

Gastrointestinal Tract Development

Endoderm → cell sheet → tubular gut

Lateral folding

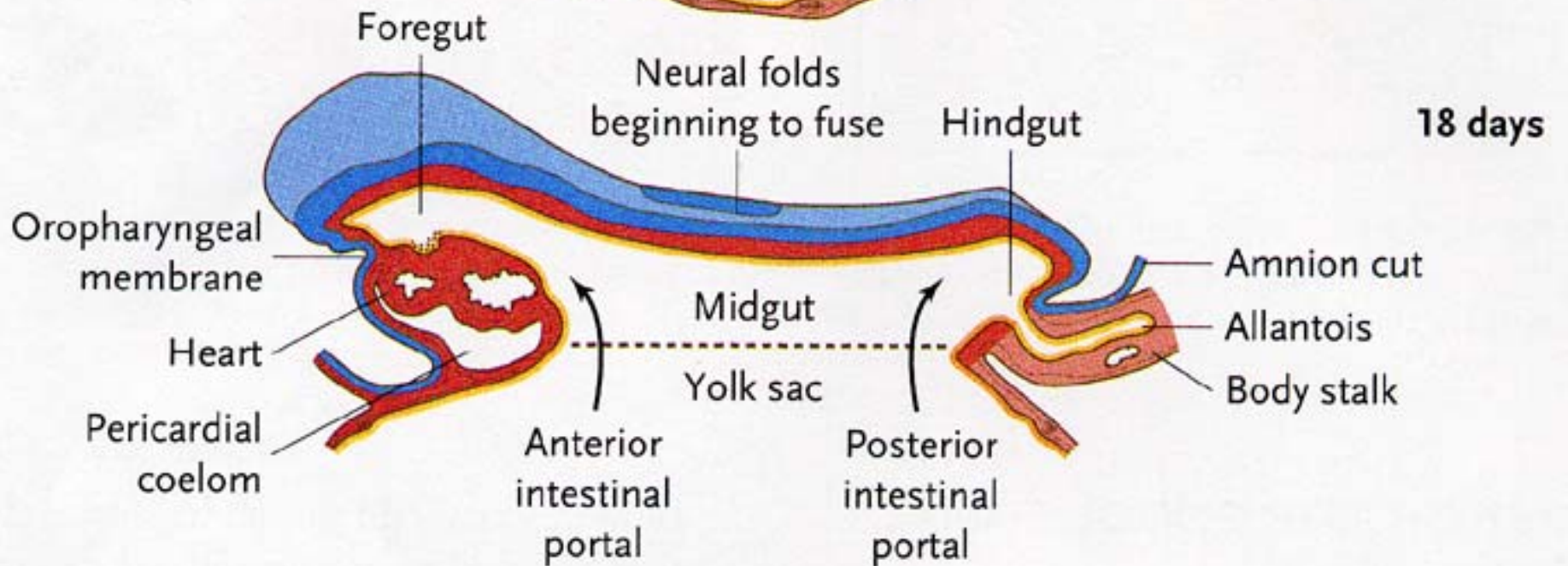
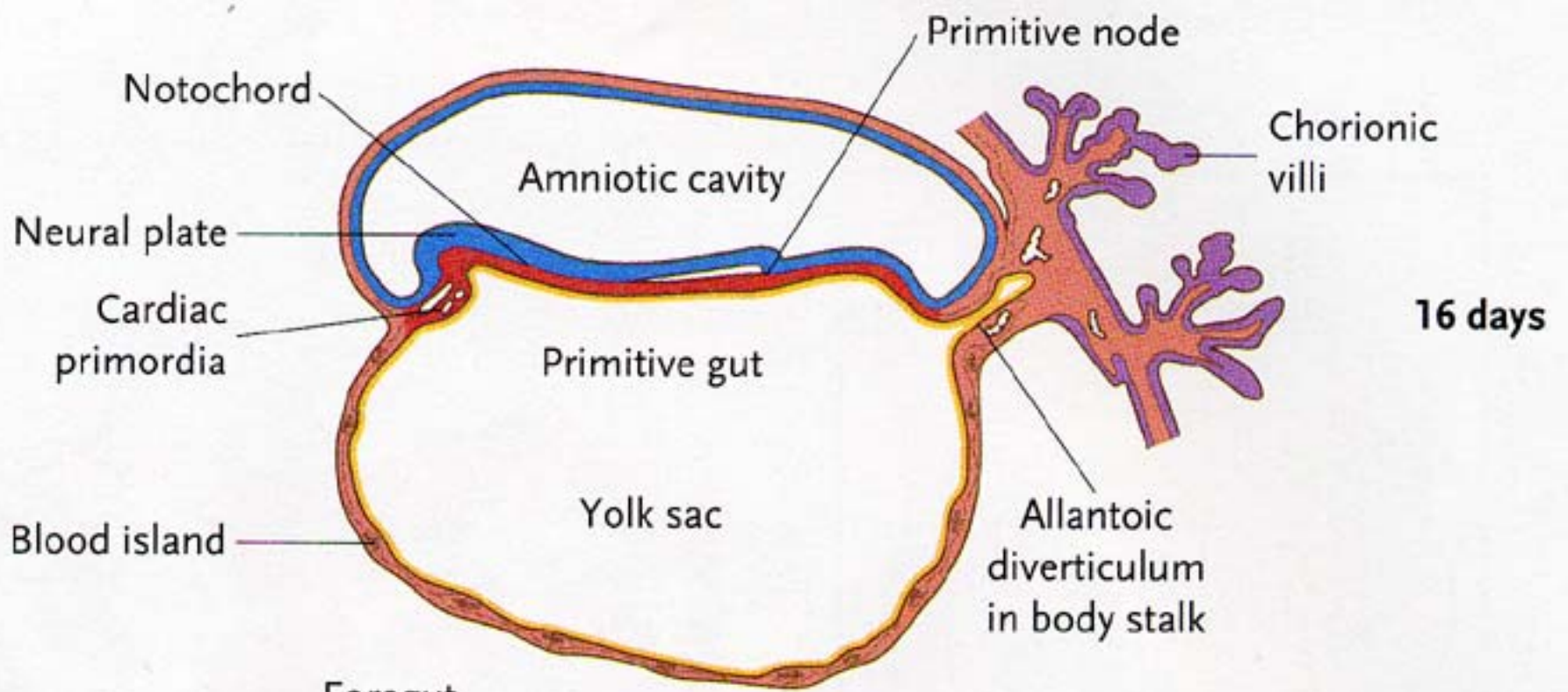
Ventral bending cranially → Head fold

Ventral bending caudally → Tail fold

Yolk sac is connected to the gut in the middle

Yolk stalk, omphalomesenteric duct, or vitelline duct

Yolk stalk is progressively delineated.



Embryonic Gut

Regions:

Foregut → Lateral fold and head fold

Hindgut → Lateral fold and tail fold

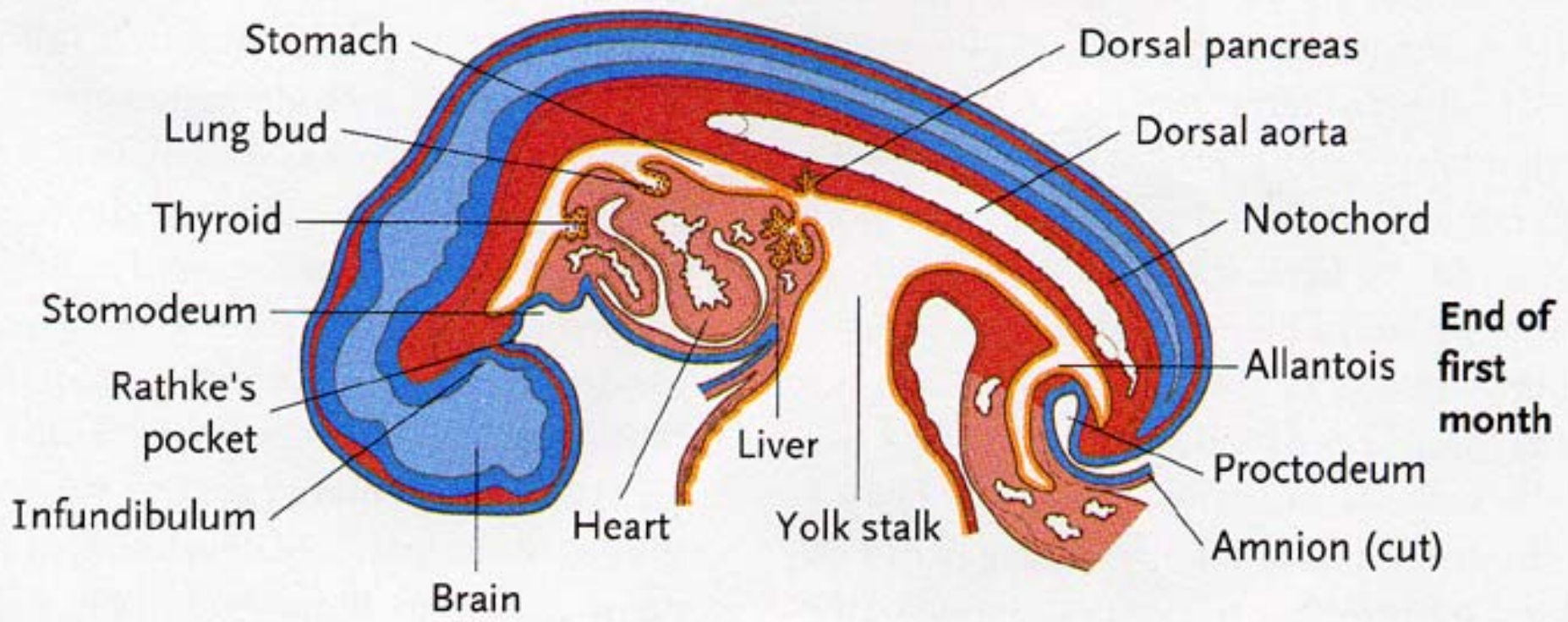
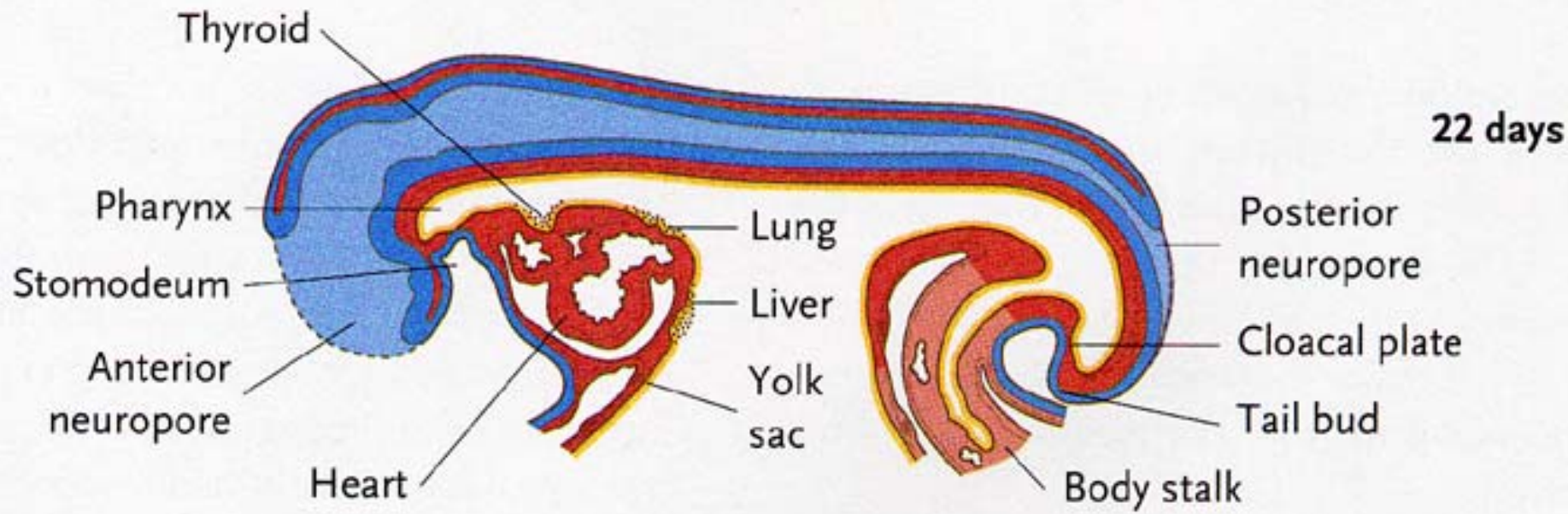
Midgut → Yolk Stalk Region

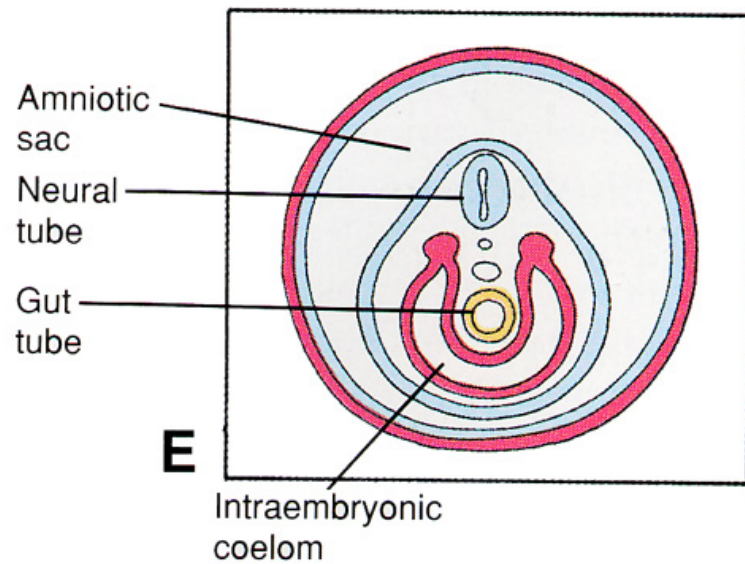
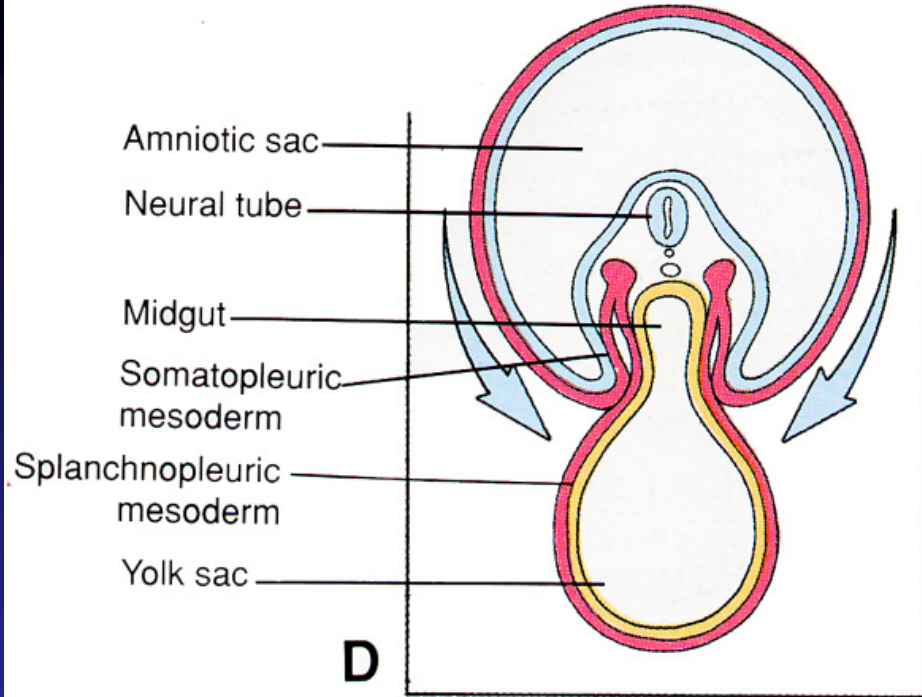
Anterior intestinal portal – foregut / midgut transition

Posterior intestinal portal - midgut / hindgut transition

Oropharyngeal membrane = ectoderm-endoderm bilayer separating stomodeum, future mouth – ectoderm lined, from the future pharynx – endoderm lined.

Cloacal plate or Proctodeal membrane = ectoderm-endoderm bilayer, separates the ectoderm lined proctodeum from the gut endoderm.





Embryonic Gut

Straight tube suspended by the dorsal mesentery

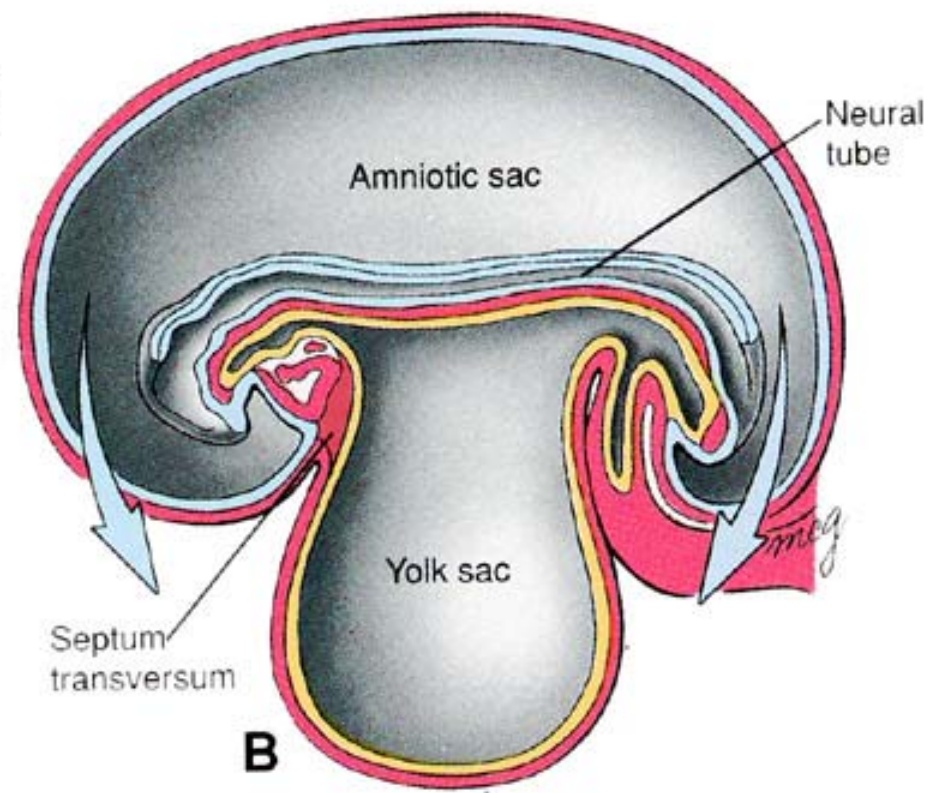
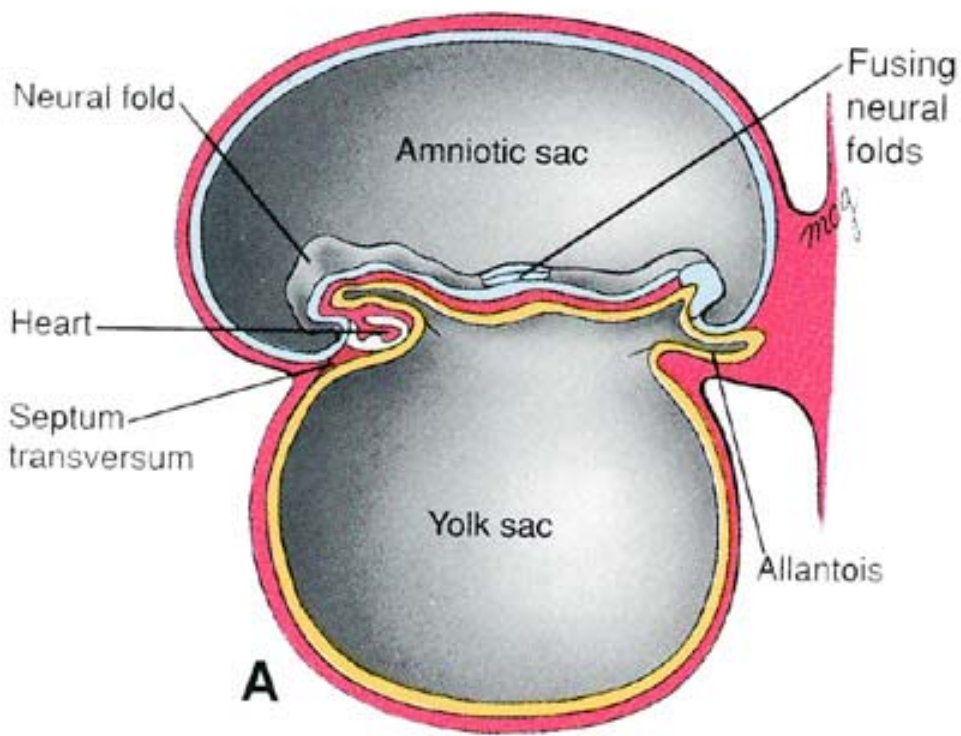
Only ventral connection is the transverse septum
level of stomach and cranial duodenum.

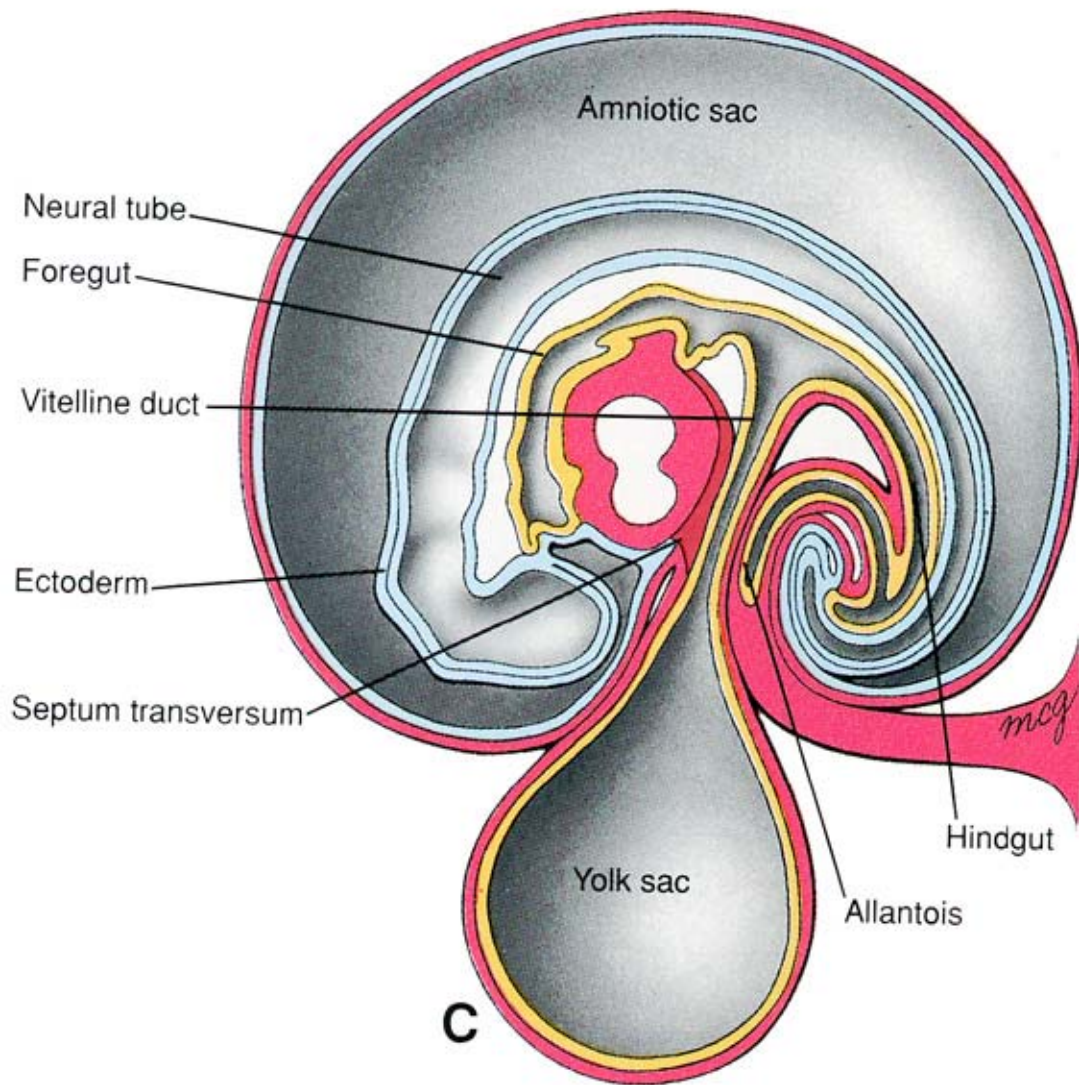
Transverse septum - mesoderm initially between developing heart
and the cranial margin of the embryonic disc

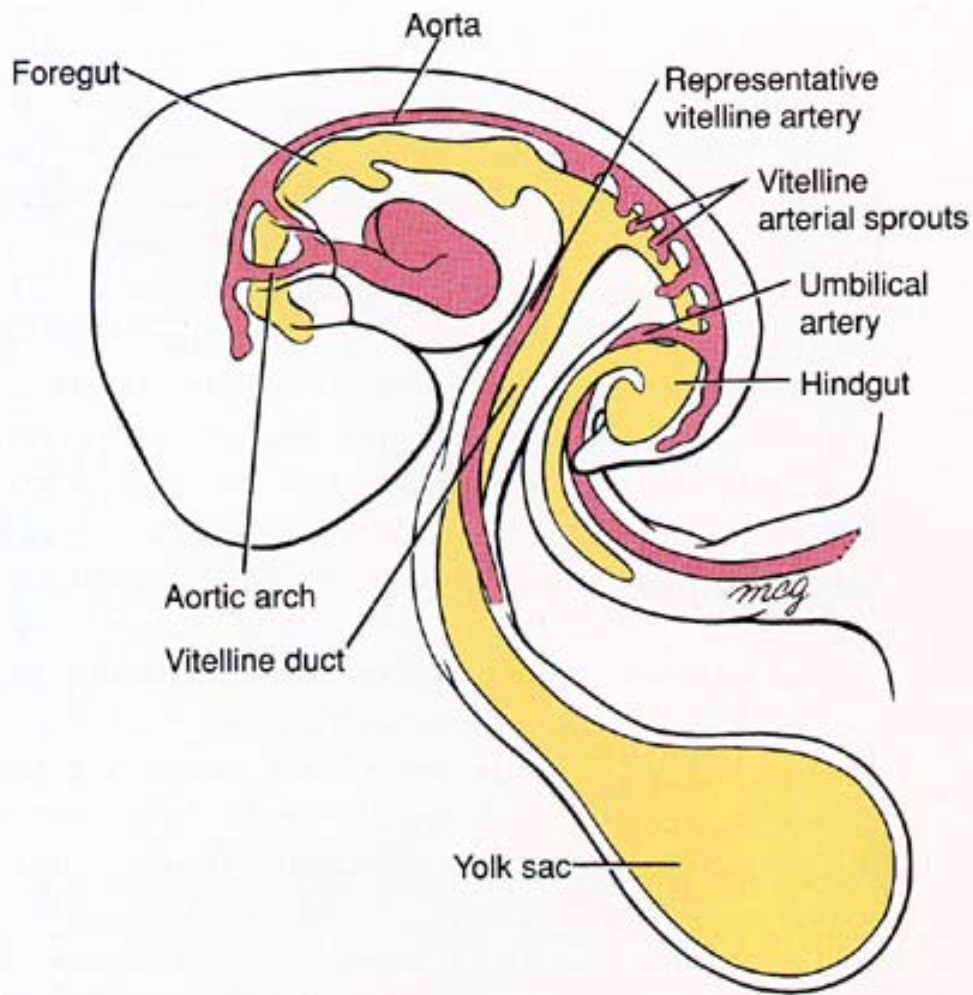
Cranial flexure displaces the transverse septum between the heart
and the yolk sac –

