16/MHS06/052

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MLS 408

ASSIGNMENT

1. In a tabular form only, compare and contrast sections of the Gastrointestinal tract.

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| Organ | Major functions | Other functions |
| Mouth | Ingests foodChews and mixes foodBegins chemical breakdown of carbohydratesMoves food into the pharynxBegins breakdown of lipids via lingual lipase. | Moistens and dissolves food, allowing you to taste itCleans and lubricates the teeth and oral cavityHas some antimicrobial activity. |
| Pharynx | Propels food from the oral cavity to the esophagus. | Lubricates food and passageways. |
| Esophagus | Propels food to the stomachMixes and churns food with gastric juices to form chymeBegins chemical breakdown of proteins. | Lubricates food and passagewaysStimulates protein-digesting enzymes. |
| Stomach | Releases food into the duodenum as chymeAbsorbs some fat-soluble substances (for example, alcohol, aspirin)Possesses antimicrobial functionsMixes chyme with digestive juicesPropels food at a rate slow enough for digestion and absorption. | Secretes intrinsic factor required for vitamin B12 absorption in small intestine. |
| Small intestine | Absorbs breakdown products of carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids, along with vitamins, minerals, and waterPerforms physical digestion via segmentation.Liver: produces bile salts, which emulsify lipids, aiding their digestion and absorption. | Provides optimal medium for enzymatic activity.Bicarbonate-rich pancreatic juices help neutralize acidic chyme and provide optimal environment for enzymatic activity. |
| Accessory organs | Gallbladder: stores, concentrates, and releases bilePancreas: produces digestive enzymes and bicarbonate.Further breaks down food residuesAbsorbs most residual water, electrolytes, and vitamins produced by enteric bacteria. | Food residue is concentrated and temporarily stored prior to defecation |
| Large intestine | Propels feces toward rectumEliminates feces. | Mucus eases passage of feces through colon. |