

What are the divisions of the small intestine? Which are intraperitoneal?

The divisions of the small intestine are the duodenum, the jejunum (meaning empty) and the ileum (meaning twisted). The jejunum and the ileum are intraperitoneal while the duodenum is retroperitoneal. (Intraperitoneal meaning inside the Peritoneum and vice versa for retroperitoneal.)

What would be the effect of removing the entire colon and rectum? Would this be more or less difficult to live with than removing the small intestine?

The colon and rectum can be removed quite easily, the transverse colon is sewn up to the skin and the waste is excreted into a bag. The anus is then sewn up.

It would be harder to live with removing the small intestine because, since the small intestine absorbs nutrients, there are so many more things that could go wrong. When just removing a section of the small intestine, the food could pass too quickly for the patient to absorb the nutrients they need, and they could become malnourished. If you removed the entire small intestine, the patient would only be able to absorb a very small amount of the nutrients in their food, and would probably need outside help to avoid becoming extremely malnourished.