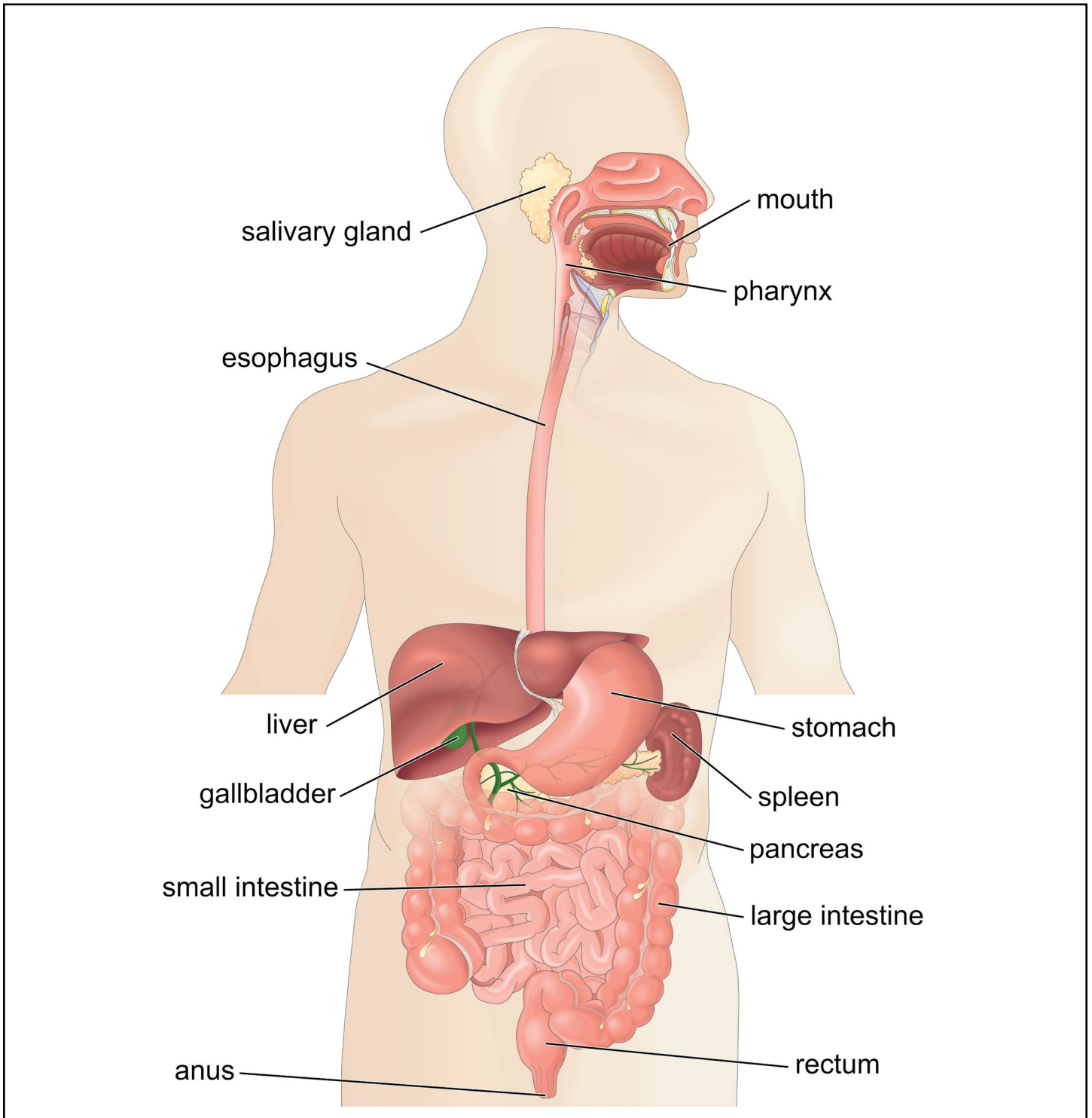


# The Digestive Tract



(over)

## **Mouth**

The digestive process begins when food is chewed. Breaking down solid food into smaller particles allows the food to make its way to the stomach.

## **Salivary Gland**

The salivary gland makes saliva, which moistens and cools food and helps to digest food.

## **Pharynx**

The pharynx is a tube connected to the mouth and esophagus. It allows food and liquid from the mouth to enter the esophagus.

## **Esophagus**

Food and liquid that is swallowed goes down the esophagus into the stomach.

## **Liver**

The liver makes bile to help digest food and liquids. It also stores vitamins and minerals as well as destroys old blood cells.

## **Gallbladder**

The gallbladder stores bile made by the liver and sends it to the first part of the small intestine.

## **Stomach**

The stomach stores swallowed food and liquid, mixing it up with digestive juices. After breaking up the food and killing germs, the stomach empties its contents slowly into the small intestine. Mucus helps protect the stomach wall.

## **Pancreas**

Hormones in your pancreas help control the blood glucose levels and makes insulin. The pancreas also makes most of the enzymes needed to digest your food.

## **Small Intestine**

The small intestine finishes digesting food and liquid. It absorbs nutrients and sends the digested particles on to the large intestine.

## **Large Intestine**

This is a long tube that reabsorbs some water and minerals. It also makes and stores stool.

## **Rectum**

The stool goes through the rectum.

## **Anus**

This is the opening at the end of the large intestine. Stool leaves the body through this opening.