pancreatic secretion. Why? because it increases bicarbonate secretion and decreases Cl<sup>-</sup> secretion. more activation = more bicarbonate = more flow rate. Na<sup>+2</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> are not affected by the flow rate of pancreatic secretion. While, HCO3<sup>-</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> are affected by the flow rate.



Female Dr Explanation: Na+ and K+ = the same. Cl-= plasma > pancreatic juice. Bicarb = plasma < pancreatic juice.

Does the the velocity of the flow of the juice affect the composition of the electrolyte ? Increase the flow rate lead to : - Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> = no changes - increase HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> level - decrease Cl<sup>-</sup> When the pancreatic flow rate changes, the Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> concentrations in the pancreatic juice remain constant, whereas the concentrations of HCO3<sup>-</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> change. In pancreatic juice, there is a reciprocal relationship between the Cl<sup>-</sup> and HCO3<sup>-</sup> concentrations which is maintained by the Cl<sup>-</sup> - HCO3<sup>-</sup> exchanger in the apical membrane of ductal cells. At the highest pancreatic flow rates HCO3<sup>-</sup> concentration of pancreatic juice is highest (and much greater than plasma HCO<sup>-</sup>) and the Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration is lowest. At lowest flow rates, HCO3<sup>-</sup> is lowest and Cl<sup>-</sup> is highest.

## Neural and Hormonal Control of Pancreatic Secretion(Regulation)

	Parasympathetic	Secretin	Cholecystokinin(CCK)
Stimulation	Stimulation (through Ach on acinar cells) results in an increase in enzyme secretion-fluid and HCO3 <sup>-</sup> *	<ul> <li>Tends to stimulate a HCO3- rich secretion by activating ductal cells.* mainly</li> <li>Secretin Stimulates Secretion of Copious Quantities of Bicarbonate lons—Neutralization of Acidic Stomach Chyme.*</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>-Stimulates a marked increase in enzyme secretion by stimulating the acinar cells.</li> <li>-Its Contribution to Control of Digestive Enzyme Secretion by the Pancreas./ CCK → ↑ pancreatic digestive enzyme secretion.</li> </ul>
Secretion	Acetylcholine: released from the parasympathetic vagus nerve endings and from other cholinergic nerves in the enteric nervous system.*	Secretin is a 27 amino acid polypeptide secreted by the duodenal and upper jejunal mucosa (S cells) when highly acidic chyme enters the small intestine./ When luminal pH<4.5 Stimulated by H <sup>+</sup>	CCK is a 33-amino acid polypeptide secreted by the duodenal and upper jejunal mucosa (I cells) when food enters the small intestine.
Mechanism		1-Secretin is present in an inactive form, prosecretin (in S cells in the mucosa of the duodenum and jejunum). 2-When acid chyme with pH less than 4.5-5.0 enters the duodenum from the stomach, it causes duodenal mucosal release and activation of secretin, which is then absorbed into the blood. 3-Secretin causes the pancreas to secrete large quantities of fluid containing a high concentration of HCO3- (up to 145mEq/L = ~5X normal) but a low concentration of CI- HCI + NaHCO <sub>3</sub> $\rightarrow$ NaCl + H <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> H2CO3 dissociates Immediately into CO2 and H2O. By this rxn we get rid of the acidity in the lumen which comes from chyme from stomach	<ul> <li>1-The presence of food in the upper small intestine causes cholecystokinin to be released from the I cells in the mucosa of the duodenum and upper jejunum.</li> <li>2-Release of cholecystokinin results especially from the presence of proteoses and peptones (products of partial protein digestion) and long-chain fatty acids in the chyme./ Stimulated by the presence of fat and protein degradation products (proteoses &amp; peptides).</li> <li>3-Cholecystokinin, like secretin, passes by way of the blood to the pancreas and causes secretion of pancreatic digestive enzymes by the acinar cells.</li> <li>This effect is similar to that caused by vagal stimulation but even more pronounced, accounting for 70-80% of the total secretion of the pancreatic digestive enzymes after a meal.</li> </ul>

## Neural and Hormonal Control of Pancreatic Secretion(Regulation)

\*Pictures are from girls slides



# **Phases of Pancreatic secretion**

Phase	Stimulus	Mediators	Percentage of maximum enzyme secretion*
<b>Cephalic phase</b> I am preparing to eat food ( smell + see + start eating " before reach the esophagus ")	Smell, taste,chewing and swallowing	Release of Ach by the vagal nerve	20% of pancreatic enzymes
Gastric phase	Protein, gastric distention	Release of Ach by the vagal nerve	5-10 % Of pancreatic secretion
Intestinal phase most important Once the chyme is emptied into the duodenum	Acid in chyme, fatty acid	-Mainly in response to secretin -Through hormonal stimulation (secretin & CCK).	70-75 % Of pancreatic secretion

## **Multiplicative or Potentiation Effects of Different** Pancreatic Secretion Stimuli \*Text was found in boys slides but

picture was found in girls and boys slides

- Pancreatic secretion normally results from the combined effects of the multiple ٠ basic stimuli, not from one alone (potentiate each other).
- Acetylcholine and cholecystokinin stimulate the acinar cells of the pancreas, causing ٠ production of large quantities of pancreatic digestive enzymes but relatively small quantities of water and electrolytes to go with the enzymes.
- Secretin, in contrast to the first two basic stimuli, stimulates secretion of large ٠ guantities of H2O and NaHCO3 solution by the pancreatic ductal epithelium.
- \* When all different stimuli of pancreatic secretion (acetylcholine, cholecystokinin, and secretin) occur at once, then the total secretion is far greater than the sum of the secretions caused by each stimulus separately. The stimuli are said to "multiply" or "potentiate" one another.
- Usually, pancreatic secretions are the result of multiple stimuli rather than one ٠ stimulus.



