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**Matno.: 16/MHS06 /049**

**Course code: MLS 408**

**Assignment question:**

**In a tabular form only, compare and contrast sections of the gastrointestinal tract.**

**Differences:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UPPER GIT** | **FEATURES** | **FUNCTIONS** | **AVERAGE**  **LEGNTH** | **AVERAGE DIAMETER** | **ABSORBING SURFACE AREA** |
| **ORAL CAVITY** | **Its primary function is to serve as the entrance of the alimentary tract and to initiate the digestive process by salivation and propulsion of the alimentary bolus into the pharynx** | **15-20 cm** | **10 inches** | **0.07** |
| **ESOPHAGUS** | **the fibro muscular tube that food passes through—aided by peristaltic contractions** | **25 cm** | **2.5 inches** | **0.02** |
| **STOMACH** | **secretes protein -digesting enzymes called proteases and strong acids to aid in food digestion, before sending the partially digested food to the small intestines** | **20 cm** | **15 inches** | **0.11** |
|  | **DUODENUM** | **he first section of the small intestine that may be the principal site for iron absorption.** | **25cm** | **5 inches** | **0.09** |
|  | **JEJENUM** | **This is the midsection of the intestine, connecting the duodenum to the ileum. It contains the plicae circulares and villi to increase the surface area of that part of the GI tract.** | **300** | **5 inches** | **60** |
| **LOWER**  **GIT** | **CECUM** | **The main functions of the cecum are to absorb fluids and salts that remain after completion of intestinal digestion and absorption and to mix its contents with a lubricating substance, mucus.** | **10-30** | **7 inches** | **0.05** |
| **COLON** | **The main function of the colon is to absorb water, but it also contains bacteria that produce beneficial vitamins like vitamin K.** | **150** | **5 inches** | **0.25** |
| **RECTUM** | **The rectum is the last stop before the feces is eliminated through the anal canal. Similar to the colon electrolytes are absorbed (sodium, potassium, chloride) and indigestible food ingredients are decomposed by anaerobic bacteria. The stool is thickened through water absorption and mixed with mucus.** | **12 to 16 cm** | **2.5 inches** |  |

**SIMILARITIES:**

They all function variously in the transport of swallowed food bolus, enzymatic digestion, absorption of nutrients, protective barrier function against the external environment. However the lower GIT functions mainly mainly to hydrate, store the fecal material. Extensive absorption of water and salt occurs in the right proximal colon and it is continuous throughout. Movement of solid content is supported by goblet cells that serve to lubricate and protect the col**onic mucosa from trauma.**