

Table 1. *Key Differences between Acute and Chronic Pancreatitis.*

Feature	Acute Pancreatitis	Chronic Pancreatitis
Definition	Acute inflammatory process caused by premature activation of pancreatic enzymes	Progressive inflammatory disorder with irreversible structural damage and fibrosis
Disease course	Sudden onset, usually reversible	Chronic progressive disease
Main etiologies	Gallstones, alcohol, hypertriglyceridemia, drugs, ERCP	Alcohol consumption, smoking, genetic mutations, autoimmune pancreatitis
Pathophysiology	Enzymatic autodigestion and systemic inflammatory response	Chronic inflammation and pancreatic stellate cell activation leading to fibrosis
Structural changes	Edema, necrosis, peripancreatic fluid collections	Pancreatic calcifications, ductal strictures, gland atrophy
Clinical presentation	Acute severe epigastric pain, nausea, vomiting	Chronic abdominal pain, malabsorption, diabetes
Exocrine insufficiency	Rare	Common in advanced disease
Endocrine dysfunction	Rare	Pancreatogenic diabetes mellitus (Type 3c)
Complications	Necrosis, pseudocysts, organ failure	Pseudocysts, biliary obstruction, portal vein thrombosis, pancreatic cancer
Treatment	Supportive care, fluid resuscitation, early nutrition	Lifestyle modification, enzyme replacement, endoscopic or surgical interventions