Forming the initial partition separating the thoracic and
abdominal cavities → part of the diaphragm

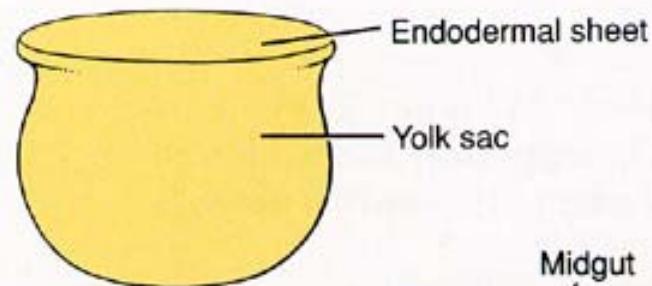
Hindgut – evagination is the allantois



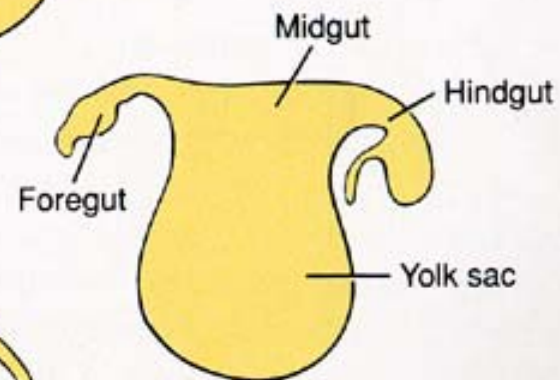




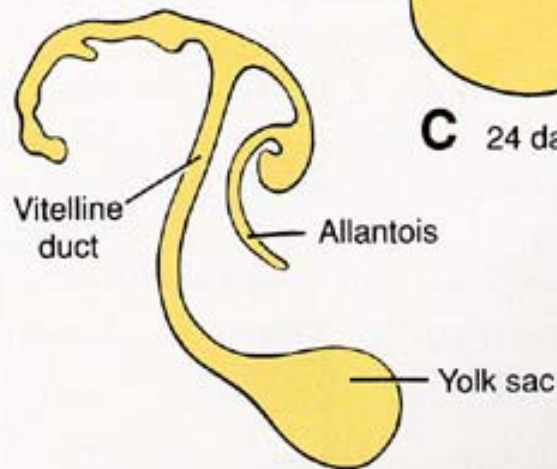
A 26 days



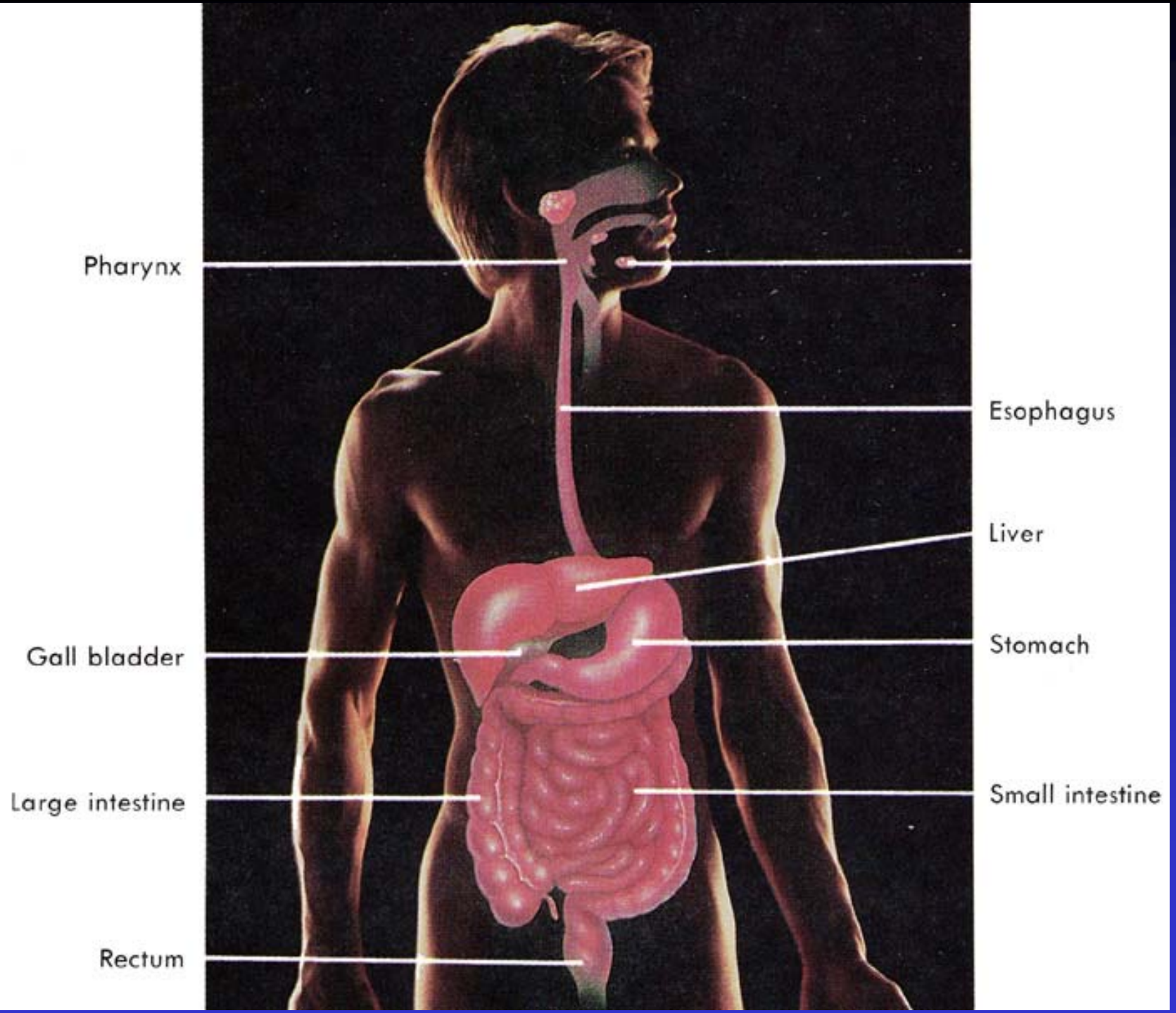
B 20 days



C 24 days



D 26 days



Pharynx

Esophagus

Liver

Gall bladder

Stomach

Large intestine

Small intestine

Rectum

Foregut Derivatives

Oropharyngeal membrane (cranial end)

Pharynx (derivatives of the pharyngeal pouches, tongue, thyroid gland)

Thoracic esophagus (lung buds)

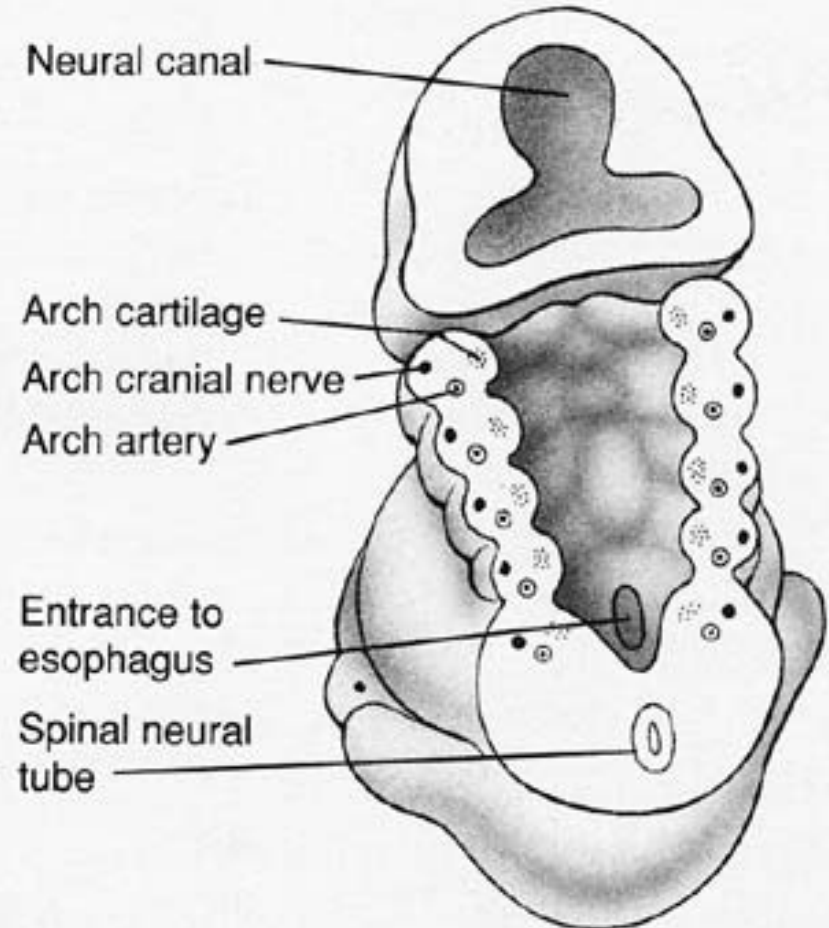
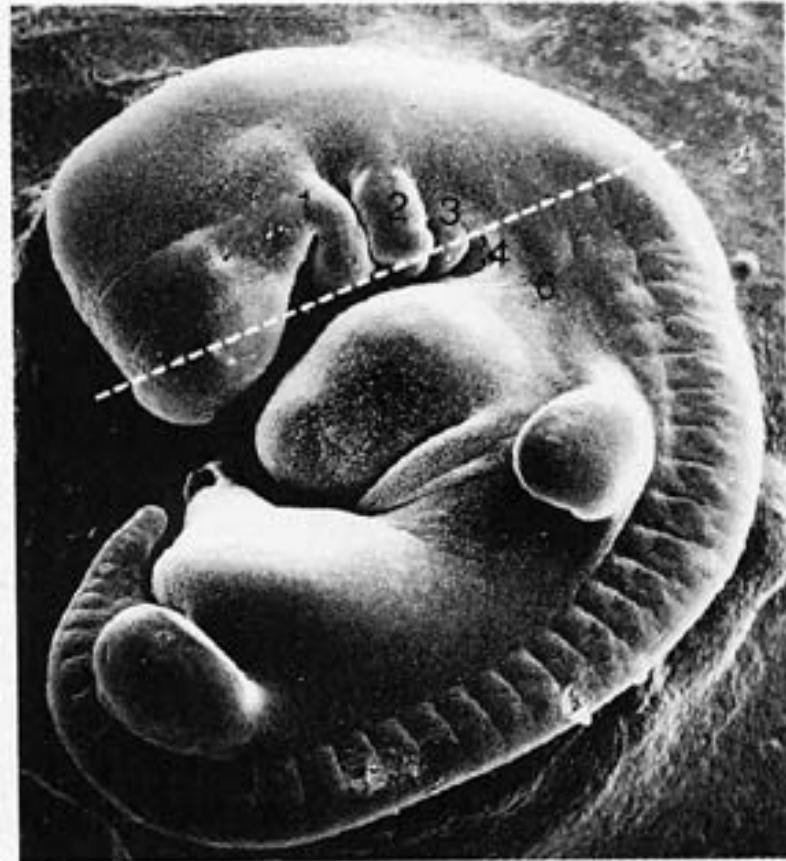
Abdominal esophagus

Stomach

Cranial half of duodenum (liver, gallbladder, pancreas)

Caudal end = Ampulla of Vater (common bile and pancreatic ducts drain into gut)

Pharynx



Pharyngeal:

Pouches (endoderm); Grooves (ectoderm); Arches (mesoderm)

Pharyngeal Pouches

Pharyngeal Pouch #1 – Caudal to Arch #1

Auditory tube (Eustachian tube), tympanic cavity

Pharyngeal Pouch #2 – Caudal to Arch #2

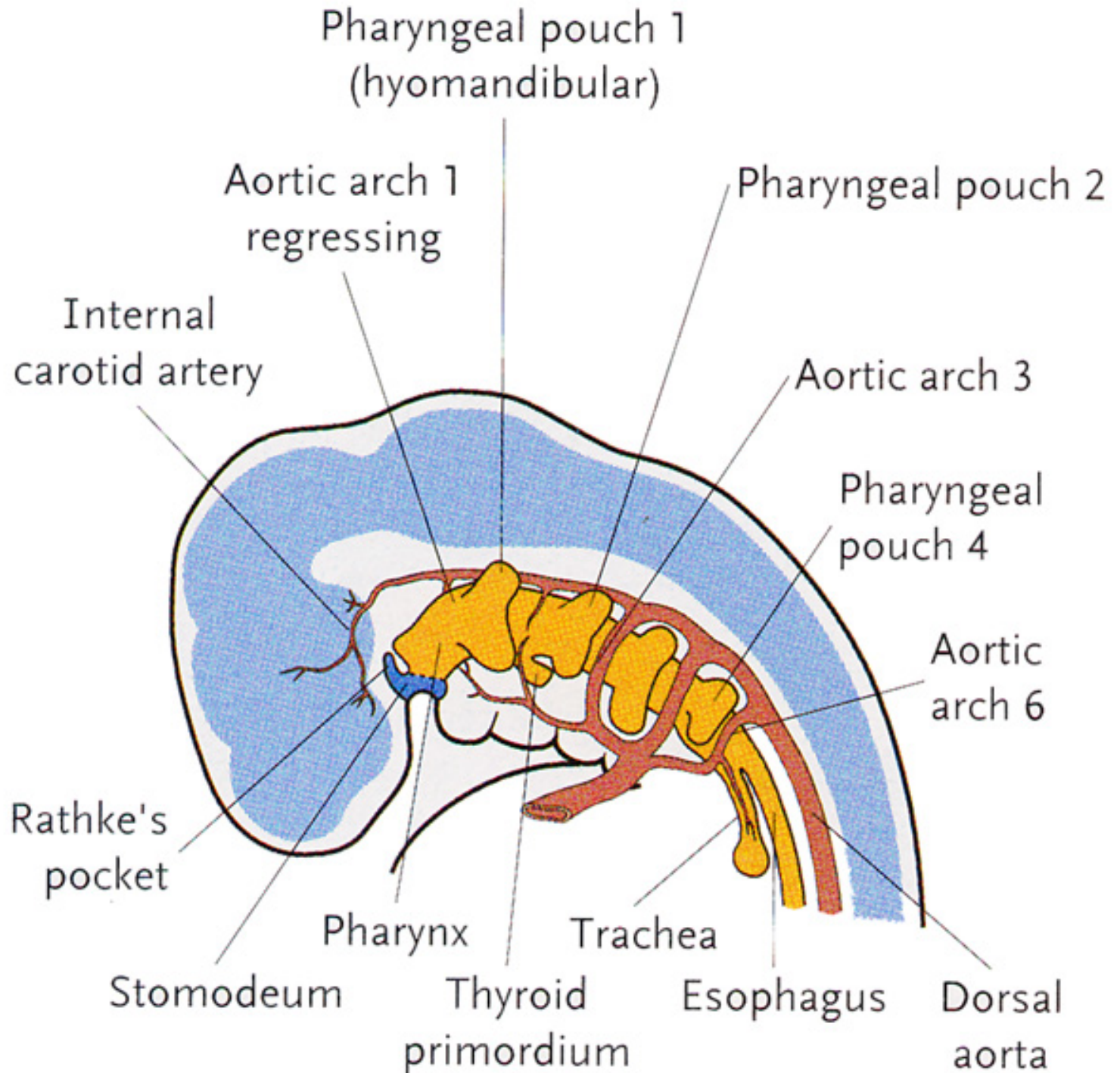
Supratonsillar fossae associated with **Palatine tonsils**

Pharyngeal Pouch #3 – Caudal to Arch #3

Inferior parathyroid, Thymus

Pharyngeal Pouch #4 – Caudal to Arch #4

Superior parathyroids, Postbranchial body



Tongue

Lateral Lingual Swellings – paired lateral swellings from the 1st pharyngeal arch (ventral)

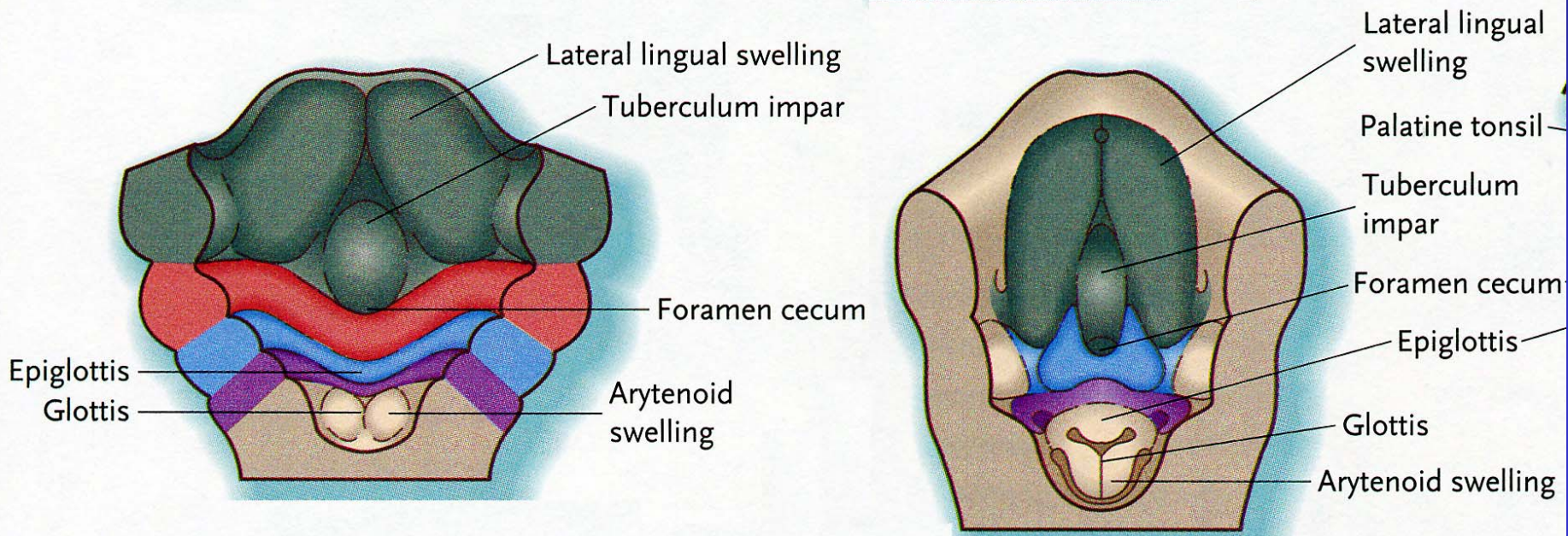
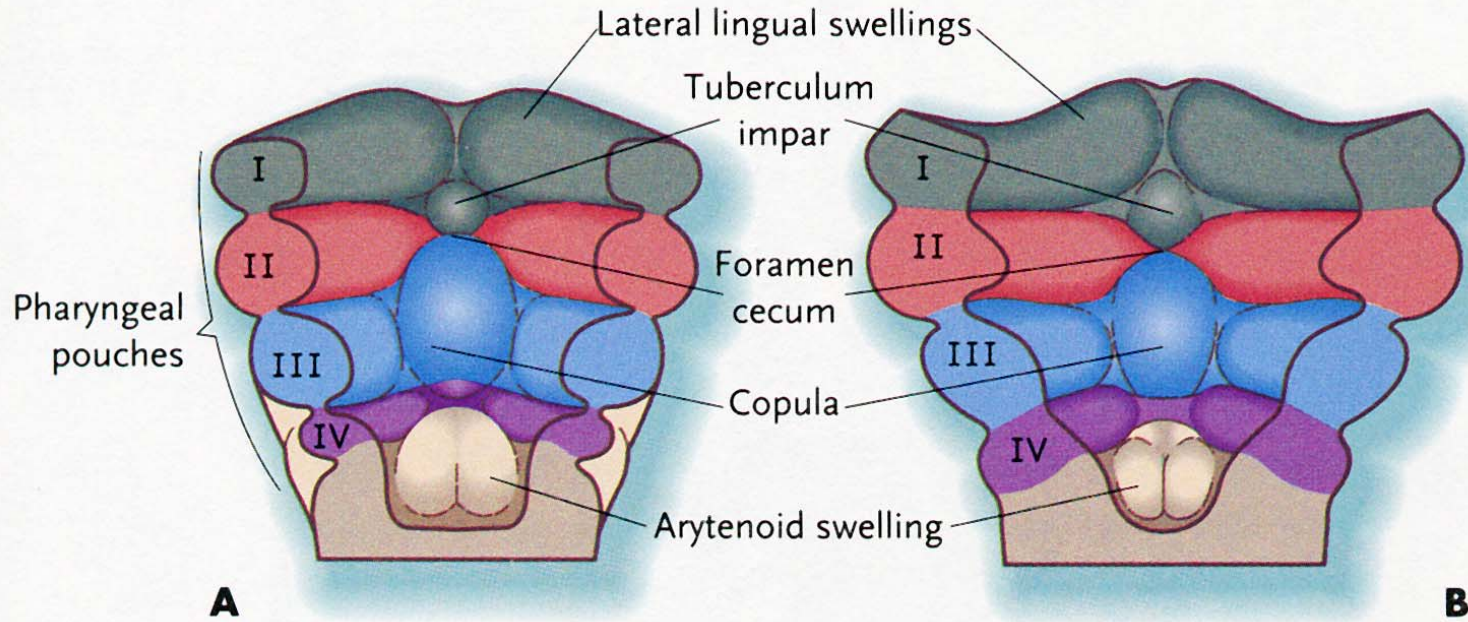
2 unpaired medial swellings from the ventral midline of the pharynx
Tuberculum impar
Copula

Contribution from the 3rd and 4th pharyngeal arches

Oral Tongue (anterior 2/3) forms from the expansion of lateral swellings and the tuberculum impar - median sulcus of the tongue is the site of midline fusion

Base of the tongue is formed from the copula with contribution from the 3rd and 4th pharyngeal arches

The epiglottis forms from a swelling caudal to the copula



Thyroid Gland

Thyroid Diverticulum

Midventral thickening, between Pharyngeal Pouch 1 and 2 (base of the tongue)

Single outgrowth elongates in a caudal direction

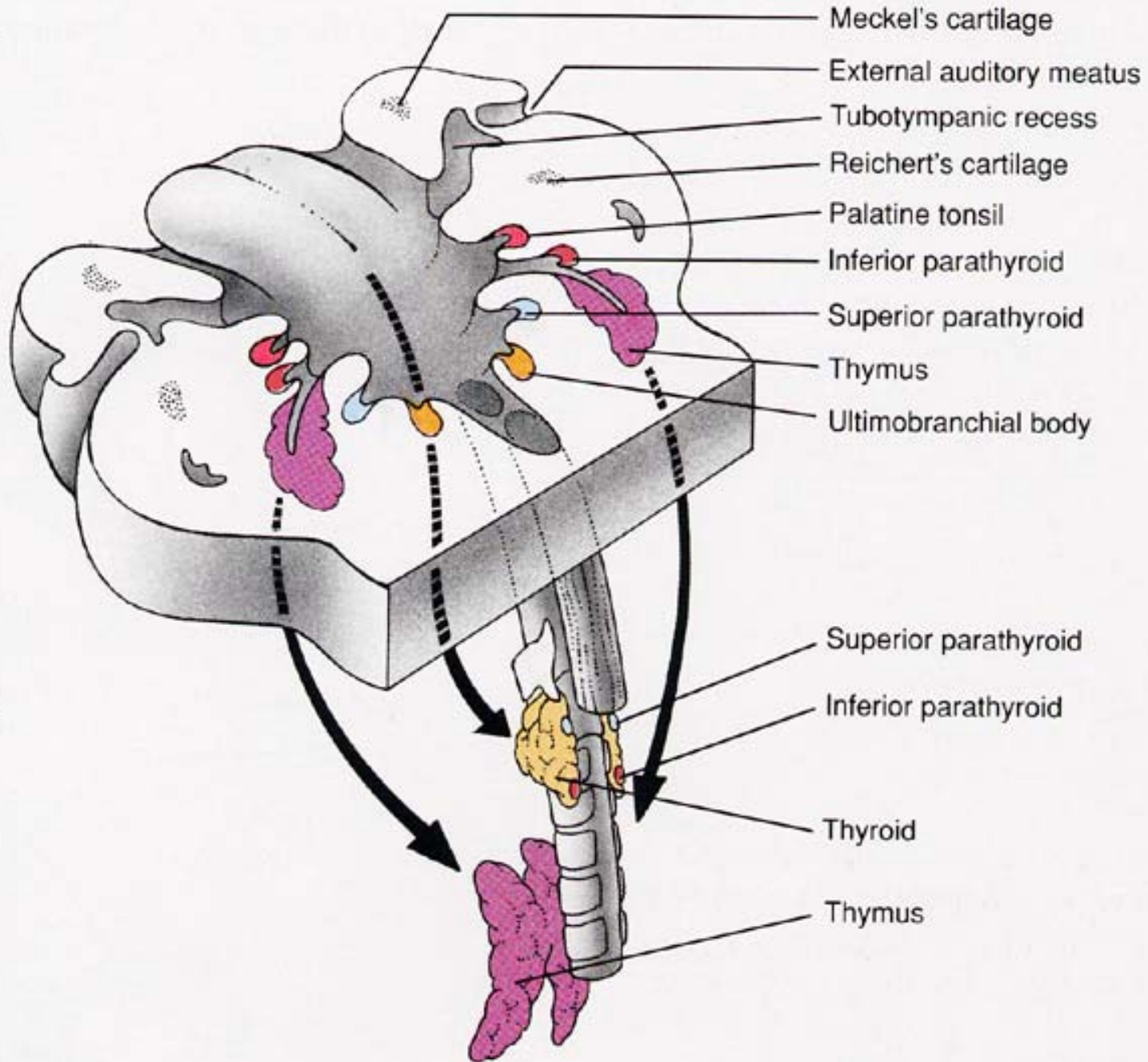
Bifurcates to form the bi-lobed Thyroid gland

