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Macromolecular Synthesis in the Digestive and Respiratory Systems

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1. Introduction

This second chapter deals with the second parts of the application of microscopic radioautography to some of the visceral organ systems. The visceral organs can be divided into 5 organ systems according to anatomy and histology, i.e., the digestive system, the respiratory system, the urinary system, the reproductive system and the endocrine system. Among of them the digestive system consists of 2 parts, i.e., the digestive tract and the digestive glands. The former consists of simple tube structures such as the oral cavity, the esophagus, the stomach and the intestines, while the latter consists of complicated glandular structures such as the large digestive glands, i.e., the liver and the pancreas, while the respiratory system consists of 2 parts, one the respiratory tract such as the nose, the pharynx, the trachea, the bronchus, and final essential part the lungs. This chapter deals with the digestive organs and the respiratory organs, respectively.

1.1 Macromolecular synthesis in the digestive system

The digestive system consists of the digestive tract and the digestive glands. The digestive tract can be divided into several portions, from the upper part to the lower part, i.e., the oral cavity, the pharynx, the esophagus, the stomach, the small and large intestines and the anus, while the digestive glands consist of the large glands such as the salivary glands, the liver and the pancreas and the small glands affiliated to the digestive tracts in the gastrointestinal walls such as the gastric glands including the fundic gland and the pyloric gland, the intestinal glands of Lieberkühn and the duodenal glands of Brunner. We have published many papers from our laboratory dealing with the macromolecular synthesis in respective digestive organs from the oral cavity to the gastrointestinal tracts and the digestive glands (Nagata 1992, 1993a,b, 1994a,b,c,d,e, 1995a,b,c,d, 1996a,b,c, 1999a,b,c, 2002, Nagata et al. 1979, 1982a, 2000a, Chen et al. 1995). The outline of the results concerning to the macromolecular synthesis in the digestive organs should be here described in the order of systematic anatomy and special histology as follows.

1.1.1 Macromolecular synthesis in the oral cavity

The oral cavity consists of the lips, tongue, teeth, and the salivary glands. The DNA synthesis of mucosal epithelia of the 2 upper and lower lips and the tongue as well as the 3

large salivary glands and many small glands of aging mice from fetal day 19 to postnatal 2 years were studied by LM and EM RAG labeled with ^3H -thymidine. The glucide and glycoprotein syntheses by ^3H -glucosamine and radiolabeled sulfate incorporations of the submandibular and sublingual glands of aging mice were also studied.

1.1.2 The DNA synthesis in the oral cavity

We first studied the DNA synthesis of the submandibular glands in 10 groups of aging mice at various ages from embryo to postnatal 2 years (Chen et al. 1995, Nagata et al. 2000a). The submandibular gland of male mouse embryonic day 19 consisted of the glandular acini and duct system (Fig. 5A). The duct system was composed of the juxtaacinar cells (JA), the intercalated duct cells (ICD) and the striated duct cells (SD). Many labeled developing acinar cells (AC), JA and ICD cells were observed. At postnatal day 1 to 3 (Fig. 5B), there was more JA cells and secretory granules than those of former stage. JA cells were cuboidal cells in shape, characterized by small darkly stained granules in the supranuclear cytoplasm and by basophilic mitochondria mostly at the basal half of the cells. JA cells were present at the acinar-intercalated duct junction of the mouse submandibular gland. Many labeled AC, JA, ICD and SD cells were also observed by electron microscopy (Fig. 5C). At postnatal 2 weeks to 3 months, developing immature acinar cells gradually matured to acinar cells, and JA cells increased and granular convoluted duct cells (GCT) appeared.

At postnatal 6 months to 2 years, the GCT cells were very well developed and were composed of the taller cells packed with many granules and became highly convoluted, and only a few labeled cells were found. The aging changes of frequency of 5 main individual cell types in submandibular glands of male mouse from embryonic day 19 to postnatal 2 years of age were counted. On embryonic day 19 of age, the gland consisted of developing acinar cells (49%), intercalated duct cells (37%), juxta-acinar (JA) cells (3%), striated duct (SD) cells (11%). At birth, JA cells increased rapidly to 32%, thereafter decreased gradually. At 1 month of age, JA cells disappeared and granular convoluted tubule (GCT) cells appeared and increased rapidly in number with age. They reached a maximum at 6 months. Then they decreased gradually from 6-21 months. The quantity proportion of acini was relatively stable during these periods. The frequency of ICD cells (Fig. 5C) was the highest (37%) at 1 day after birth. Thereafter it gradually decreased month by month and reached 2.6% at 21 months, while the ratio of SD cells persisted in 7%-12% from embryonic day 19 to postnatal 2 weeks and it disappeared at 3 months after birth. The proliferative activity of the cell population is expressed by the labeling index which is defined as the percentage of labeled nuclei with ^3H -thymidine in a given cell population. The labeling index of the entire gland cells increased from 13.6% at embryonic 19 to 18.3% at neonate, when it reached the first peak (Fig. 6A, B). Then it declined to 2.2% at 1 week of age. A second small peak (2.9%) occurred at 2 weeks. Thereafter, the labeling index decreased progressively to less than 1% at 4 weeks of age and then remained low. The analysis of the labeling indices of respective cell types revealed that the first peak at neonate was due to the increased labeling indices of AC, ICD and JA cells, and the second peak at 2 weeks was due to the increase of ICD and SD cells. Thereafter, the labeling index of ICD cells decreased steadily but remained higher than those of any other cell types. Since the labeling index of ICD cells was more than the other cell types and persisted for a long time, it was suggested that ICD cells concerned with the generation of other cell types (Nagata 2002).

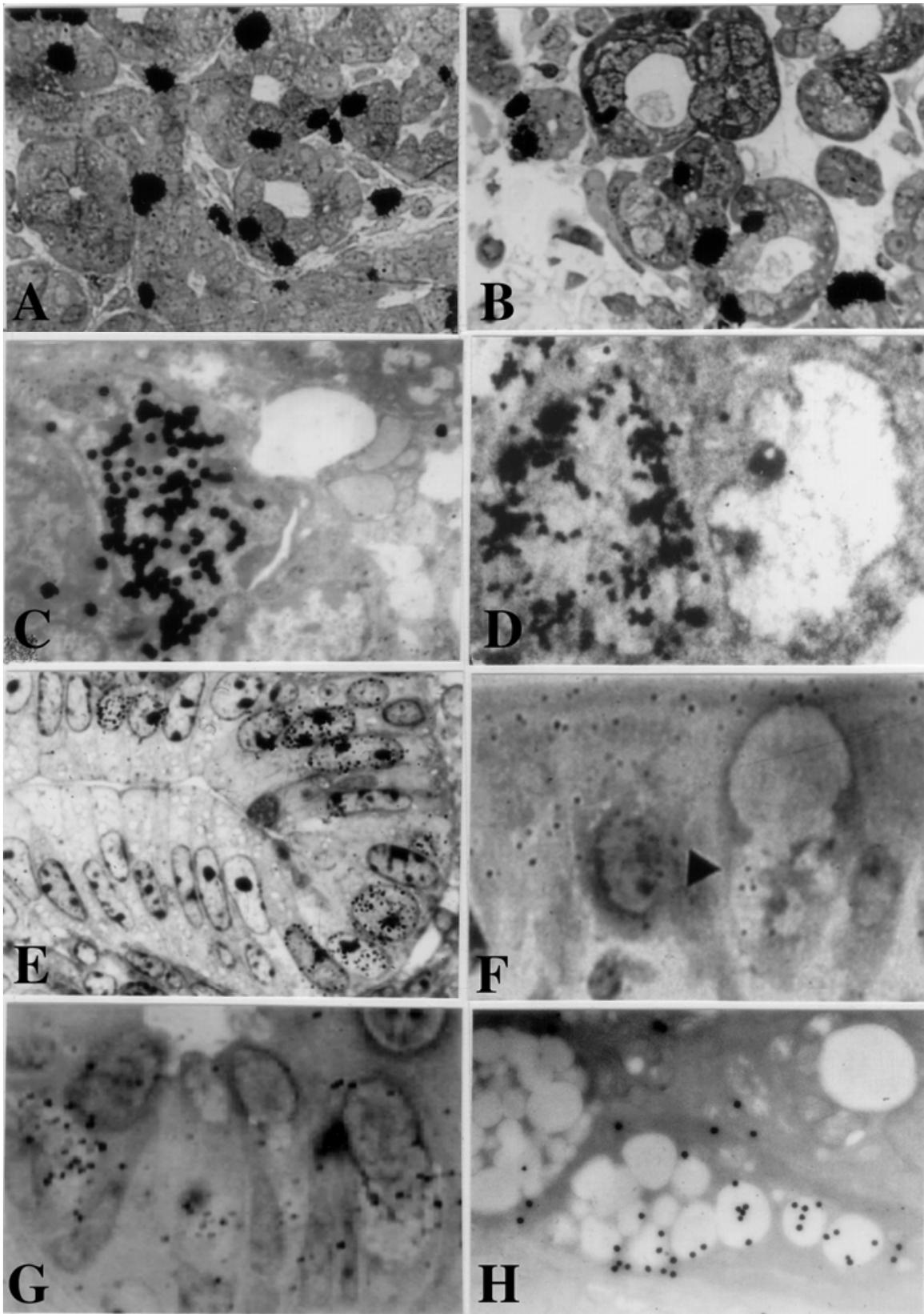


Fig. 6. LM and EM RAG of the digestive organs. From Nagata, T.: Radioautographology, General and Special. In, Prog. Histochem. Cytochem. Vol. 37, No. 2, p. 118, 2002, Urban & Fischer, Jena, Germany

Fig. 6A. LMRAG of the submandibular gland of male mouse embryonic day 19 labeled with ^3H -thymidine consisted with the glandular acini and duct system. The duct system was composed of juxtaacinar cells (JA), intercalated duct cells (ICD) and striated duct cells (ICD). Many labeled developing acinar cells (AC), JA and ICD cells were observed. x500.

Fig. 6B. LMRAG of the submandibular gland at postnatal day 3, labeled with ^3H -thymidine. There were more JA cells and secretory granules than those of former stage (Fig. 5A). x500.

Fig. 6C. EMRAG of an ICD cell of a mouse at postnatal day 3, labeled with ^3H -thymidine observed by electron microscopy. Many silver grains are observed over the nucleus of an ICD. x10,000.

Fig. 6D. EMRAG of the esophageal epithelial cells of a newborn mouse at postnatal day 1, labeled with ^3H -thymidine. Many silver grains are observed over one of the nuclei at left. x10,000.

Fig. 6E. LMRAG of the colonic epithelial cells of a mouse embryo at fetal day 19, labeled with ^3H -thymidine. Many silver grains are observed over the nuclei of several epithelial cells in the bottom of the crypt. x800.

Fig. 6F. LMRAG of the ileum epithelial cells labeled with ^3H -glucosamine of an old mouse at postnatal 6 months. Many silver gains are localized over the Golgi region of the 3 goblet cells as well as over the cytoplasm of several absorptive columnar epithelial cells. x 1,000.

Fig. 6G. LMRAG of the colonic epithelial cells of a mouse at postnatal month 1, labeled with $^{35}\text{SO}_4$ in vitro and radioautographed. x1,000.

Fig. 6H. EMRAG of a goblet cell in the deeper crypt of the colonic epithelial cells of an adult mouse after injection of $^{35}\text{SO}_4$ and radioautographed. Many silver grains are observed over the Golgi region and mucous droplets of the goblet cell, demonstrating the incorporation of radiosulfate into sulfomucins. x4,800.

1.1.3 The glucide synthesis in the oral cavity

We studied the incorporations of ^3H -glucosamine in the submandibular glands of 10 groups of litter mice at various ages. The animals from embryonic day 19, postnatal day 1, 3, 7, 14, and 1, 3, 6 months to 1 and 2 years were sacrificed after administration of ^3H -glucosamine and the submandibular glands were processed for LM and EM RAG (Watanabe et al. 1997, Nagata 2002). The results showed that the silver grains appeared over the endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi apparatus and the secretory granules of the acinar cells, demonstrating the glycoprotein synthesis in these cells. Grain counting revealed that the counts increased from the fetal stage at embryonic day 19 to postnatal day 1 to 3, 7, 14, reaching the peak at day 14, then decreased to month 1, 3, 6, to year 1 and 2, showing the aging changes, inverse proportion to DNA synthesis of these cells.

On the other hand, the sulfate uptake and accumulation in sulfomucin in several digestive organs of mice were also studied by light microscopic radioautography (Nagata and Kawahara 1999, Nagata et al. 1999b). Two litters of normal ddY mice 30 days after birth, each consisting of 3 animals, were studied. One litter of animals was sacrificed at 30 min after the intraperitoneal injections with phosphate buffered $\text{Na}_2^{35}\text{SO}_4$, and the other litter animals were sacrificed at 12 hr after the injections. Then the submandibular glands and the sublingual glands were taken out, fixed, embedded in epoxy resin, sectioned, radioautographed and analyzed by light microscopy. As the results, many silver grains were observed on serous cells of the salivary glands at 30 min and 12 hr after the injections

(10-20/cell). The numbers of silver grains at 30 min were less than those at 12 hr. From the results, it was concluded that glycoprotein synthesis was demonstrated in both the submandibular and sublingual glands by radiosulfate incorporation. In the salivary glands the silver grains were more observed in serous cells than mucous cells at 30 min, while in mucous cells more at 12 hr than 30 min after the injection. These results show the time difference of glycoprotein synthesis in the two salivary glands, showing inverse proportion to DNA synthesis of these cells (Watanabe et al. 1997, Nagata 2002).

