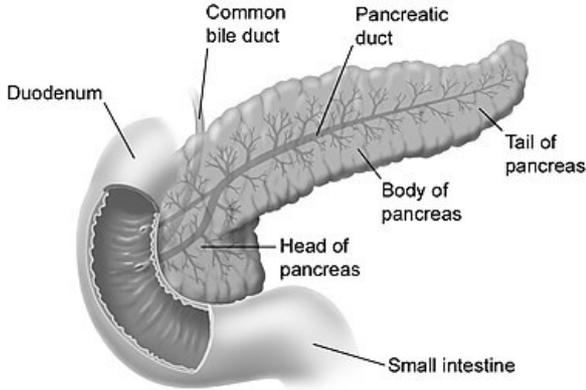


Pancreas

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

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