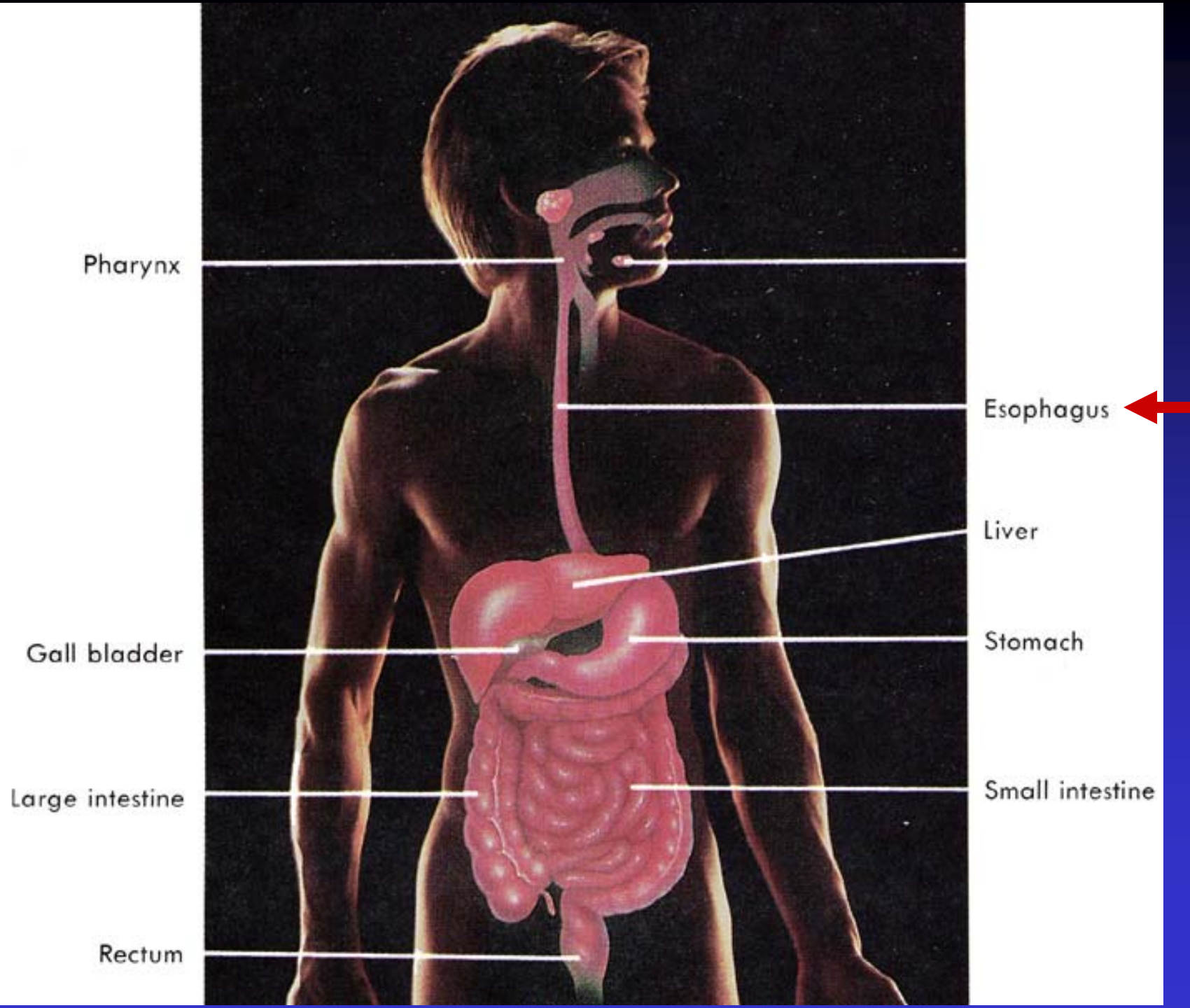
The connection – thyroglossal duct regresses about week 7

The site of the thyroid diverticulum persists as the foramen cecum – between the tuberculum impar and the copula

Late 5th week

7th week





Esophagus

Thoracic Esophagus buds off the lung buds → Respiratory Tract

Abdominal Esophagus – abruptly narrows – extends to the Stomach

Differentiation of Epithelium:

7th – 8th Week – epithelium is stratified columnar,

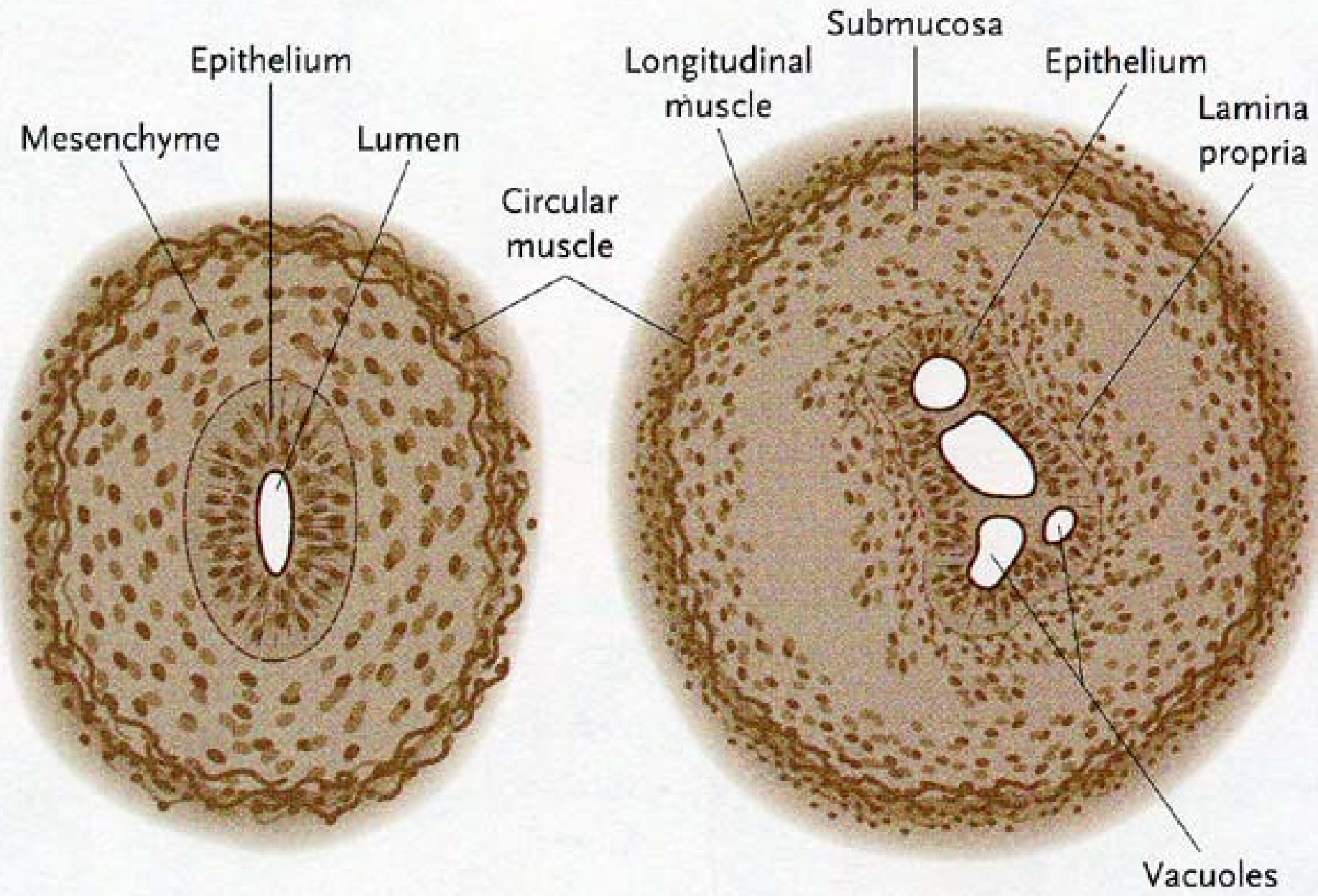
Lumen becomes partially occluded

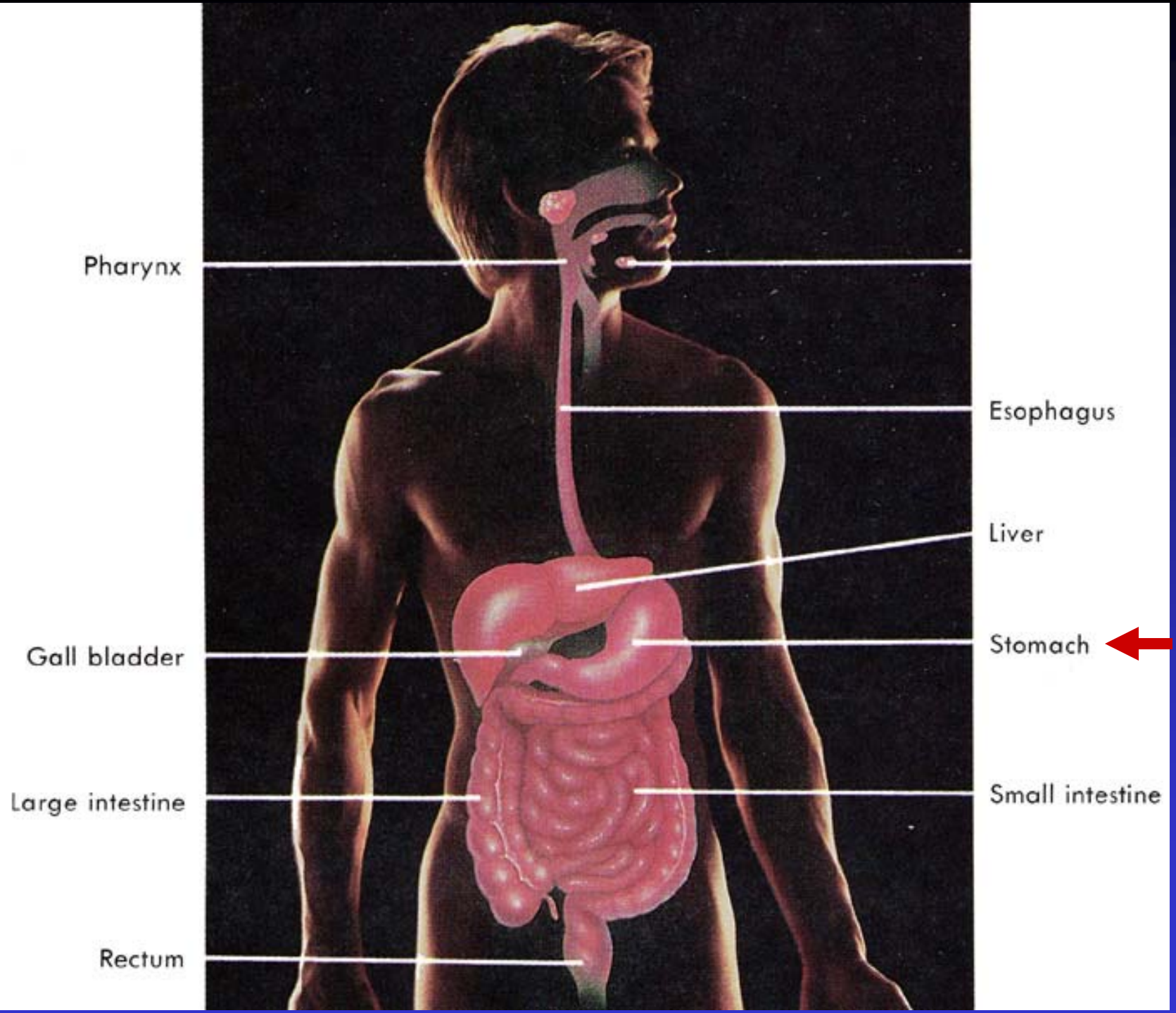
Appearance of large vacuoles

Vacuoles coalesce – recanalization

12th Week - Epithelium is multilayered and ciliated

16th Week – Stratified squamous epithelium





Pharynx

Esophagus

Liver

Gall bladder

Stomach

Large intestine

Small intestine

Rectum

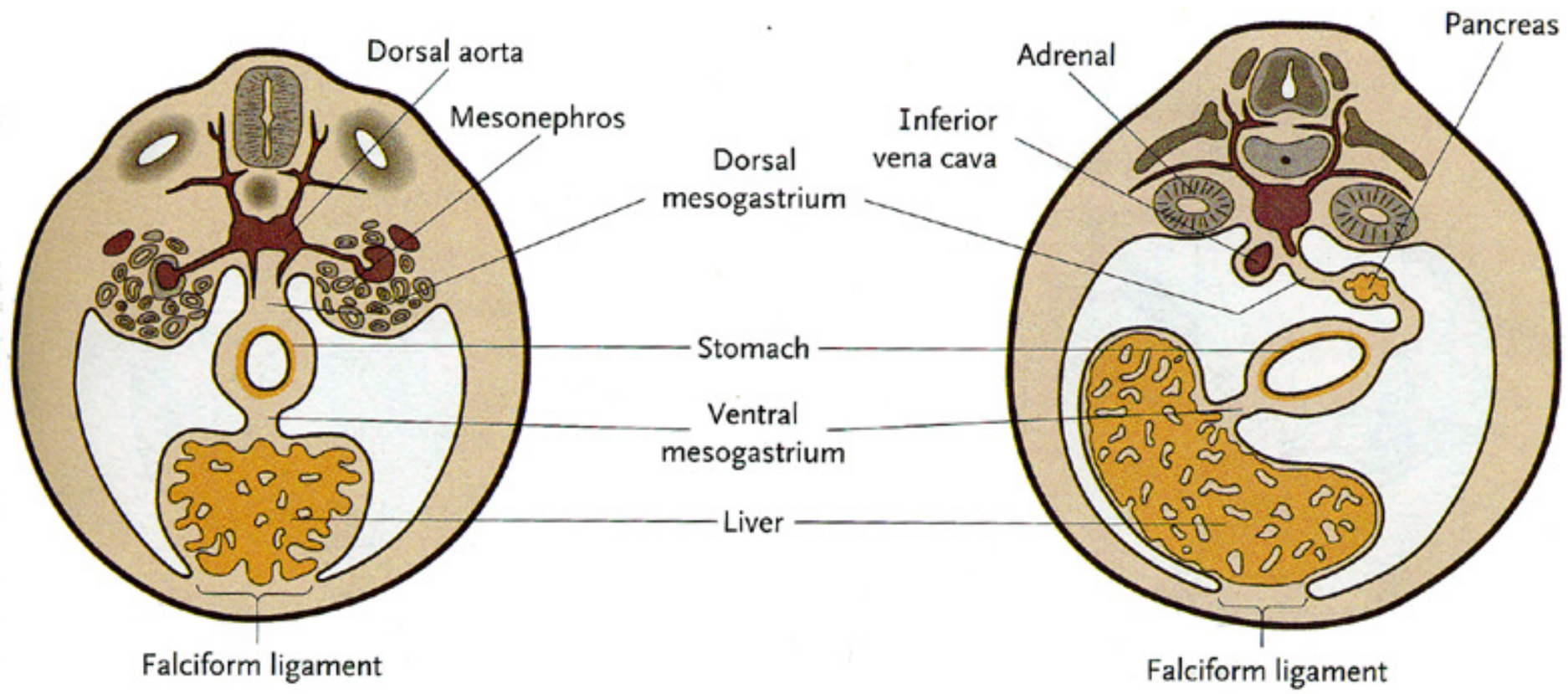
Stomach

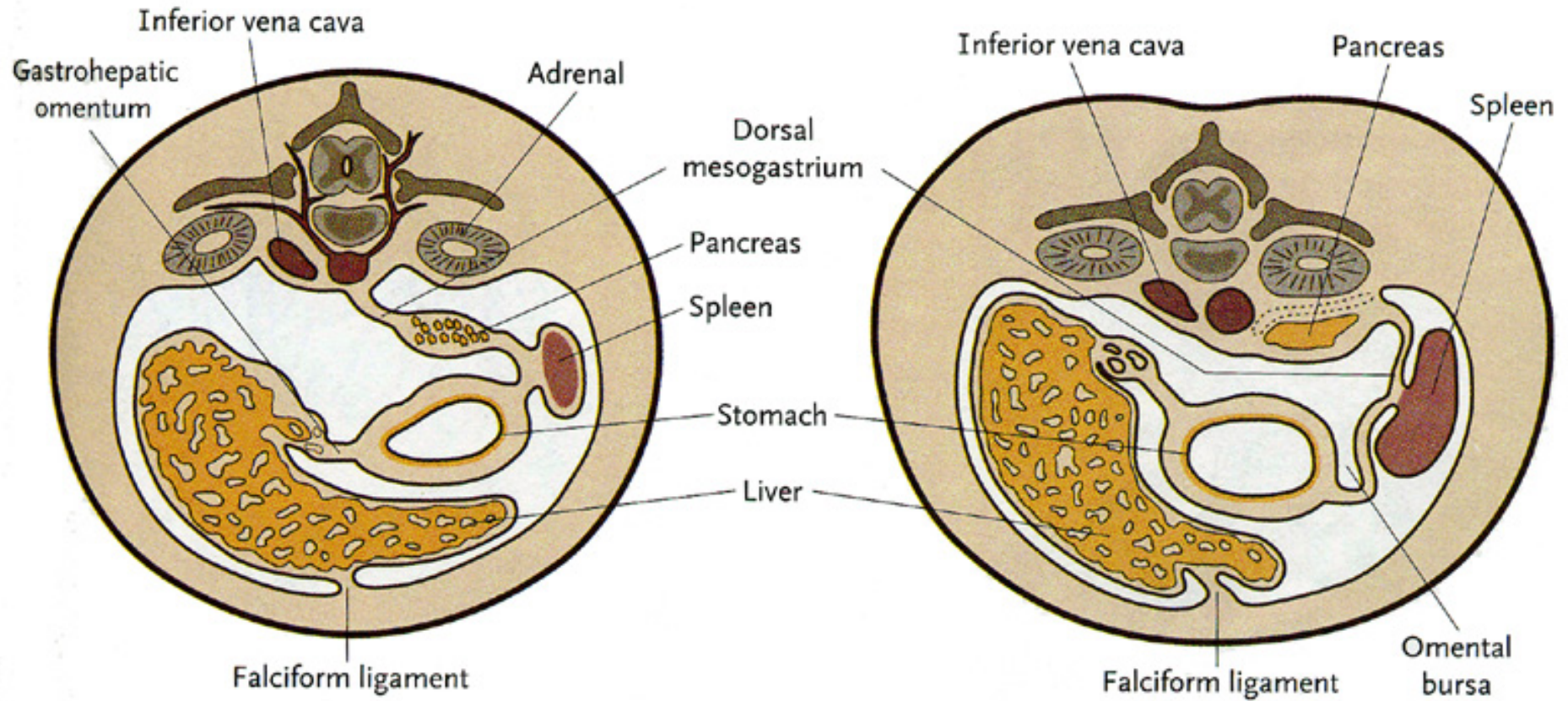
Stomach - initially symmetrical and fusiform (spindle)

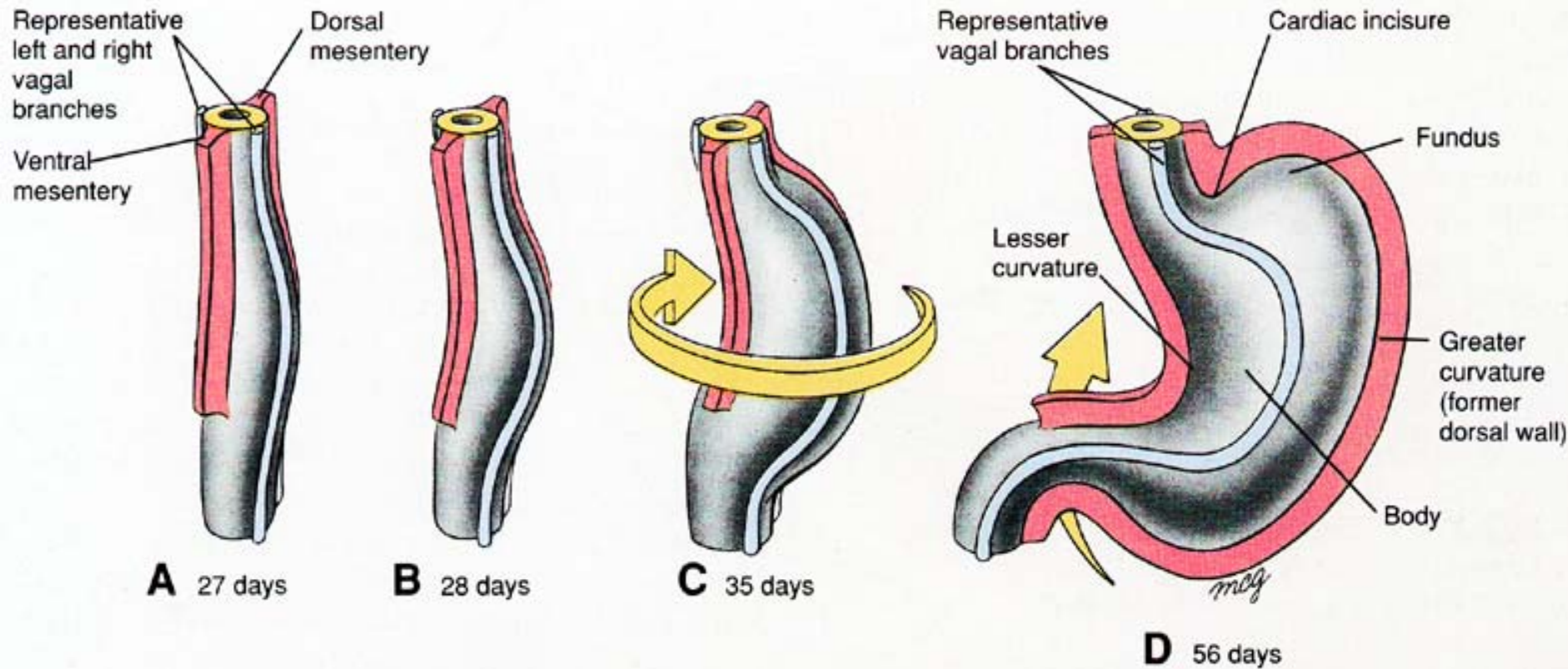
Differential growth - dorsal $>$ ventral - creates the Greater curvature of the stomach (dorsal side) and Lesser curvature (ventral side)

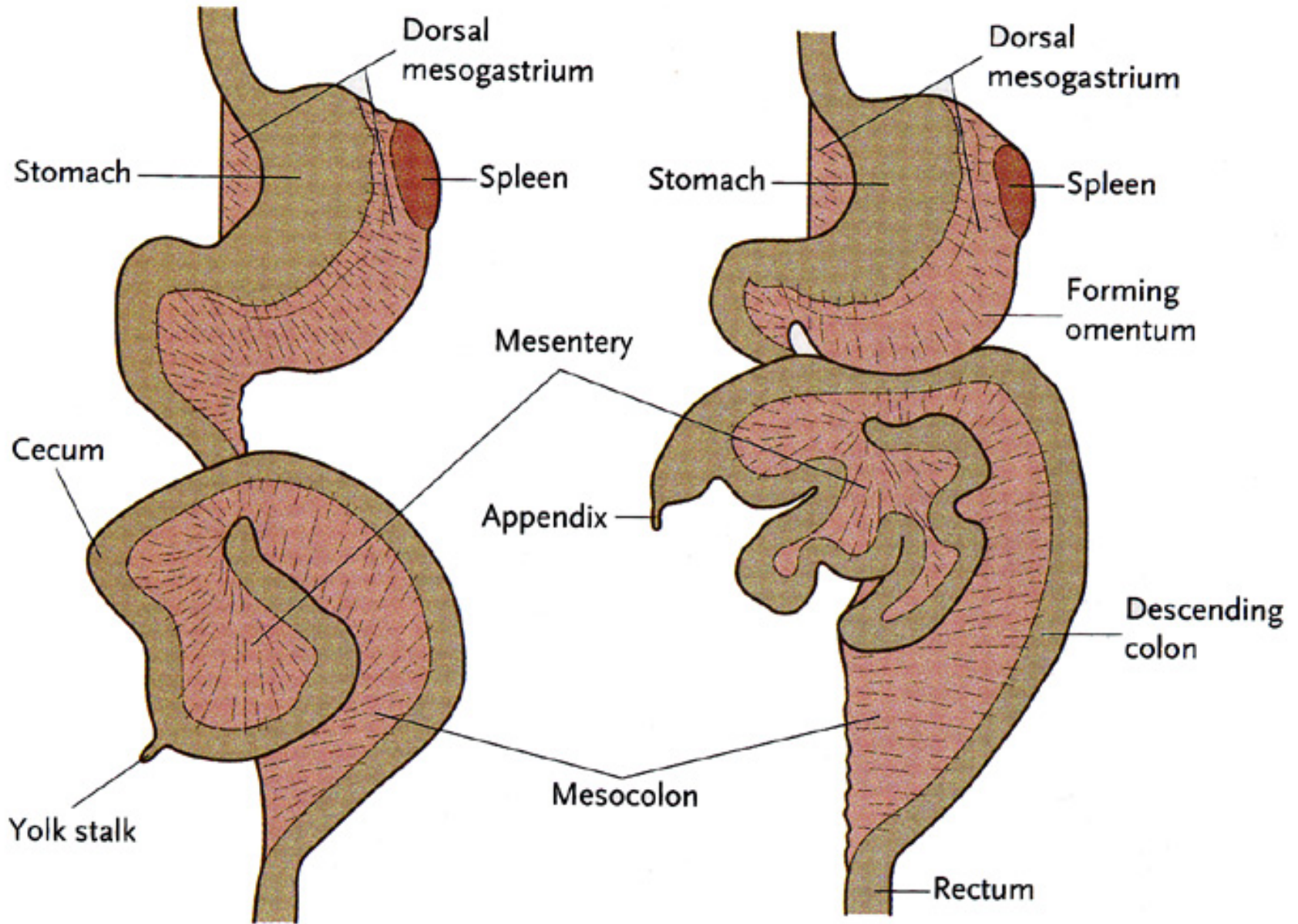
90° rotation of the stomach around craniocaudal axis
greater curvature is to the left and caudal
lesser curvature is to the right and cranial

Dorsal mesogastrium (dorsal mesentery) – differential growth is responsible for the rotation. Dorsal mesogastrium becomes the greater omentum