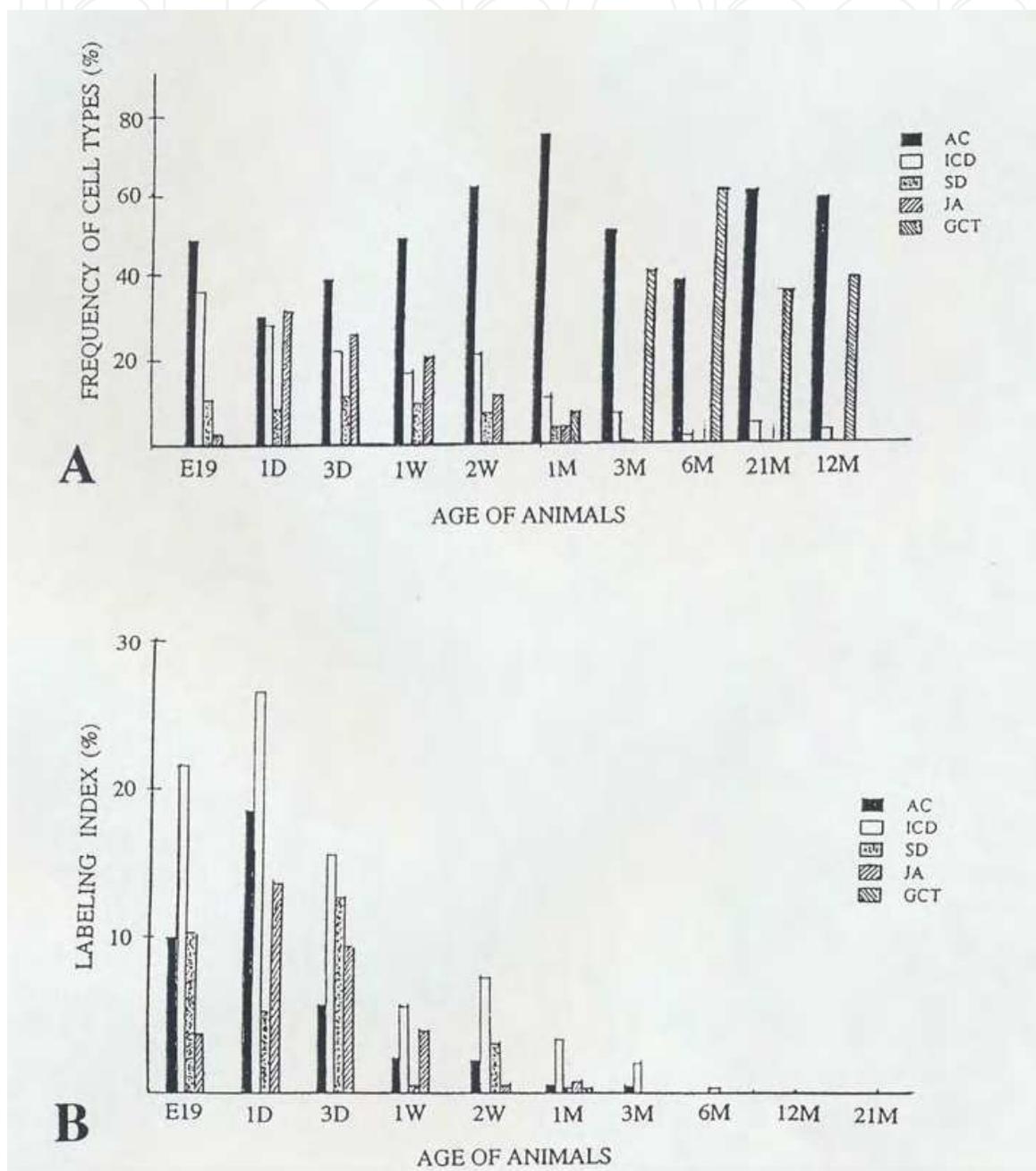


Fig. 7. Histogram showing the frequencies (A) and labeling indices (B) of the five individual cell types in the submandibular glands of male ddY mice at respective ages. From Nagata, T.: Radioautography, General and Special. In, Prog. Histochem. Cytochem. Vol. 37, No. 2, p.118, 2002, Urban & Fischer, Jena, Germany

1.2 Macromolecular synthesis in the esophagus

The esophagus is the characteristic digestive tract including all the layers, the mucous membrane covered with the stratified squamous epithelia, the submucosa, the muscular layer and the serosa or adventitia. We studied the DNA synthesis of the esophagus of aging mice labeled with ^3H -thymidine by LM and EM RAG (Duan et al. 1992, 1993). The labeled cells were mainly found in the basal layer of the esophageal epithelium (Fig. 6D). By electron microscopy the nuclei and nucleoli of labeled cells were larger than those of unlabeled cells, but contained fewer cell organelles (Duan et al. 1993). The labeling indices in respective aging groups showed a peak at postnatal day 1 and decreased with aging keeping a constant level around a few % from 6 months to 2 years after birth.

1.3 Macromolecular synthesis in the stomach

The stomach consists of the mucosa covered with the surface epithelia of the columnar epithelia, including the gastric glands, the submucosa, the muscular layer and the serosa.

1.3.1 DNA synthesis in the stomach

As for the turnover of fundic glandular cells shown by ^3H -thymidine radioautography, it was extensively investigated with LM RAG by Leblond and co-workers (Leblond 1981, Leblond et al. 1958). They demonstrated that the DNA synthesis in the stomach increased at perinatal stages and decreased due to aging and senescence. However, the activity never reached zero but low activity continued until senescence. We studied the macromolecular synthesis including DNA, RNA, protein and glycoproteins in the gastric mucosa of both human and animal tissues by LM and EMRAG (Sato et al. 1977). As for the DNA synthesis, we obtained the same results as Leblond et al (1958, 1981). We have not carried out this study so much. Therefore, the minute details will be here omitted.

1.3.2 Protein synthesis in the stomach

We observed the secretion process in G-cells by EM RAG using ^3H -amino acid (Sato 1978, Sato et al. 1977, Komiyama et al. 1978). When the stomach tissues were taken out from the adult Wistar rats at postnatal month 1 and were labeled with either ^3H -glutamic acid or ^3H -glycine in vitro at varying time intervals, silver grains in the EM radioautograms appeared first over the Golgi zones, then migrated to secretory granules and were stored in the cytoplasm, suggesting the secretory kinetics. We also studied the mechanism of serum albumin passing through the gastric epithelial cells into the gastric cells by EM RAG (Sato et al. 1977). When adult Wistar rat stomach tissues were labeled with ^{132}I -albumin in vitro at varying time intervals, silver grains in the radioautograms appeared over rough endoplasmic reticulum within 3 min, then moved to the Golgi apparatus in 10 min, and on to secretory granules and into the lumen in 30 min, suggesting the pathway of serum albumin absorption from the blood vessels through the gastric mucous epithelial cells into the gastric lumen (Komiyama et al. 1978). These results demonstrated that the stomach cells of adult rats synthesized proteins and secreted. However, aging changes of these protein synthesis between the young and senescent animal were not yet completed.

1.3.3 The glucide synthesis in the stomach

When incorporation of radiosulfate into sulfated complex carbohydrate in rat stomach was studied by labeling with $^{35}\text{SO}_4$ in vivo, silver grains appeared over the glandular cells of the pyloric gland but not those of the fundic gland, demonstrating the mucous synthesis in the former glands (Nagata et al. 1988a, Nagata and Kawahara 1999). The radiosulfate uptake and accumulation in the stomach of mouse were also studied by light microscopic radioautography (Nagata et al. 1999b). Two litters of normal ddY mice 30 days after birth, each consisting of 3 animals, were studied. One litter animals were sacrificed at 30 min after the intraperitoneal injections with phosphate buffered $\text{Na}_2^{35}\text{SO}_4$, and the other litter animals were sacrificed 12 hr after the injections. Then the antrum and the fundus tissues of the stomachs were taken out. The tissues were fixed, dehydrated, embedded in epoxy resin, sectioned, radioautographed and analyzed. As the results, many silver grains were observed on the mucosa and submucosa of the stomach at 30 min after the injection. Then at 12 hr after the injection silver grains were observed on some of the fundic glands. The numbers of silver grains observed in the stomach especially over the pyloric glands at 30 min (a few per cell) were less than those (several per cell) at 12 hr. The results showed the time difference of glycoprotein synthesis in the stomach, showing inverse proportion to DNA synthesis (Nagata and Kawahara 1999, Nagata 2002).

1.4 Macromolecular synthesis in the intestines

The intestines of mammals are divided into 2 portions, small and large intestines, which can be further divided into several portions, the small intestines into the duodenum, the jejunum and the ileum, while the large intestines into the caecum, the appendix vermiformis, the colon and the rectum. The intestinal tracts in any portions consist of the mucosa covered with columnar epithelial cells including absorptive and secretory cells, the submucosa, the smooth muscular layer and the serosa. We studied the macromolecular synthesis, both the DNA and the proteins in the intestines by LM and EMRAG mainly in the epithelial cells (Nagata 2002).

1.4.1 The DNA synthesis in the intestines

We studied the DNA synthesis in the intestines by LM and EMRAG mainly in the epithelial cells (Nagata 2002). The DNA synthesis of small and large intestines of mice were studied by ^3H -thymidine RAG (Fig. 6E). The cells labeled with ^3H -thymidine were localized in the crypts of both small and large intestines, a region defined as the proliferative zone. In the colon of aging mice from fetal to postnatal 2 years, the labeled cells in the columnar epithelia were frequently found in the perinatal groups from embryo to postnatal day 1. However, the labeling indices became constant from the suckling period until senescence (Morita 1993, Morita et al. 1994). On the other hand, we examined the labeling indices of respective cell types in each layer of mouse colon such as columnar epithelial cells, lamina propria, lamina muscularis mucosae, tunica submucosa, inner circular muscle layer, outer longitudinal muscle layer, outer connective tissue and serous membrane of the colon and found that most labeling indices decreased after birth to 2 months except the epithelial cells which kept constant value to senescence (Jin and Nagata 1995a,b, Jin 1996) (Fig. 8). Similar results were also obtained from the cecal tissues of mouse by LM and EMRAG. We also studied immunostaining for PCNA/cyclin and compared to the results obtained from RAG (Morita

et al. 1994). The colonic tissues of litter mice of six aging groups from the embryonic day 19, to newborn postnatal day 1, 5, 21, adult 2 months and senescent 12 months were fixed in methacarn solution, sectioned and immunostained for cyclin proliferating nuclear antigen (PCNA/cyclin) with the monoclonal antibody and the avidin-biotin peroxidase complex technique. The reaction appeared in the colonic epithelium from G1 to S phase of the cell cycle. The immunostaining positive cells were localized in the crypts of colons similarly to the labeled cells with ^3H -thymidine by radioautography, a region defined as the proliferative zone. The positive cells in the columnar epithelia were frequently found in the perinatal groups from embryo to postnatal day 1, and became constant from postnatal day 5 until senescence. Comparing the results by immunostaining with the labeling index by radioautography, it was found that the former was higher in each aging group than the latter. The reason for the difference should be due to that PCNA/cyclin positive cells included not only S-phase cells but also the late G1 cells.

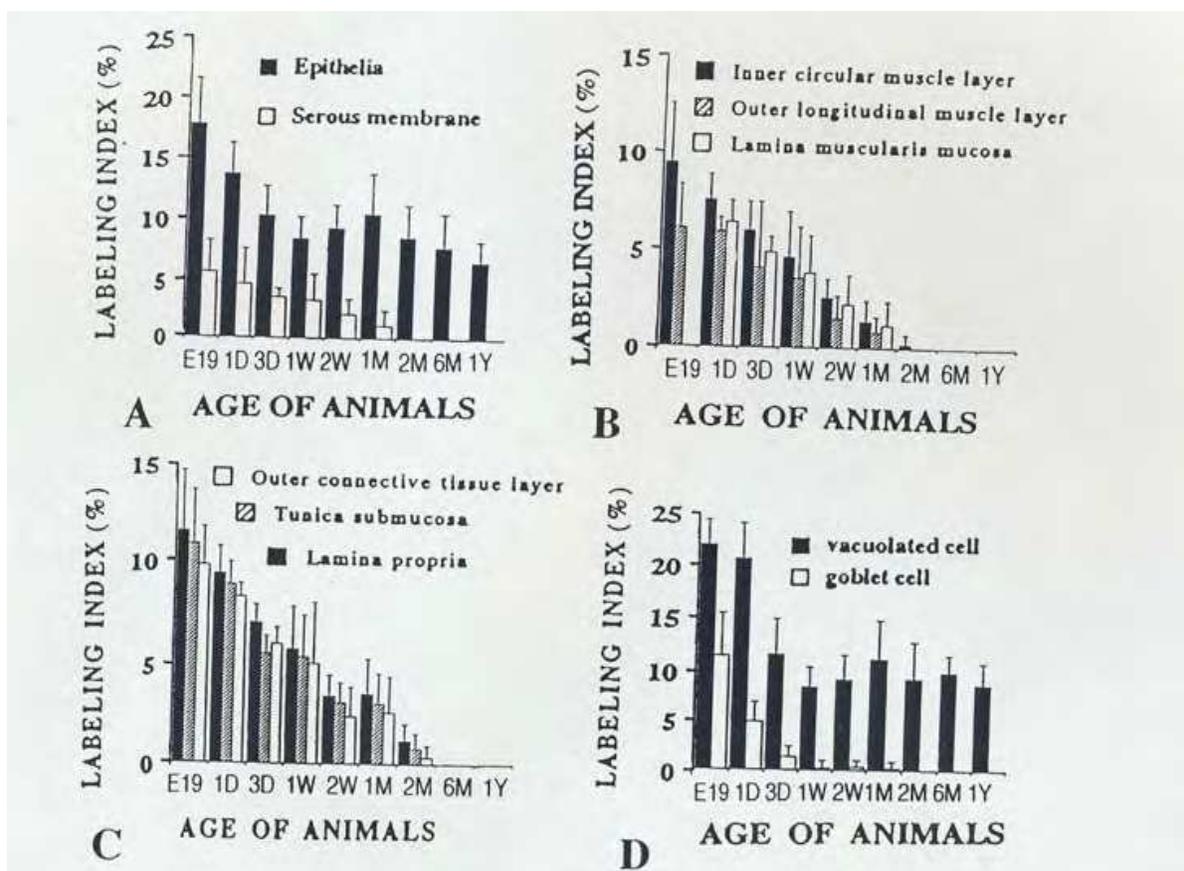


Fig. 8. Histogram showing aging changes of average labeling indices in respective tissue layers and cells of mouse colons at various ages from embryo to postnatal year 1, labeled with ^3H -thymidine. From Nagata, T.: Radioautography, General and Special. In, Prog. Histochem. Cytochem. Vol. 37, No. 2, p. 123, 2002, Urban & Fischer, Jena, Germany

1.4.2 The RNA synthesis in the intestines

We studied the RNA synthesis of the small intestines of mice after feeding or refeeding under the restricted conditions (Nagata 1966). Five groups of ddY mice, each consisting of 5 individuals, total 25, were injected with ^3H -uridine, an RNA precursor, and sacrificed at

different time intervals after feeding. The animals of the first group were injected with ^3H -uridine at 9 a.m. and fed at 10 a.m. for 30 min. and sacrificed at 11 a.m. 1 hour after the feeding and 2 hours after the injection, the 2nd group was sacrificed at 1 p.m. 3 hours after feeding and 4 hours after the injection, the 3rd group at 5 p.m., 7 and 8 hours later, the 4th group at 9 a.m. on the next day 23 and 24 hours later, and finally the 5th group at 1 p.m. on the next day 3 hours after refeeding and 28 hours after the injection. Then, the jejunums obtained from each animal were prepared for isolated cell radioautograms according to Nagata et al. (1961). The results demonstrated that the grain counts in mononucleate villus cells reached the maximum (20-30 grains per cell) 4 hours after injection and decreased (10-20/cell) after 28 hours, while the counts in mononucleate villus cells only increased gradually from 4 hours (10/cell) to 28 hours (20/cell). In contrast to this, the grain counts of binucleate cells which appeared in villus cells increased parallelly to the mononucleate villus cells (10-20/cell). It was concluded that the RNA synthesis in the jejunal epithelial cells was high in the following order: mononucleate crypt cells, binucleate cells and mononucleate villus cells. These results revealed that the feeding or refeeding affected the RNA synthesis of the intestinal epithelial cells (Nagata 1966).

