
DIGESTIVE DISEASE

Spotlight on 5 digestive diseases

For More Information

May is National Digestive Diseases Awareness Month, so if you would like to learn more about digestive diseases, check out the research from some of the organizations featured below.

The **National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases** offers in-depth descriptions of a wide variety of digestive diseases. It also supports lots of medical research. Check it out at <http://www.niddk.nih.gov/>.

Medline Plus, a service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health, has a collection of clear and concise descriptions of many different digestive diseases. Take a look at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>.

Digestive Disease Awareness

Celiac disease affects the small intestine, which gets damaged when the body has an immune response to gluten. About 1 in every 141 people has celiac disease.

Crohn's disease is chronic inflammation of any part of the gastrointestinal tract. It most commonly occurs in the small intestine and the front of the large intestine.

Diverticular disease occurs when small sacs (diverticula) in the colon either begin to bleed or become inflamed. It generally occurs in people over the age of 50.

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) happens when stomach contents leak back into the esophagus at least twice a week for a few weeks.

Ulcerative colitis is a chronic condition that causes inflammation and sores to develop in the inner lining of the large intestine.