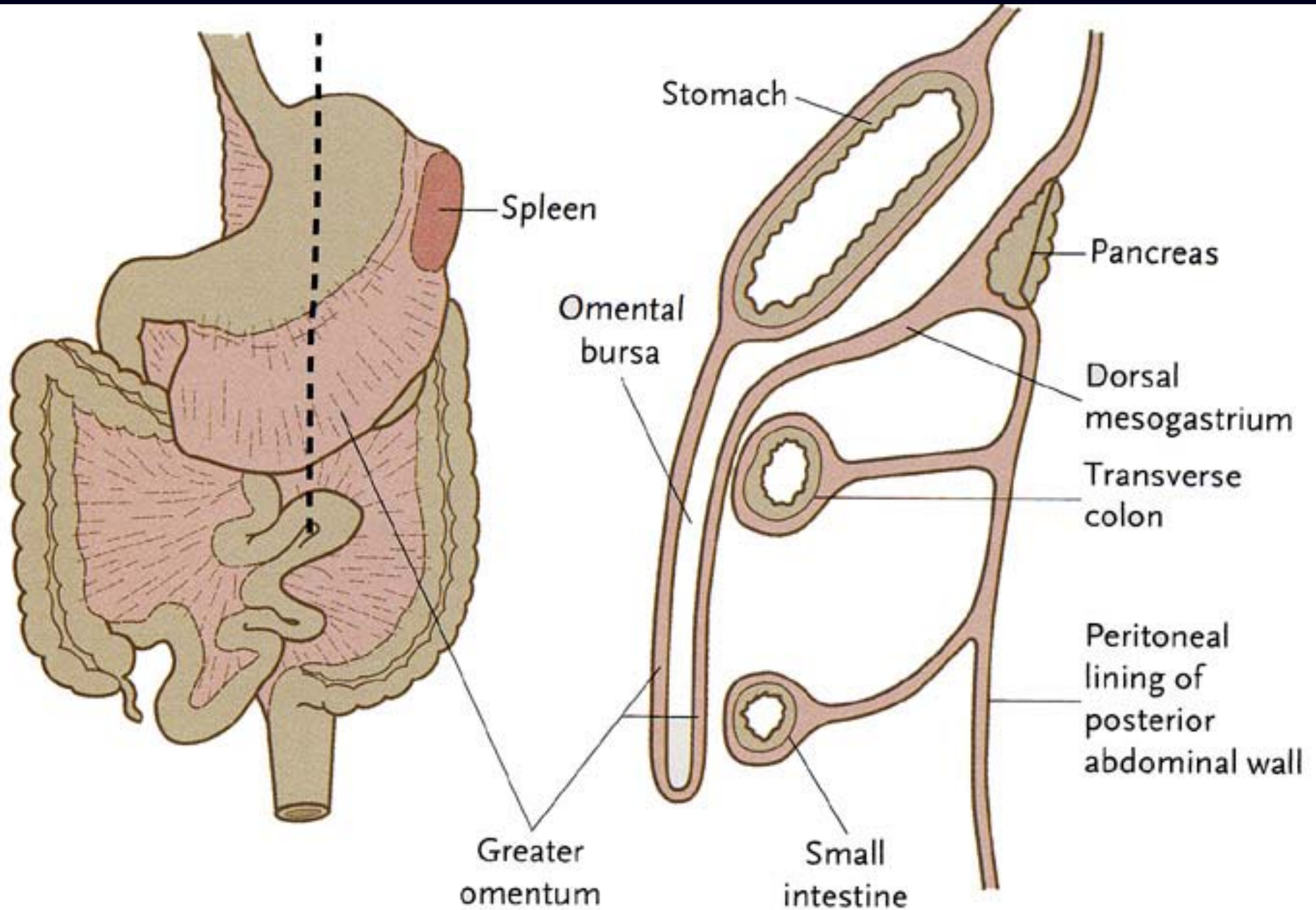


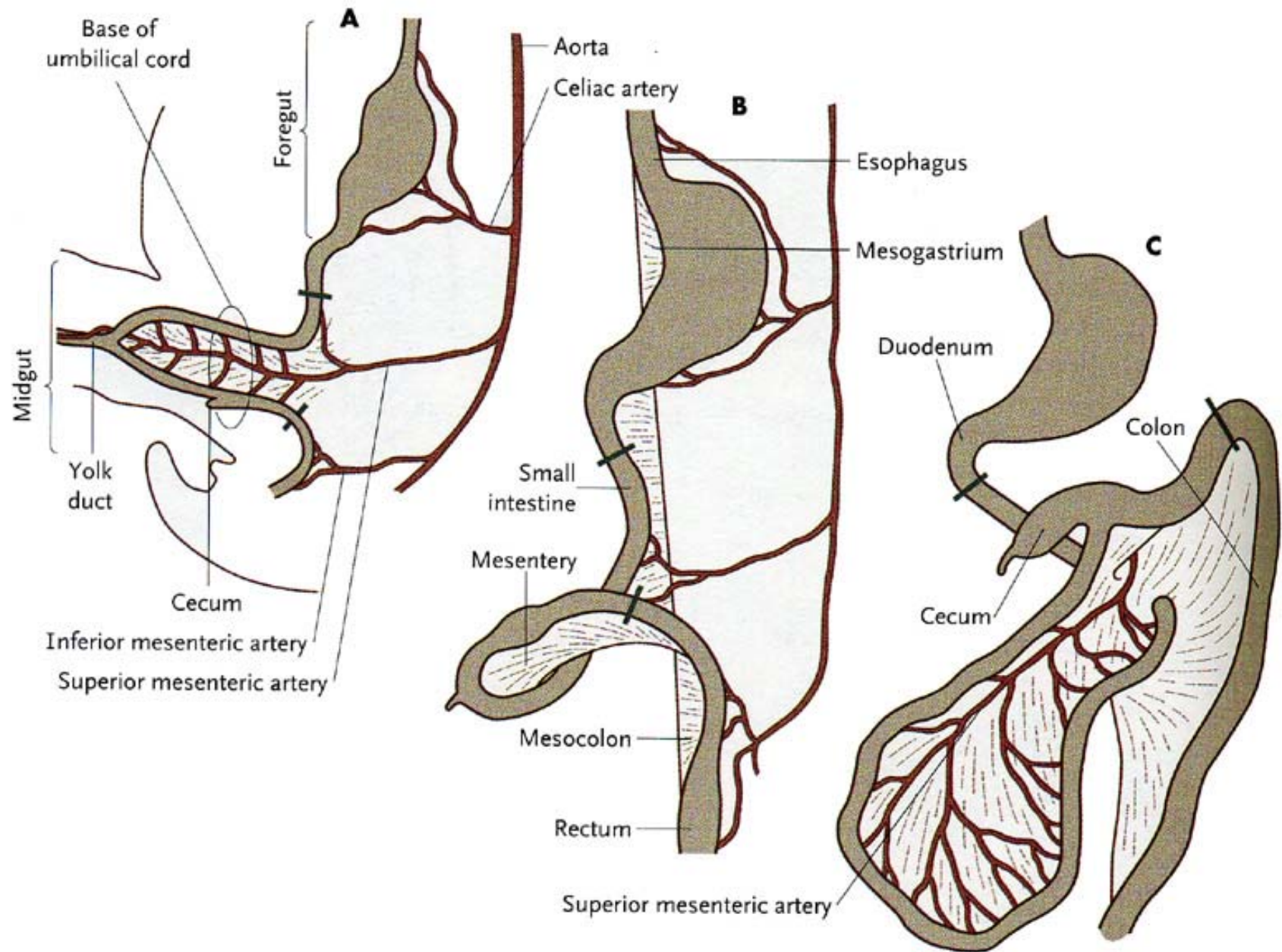




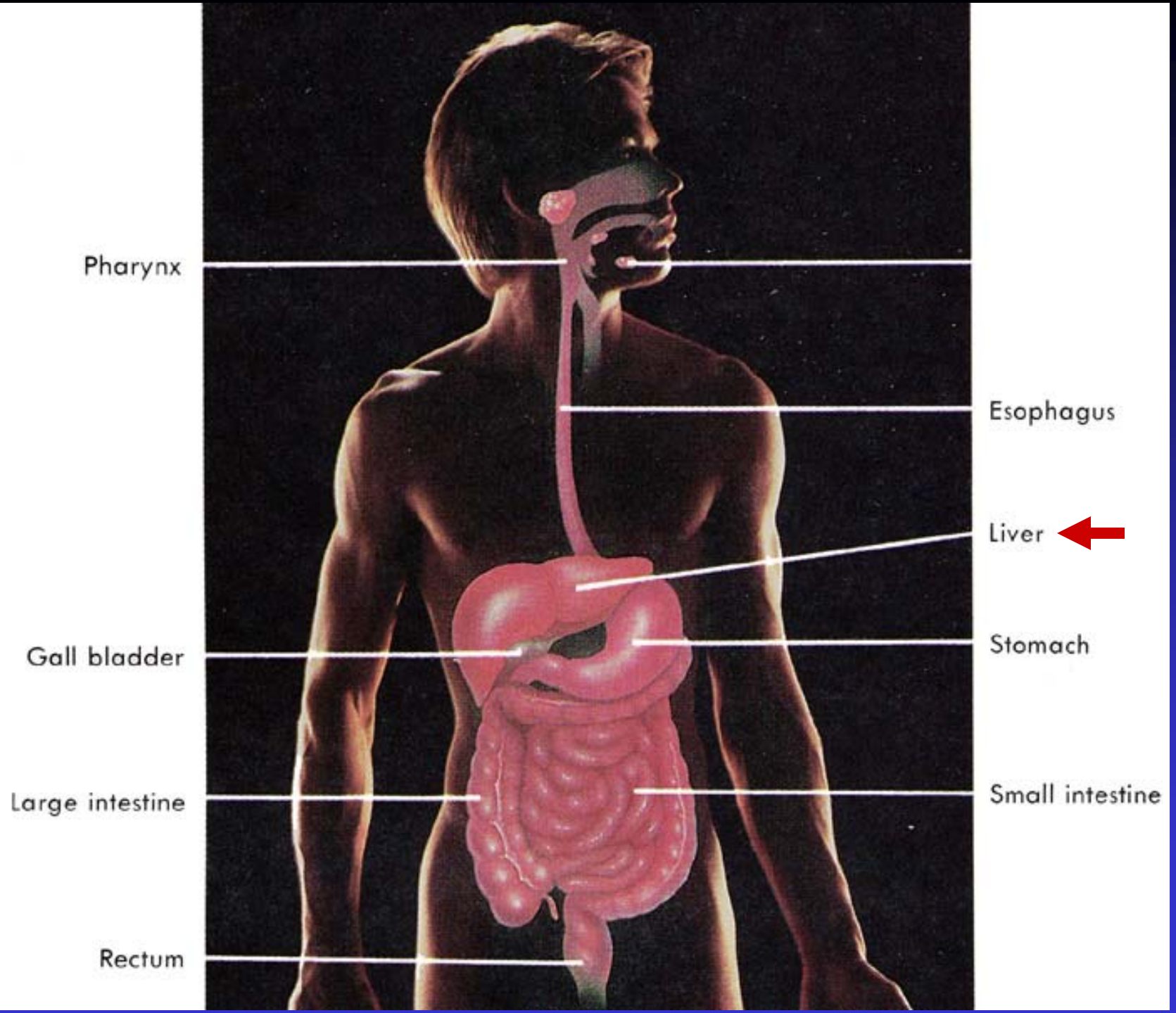


Dorsal mesogastrium becomes the greater omentum





Stomach rotation moves the duodenum to the left and cranially



Pharynx

Esophagus

Liver



Gall bladder

Stomach

Large intestine

Small intestine

Rectum

Liver is Derived from the Duodenum

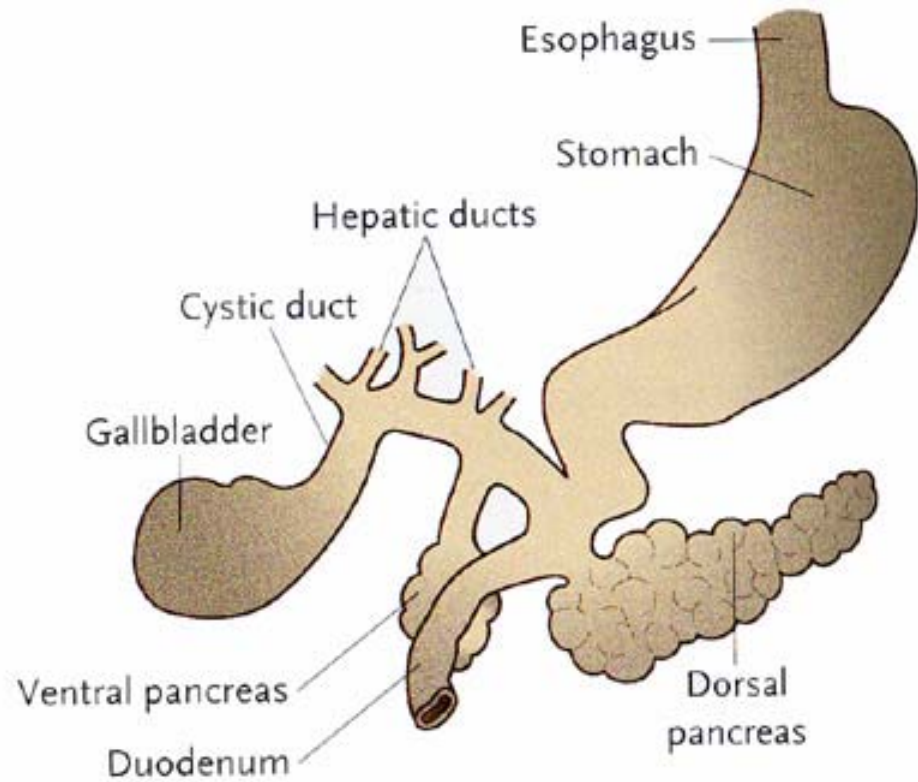
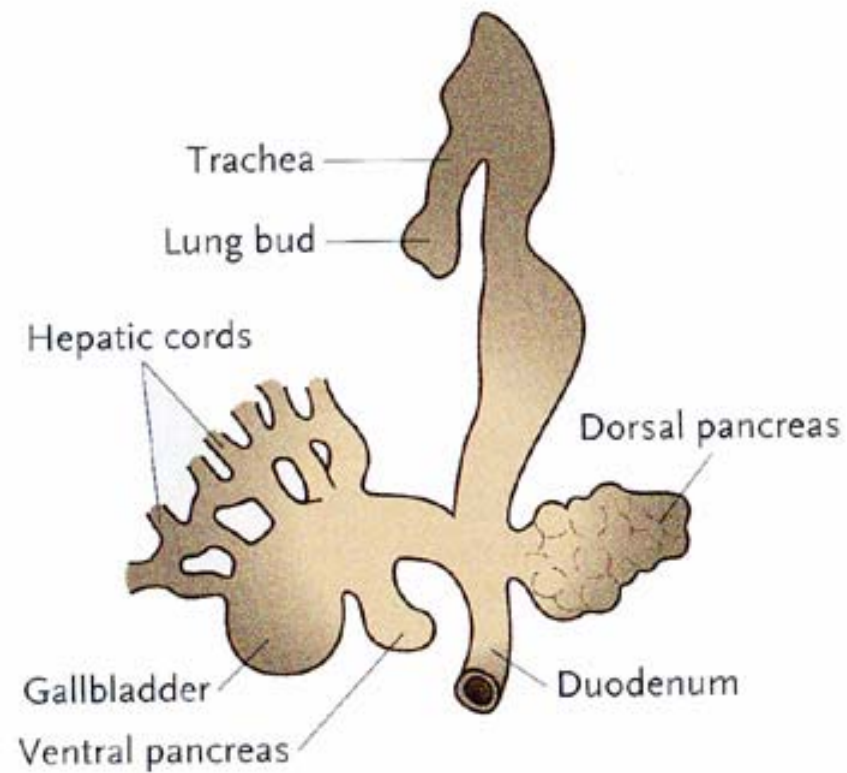
Endodermal thickening – ventral side of Duodenum

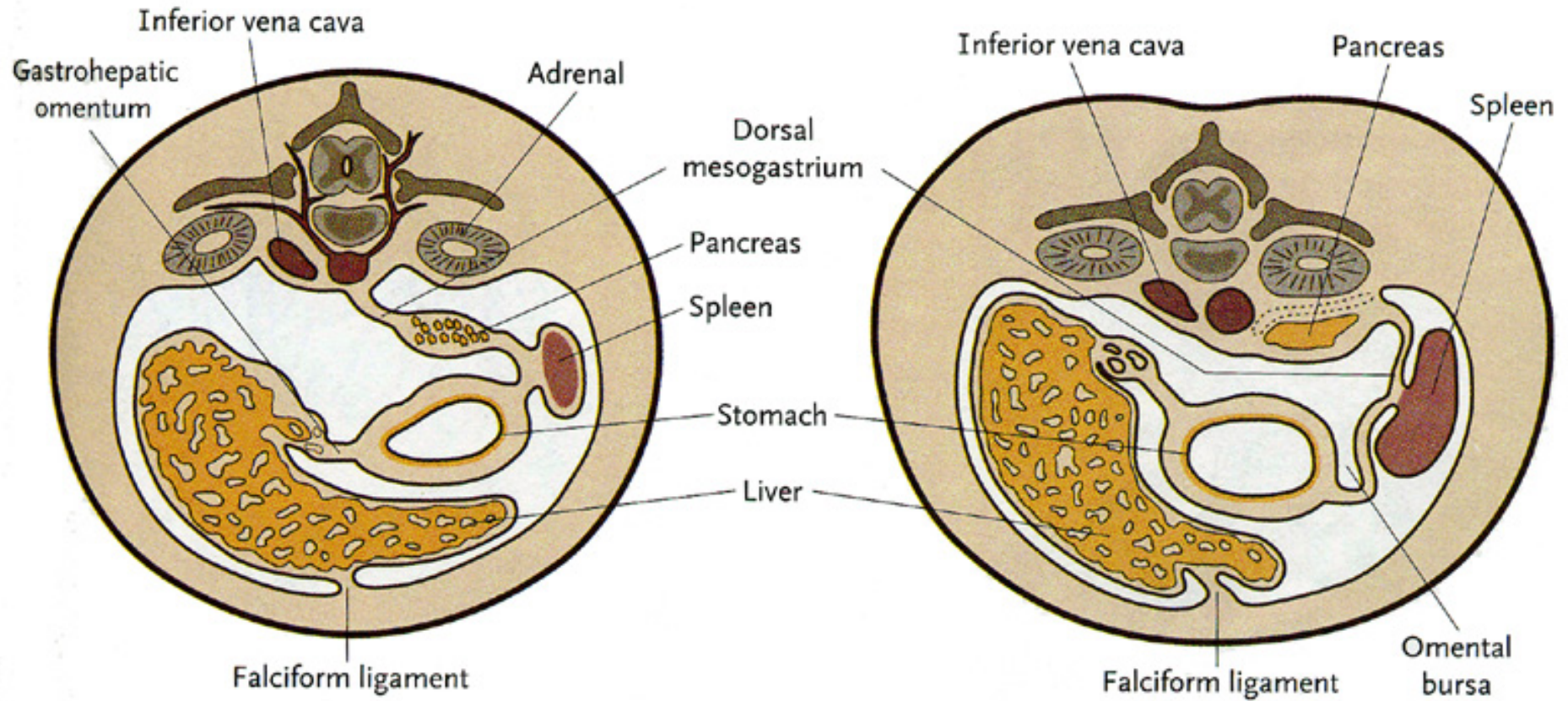
Hepatic diverticulum - grows ventrally into the transverse septum

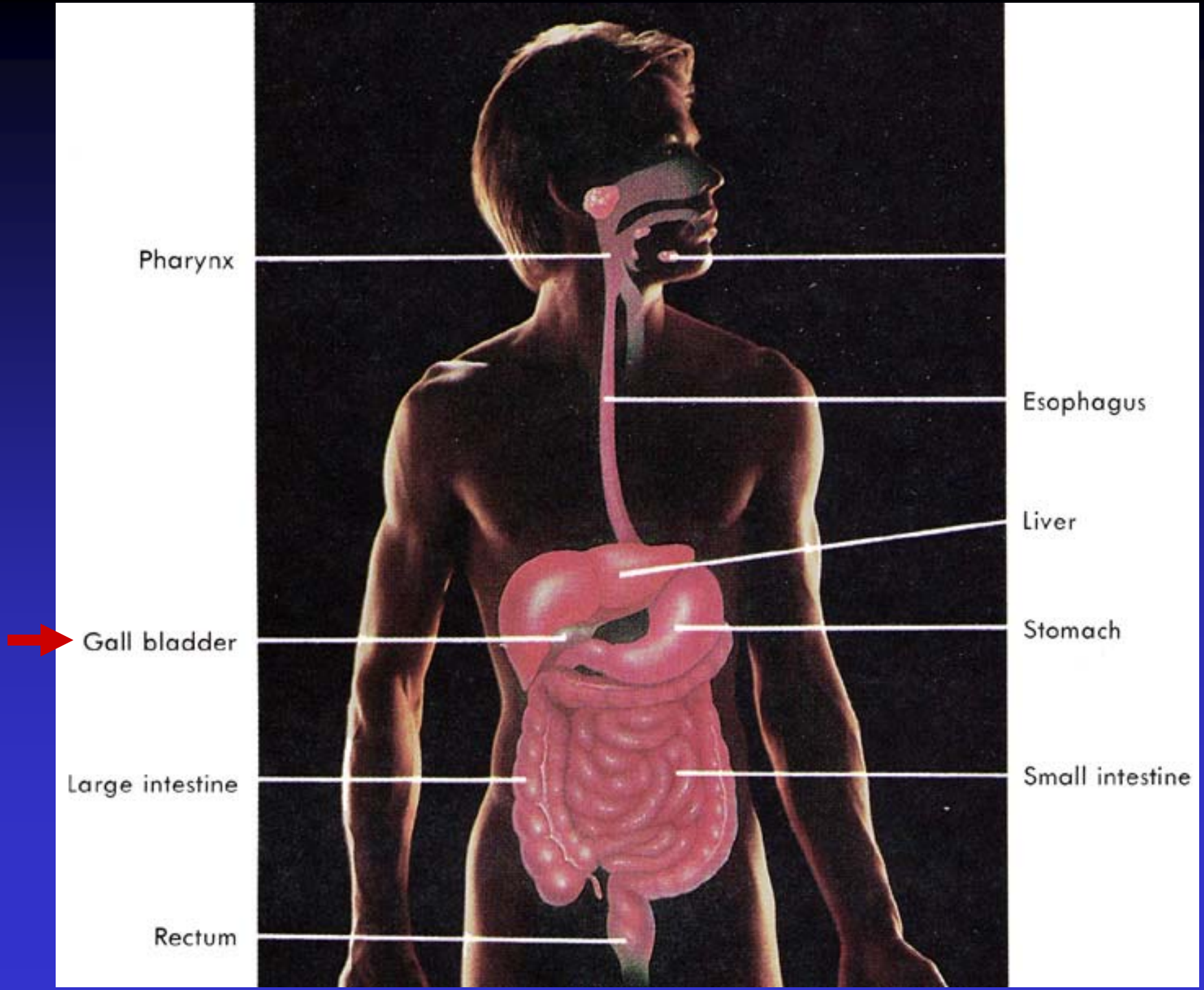
Hepatic diverticulum branches into many Hepatic cords that form hepatocytes and the drainage ducts (bile canaliculi, hepatic ducts).

Gastrohepatic omentum – connection to the stomach – becomes the lesser omentum

Falciform ligament – ventral mesentery connection to the body wall







Pharynx

Esophagus

Liver

Gall bladder

Stomach

Large intestine

Small intestine

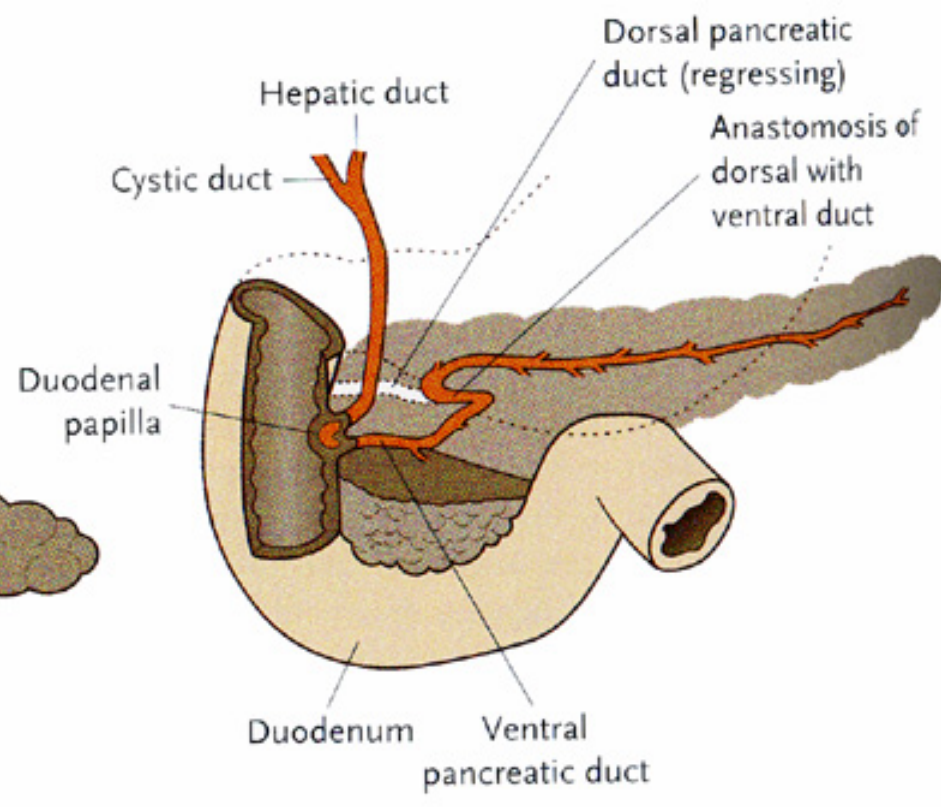
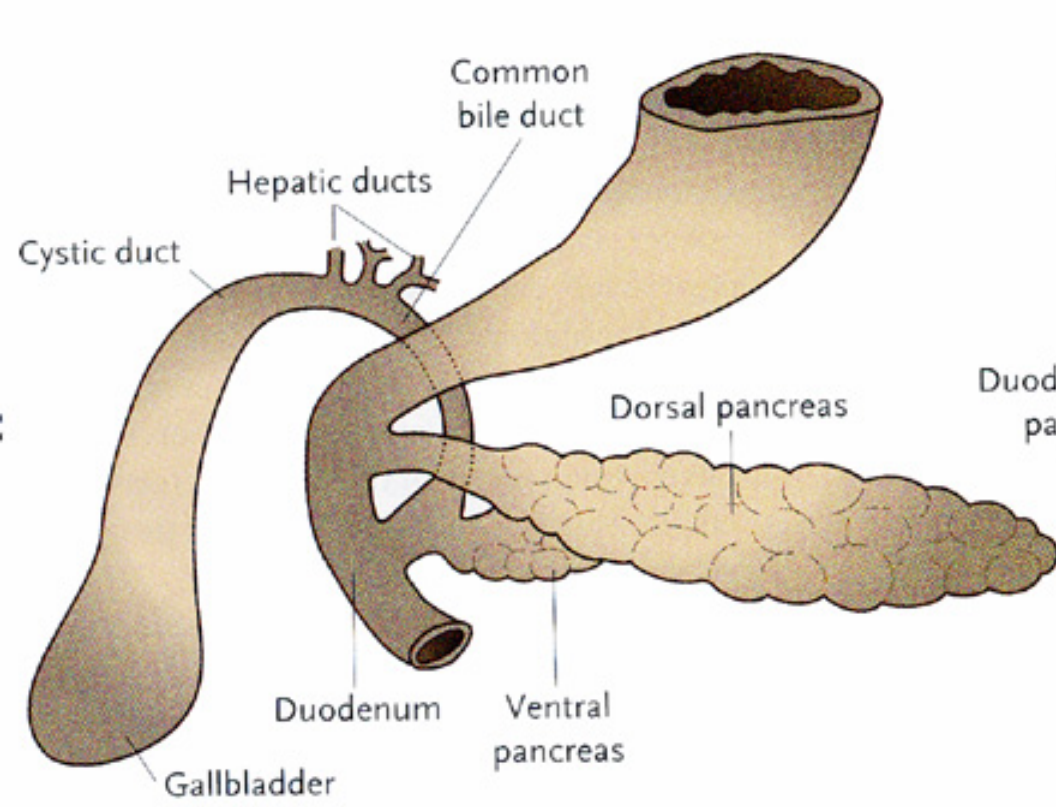
Rectum

Gallbladder / Cystic Duct

Cystic diverticulum arises from a ventral endodermal thickening just posterior to the hepatic diverticulum

The cystic diverticulum gives rise to the gallbladder and cystic duct.