1.4.3 The protein synthesis in the intestines

We first studied the incorporations of ^3H -leucine and ^3H -tryptophane in mouse small intestines in connection to the binuclearity before and after feeding (Nagata 1967b). The results showed that the incorporations of both amino acids were greater in binucleate intestinal epithelial columnar cells than mononucleate villus and crypt cells at both before and after feeding. However, the aging changes of these incorporations were not studied.

1.4.4 The glucide synthesis in the intestines

We also studied the aging changes of glucide synthesis by ^3H -glucosamine uptake in the small intestines of mouse (Morita 1993), and found that the silver grains in the ileum columnar epithelial cells were mainly localized over the brush borders and the Golgi regions in these cells (Fig. 6F). The grain counting revealed that the numbers of silver grains over the brush borders and cytoplasm of the columnar epithelial cells increased in the villi (10-15/cell) than in the crypts (1-2/cell) from 6 months up to 2 years due to aging. The grain counting in other cell types also revealed that the number of silver grains in goblet cells, basal granulate cells, Paneth cells increased by aging, but did not in the undifferentiated cells.

The glycoprotein synthesis in goblet cells as well as in absorptive epithelial cells was also studied using ^{35}S incorporation in the duodenums, the jejunums and the colons of adult mice at varying time intervals at 30, 60, and 180 min after the administration (Nagata et al. 1988a, Nagata and Kawahara 1999, Nagata et al. 1999b). Silver grains were localized over the columnar absorptive cells and the goblet cells, especially over the Golgi regions and mucous granules of the goblet cells. By EM RAG the intracellular localization of silver grains in goblet cells was clearly shown in the Golgi apparatus. The results from grain counting revealed that the average grain counts were different in the upper and deeper regions of the crypts in the 4 portions and it was shown that silver grains over goblet cells in the lower region of the crypt transferred rapidly from 30 min to 180 min, while they transferred slowly in goblet cells in the upper region of the colonic crypt, leading to the conclusion that the rates of transport and secretion of mucous products of the goblet cells at these two levels in

the crypts were different. By EM RAG silver grains first appeared over the Golgi zone at 30 min. and then moved to the secretory granules at 60 and 180 min. The incorporation of $\text{Na}_2^{35}\text{SO}_4$ into sulfated complex carbohydrate was investigated in the mouse small and large intestines by LM and EM RAG as well as in the submandibular glands and the stomachs. Quantitative differences have been observed in the relative uptake of radiosulfate in the various labeled cells of each organ. Incorporation by the colon in goblet cells exceeded that elsewhere in the deep goblet cells of the colonic crypts migration of label progressed during the time tested from the supranuclear Golgi region to the deep position of the goblet and then extended throughout the mucosubstance in the goblet in the superficial goblet cells of the colon. The radioautographic and cytochemical staining differences between secretory cells in the deeper region compared with the upper region of the colonic crypts are considered to reflect differences in the rate of transport of secretory products in the theca and the rate of secretion at the low levels in the crypt (Figs. 6G,H). These results showed the time differences of glycoprotein synthesis in respective organs. The sulfate uptake and accumulation in several mouse digestive organs were also studied by LM RAG. Two litters of normal ddY mice 30 days after birth, each consisting of 3 animals, were studied. One litter of animals was sacrificed 30 min after the intraperitoneal injections with phosphate buffered $\text{Na}_2^{35}\text{SO}_4$, and the other litter animals were sacrificed 12 hr after the injections. Then several digestive organs, the parotid gland, the submandibular gland, the sublingual gland, antrum and fundus of the stomach, the duodenum, the jejunum, the ileum, the caecum, the ascending colon and the descending colon were taken out and radioautographed. As the results, many silver grains were observed on villous cells and crypt cells of the small intestines and whole mucosa of the large intestines at 30 min after the injection. Then at 12 hr after the injection silver grains were observed on mucigen granules of goblet cells in the small intestines and the large intestines. The numbers of silver grains observed in respective organs at 30 min were less than those at 12 hr. From the results, it was concluded that the time difference of the glycoprotein synthesis was demonstrated in several digestive organs by radiosulfate incorporation, in reverse proportion to DNA synthesis. The total S contents in colonic goblet cells in upper and deeper regions of colonic crypts in aging mice were also analyzed by X-ray microanalysis (Nagata et al. 2000b, Nagata 2004). The results accorded well with the results from RAG (Nagata 2002) showing increase and decrease of mucosubstances in these cells due to development and aging to senescence.

1.5 Macromolecular synthesis in the liver

The liver is the largest gland in the human and the mammalian body and consists of several types of cells (Nagata 2010c). The hepatocyte is the main component of the liver, composing the liver parenchyma which form the hepatic lobules, surrounded by other types of cells such as the connective tissue cells, sinusoidal endothelial cells, satellite cells of Kupffer, Ito's fat-storing cells and bile epithelial cells. In the livers of perinatal animals, the liver tissues include hematopoietic cells such as erythroblasts, myeloblasts and megakaryocytes. We studied macromolecular synthesis by LM and EMRAG mainly in hepatocytes of rats and mice (Nagata 1993b, 1994a,b,c,d, 1995a,b,c, 1996a, 1997a, 1999c, 2002, 2003, 2006b, 2007a, 2009a,d,h,i, 2010c,h).

1.5.1 The DNA synthesis in the liver

We first studied the DNA synthesis in the liver tissues at various ages from embryo to postnatal 2 years (Nagata 1993a,b, 1994a,b,c,d, 1995a,b,c,d, 1996a,b,c,d, 1997a,b,c, 1998a,b,c,

1999a,b,c, 2002, Nagata et al. 1977a, Nagata and Nawa 1966b). The results obtained from the tissues of 3 groups of animals injected respectively with 3 kinds of RI-labeled precursors, i.e. ^3H -thymidine, ^3H -uridine and ^3H -leucine, were already reported as several original articles and reviews (Ma 1988, Ma and Nagata 1988a,b, 1990a,b, 2000, Ma et al. 1991, Nagata 1996a,b, 1997a, 1998a, 1999c, 2001c, 2002, 2003, 2006a,b, 2007a,b, 2009a,b,c,d) or as a monograph in the series of Prog. Histochem. Cytochem (Nagata 2002, 2004, 2010c). Therefore, the results from the livers in aging mice should be briefly summarized in this article.

1.5.1.1 The DNA synthesis in hepatocyte nuclei

As for the nucleic acid synthesis in hepatocytes, we first studied the difference between the mononucleate and binucleate hepatocytes of adult rats, injected with ^3H -thymidine and radioautographed (Nagata 1962, 1994d). The results showed that the frequency of labeled cells was greater in the mononucleate cells (Fig. 9A) than in the binucleate cells. The labeled binucleate cells were classified into two types, i.e., a hepatocyte whose one of the two nuclei was labeled and a hepatocyte whose two nuclei were labeled. The former was more frequently observed than the latter. Grain counts revealed that the amount of DNA synthesized in the binucleate cell whose one nucleus was labeled was the same as the mononucleate cell, while the total amount of DNA synthesized in the binucleate cell whose two nuclei were labeled was almost twice as that of the mononucleate cell. These results suggested that the two nuclei of binucleate hepatocytes synthesized DNA independently from each other.

On the other hand, LM and EMRAG of prenatal and postnatal normal mice at various ages labeled with ^3H -thymidine revealed that many silver grains were localized over the nuclei of various cell types consisting the liver, i.e., hepatocytes (Fig. 9A), sinusoidal endothelial cells (Fig. 8B), Kupffer's cells, Ito's fat-storing cells, bile ductal epithelia cells, fibroblasts and hematopoietic cells (Ma 1988, Ma and Nagata 1988a,b, 1990, Nagata 1995a). In hematopoietic cells in the livers of perinatal animals, silver grains were observed over the nuclei of erythroblasts, myeloblasts, lymphoblasts and megakaryocytes. However, most hematopoietic cells disappeared on postnatal day 14. At fetal day 19, the liver tissues were chiefly consisted of hepatocytes and haematopoietic cells and no lobular orientation was observed. At postnatal day 1 and 3, lobular formation started and finally the hepatic lobules were formed at day 9 after birth.

During the perinatal period, almost all kinds of cells were labeled with ^3H -thymidine. Percentage of labeled hepatocytes was the highest at fetal day 19, and rapidly decreased after birth to day 3. From day 9 to 14, percentage of labeled hepatocytes (labeling index) decreased gradually and finally to the lowest at 24 months (Fig. 10A). When the labeling indices of hepatocytes in 3 hepatic acinar zones were analyzed, the indices decreased in zone 2 (intermediate zone) and zone 3 (peripheral zone) on days 3 and 9 after birth, whereas they increased in zone 1 (central) on day 9, and then they altogether decreased from day 14 to 24 months (Fig. 10B). When the size and number of cell organelles in both labeled and unlabeled hepatocytes were estimated quantitatively by image analysis with an image analyzer, Digigrammer G/A (Mutoh Kogyo Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) on EMRAG, the area size of the cytoplasm, nucleus, mitochondria, endoplasmic reticulum, and the number of mitochondria in the unlabeled hepatocytes were more than the labeled cells (Ma and Nagata 1988a,b, Nagata 1995a,d).

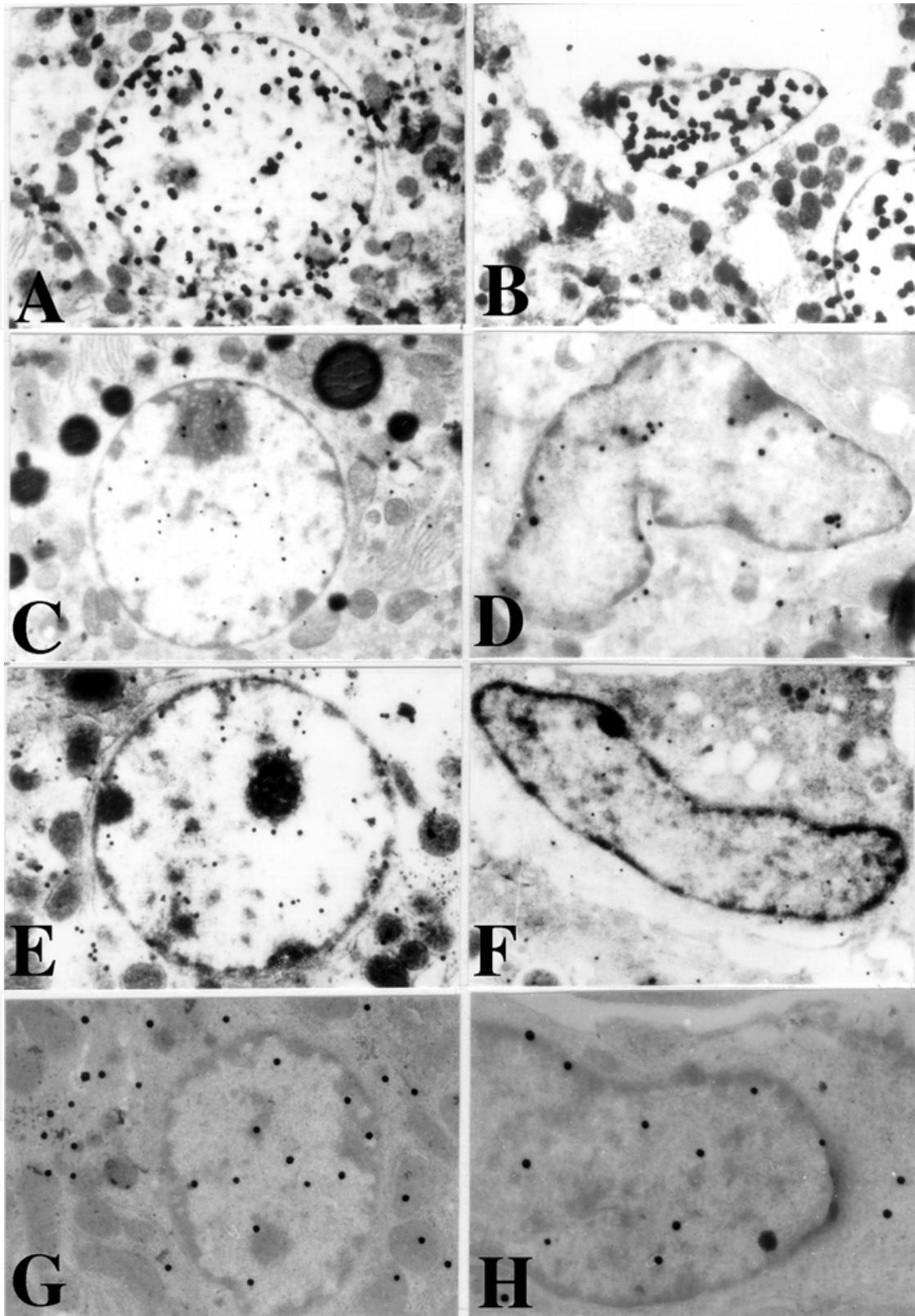


Fig. 9. EM RAG of the liver. From Nagata, T.: Radioautographology, General and Special. In, Prog. Histochem. Cytochem. Vol. 37, No. 2, p. 130, 2002, Urban & Fischer, Jena, Germany
Fig. 9A. EMRAG of a hepatocyte of the liver of a 14 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -thymidine. Many silver grains were observed over the nucleus and mitochondria.

