DEMONSTRATION OF ACID PHOSPHATASE— CONTAINING GRANULES AND CYTOPLASMIC BODIES IN THE EPITHELIUM OF FOETAL RAT DUODENUM DURING CERTAIN STAGES OF DIFFERENTIATION

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ABSTRACT

Dense cytoplasmic bodies surrounded by one or two unit membranes and containing mitochondria, vesicles, ribosomes, rough and smooth surfaced endoplasmic reticulum, and lamellated membranes (myelin figures) have been observed in the differentiating mucosa of the duodenum of rat foetuses by electron microscopy. Generally, the cytoplasmic components in the bodies seem to be in varying stages of disintegration. The bodies are found in greatest number on the 17th and 18th day of gestation, i.e. at the onset of differentiation. At this period of development the epithelium is stratified, and the villus formation is initiated by invagination of the epithelium by buds of mesenchyme followed by a splitting of the epithelium along the sides of the invaginations. When the villi have formed, the stratified epithelium has changed to the simple columnar type and the dense bodies have largely disappeared. Simultaneously, the lumen has widened considerably. In a parallel study with the light microscope, frozen sections incubated for the demonstration of acid phosphatase activity revealed the reaction product to be localized in bodies of the same size and distribution as the dense bodies found by electron microscopy. Hence, it seems that the bodies are altered and enlarged lysosomes (cytolysomes) active during the intensive differentiative events in the small intestine during the last part of intra-uterine life.

INTRODUCTION

Since the first studies on the histogenesis of the small intestine in mammals were published by Meckel (22) in 1817, the histological development of this organ has been the subject of many investigations (see 2, 8, 13, 17, 20, 48, 52, and review by Patzelt (38)). In the past decade histochemical and biochemical techniques have been applied in order to elucidate aspects of the functional differentiation (27–31, 40), particularly the activity of alkaline phosphatase during the development. In some of these studies (30, 31) the influence of exogenous corticoids was studied, and it was found

that a precocious functional differentiation can be brought about by administration of hydrocortisone, which apparently only accelerates the differentiation, as no dissociation in the constituent events was observed.

By the introduction of the electron microscope a more profound information of the cellular differentiation in the intestine can be obtained. In this laboratory, electron microscope studies have for some time been undertaken to investigate the sequential events in the differentiation of the small intestine, and this paper deals with certain aspects of the differentiation of the epithelium. Recently, it was published that membrane-bounded cytoplasmic bodies containing mitochondria, ribosomes, and endoplasmic reticulum were present in some of the intestinal epithelial cells in newborn rats (26). It was assumed that these bodies represent an early stage in the development of lysosomes. Bodies of this type are, however, far more numerous and much more complicated in structure during the last part of intra-uterine life when the

The duodena of the foetuses were exposed and removed. The placental circulation was kept intact as long as possible during this procedure. The tissue for electron microscopy was fixed in cold osmium tetroxide (37) in the modification given by Sjöstrand (46). Embedding was made in Vestopal W (44). Sectioning was done on an LKB ultramicrotome.

For the purpose of orientation, 1 to 2 micron thick sections for light microscopy were cut and stained with the cobalt sulfide method (25) or with basic dyes such as toluidine blue or basic fuchsin. Other sections were

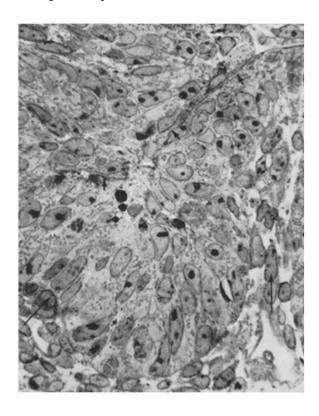


FIGURE 1 A 2-micron section of a part of the epithelium of the duodenum of a rat foetus, 17 days old. The epithelium is stratified. The small arrows indicate a cleft in the epithelium. Two buds of mesenchyme are seen invaginating the epithelium (large arrows). Cytoplasmic bodies and nucleoli are heavily stained. Osmium tetroxide-fixed, Vestopal-embedded material. Basic fuchsin. × 850.

formation of villi begins, and the differentiation of the intestinal epithelium into absorptive cells, goblet cells, and argentaffine cells is initiated. In the following account, these cytoplasmic bodies will be described and discussed.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The duodena of albino rat foetuses of different ages were used in this investigation. Before and during pregnancy the mothers were kept under standard laboratory conditions. At the desired time of pregnancy the mother was lightly anaesthetized with ether, and phenobarbital in a dose of 4 mg per 100 g. of body weight was injected intraperitoneally.

stained with pyronine, or the PAS reaction was carried out.

