

# What is Colon Anatomy?

## Worksheet

The colon has six main regions - cecum, ascending colon, transverse colon, descending colon, sigmoid colon and rectum - that together absorb water, compact waste and propel it toward elimination.

## Questions

1. Which region of the colon lies just below the ileocecal valve?
  - A) Sigmoid colon
  - B) Cecum
  - C) Transverse colon
  - D) Rectum
2. Which colon segments are fixed to the posterior abdominal wall (retroperitoneal)?
  - A) Transverse and sigmoid
  - B) Ascending and descending
  - C) Cecum and rectum
  - D) Transverse and rectum
3. Where is the splenic flexure located?
  - A) Between ascending and transverse colon
  - B) Between transverse and descending colon
  - C) Between descending and sigmoid colon
  - D) Between sigmoid and rectum
4. Which region directly precedes the anal canal?
  - A) Sigmoid colon
  - B) Rectum
  - C) Descending colon
  - D) Cecum
5. A colonoscopy finds a polyp just past the ileocecal valve, in the pouch below it. Which region is it in?
6. Where does the colon change from a mobile, intraperitoneal segment to a fixed, retroperitoneal one as it moves from the transverse to the descending colon?
7. A CT scan shows an S-shaped loop of bowel in the left lower quadrant, prone to twisting. Which segment is this?
8. Define: How many main regions does the colon have?
9. Define: Which colon segments are retroperitoneal (fixed)?
10. Define: What marks the start of the colon?

## Answer Key

1. B) Cecum - The cecum is the pouch-like start of the colon just below the ileocecal valve.
2. B) Ascending and descending - Ascending and descending colon lack a mesentery and are retroperitoneal; transverse and sigmoid are mobile.
3. B) Between transverse and descending colon - The splenic (left colic) flexure is where the transverse colon turns down into the descending colon, near the spleen.
4. B) Rectum - The rectum is the straight terminal segment that leads into the anal canal.
5. The ileocecal valve marks the junction of the small and large intestine. The blind pouch below this valve, which also carries the appendix, is the cecum. Answer: the cecum.
6. The transverse colon is suspended by the transverse mesocolon and is intraperitoneal (mobile). At the splenic (left colic) flexure it becomes fixed to the posterior abdominal wall. From this flexure onward it is the retroperitoneal descending colon.
7. The left lower quadrant is where the colon continues after the descending colon. An S-shaped, mobile loop with its own mesentery (mesosigmoid) is characteristic of the sigmoid colon. Its mobility and looping shape make it prone to volvulus (twisting).
8. Six: cecum, ascending, transverse, descending, sigmoid colon and rectum.
9. The ascending and descending colon are retroperitoneal; the transverse and sigmoid colon are intraperitoneal (mobile).
10. The ileocecal valve, where the small intestine joins the cecum.

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