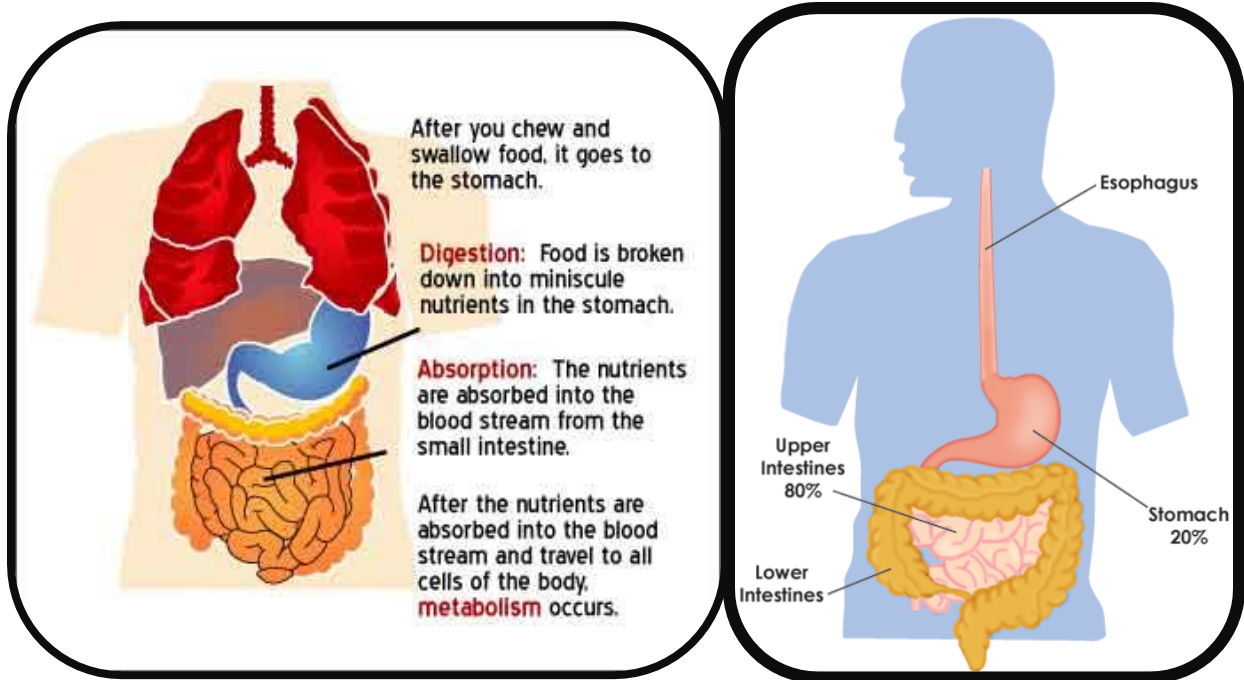
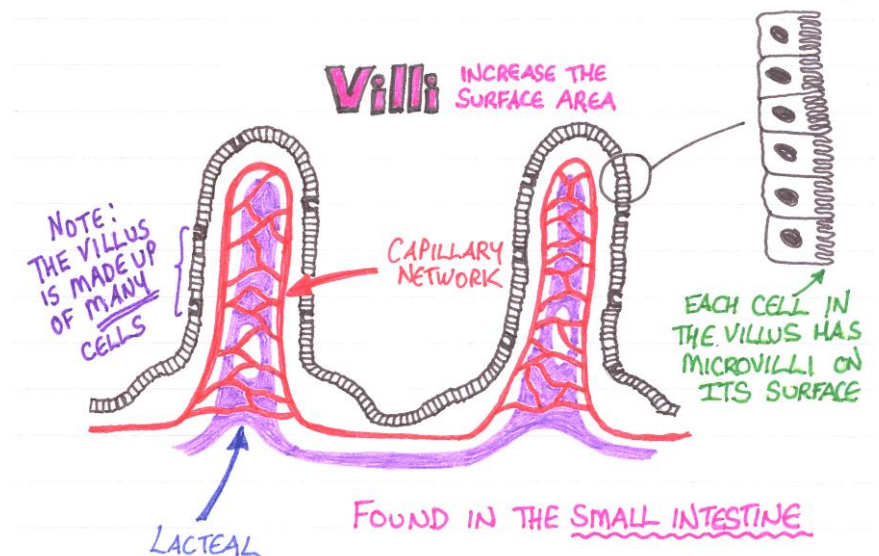


