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# Digestive System

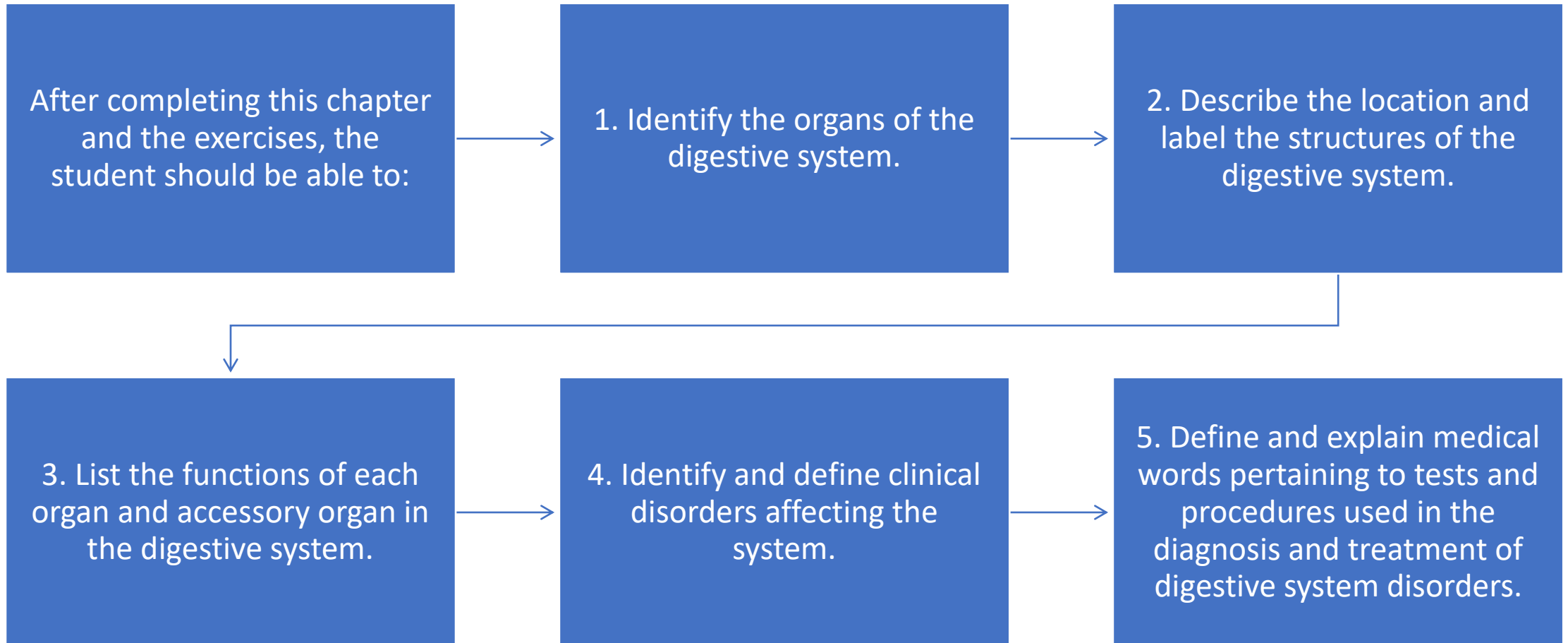
By

Dr. Huda Saad

College of Dentistry /Mustansiriyah University



# OBJECTIVES





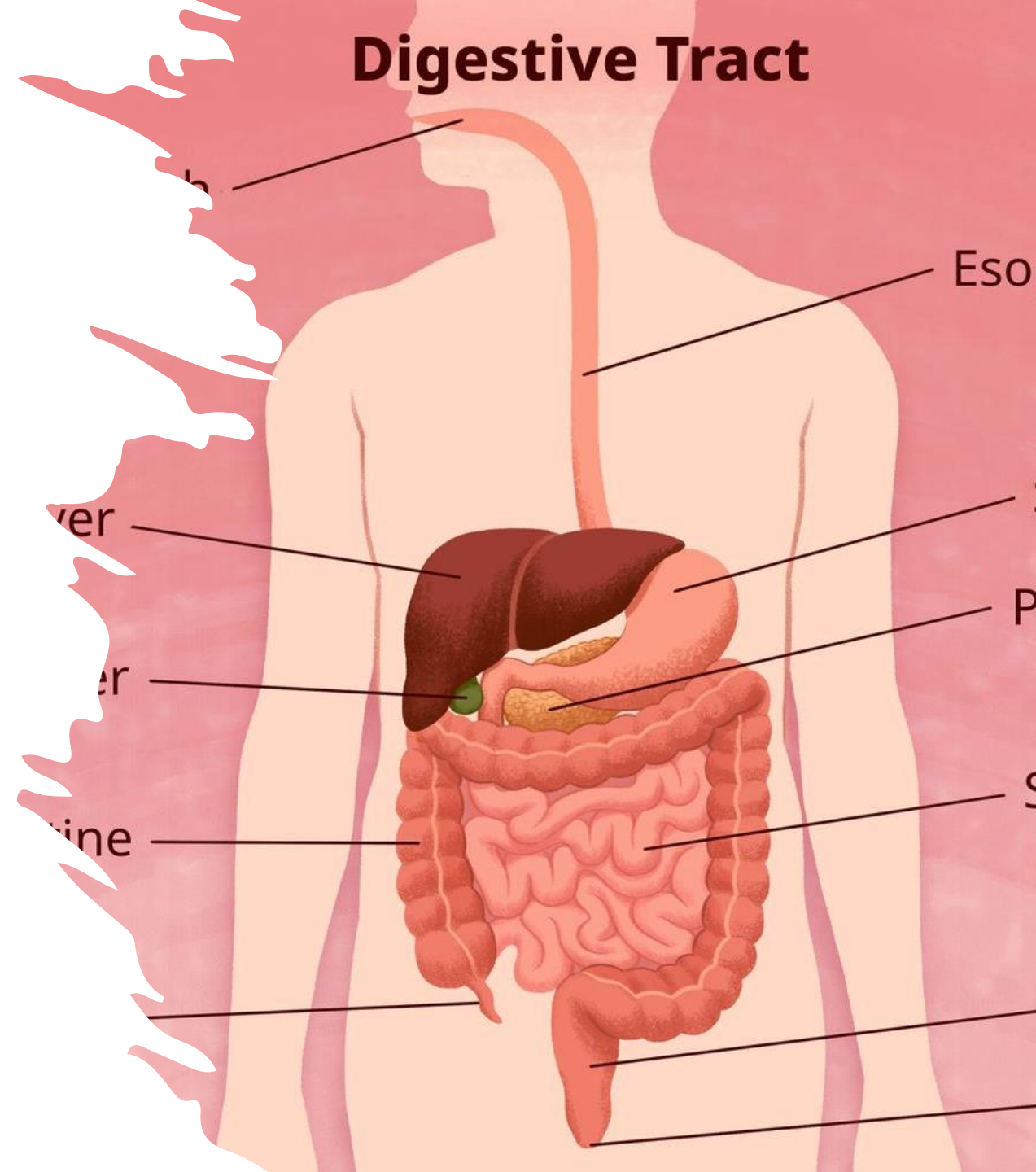
# THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

The digestive system also called the gastrointestinal (GI) system or alimentary tract, contains the organs involved in the ingestion and processing of food. Its general description is that of a long muscular tube extending from mouth to anus and the accessory organs, which include the salivary glands, liver, gallbladder, and pancreas.

# Digestive Tract

The primary function of the GI system is to provide the body with food, water, and electrolytes by digesting nutrients to prepare them for absorption. The following processes are involved in this function:

1. Ingestion: Taking food into the mouth.
2. Mastication: Grinding or mincing food with the teeth and mixing with saliva from the salivary glands.
3. Deglutition: Swallowing or movement of food from the mouth to the pharynx.



The digestive system begins with the throat and ends at the anus. This long tube has many parts and is connected to various accessory organs. Such parts and accessory organs are listed here.

- Esophagus: Transports food from pharynx (throat) to stomach by peristalsis. Contains no digestive enzymes.
- 2. Stomach: Primarily for food storage. Activity in the stomach results in the formation of chyme and propels it into the duodenum. It secretes pepsin, hydrochloric acid, mucus, and intrinsic factor. The gastric juices initiate the digestion of protein and fat.
- 3. Small intestine: Completes digestion that started in the mouth and stomach by its intestinal enzymes, pancreatic enzymes, and bile from the liver. Also absorbs products of digestion. Peristalsis moves undigested residue to the large intestine.

4. Large intestine: Performs the following functions:
  - a. Absorbs 80–90 percent of water and electrolytes and reduces chyme to a semisolid mass
  - b. Produces no digestive enzymes or hormones
  - c. Bacteria present in the colon synthesize vitamin K, riboflavin, and thiamin
  - d. Excretes waste and feces.



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