## Bio& 242, Human A&P 2: Unit 1/Lecture 3



# Anatomy of the Large Intestine

- The *large intestine* (*colon*) extends from the ileocecal sphincter to the anus.
- Its subdivisions include the *cecum, colon, rectum*, and *anal canal*.
- Hanging inferior to the cecum is the
- appendix.
  - Inflammation of the appendix is called *appendicitis*.

 A ruptured appendix can result in gangrene or peritonitis, which can be life-threatening conditions.







- 5 feet long by 21/2 inches in diameter
- Ascending & descending colon are retroperitoneal
- Rectum = last 8 inches of GI tract anterior to the sacrum & coccyx
- Anal canal = last 1 inch of GI tract
  - internal sphincter----smooth muscle & involuntary
  - external sphincter----skeletal muscle & voluntary control

### **Mechanical Digestion in Large Intestine**

- Mechanical movements of the large intestine include *haustral churning, peristalsis, and mass peristalsis*.
- Peristaltic waves (3 to 12 contractions/minute)
  - haustral churning----relaxed pouches are filled from below by muscular contractions (elevator)
  - gastroilial reflex = when stomach is full, gastrin hormone relaxes ileocecal sphincter so small intestine will empty and make room
  - *gastrocolic reflex* = when stomach fills, a strong peristaltic wave moves contents of transverse colon into rectum by *Mass peristalsis*

## Chemical Digestion in Large Intestine

- · No enzymes are secreted only mucous
- · Bacteria ferment
  - undigested carbohydrates into carbon dioxide & methane gas
  - undigested proteins into simpler substances (indoles)----odor
  - turn bilirubin into simpler substances that produce color
- Bacteria produce vitamin K and B in colon
- Converts chyme into feces

## Functions of the Large intestinal Mucosa

- 1. *Goblet cells:* create mucus that lubricates colon and protects mucosa.
- 2. Absortive cells: Maintains water balance, solidifies feces, absorbs vitamins and some ions



## Absorption & Feces Formation in the Large Intestine

- Some electrolytes---Na+ and Cl-
- After 3 to 10 hours, 90% of H2O has been removed from chyme
- · Feces are semisolid by time reaches transverse colon
- Feces = dead epithelial cells, undigested food such as cellulose, bacteria (live & dead)

## Absorption and Feces Formation in the Large Intestine

- The large intestine absorbs water, electrolytes, and some vitamins.
- *Feces* consist of water, inorganic salts, sloughed-off epithelial cells, bacteria, products of bacterial decomposition, and undigested parts of food.
- Although most water absorption occurs in the small intestine, the large intestine absorbs enough to make it an important organ in maintaining the body's water balance.

## **Defecation Reflex**

- The elimination of feces from the rectum is called *defecation*.
- Defecation is a reflex action aided by voluntary contractions of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles. The external anal sphincter can be voluntarily controlled (except in infants) to allow or postpone defecation.

## Defecation



- Gastrocolic reflex moves
  feces into rectum
- Stretch receptors signal sacral spinal cord
- Parasympathetic nerves contract muscles of rectum & relax internal anal sphincter
- External sphincter is voluntarily controlled

# **Defecation Problems**

- Diarrhea = chyme passes too quickly through intestine
  - H<sub>2</sub>0 not reabsorbed
- · Constipation -- decreased intestinal motility
  - too much water is reabsorbed
  - remedy = fiber, exercise and water

#### Clinical Concerns

- Colonoscoy is the visual examination of the lining of the colon using an elongated, flexible, fiberoptic endoscope.
- Occult blood test is to screen for colorectal cancer.

## PANCREAS

- The *pancreas* is divided into a *head*, *body*, and *tail* and is connected to the duodenum via the pancreatic duct (duct of Wirsung) and accessory duct (duct of Santorini).
- **Pancreatic islets** (*islets of Langerhans*) secrete hormones and **acini** secrete a mixture of fluid and digestive enzymes called pancreatic juice.



