







# PERITONEAL REFLECTIONS OF ABDOMEN. Unit-5

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- Peritoneum is the serous membrane which lines the abdominal cavity and is reflected over the viscera .
  - In the male, it is completely closed one. In the female there are two small openings in it, and these are abdominal openings of the oviducts .

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- The peritoneum, which covers the inner wall of the abdominal cavity is called parietal peritoneum .
  - The serosa lining which covers the viscera of abdominal cavity is called visceral peritoneum.
  - Connecting peritoneum: The double- layered serosa connecting parietal and visceral peritoneum. It includes the mesenteries, omentum, ligaments and folds.


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- The peritoneal cavity is a potential space formed between two layers, parietal and visceral, which are normally in contact with each other
  - It contains a thin film of serous fluid that acts as a lubricant. Though the peritoneal cavity as a whole is single, it is divisible into two sacs

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- The greater sac is exposed when the inferior wall of the abdomen is cut through
  - The lesser sac forms only diverticulum of the greater sac, which envelops the intestines .
  - The two sacs are continuous with each other through the foramen of Winslow or epiploic foramen .




- The peritoneum gets reflected on the organs contained in the cavity to form their outermost covering

- It then extends into a number of folds, which extend between the various organs or connect them to the walls .



- These folds serve to hold the organ in position and also to enclose the vessels and nerves passing through them. They are as follows,

- A double fold passing from the stomach to the other viscera is called an omentum E.g.. greater omentum





- A double fold that attaches the intestine to the dorsal abdominal wall is called mesentery, eg..


common mesentery of ox and dog

- A double fold, which attaches viscera other than parts of the digestive tube to the walls, is ligament, E.g., ligament of liver.



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- Omentum : A double fold peritoneum which attach the stomach to other viscera or abdominal wall. It has two parts- greater and lesser.
  - Greater omentum connects the greater curvature of the stomach and encloses the greater part of intestine at the right side to the abdominal wall.

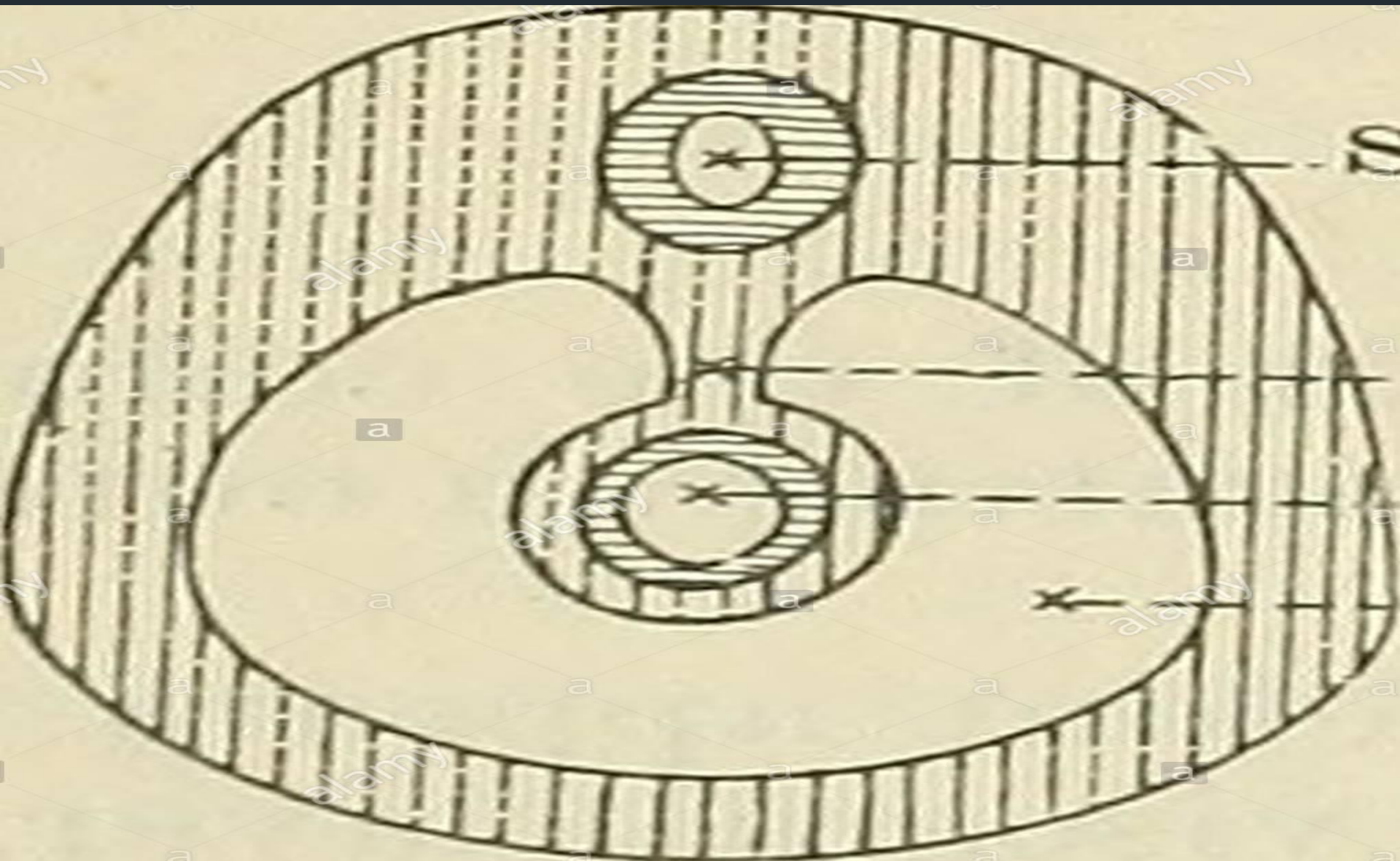
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- Lesser omentum: it extends from liver to parietal surface of omasum, pyloric part of abomasum and first part of duodenum. The contents of lesser omentum are hepatic artery, portal vein, bile duct, hepatic plexus of nerves, lymph nodes and lymphatics.
  - Mesentery: this is a double fold which attaches the intestine to abdominal wall.

