Venous Portal Circle

Ciro Stavolo, Raffaella Marino
Fig. 16.1 a The portal vein is a large venous trunk that collects hypo-oxygenated blood from the subdiaphragmatic portion of the gastrointestinal tract, spleen, pancreas, and gallbladder. b At the level of the pancreatic head, the portal trunk is formed by the confluence of three major abdominal veins: superior mesenteric vein, inferior mesenteric vein, and splenic vein. c The superior mesenteric vein is the first branch of the portal confluence. It is localized in the mesenterial adipose tissue, which lies in the folds of the mesenterial fan, and crosses the horizontal portion of the duodenum, reaching the portal trunk directly. It receives blood from the intestinal mesenteric veins and the ileo-colic, middle colic, and pancreaticoduodenal veins.