## Accessory organs of the GI Tract

#### Pancreas:

- Produces 1.2L to 1.5L of pancreatic juices daily.
- Pancreatic juice consists of a bicarbonate solution containing salts and digestive enzymes.
- Bicarbonate helps buffer acidic chyme from the stomach



# **Histology of the Pancreas**

- *Acinar cells:* Secrete pancreatic juice, a mixture of bicarbonate fluid and digestive enzymes.
- Islet of Langerhans: Alpha cells- glucagon Beta cells- insulin Delta cells- somatostatin F-cells- pancreatic polypeptide



## Neural and Hormonal Control of the Pancreas

#### Secretin:

acidity in intestine causes increased sodium bicarbonate release

#### GIP:

fatty acids & sugar causes increased insulin release

#### CCK:

fats and proteins cause increased digestive enzyme release



## LIVER AND GALLBLADDER

- The *liver* is the heaviest gland in the body and the second largest organ in the body after the skin.
- Anatomy of the Liver and Gallbladder
- The *liver* is divisible into left and right lobes, separated by the falciform ligament. Associated with the right lobe are the caudate and quadrate lobes.
- The *gallbladder* is a sac located in a depression on the posterior surface of the liver.

# **Histology of the Liver**

- The lobes of the liver are made up of *lobules* that contain *hepatic cells (liver cells* or *hepatocytes*), *sinusoids*, *stellate reticuloendothelial (Kupffer's) cells*, and a *central vein*.
- Bile is secreted by hepatocytes.
- Bile passes into bile canaliculi to bile ducts to the right and left hepatic ducts which unite to form the common hepatic duct.
- Common hepatic duct joins the cystic duct to form the common bile duct which enters the hepatopancreatic ampulla.



- Bile capillaries
- Hepatic ducts connect to form common hepatic duct
- Cystic duct from gallbladder & common hepatic duct join to form common bile duct
- Common bile duct & pancreatic duct empty into duodenum

## Accessory organs of the GI Tract



Produces .8L to 1.0L of bile per day - yellow-green in color & pH 7.6

- to 8.6
- Components
  - water & cholesterol
  - bile salts = Na & K salts of bile acids
  - bile pigments (bilirubin) from hemoglobin molecule
    - globin = a reuseable protein
    - heme = broken down into iron and bilirubin



### **Bile - Overview**

- Hepatic cells (hepatocytes) produce *bile* that is transported by a duct system to the gallbladder for concentration and temporary storage.
- Bile is partially an excretory product (containing components of worn-out red blood cells) and partially a digestive secretion.
- Bile's contribution to digestion is the emulsification of triglycerides.
- The fusion of individual crystals of cholesterol is the beginning of 95% of all *gallstones*. Gallstones can cause obstruction to the outflow of bile in any portion of the duct system. Treatment of gallstones consists of using gallstone-dissolving drugs, lithotripsy, or surgery.

### **Bile - Overview**

- The liver also functions in carbohydrate, lipid, and protein metabolism; removal of drugs and hormones from the blood; excretion of bilirubin; synthesis of bile salts; storage of vitamins and minerals; phagocytosis; and activation of vitamin D.
- In a liver biopsy a sample of living liver tissue is removed to diagnose a number of disorders.

## **Major Functions of the liver**

- 1. Carbohydrate metabolism: maintains blood sugar levels.
  - a. Low Sugars levels: (control- glucagon) *glycogenolysis* glycogen > glucose
  - b. High sugars levels: (control- insulin) glycogenesis glucose > glycogen
- 2. Lipid metabolism
  - a. Produce fats: *lipogenesis*
  - b. Break down fats: *lipolysis*, beta oxidation
  - c. Synthesize cholesterol
  - d. Stores triglycerides

## **Major Functions of the Liver**

#### 3. Protein metabolism:

a. Synthesize most plasma proteins such as clotting proteins

- b. Deaminate amino acid: remove NH2
- 4. Processes drugs, hormones, and alcohol
- 5. Excretes *bilirubin* (derived from the heme unit of recycled red blood cells)
- 6. Storage of Vitamins (A, B12, D, E, and K) and iron
- 7. *Phagocytosis* of aged red and white blood cells and some bacteria by Kupffer's (reticuloendothelial) cells
- 8. Activation of Vitamin D
- 9. Stores iron and copper

## Lobule: The Functional Unit of the Liver



## Hepatic Blood and Lobular Structure



# Histology of a lobule demonstrating the central vein



# Histology of a lobule demonstrating the hepatic triad

