The gastrointestinal tract (GIT) consists of a hollow muscular tube starting from the oral cavity, where food enters the mouth, continuing through the pharynx, oesophagus, stomach and intestines to the rectum and anus, where food is expelled.

The GIT includes the following components:

1. **Mouth** (including teeth, tongue, and cheeks)
2. **Pharynx** (also known as the throat)
3. **Oesophagus** (the muscular tube that connects the throat to the stomach)
4. **Stomach** (a muscular organ that stores and empties meals into the small intestine)
5. **Small Intestine** (divided into the duodenum, jejunum, and ileum)
6. **Large Intestine** (divided into the cecum, colon, and rectum)
7. **Anus**

The main functions of the GIT are:

- **Mechanical Digestion**: Breaking down food into smaller pieces
- **Chemical Digestion**: Using enzymes to digest nutrients
- **Absorption**: Absorbing nutrients from food into the bloodstream
- **Excretion**: Eliminating waste products
- **Protection**: Protecting against microbial invasion

Gastrointestinal physiology is the branch of human physiology that addresses the physical function of the GIT in processing ingested food by mechanical and chemical means, extracting nutrients and excreting waste products.

Further Reading and Resources:

- [Gastrointestinal Anatomy and Physiology](https://www.omnionlinebooks.com)
- [Gastroenterologists](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/)
- [Gastrointestinal Physiology](https://www.wiley.com)
- [Free Anatomy Quiz](https://www.quizzes.com)
- [Anatomy and Physiology](https://www.quizlet.com)
- [Human Digestive System](https://www.nature.com)
- [Digestive System Anatomy and Physiology](https://www.nurseslabs.com)

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Note: The information provided is for educational purposes only and should not replace professional medical advice.