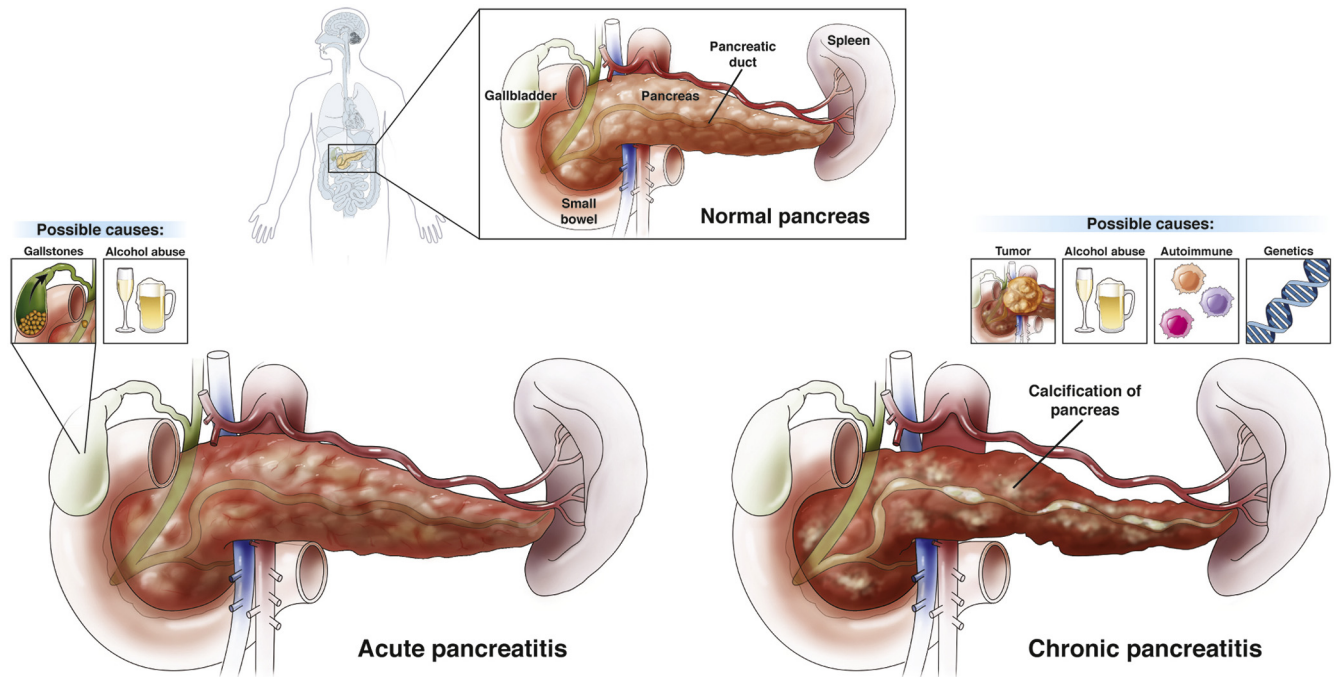


AGA Patient Education Section

Pancreatitis



What Are the 2 Types of Pancreatitis?

Pancreatitis is inflammation (swelling) of your pancreas, typically caused by gallstones or alcohol abuse, although other causes are possible. There are 2 types of pancreatitis.

Acute

This can occur suddenly, and if uncomplicated, it goes away within a few days. It is most often caused by gallstones or alcohol abuse.

Chronic

This takes many years to develop and does not go away because the pancreas is permanently injured or scarred. You can have frequent symptoms and many times calcifications of the pancreas. Several possible causes include chronic alcohol abuse, genetic disease, tumors, and autoimmune illnesses.

Symptoms

Acute and chronic pancreatitis share some symptoms, which may include:

- Abdominal pain that radiates to the back.
- Nausea and throwing up.
- Fever.

With chronic pancreatitis, pain may be chronic in the stomach and/or back that is associated with:

- Weight loss.
- Greasy or oily stools.
- Diarrhea.
- Diabetes.
- Jaundice (this is rare).

Getting Tested

Different tests may be used to determine whether your pancreatitis is acute or chronic. They include the following:

- Medical history and stomach examination.
- Blood tests.
- X-ray or other imaging test (computed tomography scan, magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography, and endoscopic ultrasound).

Treatment

The treatment for acute pancreatitis mostly involves a hospital stay to heal your pancreas. If you have chronic pancreatitis, your doctor will most likely give you a treatment plan, which may include a special diet, supplements, and lifestyle changes, such as not drinking alcohol or smoking. Most people with chronic pancreatitis have a good outlook if they follow their treatment plan.

For more information on pancreatitis, talk to your gastroenterologist and visit <https://www.gastro.org/practice-guidance/gi-patient-center/topic/pancreatitis>.