

Compare and contrast absorption of water in the small intestine with absorption in the colon.

When partially digested food passes through your small intestine, the small intestine absorbs back 8.3 liters of water, compared to the 1 liter of intestinal juice it and the colon produce. The colon, on the other hand, only reabsorbs 1 liter of water.

What are the voluntary and involuntary components of defecation? What would be the effect of completely cutting the external anal sphincter?

The internal sphincter of the anus is involuntary, meaning that you cannot consciously control it. The external sphincter is voluntary, so you have control over when and where you want to go to the bathroom. This was important in a predator's evolution as they had to be able to control when they went. The effect of cutting the external anal sphincter would be removing your control over when you use the bathroom and would be very unpleasant.