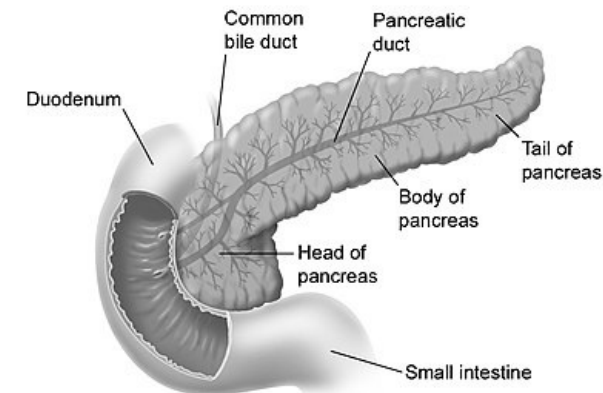


# Pancreas

The pancreas is an organ capable of secreting hormones in both endocrine and exocrine fashion. It has several macroscopic parts - head, uncinus process, neck, body and tail.

## Structure



National Cancer Institute

## Pancreatic Duct

- It begins at the tail and joins the bile duct at the head, forming the **Ampulla of Vater**.
- The Ampulla of Vater enters the descending part of the duodenum at the major duodenal papilla.
- The accessory pancreatic duct enters the duodenum through the minor duodenal papilla.

## Islets of Langerhans

The Islets are a group of cells that create and store the hormones:-

- **Alpha cells** – glucagon.
- **Beta cells** – insulin.
- **Delta cells** – somatostatin.

 For more information see *Pancreatic Hormones*.

## Syntopy

Pancreas lies in retroperitoneal space. The head of the pancreas lies next to the duodenum. From the lower part of the head is the **uncinate process**, which passes posteriorly to the superior mesenteric vessels. The neck is anterior to the superior mesenteric vessels. The **portal vein** behind the neck is formed by the superior mesenteric and splenic vein. The tail passes between the layers of the spleno-renal ligament.

## Arterial supply

- supply of the upper half of pancreas – superior pancreaticoduodenal artery from truncus coeliacus
- supply of the lower half – inferior pancreaticoduodenal artery from superior mesenteric artery

## Links

### Related Articles

- Pancreatic Cancer
- Pancreatic Hormones
- Gallbladder and Extrahepatic Bile Ducts

## Bibliography

SNELL, Richard S. *Clinical Anatomy by Regions*. 8th Edition edition. 2004. ISBN 978-0-7817-6404-9.