Fig. 9B. EM RAG of a sinusoidal endothelial cells of the liver of a 14 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -thymidine. Many silver grains were observed over the nucleus and mitochondria.
Fig. 9C. EM RAG of a hepatocyte of the liver of a 14 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -uridine. Many silver grains were observed over the nucleus and mitochondria.
Fig. 9D. EM RAG of an Ito's fat-storing cell of the liver of a newborn 14 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -uridine. Many silver grains were observed over the nucleus and mitochondria.
Fig. 9E. EM RAG of a hepatocyte of the liver of a 1 month old mouse labeled with ^3H -leucine. Many silver grains were observed over the nucleus and mitochondria.
Fig. 9F. EM RAG of a sinusoidal endothelial cells of the liver of a newborn 14 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -leucine. Many silver grains were observed over the nucleus and mitochondria.
Fig. 9G. EMRAG of a hepatocyte of the liver of an adult 2 month old mouse labeled with ^3H -proline. Many silver grains were observed over the nucleus and mitochondria.
Fig. 9H. EMRAG of a Kupffer cell of the liver of a newborn 1 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -proline. Many silver grains were observed over the nucleus and mitochondria.

These data demonstrated that the cell organelles of the hepatocytes which synthesized DNA were not well developed as compared to those not synthesizing DNA during the postnatal development. In some of unlabeled hepatocytes, several silver grains were occasionally observed localizing over mitochondria and peroxisomes as was formerly reported (Nagata et al. 1967a,b, 1982b). The mitochondrial DNA synthesis was first observed in cultured hepatocytes of chickens and mice in vitro (Nagata et al. 1967a,b). The percentages of labeled cells in other cell types in the liver of aging mice such as sinusoidal endothelial cells, Kupffer's cells, Ito's fat-storing cells, bile ductal epithelia cells and fibroblasts showed also decreases from perinatal period to postnatal 24 months.

1.5.1.2 The DNA synthesis in hepatocyte mitochondria

When we observed DNA synthesis in the nuclei of mononucleate and binucleate hepatocytes, we also observed DNA synthesis in hepatocyte mitochondria (Ma 1988, Ma and Nagata 1988a,b, 1990a,b, Nagata and Ma 2005a). The results of visual grain counts on the number of mitochondria labeled with silver grains obtained from 10 mononucleate hepatocytes of each animal labeled with ^3H -thymidine demonstrating DNA synthesis in 8 aging groups at perinatal stages, prenatal embryo day 19, postnatal day 3, 9 and 14, month 1, 6, 12 and 24, were obtained. The number of total mitochondria per cell increased from perinatal stage (35-50/cell) to postnatal month 6 (95-105/cell), reaching the maximum, decreased to month 24 (85-90/cell), while the number of labeled mitochondria per cell increased from perinatal stage to postnatal day 14, reaching the maximum, decreased to month 6, then increased again to month 12, reaching the second peak and decreased again to month 24. Thus, the labeling indices in respective aging stages were calculated from the number of labeled mitochondria which showed an increase from perinatal stage to postnatal day 14, reaching the maximum and decreased to month 24. The results showed that the numbers of labeled mitochondria with ^3H -thymidine showing DNA synthesis increased from prenatal embryo day 19 (3.8/cell) to postnatal day 14 (6.2/cell), reaching the maximum, and then decreased to month 6 (3.7/cell) and again increased to year 1 (6.0/cell), while the labeling indices increased from prenatal day 19 (11.8%) to postnatal day 14 (16.9%), reaching the maximum, then decreased to month 6 (4.1%), year 1 (6.4%) and year 2 (2.3%). The increase of the total number of mitochondria in mononucleate hepatocytes was stochastically significant ($P < 0.01$), while the changes of number of labeled mitochondria and labeling index in mononucleate hepatocytes were not significant ($P < 0.01$).

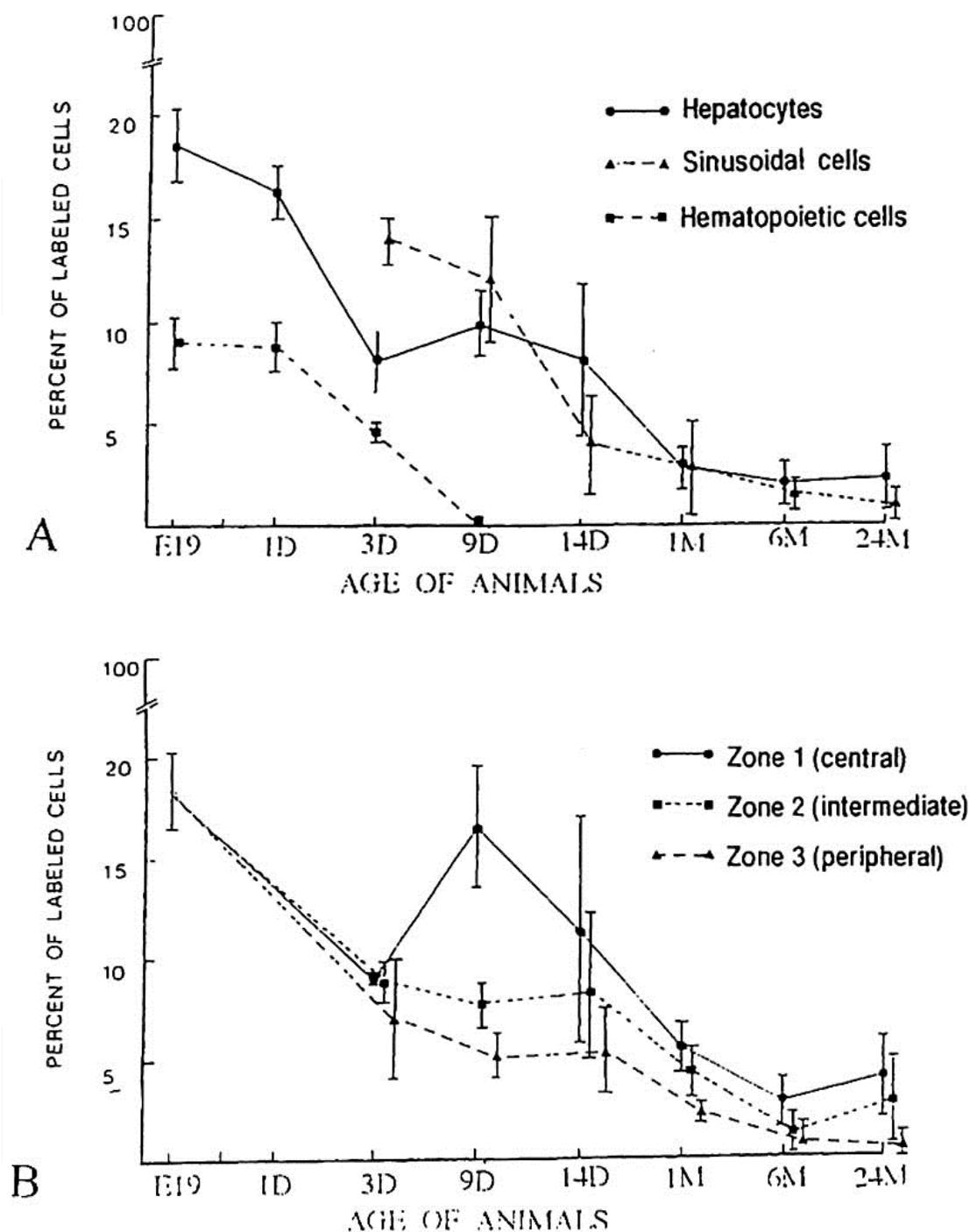


Fig. 10. Transitional curves of the labeling indices in the livers of aging mice after injection of ^3H -thymine. Mean \pm Standard Deviation. From Nagata, T.: *Special Cytochemistry in Cell Biology*, In, *Internat. Rev. Cytol.* Vol. 211, No. 1, p. 92, 2001, Academic Press, San Diego, USA, London, UK.

Fig. 10A. Labeling indices of hepatocytes, sinusoidal endothelial cells and hematopoietic cells, respectively.

Fig. 10B. Labeling indices of hepatocytes, sinusoidal endothelial cells and hematopoietic cells, respectively.

As for the binucleate hepatocytes, on the other hand, because the appearances of binucleate hepatocytes showing silver grains in their nuclei demonstrating DNA synthesis were not so many in the adult and senescent stages from postnatal month 1 to 24, only binucleate cells at perinatal stages when reasonable numbers of labeled hepatocytes were found in respective groups were analyzed. The number of mitochondria in binucleate hepatocytes at postnatal day 1 to 14 kept around 80 (77-84/cell) which did not show such remarkable changes, neither increase nor decrease, as shown in mononucleate cells. Thus, the number of mitochondria per binucleate cell, the number of labeled mitochondria per binucleate cell and the labeling index of binucleate cell in 4 groups from postnatal day 1 to 14 were counted. The number of mitochondria and the number of labeled mitochondria were more in binucleate cells than mononucleate cells (Nagata 2007a,b,c,d,e, Nagata and Ma 2005a,b, Nagata et al. 1977a).

1.5.2 The RNA synthesis in the liver

The RNA synthesis in the liver was studied by ^3H -uridine RAG. Silver grains due to RNA synthesis appeared over the nuclei and cytoplasm of hepatocytes.

1.5.2.1 The RNA synthesis in hepatocyte nuclei

When the RI-labeled precursor ^3H -uridine was administered to experimental animals, or cultured cells were incubated in a medium containing ^3H -uridine in vitro and LM RAG was prepared, silver grains first appeared over the chromatin of the nucleus and nucleolus of all the cells within several minutes, then silver grains spread over the cytoplasm within 30 minutes showing messenger RNA and ribosomal RNA (Nagata 1966, Nagata and Nawa 1966a,b, Nagata et al.1969).

We studied quantitative changes of RNA synthesis in the livers of adult mice before and after feeding by incorporations of ^3H -uridine. Five groups of ddY mice, each consisting of 5 individuals, total 25, were injected with ^3H -uridine and sacrificed at different time intervals. The animals of the first group were injected with ^3H -uridine at 9 a.m. and fed at 10 a.m. for 30 min. and sacrificed at 11 a.m. 1 hour after the feeding and 2 hours after the injection, the 2nd group was sacrificed at 1 p.m. 3 hours after feeding and 4 hours after the injection, the 3rd group at 5 p.m., 7 and 8 hours later, the 4th group at 9 a.m. on the next day 23 and 24 hours later, and finally the 5th group at 1. p.m. on the next day 3 hours after refeeding and 28 hours after the injection. Then, the livers were taken out from each animal, prepared for isolated cell radioautograms according to Nagata et al. (1961). The results demonstrated that the grain counts in both mononucleate and binucleate hepatocytes before feeding (15-25 grains per cell) increased 4 hours after feeding (30-40 grains per cell), reached the maximum in 24 hours (40-50 grains per cell), then decreased on the next day (30-40 grains per cell). It was concluded that the RNA synthesis in the binucleate hepatocytes was a little higher than the mononucleate hepatocytes at the same stages and both increased and decreased after feeding. These results revealed that the feeding or refeeding affected the RNA synthesis of the livers (Nagata 1966).

Then, we studied aging changes of ^3H -uridine incorporation in the livers and pancreases of aging mice at various ages from prenatal embryos to postnatal aged mice to senescence at month 12 and 24 by LM and EM RAG (Ma and Nagata 1990b, Nagata 1999c). When aged mice were injected with ^3H -uridine, LM and EM RAG showed that silver grains were localized over the nucleoli, nuclear chromatin (both euchromatin and heterochromatin), mitochondria and rough surfaced endoplasmic reticulum of hepatocytes (Fig. 9C) and other

types of cells such as sinusoidal endothelial cells, Kupffer's cells, Ito's fat-storing cells (Fig. 9D), ductal epithelial cells, fibroblasts and haematopoietic cells in the livers at various ages. By quantitative analysis, the total number of silver grains in nucleus, nucleolus and cytoplasm of each hepatocyte increased gradually from fetal day 19 to postnatal days, reached the maximum at postnatal day 14 (30%), then decreased to 24 months (5%). The number of silver grains in nucleolus, when classified into two compartments, grains over granular components and those over fibrillar components both increased parallelly after birth, reached the maxima on day 14 (granular 6-7, fibrillar 1-2/per cell), then decreased to 24 months with aging. However, when the ratio (%) of silver grains over euchromatin, heterochromatin of the nuclei and granular components and fibrillar components of the nucleoli are calculated, the ratio remained constant at each aging point.

