SMALL INTESTINES OF THE HORSE

Duodenum:

The cranial part of the duodenum is in contact with the visceral surface of the liver. It forms the sigmoid flexure and a dilatation (ampulla). The first curve of the sigmoid flexure is convex dorsally and the second curve is convex ventrally. The second curve of the sigmoid flexure is the cranial flexure where the body of the pancreas is attached. The major pancreatic duct and the bile duct open in this area at the major duodenal papilla inside the hepatopancreatic ampulla. The accessory pancreatic duct opens at the minor duodenal papilla opposite to the major duodenal papilla.

The descending duodenum runs caudally between the visceral surface of the liver and the right dorsal colon. At the caudal pole of the right kidney it turns medially around the base of the cecum and the root of the mesentery to form the caudal flexure. The short ascending duodenum runs cranially and to the left. It is continued by the jejunum following the duodenojejunal flexure.

Jejunum:

Lies chiefly in the left dorsal part of the abdomen together with the small colon. It is attached to the dorsal abdominal wall by the long mesojejenum that allows great mobility of the bowel. This mobility may result in intestinal colic, due to volvulus, intussusception, or incarceration of the duodenal loops in the epiploic foramen or the vaginal ring.

Ileum:

Passes dorsally toward the lesser curvature of the base of the cecum, where it is partly telescoped into the cecum so that the ileal orifice is surrounded by a fold of mucous membrane.