



The Digestive System and Body Metabolism

14

# THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

**Ingestion** — taking in food

**Digestion** — breaking food down both physically and chemically

**Absorption** — movement of nutrients into the bloodstream

**Defecation** — rids the body of indigestible waste

# ORGANS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Two main groups of organs

- **Alimentary canal (gastrointestinal or GI tract)** — continuous coiled hollow tube
  - These organs ingest, digest, absorb, defecate
- Accessory digestive organs
  - Includes **teeth, tongue, and other large digestive organs**

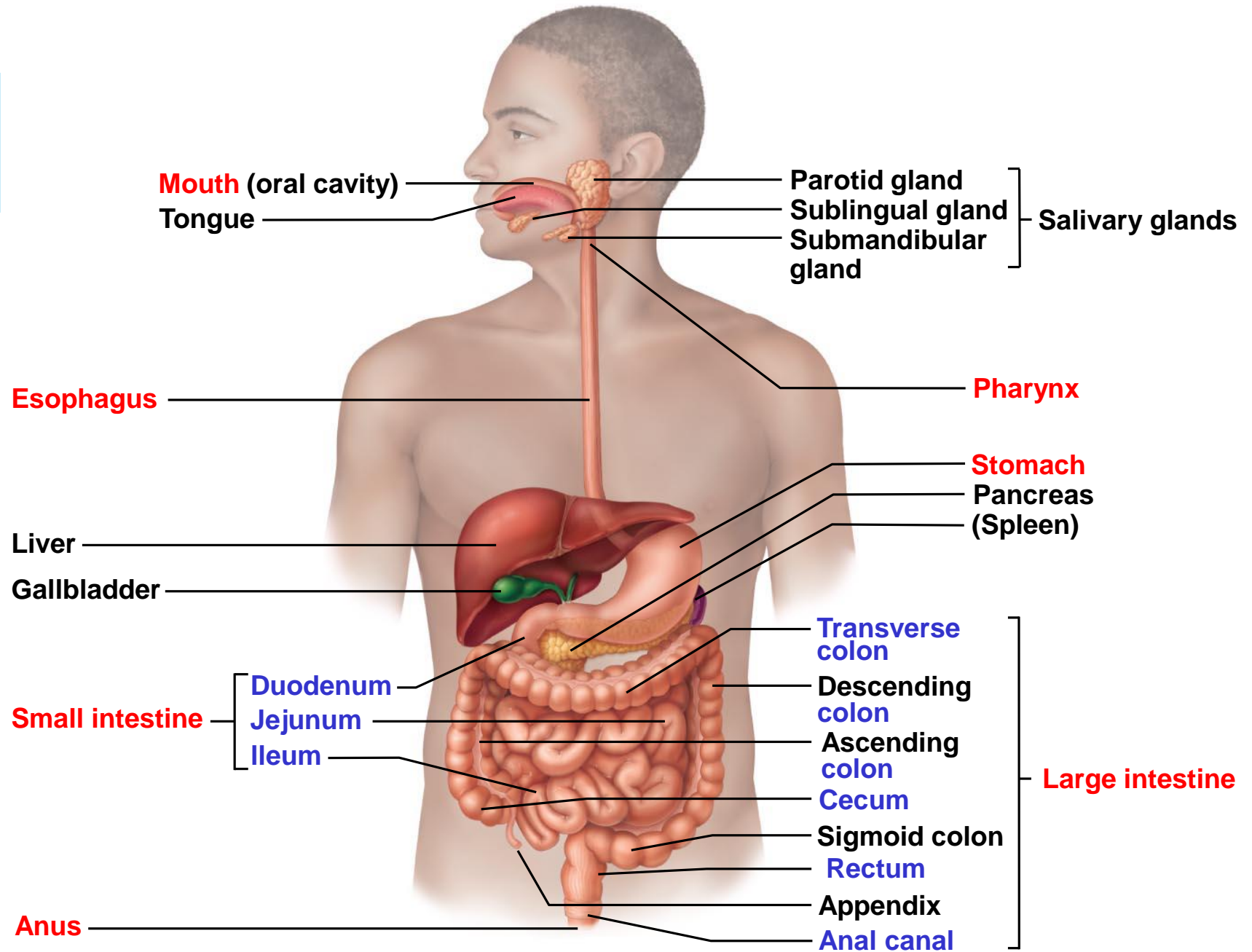


Figure 14.1

# ORGANS OF THE ALIMENTARY CANAL

**Mouth:** mechanical (mastication) breakdown; chemical digestion begins; taste

**Pharynx:** no digestive function / passageway

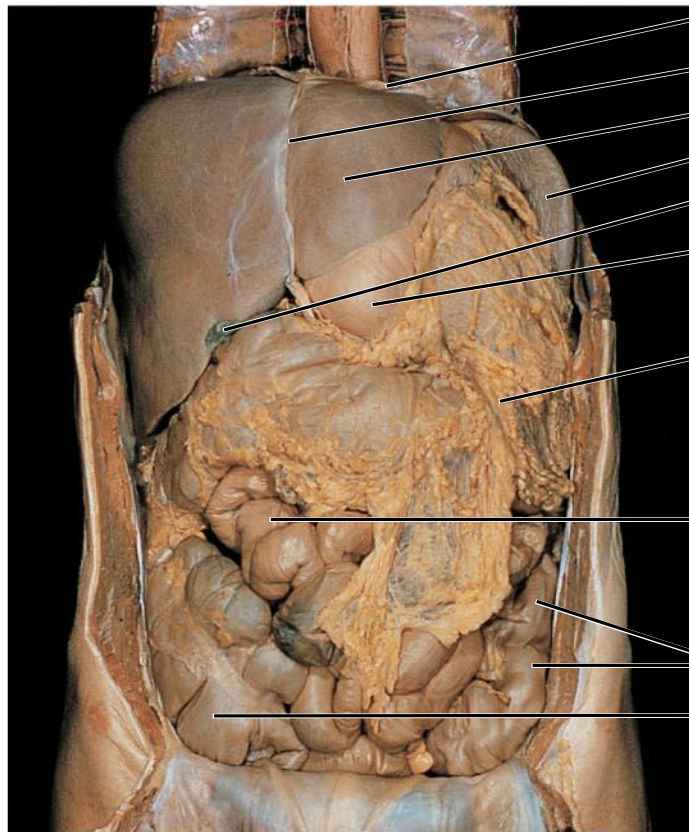
**Esophagus:** no digestive function; passageway / conducts food & air

**Stomach:** cardiac, fundus, body, pylorus, rugae / storage, chemical breakdown (chyme)

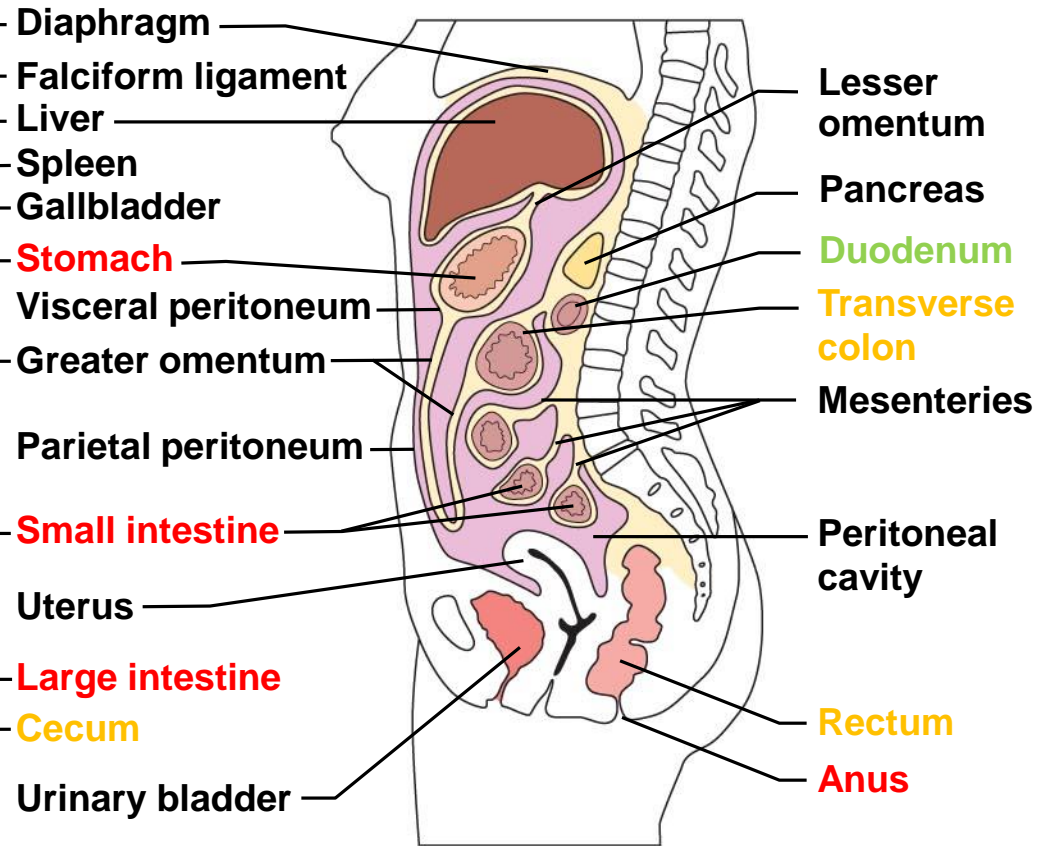
**Small intestine:** nutrient absorption / duodenum, jejunum, ileum / pancreatic enzymes & bile / microvilli, brush border, villi

**Large intestine:** Cecum, Appendix, Colon, Rectum, Anal canal

**Anus:** opening to the environment

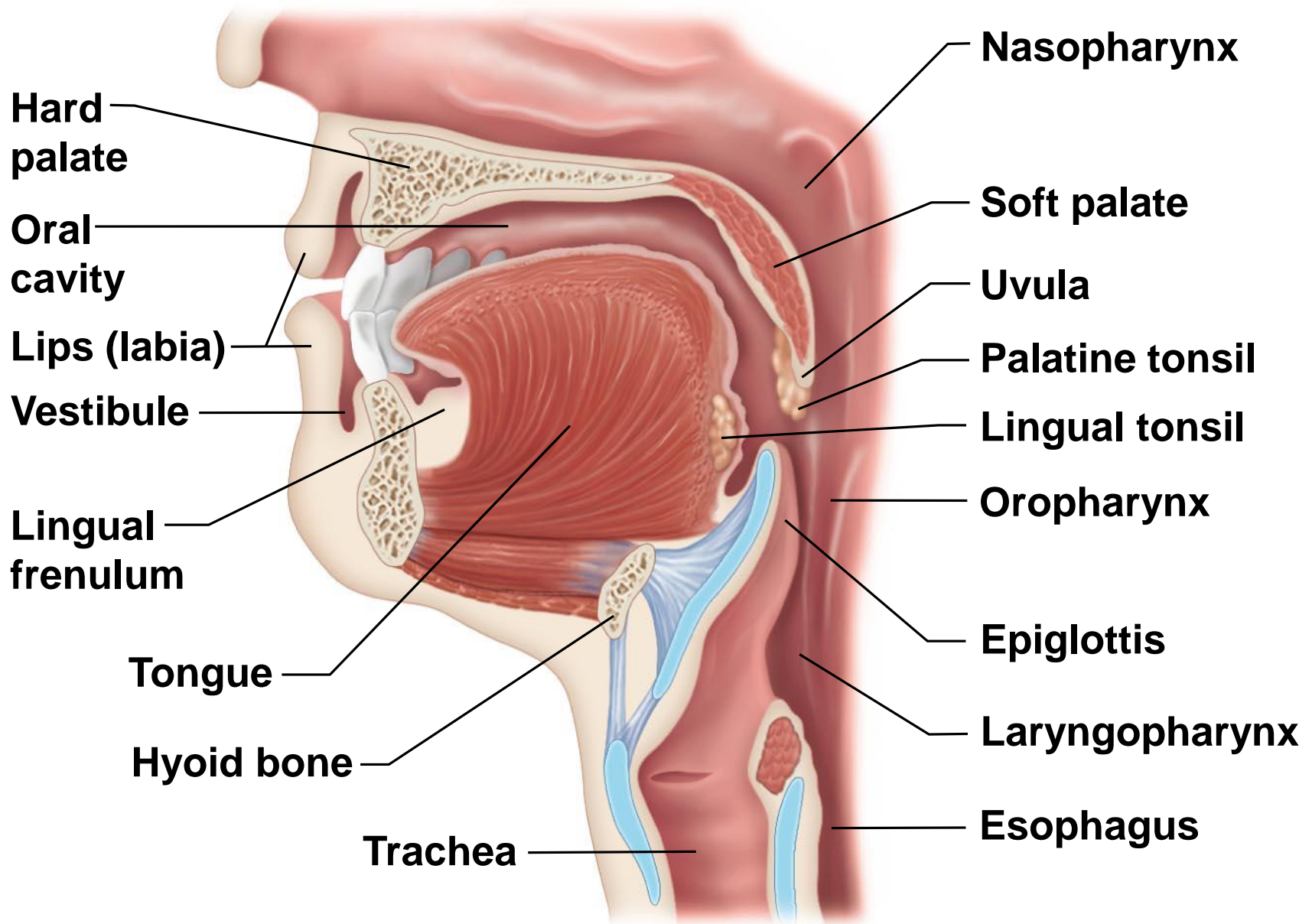


(a)



(b)

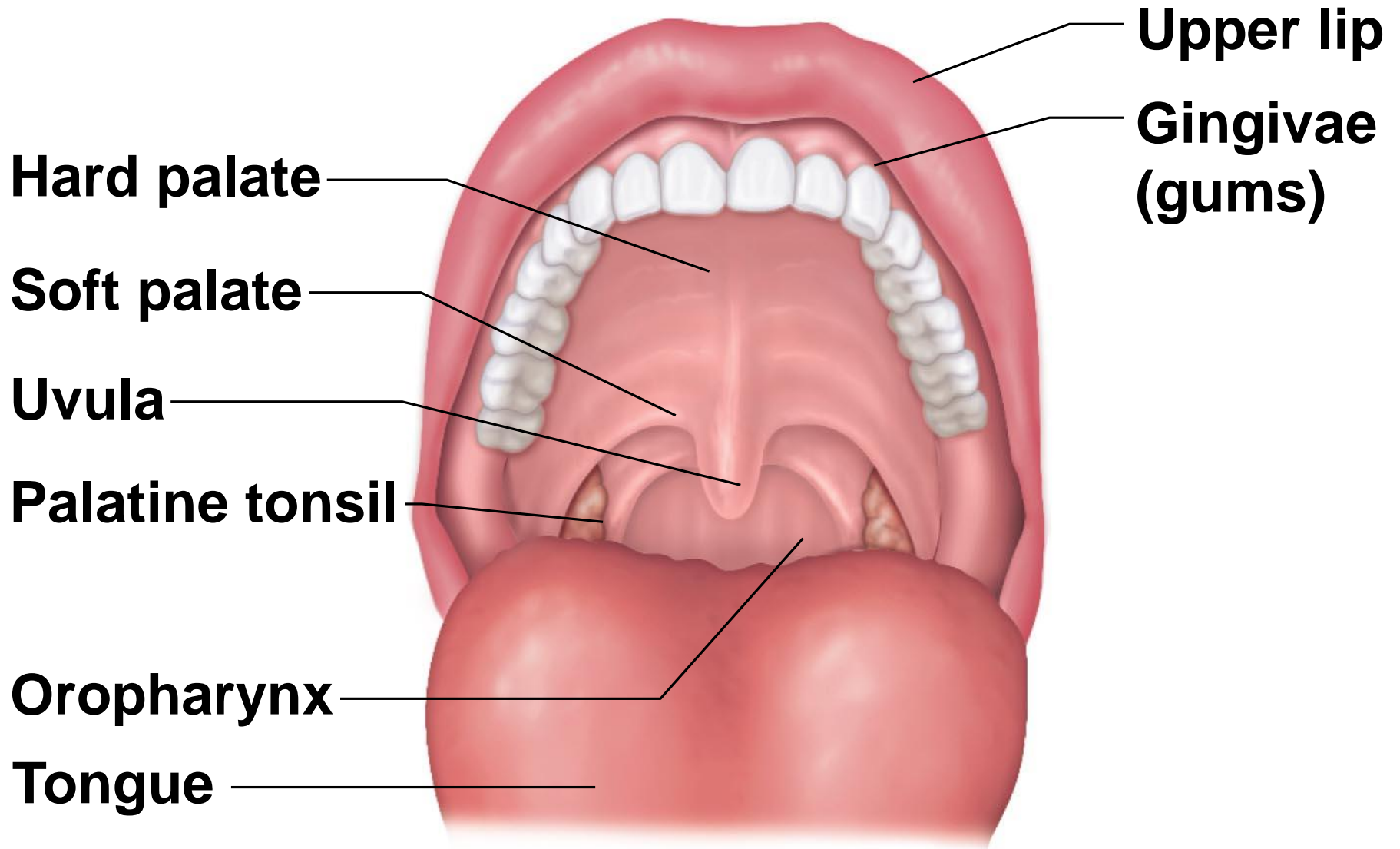
Figure 14.5



(a)

Figure 14.2a





**(b)**

[courage detector](#)



# LAYERS OF TISSUE IN THE ALIMENTARY CANAL ORGANS

Four layers from deep to superficial:

- **Mucosa:** innermost, lines the cavity
- **Submucosa:** blood vessels, nerve endings, mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue, and lymphatics
- **Muscularis externa:** Inner circular layer; outer longitudinal layer
- **Serosa:** outermost layer of the wall contains fluid-producing cells