Thin sections for electron microscopy were contrasted for 1 to 2 hours with a 4 per cent aqueous uranyl acetate solution at room temperature (54). If a stronger contrast was desired, it was found advantageous to contrast the sections in a 2 per cent aqueous solution at 50°C for 30 minutes.

The sections were studied in a Philips electron microscope EM 100 B or a Siemens Elmiskop I.

For the demonstration of acid phosphatase activity in the light microscope, the duodena of rat foetuses 17 days old were fixed overnight in cold formol-calcium. Frozen sections were incubated at 37°C for 10 to 45 minutes in fresh Gomori medium (14) at pH 5. At-

tempts have been made to demonstrate the acid phosphatase activity, using the electron microscope, following the procedure given by Holt and Hicks (19), and by Miller (24). However, the ultrastructure of the sensitive embryonic tissues deteriorates very badly when incubated in the Gomori medium even at pH 6.2, and no study of detailed morphology has been possible so far.

OBSERVATIONS

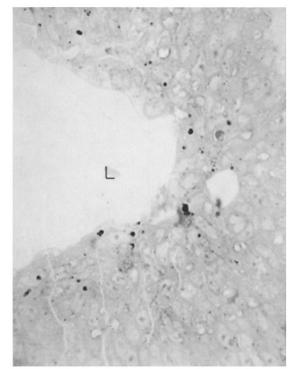
1. Light Microscopical

The epithelium of the duodenum of a rat foetus on the 14th day of gestation is of the simple colum-

has widened considerably. Buds of mesenchyme (Fig. 1) forming the future connective tissue core of the villi are seen invaginating the epithelium. When the bud of mesenchyme has reached a certain height, the epithelium shows narrow clefts along the sides of the invaginations. In this way the first villi are formed. The epithelium has now reverted to the simple, columnar type.

Thus in certain stages of the differentiation of the mucosa of the duodenum, the epithelium changes from a thick stratified epithelium to a single layer of columnar cells. During this period

FIGURE 2 Photomicrograph of a 2-micron section of a part of the duodenal epithelium of a rat foetus, 17 days old. The tissue was fixed for 3 hours in glutaraldehyde buffered to pH 7.4 with sodium cacodylate buffer. Frozen sections 50 microns thick were incubated in Gomori medium at pH 5 for 30 minutes, postfixed for 30 minutes in osmium tetroxide, and embedded in Vestopal W. After cutting, the section was briefly treated with ammonium sulfide. The reaction precipitate is localized in bodies in the epithelial cells near the lumen (L). Note vacuolization of the epithelium resulting from freezing, thawing, and incubation. The "staining" of nucleoli is due to osmium tetroxide. \times 800.



nar type, limited from the surrounding mesenchyme by a well defined basement membrane. The columnar cells are very high with broad bases and tapering luminal ends, which limit the small, slitlike lumen. The nuclei are placed basally in the cells.

On the 16th day, small granules, which stain with toluidine blue and give a positive PAS reaction, are found in the apical cytoplasm.

During the following days an intensive mitotic activity takes place in the epithelium, resulting on the 18th day of gestation in a stratified epithelium consisting of four to six layers of cells. The lumen

of cellular rearrangement a variety of cytoplasmic bodies appear (Fig. 1) mainly in the cells bordering the lumen. The bodies are only occasionally found in the basal cell layers. Only a few are found on the 16th day, the numbers increasing on the following days and reaching a maximum about the 18th day. About 24 hours later they have largely vanished.

The bodies present a considerable variation in size, ranging from less than 1 micron to several microns. They are stained intensely by basic dyes, such as basic fuchsin and toluidine blue, but show no metachromasia with the latter in formalin-fixed

tissue. Some of the bodies contain PAS-positive material, and some are stained with pyronine.

