

What is the Gastrointestinal Tract?

Worksheet

The GI tract is the roughly 9-metre-long tube - mouth, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine and large intestine - through which food physically travels, is digested and absorbed.

Questions

1. Which layer of the GI tract wall is in direct contact with food?
 - A) Serosa
 - B) Muscularis externa
 - C) Mucosa
 - D) Submucosa
2. Which of these is NOT part of the GI tract?
 - A) Stomach
 - B) Liver
 - C) Esophagus
 - D) Large intestine
3. The duodenum is considered part of which region?
 - A) Lower GI tract
 - B) Upper GI tract
 - C) Neither
 - D) Accessory organs
4. What is another name for the GI tract?
 - A) Digestive system
 - B) Alimentary canal
 - C) Peritoneal cavity
 - D) Enteric nervous system
5. List the four tissue layers of the GI tract wall from innermost to outermost.
6. A patient presents with 'upper GI bleeding.' Which organs are most likely involved?
7. Explain why the liver is part of the digestive system but not part of the GI tract.
8. Define: What is the GI tract?
9. Define: What are the 4 layers of the GI tract wall?
10. Define: What separates upper GI from lower GI?

Answer Key

1. C) Mucosa - The mucosa is the innermost layer, directly facing the lumen and the food inside it.
2. B) Liver - The liver is an accessory digestive organ - food never physically passes through it.
3. B) Upper GI tract - Clinically, the duodenum is grouped with the upper GI tract.
4. B) Alimentary canal - 'Alimentary canal' is a synonym for the GI tract specifically.
5. Mucosa - innermost, in direct contact with food, absorbs and secretes Submucosa - connective tissue with blood vessels and nerves Muscularis externa - smooth muscle layers that drive peristalsis Serosa (or adventitia) - outermost protective layer
6. Upper GI tract = esophagus, stomach, duodenum Common sources: esophageal varices, gastric or duodenal ulcers Lower GI structures (colon, rectum) are excluded from this term
7. The GI tract is defined as the tube food physically passes through Food never enters the liver - it only receives blood carrying absorbed nutrients The liver is therefore an accessory digestive organ, not part of the GI tract itself
8. The continuous tube from mouth to anus through which food passes, is digested and absorbed - also called the alimentary canal.
9. Mucosa, submucosa, muscularis externa, serosa (innermost to outermost).
10. Upper GI = mouth to duodenum; lower GI = jejunum through the anus.

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