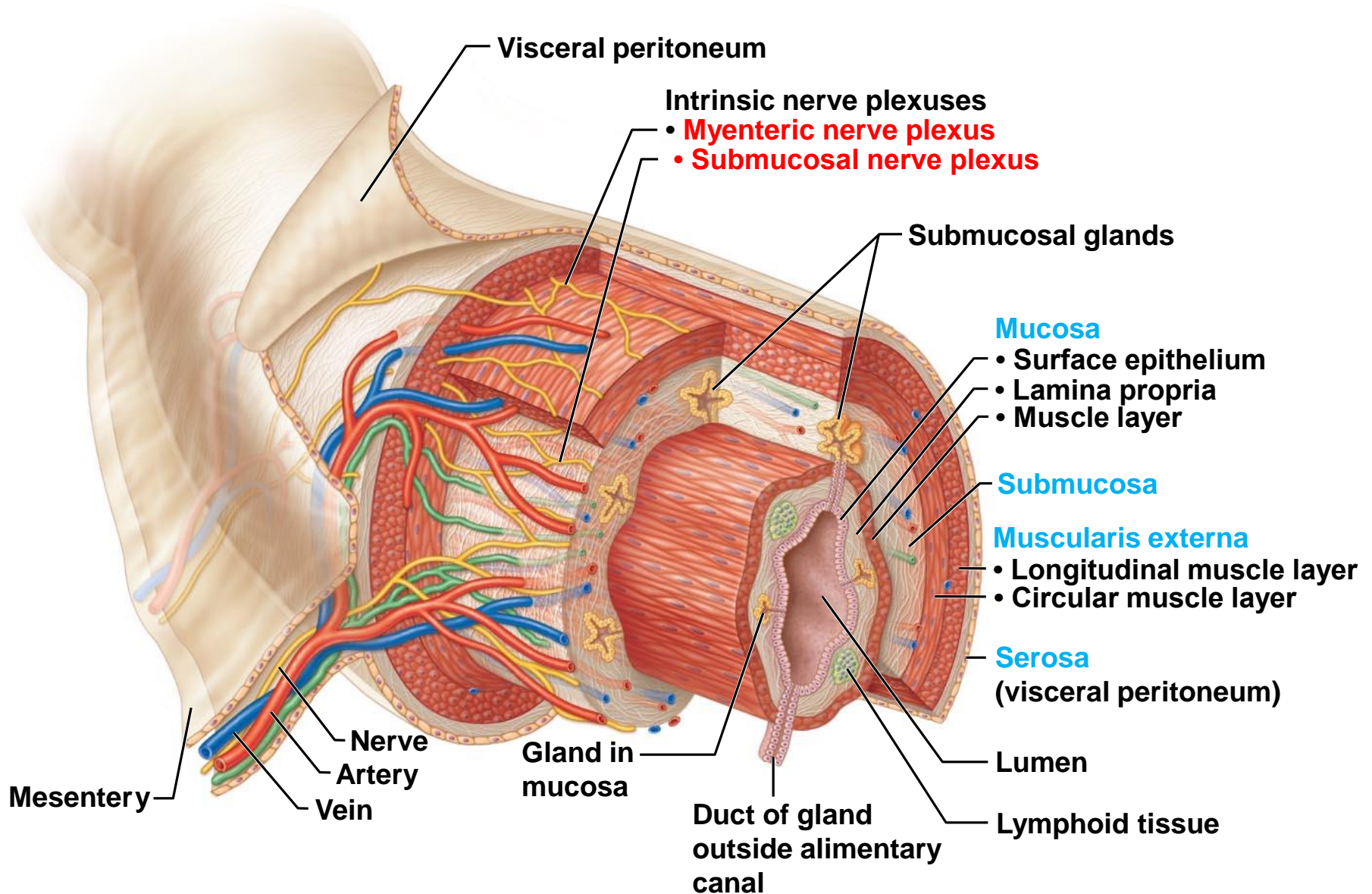


Figure 14.3

# ALIMENTARY CANAL NERVE PLEXUSES

Two important nerve plexuses serve the alimentary canal

Both are part of the autonomic nervous system

- Submucosal nerve plexus
- Myenteric nerve plexus

Function is to regulate mobility and secretory activity of the GI tract organs

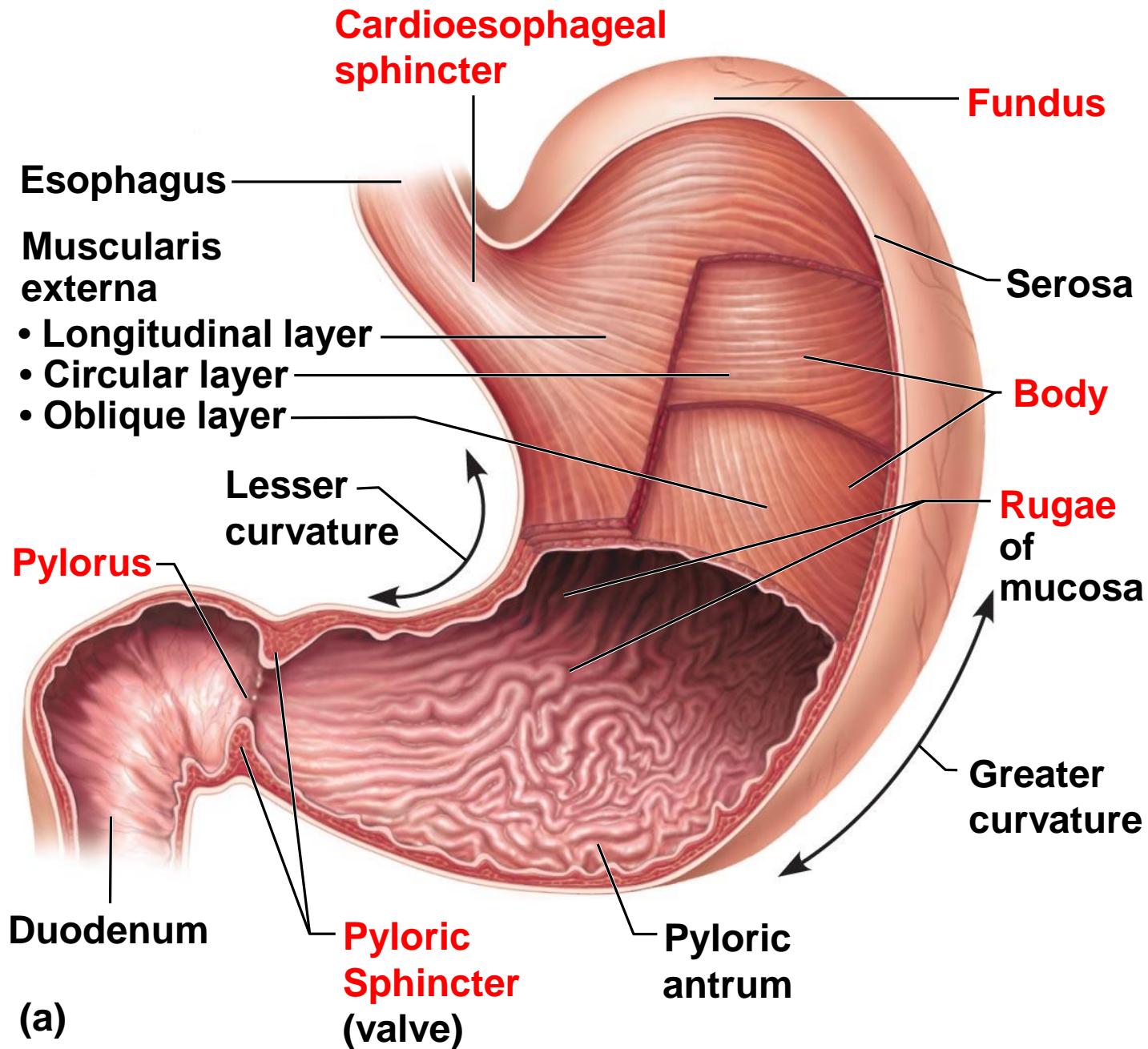


Figure 14.4a



**Fundus**

**Body**

**Rugae  
of  
mucosa**

**(b)**

**Pyloric  
sphincter**

**Pyloric  
antrum**



**Figure 14.4b**

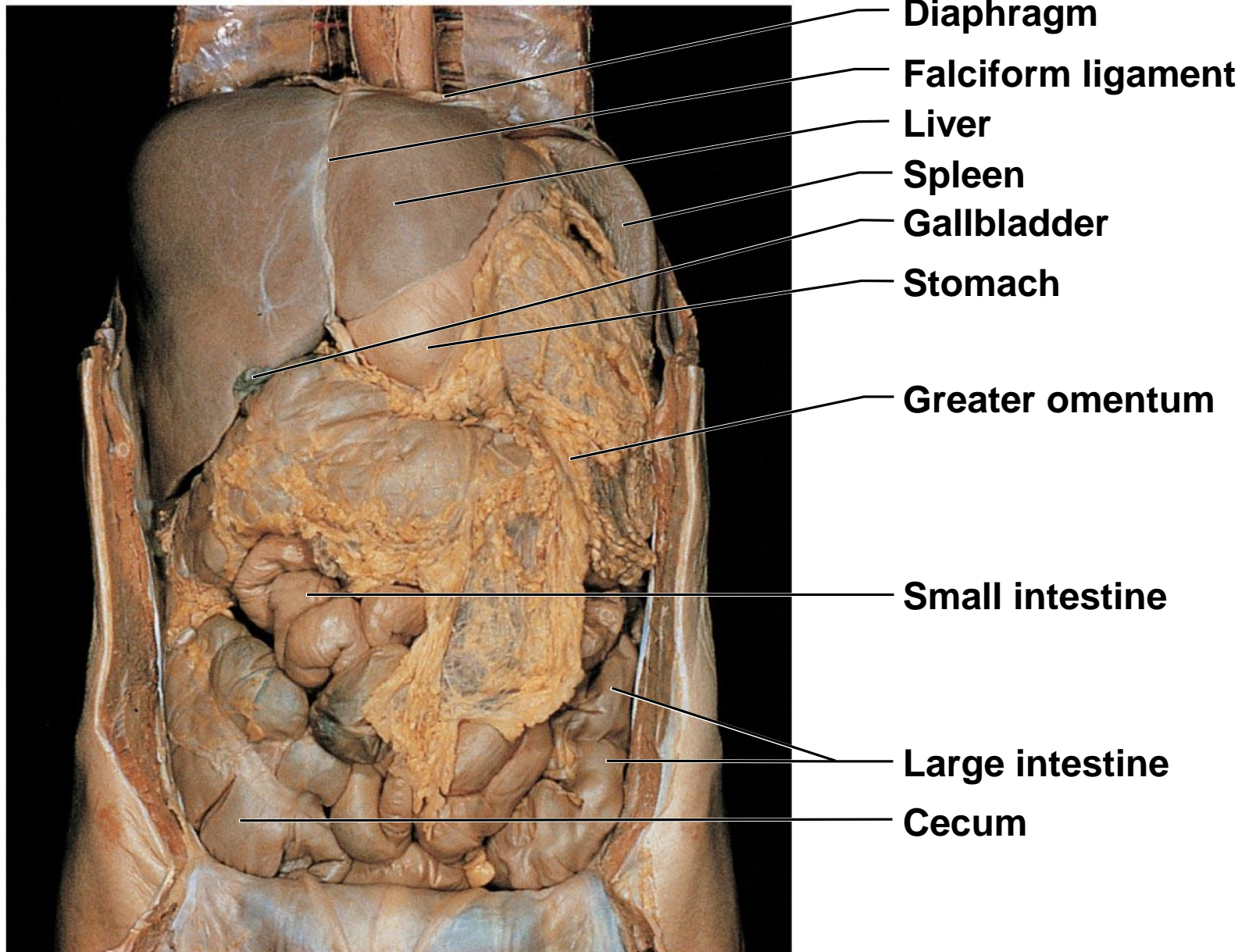
## Digestive System

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nM5kMSjBrmw&list=PLCC2DB523BA8BCB53&index=2>

## Stomach

## intestines

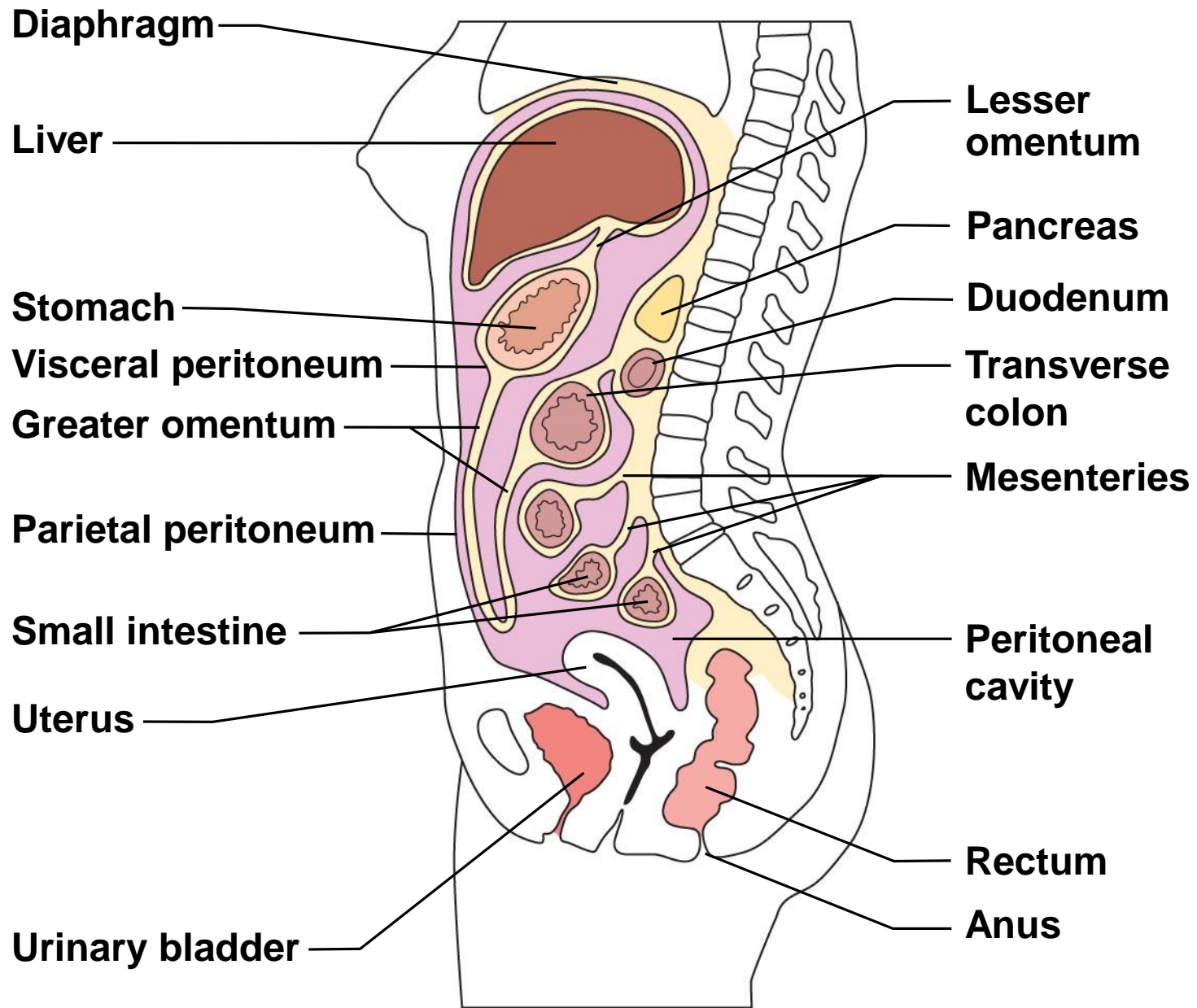
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qy\\_mlEnnIF4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qy_mlEnnIF4)



**(a)**

**Figure 14.5a**





(b)

Figure 14.5b

# STRUCTURE OF THE STOMACH MUCOSA

Mucosa is simple columnar epithelium

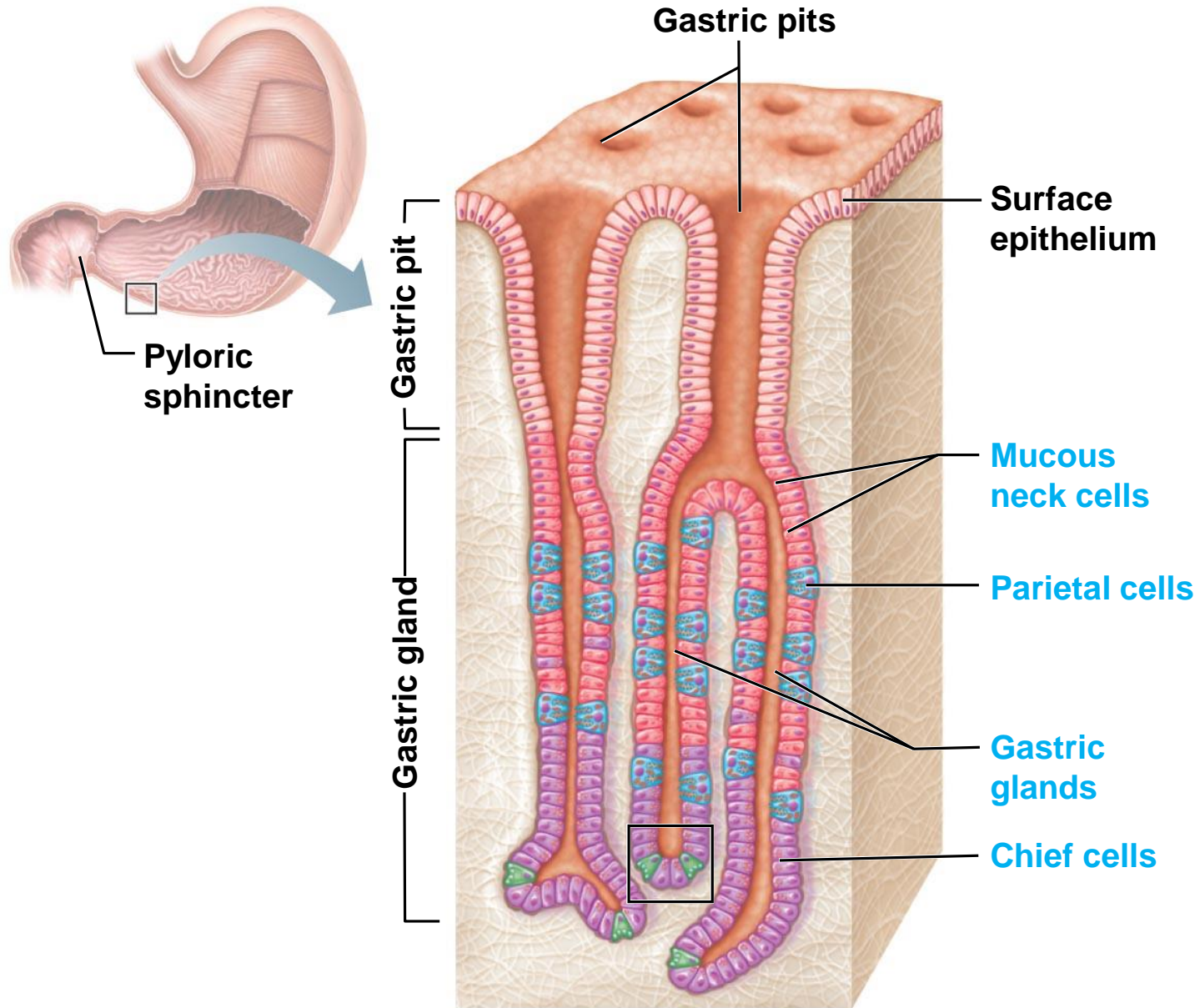
**Mucous neck cells** — produce a sticky alkaline mucus

