Section IX – Digestive System

The digestive system refers to the alimentary canal or gastrointestinal tract. It consists of organs and glands that break down food products to be used by the body as a source of energy through absorption of nutrients and to eliminate solid waste products. The GI tract begins at the mouth, where food is ingested and ends at the anus, where waste products are eliminated from the body.

Medical Terms

### Combining Forms

- **gingiv/o**  
  gums
- **stomat/o, or/o**  
  mouth
- **dent/o, odont/o**  
  teeth
- **labi/o**  
  lip
- **maxill/o**  
  jaw
- **sial/o**  
  saliva, salivary glands
- **abdomin/o**  
  abdomen
- **gastr/o**  
  stomach
- **lingu/o, gloss/o**  
  tongue
- **myc/o**  
  fungus
- **orth/o**  
  straight
- **esophag/o**  
  esophagus
- **carcin/o**  
  cancer
- **rect/o**  
  rectum
- **proct/o**  
  rectum and anus
- **sigmoid/o**  
  sigmoid
- **ile/o**  
  ileum
- **col/o**  
  colon
- **duoden/o**  
  duodenum
- **enter/o**  
  intestine
- **hepat/o**  
  liver
- **chol/e, chol/o**  
  bile, gall
- **cholecyst/o**  
  gall bladder
- **pancreat/o**  
  pancreas
- **cyst/o**  
  bladder
- **an/o**  
  anus

### Suffixes

- **-rrhea**  
  discharge, flow
- **-orexia**  
  appetite
- **-emesis**  
  vomiting
- **-pepsia**  
  digestion
- **-phagia**  
  swallowing, eating
- **-lith**  
  stone
Medical Terms

Mouth (or/o, stomat/o)
or/al, stomat/ic – pertaining to the mouth
stomat/o/dynia – pain in the mouth
sub/lingu/al – pertaining to under the tongue
sub/maxill/ary – pertaining to under the jaw

Salivary Glands (sial/o)
sial/o/rrhea – excessive flow of saliva
sial/o/aden/itis – inflammation of the salivary glands

Teeth (odont/o, dent/o)
dent/ist – specialist in the study of teeth
orth/o/dont/ist – specialist in straight teeth
gingiv/itis – inflammation of the gums

Stomach (gastr/o)
gastr/o/dynia – pain in the stomach
gastr/o/esophag/itis – inflammation of the stomach and esophagus
gastr/o/enter/ologist – specialist in stomach and intestines
nas/o/gastr/ic – pertaining to the nose and stomach

Vomiting (-emesis)
hemat/emesis – vomiting blood
hyper/emesis – excessive vomiting

Swallowing, eating (-phagia)
dys/phagia – difficulty eat or swallowing
aer/o/phagia – swallowing air

Small intestine and Colon (enter/o, col/o)
enter/o/pathy – intestinal disease
enter/o/rrhaphy – suture intestines
proct/itis – inflammation of the rectum and anus
sigmoid/o/scopy – visual exam of the sigmoid colon
rect/o/plasty – surgical repair of the rectum

Liver (hepat/o)
hepat/ectomy – excision of the liver
hepat/o/dynia – pain in the liver
hepat/ic – pertaining to the liver
hepat/o/megaly – enlargement of the liver
hepat/oma – tumor in the liver

Gallbladder (cholecyst/o)
cholecyst/ectomy – excision of the gallbladder
cholecyst/o/lith – stone in the gallbladder
cholecyst/o/gram – record of the gallbladder

Pancreas (pancreat/o)
pancreat/o/lith/osis – abnormal condition of stones in the pancreas
pancreat/oma – tumor in the pancreas
Abbreviations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>b&amp;b</td>
<td>bowel and bladder</td>
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<tr>
<td>bm</td>
<td>bowel movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>G-tube</td>
<td>gastrostomy tube</td>
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<tr>
<td>NG</td>
<td>nasogastric tube</td>
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<tr>
<td>GI</td>
<td>gastrointestinal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNR</td>
<td>do not resuscitate</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERD</td>
<td>gastroesophageal reflux disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPO</td>
<td>nothing by mouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>N&amp;V</td>
<td>nausea and vomiting</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRN</td>
<td>as needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>UGI</td>
<td>upper gastrointestinal series (x-rays)</td>
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Worksheet – Section IX – Digestive System

Complete the following matching

1. polyphagia  
   _____ A. a visual examination of the stomach
2. choledoch  
   _____ B. bad, difficult digestion
3. cholecystectomy  
   _____ C. record of the gallbladder
4. cholecystogram  
   _____ D. vomiting blood
5. cholelithiasis  
   _____ E. glands that secrete saliva
6. duodenotomy  
   _____ F. excessive eating
7. dyspepsia  
   _____ G. pain in the mouth
8. dysphagia  
   _____ H. an incision of the duodenum
9. anorexia  
   _____ I. enlargement of the liver
10. gastroscopy  
    _____ J. difficult swallowing
11. hematemesis  
    _____ K. removal of the gallbladder
12. hepatomegaly  
    _____ L. pertaining to the tongue & gums
13. ileostomy  
    _____ M. incision of the sigmoid colon
14. linguogingivial  
    _____ N. surgical repair of the rectum
15. rectoplasty  
    _____ O. inflammation of the gums
16. salivary glands  
    _____ P. formation of a new opening into the ileum
17. stomatalgia  
    _____ Q. abnormal condition of gallstones
18. sigmoidotomy  
    _____ R. lack of appetite
19. gingivitis  
    _____ S. bile duct
20. hyperemesis  
    _____ T. excessive vomiting

Write out the following terms.

21. gastrectomy –
22. appendectomy –
23. enteropathy –
24. colonoscopy –
25. rectocele –
26. proctodynia –
27. hepatomegaly –
28. esophagoscope –
29. proctosigmoidoscopy –
30. stomatoplasty –

Define the following medical terms.

31. dysphagia -
32. aerophagia –
33. esophagitis –
34. gastrologist –
35. endoscopy –
36. lingual –
37. glossitis –
38. labial –
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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>alimentary canal –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>palate –</td>
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<td>41.</td>
<td>edentulous –</td>
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<td>42.</td>
<td>mastication –</td>
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<td>hiatal hernia –</td>
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<td>44.</td>
<td>pyrosis –</td>
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<td>dehydration –</td>
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<td>46.</td>
<td>inguinal hernia</td>
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<td>47.</td>
<td>emetics –</td>
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<td>48.</td>
<td>occult blood –</td>
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<td>49.</td>
<td>halitosis –</td>
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<td>50.</td>
<td>bolus -</td>
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