Gastric Digestion 2: Gastric Motility, Breakdown, and Emptying

Postprandial Gastric Motility

The musculature of the stomach is comprised of 4 layers:

- 1) Oblique muscle layer (inner):
- 2) Circular muscle layer:
- 3) Longitudinal muscle layer:
- 4) Serosa:



Postprandial Gastric Motility

Postprandial gastric motility serves multiple purposes, depending on the region of the stomach:

Gastric contraction waves originate in the _____

The gastric pacemaker region serves as the _____

Proximal gastric motility:

Distal gastric motility:

Postprandial Gastric Contractions: Proximal vs. Distal Stomach



Receptive Relaxation & Gastric Accommodation

The fundus serves an important purpose as a _____

which is accomplished through two types of muscular activity:

1) Receptive Relaxation \rightarrow

2) Gastric Accommodation \rightarrow

The receptive relaxation and gastric accommodation processes allow for the stomach to hold

	without significant	
After ingestion of a large meal,	of the meal will remain in the proximal stomach.	

Gastric Peristaltic Contractions (Antral Contraction Waves)

The propulsive contractions that act to mix and break down ingested food particles are

that are also known as		
Antral contraction waves, or	, begin at the	and
propagate from the	to the	
The frequency of the ACWs follows	the	,
which is	·	

Phases of Postprandial Gastric Motility

Similar to gastric secretions, there are also three phases of postprandial gastric motility:

1) Cephalic:

2) Gastric:

3) Intestinal

Fasting Gastric Motility

Between meals, as there are still	, and there is also
Fasting gastric motility is known as the	,
which is a 3-phase cycle that lasts about	·
Phase 1: of the cycle	
Characterized by	
Phase 2: of the cycle	
Characterized by	
Phase 3: period	
Characterized by	
During phase 3, the	
The frequency of phase 3 contractions is	
Sometimes, the strong peristaltic contractions in Phase	3 of the MMC are referred to as:

Once phase 3 is complete, the cycle repeats, and the stomach moves back to phase 1 where contractions are limited, until a meal is consumed.

Gastric Emptying

Gastric Emptying & Gastric Sieving	
After a meal is consumed and begins to break down, the	opens periodically to
allow portions of the meal	
During postprandial gastric motility, the pylorus opens	
to allow digested materials to move into the duodenum.	
Opening of the pylorus is coordinated with	to
allow material to enter. Typically, these contractions occur at	
When the pylorus opens, it does not completely relax; it only opens _	·
This limited opening of the pylorus results in a phenomenon known a	as,
where small	and
larger particles	·
In addition to the, the funde	us also aids in gastric
emptying by	

Factors that Impact Gastric Emptying

Gastric emptying of food components may vary based on:

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Models to Describe Gastric Emptying

Why do we want to use empirical models to describe gastric emptying?



To determine the gastric emptying $t_{1/2}$, there are two equations that are commonly used:

1. Power-Exponential Model

- y(t) is
- t_{1/2} is
- β is
- t is
- 2. Modified Power-Exponential Model
- y(t) is
- k is
- β is
- t is

From the modified power-exponential model, the $t_{1/2}$ can be calculated as (using k and β above):

Gastric Food Breakdown Processes

