**Pancreatitis**

Pancreatitis is an inflammation of the pancreas. The pancreas is a large gland located behind the stomach. The pancreas produces enzymes that help digest food. The pancreas also releases the hormones glucagon and insulin that help regulate blood sugar.

**Causes**

1. Alcohol abuse.
2. Gallstones.
3. Certain medicines.
4. Exposure to certain chemicals.
5. Infection.
6. Damage caused by an accident (trauma).
7. Abdominal surgery.

**Signs and symptoms**

1. Pain in the upper abdomen that may radiate to the back.
2. Tenderness and swelling of the abdomen.
3. Nausea and vomiting.

**Diagnosis**

1. History and physical examination.
2. Blood tests; serum amylase and serum lipase.
3. Abdominal ultrasound.
4. CT scan of abdomen.

**Treatment**

1. Pain medicines.
2. Fluid replacement through an intravenous line (IV).
3. Placing a tube in the stomach to remove stomach contents and control vomiting.
4. Nil by mouth.
5. Antibiotic medicines if the condition is caused by an infection.
6. Surgery of the pancreas or gallbladder.