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**The Microanatomy**

**Small intestine**

It is the largest section of the digestive tract and consists of three segments forming a passage from the pylorus to the large intestine:

1) Duodenum: a short section that receives secretions from the pancreas and liver via the pancreas and common bile ducts.

2) Jejunum: considered to be roughly 40% of the small gut in man, but closer to 90% in animals.

3) ileum : empties into the large intestine considered to be about 60% of the intestine in man, but veterinary anatomists usually refer to it as being only the short terminal section of the small intestine.

Functions

1) Chemical digestion

2) Absorption

Layers

1) Mucosa

2) Submucosa

3) Muscularis external

4) Adventita

Epithelium of small intestine is simple columnar epithelium.

**Large intestine**

It is that part of the digestive tube between the terminal ileum and anus. There are three major segments.

1) Cecum: is a blind-ended pouch that in humans carries a worm-like extension called the vermiform appendix.

2) Colon: constitutes the majority of the length of the large intestine and is sub classified into ascending, transverse and descending segments.

3) Rectum: is the short, terminal segment of the digestive tract continuous with the anal canal.

Function

1) Recovery of water and electrolytes.

2) Formation and storage of faeces.

3) Fermentation of some of the indigestible food matter by bacteria.

Layers

They are 4 layers of the large intestine. From the lumen outward are the mucosa, submucosa, muscular layers and serosa. The muscular layers made up of 2 layers and the outer, longitudinal layer. These layers contribute to the motility of the large intestine.

The epithelial lining of the large intestine is simple columnar epithelium.