**Gastric glands** — situated in gastric pits and secrete gastric juice

**Chief cells** — produce protein-digesting enzymes (pepsinogens)

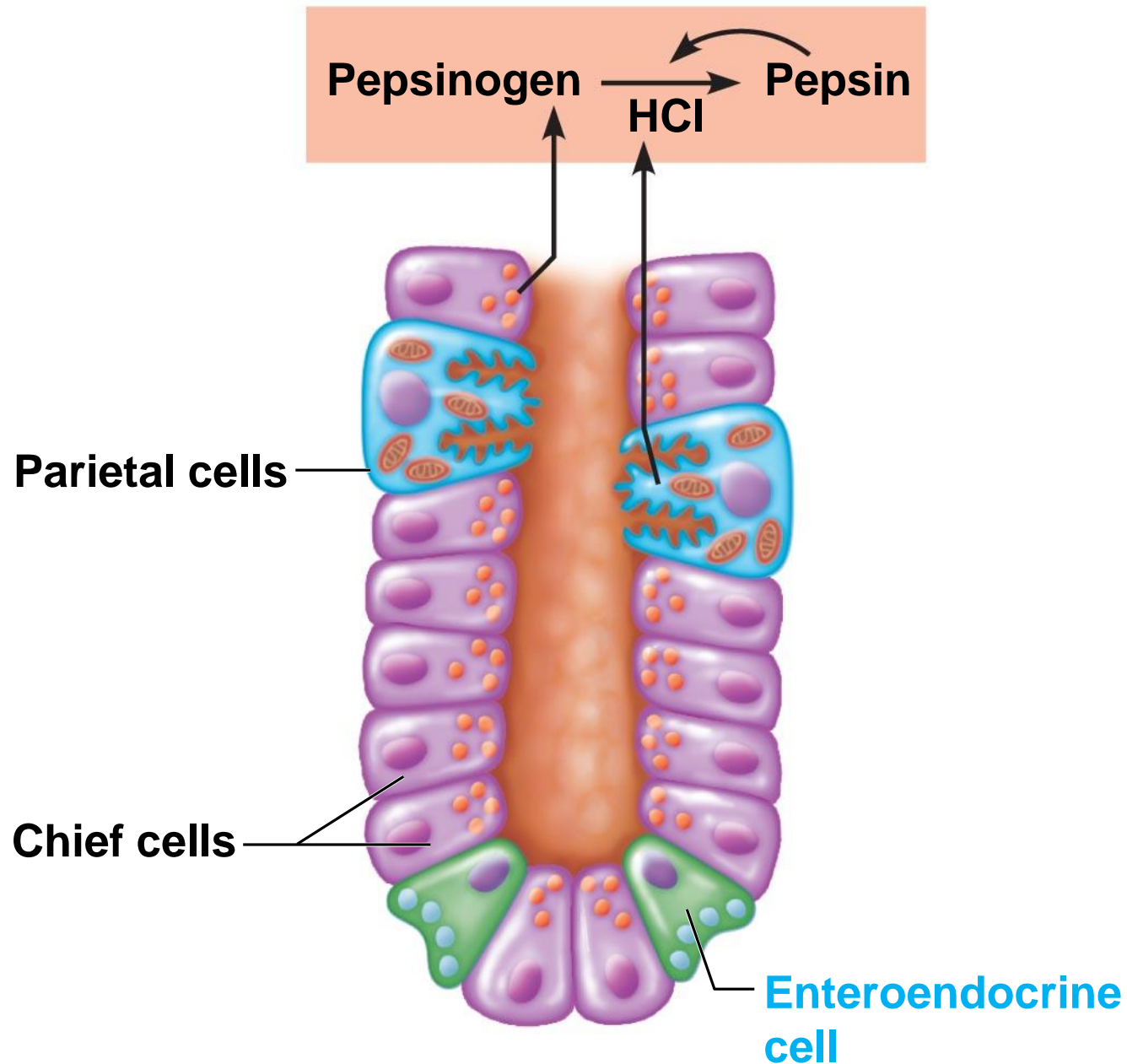
**Parietal cells** — produce hydrochloric acid

**Enteroendocrine cells** — produce gastrin



(c)

Figure 14.4c



(d)

Figure 14.4d

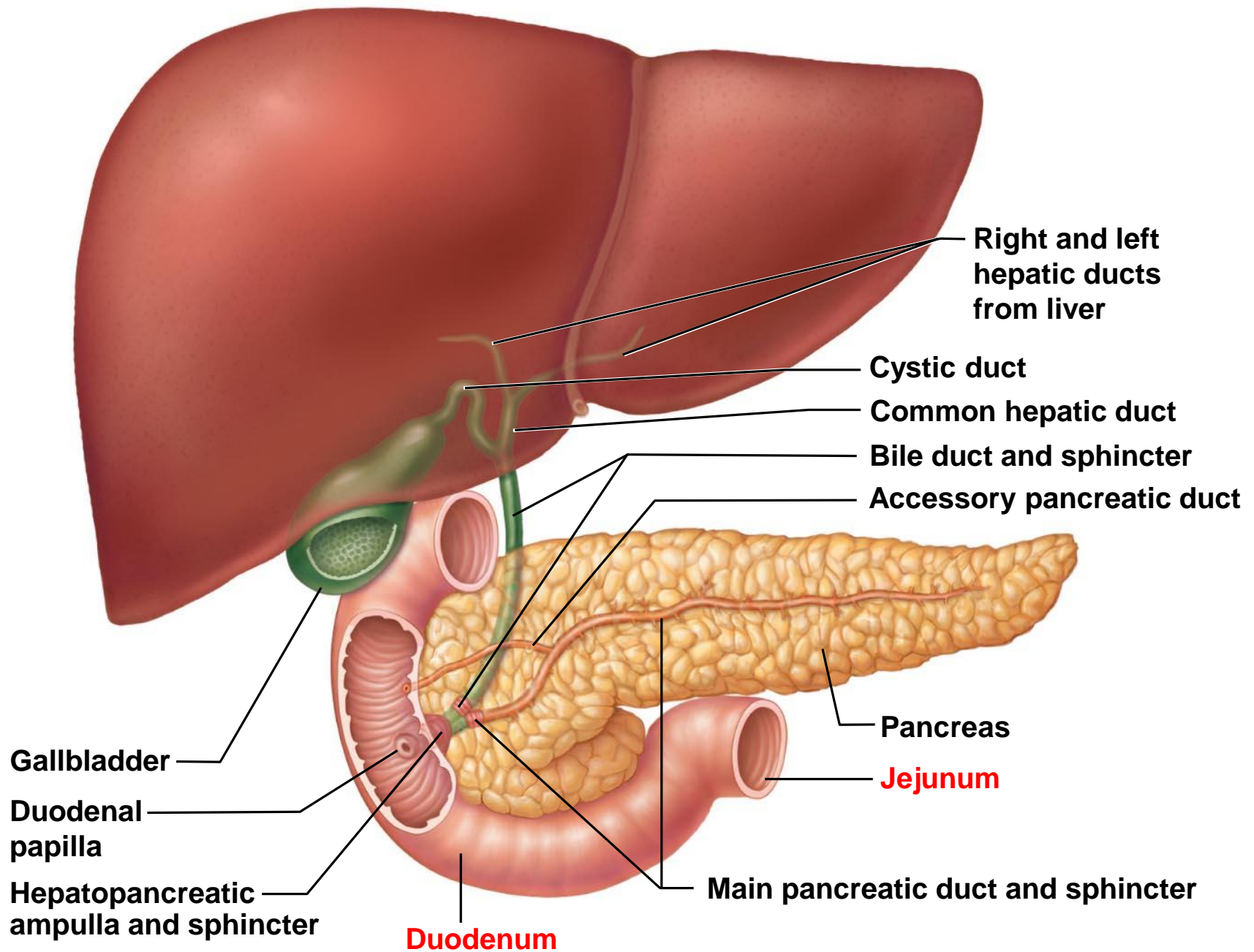


Figure 14.6



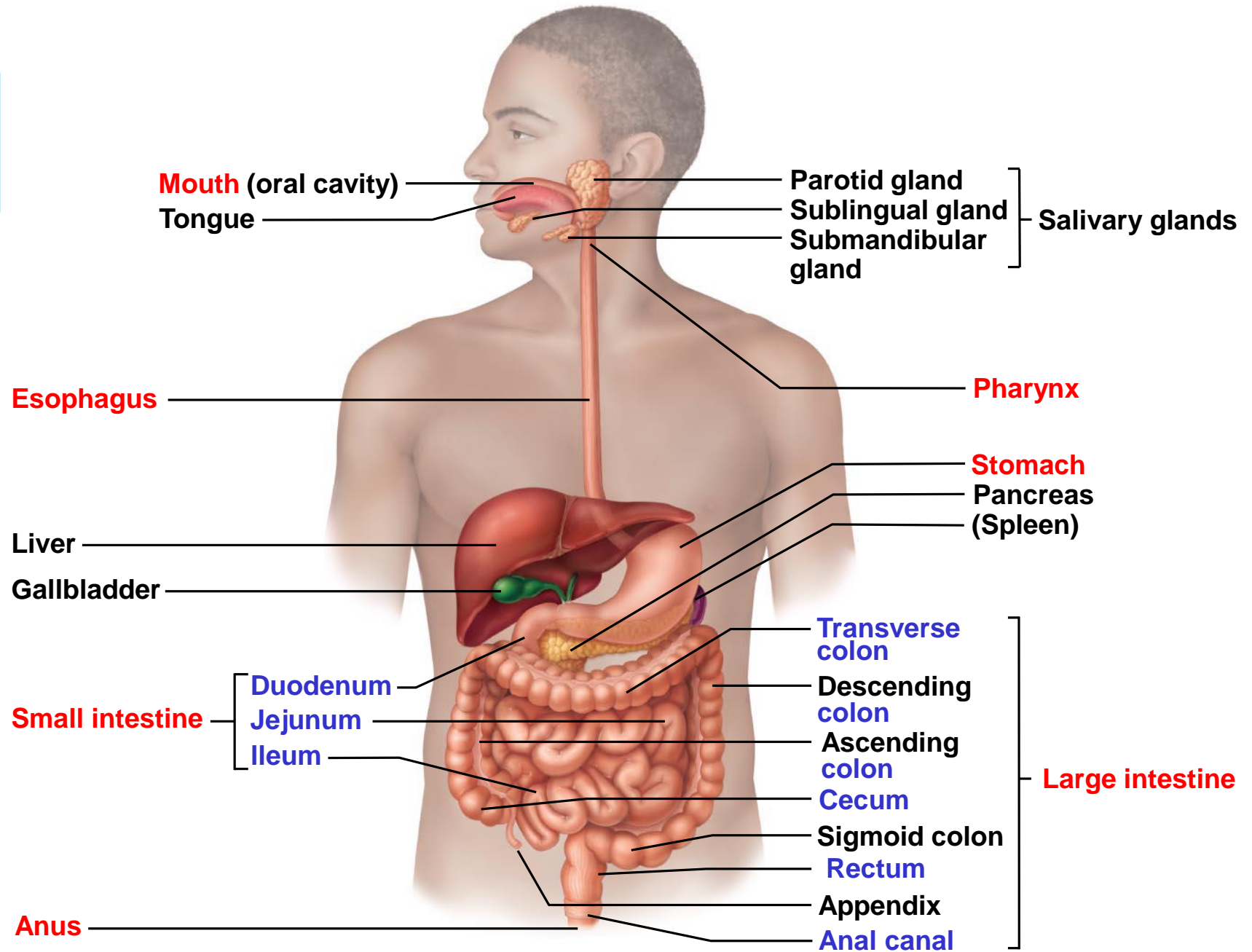
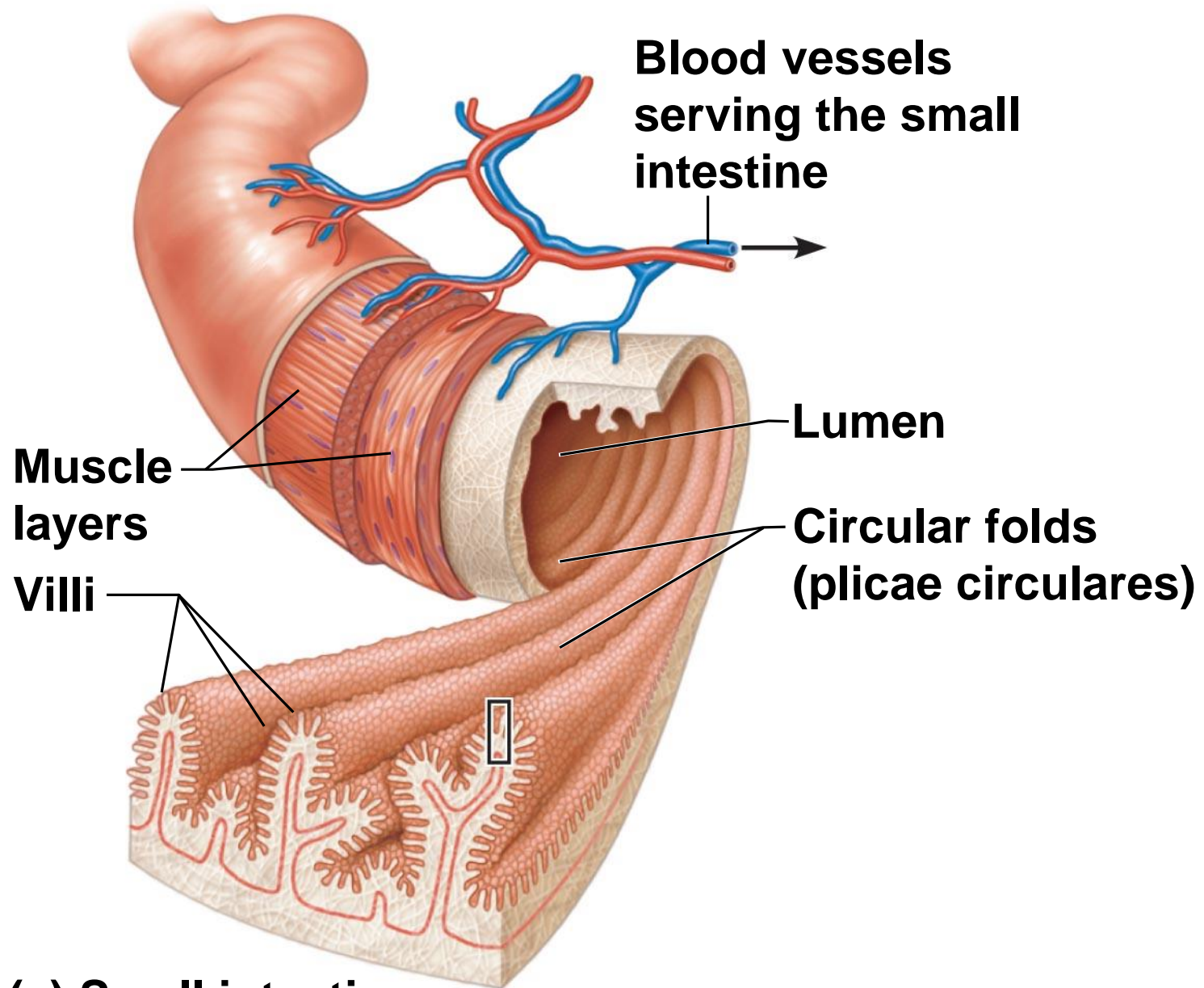
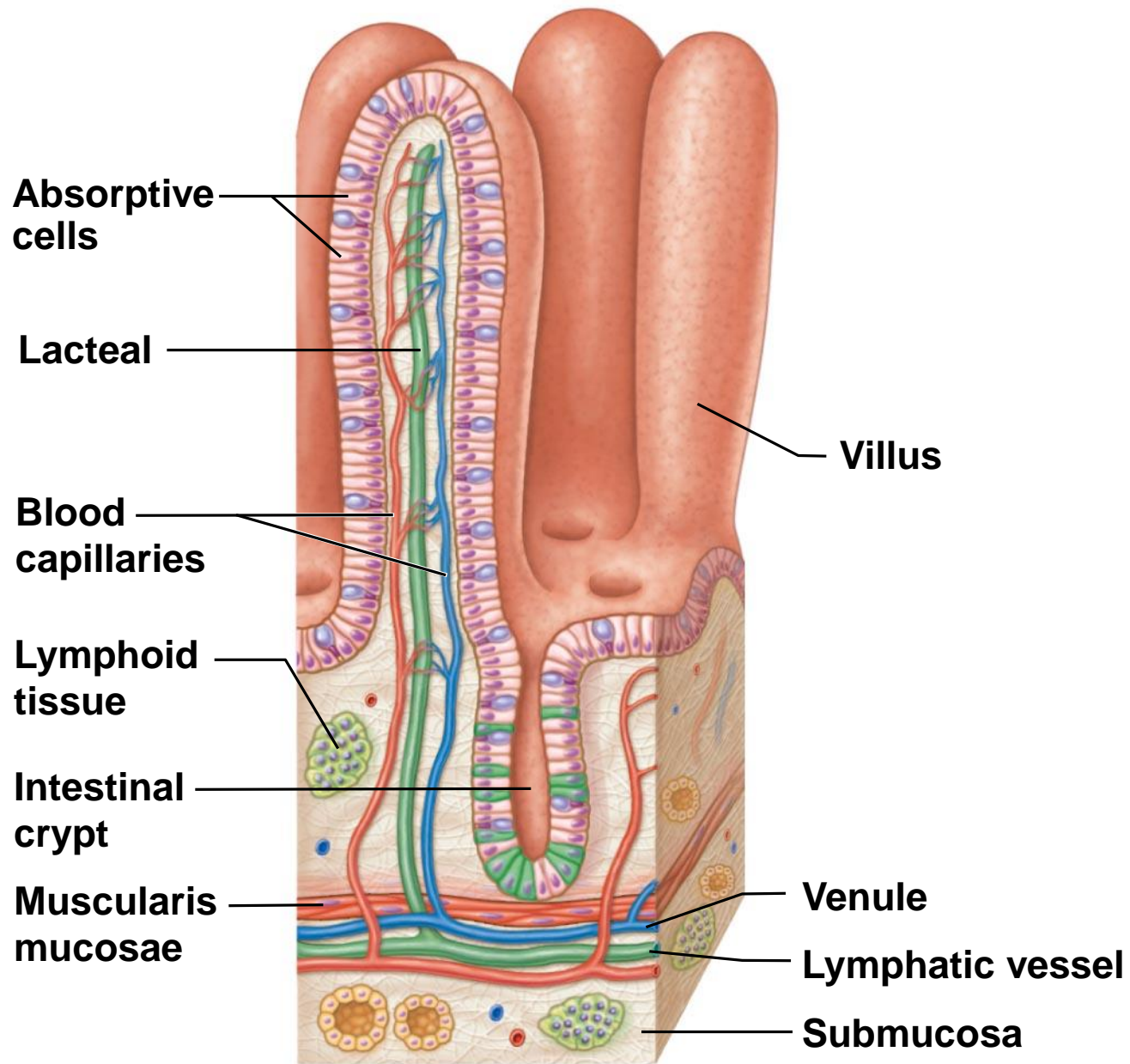