Frozen sections of the duodenum of 18-day foetuses incubated in Gomori medium for the demonstration of acid phosphatase activity show a positive reaction in bodies of the same location and size as the dense bodies, but not all of the bodies do

structure. Furthermore, bodies scarcely visible in the light microscope show up by electron microscopy.

In their luminal portion the epithelial cells show from the 14th to the 16th day an increasing number of vesicles of varying size (Fig. 3). The vesicles are bounded by a membrane of the same dimen-

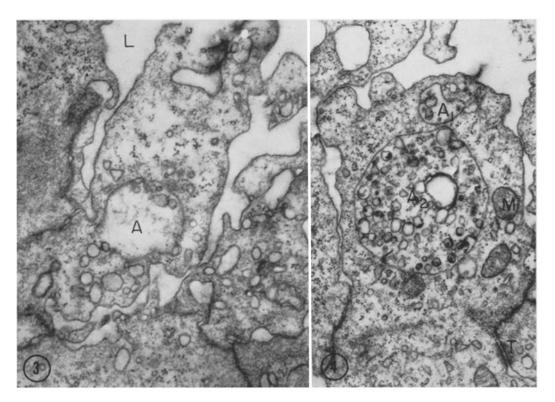


FIGURE 3 Electron micrograph of the luminal parts of several epithelial cells from the duodenum of a 15-day-old rat foetus. Numerous pinocytotic vesicles are seen. The vesicles are bounded by a membrane similar to the plasma membrane. At A an aggregate of vesicles is forming. \times 35,500.

Figs. 4 to 7 All figures are from epithelial cells of the duodenum of rat foetuses, 16 days old. L, lumen; A, aggregate of vesicles; T, terminal bar; M, mitochondrion.

Figure 4 At A_1 and A_2 two vesicular aggregates are seen. In A_2 , besides the vesicles, ribosomes can be identified which presumably were included when the surrounding membrane formed. \times 27,000.

react (Fig. 2). Heaviest accumulations of the enzyme reaction product are usually seen in the smaller bodies. Positive reaction was obtained only with incubation times of 20 minutes or longer, suggesting a rather low content of acid phosphatase in the reacting bodies.

2. Electron Microscopical

Examination with the electron microscope discloses that the cytoplasmic bodies observed in the light microscope have a varied and complicated sions as the plasma membrane, and they appear electron-optically empty. They are often seen lined up in a row extending from the cell surface into the cytoplasm, suggesting their origin from pinocytotic activity.

On the 16th day, the vesicles show a tendency to aggregate, the vesicular aggregate being surrounded by a unit-membrane (41) (Figs. 4 and 5), which at times is found not to be completely closed (Fig. 5, arrow). By the formation of this outer membrane other cytoplasmic components

can be included in the vesicular aggregate (Fig. 4), showing the inclusion of granules, which probably are ribosomes. When the outer membrane of the aggregate has formed, the included vesicles show a content of varying electron opacity, and some of them contain still smaller vesicles. Thus the aggregates differ from the morphologically well defined multivesicular bodies (see 47 for review) in showing

endoplasmic reticulum can be identified. Near the centre of the body a fine granular substance is seen. The relationship between the aggregates of vesicles and the dense bodies is uncertain, but it is thought that bodies like those shown in Figs. 6 and 7 may result if a condensation of a vesicular aggregate takes place. Mitochondria may also be included in the dense bodies as seen in Fig. 7.

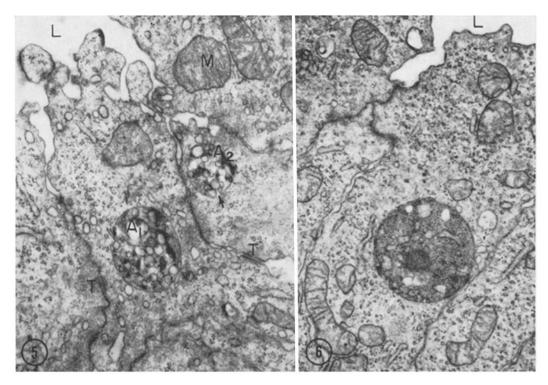


FIGURE 5 This figure shows two vesicular aggregates $(A_1 \text{ and } A_2)$, each surrounded by a membrane. Some of the included vesicles show at this stage of development a content of a rather electron-opaque substance. Note the varying size of the included vesicles, and that some of them contain still smaller vesicles. The membrane of A_2 is not completely closed (arrow). \times 24,500.