Hepatic duct and cystic duct merge to form the common bile duct



Pancreas

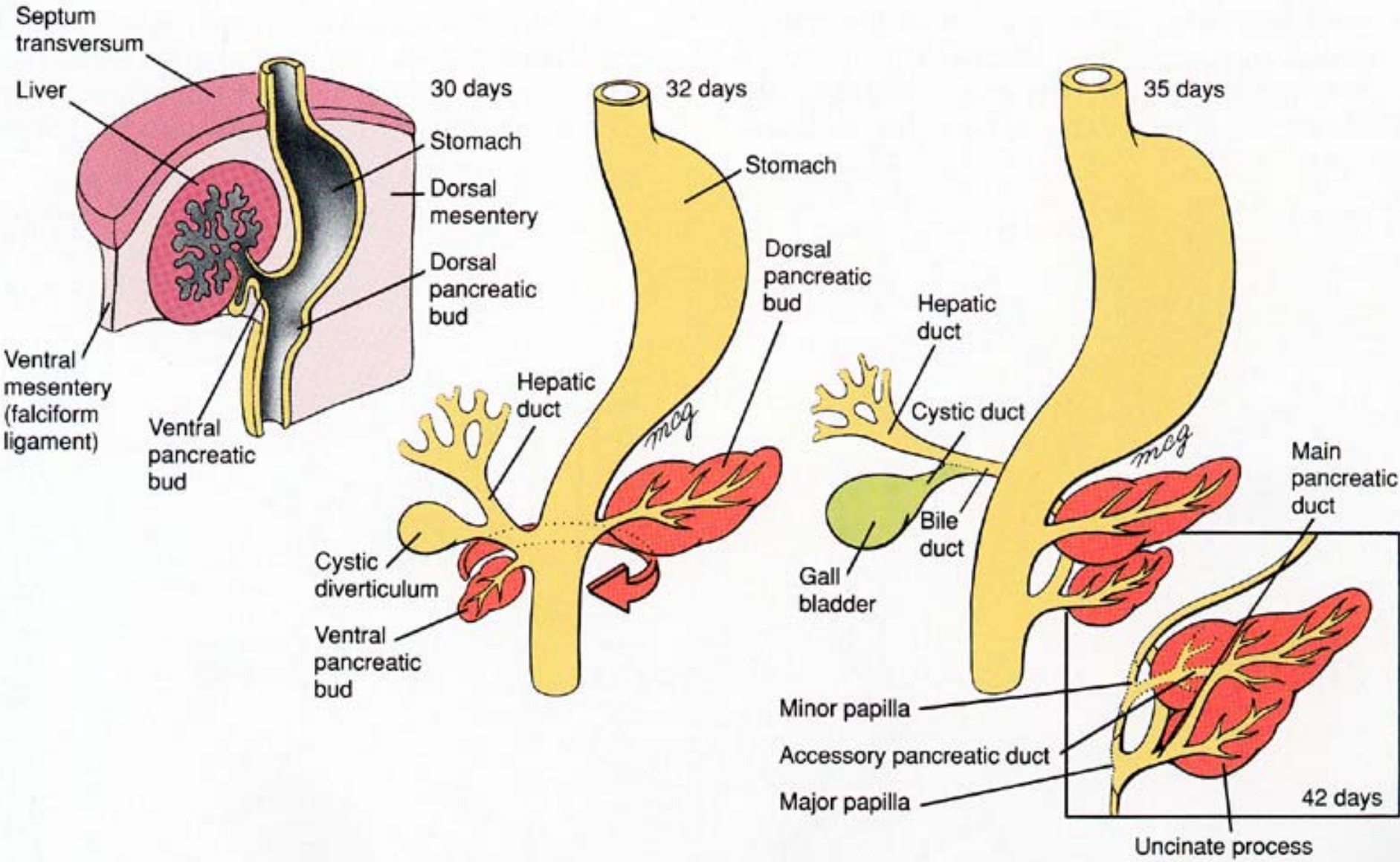
Pancreas forms from two distinct outgrowths from the duodenum

Dorsal pancreatic bud grows into the dorsal mesentery

Ventral pancreatic bud sprouts from the hepatic diverticulum into the ventral mesentery caudal to the forming gallbladder

The main duct of the ventral pancreas bud merges at the proximal end of the common bile duct

The mouth of the common bile duct is displaced to the dorsal mesentery



Pancreas

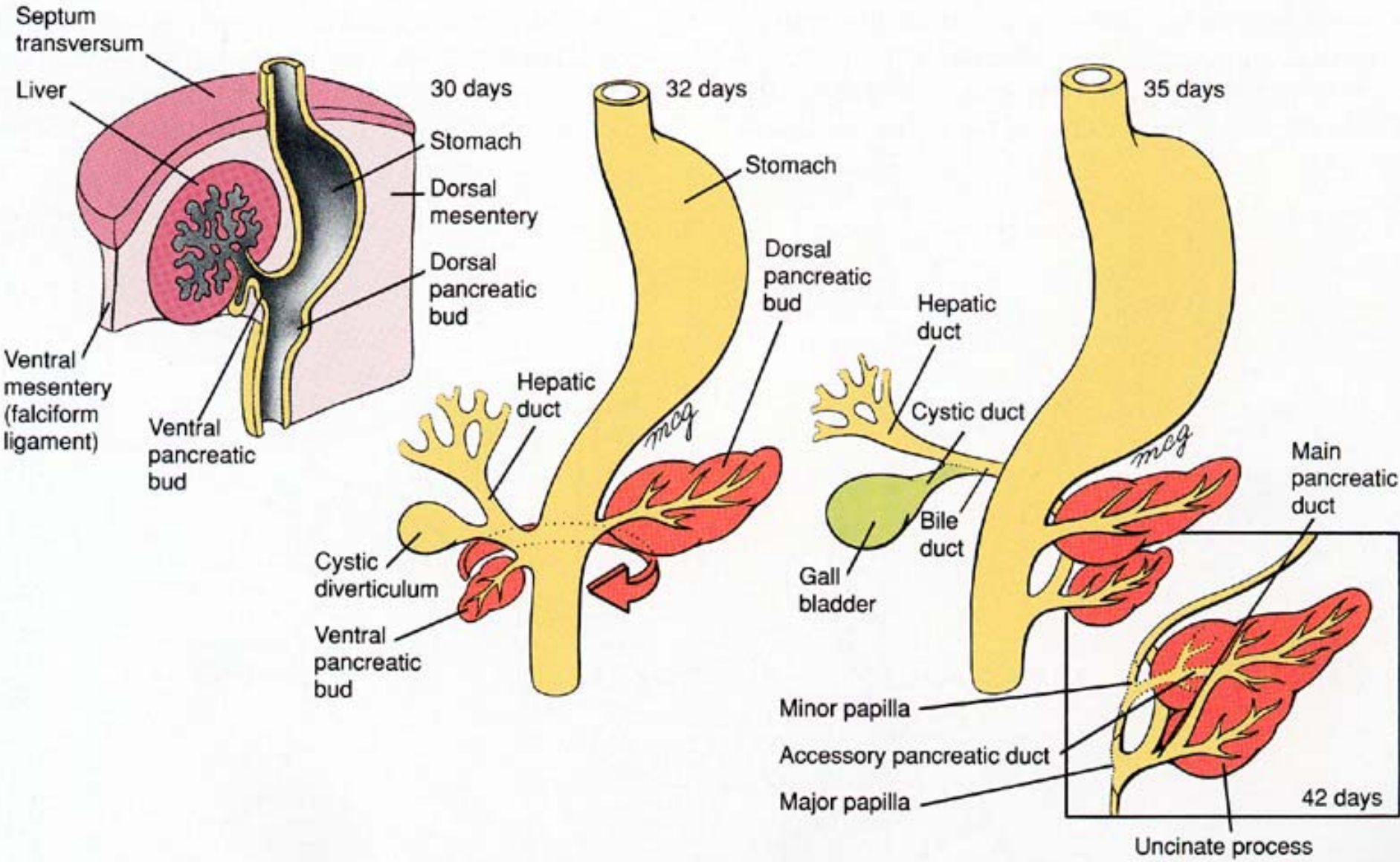
The dorsal and ventral pancreatic rudiments fuse

The dorsal duct degenerates and the dorsal and ventral parts merge their duct systems. The ventral duct becomes the main pancreatic duct (Duct of Wirsung)

Where the common bile duct and pancreatic ducts empty into the duodenum is called the Ampulla of Vater

Exocrine function - acinar cells - production of digestive enzymes

Endocrine function - islets of langerhans - production of insulin and glucogon (β cells and α cells)



Spleen

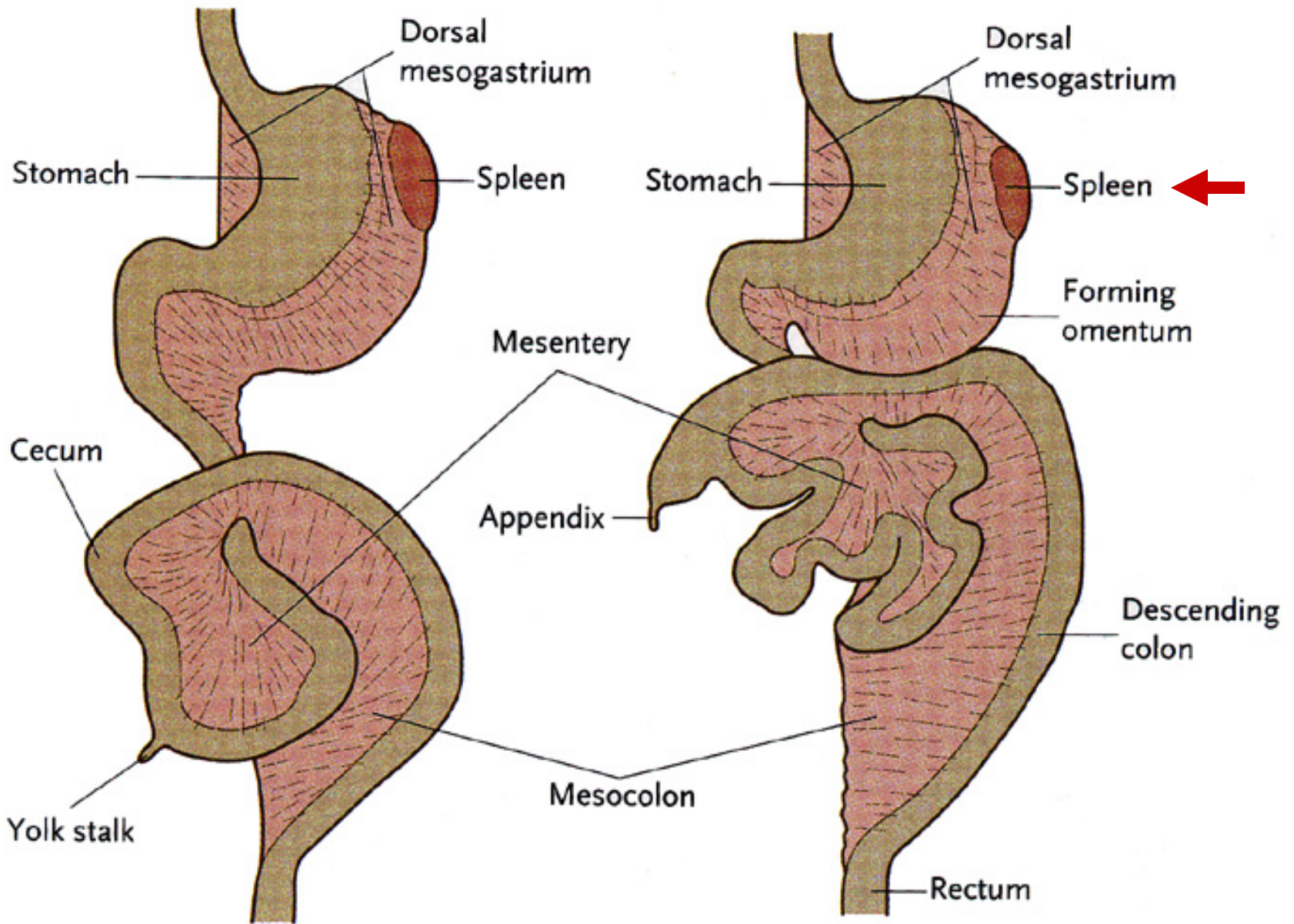
The Spleen is an intra-abdominal organ that is not an endodermal derivative

The Spleen is mesodermal and develops in the dorsal mesogastrium

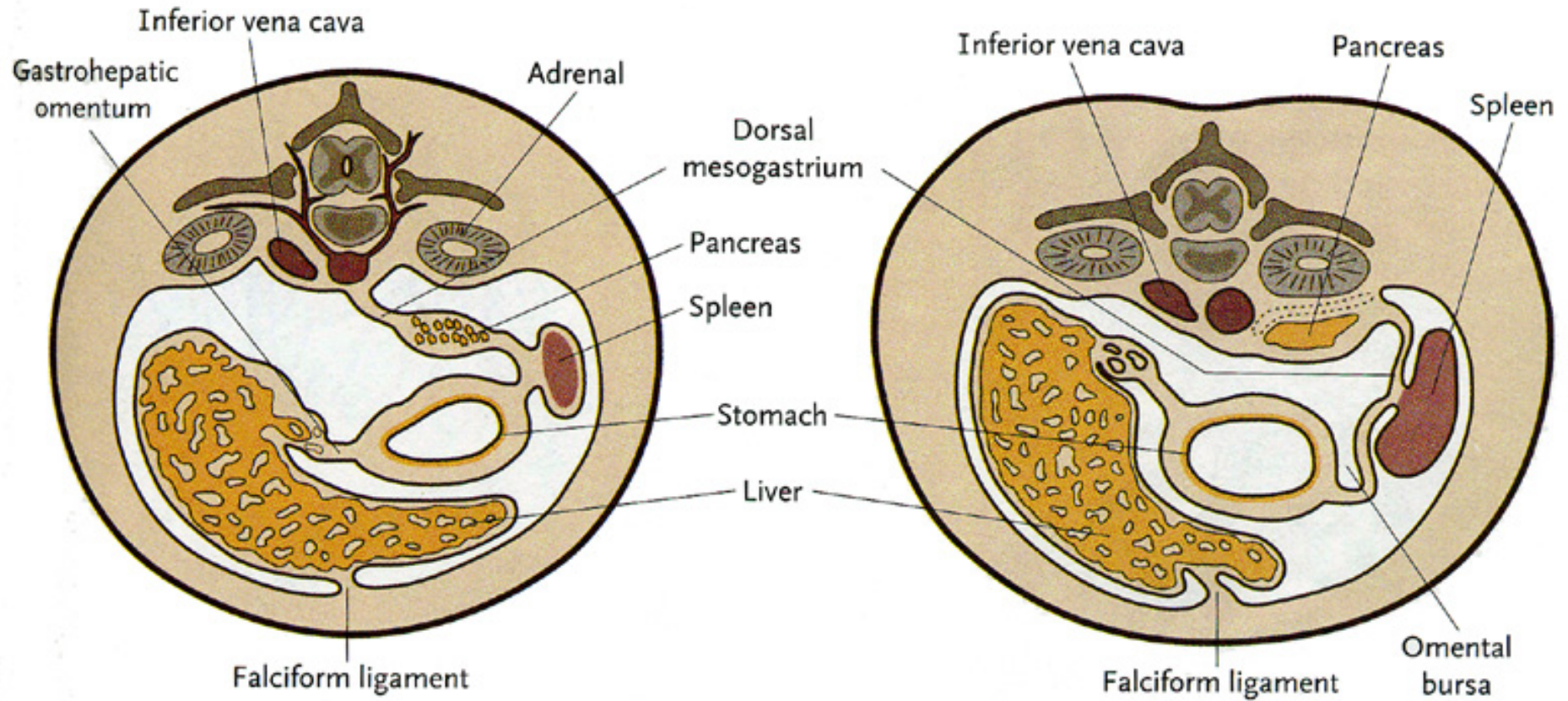
The Spleen is a vascular lymphatic organ

The Spleen moves to the left side of the abdominal cavity with the rotation of the stomach.

Initially a hematopoietic organ, later gets colonized by T-lymphocyte precursor cells



Dorsal mesogastrium becomes the greater omentum



Pharynx

Esophagus

Liver

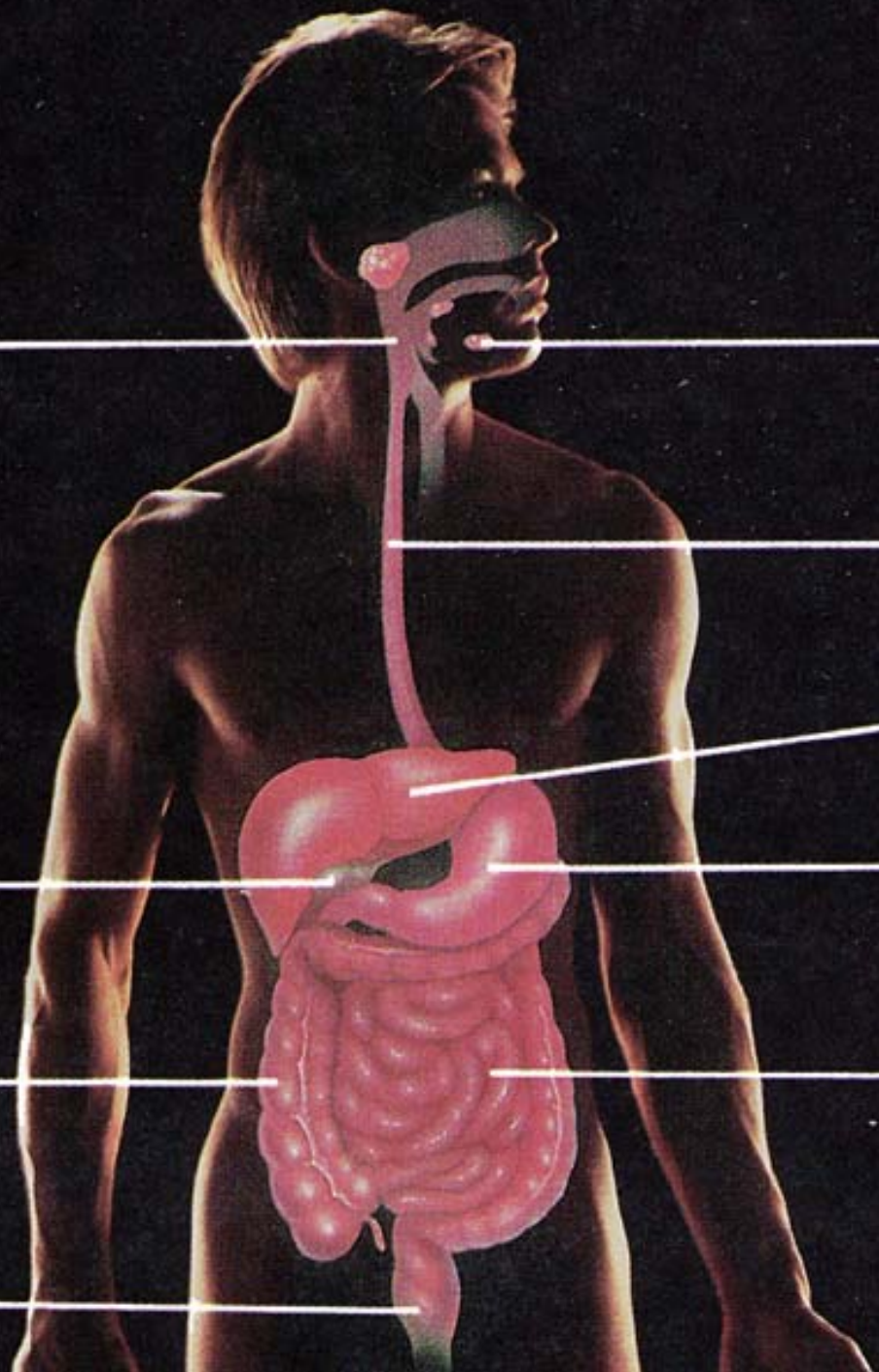
Gall bladder

Stomach

Large intestine

Small intestine

Rectum



Formation of the Intestine

Midgut derivatives:

Caudal half of duodenum

Jejunum

Ileum

Cecum

Appendix

Ascending colon

Right 2/3 of transverse colon

Hindgut derivatives:

Left 1/3 of transverse colon

Descending colon

Sigmoid colon

Rectum

Cloacal membrane at caudal end

Primary Intestinal Loop

The intestine is essentially a long straight tube, but its development is complicated by its length.

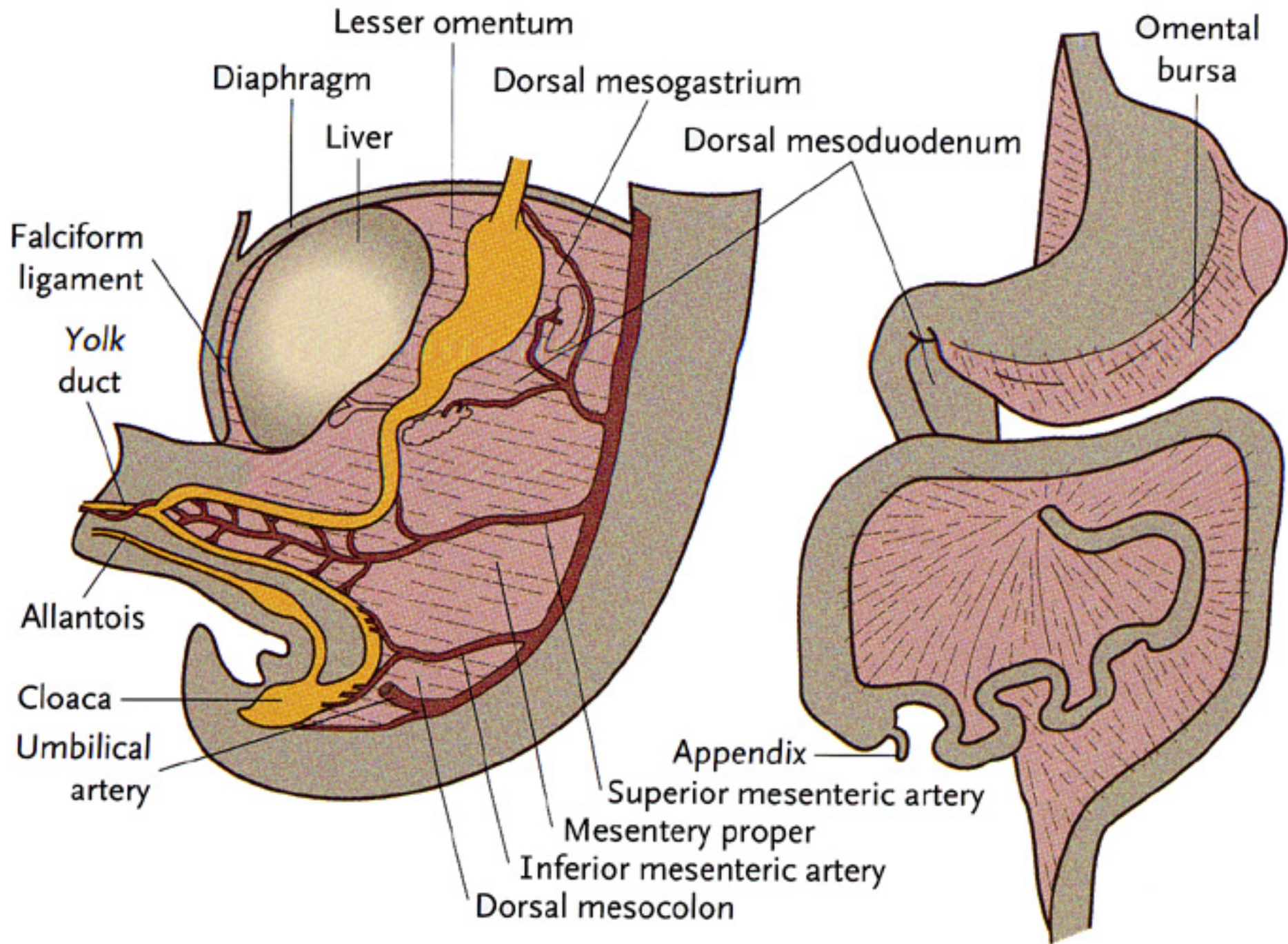
Two important points of reference:

Yolk Stalk – near border of small and large intestine

Superior Mesenteric Artery – branch of Dorsal Aorta

Ileum – elongates too rapidly for the size of the abdominal cavity causing a herniation into the umbilicus

Dorsal-ventral hairpin - called the primary intestinal loop.