Figure 14.1



**(a) Small intestine**





**(b) Villi**

**Microvilli  
(brush border)**



**(c) Absorptive  
cells**

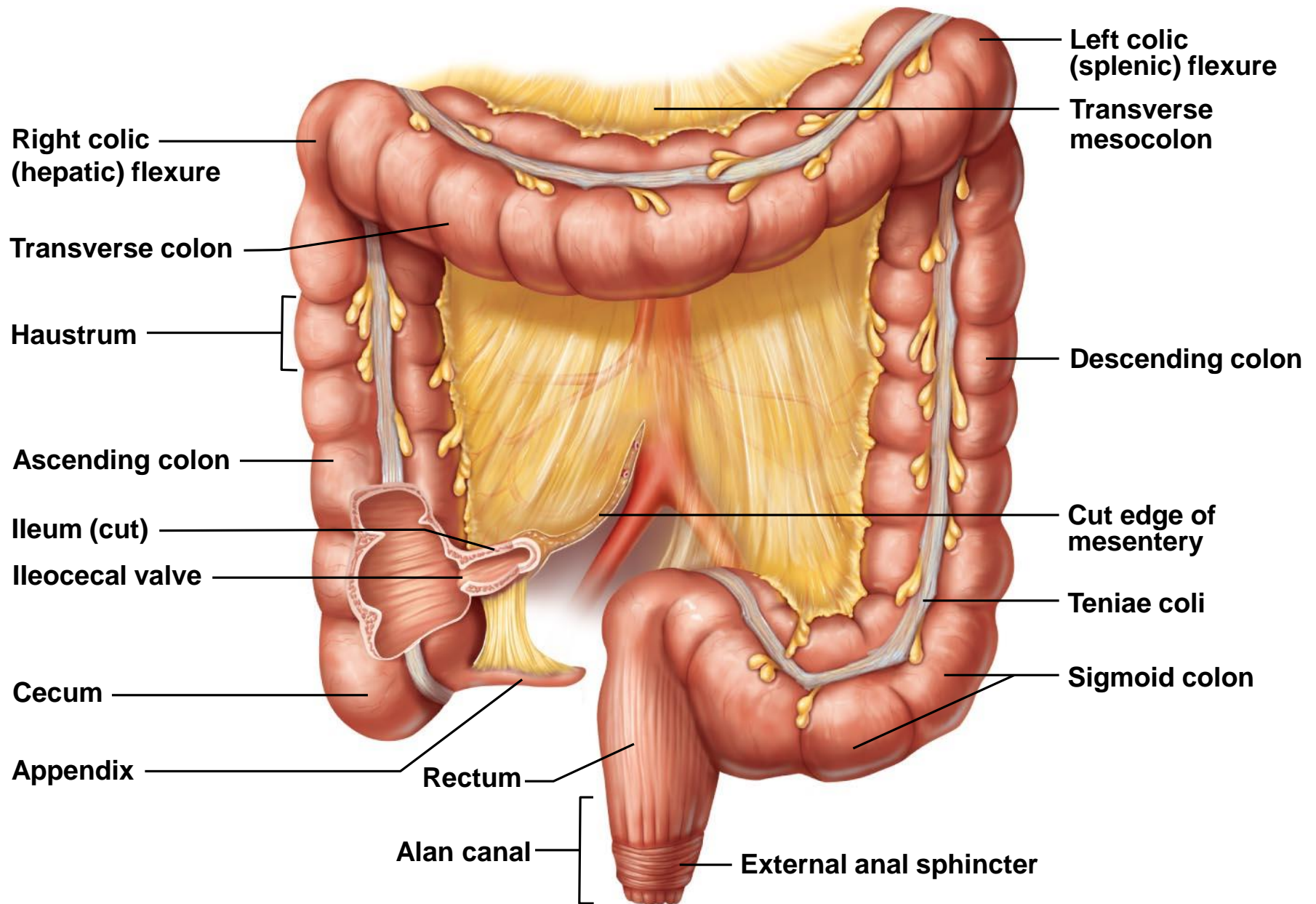


Figure 14.8



# ACCESSORY DIGESTIVE ORGANS

**Teeth**

**Salivary glands**

**Pancreas**

**Liver**

**Gallbladder**

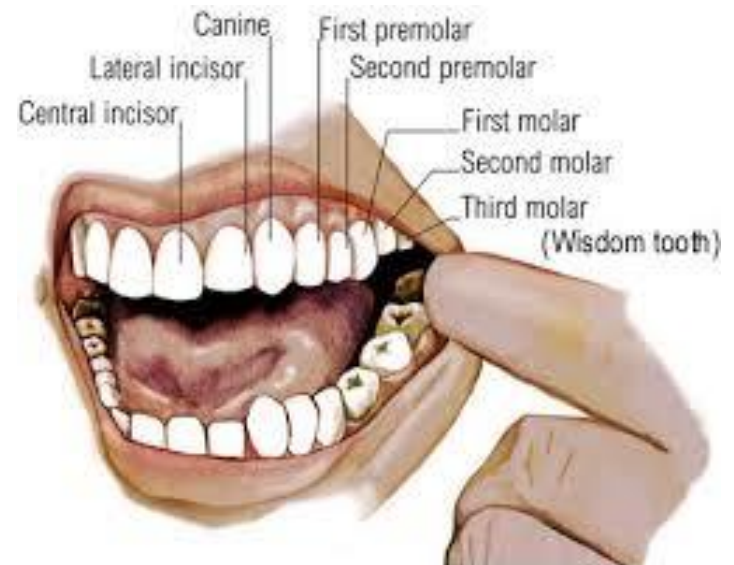
# CLASSIFICATION OF TEETH

**Incisors** — cutting

**Canines** (eyeteeth) — tearing or piercing

**Premolars** (bicuspid) — grinding

**Molars** — grinding



# SALIVARY GLANDS

Three pairs of salivary glands empty secretions into the mouth

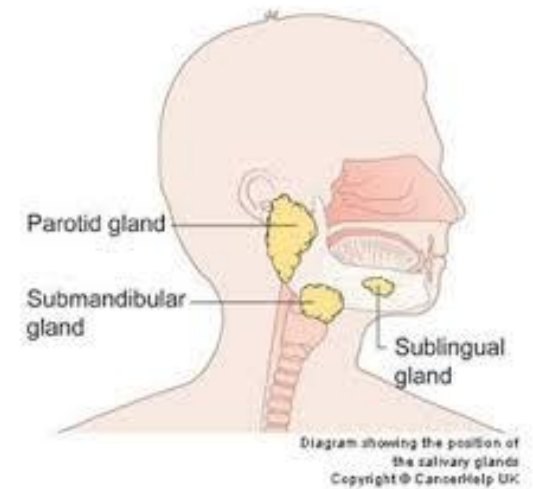
- **Parotid glands**

- Found anterior to the ears

- **Submandibular glands**

- **Sublingual glands**

- Both submandibular and sublingual glands empty saliva into the floor of the mouth through small ducts



# SALIVA

Mixture of mucus and serous fluids

Helps to form a food bolus

Contains salivary amylase to begin starch digestion

Dissolves chemicals so they can be tasted



# PANCREAS

Produces a wide spectrum of digestive enzymes that break down all categories of food

Enzymes are secreted into the duodenum

Alkaline fluid introduced with enzymes neutralizes acidic chyme coming from stomach

Hormones produced by the pancreas

- Insulin
- Glucagon

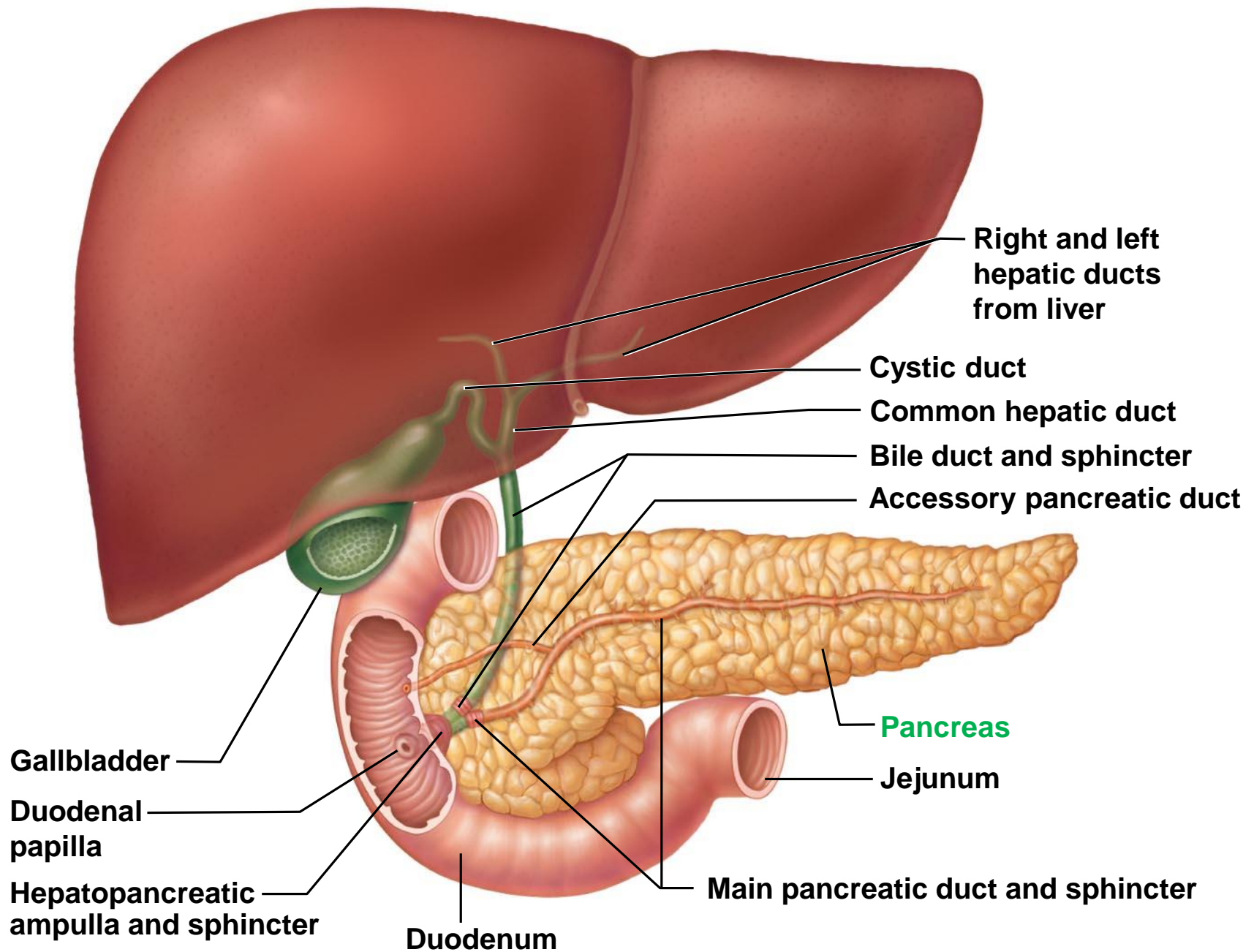


Figure 14.6

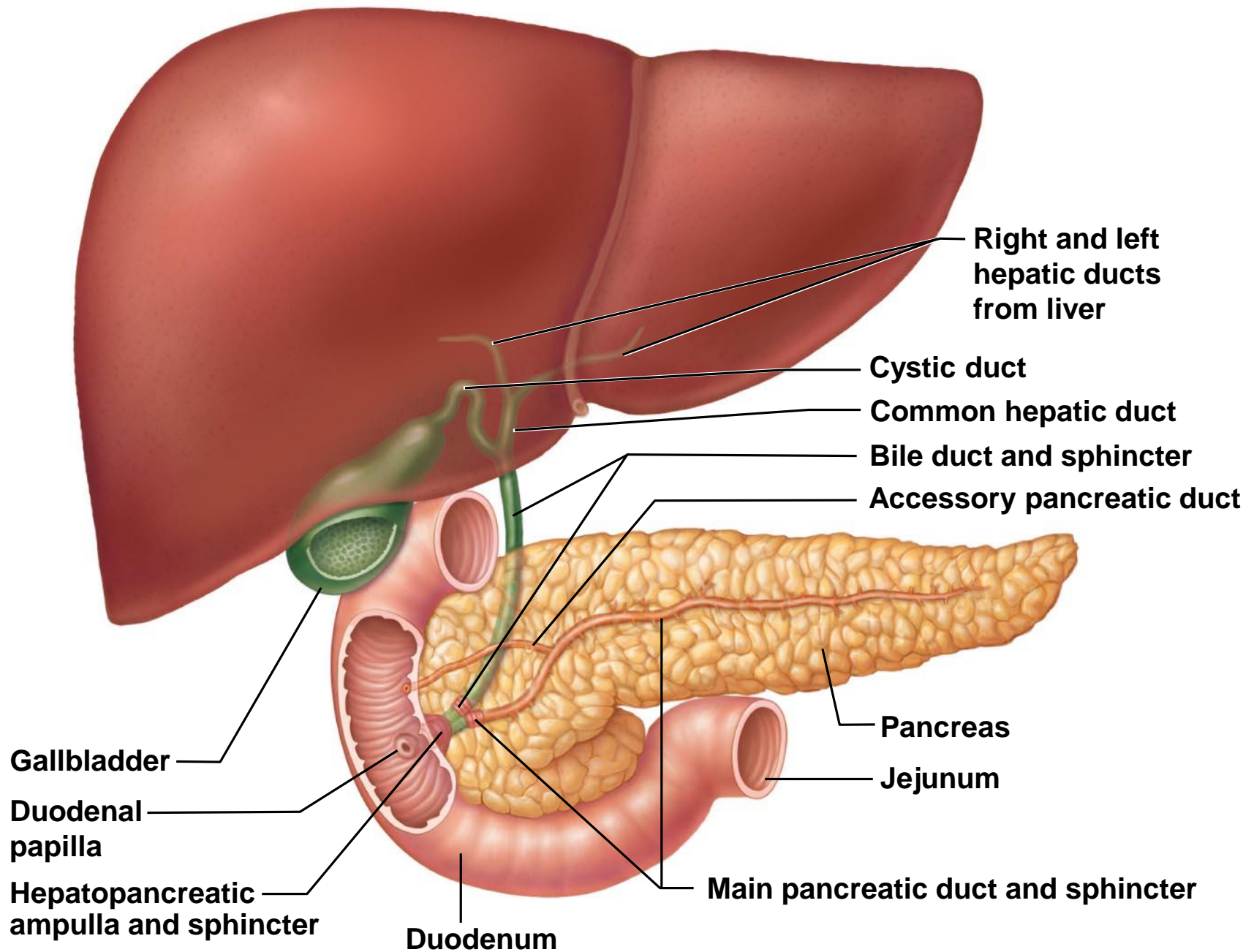
# LIVER

Largest gland in the body

Located on the right side of the body under the diaphragm

Consists of four lobes suspended from the diaphragm and abdominal wall by the falciform ligament