FIGURE 6 This body represents what is thought to be a further development—a condensation—of a vesicular aggregate. Parts of the rough surfaced endoplasmic reticulum have been included. Near the centre of the body a mass of finely granulated material is seen. \times 20,000.

greater variation in the size of the vesicles and in the content of other cytoplasmic constituents. Besides the vesicular aggregates, cytoplasmic bodies of a much more complicated type begin to show up in the epithelial cells of the 16th day duodenum (Figs. 6, 7, and 9). A common feature of these bodies is a surrounding membrane, which frequently is found to be double. Fig. 6 shows the luminal portion of an epithelial cell containing a dense body, in which vesicles, ribosomes, and rough surfaced

Apparently, the dense bodies can gain in mass by the apposition of additional layers of cytoplasmic components, the whole mass being surrounded by a new membrane. A comparison between Figs. 7 and 10 illustrates this conception. In Fig. 10, which shows a part of a large dense body, a dense central mass comparable to the dense body in Fig. 7 is seen. The central mass is bordered by a membrane, and is surrounded by a shell of cytoplasmic components in varying stages of disintegra-

tion, the body, as a whole, being delimited from the surrounding cytoplasm by two membranes. These are favourably cut only in the upper left part of the body.

The inclusion of a vesicular aggregate in a dense body is demonstrated in Fig. 9. A bell-shaped body is seen, which, in the upper more dense part, besides ribosomes and endoplasmic reticulum, conview, showing mitochondria, endoplasmic reticulum, and a dense granular mass surrounded partly by a double membrane, partly by a row of vesicles. The fusion of these vesicles would result in a membrane limiting the accumulation of cytoplasmic components from the cytoplasm of the cell. With the fusion completed, a body like that in Fig. 13 might appear. In this body nearly all kinds of

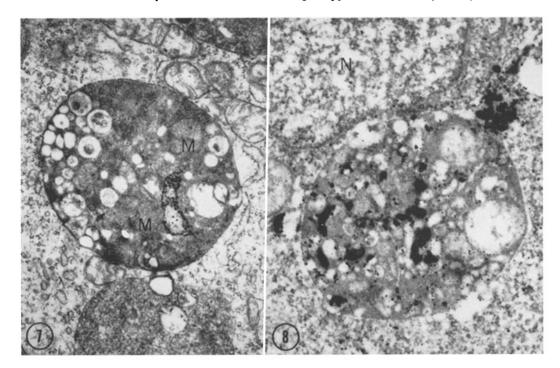


FIGURE 7 A dense body from the epithelium of the duodenum of the 16th day of gestation. Parts of two other bodies in the same cell are seen at the upper right and at the bottom. Ribosomes, vesicles, and mitochondria (M) are seen in a rather dense substance. \times 24,500.

FIGURE 8 Dense body in duodenal epithelial cell, 17th day. The section was cut from the same tissue as that shown in Fig. 2. The dense reaction product of acid phosphatase activity is seen in the large body and in two smaller bodies. N, nucleus. \times 24,000.

tains a vesicular aggregate, the surrounding membrane of which is intact. The impression is gained that the body is about to engulf the fine filamentous substance seen in its center. This conjectured process of engulfing has been observed several times, and it is remarkable that the substance to be engulfed in every case has been the same filamentous material as shown in this figure.

It is an unsolved question, by what mechanism the membranes surrounding the vesicular aggregates and the dense bodies have been formed. It has been suggested that the fusion of vesicles could take place. Fig. 12 renders some support to this organelles and inclusions that are found in normal cells have been surrounded by a double, bounding membrane. Four masses of roughly granulated material, presumably condensations of ribosomes, are seen (also shown in Figs 10 to 12). The included mitochondria show signs of dissolution. When the limiting membranes are double, the space between them is usually quite narrow, although occasionally some material may be seen in this space, as shown in Figs. 14 and 15. The two originally separate bodies in Fig. 14 have been enveloped by a membrane common to both. In the lower part of the body two masses of granular substance are

seen in the space between the membranes, some of the granules presumably being ribosomes. In the interior of the body, ribosomes, vesicles, and rough surfaced endoplasmic reticulum are seen, the endoplasmic reticulum partly surrounding two masses of coarsely granulated substance. The fine granular material (FG, Fig. 14) is also observed in Figs. 13 and 15; in the latter the contents of the body seem to be in a more advanced stage of degeneration.