1.5.2.2 The RNA synthesis in hepatocyte mitochondria

The intramitochondrial RNA synthesis was first found in the cultured HeLa cells and the cultured liver cells *in vitro* using EM RAG (Nagata 1972c, d). Then, it was also found in any other cells in either *in vitro* or *vivo* (Nagata et al. 1977c, Nagata 2002). Observing light microscopic radioautograms labeled with ^3H -uridine, the silver grains were found over both the karyoplasm and cytoplasm of almost all the cells not only at the perinatal stages from embryo day 19 to postnatal day 1, 3, 9, 14, but also at the adult and senescent stages from postnatal month 1 to 2, 6, 12 and 24 (Nagata 2007a, c, d, e, f, Nagata and Ma 2005b). By electron microscopic observation, silver grains were detected in most mononucleate hepatocytes in respective aging groups localizing not only over euchromatin and nucleoli in the nuclei but also over many cell organelles such as endoplasmic reticulum, ribosomes, and mitochondria as well as cytoplasmic matrices from perinatal stage at embryonic day 19, postnatal day 1, 3, 9, 14, to adult and senescent stages at postnatal month 1, 2, 12 and 24. The silver grains were also observed in binucleate hepatocytes at postnatal day 1, 3, 9, 14, month 1, 2, 6, 12 and 24. The localizations of silver grains over the mitochondria were mainly on the mitochondrial matrices but a few over the mitochondrial membranes and cristae when observed by high power magnification.

As the results, it was found that almost all the hepatocytes were labeled with silver grains showing RNA synthesis in their nuclei and mitochondria. Preliminary quantitative analysis on the number of mitochondria in 10 mononucleate hepatocytes whose nuclei were intensely labeled with many silver grains (more than 10 per nucleus) and other 10 mononucleate hepatocytes whose nuclei were not so intensely labeled (number of silver grains less than 9) in each aging group revealed that there was no significant difference between the number of mitochondria, number of labeled mitochondria and the labeling indices in both types of hepatocytes ($P < 0.01$). Thus, the number of mitochondria and the labeling indices were calculated in 10 hepatocytes selected at random in each animal in respective aging stages regardless whether their nuclei were very intensely labeled or not. The results obtained from the number of mitochondria in mononucleate hepatocytes per cellular profile area showed an increase from the prenatal day (mean \pm standard deviation $26.2 \pm$ /cell) to postnatal day 1 to day 14 (38.4 - 51.7 /cell), then to postnatal month 1-2 (53.7 - 89.2 /cell), reaching the maximum, then decreased to year 1-2 (83.7 - 80.4 /cell) and the increase was stochastically significant ($P < 0.01$). The results of visual grain counts on the number of mitochondria labeled with silver grains obtained from 10 mononucleate hepatocytes of each animal labeled with ^3H -uridine demonstrating RNA synthesis in 10 aging groups at perinatal stages, prenatal embryo day 19, postnatal day 1, 3, 9 and 14, month 1, 6 and year 1 and 2, were counted. The labeling indices in

respective aging stages were calculated from the number of labeled mitochondria and the number of total mitochondria per cellular profile area, respectively. The results showed that the numbers of labeled mitochondria with ^3H -uridine showing RNA synthesis increased from prenatal embryo day 19 (3.3/cell) to postnatal month 1 (9.2/cell), reaching the maximum, and then decreased to month 6 (3.5/cell) and again increased to year 1 (4.0/cell) and year 2 (4.3/cell), while the labeling indices increased from prenatal day 19 (12.4%) to postnatal month 1 (16.7%), reaching the maximum, then decreased to year 1 (4.8%) and year 2 (5.3%). Stochastic analysis revealed that the increases and decreases of the number of labeled mitochondria from the perinatal stage to the adult and senescent stage were significant in contrast that the increases and decreases of the labeling indices were not significant ($P < 0.01$). As for the binucleate hepatocytes, on the other hand, because the appearances of binucleate hepatocytes were not so many in the embryonic stage, only several binucleate cells (5-8 at least) at respective stages when enough numbers of binucleate cells available from postnatal day 1 to year 2 were analyzed. The results of visual counts on the number of mitochondria labeled with silver grains obtained from several (5 to 8) binucleate hepatocytes labeled with ^3H -uridine demonstrating RNA synthesis in 8 aging groups at perinatal stages, postnatal day 1, 9, 14, and month 1, 2, 6, and year 1 and 2, were counted and the labeling indices in respective aging stages were calculated from the number of labeled mitochondria and the number of total mitochondria per cellular profile area calculated, respectively. The results showed that the number of labeled mitochondria increased from postnatal day 1 (2.3/cell) to day 9 (5.2/cell) and remained almost constant around 4-5, but the labeling indices increased from postnatal day 1 (2.1%) to postnatal day 9 (13.6%), remained almost constant around 13% (12.5-13.6%) from postnatal day 9 to month 1, then decreased to month 2 (6.1%) to month 6 (3.9%), and slightly increased to year 1 (6.3%) and 2 (5.3%). The increases and decreases of the number of labeled mitochondria and the labeling indices in binucleate hepatocytes were stochastically not significant ($P < 0.01$).

We also studied intracellular localization of mRNA in adult rat hepatocytes localizing over the peroxisomes by means of in situ hybridization technique (Usuda and Nagata 1992, 1995, Usuda et al. 1992). However, its relationship to the aging of animals was not yet studied.

1.5.3 The protein synthesis in the liver

As for the protein synthesis in the liver, we first studied the incorporations of ^3H -leucine and ^3H -tryptophane in mouse hepatocytes in connection to the binuclearity before and after feeding (Nagata 1967b, Nagata et al. 1967a, Ma et al. 1991). Then, we also studied mitochondrial protein synthesis in the liver later (Nagata 2006a,b, 2007b,c,e, 2009b, 2010c).

1.5.3.1 The protein synthesis in hepatocyte nuclei

We first studied the incorporations of amino-acids, ^3H -leucine and ^3H -tryptophane, in mouse mononucleate and binucleate hepatocytes before and after feeding (Nagata 1967b, Nagata et al. 1967a, Ma et al. 1991). The results showed that the incorporations of both amino acids were greater in binucleate hepatocytes than mononucleate. When ^3H -leucine was injected into several groups of mice at various ages and the liver tissues were processed for LM and EM RAG, silver grains were observed over all cell types of the liver, i.e., hepatocytes (Fig. 9E), sinusoidal endothelial cells (Fig. 9F), ductal epithelial cells, Kupffer's cells, Ito's fat storing cells, fibroblasts and haematopoietic cells. In hepatocytes, number of silver grains in cytoplasm and karyoplasm increased from perinatal animals to postnatal 1

month young adult animals and decreased with aging to senescence at 24 months. Number of silver grains observed over respective cell organelles, the Golgi apparatus, mitochondria and endoplasmic reticulum, changed with aging, reaching the maxima at 1 month but the ratio remained constant at each point. When ^3H -proline was injected into mice at various ages from prenatal embryos to postnatal senescence, quantitative changes of collagen and protein synthesis in the livers were studied by electron microscopic radioautography (Ma and Nagata 2000, Nagata 2006a). The silver grains due to ^3H -proline showing collagen synthesis were localized over the nuclei, cytoplasmic matrix, endoplasmic reticulum, the Golgi apparatus, mitochondria and peroxisomes of almost all the cells such as hepatocytes (Fig. 9F), sinusoidal endothelial cells, Kupffer's cells (Fig. 9G), Ito's fat-storing cells, ductal epithelial cells, fibroblasts and haematopoietic cells at various ages. The number of silver grains in the cell bodies and nuclei, cytoplasmic matrix, endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondria, the Golgi apparatus and peroxisomes of hepatocytes gradually increased from embryo, reaching the maxima at postnatal month 1 and 6, and decreased with aging until 24 months. The grain counts of the cell bodies reached the maximum at month 6 and the nuclei at month 2, while that of endoplasmic reticulum at month 6 and mitochondria at month 1. The number of silver grains localized over the extracellular collagen fibrils and matrices was not so many in respective aging groups and did not show any remarkable changes with aging. From the results, it was concluded that ^3H -proline was incorporated not only into collagen but also into the structural proteins of hepatocytes and increased and decreased due to aging under normal aging conditions.

1.5.3.2 The protein synthesis in hepatocyte mitochondria

When the aging mice at various ages from embryo to senescence were injected with ^3H -leucine, it was found that almost all the hepatocytes, from embryonic day 19, postnatal day 1, 3, 9, 14, to adult and senescent stages at postnatal month 1, 2, 6, 12 and 24, incorporated silver grains (Fig. 9E). The silver grains were also observed in binucleate hepatocytes at postnatal day 1, 3, 9, 14, month 1, 2, 6, 12 and 24 (Nagata 2007a,b,c,d, 2006a,b, 2007b,c,e). The localizations of silver grains observed over the mitochondria were mainly on the mitochondrial matrices but a few over their nuclei, cytoplasmic matrix, endoplasmic reticulum, ribosomes, Golgi apparatus and mitochondria (Nagata 2006a, b, 2007b, c, e). In the mitochondria the silver grains were localized over the mitochondrial membranes and cristae when observed by high power magnification. Preliminary quantitative analysis on the number of mitochondria in 20 mononucleate hepatocytes whose nuclei were intensely labeled with many silver grains (more than 10 per nucleus) and other 20 mononucleate hepatocytes whose nuclei were not so intensely labeled (number of silver grains less than 9) in each aging group revealed that there was no significant difference between the number of mitochondria, number of labeled mitochondria and the labeling indices in both types of hepatocytes ($P < 0.01$).

On the other hand, the numbers of mitochondria, the numbers of labeled mitochondria and the labeling indices were calculated in 10 binucleate hepatocytes selected at random in each animal in respective aging stages, regardless whether their nuclei were very intensely labeled or not, except the prenatal stage at embryonic day 19, because no binucleate cell was found at this stage, resulted in no significant difference between them. Thus, the numbers of mitochondria, the numbers of labeled mitochondria and the labeling indices were calculated in 20 hepatocytes selected at random in each animal in respective aging stages regardless whether their nuclei were very intensely labeled or not. The results obtained from the total

numbers of mitochondria in mononucleate hepatocytes showed an increase from the prenatal day (34.5/cell) to postnatal days 1 (44.6/cell), 3 (45.8/cell), 9 (43.6/cell), 14 (48.5/cell), to postnatal months 1 (51.5/cell), 2 (52.3/cell), reaching the maximum at month 6 (60.7/cell), then decreased to years 1 (54.2/cell) and 2 (51.2/cell). The increase and decrease were stochastically significant ($P < 0.01$). The results obtained from visual counting on the numbers of mitochondria labeled with silver grains from 20 mononucleate hepatocytes of each animal labeled with ^3H -leucine demonstrating protein synthesis in 10 aging groups at perinatal stages, prenatal embryo day 19, postnatal day 1, 3, 9 and 14, month 1, 2, 6 and year 1 and 2, were counted. The labeling indices in respective aging stages were calculated from the numbers of labeled mitochondria and the numbers of total mitochondria per cell. The results showed that the numbers of labeled mitochondria with ^3H -leucine showing protein synthesis increased from prenatal embryo day 19 (8.3/cell) to postnatal days 1 (9.6/cell), 3 (8.1/cell), 9 (8.9/cell), 14 (9.5/cell), and month 1 (11.2/cell), reaching the maximum, and then decreased to months 2 (9.1/cell), 6 (8.8/cell) to years 1 (6.7/cell) and 2 (2.2/cell), while the labeling indices increased from prenatal day 19 (20.1%) to postnatal days 1 (21.2%), 3 (21.6%), 9 (22.2%), 14 (23.1%), reaching the maximum, then decreased to month 1 (21.7%), 2 (17.4%), 6 (14.6%), and years 1 (12.4%) and 2 (4.4%). Stochastic analysis revealed that the increases and decreases of the numbers of labeled mitochondria as well as the labeling indices from the perinatal stage to the adult and senescent stages were significant ($P < 0.01$).

The results obtained from the numbers of mitochondria in binucleate hepatocytes showed an increase from the postnatal days 1 (66.2/cell), to 3 (66.4/cell), 14 (81.8/cell), to postnatal months 1 (89.9/cell), 2 (95.1/cell), and 6 (102.1), reaching the maximum at month 12 (128.0/cell), then decreased to years 2 (93.9/cell). The increase and decrease were stochastically significant ($P < 0.01$). The results obtained from visual counting on the numbers of mitochondria labeled with silver grains from 10 binucleate hepatocytes of each animal labeled with ^3H -leucine demonstrating protein synthesis in 10 aging groups at postnatal day 1, 3, and 14, month 1, 2, 6 and year 1 and 2, were counted. The labeling indices in respective aging stages were calculated from the numbers of labeled mitochondria and the numbers of total mitochondria per cell which showed that the numbers of labeled mitochondria with ^3H -leucine showing protein synthesis increased from postnatal day 1 (7.3/cell) to day 3 (6.8/cell), 14 (10.2/cell), and month 1 (15.0/cell), 2 (15.9/cell), reaching the maximum at month 6 (19.6/cell), then decreased to year 1 (8.3/cell) and 2 (5.1/cell), while the labeling indices increased from postnatal day 1 (11.8%) to 3 (10.2%), 14 (12.5%), month 1 (18.3%) and 2 (18.7%), reaching the maximum at month 6 (19.2%), then decreased to year 1 (6.4%) and 2 (5.5%). Stochastic analysis revealed that the increases and decreases of the numbers of labeled mitochondria as well as the labeling indices from the newborn stage to the adult and senescent stages were significant ($P < 0.01$). The silver grains due to ^3H -leucine were also observed in sinusoidal endothelial cells (Fig. 8F), Kupfer's cells, Ito's fat-storing cells, ductal epithelial cells, fibroblasts and hematopoietic cells at various ages.

When ^3H -prolin was injected into aging mice at various ages, silver grains were localized over the nuclei, cytoplasmic matrix, endoplasmic reticulum, the Golgi apparatus, mitochondria and peroxisomes of all the cell such as hepatocytes (Fig. 9G), sinusoidal endothelial cells, Kupfer's cells (Fig. 9H), Ito's fat-storing cells, ductal epithelial cells, fibroblasts and hematopoietic cells at various ages. The number of silver grains in hepatocytes gradually increased from perinatal stage to postnatal month 1 to 6 due to aging, reaching the maximum and decreased to month 24. The number of silver grains localized the extracellular collagen fibrils and matrices was not so great in respective aging groups and

did not show any remarkable changes with aging. From the results, it was concluded that ^3H -prolin was incorporated not only into collagen but also into the structural proteins of hepatocytes under normal aging conditions (Ma and Nagata 2000).

