

Glossary

E.3. Esophagus

UES	Upper Esophageal Sphincter, located in the upper part of the esophagus
LES	Lower Esophageal Sphincter, located in the lower part of the esophagus, to avoid stomach juices to damage the esophageal mucosa
Peristalsis	Process of ‘pushing’ food boluses from the oral cavity, through the esophagus, to the stomach. This transport system is in use throughout the gastrointestinal system.
Achalasia	Chronic insufficient relaxation of the LES (lower esophageal sphincter) when a food bolus passes towards the stomach, leading to malnutrition and loss of weight
GERD	Gastro oesophageal reflux disease caused by insufficient closing of the lower oesophageal sphincter (LES) which will lead to erosion of the oesophageal mucosa by the stomach acids.