Piles of parallel membranes are observed rela-

components which are delimited from the rest of the cell by a single or double membrane.

The heterogeneity is largely dependent on the type and the amount of the included cytoplasmic components and the degree of dissolution of these.

As stated, the appearance of the cytoplasmic bodies coincides with a widening of the intestinal lumen, the formation of villi, and the onset of differentiation of the epithelial cells. It seems natural to think that the bodies represent a mechanical content of the cytoplasmic properties of the cytoplasmic bodies represent a mechanical content of the cytoplasmic bodies represent a mechanical content of the cytoplasmic bodies represent a mechanical content of the cytoplasmic bodies coincides with a widening of the intestinal lumen, the formation of villi, and the onset of differentiation of the cytoplasmic bodies coincides with a widening of the intestinal lumen, the formation of villi, and the onset of differentiation of the epithelial cells.

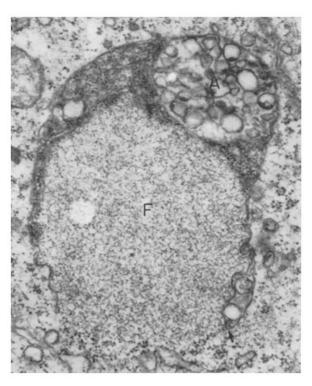


FIGURE 9 This figure shows a body which on section has a horseshoe-like appearance. The "shoe," which seems to be closed (at the lower right the inner and outer membrane show continuity (arrow)), contains a vesicular aggregate (A), ribosomes, and endoplasmic reticulum. One gets the impression that the body is in a process of engulfing the fine filamentous material (F). (See text). \times 40,000.

tively often in the dense bodies (Fig. 13), and some bodies (Fig. 16) are built up solely by complicated membrane systems. In this body the membranes are, in places, arranged in "myelin figures" (Fig. 17). Other sections through this body have shown that the membranes seem to form a continuous system.

DISCUSSION

The heterogeneity of the cytoplasmic bodies described in this paper is clearly demonstrated in the electron micrographs presented. The bodies consist of an aggregate of different cytoplasmic

nism for isolating and hydrolyzing cellular waste products resulting from these processes.

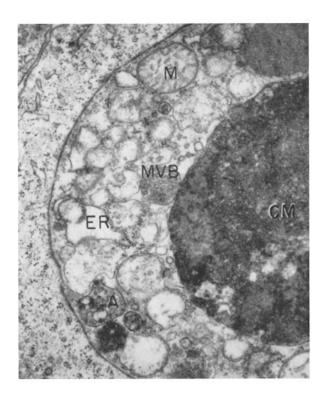
Tentatively, based on the static pictures the micrographs represent, a line of development of these bodies may be advanced. It is assumed that the vesicular aggregates (Figs. 3 to 5) and the bodies seen in Figs. 6, 9, 12 to 14 represent initial and early stages, and Fig. 16, a terminal stage in such a hypothetical sequence of transition. The other figures represent various intermediate stages.

Lipids and lipoproteins show a tendency to arrange themselves in "myelin figures" in watery media (18, 50), and the myelin figures shown in Figs. 13 and 16 are thought to consist of lipids or lipoproteins released in the process of the breaking down of organelles included in the cytoplasmic bodies. That the lipids released by the digestion of erythrocytes in spleen macrophages form myelin figures was demonstrated by Stoeckenius (49), and similar myelin figures and lamellated bodies have been observed in a variety of cells under physiological as well as pathological circumstances (6, 21, 39, 16, 23, 55).

The finding of cell deaths in embryological

Glücksmann (15), degenerating and dead cells can be identified in the luminal portions of the epithelium of the duodenum of the 17th and 18th day embryos. Many of the cells, which could be classified as degenerating cells because of nuclear changes, contained dense bodies in their cytoplasm, but other cells containing dense bodies showed no signs of degeneration at all.