Connected to the gallbladder via the common hepatic duct



**Figure 14.6**

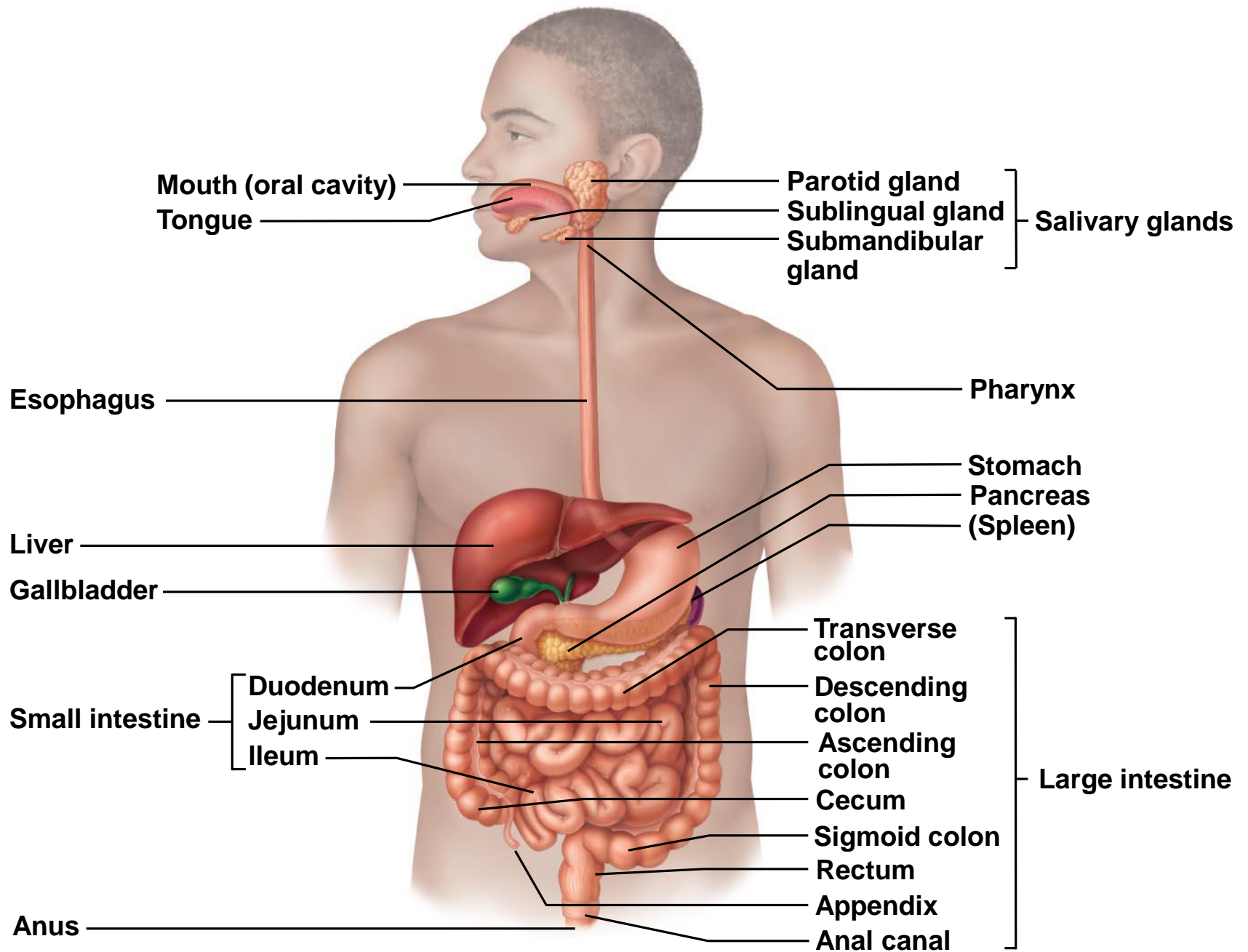
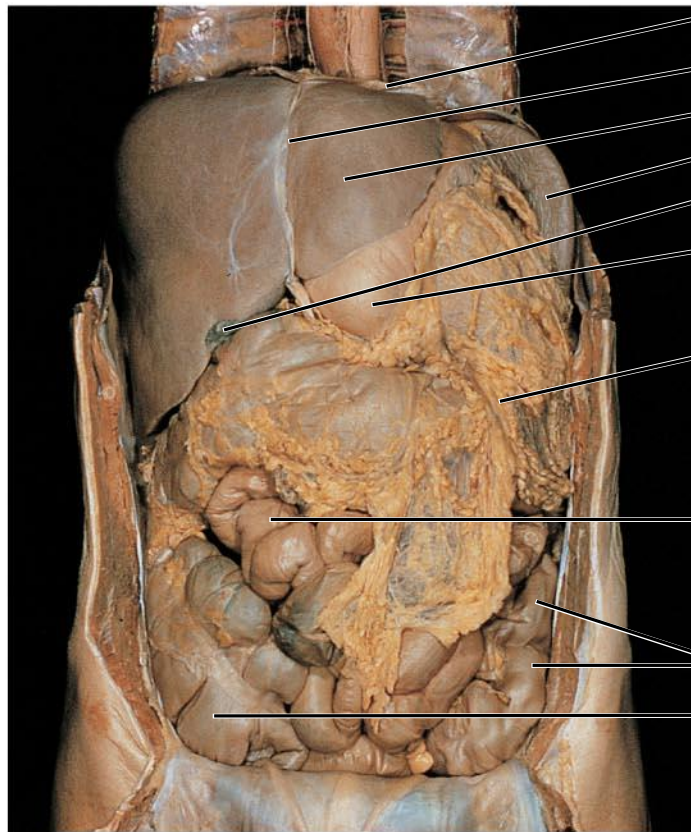
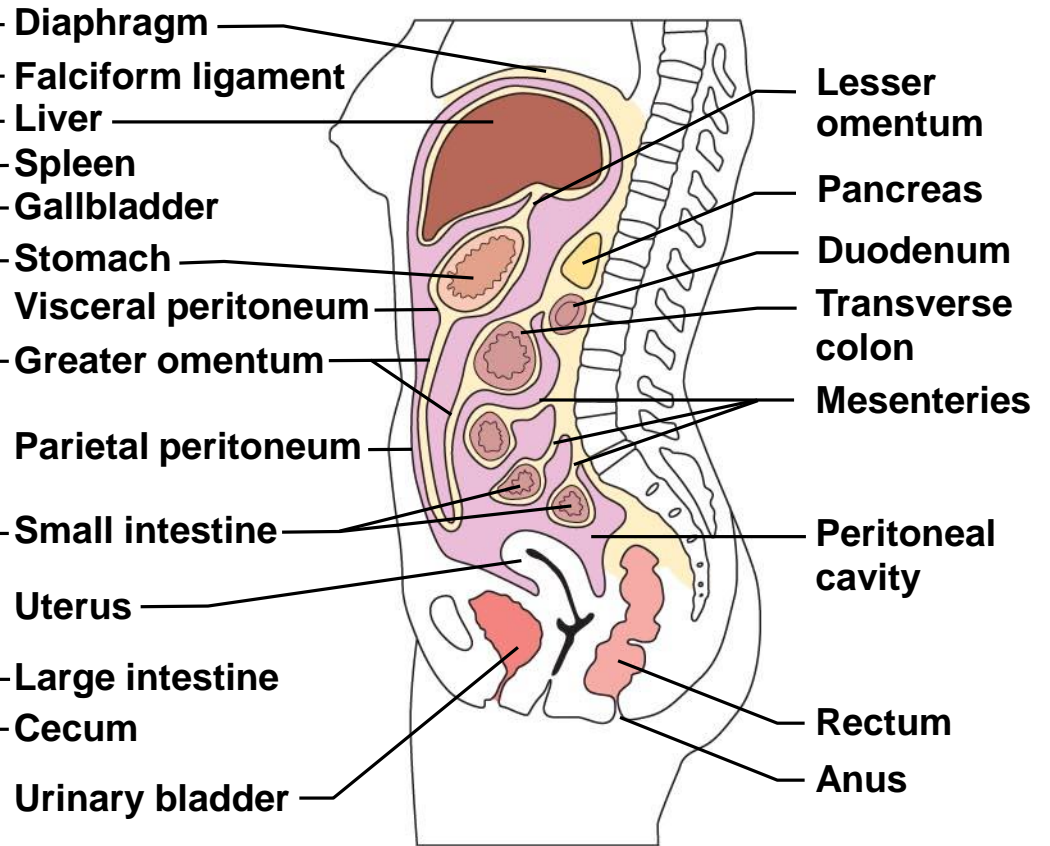


Figure 14.1





(a)



(b)

Figure 14.5a-b

# BILE

Produced by cells in the liver

Function — emulsify fats by physically breaking large fat globules into smaller ones

Bile leaves the liver through the common hepatic duct

Composition is

- Bile salts
- Bile pigments (mostly bilirubin from the breakdown of hemoglobin)
- Cholesterol
- Phospholipids
- Electrolytes



# GALLBLADDER

Sac found in hollow fossa of liver

When no digestion is occurring, bile backs up the cystic duct for storage in the gallbladder

When digestion of fatty food is occurring, bile is introduced into the duodenum from the gallbladder

Gallstones are crystallized cholesterol which can cause blockages

**WORKBOOK PAGE 276 #5**

# FUNCTIONS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

**Ingestion** — placing food into the mouth

**Propulsion** — moving foods from one region of the digestive system to another

- **Peristalsis** — alternating waves of contraction and relaxation that squeezes food along the GI tract
- **Segmentation** — moving materials back and forth to aid with mixing in the small intestine

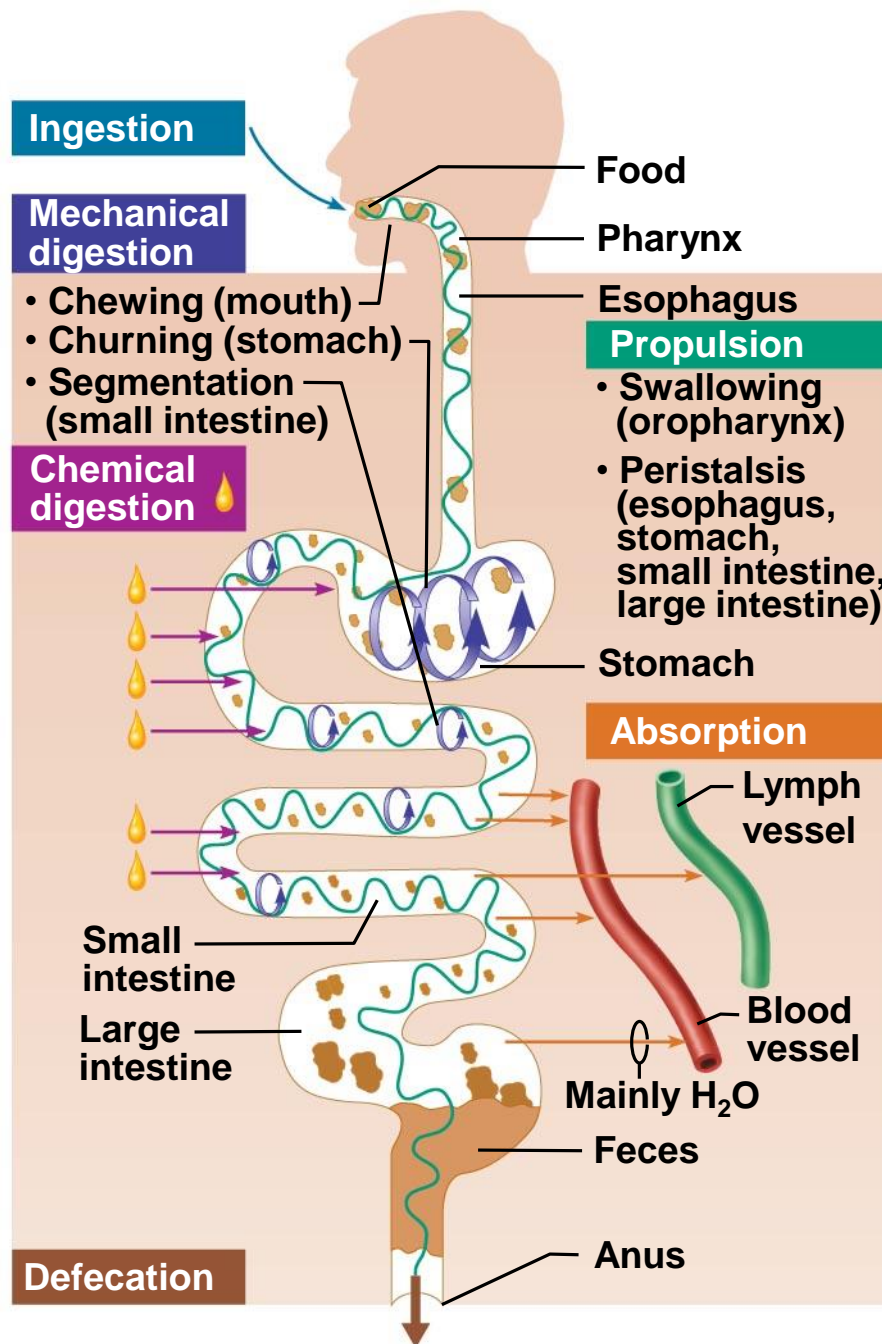


Figure 14.11

# FUNCTIONS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Food breakdown as mechanical digestion

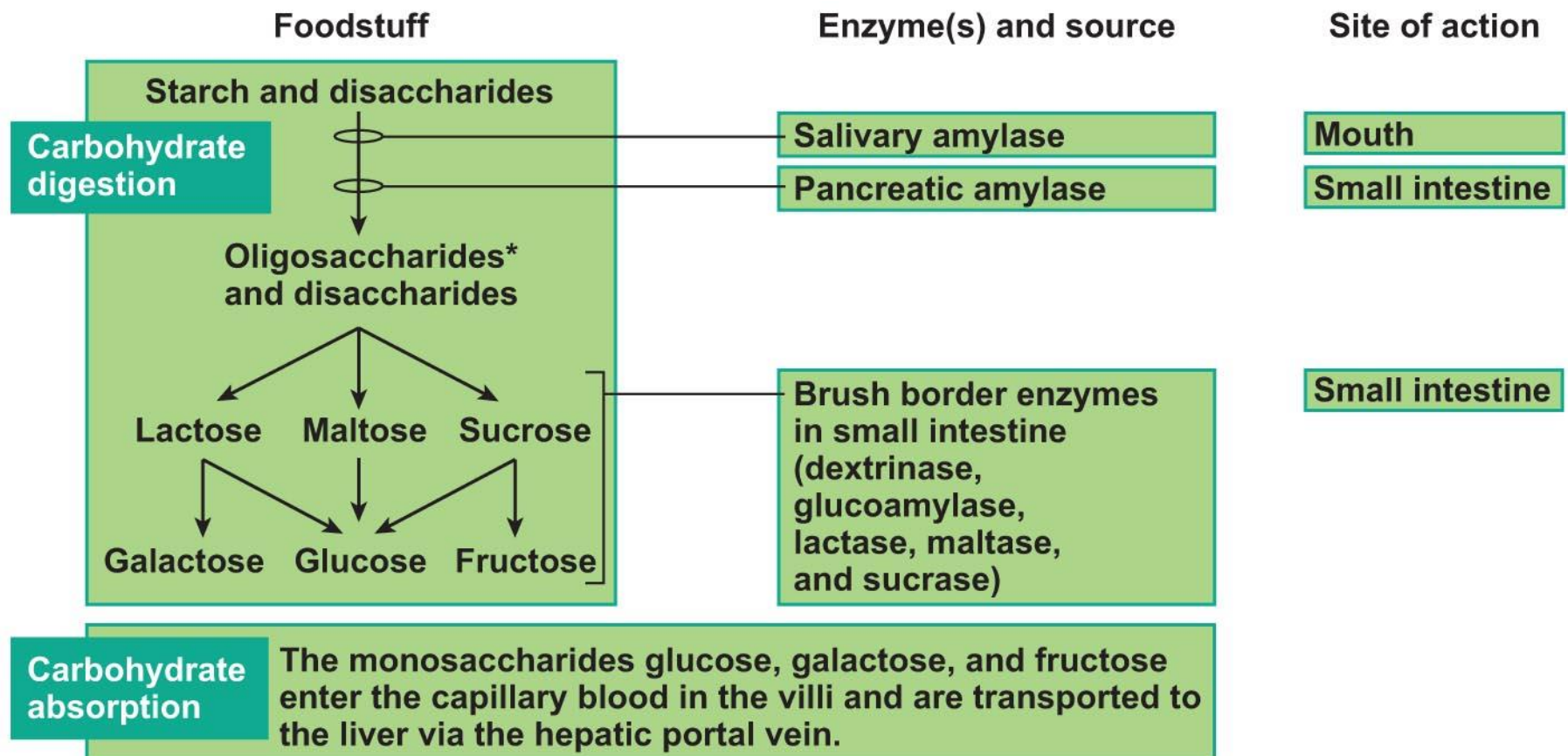
- Examples:
  - Mixing food in the mouth by the tongue
  - Churning food in the stomach
  - Segmentation in the small intestine
- Mechanical digestion prepares food for further degradation by enzymes



# FUNCTIONS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Food breakdown as chemical digestion

- Enzymes break down food molecules into their building blocks
- Each major food group uses different enzymes
  - *Carbohydrates* are broken to *simple sugars*
  - *Proteins* are broken to *amino acids*
  - *Fats* are broken to *fatty acids and alcohols*



\*Oligosaccharides consist of a few linked monosaccharides.

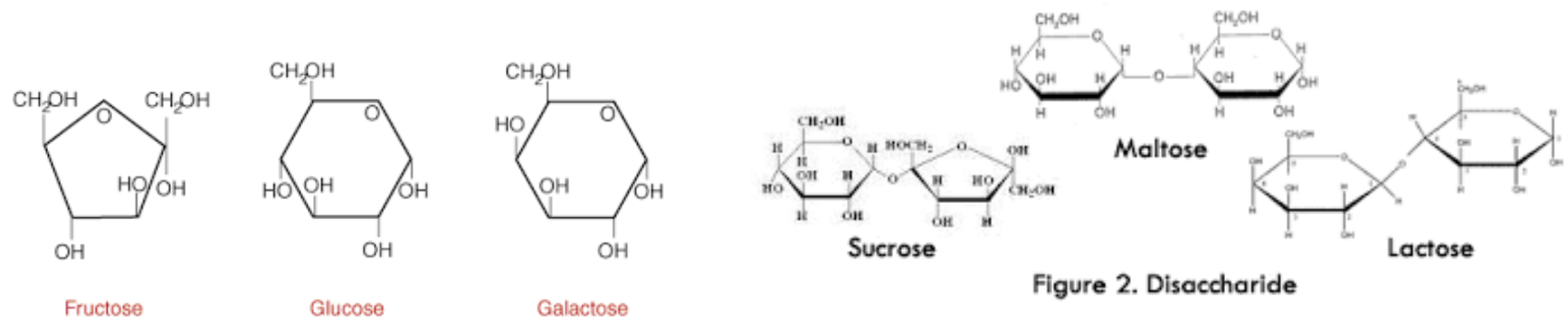
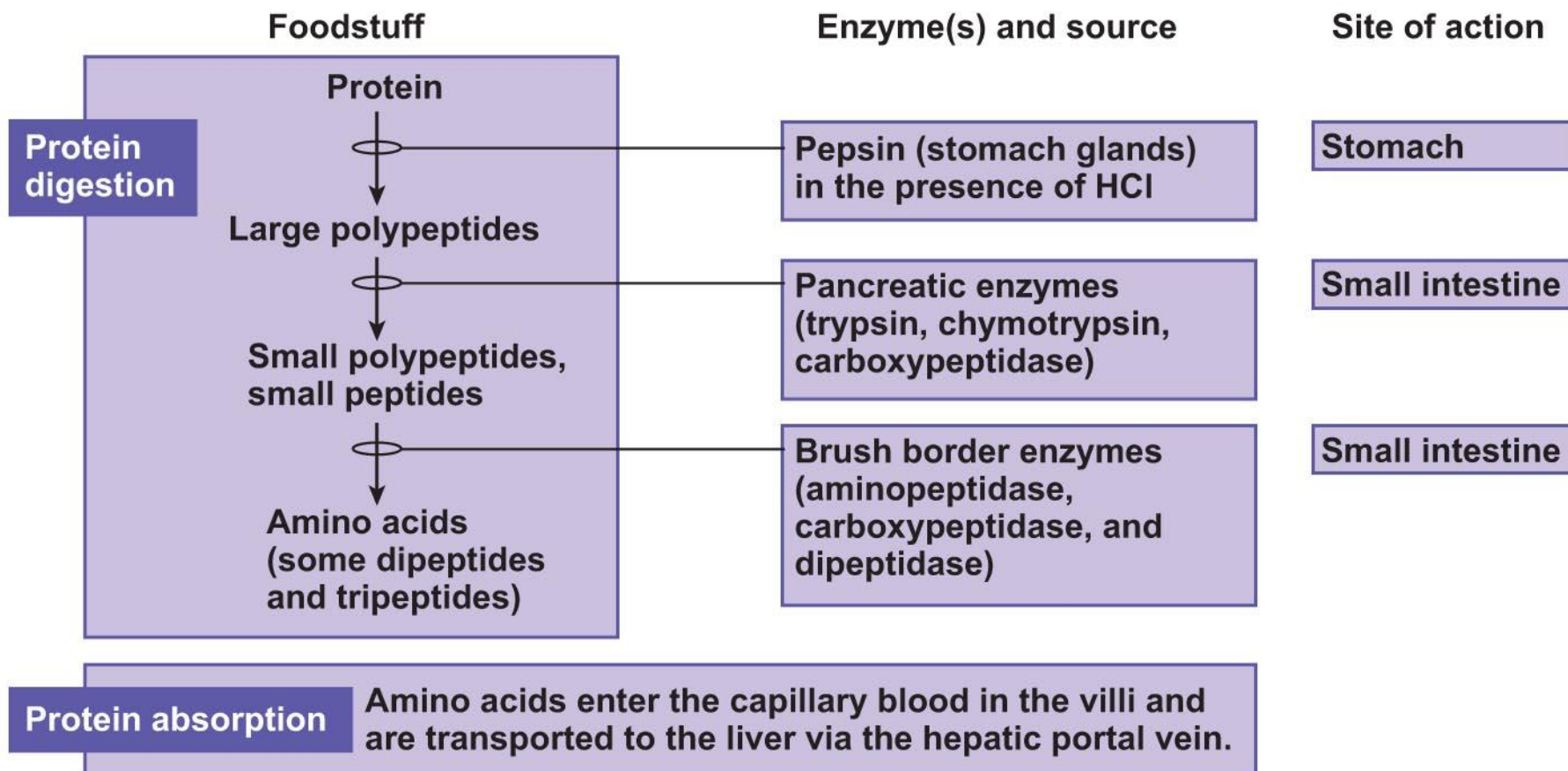