# Summary of Gastrointestinal Hormones

Hormone	Hormone family	Site of secretion	Stimuli for secretion	Actions
Gastrin	Gastrin-CCK	G cells of the stomach	-Small peptides and amino acids -Distention of the stomach -Vagal stimulation (GRP)	-↑Gastric H+ secretion -Stimulates growth of gastric mucosa
Cholecystokinin( CCK)	Gastrin-CCK	l cells of the duodenum and jejunum	-Small peptides and amino acids -Fatty acids Need emulsification by bile salts (emulsifying agent) which help lipases from pancreas in digestion	<ul> <li>^Pancreatic enzyme secretion</li> <li>^Pancreatic HCO3- secretion</li> <li>Stimulates contraction of the gallbladder and relaxation of the sphincter of oddi</li> <li>Stimulates growth of the exocrine pancreas and gallbladder</li> <li>Inhibits gastric emptying</li> </ul>
Secretin	Secretin-glucagon	S cells of the duodenum	-H+ in the duodenum -Fatty acids in the duodenum	<ul> <li>↑Pancreatic</li> <li>HCO3- secretion</li> <li>↑Biliary HCO3-</li> <li>secretion</li> <li>-↓Gastric H+</li> <li>secretion</li> <li>-Inhibits trophic</li> <li>effect of gastrin on</li> <li>gastric mucosa</li> </ul>
Gastric inhibitory peptide (GIP) Glucose dependent insulin tropic factor	Secretin-glucagon	Duodenum and jejunum	-Fatty acids -Amino acids -Oral glucose	<ul> <li>         Insulin secretion from pancreatic β cells         کانه قاعد یقول للجسم : استعد فیه دفعة اکل جایة، فیه جلوکوز     </li> <li>         پوتاج انسولین     </li> <li>         Gastric H+ secretion     </li> </ul>

Female slides

## Summary of Digestion of Food Types

A-Digestion of Carbohydrates (from mouth to duodenum)



Female slides

# Summary of Digestion of Food Types

**C-Digestion of Fat (From** mouth to Duodenum) Fat in diet **Dietary Fat** Absorbed form: Lingual 2-monoglycerides Lipase Diglycerides 1-Mouth & TGs Cholesterol Fatty acids Fatty acids Stomach (10%) Pancreatic Lipase TGs 2-MG DAGs Fatty acids 2-Intestines Cholesterol esterase Chol CE FΑ

> Phospholipiase A2 Phospholipids FA

# **Migratory Motor Complex**

 We understood that the GI tract motility is involved in mixing and moving food along the tract in an orad to caudad direction.

But what happens when there is no food in the system? During fasting for example? The intestine is relatively quiescent during fasting but exhibit a certain pattern of electric and motor activity called Interdigestive myoelectric complexes "Migrating Motor Complexes (MMC)"

- MMC is a term that describes the rhythmic contractions of the small intestine during the fasting state. It starts at the stomach and moves down to terminal ilium at intervals of 90-120 min. It Consists of four main phases:
  - 1. Prolonged quiescent period.
  - 2. A period of increasing AP and contractility.
  - 3. A period of peak electrical and mechanical activity.
  - 4. A period of declining activity.



These are though to clear the intestine of its contents. Allows particles > 2mm to pass from stomach to duodenum.
 Motilin is thought to play a role in their generation.

Figure 41-6: Mechanical activity in the fasting and fed states. Shown are records of intraluminal pressure along the small intestine of a conscious dog. Before feeding (left side), the pattern is one of MMCs. Feeding triggers a switch to a different pattern, characterized by both segmental contractions that chum the contents and peristaltic contractions that propel the contents along the small intestines.



# MCQ & SAQ:

# **Q1:** Which of the following enzymes splits some peptides into individual amino acids?

- A. Trypsin
- B. Chymotrypsin
- C. Carboxypolypeptide
- D. Trypsin and chmotrypsin

#### Q3: Trypsin is Considered to be:

- A. Endopeptidases Proteolytic
- B. Exopeptidases Proteolytic
- C. Amylolytic
- D. Nucleolytic

# **Q5:** Secretin stimulates the secretion of which of the following?

- A. HCO3-
- B. HCL
- C. Insulin
- D. Mucous

# **Q2:** Which one of the following activates proelastase into elastase:

- A. Enteropeptidase
- B. Trypsin
- C. Pepsin
- D. Secretin

# **Q4:** The osmolarity of pancreatic fluid is equal to that of the:

- A. Blood
- B. Plasma
- C. Extracellular interstitial fluid
- D. Intracellular fluid

# **Q6:** Which of the following does not control pancreatic secretions?

	ч.с
A. Parasympathetic NS	5.0
ה כבע	4 <sup>:</sup> B
B. LLK	A :E
C. Secretin	Z; B
D Gastrin	7: C
D. Gustini	қеу:
	IAMSUP

### 1- What are the functions of pancreatic enzymes?

- 2- Why doesn't Trypsin digest the pancreas?
- 3- Explain the mechanism of bicarbonate secretion

### 4- List the phases of pancreatic secretions with mentioning their stimulus and

### mediators.

**A1:** To neutralize duodenal acidity coming from stomach, prevent damage to duodenal mucosa by acid and pepsin, and to produce enzymes involved in the digestion of dietary carbohydrate, fat, and protein.

**A2:** Because pancreatic enzymes do not become activated until after they have been secreted into the intestine, also because the pancreas secrete enzyme Inhibitors (Trypsin Inhibitor).

A3: Slide 8

**A4:** Slide 11

0:D

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