The possibility exists that the dense bodies presented here are cell remnants from dead cells phagocytosed by other epithelial cells. The



FIGURES 10 to 16 Dense bodies from the duodenal epithelium of rat foetuses, 17 days old. FIGURE 10 The micrograph shows a part of a large body, which contains a very densely packed, membrane-bounded central mass (CM), in which no cytoplasmic structures can be identified except ribosomes. The peripheral part is separated from the surrounding cytoplasm by two membranes and contains cytoplasmic components in varying stages of disintegration. The central mass bears some resemblance to the body shown in Fig. 7. This resemblance might indicate that the bodies can grow by apposition. MVB, multivesicular body; M, mitochondrion; ER, endoplasmic reticulum; A, aggregate of vesicles. \times 23,500.

processes, such as the formation of lumina in solid glands, histological differentiations, and regression of transient structures has been reviewed by Glücksmann (15). The transient occlusion of the lumen of the duodenum at places during development has been described in man by Forssner (13) and Johnson (20) and in the rat by Tandler (52) and Forssner (13). In this material the lumen of the duodenum has not been found totally occluded. I to 2 micron thick sections of Vestopalembedded tissue have shown that a very narrow lumen is present, although it is easily overlooked in ordinary paraffin sections. By following the morphological criteria of cell death given by

actual process of phagocytosis, however, has not been observed. Bellairs (3) has described in a combined light and electron microscopic investigation of cell death in chick blastoderm, dense bodies very similar to the bodies presented in this paper, and considers them to be degenerating and phagocytosed cells. The "banding of granules" described by Bellairs (3) in degenerating cells has not been observed in this material. Likewise, Cohen (7) has found similar dense cytoplasmic inclusions in the tissues of the head of 8-to-9-day mouse embryos, and has suggested their origin from phagocytotic activity.

In a study of the cellular differentiation of the

kidneys of newborn mice, Clark (6) found large, PAS-positive cytoplasmic bodies in the differentiating proximal tubular cells, some of which showed dense, concentric lamellae and altered mitochondria, besides some amorphous material. Clark pointed out the possible relationship between these cytoplasmic bodies and vacuoles and small canals also found in the cytoplasm. Similar cyto-

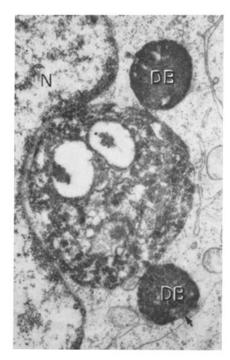


FIGURE 11 This cell contains three cytoplasmic bodies, two of which are very dense (DB). The membrane surrounding the dense bodies is not very well defined, but can be seen in the lower body (arrow). Presumably, the granular content consists of ribosomes. Dense bodies of this kind are often found at this period of development. N, nucleus. \times 18,500.

plasmic bodies have been observed by Novikoff (32) in the proximal tubular cells of rat kidneys after ligation of the ureter. These bodies were identified with acid phosphatase-rich bodies seen by light microscopy. In isolated rat livers perfused with glucagon, Ashford and Porter (1) found membrane-bounded bodies containing cytoplasmic components in various stages of breakdown. These authors suggest that the bodies represent areas of autolysis that have been encapsulated by a membrane to protect the rest of the cell.

In an investigation of the influence of folic acid

antagonists on the human proximal intestine, Trier (53) found a coincidence between the mitotic inhibition in the crypt epithelium and the appearance of spherical bodies in the cytoplasm of many crypt cells. In the electron microscope these bodies showed a morphology identical to that of many of the bodies seen in the foetal duodenal epithelium. It is interesting that Trier found the bodies confined exclusively to the epithelial cells of the crypts: they were never seen in the differentiated villous epithelial cells and only occasionally found in the crypt lumen.

The ultimate fate of the dense bodies found in this material is just as obscure. As previously stated, they have largely disappeared when the first small villi have formed, and only on rare occasions have been seen in the lumen and in the above-mentioned epithelial clefts. Possibly, as also suggested by Glücksmann (15) and other authors (53, 1, 45), the breakdown products of the contents of the bodies may be utilized again.

