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Developmental Biology (Inglese) Copertina rigida – 15 giu 2016

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Segmentation characteristics

➢Rapid cell cycle consisting only of phase S and phase M, is missing phase G.

The type of segmentation is influenced by the composition egg (quantity of yolk).

➤The fate of the cells is influenced by the interaction with the cells other cells and / or uneven distribution of factors of transcription (embryonic polarity).

Types of segmentation

Segmentation	Type of eggs	Symmetry	Examples	
Holoblastic	Isolecithal (Olecolithal)	Radial	Echinoderms, Amphioxus	Absent or little of YOLK
		Spiral	Molluscs, Annelids	
		Bilateral	Ascidians	
		Rotational	Mammalian	
	Mesolecithics	Radial	Amphibians	
Meroblastic	Telolecithics	Bilateral	Cephalopods	
		Discoidal	Birds Reptiles Fishes	Large quantities of YOLK
	Centrolecithal	Superficial	Insects	

HOLOBLASTIC SEGMENTATION



MEROBLASTIC SEGMENTATION



Blastula types



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Coeloblastula with central Blastocoele Amphioxus Blastocyst Mammalians



Coeloblastula with eccentric Blastocoele Amphibians



Discoid Blastula Reptiles, Birds

Gastrulation

Developmental phase, following segmentation, consisting of a series of MORPHOGENETIC MOVEMENTS that leads to the formation of the three embryonic layers (ectoderm, mesoderm, endoderm).



Primary mechanisms of gastrulation

- Epibolia
- Delamination
- Cell movements from the inside surface
 - Intussusception
 - Involution
 - Entry or immigration

Primary mechanisms of gastrulation

Epibolia: Expansion of surface cells to cover the inner ones.

Delamination: Division of a cell layer in two parallel layers.



ectoderm formation in amphibians, sea urchins and tunicates.



hypoblast formation in mammalians and birds.

Primary mechanisms of gastrulation

Cell movements from the inner surface

Intussusception

Folding of a portion of blastoderma inwards.



sea urchin's endoderm

Involution

Folding or sliding of cells so as to bear on the inner surface (EMBOLISM).



Amphibians' mesoderm

Ingression

Migration of cells from external sheets towards the inside of the embryo.



sea urchin mesoderm, drosophila neuroblasts

An embryo development model

Anphibius





Xenopus Laevis





Reproduction in amphibians







Reproduction in amphibians can be internal or external





Radial unequal holoblastic segmentation



Radial unequal holoblastic segmentation





Xenopus Laevis Segmentation



Phase G is missing in the early stages of development



The cell cycle is regulated by the Mitosis Promoter Factor (MPF)

MPF: entry to Mitosis

MPF: entry to S phase

Blastocele functions



- 1. It allows the migration of cells during gastrulation
- 2. It prevents premature interaction between the cells above and below it

Adhesion between blastomeres is mediated by cadherins

CTR





Heasman *et al*, 1994

Mid-blastula transition (MBT)

Activation of the embryo's genome Start around 12° division

associated with demethylation events of specific promoters

MBT is influenced by the cytoplasm / nucleus relationship and by a specific chromatin reorganization



In-depth analysis: Newport & Kirschner 1982, Yang et al, 2002

Gastrulation in Xenopus Laevis





Embryogenesis time course of *Xenopus laevis* oocytes until the tadpole stage. Courtesy of Dr. Daniel Fisher, IGMM, Montpellier, France.

Gastrulation in Xenopus Laevis (I)

Initial phase



Invagination process, formation of the dorsal lip in a ventral direction

Gastrulation in Xenopus Laevis (II)

Intermediate Stage



Formation of a new cavity: Archenteron (primitive digestive tract)

Cellular movements of involution, epibolia and invagination lead to the formation of the three embryonic layers

Gastrulation in Xenopus Laevis (III) Final Stage



The embryo is coated with the ectoderm, the endoderm has been brought in, the mesoderm cells are arranged between ectoderm and endoderm

The blastocele is reduced until it disappears

At the end of the gastrulation the embryo consists of:

Ectoderma, external layer

Mesoderm, intermediate layer

Endoderm, internal layer



Determination of the axes



<u>Axis</u>

Dorsal – Ventral

Anterior – Posterior

Determined by sperm entry site

Regulated from the center of Nieuwkoop and specific proteins

Regulated by Spemann organizer

The Nieuwkoop center is essential for normal development



The transplantation of cells containing the center of Nieuwkoop in a receiving blastula determines the formation of two dorsal axes





β-catenin cooperates with the Nieuwkoop center in the formation of the dorsal-ventral axis.

It accumulates in the dorsal region starting from the 16-cell stage

It is a component of the Wnt pathway

- β-catenin is synthesized from mother mRNA
- **Dishelled proteint (Dsh)** traslocation from ventral region to dorsal region after fertilization
- β-catenin is degradeited by Glycogen Synthase kinase 3 (GSK3)
- GSK3 is inhibited by GSK3 binding protein (GBP) and Dsh