Figure 2. Disaccharide



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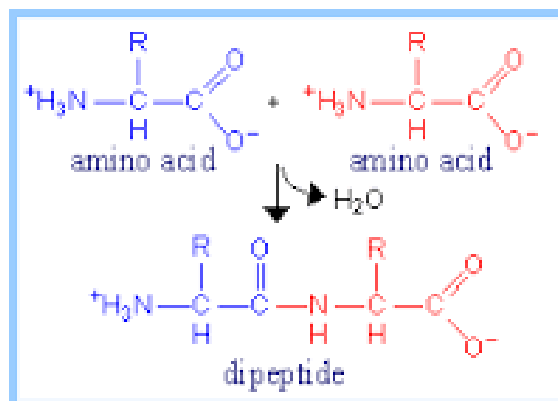
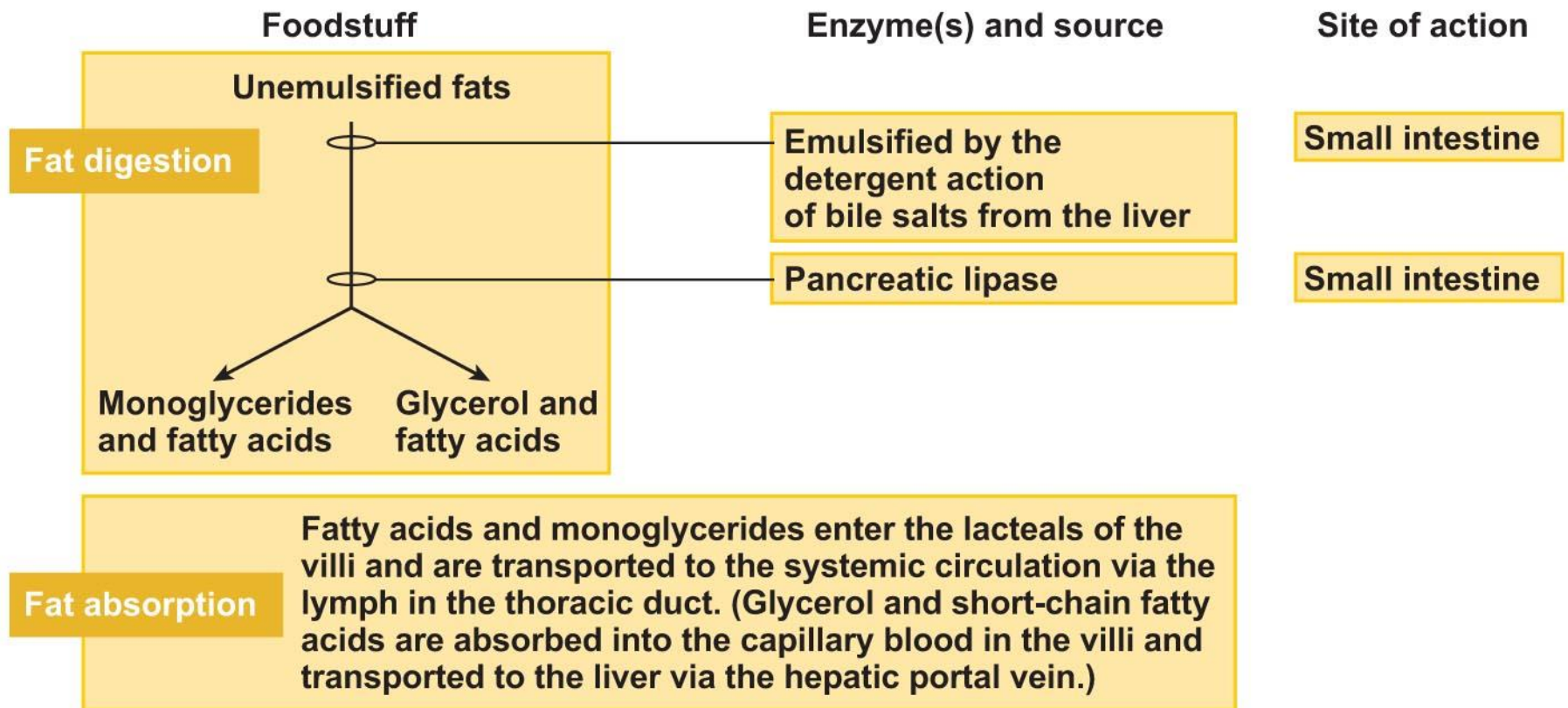
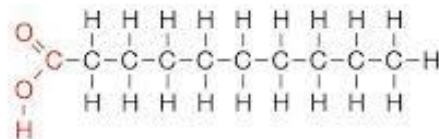


Figure 14.13 (2 of 3)



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#### Saturated



#### Unsaturated

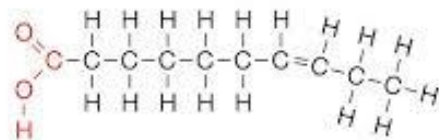


Figure 14.13 (3 of 3)

# FUNCTIONS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

## **Absorption**

- End products of digestion are absorbed in the blood or lymph
- Food must enter mucosal cells and then into blood or lymph capillaries

## **Defecation**

- Elimination of indigestible substances from the GI tract in the form of feces

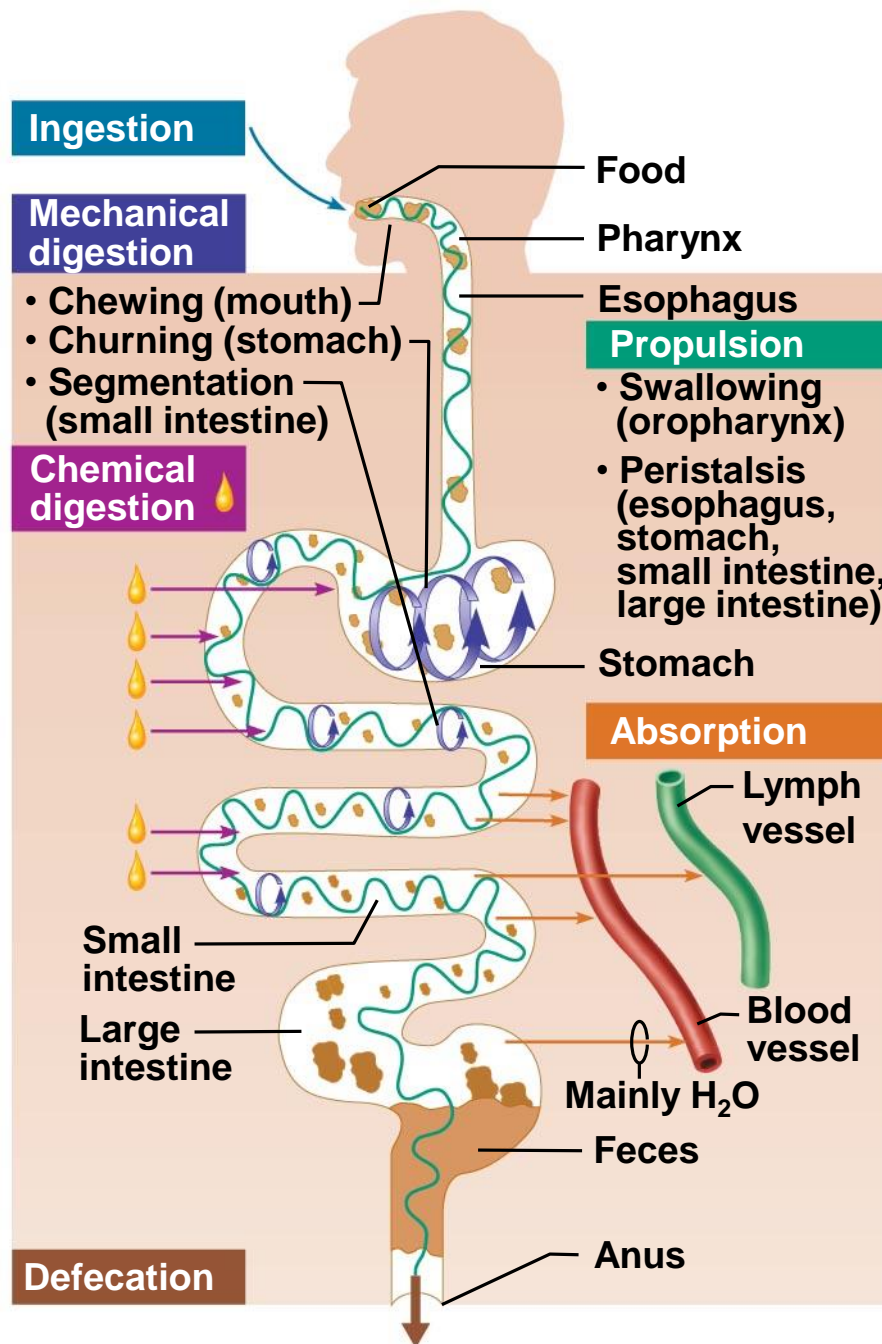


Figure 14.11



**WORKBOOK PAGE 284 #13**

# CONTROL OF DIGESTIVE ACTIVITY

Mostly controlled by reflexes via the parasympathetic division

Chemical and mechanical receptors are located in organ walls that trigger reflexes

# FOOD BREAKDOWN IN THE STOMACH

Gastric juice is regulated by neural and hormonal factors

Presence of food or rising pH causes the release of the hormone gastrin

Gastrin causes stomach glands to produce

- Protein-digesting enzymes
- Mucus
- Hydrochloric acid which makes the stomach very acidic

Acidic pH

- Activates pepsinogen to pepsin for protein digestion
- Provides a hostile environment for microorganisms

# DIGESTION AND ABSORPTION IN THE STOMACH

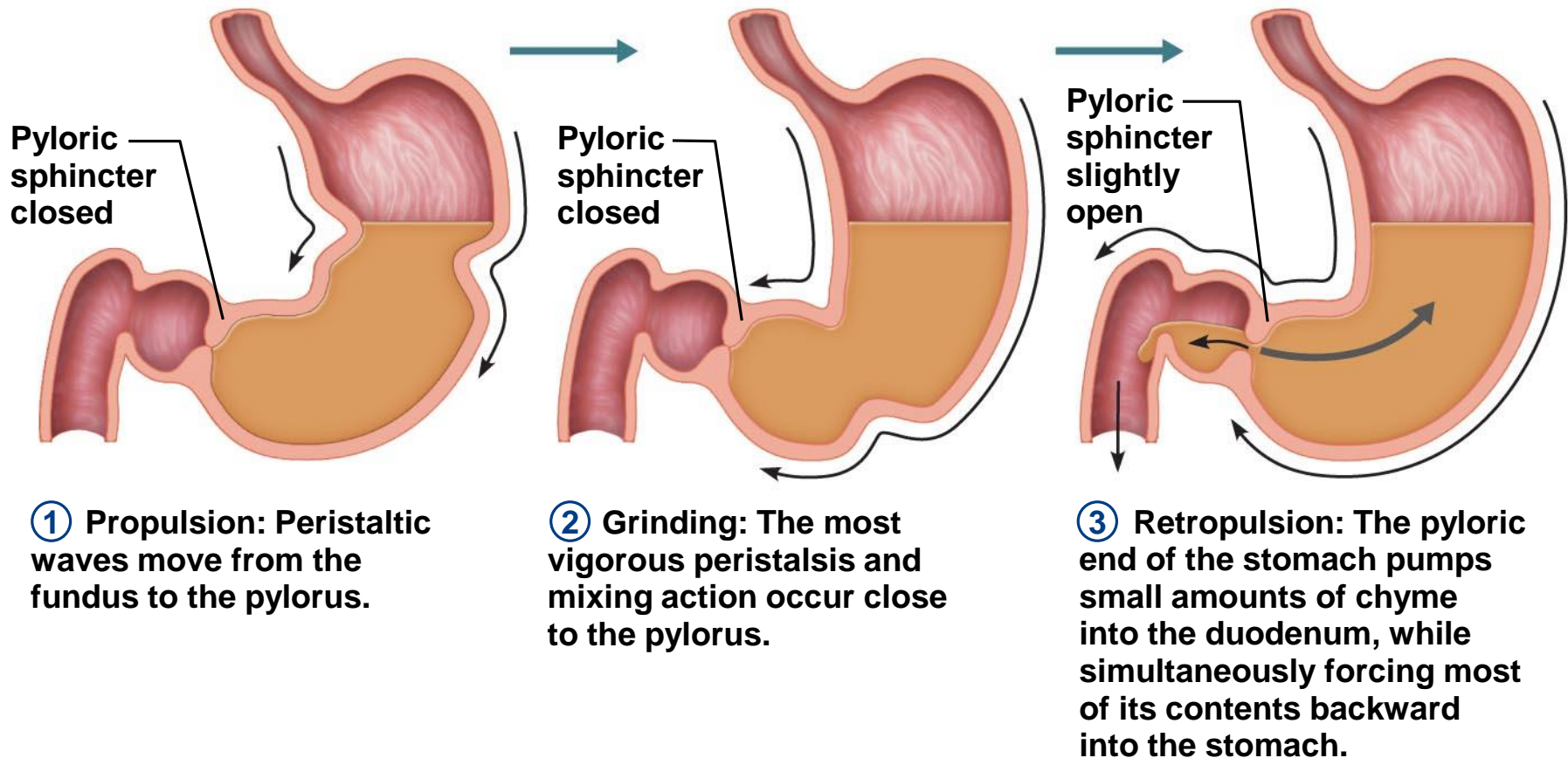
Protein digestion enzymes

- **Pepsin** — an active protein-digesting enzyme
- **Rennin** — works on digesting milk protein in infants, not adults

**Alcohol** and **aspirin** are the only items absorbed in the stomach

The pylorus meters out chyme into the small intestine (3 mL at a time)

The stomach empties in 4–6 hours



## Digestion in Stomach

## Ramen Noodles

Figure 14.15

# DIGESTION IN THE SMALL INTESTINE

Enzymes from the brush border function to

- Break double sugars into simple sugars
- Complete some protein digestion

Pancreatic enzymes play the major digestive function

- Help complete digestion of starch (pancreatic amylase)
- Carry out about half of all protein digestion
- Digest fats using lipases from the pancreas
- Digest nucleic acids using nucleases
- Alkaline content neutralizes acidic chyme



# REGULATION OF PANCREATIC JUICE SECRETION

Release of pancreatic juice into the duodenum is stimulated by

- **Vagus nerve**
- Local hormones
  - **Secretin:** Secretin causes the liver to increase bile output
  - **cholecystokinin (CCK):** CCK causes the gallbladder to release stored bile
  - **Bile** is necessary for fat absorption and absorption of fat-soluble vitamins (**K, D, A**)

Hormones travel the blood to stimulate the pancreas to release enzyme- and bicarbonate-rich product

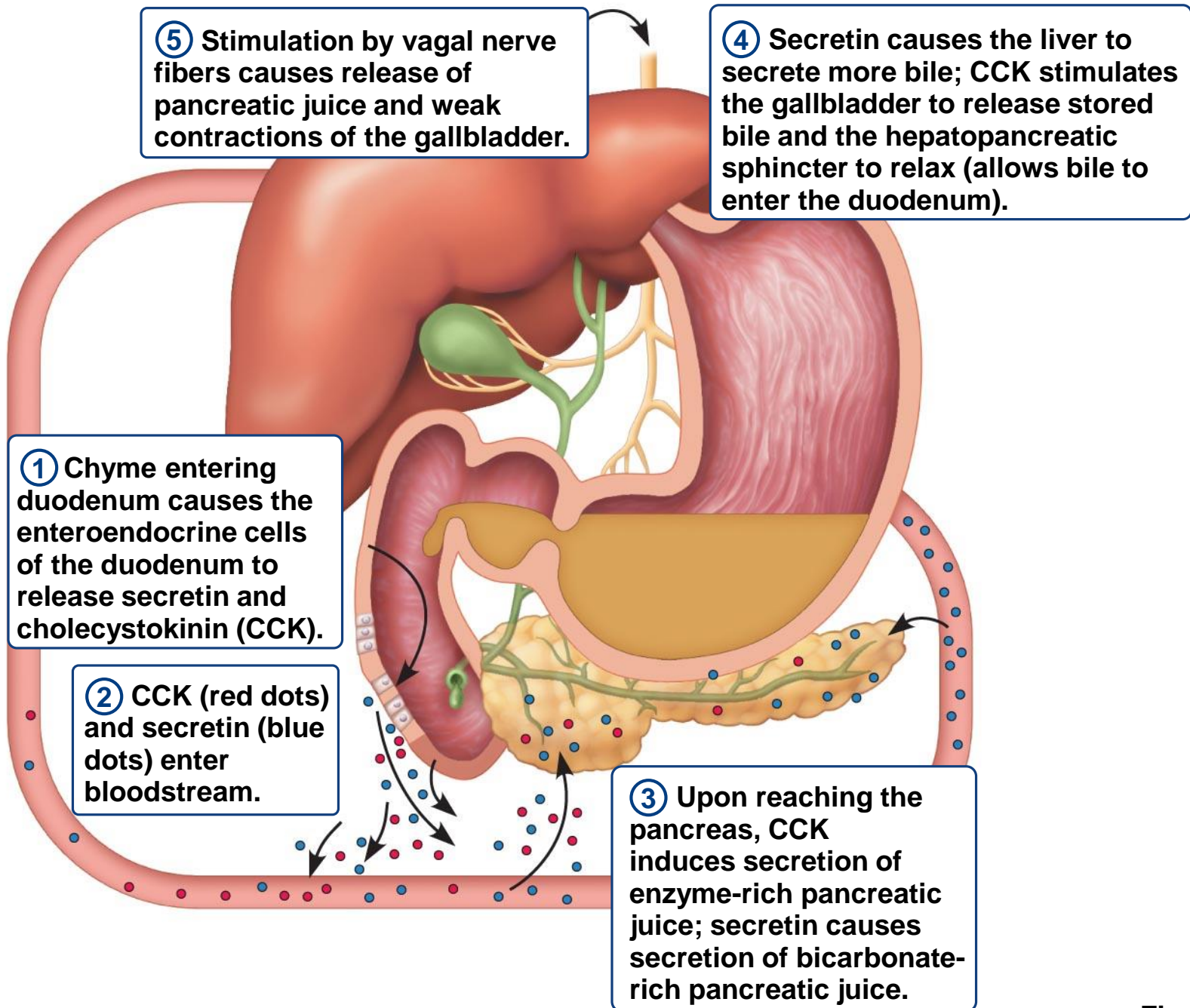


Figure 14.16

# ABSORPTION IN THE SMALL INTESTINE

Water is absorbed along the length of the small intestine

End products of digestion

- Most substances are absorbed by active transport through cell membranes
- Lipids are absorbed by diffusion

Substances are transported to the liver by the **hepatic portal vein** or **lymph**

# FOOD BREAKDOWN AND ABSORPTION IN THE LARGE INTESTINE

No digestive enzymes are produced

Resident bacteria digest remaining nutrients

- Produce some vitamin K and B
- Release gases

Water and vitamins K and B are absorbed

Remaining materials are eliminated via feces

- Feces contains
  - Undigested food residues, blood residue, mucus, bacteria, water

**WORKBOOK PAGE 284 #14**

# NUTRITION

Nutrient — substance used by the body for growth, maintenance, and repair

## Major nutrients

- Carbohydrates
- Lipids
- Proteins
- Water







## Minor nutrients

- Vitamins
- Minerals





**Key:**

-  **Grains**
-  **Vegetables**
-  **Fruits**
-  **Oils**
-  **Milk**
-  **Meat and beans**

**MyPyramid.gov**  
STEPS TO A HEALTHIER YOU

Figure 14.17

# Food Groups Overview

## Daily Recommendations

### Fruits

Children: 1 cup  
Adults: 2 cups  
1 cup of fresh fruit or 1/2 cup of dried fruit can be considered a 1 cup serving.