The finding of acid phosphatase activity localized in cytoplasmic bodies in the luminal portions of the epithelium in parallel studies with the light microscope classifies at least some of the bodies in the group of lysosomes.

The acid hydrolases localized in the lysosomes (9) have as substrates many important chemical compounds of the cell, and it has been suggested (9, 10) that the lysosomes may act as miniature digestive systems capable of breaking down endogenous cell constituents as well as phagocytosed exogenous material. The activity of lysosomal hydrolases in homogenates of regressing Müller ducts of the chick embryo has been studied by Brachet et al. (5), who found a marked increase in the unsedimentable activity of acid phosphatase coincident with the regression. Recently the term "cytolysomes" (33, 34) has been proposed for the enlarged and altered lysosomes, which have been observed in cytolysing cells, under both physiological and pathological circumstances (35, and reviews by Novikoff 33, 34). Possibly, the dense bodies described here should be grouped under the headings of cytolysomes as well as phagosomes (33, 34, 51, 11).

It is an open question how the acid phosphatases have originated in the bodies. The small granules found in the apical cytoplasm of the epithelial cells on the 15th to the 16th day, and which stain with toluidine blue and give a positive periodic acid-Schiff reaction, are presumably

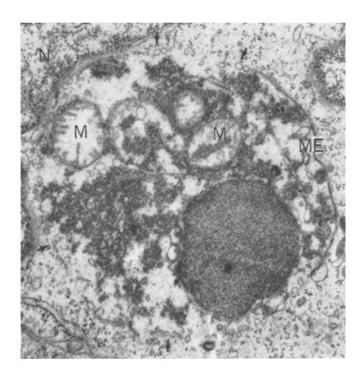


Figure 12 This figure shows masses of ribosomes, parts of the endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondria (M), and a rounded mass of granulated material partly surrounded by a membrane (ME), partly by a layer of vesicles (arrows). It is supposed that a limiting membrane may form by fusion of the vesicles, and that a cell in this way can isolate unwanted substances from the cytoplasm. N, nucleus. \times 24,500.

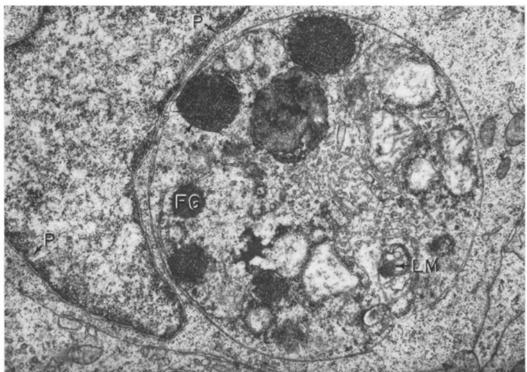


FIGURE 13 This large body is bounded by two membranes. The broken outer membrane at the lower right is probably an artefact. Nearly all kinds of cell organelles are represented. Four masses of granular material resembling the dense bodies in Fig. 11 are seen. One of the masses is partly surrounded by a membrane (arrow). At LM a pile of short, parallel membranes is seen. The fine granular substance (FG) is also seen in Figs. 6, 10, 14, and 15. P, nuclear pores. \times 18,000.

identical with the aggregates of vesicles seen in the electron microscope. As stated, vesicles and aggregates of vesicles are seen incorporated in dense bodies, and the stepwise transformation of vesicular aggregates to dense bodies has been suggested.

Vital staining procedures have not been performed on this material. Argeseanu and May (2), however, observed "small elements" in the cytoplasm of the epithelial cells of the small intestine

which seemed to contact newly formed pinocytotic vacuoles. After a certain number of contacts with microkinetospheres, the pinocytotic vacuoles changed their refractive index and became stainable with neutral red. Rose suggested the microkinetospheres to be identical with lysosomes. Recently, Ogawa et al. (36) have demonstrated that neutral red granules in cell cultures of fibroblasts and astrocytes contain acid phosphatase

