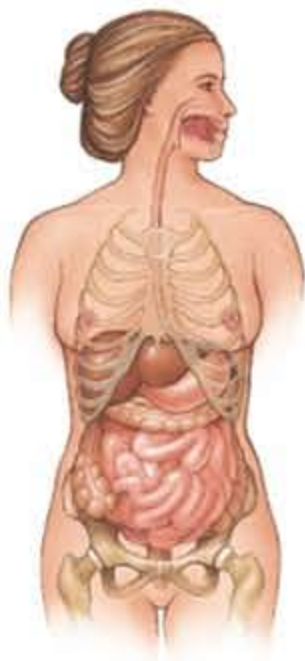


THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM



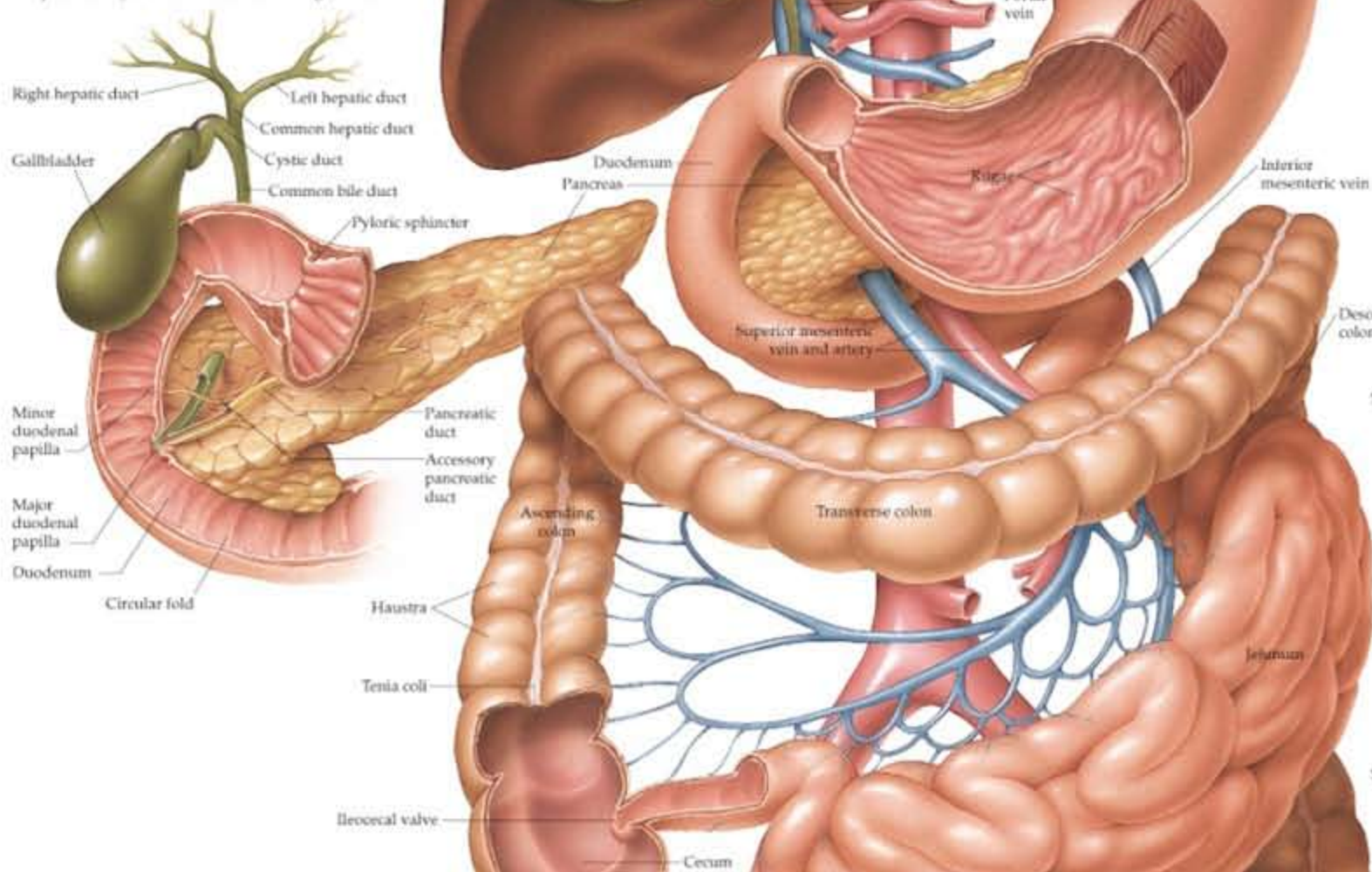
The Oral Cavity, Salivary Glands and Stomach

