

The pancreas lies deep in the abdominal cavity, resting on the posterior abdominal wall. In cystic fibrosis, a thick mucus blocks the pancreatic duct, and the patient must take supplemental pancreatic enzymes by mouth for proper digestion to occur. As an endocrine gland, it secretes insulin and glucagon, hormones that help keep the blood glucose level within normal limits. It is an elongated and somewhat flattened organ that has both an endocrine and an exocrine function.