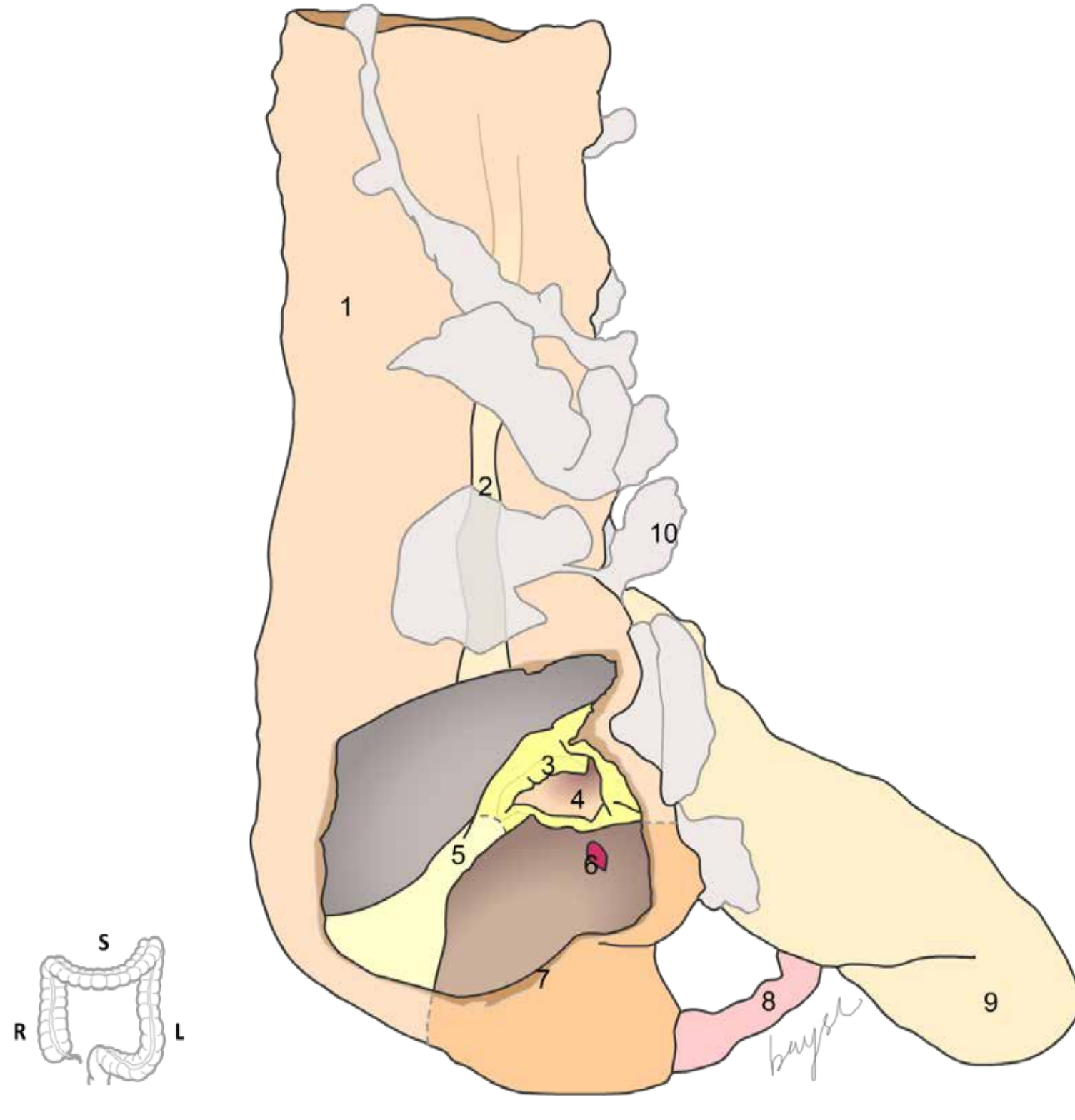


ILEOCAECAL JUNCTION SHOWING VERMIFORM APPENDIX



1. Ascending colon
2. Taenia coli
3. Ileocecal valve
4. Ileocecal orifice
5. Frenulum of ileocecal valve
6. Orifice of vermiform appendix
7. Caecum (anterior wall removed)
8. Vermiform appendix
9. Ileum (terminal)
10. Omental appendices

Anterior aspect of the right lower quadrant of the abdominal cavity showing the **caecum**, appendix, **ileocecal valve**, **ileocecal orifice** (revealed by removal of the anterior wall of the caecum) of the **vermiform appendix** and the internal aspect of the haustral folds in the **ascending colon**.

The caecum and ileocolic junction are located in the right iliac fossa.

The ileocolic orifice is usually closed by tonic contraction rather than by sphincteric action.

The distinguishing features of large intestine include omental appendices, taenia coli and haustrations or sacculations. Although these features are not seen in the caecum and the appendix.

The ileocaecal valve is an anatomical sphincter.

The ileocolic junction helps to provide partial separation of the luminal environment of small and large intestine, impedes reflux from colon and helps antegrade small bowel transit.

Appendix not vestigial anymore!

The latest studies has shown that the vermiform appendix acts as a reservoir for normal gut bacteria.

CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Appendicitis is an acute inflammation of the appendix, a finger-shaped pouch that joins the posteromedial wall of the caecum below the ileocolic junction. Appendicitis causes *acute abdomen* (severe pain arising suddenly in the lower right abdomen).

Initially, pain may be referred to the peri umbilical region because afferent pain fibres enter the spinal cord at T10 segment.

Later, the severe pain is localized to the right lower quadrant of the abdomen as the parietal peritoneum gets inflamed. *Digital pressure* over the McBurney's point produces the maximum abdominal tenderness. Laparoscopic appendectomy has become a standard procedure selectively utilized for removing the appendix.

McBurney's point: The base of the appendix lies deep to a point that is one third of the way along the oblique line joining the right anterior superior iliac spine to the umbilicus.

Question(s)

- *What is the blood supply of appendix?*
- *Where will the pain due to appendicitis referred to?*
- *Does the caecum has any mesentery?*
- *What is the striking feature of histology of appendix?*
- *What are taenia coli?*