SUMMARY OF LEARNING POINTS

THE PARIETAL VERSUS VISCERAL PERITONEUM

The **parietal peritoneum** lines the pelvic cavity, abdominal walls and diaphragm.

The **visceral peritoneum** lines the intraperitoneal organs and forms the omentum and mesenteries.
The greater omentum descends from the greater curvature of the stomach, passing anteriorly to the small intestines and superiorly to connect with the transverse colon.

The lesser omentum consists of the gastrohepatic and gastroduodenohepatic ligaments that contain the hepatic artery, portal vein, common bile duct and lymphatics.

The greater and lesser omentum divide the peritoneal cavity into the greater and lesser sac.
The **mesentery** is a double layer of visceral peritoneum that attaches the intestines to the posterior abdominal wall. It contains:

- Blood vessels
- Lymphatics
- Nerves
**Intraperitoneal organs**: liver & gallbladder, spleen, tail of pancreas, cecum and appendix, transverse and sigmoid colon, stomach and small bowel (except parts 2-4 of duodenum), ovaries

**Subperitoneal organs**: bladder, uterus (women), prostate & seminal vesicles (men)

**Retroperitoneal organs**: “SAD PUCKER”

- **S** uprarenal (adrenal) glands
- **A** orta and inferior vena cava
- **D** uodenum (except first 2 cm)
- **P** ancreas (head, body and neck)
- **U** reters
- **C** colon (ascending & descending)
- **K** idneys
- **E** sophagus
- **R** ectum