

Organ function table

Organ	Function
Appendix	The appendix is a worm-like structure attached to the first part of the colon. It has no known function. It can get inflamed and cause pain (appendicitis). We don't miss our appendix if it is removed.
Brain	The brain is where we do our thinking. It also controls body functions that we don't think very hard about such as breathing and walking. The brain stores our memories and controls the nervous system. Diseases of the brain include brain tumours (that can be cancerous or non-cancerous), degenerative brain disease like Huntington's and bacterial infections like meningitis.
Colon	The colon, also known as the large intestine, is the final part of the digestive tract. It packages any food waste and removes water to form solid poo (faeces). If your large intestine gets infected with harmful bacteria, this can stop it removing waste water and lead to diarrhea. The colon is also the place where bowel cancer can develop.
Heart	The heart pumps blood around our body through a system of arteries. Blood picks up oxygen in the lungs and delivers it to where it is needed. Veins return the deoxygenated blood to the heart. Heart disease is a common cause of poor health and death in the UK. It is most often caused when blood vessels become blocked, leading to heart attack. Many forms of heart disease can be prevented or treated with healthy lifestyle choices.
Kidney	The kidneys are involved in homeostasis, which means regulating the internal environment to keep conditions in the body stable. It does this by regulating excretion of water and other substances. Kidneys can be damaged if they are infected by bacteria, or if a blockage is caused by a build-up of insoluble calcium (kidney stones). Other problems that can occur with kidneys includes the growth of cysts, or damage caused by high blood pressure.
Liver	The liver has many functions including converting nutrients from the diet into a form that the body can use for energy and growth. The liver also breaks down drugs such as alcohol and Paracetamol. There are lots of different types of liver disease including those caused by excessive alcohol consumption, and viral conditions like hepatitis.
Lungs	The lungs are the organs responsible for taking in oxygen from the air. The oxygen is transferred to the blood so that it can reach every cell in the body. Smoking seriously damages the lungs. Another common cause of lung disease is bacterial infection.
Oesophagus	The lungs are the organs responsible for taking in oxygen from the air. The oxygen is transferred to the blood so that it can reach every cell in the body. Smoking seriously damages the lungs. Another common cause of lung disease is bacterial infection.
Pancreas	The pancreas secretes the hormone insulin, which controls levels of sugar in the blood. It also secretes enzymes that help digest food in the small intestine. Pancreatitis is a condition caused by inflammation of the pancreas, usually caused by stones in the gall bladder.
Small Intestine	This is the part of the digestive tract between the stomach and the colon. It is where food is digested and nutrients absorbed. The small intestine is about 5 metres long. Problems with the small intestine can include Chron's Disease and Irritable Bowel Syndrom.
Spleen	The spleen sits under your rib cage on the left and is involved in the filtration of blood to remove any dead cells and infective organisms. It is possible to live without a spleen.
Stomach	The stomach stores food that is swallowed, secretes enzymes to start digestion, produces acid to kill any infective organisms and contracts to break food into smaller pieces. Stomach diseases include gastritis, stomach cancer and stomach ulcers.
Testis	Men have two testes (the plural of testis). This is where sperm are made. The testes sit in the scrotum, which hangs outside the body to keep the testes cool. Testicular cancer can usually be treated if detected early.
Tonsils	The tonsils are a pair of organs at the back of the throat that help protect against infection. They can become enlarged and inflamed, resulting in painful tonsillitis.
Trachea	The trachea is the tube that links the back of the throat with the lungs. Air that is breathed in travels down the trachea. The trachea is held open by rings of hard cartilage.
Uterus	The uterus or womb is where babies grow. Eggs are produced in the ovaries and pass down the Fallopian tubes to reach the uterus. Fertilised eggs implant in the wall of the uterus and grow there. Problems with the uterus can include cervical and uterine cancer and fibroids (growths of muscle or other tissue in the uterus).