**16/MHS01/033**

**MLS 408**

**ASSIGNMENT**

**09-06-2020**

**COMPARISON AND CONTRAST OF SECTIONS OF THE GASTRO INTESTINAL TRACT.**

The GI tract is divided into two main sections : the upper and lower GI tract.

The **upper tract** digests food and prepares it for processing and utilizing nutrients throughout the body .

The lower tract is responsible for the reabsorption of fluids along with absorption of nutrients and elimination of the body’s waste products.

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| **UPPER GI TRACT** | **LOWER GI TRACT** |
| **Oral cavity**: (functions of the tongue, salivary gland and teeth) .Additionally, the lips and cheeks keep food between the teeth during mastication and buccal glands lining the mouth produce saliva.  **Esophagus :** is a long thin tube that connects the pharynx to the stomach . It forms an important piece of the GIT and function as the conduit for foods and liquids that have been swallowed into the pharynx to reach the stomach.  **Stomach:** it secretes acid (chyme) and enzymes that digest food. Ridges of the muscle tissue called rugae line the stomach. The stomach muscles contract periodically, churning food to enhance digestion.  **Duodenum:** is the first and shortest segment of the small intestine. It receives partially digested food (known as chyme) from the stomach and plays a vital role in chemical digestion of chyme in preparation for absorption in the small intestine. | **Ileum:** the wall is made up of folds, each of which has many tiny finger-like projections known as villi on its surface. The function of the ileum is tom absorb vitaminB12, bile salts and other products of digestion that were not absorbed by the jejunum.  **Jejunum**: is the middle section of the small intestine , the inner surface is made up of a mucous membrane and is covered in projections called villi which increase the surface area of tissue available to absorb nutrients from the gut contents.  **Colon:** this is the part of the large intestine where reabsorption of fluids takes place and process of waste products from the body and prepare for its elimination. The colon consists of four parts: descending colon, ascending colon, transverse colon and sigmoid colon. The descending colon stores food to be emptied into the rectum.  **Rectum:** it acts as a temporary storage site of feces. The rectum receives faecal material from the descending colon, transmitted through regular muscle contractions called peristalsis.  The faeces is expelled through the **Anal canal**. |