

— Digestive Health

The human digestive system is a series of organs that converts food into essential nutrients that are absorbed into the body and moves the unused waste material out of the body. It is essential to good health, because if the digestive system shuts down, the body cannot be nourished or rid itself of waste.

The digestive tract, also known as the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, starts at the mouth, continues to the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine (commonly referred to as the colon) and rectum, and ends at the anus.

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Intestinal Health

Digestive / Intestinal health is the ability to process nutrients through properly functioning digestive organs, including the stomach, intestines, liver, pancreas, esophagus and gallbladder. It is estimate that 20% of the population suffers some type of GI distress where they regularly experience symptoms such as abdominal pain, blood in the stool, bloating, constipation, diarrhea, heartburn, incontinence, nausea and vomiting and difficulty swallowing. Many diseases and conditions of the digestive system, including irritable bowel, lactose intolerance, diverticulitis, GERD, Crohn's disease, celiac disease, peptic ulcer and hiatal hernia can be chronic. Many of the diseases of the digestive system are tied to the foods and many sufferers must restrict their diets.

Among the most widely known diseases of the digestive system is colon cancer. This is typically a slow-growing cancer that is often survivable if caught early.

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☐ SACCHAROMYCE... **<20.0**
(U)

Range: See Comments

SACCHAROMYCES CEREVISIAE AB (ASCA) (IGA)

(U)

Result Comments

Reference Range:

<=20.0	NEGATIVE
20.1-24.9	EQUIVOCAL
>=25.0	POSITIVE

Antibodies to *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* are found in approximately 75% of patients with Crohn's disease, 15% of patients with ulcerative colitis, and 5% of the healthy population. High antibody titers increase the likelihood of disease, especially Crohn's disease, and are associated with more aggressive disease. As the inflammation in Crohn's disease is focused at the gut mucosa, most patients have IgA antibodies to *S cerevisiae* and half of these also have IgG antibodies. A minority of patients have only IgG antibodies to *S cerevisiae*.