THE HUMAN INTESTINAL TRACT PIECE BY PIECE

The information on these pages is not intended to make a diagnosis or to take the place of talking to a US healthcare professional.
Use the illustrations below to better understand how your intestines have been affected by surgery. Highlight sections that have been removed and discuss with your doctor how this may affect your body’s ability to absorb nutrients.

The image below is for illustrative purposes and is not an exact model of the human body.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR INTESTINAL HEALTH, TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR.
Each section of the intestinal tract is responsible for specific functions that help absorb fluids and nutrients to promote digestion.* Your body’s ability to digest and absorb fluids and nutrients following bowel resection surgery will be affected by a number of factors, such as:

- Which section of the intestine is removed
- Length and location of remaining bowel
- How much time has passed since surgery
- Compliance with diet and hydration regimens

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR GASTROINTESTINAL HEALTH, TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR.

**DUODENUM**

The first section of the small intestine. Absorbs fats, sugars, peptides/amino acids, iron, folate, calcium, water, magnesium and electrolytes.

**ILEUM**

The third section of the small intestine. It absorbs bile acids, vitamin B12, water and electrolytes.

**ILEOCECAL VALVE**

**JEJUNUM**

The second section of the small intestine. Absorbs sugars, calcium, peptides/amino acids, electrolytes, magnesium and water.

**LARGE INTESTINE (COLON)**

Absorbs water, electrolytes, amino acids, medium chain triglycerides and calcium.

*The duodenum, jejunum and ileum are sections that make up the small intestine.*

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