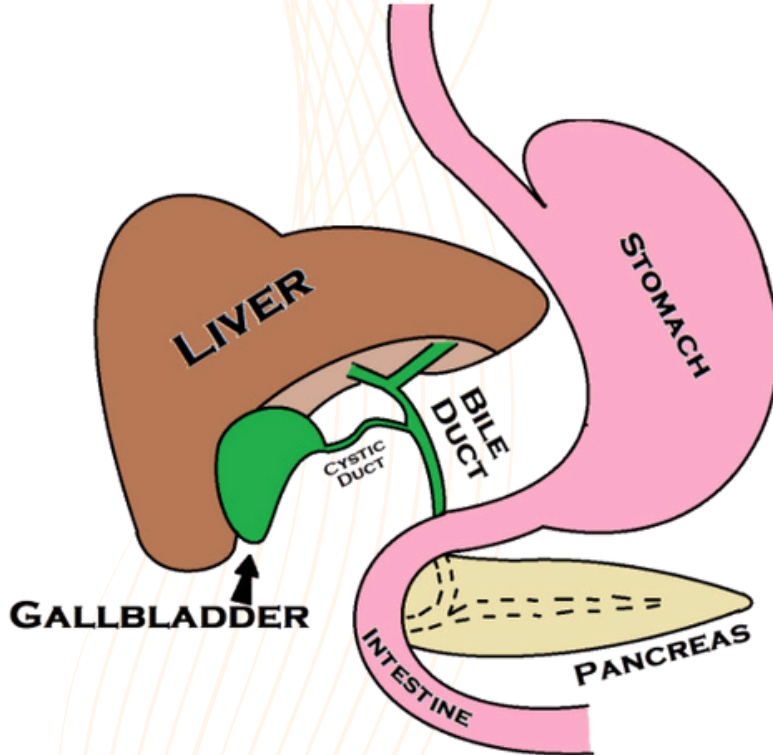


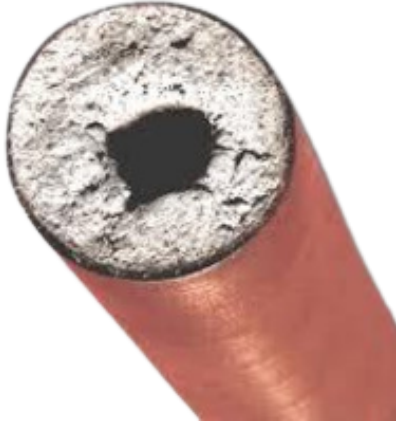
Gallstone Disease

What is the role of the Gallbladder?



- After Digestion in the Stomach, food and acid enters into the intestine.
- Bile is made in the Liver. The Gallbladder does not make bile but stores it.
- Bile enters into the intestine through bile ducts. The Bile does two jobs:
 1. **Neutralize stomach acid for better food digestion**
 2. **Mix the oils in food with body's juices & enzymes like a soap.**
- After gallbladder removal, the Liver still makes bile and digestion is normal.
- Rarely, diarrhea happens after gallbladder removal.
- This can be fixed with powder medication, "Cholestyramine". Usually this goes away on its own anyway.

Why Remove the Gallbladder?



- When there is no digestion, the bile is stored in the gallbladder.
- There it can solidify and form sludge and stones.
- These can cause problems such as:
 1. **Pancreatitis (inflammation of your pancreas)**
 2. **Cholecystitis (inflammation of your gallbladder)**

Gallbladder Surgery

- Lasts about 1 hour or less.
- Performed with 4 small incisions.
- Surgical glue and internal stitches that do not need removal are used.
- One of the wounds will be more painful. This is where the gallbladder is removed. This has a muscle stitch inside it.
- Use prescribed pain medication, Ibuprofen 600mg TID, Tylenol and Heat pad.
- You go home the same day.
- Eat whatever you want and you can shower.
- For 2 weeks do no lifting more than 10 lbs and no submerging wounds underwater.