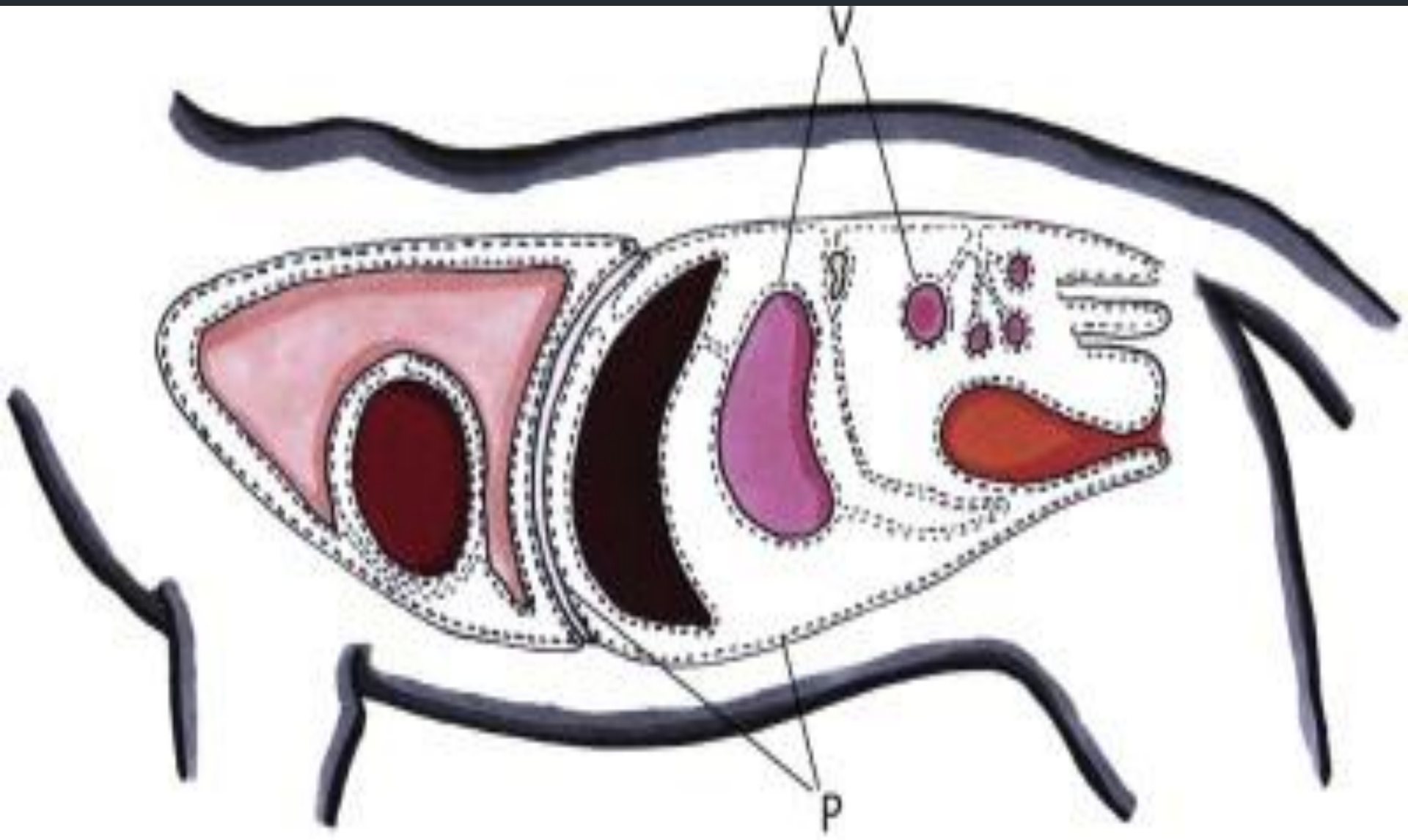
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- Omentum and mesentery transmit blood vessels, lymphatics, and nerves to the respective organs. whereas a ligament does not, except the broad ligament of the uterus.
  - Ligaments are the double folds which attaches the viscera to the abdominal walls. Eg. Ligaments of liver, spleen etc.



# Functions of peritoneum

- It provides lubricating fluids for free movements of abdominal viscera
- The phagocytic cells of peritoneum guard the viscera against infection.
- It helps in healing.
- It acts as storage of fat.







THANKS