1.5.4 The glucide synthesis in the liver

We first studied ^3H -glucose incorporation into glycogen in the livers of adult mice, in connection to soluble compounds (Nagata and Murata 1977, Nagata et al. 1977a,d). Soluble ^3H -glucose, which was demonstrated by cryo-fixation (at -196°C) in combination with dry-mounting radioautography, was localized over the nuclei, nucleoli, all the cell organelles and cytoplasmic ground substance of all the hepatocytes diffusely. On the other hand, by conventional chemical fixation and wet-mounting radioautography, silver grains were localized only over glycogen granules, endoplasmic reticulum and Golgi apparatus showing glycogen synthesis. However, the relationship of glycogen synthesis to aging has not yet been fully clarified.

1.5.5 The lipids synthesis in the liver

We observed lipids synthesis in the liver using ^3H -glycerol in connection to soluble compounds (Nagata 1994a,d, Nagata and Murata 1977a, Nagata et al. 1977a,d). When adult mice were injected with ^3H -glycerol and the livers were taken out, cryo-fixed in liquid nitrogen at -196°C , then freeze-substituted, embedded in epoxy resin, dry-sectioned, and prepared for dry-mounting radioautography, many silver grains appeared over the nuclei and cytoplasm of hepatocytes diffusely. However, when the same liver tissues were fixed chemically in buffered glutaraldehyde and osmium tetroxide at 4°C , dehydrated, embedded, wet-sectioned and radioautographed by conventional wet-mounting procedures, very few silver grains were observed only over the endoplasmic reticulum and the lipid droplets, which demonstrated insoluble macromolecular lipid synthesis accumulating into the lipid droplets. However, the aging change of the lipid synthesis in the liver has not yet been fully clarified.

1.6 Macromolecular synthesis in the pancreas

The pancreas is a large gland, next to the liver in men and animals, among the digestive glands connected to the intestines. It consists of exocrine and endocrine portions and takes the shape of a compound acinous gland. The exocrine portion is composed of ductal epithelial cells, centro-acinar cells, acinar cells and connective tissue cells, while the endocrine portion, the islet of Langerhans, is composed of 3 types of endocrine cells, A, B, C cells and connective tissue cells. Intracellular transport of secretory proteins in the pancreatic exocrine cells were formerly studied by Jamieson and Palade (1967) by EMRAG. We studied the macromolecular synthesis of the aging mouse pancreas at various ages.

1.6.1 The DNA synthesis in the pancreas

We first studied the DNA synthesis of mouse pancreas by LM and EMRAG using ^3H -thymidine (Nagata and Usuda 1984, 1985, 1986, Nagata et al. 1986). Light and electron microscopic radioautograms of the pancreas revealed that the nuclei of pancreatic acinar cells (Fig. 11A), centro-acinar cells (Fig. 11B), ductal epithelial cells, and endocrine cells were labeled with ^3H -thymidine. The labeling indices of these cells in 5 groups of litter mate mice, fetal day 15, postnatal day 1, 20, 60 (2 months) and 730 (2 years) were analyzed.

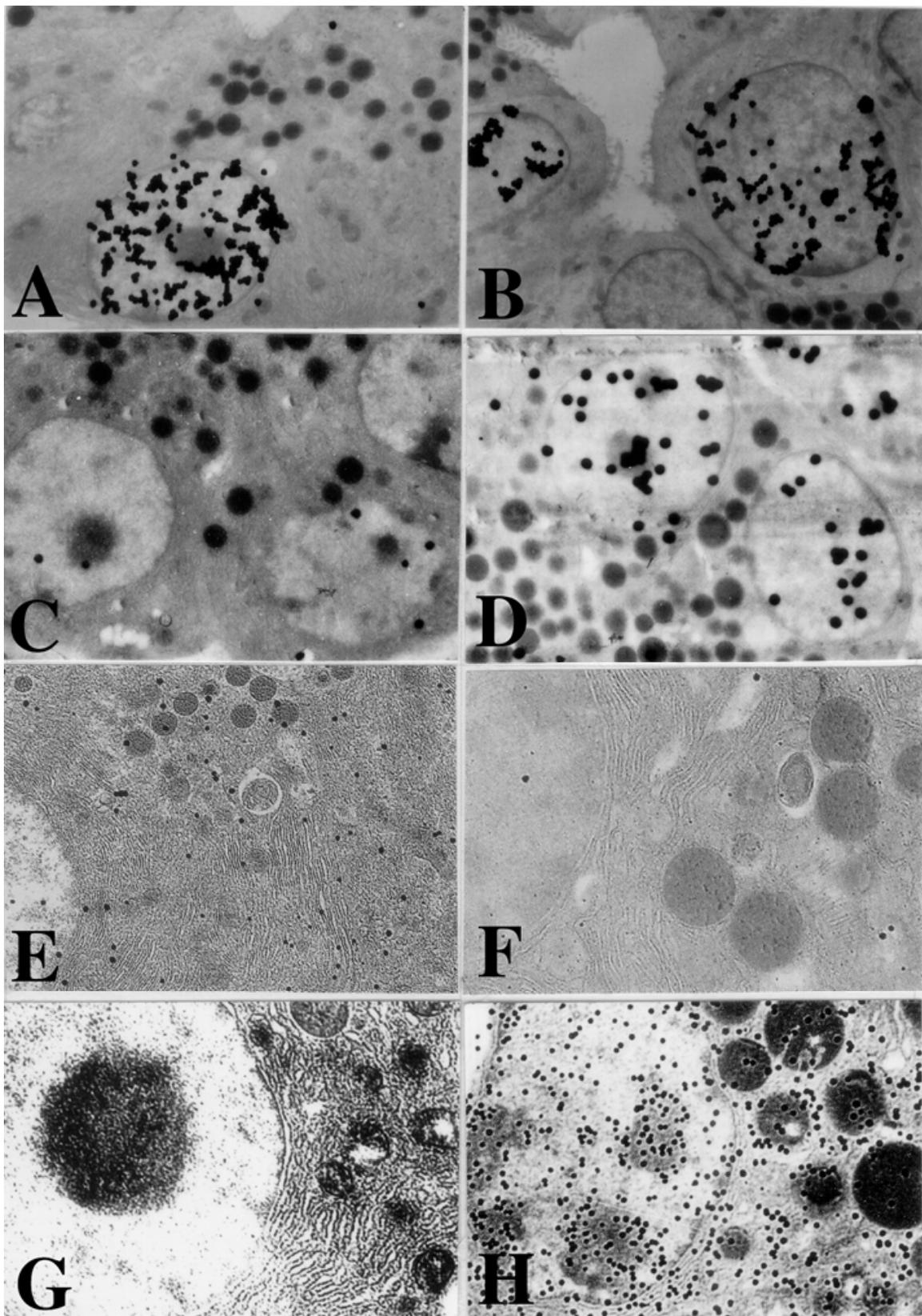


Fig. 11. EM RAG of the pancreas. From Nagata, T.: Radioautographology, General and Special. In, Prog. Histochem. Cytochem. Vol. 37, No. 2, p. 140, 2002, Urban & Fischer, Jena, Germany

Fig. 11A. EM RAG of 2 pancreatic acinar cells of a 14 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -thymidine, showing DNA synthesis. $\times 10,000$.

Fig. 11B. EM RAG of 2 centro-acinar cells of a 14 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -thymidine, showing DNA synthesis. $\times 10,000$.

Fig. 11C. EM RAG of 3 pancreatic acinar cells of a 1 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -uridine, showing RNA synthesis. $\times 10,000$.

Fig. 11D. EM RAG of 3 pancreatic acinar cells of a 14 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -uridine, showing RNA synthesis. $\times 10,000$.

Fig. 11E. EM RAG of a pancreatic acinar cell of a 30 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -leucine, showing protein synthesis. $\times 10,000$.

Fig. 11F. EM RAG of a pancreatic acinar cell of a 12 month old mouse labeled with ^3H -leucine, showing protein synthesis. $\times 10,000$.

Fig. 11G. EM RAG of a pancreatic acinar cell of a 1 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -glucosamine, showing glucide synthesis. $\times 10,000$.

Fig. 11H. EM RAG of a pancreatic acinar cell of a 14 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -glucosamine, showing glucide synthesis. $\times 10,000$.

The labeling indices of these cells reached the maxima at day 1 after birth and decreased gradually to 2 years (Fig. 12). The maximum in the acinar cells proceeded to the ductal and centro-acinar cells, suggesting that the acinar cells completed their development earlier than the ductal and centro-acinar cells (Nagata et al. 1986).

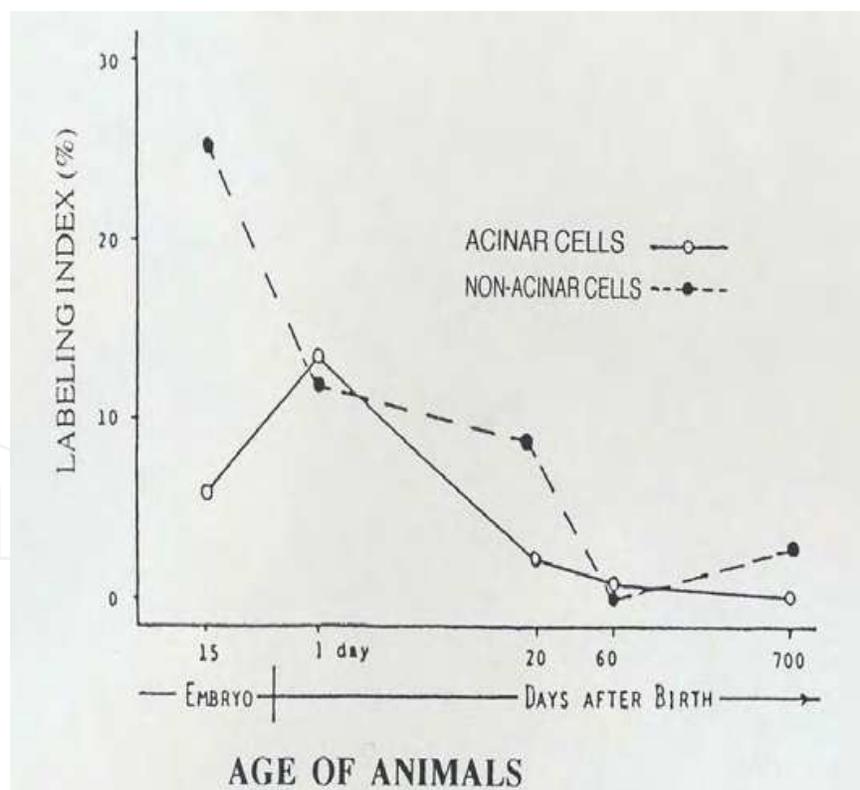


Fig. 12. Transitional curves of the labeling indices of respective cell types of the pancreas of aging mice labeled with ^3H -thymidine, showing DNA synthesis. Mean \pm Standard Deviation. From Nagata, T.: Radioautography, General and Special. In, Prog. Histochem. Cytochem. Vol. 37, No. 2, p. 142, 2002, Urban & Fischer, Jena, Germany

1.6.2 The RNA synthesis in the pancreas

On the other hand, LM and EMRAG of pancreas of mouse injected with ^3H -uridine demonstrated its incorporation into exocrine and then in endocrine cells, and more in pancreatic acinar cells (Figs. 11C,D) than in ductal or centro-acinar cells (Nagata and Usuda 1986a,b, Nagata et al. 1986). Among the acinar cells, the number of silver grains increased after birth to day 14 and then decreased with aging. Quantification of silver grains in the nucleoli, chromatin, and cell body were carried out by X-ray microanalysis (Nagata 1991, 1993, 2004, Nagata and Usuda 1985), which verified the results obtained by visual grain counting. In EMRAG obtained from the pancreas of fetal day 19 embryos, newborn day 1 and newborn day 14 mice labeled with ^3H -uridine, demonstrating RNA synthesis, the number of silver grains in the nucleoli, nuclear chromatin and cytoplasm increased (Nagata 1985, 1991, 1993a,b, 2004, Nagata and Usuda 1985, 1986). In order to quantify the silver contents of grains observed over the nucleoli, nuclei and cytoplasm, X-ray spectra were recorded by energy dispersive X-ray microanalysis (JEM-4000EX TN5400), demonstrating Ag-K α peaks at higher energies. Thus, P/B ratios expressing relative silver contents were determined and compared between the two age groups. The results obtained by X-ray microanalysis in different cell compartments at postnatal day 1 and day 14 and the results obtained by visual grain counting in different cell compartments in day 1 and day 14 animals were compared. The number of silver grains was calculated to express the counts per unit area to be compared with the XMA counts. These two results, the silver content analyzed by X-ray microanalysis and the results obtaining from visual grain counting were in good accordance with each other.

1.6.3 The protein synthesis in the pancreas

As for the protein synthesis in the pancreas, ^3H -leucine incorporation into endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi apparatus and to secretory granules of pancreatic acinar cells was first demonstrated by Jamieson and Palade (1967). We first studied ^3H -glycine incorporation into these cell organelles of mouse pancreatic acinar cells in connection with soluble compounds by EM RAG (Nagata 2000c, 2007a). It was demonstrated that soluble ^3H -glycine distributed not only in these cell organelles but also in the karyoplasm and cytoplasm diffusely. Then, the quantitative aspects of protein synthesis with regards the aging from fetal day 19, to postnatal day 1, 3, 7, 14 and 1, 2, 6 and 12 months were also clarified (Nagata and Usuda 1993a, Nagata 2000c). The results showed an increase of silver grain counts labeled with ^3H -leucine after birth, reaching a peak from postnatal 2 weeks to 1 month (Fig. 10E), and decreasing from 2 months to 1 year (Fig. 11F).

On the other hand, we also studied ^3H -leucine incorporations into the pancreatic acinar cells of both normal adult rats and experimentally pancreatitis induced rats with either ethionine or alcohol (Yoshizawa et al. 1974, 1977). The results showed that the incorporations as indicated silver grain counts in the pancreatitis rats were less than normal control rats. However, its relation to the aging was not yet studied.