Intestine Development

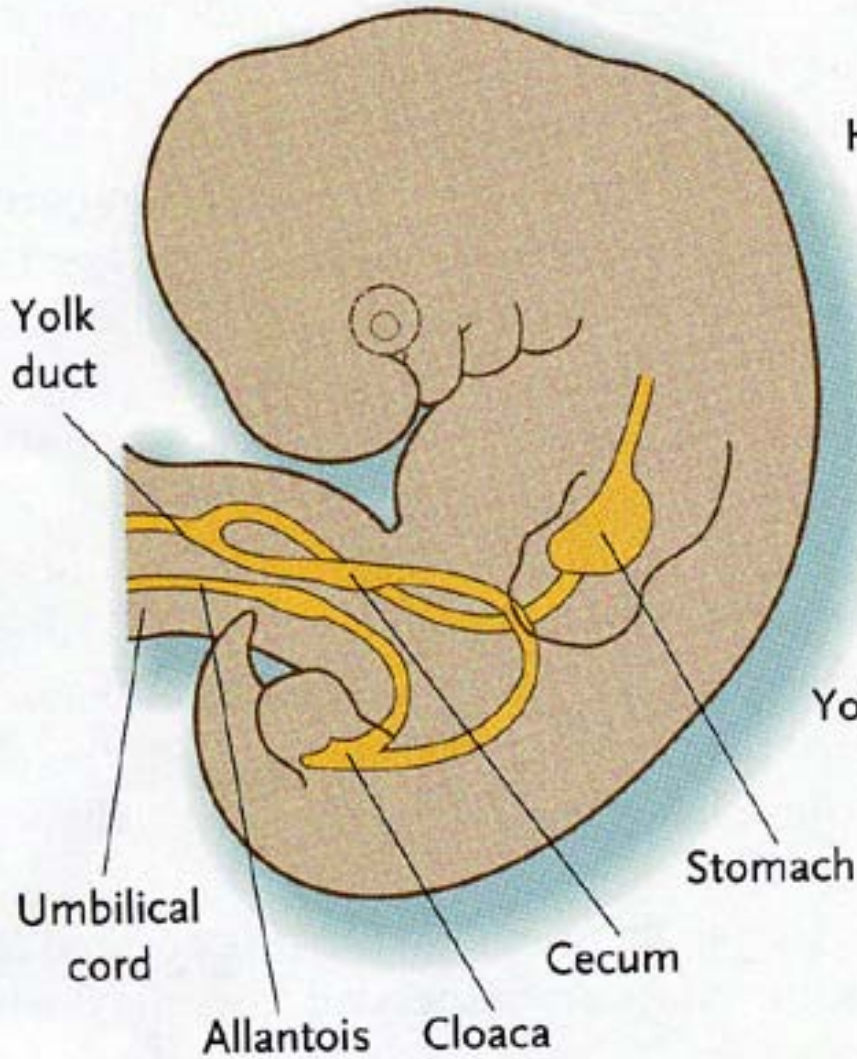
Cranial part of loop gives rise to most of the ileum

Caudal loop becomes part of ileum, the ascending colon and 2/3 of the transverse colon

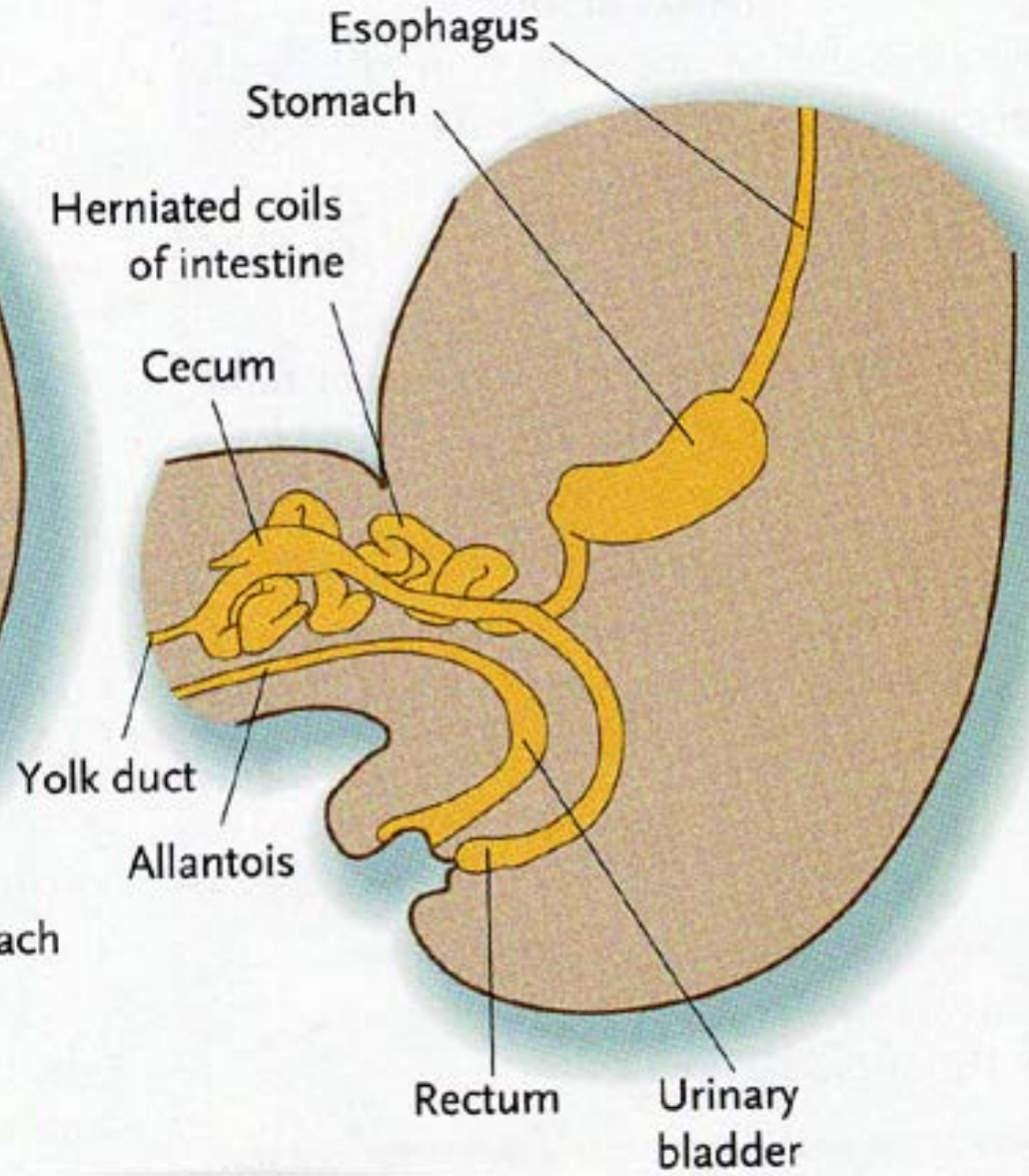
Initially - the loop does a 90° counterclockwise rotation (viewed from the front) - cranial loop → right, caudal loop → left

Jejunum and Ileum lengthens resulting in a series of folds called the jejunal-ileal loops

Week 6



Week 8



Retraction

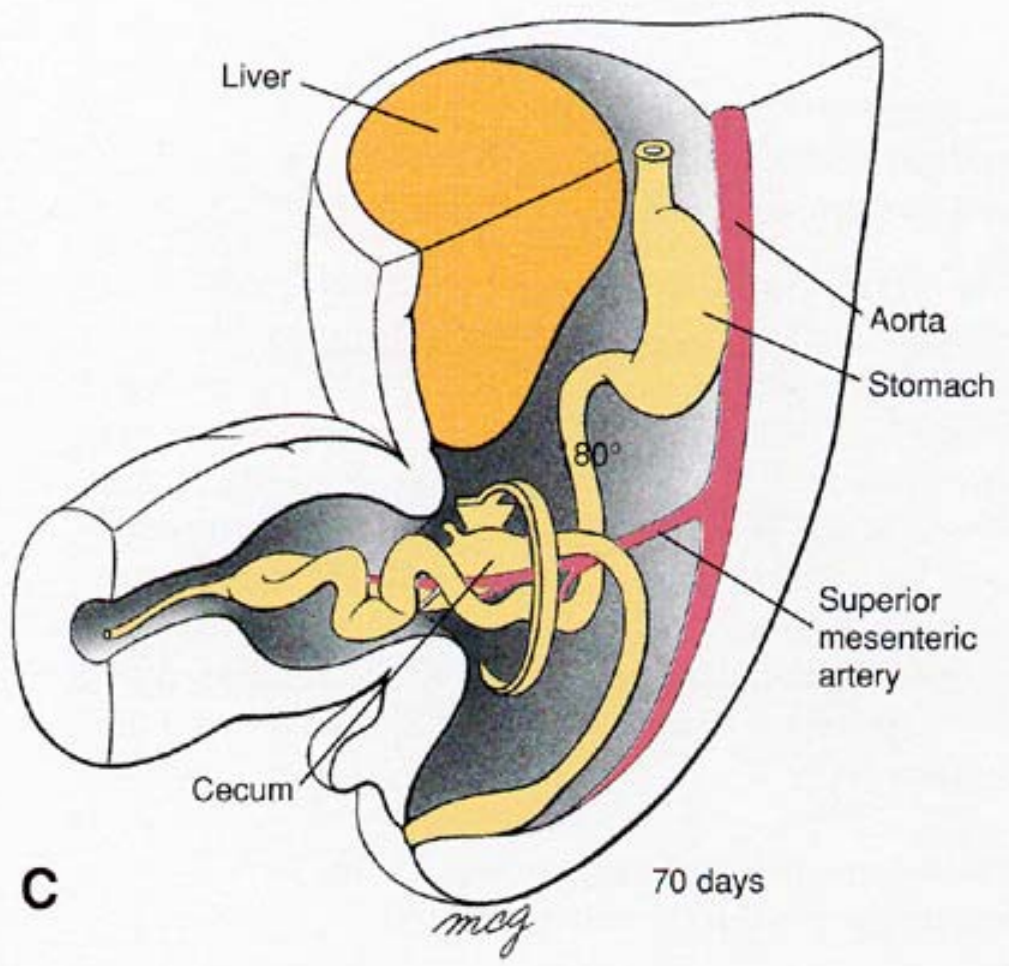
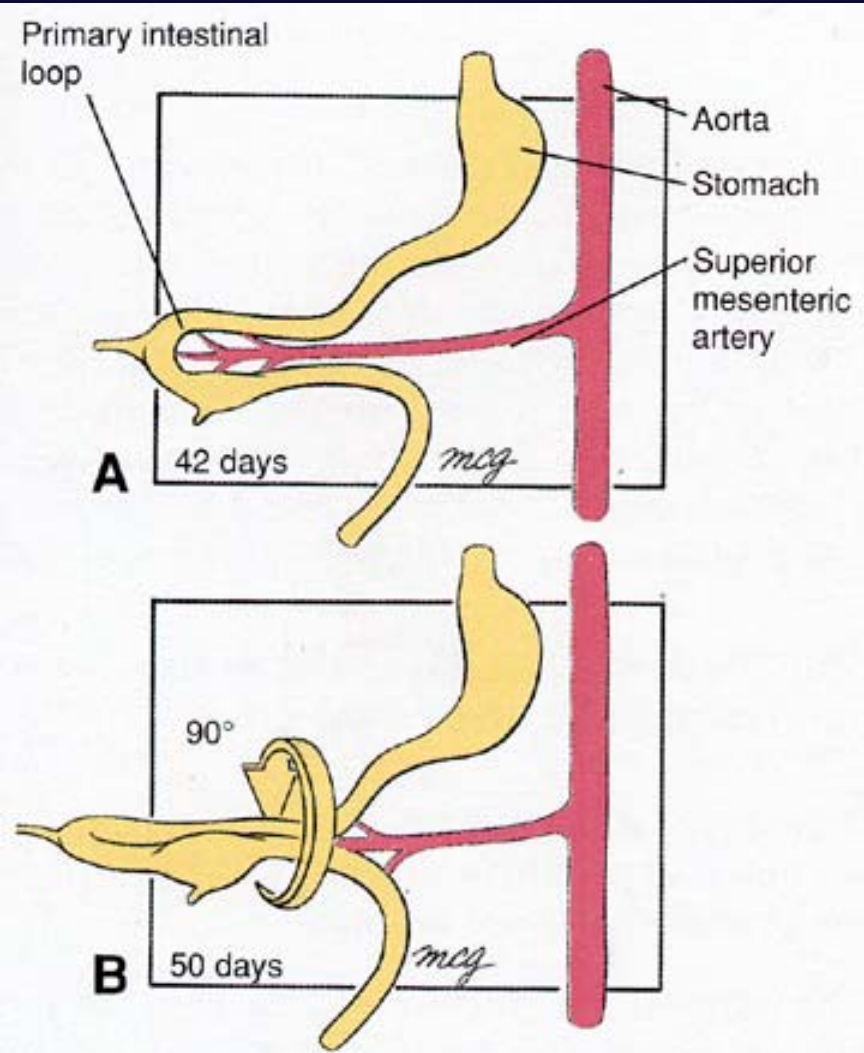
Cecum defines junction between small and large intestines – producing the appendix

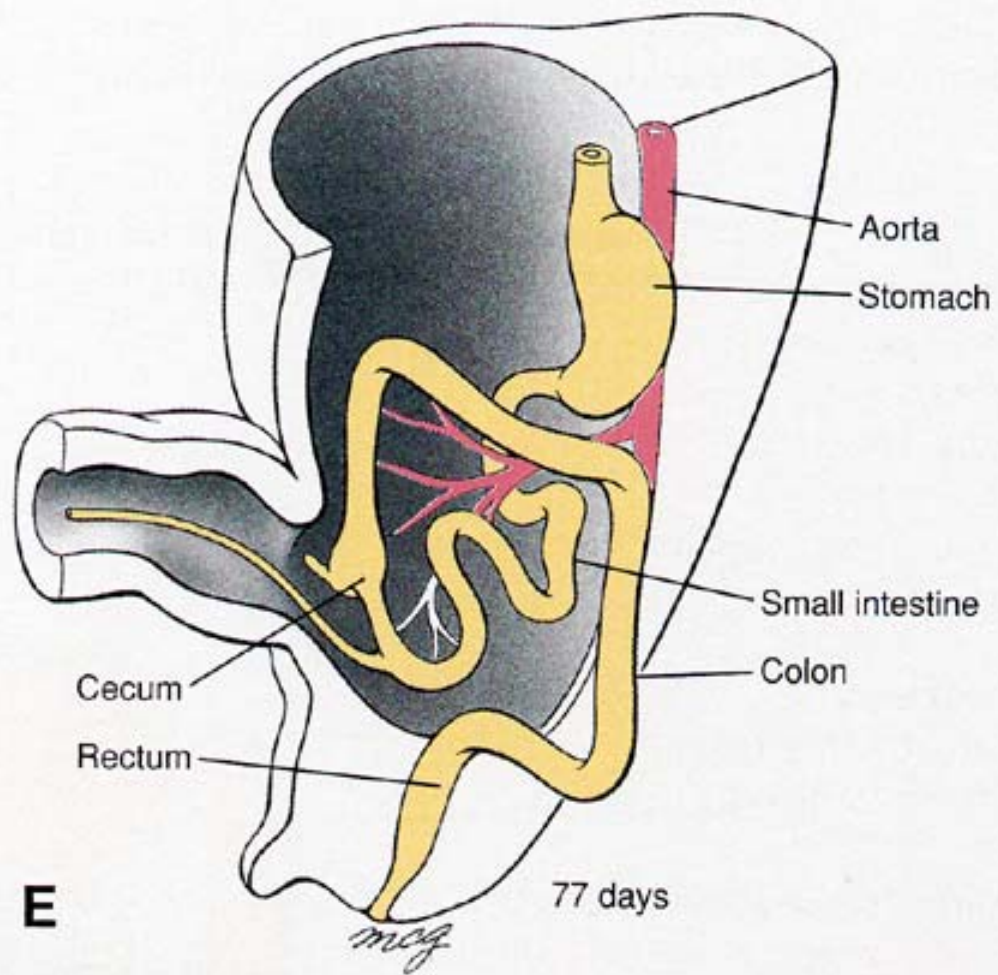
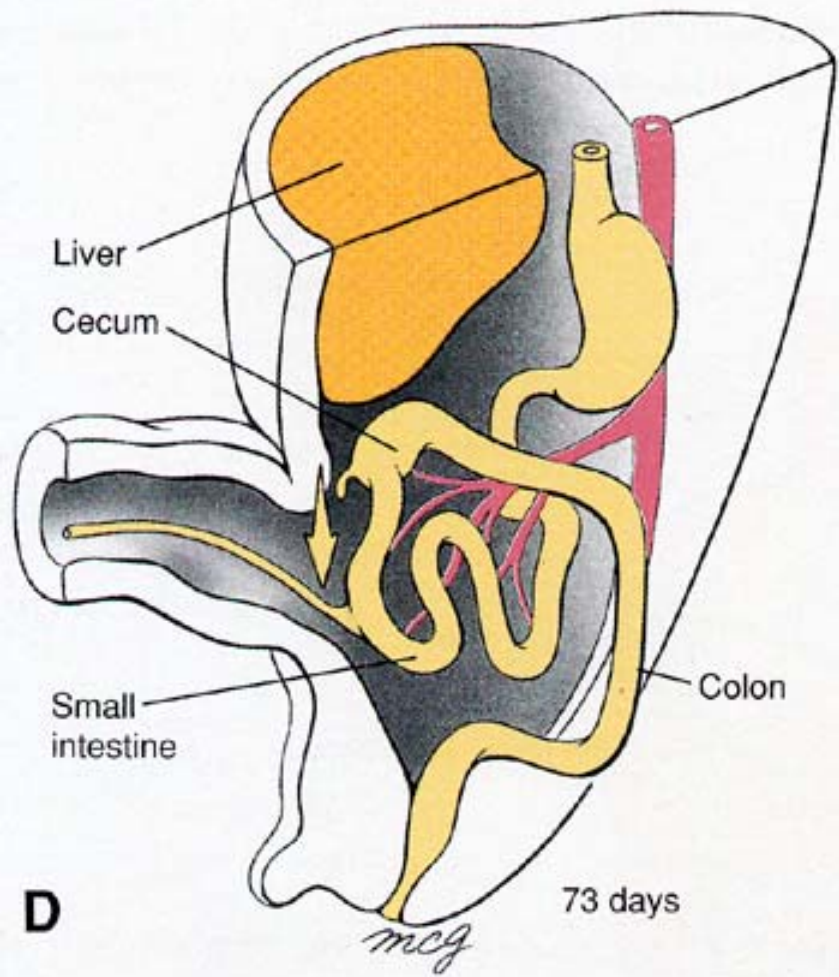
Retraction of the loop into the abdomen

Associated with a 180° rotation - total rotation is

270° Cecum lies just inferior to the liver

The cecum moves in a cranial to caudal direction to lie in the lower left abdomen



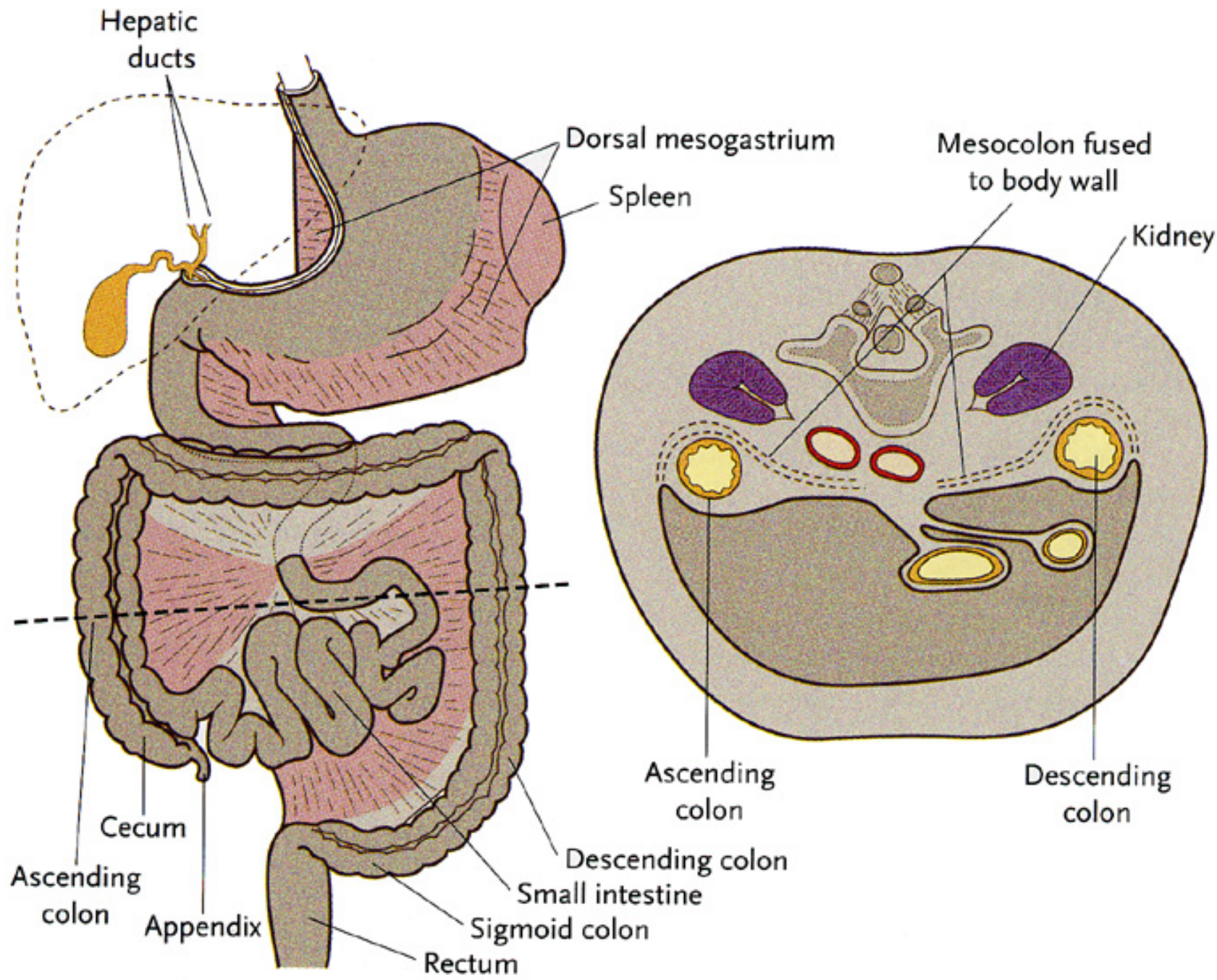


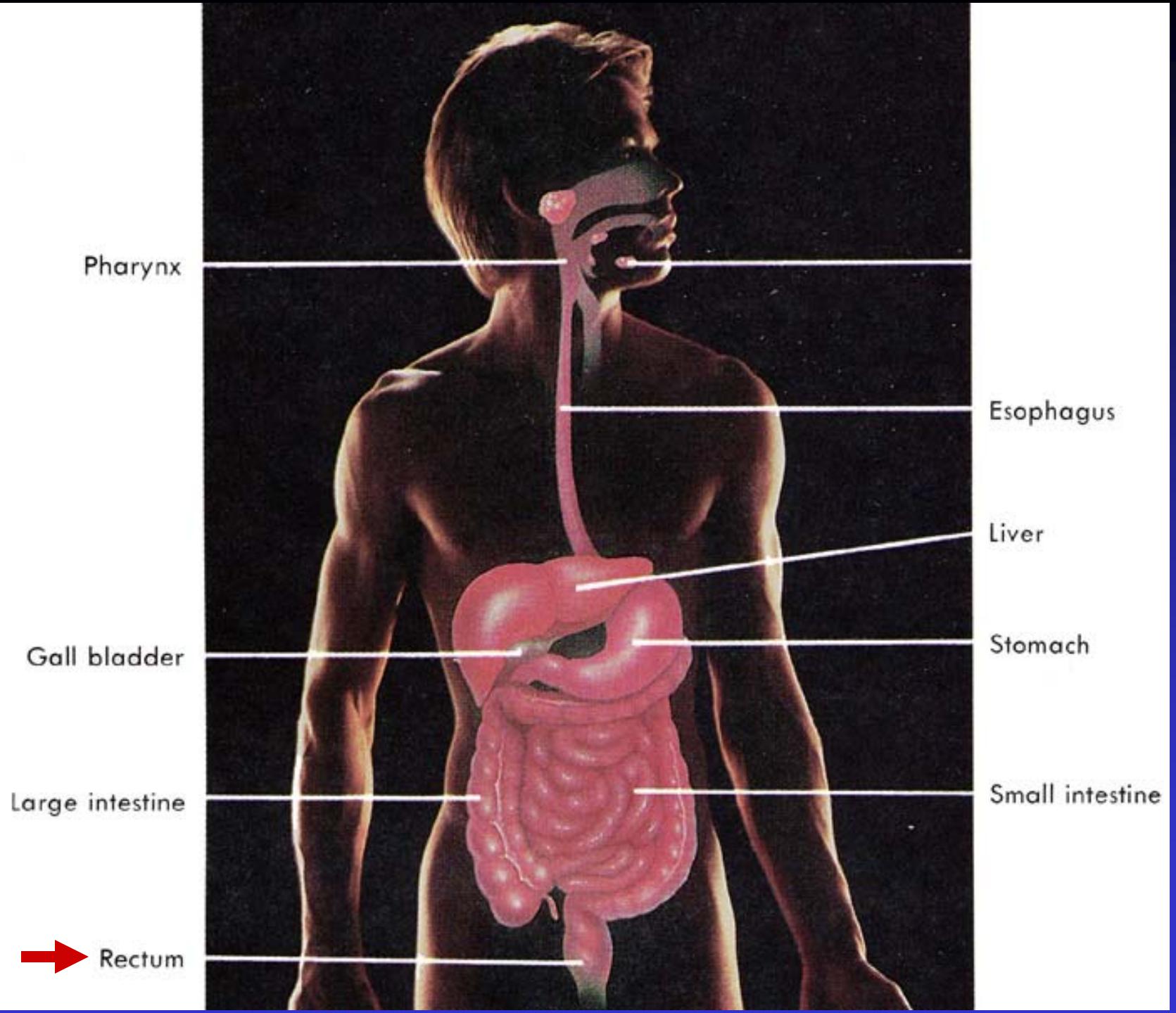
Ascending and Descending Colon

Dorsal mesentery associated with the ascending and descending colon shortens and disappears

These regions adhere directly to the dorsal body wall

Transverse colon does not become fixed





Pharynx

Esophagus

Liver

Gall bladder

Stomach

Large intestine

Small intestine



Rectum

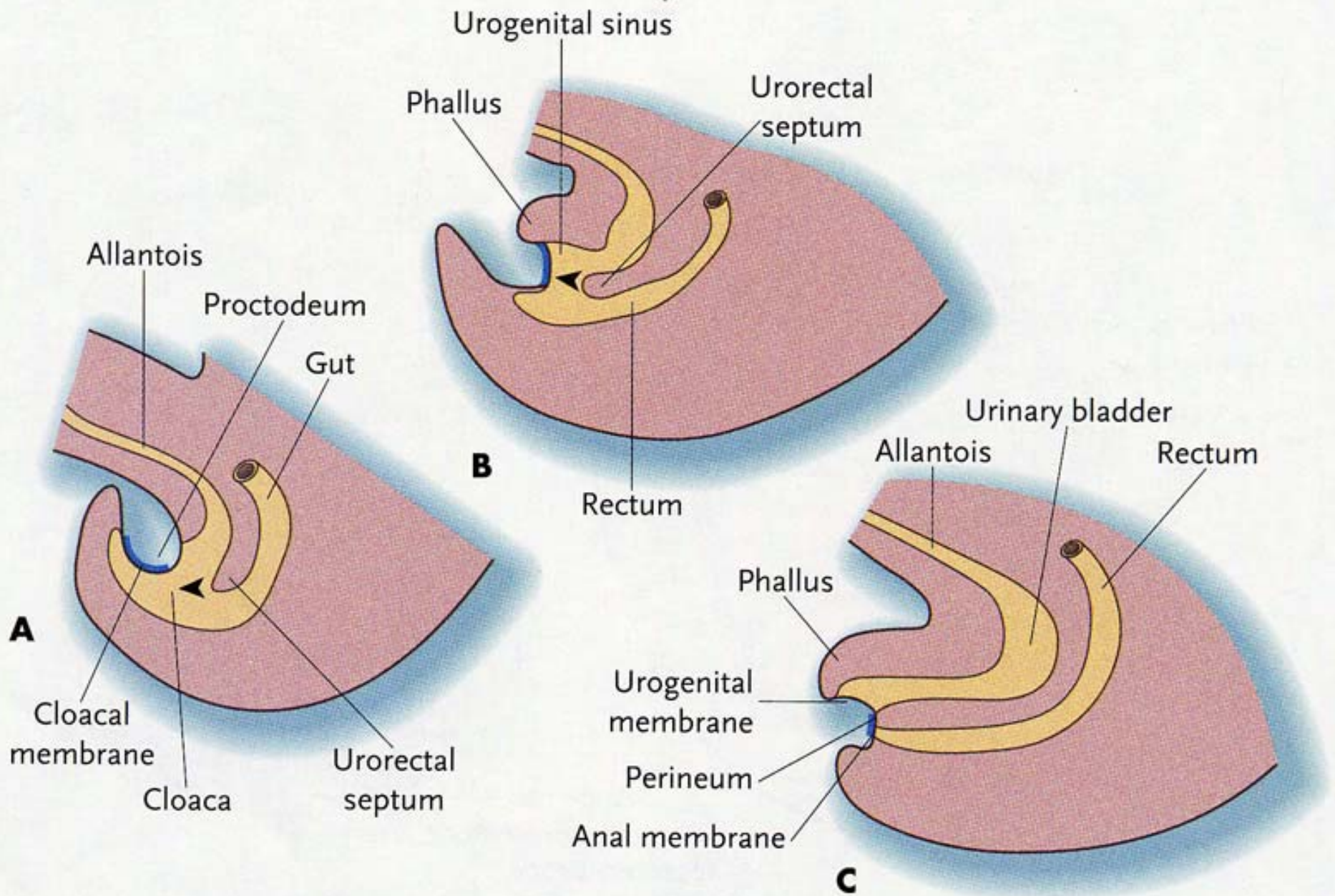
Cloaca

Cloaca (latin = sewer) - where allantois and gastrointestinal tract merge

Cloaca is partitioned into the rectum (posterior) and the primitive urogenital sinus (anterior) - by the growth of the urorectal septum

