

Chapter 4



Colon and Rectum

As the least glamorous of all the gastrointestinal organs, the colon and rectum are nonetheless vitally important for digestive health. Colorectal diseases are extremely common in gastroenterology, and you will likely spend a disproportionate amount of your time caring for patients with diseases of these organs. With the widespread adoption of screening colonoscopy programs to reduce the risk of colorectal cancer, an awareness of the importance of the colon and rectum in normal health and disease has become central to modern gastroenterology.