Digestion begins in the mouth as food is mixed with saliva. Saliva breaks down the starch in food into smaller sugars. After moving to the stomach through the esophagus, food is further broken down by enzymes and hydrochloric acid. A layer of mucus protects the stomach lining from damage by the hydrochloric acid.

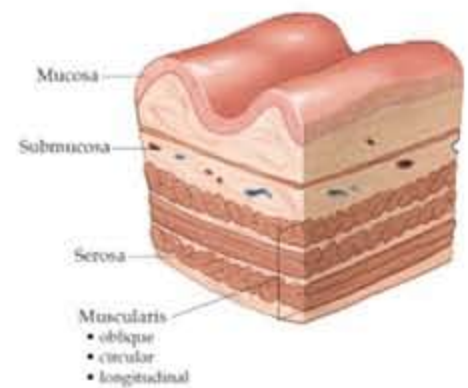


The Liver, Pancreas and Duodenum

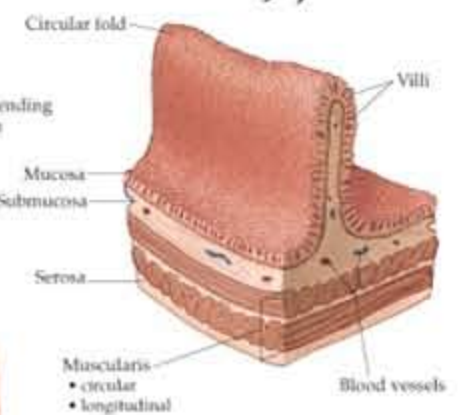
Partially digested food, or chyme, passes from the stomach to the duodenum. Here bile and enzymes from the pancreas enter the duodenum and further break down fat, protein and carbohydrates. Bile is produced by the liver and stored in the gallbladder.



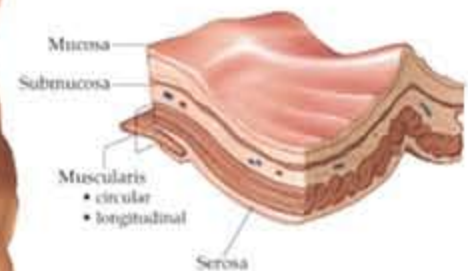
Wall of Stomach



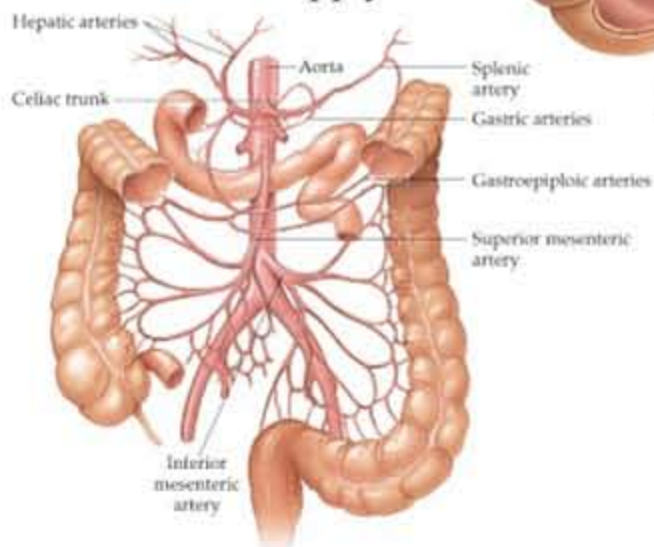
Wall of Jejunum



Wall of Colon



Arterial Supply



The Small and Large Intestines

Chyme moves to the last parts of the small intestine, the jejunum and ileum, where nutrients are absorbed into the bloodstream. The nutrients travel to the liver, via the hepatic portal venous system, for further metabolism and storage. Undigested material enters the colon, where water and electrolytes are absorbed. The remaining waste is stored until eliminated.