### Grains

Children: 3-6 ounce equivalents  
Adults: 8-8 ounce equivalents  
1 cup of cereal or 1/2 cup of cooked rice or pasta can be considered as a 1 ounce equivalent serving.

### Dairy

Children: 2-3 cups  
Adults: 3 cups  
1 cup of milk or yogurt or 1 1/2 ounces of natural cheese can be considered as a 1 cup serving.

### Vegetables

Children: 1-2+ cups  
Adults: 2+ cups  
1 cup of raw or cooked vegetables or 2 cups of raw leafy greens can be considered a 1 cup serving.

### Proteins

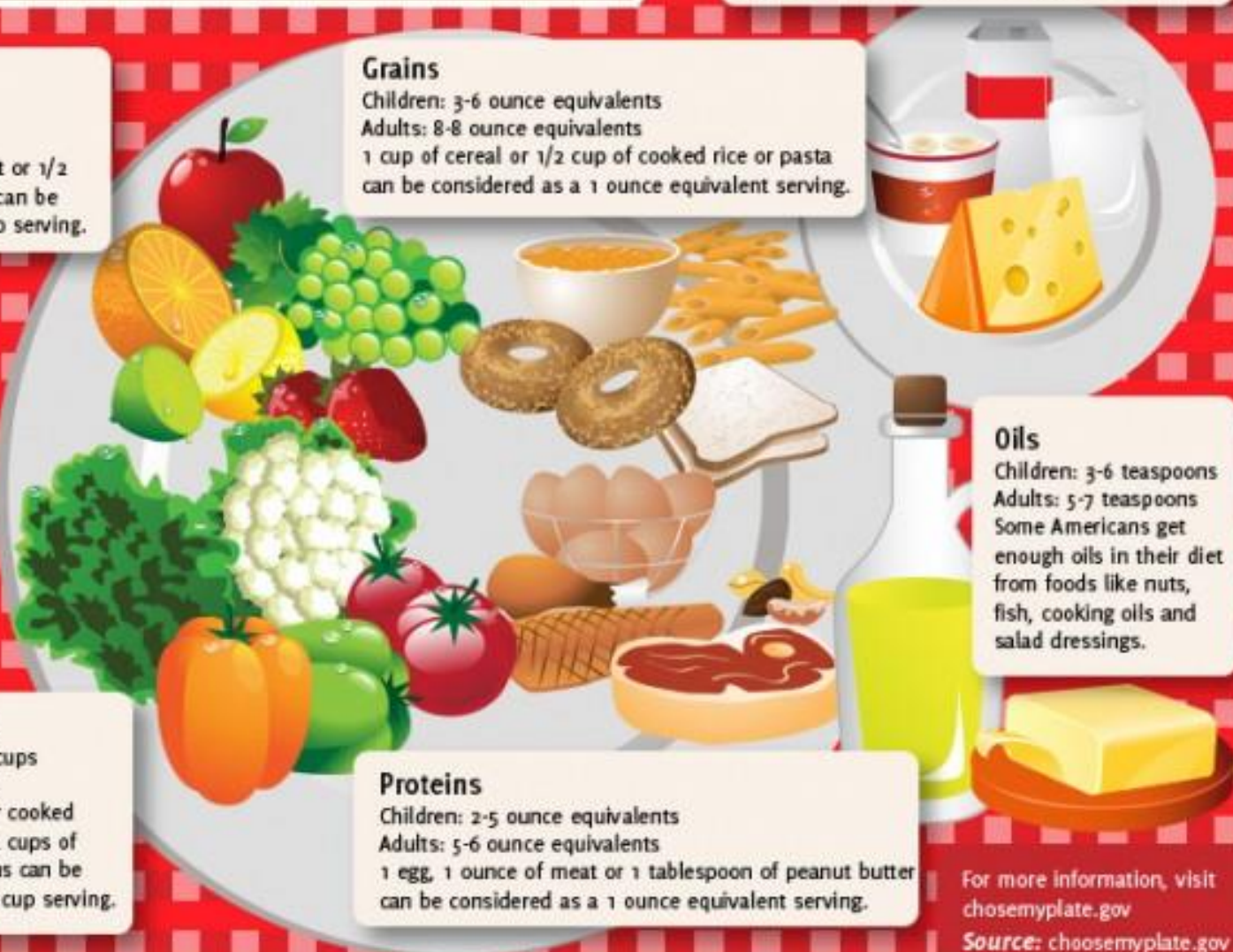
Children: 2-5 ounce equivalents  
Adults: 5-6 ounce equivalents  
1 egg, 1 ounce of meat or 1 tablespoon of peanut butter can be considered as a 1 ounce equivalent serving.

### Oils

Children: 3-6 teaspoons  
Adults: 5-7 teaspoons  
Some Americans get enough oils in their diet from foods like nuts, fish, cooking oils and salad dressings.

For more information, visit  
[chosemyplate.gov](http://chosemyplate.gov)

Source: [choosemyplate.gov](http://choosemyplate.gov)



# DIETARY SOURCES OF MAJOR NUTRIENTS

## Carbohydrates

- Most are derived from plants
- Exceptions: lactose from milk and small amounts of glycogens from meats

## Lipids

- Saturated fats from animal products
- Unsaturated fats from nuts, seeds, and vegetable oils
- Cholesterol from egg yolk, meats, and milk products

# DIETARY SOURCES OF MAJOR NUTRIENTS

## Proteins

- Complete proteins — contain all essential amino acids
  - Most are from animal products
  - Essential amino acids are ones that our bodies cannot make
  - We must obtain essential amino acids through our diet
- Legumes and beans also have proteins, but are incomplete





***Corn and  
other grains***

**Tryptophan**

**Methionine**

**Valine**

**Threonine**

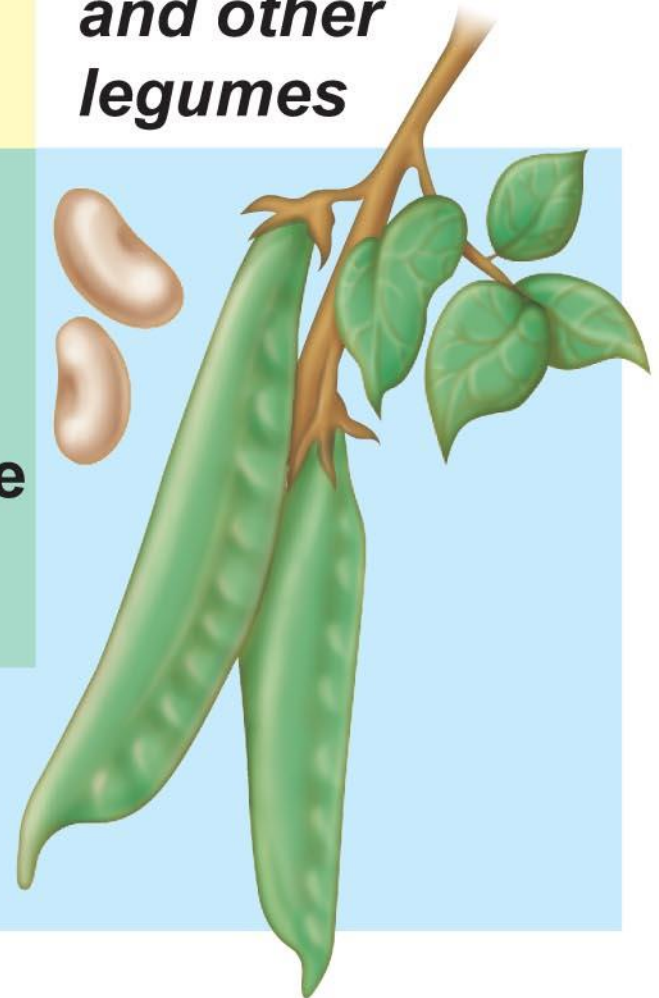
**Phenylalanine**

**Leucine**

**Isoleucine**

**Lysine**

***Beans  
and other  
legumes***



**Figure 14.18**

# DIETARY SOURCES OF MAJOR NUTRIENTS

## Vitamins

- Most vitamins are used as coenzymes
- Found in all major food groups

## Minerals

- Play many roles in the body
- Most mineral-rich foods are vegetables, legumes, milk, and some meats



**WORKBOOK PAGE 288 #20 & 21**

# METABOLISM

Chemical reactions necessary to maintain life

- **Catabolism**

- substances are broken down to simpler substances; energy is released
- hydrolysis reactions: add water

- **Anabolism**

- larger molecules are built from smaller ones
- dehydration reactions: remove water

# CARBOHYDRATE METABOLISM

Carbohydrates are the body's preferred source to produce cellular energy (ATP)

Glucose (blood sugar)

- Major breakdown product of carbohydrate digestion
- Fuel used to make ATP

# CELLULAR RESPIRATION

[YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW THIS . . . IF NOT, REVIEW LAST YEAR'S NOTES ON YOUR OWN TIME]  
[SLIDES 66 – 70]

Aerobic respiration:

- Oxygen-using events take place within the cell to create ATP from ADP

Carbon leaves cells as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)

Hydrogen atoms are combined with oxygen to form water

Energy produced by these reactions adds a phosphorus to ADP to produce ATP

ATP can be broken down to release energy for cellular use



Glucose

+

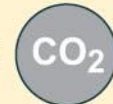
6



Oxygen  
gas



6



Carbon  
dioxide

+

6



Water

+



Energy

Figure 14.19

# METABOLIC PATHWAYS INVOLVED IN CELLULAR RESPIRATION

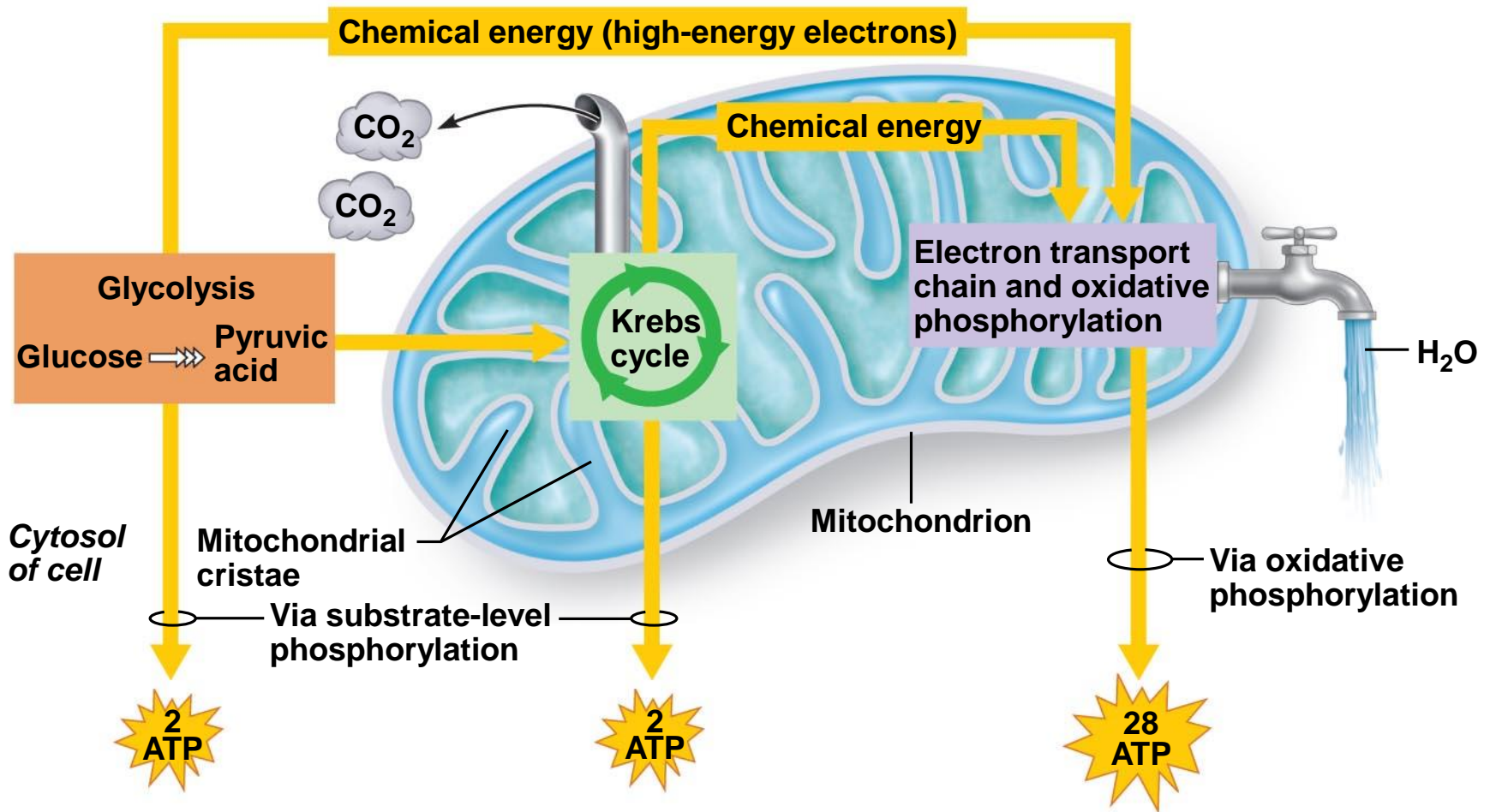
**Glycolysis** — energizes a glucose molecule so it can be split into two pyruvic acid molecules and yield ATP

## **Krebs cycle**

- Produces virtually all the carbon dioxide and water resulting from cell respiration
- Yields a small amount of ATP

## **Electron transport chain**

- Hydrogen atoms removed during glycolysis and the Krebs cycle are delivered to protein carriers
- Hydrogen is split into hydrogen ions and electrons in the mitochondria
- Electrons give off energy in a series of steps to enable the production of ATP



- ① During glycolysis, each glucose molecule is broken down into two molecules of pyruvic acid as hydrogen atoms containing high-energy electrons are removed.
- ② The pyruvic acid enters the mitochondrion where Krebs cycle enzymes remove more hydrogen atoms and decompose it to  $\text{CO}_2$ . During glycolysis and the Krebs cycle, small amounts of ATP are formed.
- ③ Energy-rich electrons picked up by coenzymes are transferred to the electron transport chain, built into the cristae membrane. The electron transport chain carries out oxidative phosphorylation, which accounts for most of the ATP generated by cellular respiration, and finally unites the removed hydrogen with oxygen to form water.