1.6.4 The glucide synthesis in the pancreas

Concerning the glucide synthesis of the pancreas, we first studied the incorporation of ^3H -glucose into the pancreatic acinar cells of mouse in connection with soluble compounds by

EM RAG (Nagata et al. 1977a). It was demonstrated that soluble ^3H -glucose distributed not only in such cell organelles as endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi apparatus, mitochondria but also in the karyoplasm and cytoplasm diffusely. Then, the incorporation of ^3H -glucosamine into the pancreases of aging mice at various ages was studied by LM and EM RAG (Nagata et al. 1992). When perinatal baby mice received ^3H -glucosamine injections and the pancreatic tissues were radioautographed, silver grains were observed over exocrine and endocrine pancreatic cells. However, the number of silver grains was not so many (Fig. 11G). When juvenile mice at the age of 14 days after birth were examined, many silver grains appeared over the exocrine pancreatic acinar cells (Fig. 11H). Less silver grains were observed over endocrine pancreatic cells and ductal epithelial cells. The grains in the exocrine pancreatic acinar cells were localized over the nucleus, endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi apparatus and secretory granules, demonstrating glycoprotein synthesis. Adult mice at the ages of postnatal 1 month, 6 month or senile mice at the ages of 12 months or 24 months showed very few silver grains on radioautograms. Thus, the glucide synthesis in the pancreatic acinar cells of mice revealed quantitative changes, increase and decrease of ^3H -glucosamine incorporation with aging (Nagata 1994a,b,c,d,e, Nagata et al. 1992).

1.6.5 The lipids synthesis in the pancreas

In order to demonstrate the lipids synthesis in the pancreas, several litters of ddY mice aged fetal day 19, postnatal day 1, 3, 7, 14, and 1, 2, 6 up to 12 months, were injected with ^3H -glycerol and the pancreas tissues were prepared for LM and EM RAG. The silver grains were observed in both exocrine and endocrine cells of respective ages (Nagata 1995a,b, Nagata et al. 1988b, 1990). In perinatal animals from fetal day 19 to postnatal 1, 3, and 7 days, cell organelles were not well developed in exocrine and endocrine cells and number of silver grains was very few. In 14 day old juvenile animals, cell organelles such as endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi apparatus, mitochondria and secretory granules were well developed and many silver grains were observed over these organelles and nuclei in both exocrine and endocrine cells. The number of silver grains was more in exocrine cells than endocrine cells. In 1, 2, 6 month old adult animals, number of silver grains remained constant. In 12 month old senescent animals, silver grains were fewer than younger animals. It was demonstrated that the number of silver grains expressed the quantity of lipids synthesis, which increased from perinatal atages to adult and senescent stages and finally decreased to senescence.

2. Macromolecular synthesis in the respiratory system

The respiratory system consists of 2 parts, the air-conducting portion and the respiratory portion. The former are the nose, the pharynx, the larynx and the trachea, while the latter the lung. We studied the macromolecular synthesis in the pulmonary tissues as well as the tracheal tissues at various ages from embryo to postnatal 2 years.

2.1 The DNA synthesis in the respiratory system

Among the air-conducting portion and the respiratory portion we studied the macromolecular synthesis in the tracheal tissues as well as the pulmonary tissues at various ages from embryo to postnatal 2 years (Sun et al. 1994, 1995a,b, 1997a,b, Nagata 2000d).

2.1.1 The DNA synthesis in the trachea

The tracheas of mammals are composed of ciliated pseudostratified columnar epithelia, connective tissues, smooth muscles and hyalin cartilages surrounding the epithelia. The changes of DNA synthesis of tracheal cells in aging mice were studied by LM and EMRAG (Sun et al. 1997a, Nagata 2000d). The tracheae of 8 groups of mice from fetal day 18 to 2 years after birth were examined. The results demonstrated that the DNA syntheses and morphology of tracheal cells in the mouse tracheae changed due to aging. The radioautograms revealed that the DNA synthesis in the nuclei of ciliated cells was observed only in the fetal animals (Fig. 13A). However, the DNA synthesis in nonciliated cells and basal cells was observed in both prenatal and postnatal animals (Fig. 13B). The labeling indices of respective cell types were analyzed (Sun et al. 1997a). As the results, the labeling indices of the epithelial cells showed their maxima on fetal day 18, then fell down from postnatal day 3 to 2 years (Fig. 14A). The ciliated cell could not synthesize DNA and proliferate in the postnatal stage. They are supposed to be derived by the division and transformation of the basal cells. On the other hand, the DNA synthesis of chondrocytes was the highest on embryonic day 18, and rapidly declined on postnatal day 3 (Fig. 13C). The chondrocytes lost the ability of synthesizing DNA at 2 months after birth (Fig. 14B). The labeling indices of other cells (including fibroblasts, smooth muscle and glandular cells) were the highest on fetal day 18 and fell down markedly on the third day after birth and decreased progressively due to aging (Fig. 14C).

2.1.2 The DNA synthesis in the lung

We studied the pulmonary tissues at various ages from embryo to postnatal 2 years of mice (Sun et al. 1995a,b). The pulmonary tissues obtained from ddY strain mice at various ages from embryo day 19 to adult postnatal day 30 and to year 2 consisted of several types of cells, i.e., the type I epithelial cells or the small alveolar epithelial cells, type II epithelial cells or large alveolar epithelial cells, interstitial cells and endothelial cells, which incorporated macromolecular precursors respectively (Figs. 13E, F, G, H).

2.1.2.1 The DNA synthesis in the pulmonary cells

The pulmonary tissues obtained from ddY strain mice at embryonic to early postnatal stages consisted of undifferentiated cells (Fig. 13E). However, they differentiated into several types of cells due to aging, the type I epithelial cells or the small alveolar epithelial cells (Fig. 13E), the type II epithelial cells or the large alveolar epithelial cells (Fig. 13F), the interstitial cells (Fig. 13G), the endothelial cells (Fig. 13H) and alveolar phagocytes or dust cells as we had formerly observed (Sun et al. 1995a,b). At embryonic day 16 and 18, the fetal lung tissues appeared as glandular organizations consisting of many alveoli bordering undifferentiated cuboidal cells and no squamous epithelial cells were seen (Figs. 13E, 13G). Mitotic figures were frequently observed in cuboidal epithelial cells. After birth, the structure of the alveoli was characterized by further development of the alveolar-capillary networks from postnatal day 1 to 3 and 7 (Fig. 13H). During the development, the cellular composition of the alveolar epithelium resembled that of the adult lung, with a mixed population of the type I and type II epithelial cells. Up to 1 and 2 weeks after birth, the lung tissues showed complete alveolar structure and single capillary system almost the same as the adult after 1 month (Fig. 13F) to 2 to 6 months, and further to senescent stage over 12 months to 22 months. On electron microscopic radioautograms of the pulmonary tissues labeled with ^3H -thymidine, silver grains were observed over the nuclei of some pulmonary cells corresponding to the DNA synthesis in S-phase as observed by light microscopic radioautography (Sun et al. 1995a,b, 1997a).

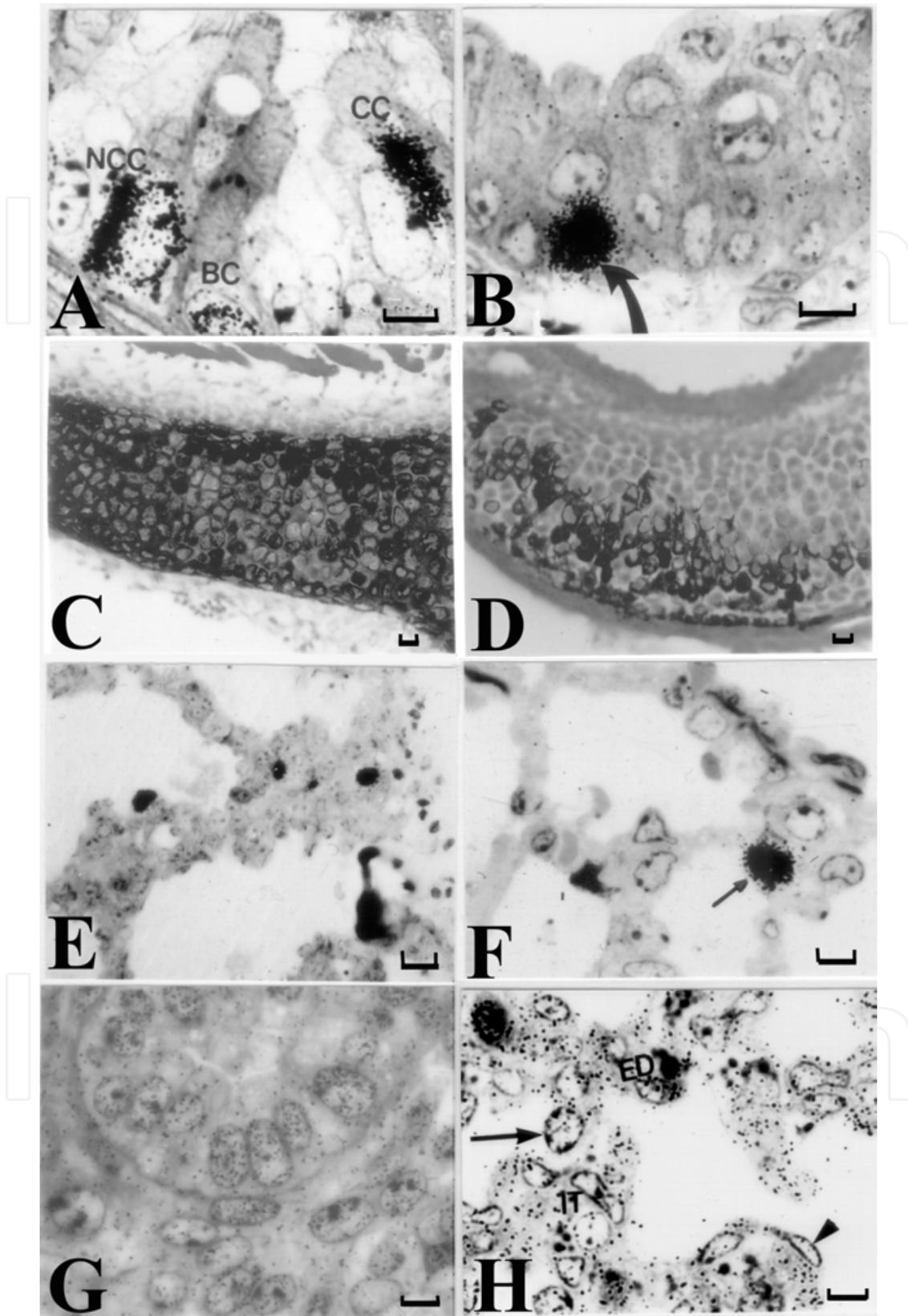


Fig. 13. LM RAG of the respiratory organs. From Nagata, T.: *Special Cytochemistry in Cell Biology*, In, *Internat. Rev. Cytol.* Vol. 211, No. 1, p. 102, 2001, Academic Press, San Diego, USA, London, UK.

Fig. 13A. LM RAG of the tracheal epithelial cells of a prenatal day 18 mouse embryo labeled with ^3H -thymidine, showing DNA synthesis. $\times 1,125$.

Fig. 13B. LM RAG of the tracheal epithelial cells of a postnatal 1 month old mouse labeled with ^3H -thymidine, showing DNA synthesis. $\times 1,125$.

Fig. 13C. LM RAG of the tracheal cartilage cells of a prenatal day 19 mouse embryo labeled with $^{35}\text{SO}_4$ showing mucosubstance synthesis. $\times 400$.

Fig. 13D. LM RAG of the tracheal cartilage cells of a postnatal day 3 mouse labeled with $^{35}\text{SO}_4$ showing mucosubstance synthesis. $\times 400$.

Fig. 13E. LM RAG of the lung of a 1 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -thymidine, showing DNA synthesis. $\times 750$.

Fig. 13F. LM RAG of the lung of a 1 month old mouse labeled with ^3H -thymidine, showing DNA synthesis. $\times 750$.

Fig. 13G. LM RAG of the lung of a prenatal day 16 mouse embryo labeled with ^3H -uridine, showing RNA synthesis. $\times 750$.

Fig. 13H. LM RAG of the lung of a 7 day old mouse labeled with ^3H -leucine, showing protein synthesis. $\times 750$.

The DNA synthetic activity of respective pulmonary cells as expressed by labeling indices demonstrated increases from perinatal stage to developmental stage and decreased due to aging. We also studied inhalation of ^3H -thymidine in air by means of a nebulizer into the lungs of 1 week old young mice as experimental studies and observed by LM and EM RAG (Duan et al. 1994). After 10 min. inhalation, the lung tissues were taken out and processed by either rapid freezing and freeze-substitution for dry-mounting radioautography or conventional chemical fixation for wet-mounting radioautography. By wet-mounting RAG silver grains were observed in the nuclei of a few alveolar type 2 cells and interstitial cells demonstrating DNA synthesis. By dry-mounting RAG, numerous silver grains were located diffusely over all the epithelial cells and interstitial cells demonstrating soluble compounds. The results showed that ^3H -thymidine inhaled into the lung distributed over all the pulmonary cells but only some of the alveolar type 2 cells and interstitial cells did synthesize DNA.

On the other hand, we studied the aging changes of DNA synthesis in the lungs of salamanders, *Hynobius nebulosus*, from larvae at 2 month after fertilization, juvenile at 1 month, adults at 10 and 12 months after metamorphosis, and finally to senescence at 5 years by LM RAG after ^3H -thymidine injections (Matsumura et al. 1994). The results showed that the labeling indices of in the ciliated cells and mucous cells in the superficial layer of young animals were higher than those of the basal cells and they decreased in adults, demonstrating aging changes in salamanders.