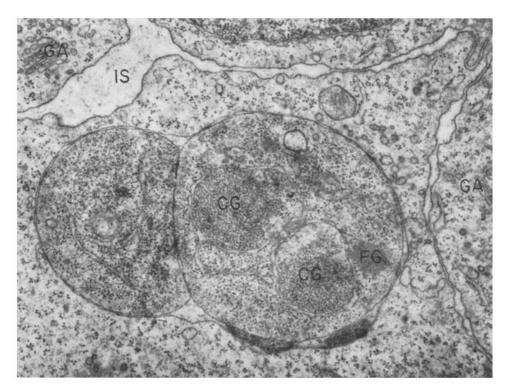


FIGURE 14 Two originally single bodies which have been surrounded by a membrane common to both. Rough surfaced endoplasmic reticulum can readily be identified. The fine granular substance also seen in other figures is seen at FG. The endoplasmic reticulum partly surrounds a coarsely granulated material (CG). IS, intercellular space; GA, Golgi zones in neighbouring cells. \times 32,000.

of chick embryos. The small elements increased in number towards the 15th to 16th day of incubation when the differentiation of the epithelium begins. The small elements were impregnated by silver techniques and stained vitally with neutral red.

Brachet (4) has suggested that lysosomes are identical with the "neutral red granules" which are found in many cells after vital staining. In a study of rapidly growing cultures of HeLa cells with phase contrast cinematography, Rose (43) observed small granules (microkinetospheres),

and correspond to lysosomes. This fits well with the earlier observation that phagocytosed cellular inclusions are usually strongly stained vitally with neutral red (42).

If the bordering membrane of the bodies originates by the fusion of vesicles (Fig. 12), enzymes may also be provided to the bodies in this way. Recently, Miller (24) has demonstrated in the electron microscope that the reaction product of acid phosphatase activity in renal protein absorption droplets is "very precisely localized along the entire inner face of their bounding membrane."

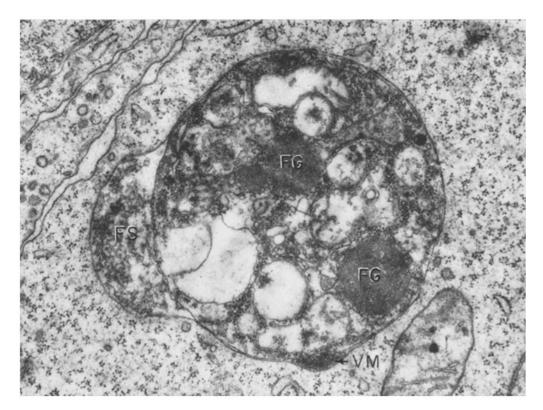


FIGURE 15 As in the bodies in Figs. 13 and 14, this body is bounded by two membranes. A flocculated substance (FS) and wrinkled membranes (VM) have been included between the membranes when the outer one formed. Again, disintegrating mitochondria, ribosomes, vesicles, and fine granular substances are seen $(FG) \times 34,000$.

He also found small amounts of the reaction product in the tubular invaginations.

Essner and Novikoff (12) in a study on human hepatocellular pigments observed that growing lipofuscin granules, which they consider to be altered lysosomes, have the acid phosphatase activity restricted to the periphery of the granule.

These findings are thought to give some support to the previous statement (under "Observations") that the dense bodies may enlarge by the apposition of new layers. The author wishes to thank Professor H. Moe for his helpful criticism throughout the preparation of this manuscript.

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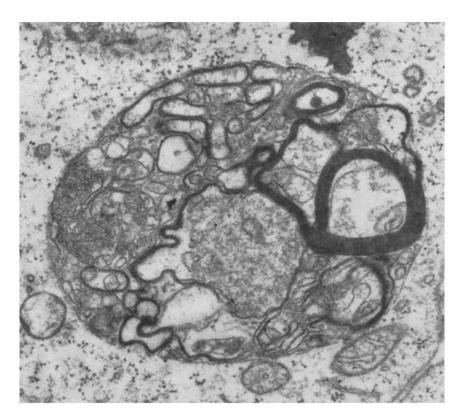


FIGURE 16 This figure presumably represents a final stage in the breaking down of the contents of the bodies, showing a complicated membranous system, arranged in places in myelin-like figures. Sections at other levels of this body showed continuity between membranes which in this section appear closed or seem to end abruptly. × 39,500.



FIGURE 17 A higher magnification of the myelin-like figure in Fig. 16. \times 79,000.

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