

Mammalian cells of the small intestine : a review

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ABSTRACT:

The digestive tract is an essential organ in living organisms, and assumes a fundamental role in food processing and absorption. The small intestinal mucosa is characterized by continuous villi and crypts that, in the adult, are lined by mature epithelial cells that form the functional epithelial compartment of differentiated cells. The epithelial lining of the small intestine consists of different types of cells, absorptive enterocytes, goblet cells, Paneth cells and enteroendocrine cells. The goblet cells are unicellular exocrine mucous glands, dispersed among the columnar cells of the epithelium of the villi and crypts of Lieberkühn. The enterocytes were principal type of epithelium cells; most of these cells were dark, tall and cylindrical cells, while a few cells were pale in the epithelium of the entire length of the villi and crypts of Lieberkühn. Paneth cells are highly adapted small-intestinal epithelial cells, where many physiological roles are organized. These cells are located at the base of the crypts of Lieberkühn and the enteroendocrine cells are unicellular endocrine glands, lie in the villi and crypts of the small intestinal mucosa.

Keywords:

Cells, Small intestine, Mammalian.