

Portal Vein Program Transcript

This is a diagram of the hepatic portal system. A portal system begins with a series of capillaries that empty into veins and then empty back into capillaries again. The hepatic portal system begins at the intestines with veins from the digestive system draining into the hepatic portal vein. The hepatic portal vein then goes into the liver where the material is processed, and the processed material goes out of the liver through the hepatic veins and into the inferior vena cava.

The portal vein is made up of two major digestive veins—one is the splenic and the other one is the superior mesenteric vein. All the veins that run with branches off of the celiac trunk and superior and inferior mesenteric arteries empty into the portal system. The diagram on the right shows these veins coming together—some going into the splenic vein, some going into the superior mesenteric vein, and then the two coming together to form the hepatic portal vein to enter the liver.

Now running with the hepatic portal vein is the hepatic artery, which brings blood flow to the cells there, and along with that, is the bile duct containing bile that is reduced by the liver. The portal vein, hepatic artery, and the bile duct form what is known as the hepatic triad.