ABSORPTION

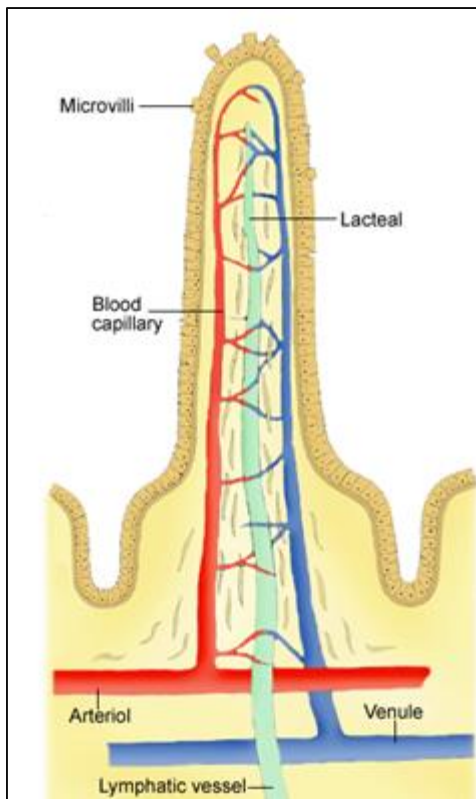


SMALL INTESTINE:

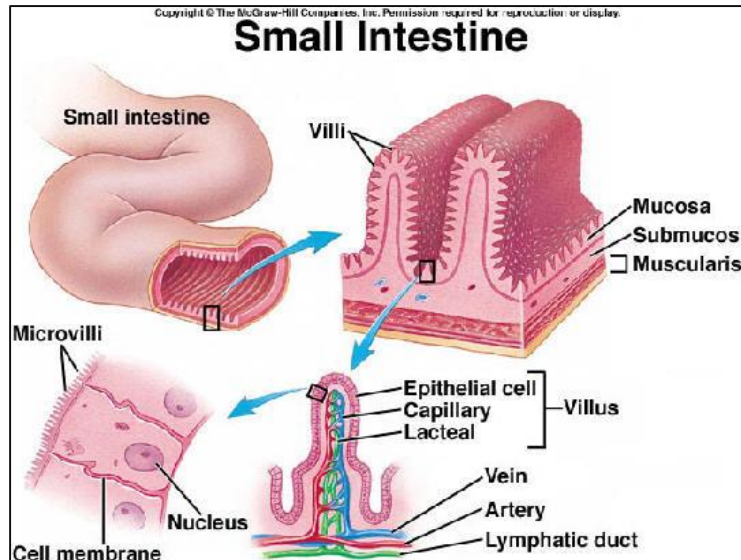
- The small intestine averages about 6 meters in length. It is the site of chemical digestion and nutrient absorption in the digestive tract.
- In order to absorb nutrients efficiently, the small intestine has an extremely large surface area. It has been suggested that the surface area is approximately that of a tennis court.
- This large surface area is due to the finger-like projections on the walls of the small intestine known as villi. These villi give the small intestine a soft, velvety appearance.
- Each villi is covered with millions of microscopic extensions called microvilli. The microvilli increase the surface area used for absorption even more.
- A villus contains blood capillaries and a small lymphatic capillary in the centre known as a lacteal.



U2: L3



- Sugars (carbohydrates) and amino acids (proteins) enter the blood capillaries of a villus.
- Glycerol and fatty acids (digested from fats) enter the outer epithelial cells of the villus and then enter the lacteal.
- After the nutrients are absorbed, they are eventually carried to the bloodstream.



LARGE INTESTINE:

- Does not produce digestive enzymes.
- Absorbs water, salts and some vitamins.
- Stores indigestible material until it is eliminated at the anus.