**ATP formation (fueling the metabolic furnace): all categories of food can be oxidized to provide energy molecules (ATP)**

**Monosaccharides**

**Fatty acids**

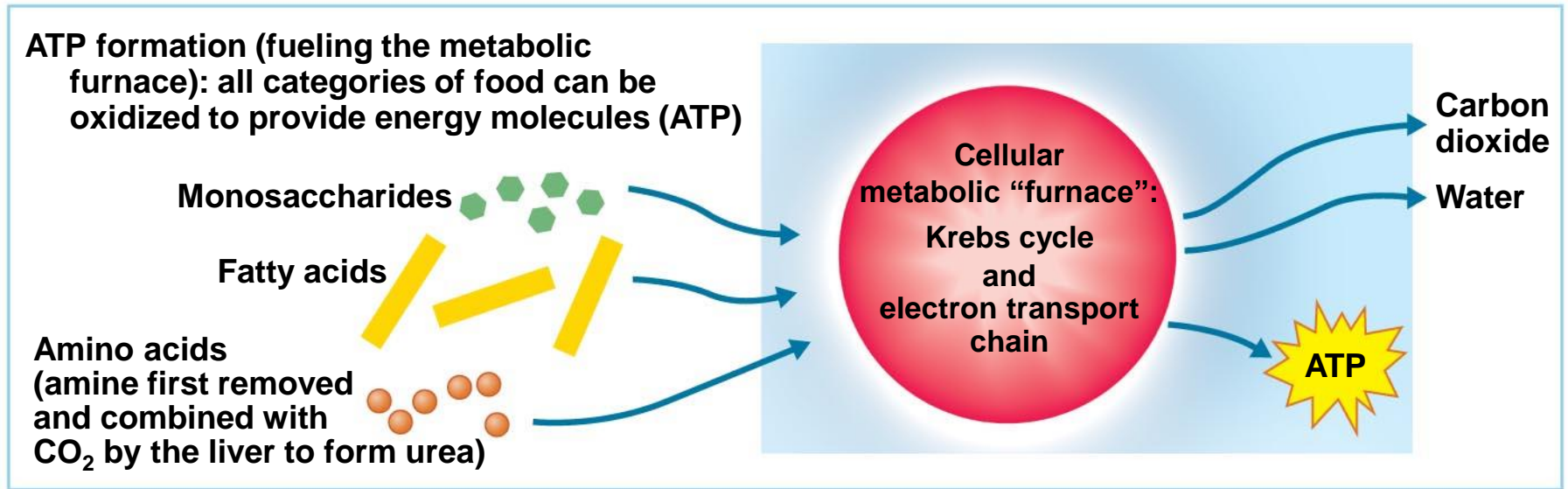
**Amino acids**  
(amine first removed  
and combined with  
 $\text{CO}_2$  by the liver to form urea)

**Cellular  
metabolic “furnace”:  
Krebs cycle  
and  
electron transport  
chain**

**Carbon  
dioxide**

**Water**

**ATP**



**WORKBOOK PAGE 289 # 22**

# METABOLISM OF CARBOHYDRATES

**Hyperglycemia** — excessively high levels of glucose in the blood

- Excess glucose is stored in body cells as glycogen
- If blood glucose levels are still too high, excesses are converted to fat

**Hypoglycemia** — low levels of glucose in the blood

- Liver breaks down stored glycogen and releases glucose into the blood

(a) Carbohydrates: polysaccharides, disaccharides;  
composed of simple sugars (monosaccharides)

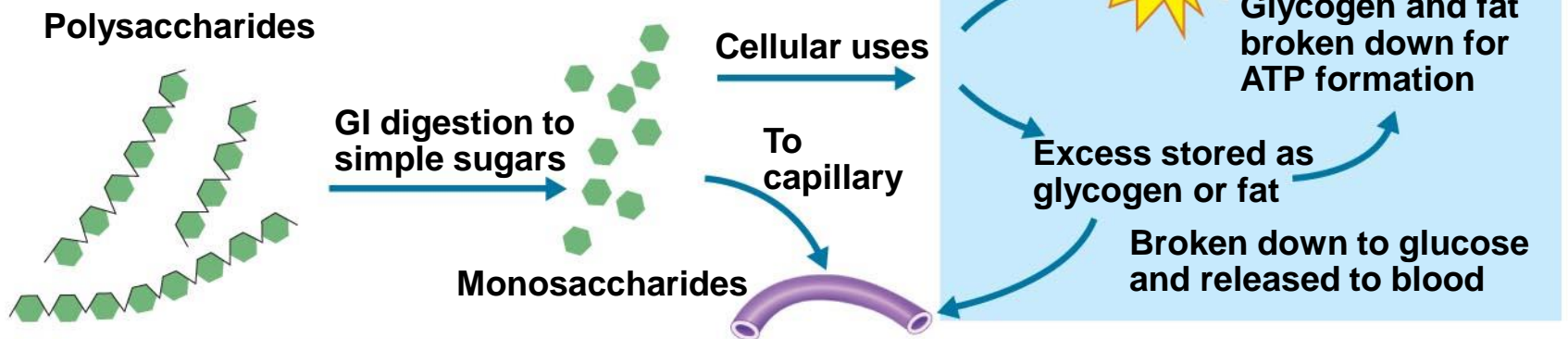


Figure 14.22a

# FAT METABOLISM

Handled mostly by the liver

- Uses some fats to make ATP
- Synthesizes **lipoproteins**, **thromboplastin**, and **cholesterol**
- Releases breakdown products to the blood

Body cells remove fat and cholesterol to build membranes and steroid hormones

Fats must first be broken down to **acetic acid**

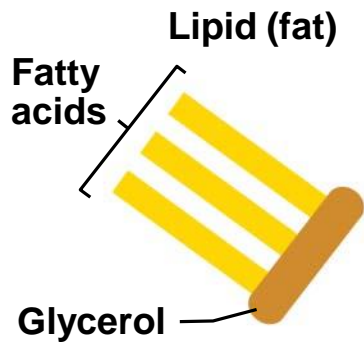
Within mitochondria, acetic acid is completely oxidized to produce water, carbon dioxide, and ATP

# FAT METABOLISM

**Acidosis** (ketoacidosis) results from incomplete fat oxidation in which acetoacetic acid and acetone accumulate in the blood

- Breath has a fruity odor
- Common with
  - “No carbohydrate” diets
  - Uncontrolled diabetes mellitus
  - Starvation

(b) Fats: composed of 1 glycerol molecule and 3 fatty acids; triglycerides



GI digestion  
to fatty acids  
and glycerol



Metabolized  
by liver to  
acetic acid, etc.

Cellular  
uses

Insulation and fat  
cushions to protect  
body organs



Fats are the  
primary fuels  
in many cells

Fats build myelin  
sheaths and cell  
membranes

Figure 14.22b



# PROTEIN METABOLISM

Proteins are conserved by body cells because they are used for most cellular structures

- Ingested proteins are broken down to amino acids

Cells remove amino acids to build proteins

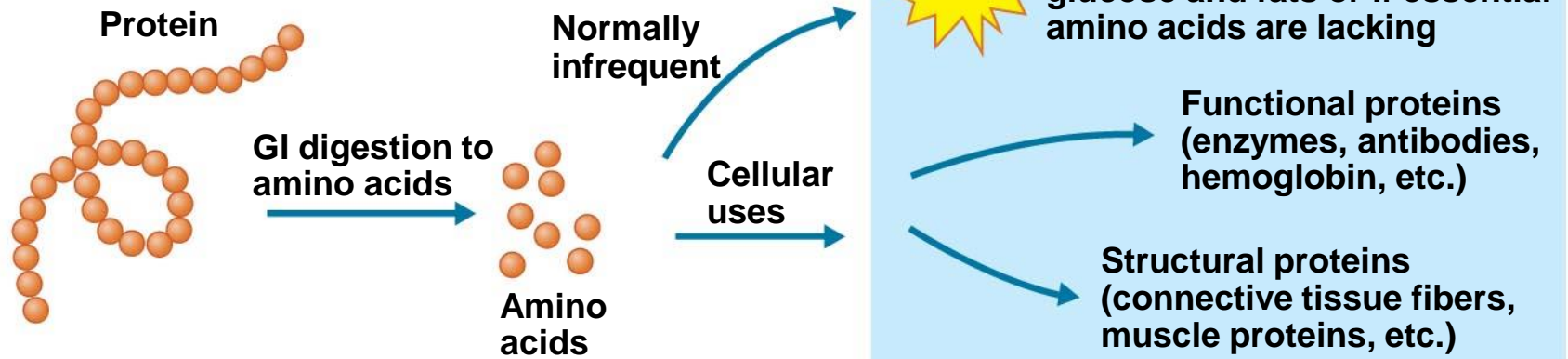
- Synthesized proteins are actively transported across cell membranes
- Amino acids are used to make ATP only when proteins are overabundant or there is a shortage of other sources

To produce ATP

- a portion of the protein molecule enters the Krebs cycle in mitochondria (but only in extreme cases)

Liver converts   amines      ammonia      urea

**(c) Proteins: polymers of amino acids**



**Figure 14.22c**

# ROLE OF THE LIVER IN METABOLISM

Several roles in digestion

- Manufactures bile
- Detoxifies drugs and alcohol
- Degrades hormones
- Produces cholesterol, blood proteins (albumin and clotting proteins)
- Plays a central role in metabolism

[Can regenerate if part of it is damaged or removed]

# METABOLIC FUNCTIONS OF THE LIVER

**Glycogenesis** — “glycogen formation”

- Glucose molecules are converted to glycogen
- Glycogen molecules are stored in the liver

**Glycogenolysis** — “glucose splitting”

- Glucose is released from the liver after conversion from glycogen

**Gluconeogenesis** — “formation of new sugar”

- Glucose is produced from fats and proteins

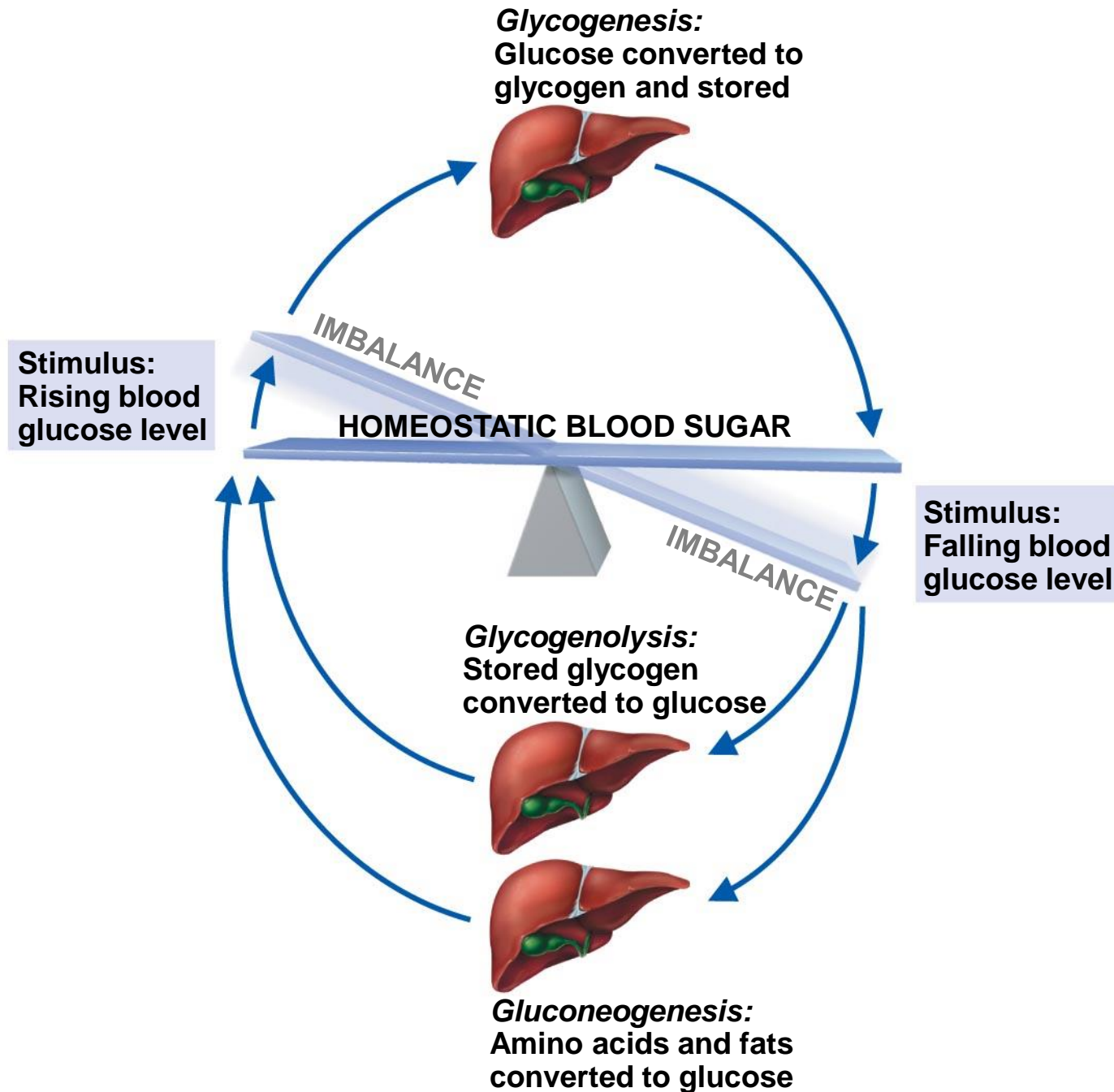


Figure 14.23

# METABOLIC FUNCTIONS OF THE LIVER

Fats and fatty acids are picked up by the liver

- Some are oxidized to provide energy for liver cells
- The rest are broken down into simpler compounds and released into the blood

# CHOLESTEROL METABOLISM

Cholesterol is not used to make ATP

Functions of cholesterol

- Serves as a structural basis of steroid hormones and vitamin D
- Is a major building block of plasma membranes

Most cholesterol is produced in the liver (85 percent) and is not from diet (15 percent)



# CHOLESTEROL TRANSPORT

Cholesterol and fatty acids cannot freely circulate in the bloodstream

They are transported by lipoproteins (lipid-protein complexes)

- **Low-density lipoproteins (LDLs):**
  - transport to body cells
  - Rated “bad lipoproteins” since they can lead to arteriosclerosis
- **High-density lipoproteins (HDLs):**
  - transport from body cells to the liver

# BODY ENERGY BALANCE

Energy intake = total energy output  
(heat + work + energy storage)

- Energy intake is the energy liberated during food oxidation
  - Energy produced during glycolysis, Krebs cycle and the electron transport chain
- Energy output
  - Energy we lose as heat (60 percent)
  - Energy stored as fat or glycogen

# REGULATION OF FOOD INTAKE

Body weight is usually relatively stable

- Energy intake and output remain about equal

Mechanisms that may regulate food intake

- Levels of nutrients in the blood
- Hormones
- Body temperature
- Psychological factors

# METABOLIC RATE AND BODY HEAT PRODUCTION

**Basic metabolic rate (BMR)** — amount of heat produced by the body per unit of time at rest

Average BMR is about 60 to 72 kcal/hour

**Kilocalorie (kcal):**

- unit of measure for the energy value of foods and the amount of energy used by the body

# METABOLIC RATE AND BODY HEAT PRODUCTION

Factors that influence BMR

- **Surface area** — a small body usually has a higher BMR
- **Gender** — males tend to have higher BMRs
- **Age** — children and adolescents have higher BMRs
- **Thyroxine production** - the most important control factor
  - More thyroxine means a higher metabolic rate

# TOTAL METABOLIC RATE (TMR)

**TMR** = Total amount of kilocalories the body must consume to fuel ongoing activities

TMR increases with an increase in body activity

TMR must equal calories consumed to maintain homeostasis and maintain a constant weight

# BODY TEMPERATURE REGULATION

Most energy is released as foods are oxidized

Most energy escapes as heat



# BODY TEMPERATURE REGULATION

The body has a narrow range of homeostatic temperature

- Must remain between 35.6°C to 37.8°C (96°F to 100°F)
- The body's thermostat is in the **hypothalamus**
  - Initiates heat-loss or heat-promoting mechanisms

# BODY TEMPERATURE REGULATION

Heat-promoting mechanisms

- Vasoconstriction of blood vessels
  - blood is rerouted to deeper, more vital body organs
- Shivering
  - contraction of muscles produces heat

# BODY TEMPERATURE REGULATION

## Heat-loss mechanisms

- Heat loss from the skin via *radiation* and *evaporation*
  - Skin blood vessels and capillaries are flushed with warm blood
  - Evaporation of perspiration cools the skin

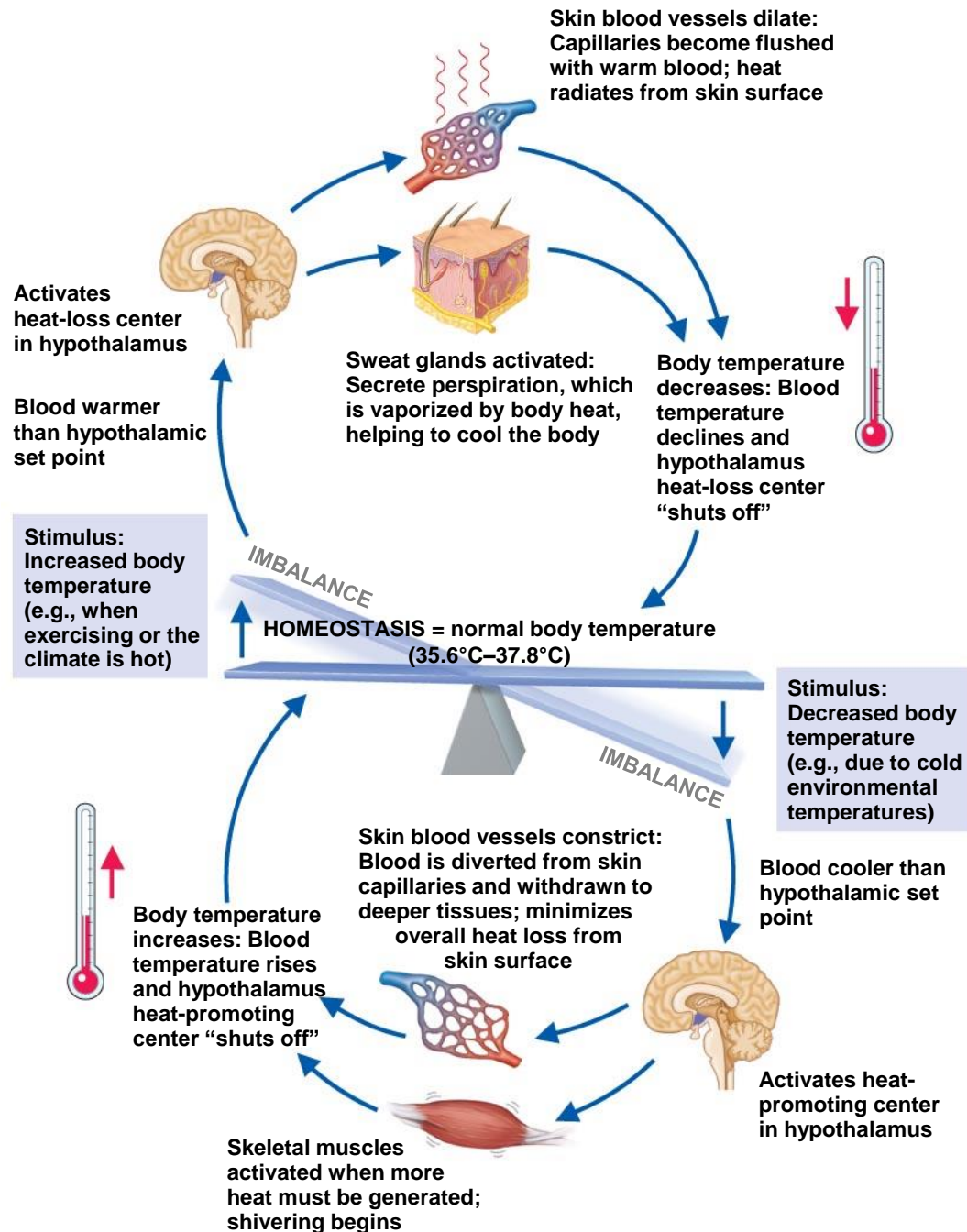


Figure 14.24

# BODY TEMPERATURE REGULATION

Fever — controlled hyperthermia

- Results from infection, cancer, allergic reactions, CNS injuries
- If the body thermostat is set too high, body proteins may be denatured and permanent brain damage may occur

# DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

The alimentary canal is a continuous tube by the fifth week of development

Digestive glands bud from the mucosa of the alimentary tube

The developing fetus receives all nutrients through the placenta

In newborns, feeding must be frequent, peristalsis is inefficient, and vomiting is common

# DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Newborn reflexes

- Rooting reflex helps the infant find the nipple
- Sucking reflex helps the infant hold on to the nipple and swallow

Teething begins around age six months

# DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Problems of the digestive system

- **Gastroenteritis** — inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract
- **Appendicitis** — inflammation of the appendix

Metabolism decreases with old age

Middle-age digestive problems

- Ulcers
- Gallbladder problems



# DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Activity of the digestive tract in old age

- Fewer digestive juices
- Peristalsis slows
- **Diverticulosis** and **cancer** are more common