Urorectal septum is the composite of two septal system -
Tourneux fold (central) and Rathke folds (lateral)

Urorectal septum fuses with cloacal membrane - forming the urogenital membrane and the anal membrane



Anorectal Canal

Anorectal canal - between rectum and anus

Superior 2/3 is endodermal from hindgut

Inferior 1/3 is derived from the proctodeum -
ectodermal

The Ectodermal-Endodermal boundary in adult is marked
by an irregular folding of mucosa in the anorectal
canal called the Pectinate line

Canalization and Histogenesis

The developing digestive tract lumen becomes occluded and secondary lumina form and coalesce during recanalization

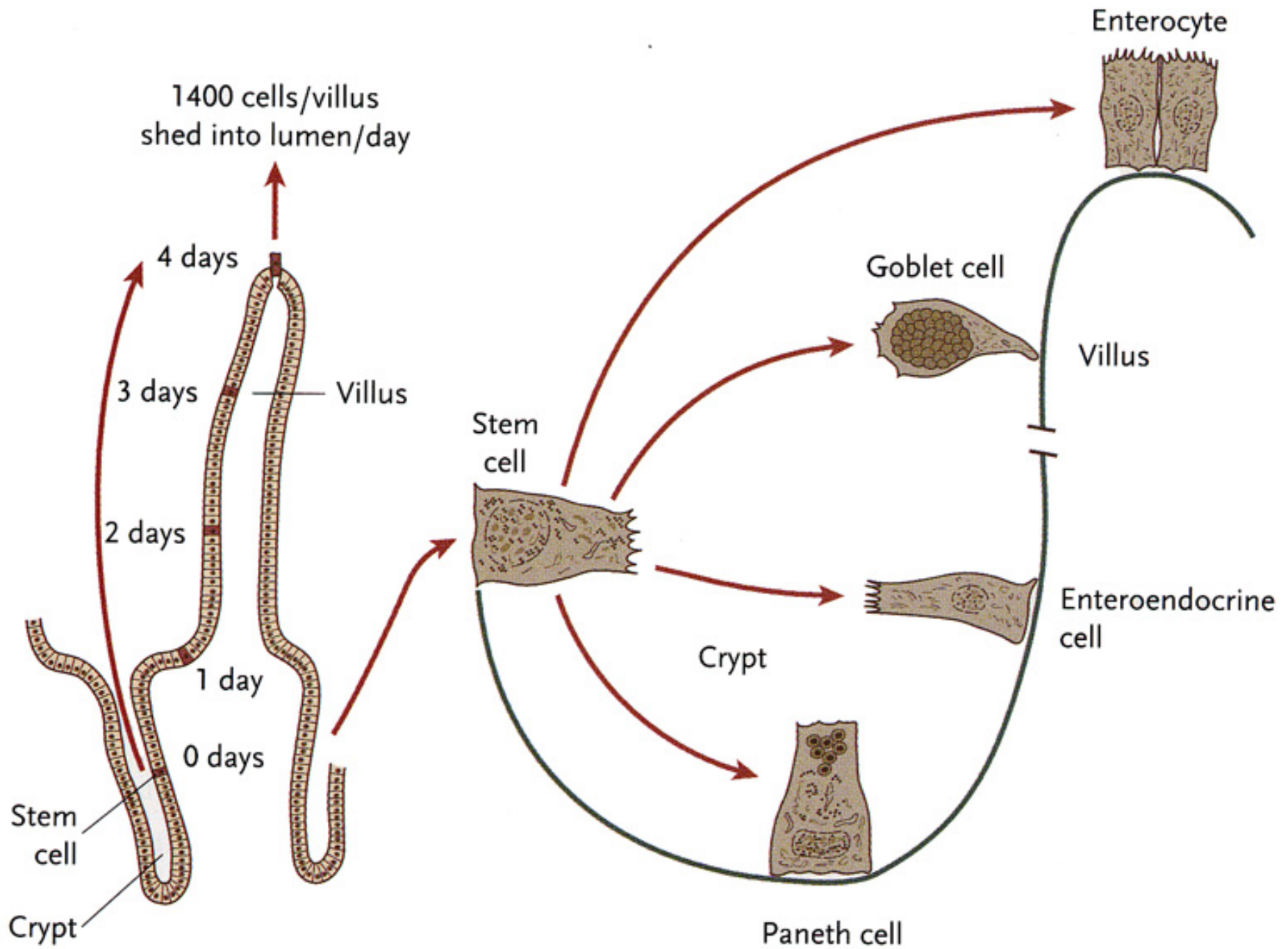
Stomach – Gastric mucosa – folds called rugae, pits called gastric pits, HCl secretion begins postnatal

Intestine - Intestinal Villi form by mesodermal growth during recanalization

Intestinal Crypts form at the base of the intestinal villi

Each crypts contains a clone of Epithelial Stem Cells that produce intestinal cells throughout adult life

Intestinal epithelial cells have a 4 day life span



Anomalies - Foregut

Esophagus:

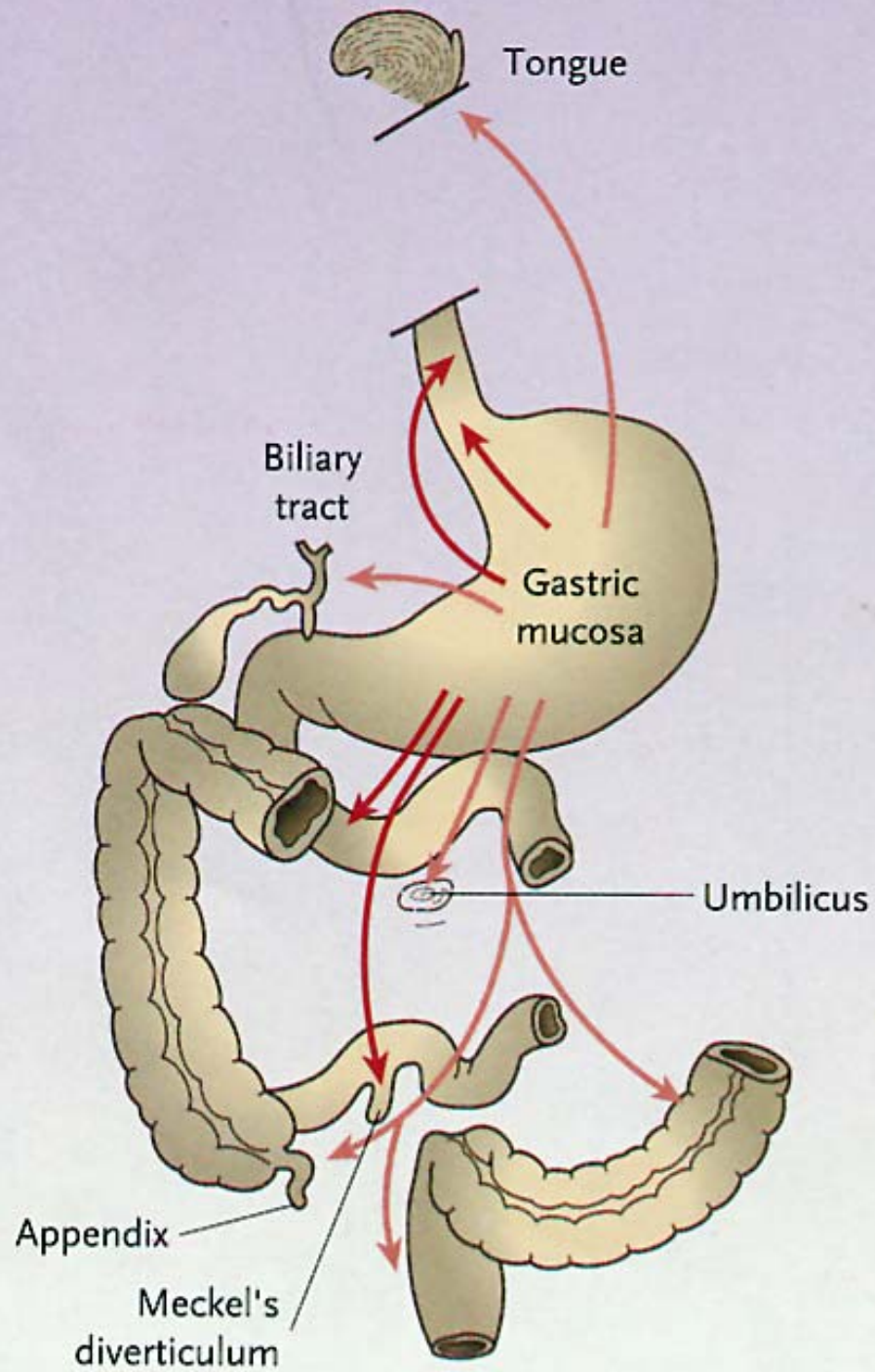
Esophageal stenosis (narrowing) – abnormal recanalization – impaired swallowing

Esophageal atresia (abnormal opening) – abnormal branching of the respiratory tract – impaired swallowing

Stomach:

Pyloric stenosis – hypertrophy of smooth muscle, projectile vomiting

Heterotopic gastric mucosa – Misplaced gastric mucosa cells



Anomalies - Foregut

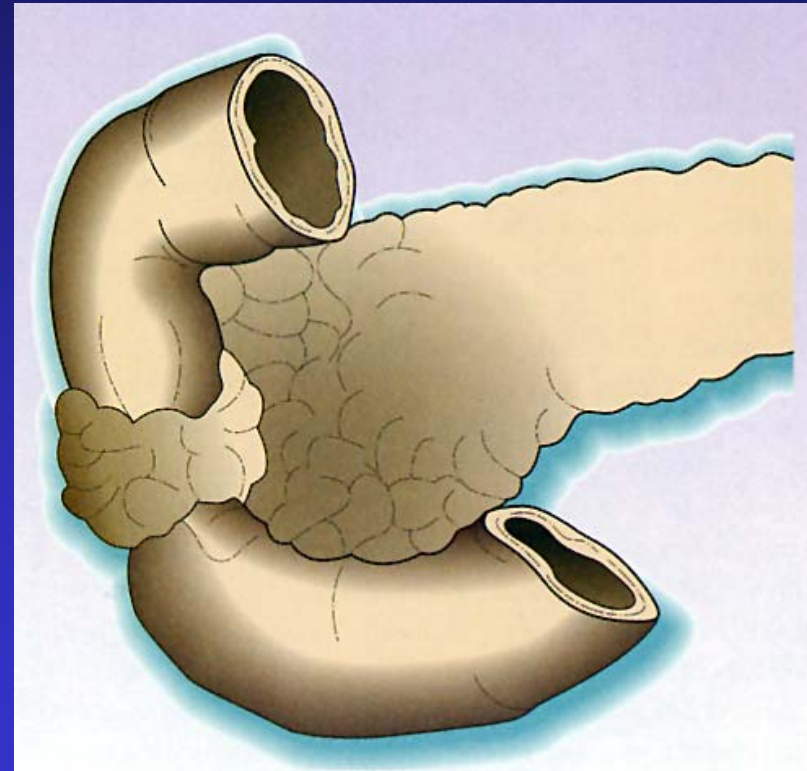
Liver:

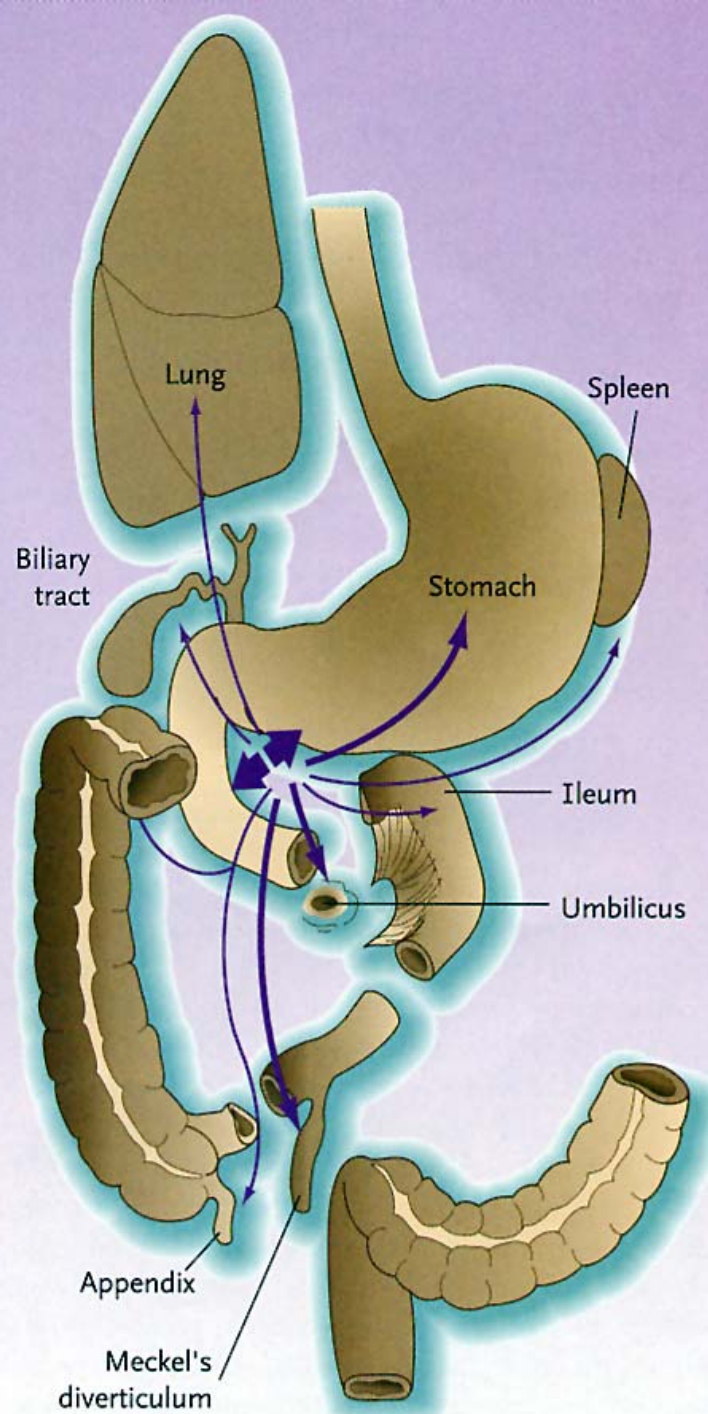
Biliary atresia – abnormal hepatic duct formation – varying severity
postnatal jaundice

Pancreas:

Annular pancreas – Pancreatic tissue encircling the duodenum
sometimes causing obstruction

Heterotopic pancreatic tissue
Misplaced pancreatic cells





Anomalies - Midgut

Duodenal stenosis and atresia – abnormal recanalization

Persistent vitelline duct –

Meckel's diverticulum - (2-4% of population) –
blind pouch

Fibrous cord – connection to umbilicus

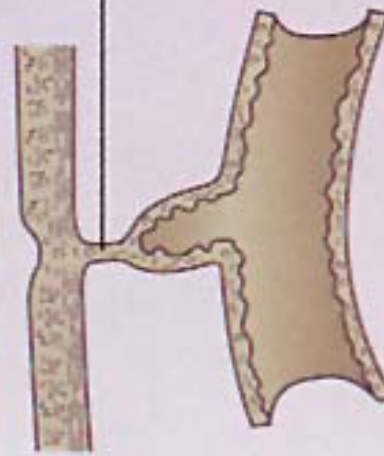
Volvulus – intestinal rotation → bowel
strangulation

Umbilicoil fistula – direct opening

Meckel's diverticulum

Fibrous cord

Umbilicus

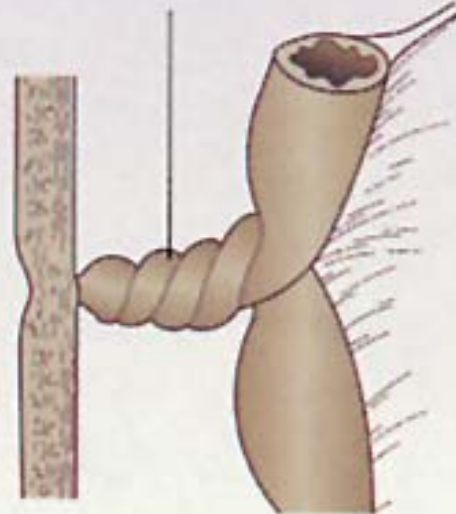
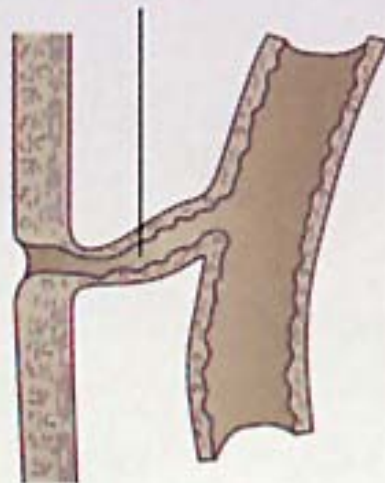


A

B

Umbilicoileal fistula

Volvulus



C

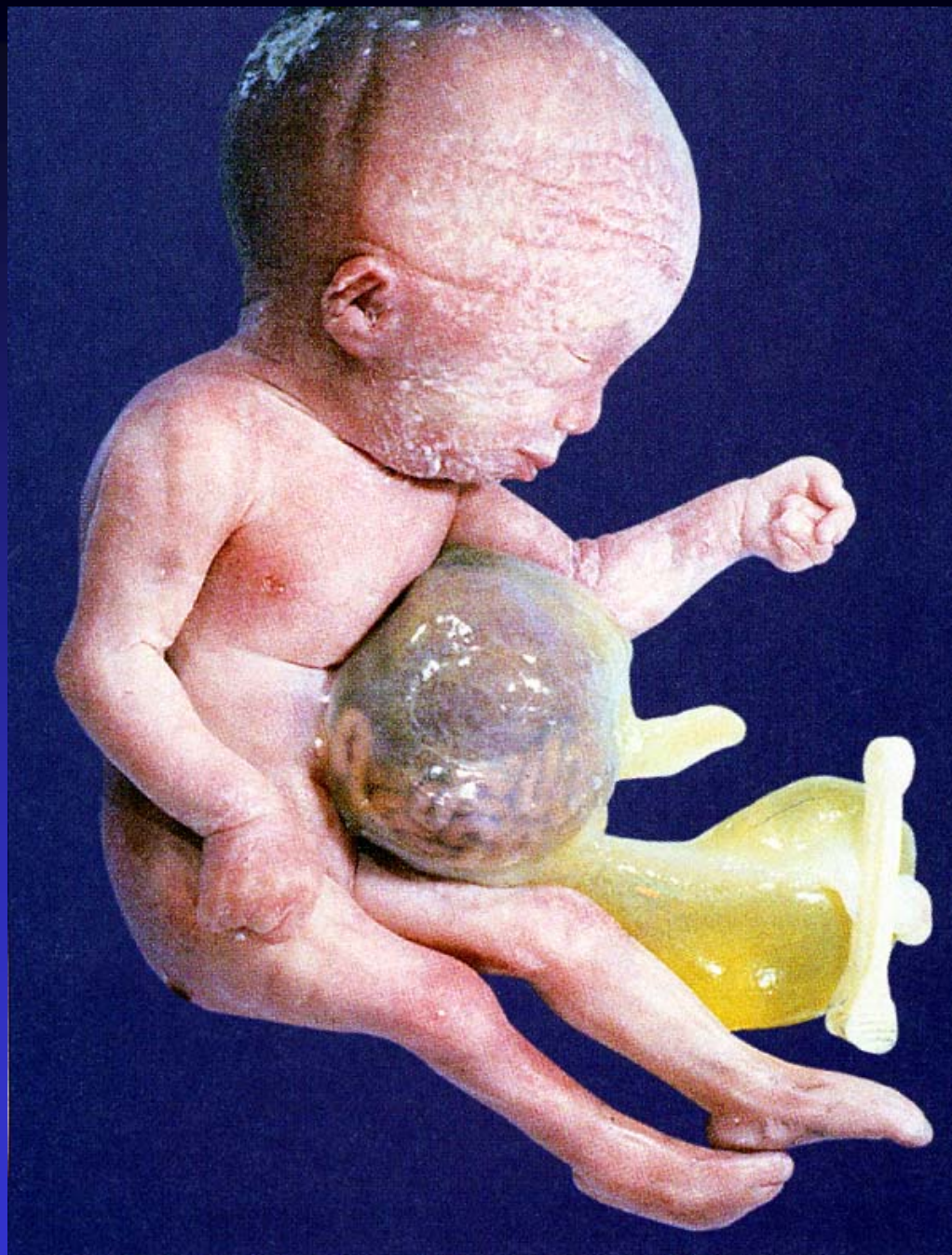
D

Anomalies – Midgut Omphalocele

Failure of the umbilicus to close - newborn with organs protruding from the abdominal wall

Organs protruding into a thin sac of amniotic tissue from normal herniation - incomplete retraction

Organs in a sac of peritoneum and amniotic tissue - indicates normal herniation and retraction, but a secondary herniation resulting from the failure of the ventral abdominal wall to close



Anomalies - Midgut Abnormal Rotation and Fixation

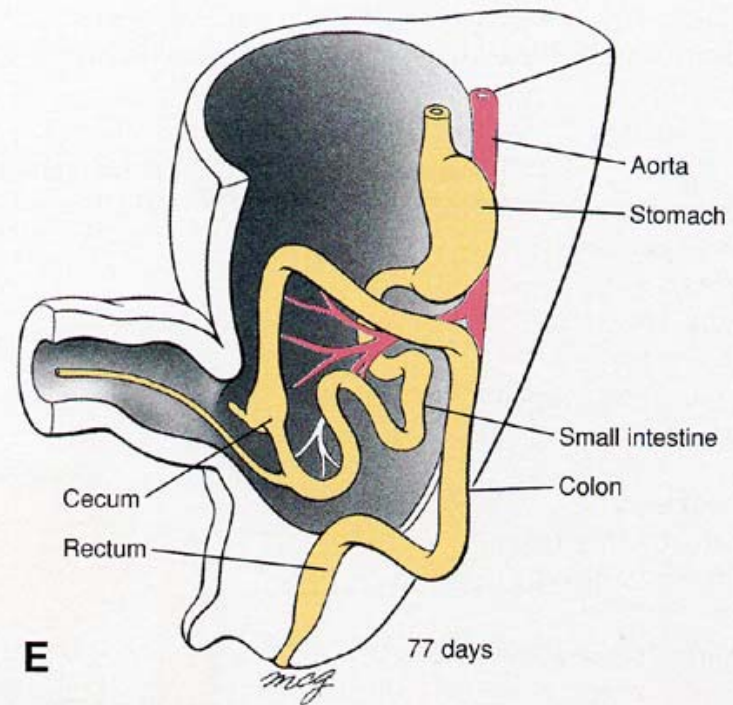
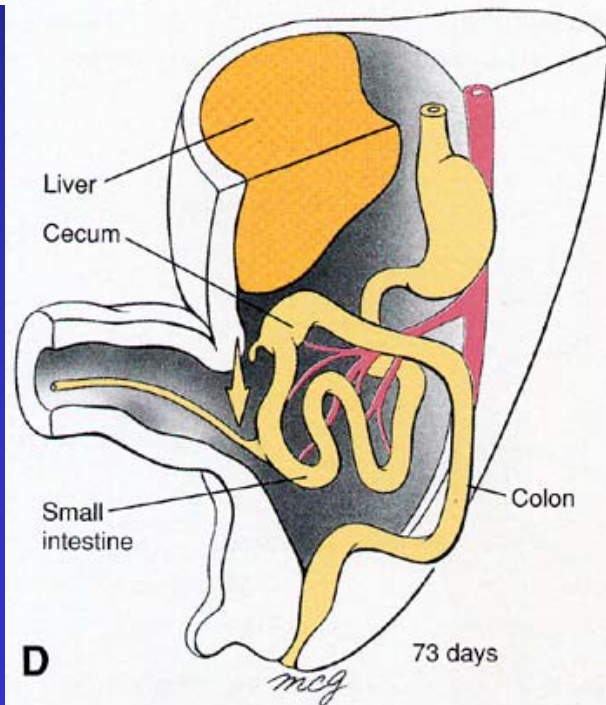
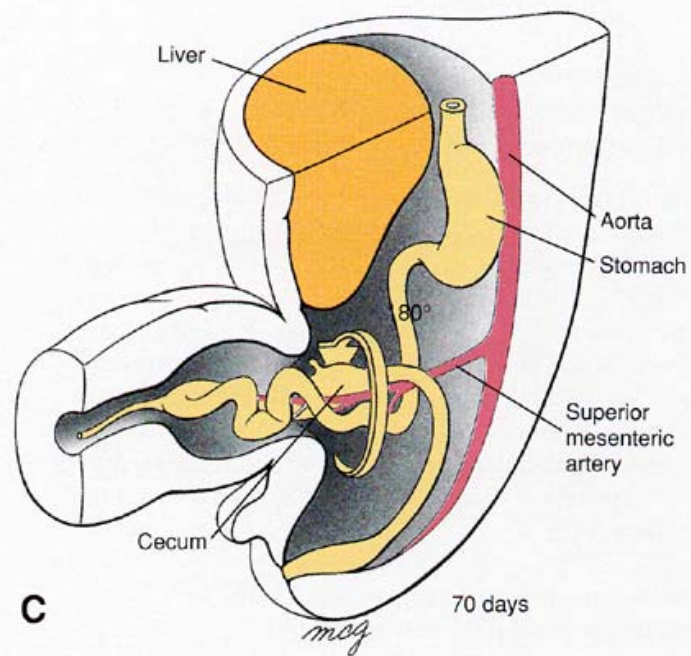
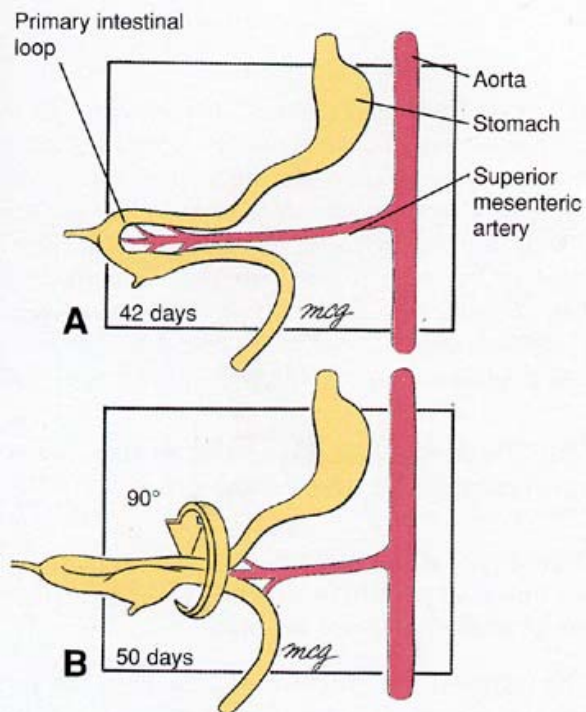
Spectrum of abnormalities

