

What is the Large Intestine?

Worksheet

The large intestine (~1.5 m) consists of the cecum (with the appendix), ascending colon, transverse colon, descending colon, sigmoid colon, and rectum, marked externally by teniae coli, haustra, and epiploic appendages.

Questions

1. Which structure marks the start of the large intestine?

- A) Sigmoid colon
- B) Cecum
- C) Rectum
- D) Hepatic flexure

2. Which colon segment is the most mobile?

- A) Ascending colon
- B) Descending colon
- C) Transverse colon
- D) Sigmoid colon

3. What are the three longitudinal muscle bands on the colon called?

- A) Haustra
- B) Teniae coli
- C) Plicae circulares
- D) Epiploic appendages

4. Which segment directly precedes the rectum?

- A) Cecum
- B) Ascending colon
- C) Sigmoid colon
- D) Transverse colon

5. A colonoscopist withdraws the scope and notes the appendiceal orifice and the ileocecal valve in the same view. Which segment is being examined?

6. A patient has a tumor at the splenic flexure. Which two colon segments does this landmark connect?

7. Surface anatomy of a surgical specimen shows three longitudinal muscle bands and pouch-like sacculations. Which large intestine features are these?

8. Define: What are the main segments of the large intestine, in order?

9. Define: What connects the small intestine to the large intestine?

10. Define: What are teniae coli?

Answer Key

1. B) Cecum - The cecum is the pouch-like first part of the large intestine, receiving material from the ileum.
2. C) Transverse colon - The transverse colon hangs on a long mesentery (transverse mesocolon), making it the most mobile segment.
3. B) Teniae coli - Teniae coli are the three bands of longitudinal smooth muscle along the colon.
4. C) Sigmoid colon - The S-shaped sigmoid colon connects the descending colon to the rectum.
5. The appendix and the ileocecal valve are both located at the cecum, the pouch-like first part of the large intestine. Seeing both landmarks together confirms the scope is at the cecum. Answer: the cecum.
6. The splenic (left colic) flexure is where the transverse colon turns downward to become the descending colon. So a splenic flexure tumor sits at the junction of the transverse colon and the descending colon. Answer: the transverse colon and the descending colon.
7. The large intestine has three distinctive external features: teniae coli (three longitudinal smooth muscle bands), haustra (sacculations caused by teniae coli being shorter than the colon), and epiploic appendages (fat-filled pouches). Longitudinal bands = teniae coli; sacculations = haustra. Answer: teniae coli and haustra.
8. Cecum, ascending colon, transverse colon, descending colon, sigmoid colon, and rectum.
9. The ileocecal valve, opening into the cecum.
10. Three longitudinal bands of smooth muscle running along the colon's outer surface.

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