

## • greater curvature

The stomach is a collapsible, pouch-like structure about 10 inches long and capable of holding 2 to 4 quarts. Attached to the lower end of the esophagus, the stomach lies immediately inferior to the diaphragm and extends to the duodenal portion of the small intestine. The stomach lies in the left upper quadrant of the abdominal cavity.

The lateral surface of the stomach is called the **greater curvature**; the medial surface, the **lesser curvature**. The **lesser omentum** layer of the peritoneum extends around the stomach, and the **greater omentum** is found along the greater curvature of the stomach. The interior of the stomach is lined with rows of folds or wrinkles, called **rugae**.

### The stomach has four main regions:

1. **Cardia:** immediately distal to the gastroesophageal junction of the stomach and esophagus.
2. **Fundus:** enlarged portion distal to the cardia, lying above and to the left of the gastroesophageal opening.
3. **Body:** the middle or main portion of the stomach, distal to the fundus and tapering in size.
4. **Pylorus:** the lower portion, between the body and the gastroduodenal junction.

The stomach has three layers of smooth muscle - the outer longitudinal, the middle circular, and the inner oblique muscles.



1. The maximum capacity of the stomach is about 3 to 4 liters.
2. The stomach receives blood from all three branches of the celiac artery (celiac trunk). The greater curvature of the stomach receives its blood supply from the **left gastroepiploic artery** along its top edge and from the **right gastroepiploic artery** along its lower edge. The upper portion of the greater curvature of the stomach, along with the fundus, receives blood from the **short gastric artery**. The lesser curvature of the stomach receives its blood supply from the **left gastric artery** (this also supplies the cardiac region) and the **right gastric artery**.

The **mucosa of the stomach** contains many **gastric glands** in the lamina propria:

- **Parietal** (*oxyntic*) cells: located in fundus and body; **secrete HCL** and **intrinsic factor**
- **Zymogenic** (*chief*) cells: located in fundus and body; **secrete pepsinogen**
- **G** cells: present throughout the stomach; **produce gastrin**