Non-rotation

Reverse rotation

Mixed rotation

Subhepatic cecum



Non-Rotation

Called left-sided colon

1st rotation is Normal

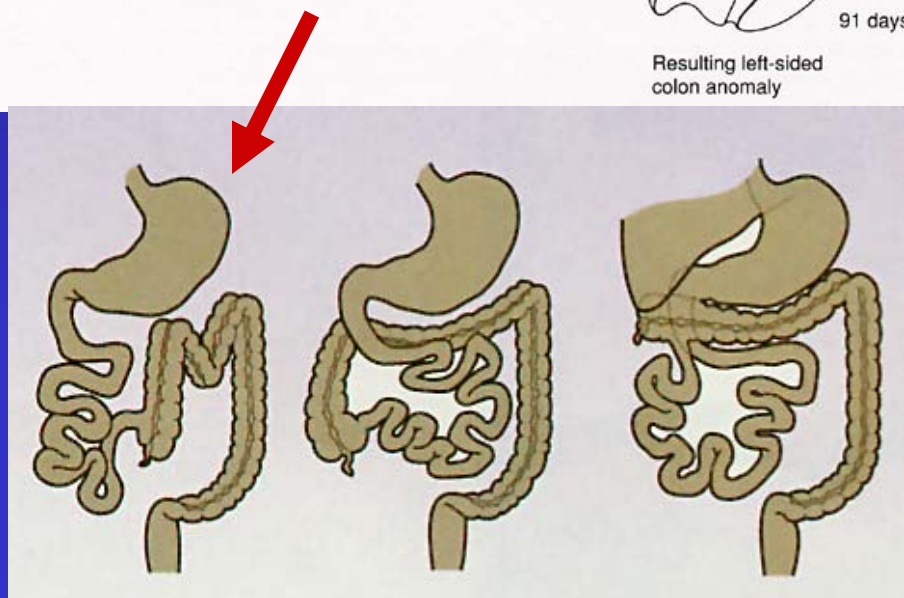
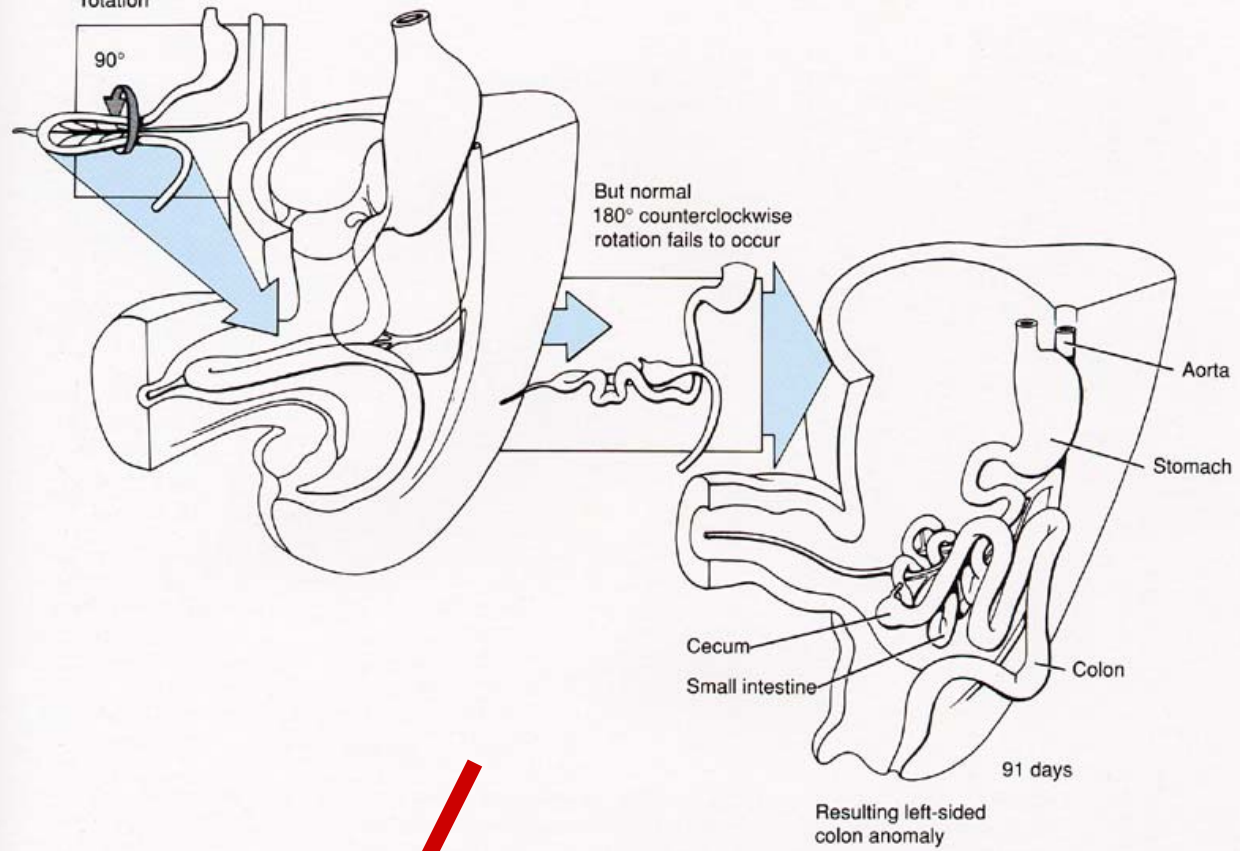
2nd rotation is Absent

Cranial loop ends up on the right side

Caudal loop on the left side

Some organs may or may not get fixed to the body wall

Normal initial 90°
counterclockwise
rotation



Reverse Rotation

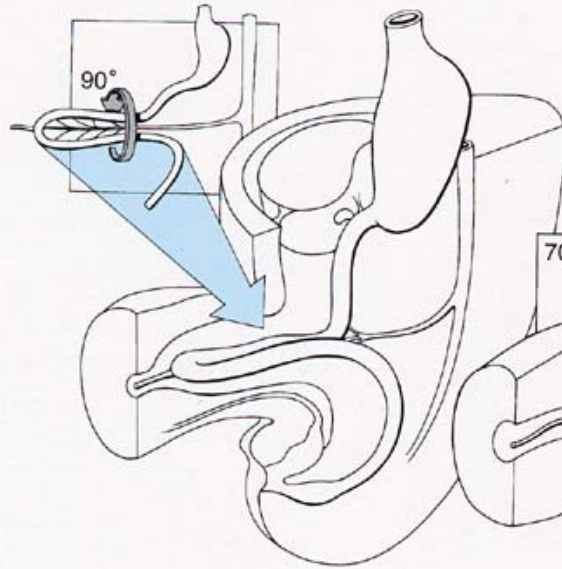
Normal 1st rotation

2nd rotation is clockwise instead of counter clockwise

Net rotation is 90° clockwise

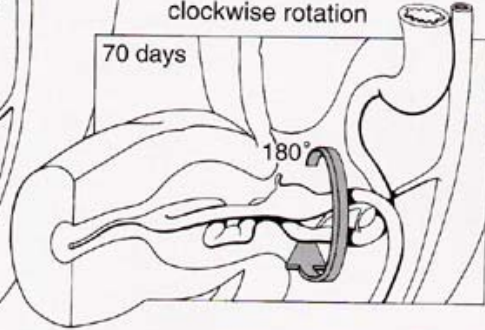
This is equivalent to a 270° counter clockwise rotation
except the duodenum is ventral to the transverse
colon and does not get fixed to dorsal wall,
transverse colon does get fixed

Normal initial 90°
counterclockwise rotation

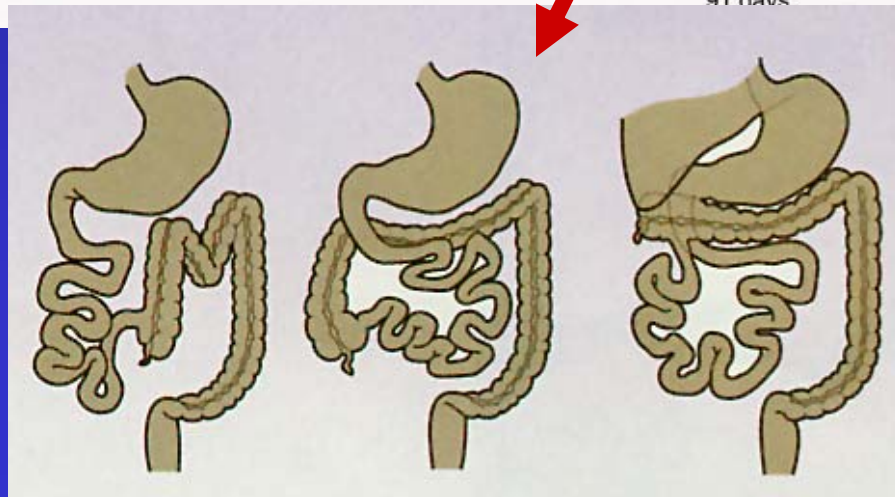
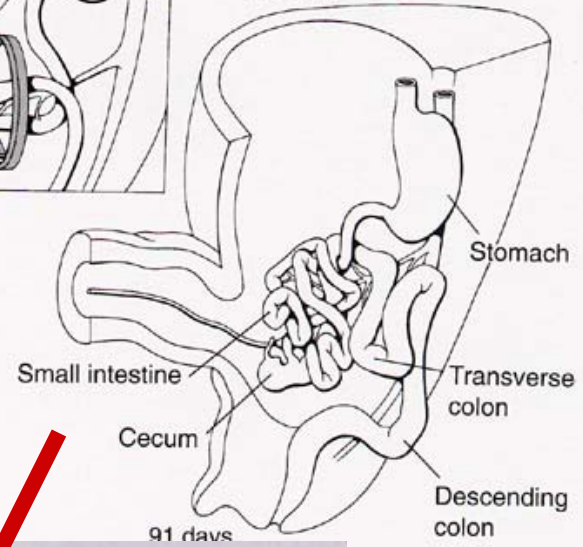


Additional reversed
rotation through
180° clockwise
results in a net 90°
clockwise rotation

70 days



Resulting gut
anomaly



Mixed Rotation

Cranial and caudal loops behave independently

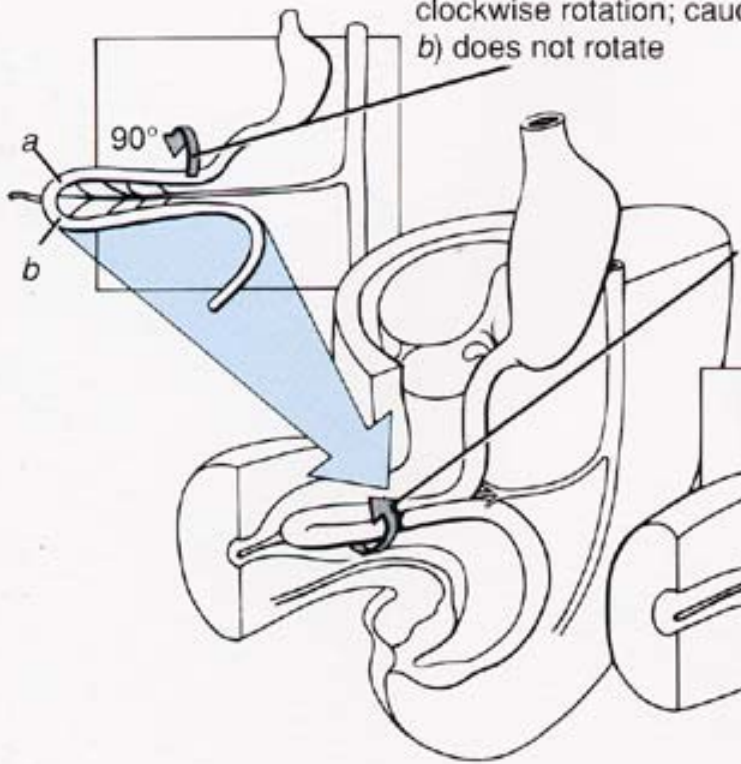
Cranial loop rotates only the 1st 90°

Caudal loop only rotates the 2nd 180°

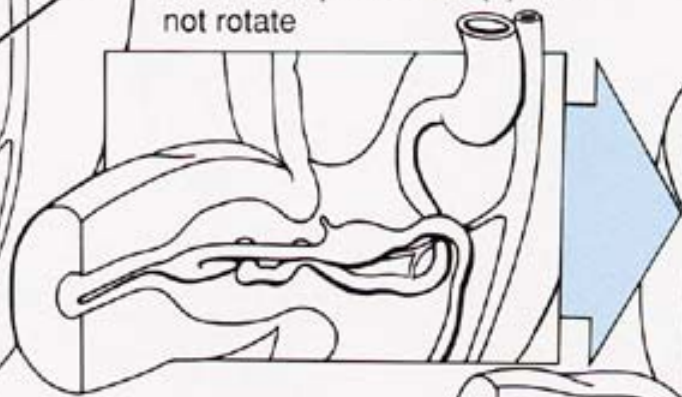
Results in misplaced organs - abnormal fixation

Typical outcome from abnormal rotations -
obstructions of the gastrointestinal tract,
compression of intestinal vasculature - resulting in
intestinal ischemia; compression of lymphatic
vessels - resulting in gastrointestinal bleeding

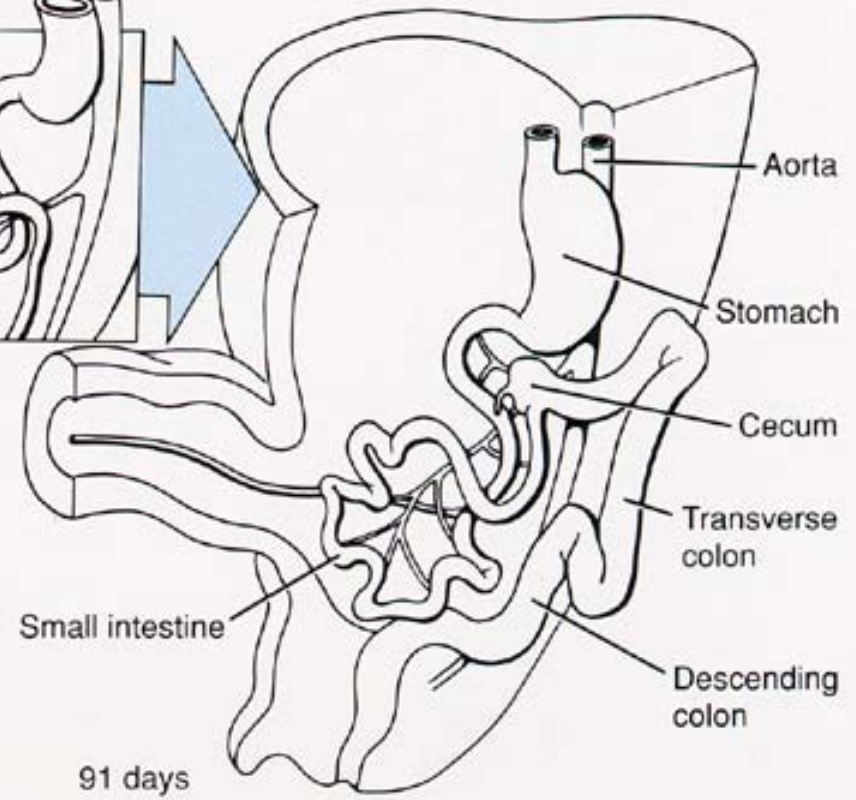
Cephalic limb (limb *a*) of intestinal loop undergoes normal 90° counterclockwise rotation; caudal limb (limb *b*) does not rotate



Caudal Limb (*b*) undergoes normal 180° counterclockwise rotation; cephalic limb (*a*) does not rotate

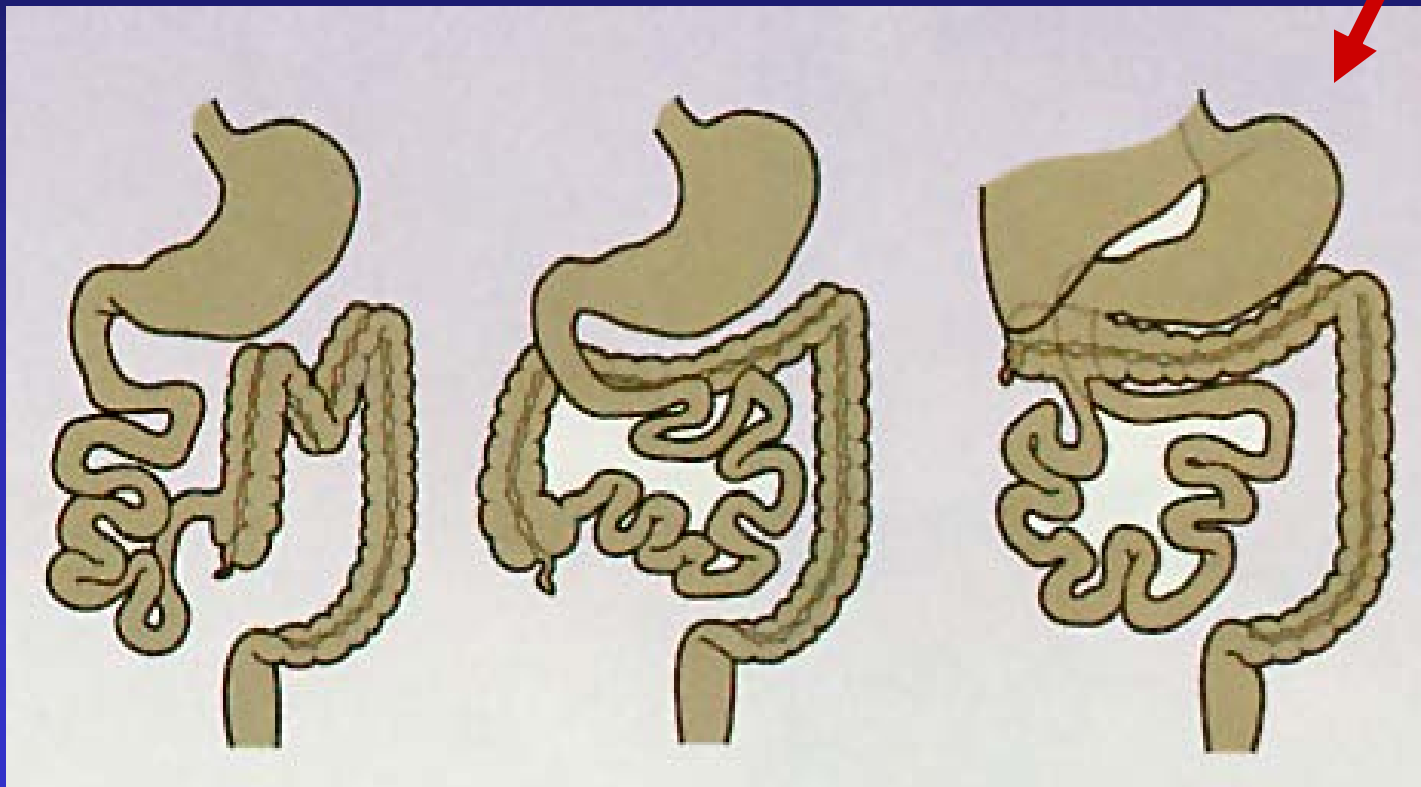


Resulting gut anomaly

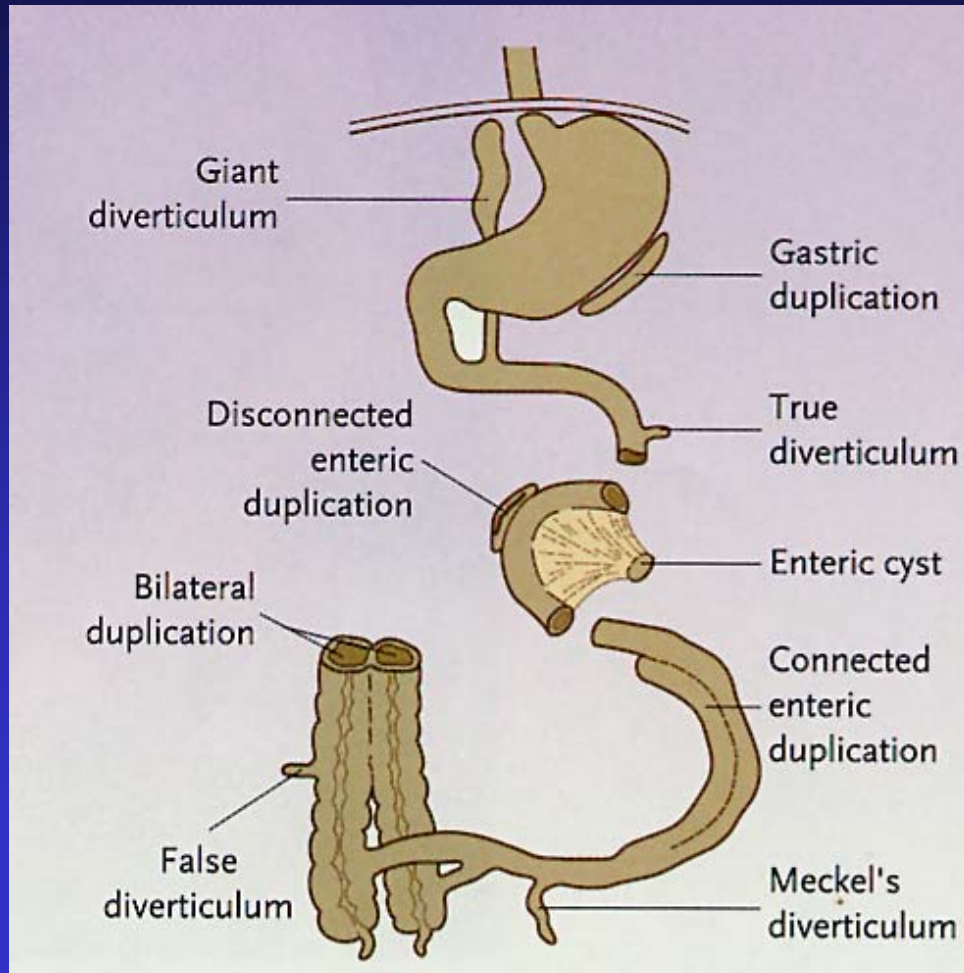


91 days

Anomalies – Midgut Subhepatic Cecum



Intestinal Duplication, Diverticula, and Atresia



Unknown Causes

Anomalies - Hindgut

Hirschsprung's Disease – Dilation of the colon –
defective neural crest migration → absence of
parasympathetic ganglia in the colon wall

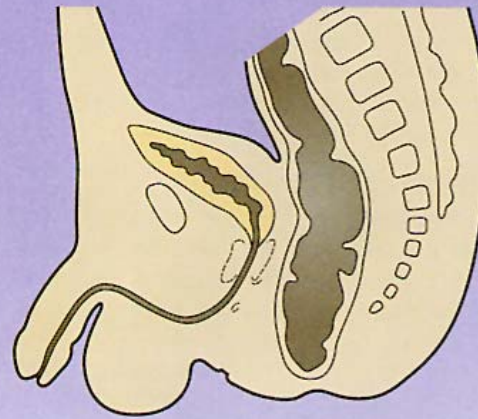
Imperforate anus – absence of anal opening



Hindgut Fistula

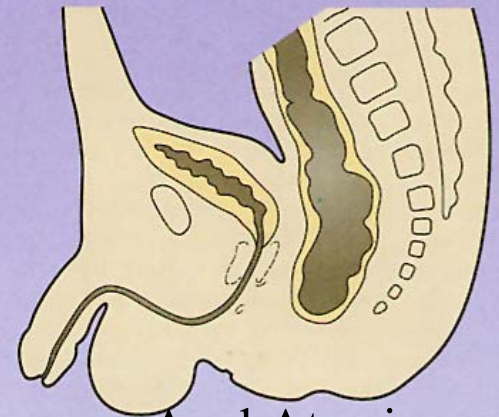
Often connecting
the hindgut to the
urogenital system

A



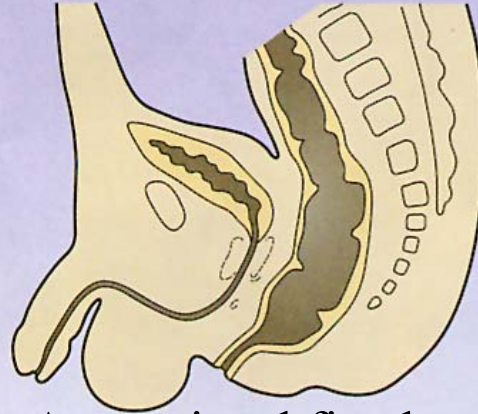
Persistent Anal Membrane

B



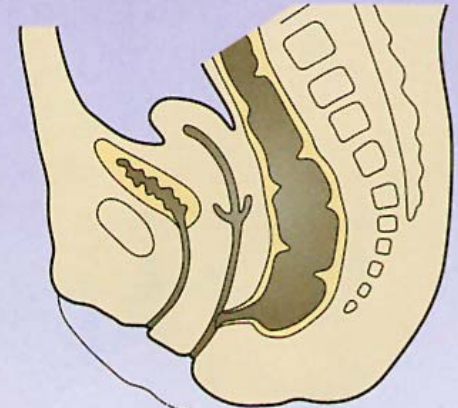
Anal Atresia

C



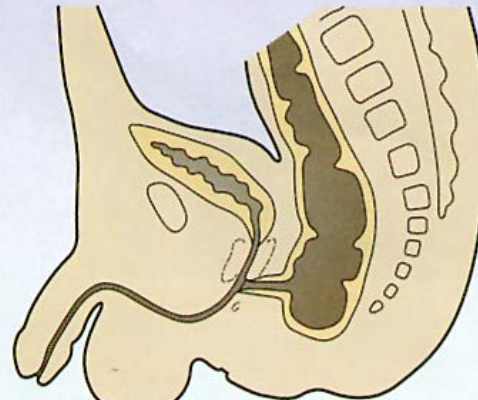
Anoperineal fistula

D



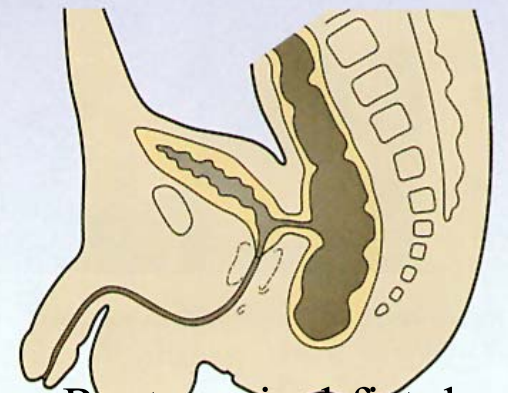
Rectovaginal fistula

E



Rectourethral fistula

F



Rectovesical fistula