2.1.2.2 The DNA synthesis in mitochondria of mouse pulmonary cells

On electron microscopic radioautograms of the pulmonary tissues labeled with ^3H -thymidine, silver grains were observed over not only the nuclei of some pulmonary cells corresponding to the DNA synthesis in S-phase as observed by LM radioautography (Sun et al. 1995a,b) but also over the mitochondria by EMRAG (Sun et al. 1995b). Some mitochondria in both S-phase cells and interphase cells which did not show any silver grains over their nuclei were labeled with silver grains showing intramitochondrial DNA

synthesis. The intramitochondrial DNA synthesis was observed in all cell types, the type I epithelial cells, the type II epithelial cells (Figs. 13F,G), the interstitial cells (Fig. 13F) and the endothelial cells. Because enough numbers of electron photographs (more than 5) were not obtained from all the cell types in respective aging groups, only some cell types and some aging groups when enough numbers of electron photographs were available were used for quantitative analysis. The numbers of mitochondria per cell profile area, the numbers of labeled mitochondria per cell and the labeling indices of the type I epithelial cells in only a few aging groups were observed and counted. The labeling indices in respective aging stages were calculated from the number of labeled mitochondria and the number of total mitochondria per cellular profile area which were calculated, respectively. These results demonstrated that the labeling indices in these cell types decreased from prenatal stages at embryo day 16 to day 18 (20-25%), and further decreased to postnatal days up to senescent stages due to aging (Fig. 15).

2.2 The RNA synthesis in the respiratory system

We studied the lungs of aging mice among the respiratory organs after administration of ^3H -uridine at various ages from prenatal embryonic day 16 to postnatal senescent month 22 as observed by LM and EM RAG (Fig. 13H).

2.2.1 RNA synthesis of mouse pulmonary cells

When the lung tissues of mice were labeled with ^3H -uridine, RNA synthesis was observed in all cells of the lungs at various ages by RAG (Sun 1995, Sun et al. 1997b, Nagata 2002). Observing the light microscopic radioautograms labeled with ^3H -uridine, the silver grains were found over both the karyoplasm and cytoplasm of almost all the cells not only at the perinatal stages from embryo day 16, 18, to postnatal day 1, 3, 7, 14, but also at the adult and senescent stages from postnatal month 1 to 2, 6, 12 and 22. The number of silver grains, by electron micrography, changed with aging. The grain counts in type I epithelial cells increased from the 1st day after birth and reached a peak at 1 week and decreased gradually to month 22, while the counts in type II epithelial cells (Fig. 13H), interstitial cells and endothelial cells increased from embryo day 16 and reached peaks at 1 week after birth, then decreased to senescence.

2.2.2 The RNA synthesis of mitochondria in pulmonary cells

By electron microscopic radioautography, silver grains were observed in most pulmonary cells in respective aging groups localizing not only over euchromatin and nucleoli in the nuclei but also over many cell organelles such as endoplasmic reticulum, ribosomes, and mitochondria as well as cytoplasmic matrices from perinatal stage at embryonic day 16, 18, to postnatal day 1, 3, 7, 14, to adult and senescent stages at postnatal month 1, 2, 6, 12 and 22 (Sun 1995, Sun et al. 1997b, Nagata 2002). The localizations of silver grains over the mitochondria were mainly on the mitochondrial matrices but a few over the mitochondrial membranes and cristae when observed by high power magnification. However, quantitative analyses on the number of mitochondria, the number of labeled mitochondria and the labeling index were not performed because enough number of EM RAG was not obtained.

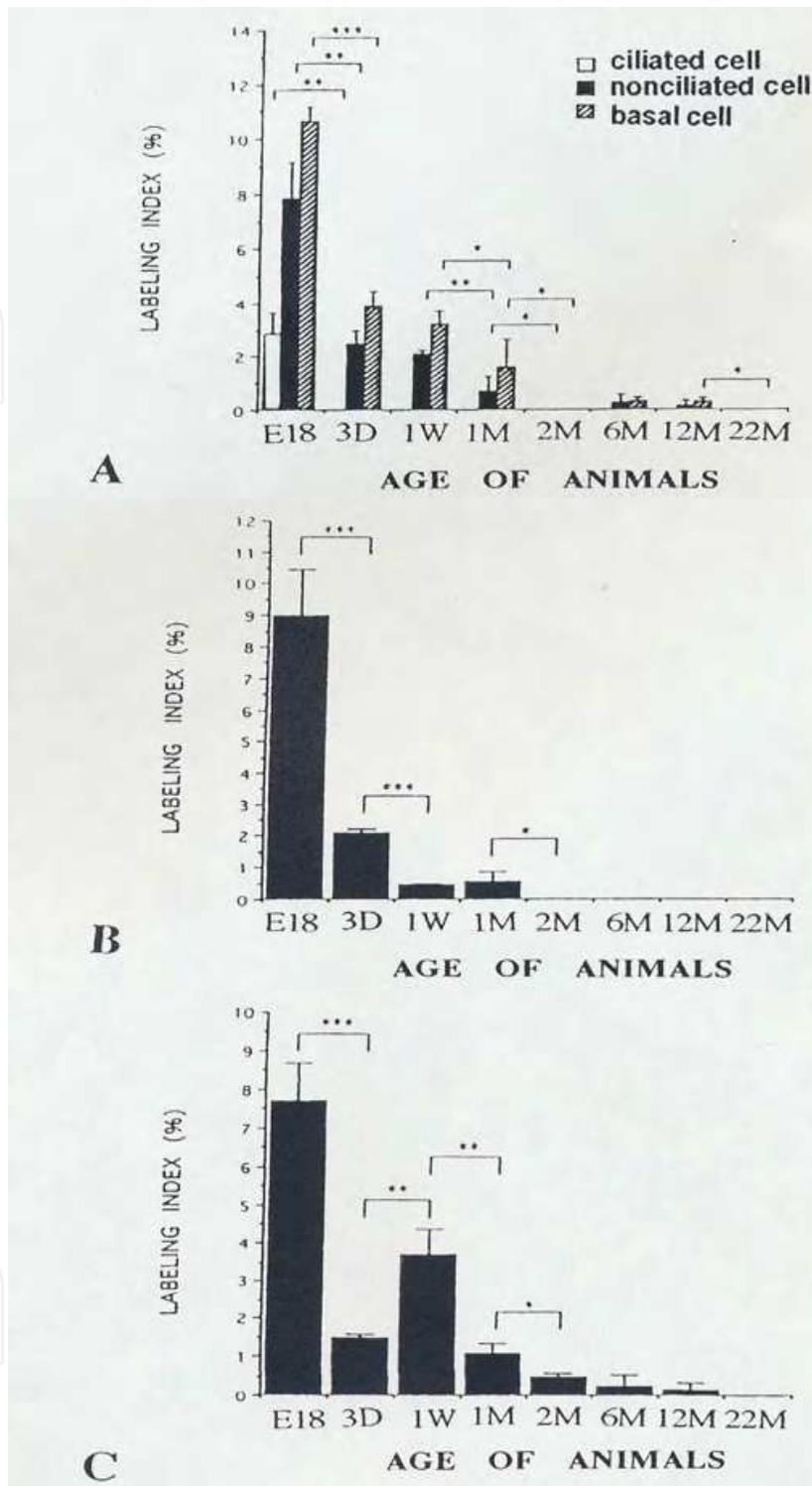


Fig. 14. Histogram showing aging changes of average labeling indices in respective cell types of the trachea of aging mice labeled with ³H-thymidine. Mean ± Standard Deviation. From Nagata, T.: Radioautographology, General and Special. In, Prog. Histochem. Cytochem. Vol. 37, No. 2, p. 148, 2002, Urban & Fischer, Jena, Germany

Fig. 14A. Epithelial cells.

Fig. 14B. Chondrocytes in the cartilage.

Fig. 14C. Other cells.

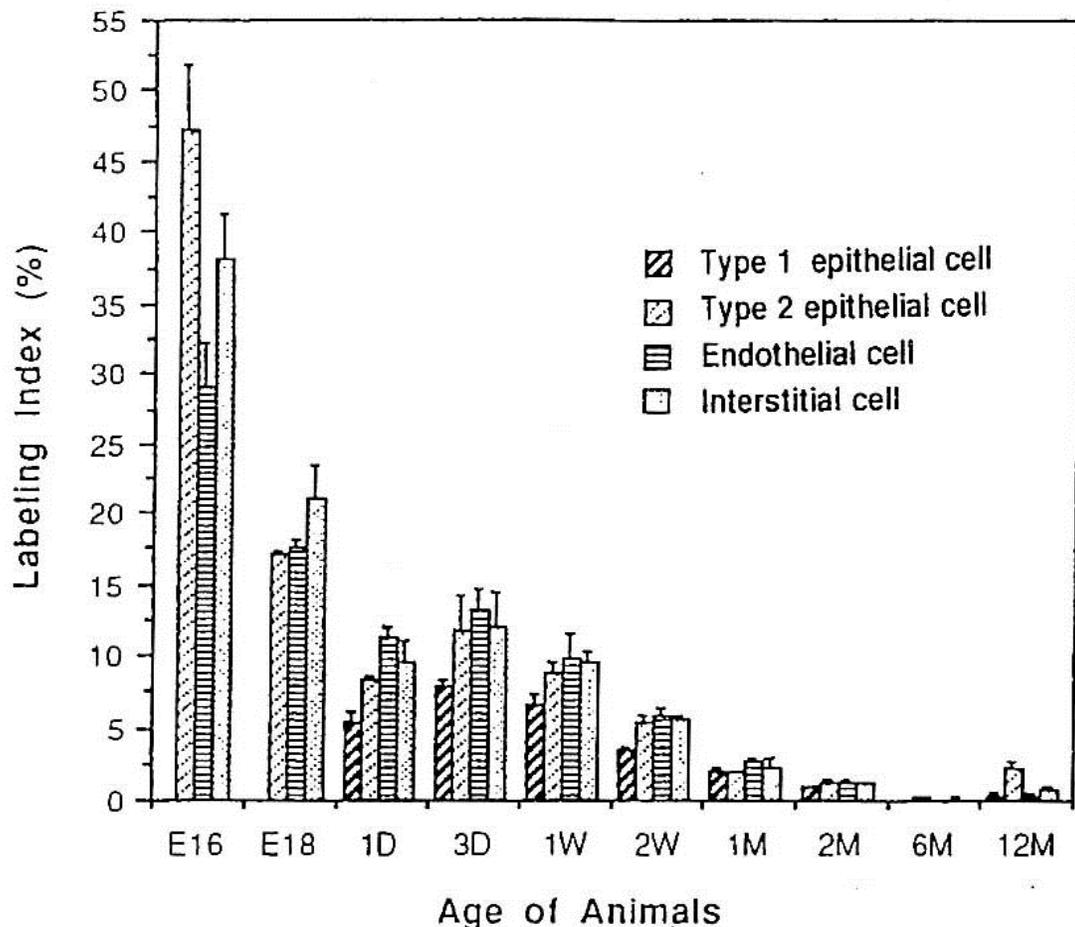


Fig. 15. Histogram showing aging changes of average labeling indices in respective cell types of the tracheal epithelial cells of aging mice labeled with ^3H -thymidine. Mean \pm Standard Deviation. From Nagata, T.: Radioautographology, General and Special. In, Prog. Histochem. Cytochem. Vol. 37, No. 2, p. 149, 2002, Urban & Fischer, Jena, Germany

2.3 The protein synthesis in the respiratory system

We studied the protein synthesis only in the lungs of aging mice at various ages among the respiratory organs including the respiratory tract.

2.3.1 Protein synthesis of aging mouse pulmonary cells

When the lung tissues of mice at various ages were labeled with ^3H -leucine, protein synthesis was observed in all types of cells, type I and type II epithelial cells, interstitial cells and endothelial cells, of the lungs at various ages from embryo to senescence (Sun et al. 1997b). Observing the light microscopic radioautograms, the silver grains were detected over both the karyoplasm and cytoplasm of almost all the cells not only at the perinatal stages from embryo day 16, 18, to postnatal day 1 to 14 (Fig. 13I), but also at the adult and senescent stages from postnatal month 1 to 2, 6, 12 and 22. The number of silver grains, by light microscopic radioautography, changed with aging. The grain counts in type I epithelial cells were the highest on postnatal day 1, decreased on day 3 and increased again at 1 week,

then decreased gradually to month 22, while the counts in type II epithelial cells, interstitial cells and endothelial cells reached the highest levels on fetal day 16, declined progressively with aging from fetal day 18 to postnatal day 3, then increased again from postnatal to day 7, reached peaks at 1 week (day 7) after birth, then decreased to senescence. However, grain counting on cell organelles by electron microscopy was not performed because enough numbers of EM RAG were not obtained at that time.

2.4 The glucide synthesis in the respiratory system

The incorporation of $^{35}\text{SO}_4$ in the trachea of aging mice was studied among the respiratory organs (Nagata 2000d). As the results, silver grains indicating the incorporations of radiosulfate were found over the cartilage matrices and the cartilage capsules in the hyaline cartilages of the tracheae of fetal (Fig. 13C) and postnatal newborn mice (Fig. 13D). The grain density as analyzed by grain densitometry was the maximum at the fetal day 19 (1200 grains per unit area). The grain density then decreased from the fetal day 19 to the postnatal day 1, 3, 7 (600/area), 14 (200/area) and reached 0 on day 30, and no silver grain was found in the animals aged from 1 to 12 months. The silver grains in the perinatal animals aged at postnatal day 1 and 3, disappeared from the internal layer to the external layer of the cartilage and from the interterritorial matrix to the territorial matrix and the cartilage capsule. In the juvenile animals aged at postnatal day 9 and 14, intense incorporations were observed disseminatedly over several groups of cartilage capsules in the external layer. The results indicated that the glycoproteins constituting the cartilage matrix were synthesized from prenatal to postnatal day 30. To the contrary, no incorporation of silver grains was observed in the aging animals from postnatal 1 to 12 months by both LM and EM RAG. These results demonstrated the aging changes of glycoprotein synthesis in the cartilage matrix of mice at various ages during development and aging.

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Senescence

Edited by Dr. Tetsuji Nagata

ISBN 978-953-51-0144-4

Hard cover, 850 pages

Publisher InTech

Published online 29, February, 2012

Published in print edition February, 2012

The book "Senescence" is aimed to describe all the phenomena related to aging and senescence of all forms of life on Earth, i.e. plants, animals and the human beings. The book contains 36 carefully reviewed chapters written by different authors, aiming to describe the aging and senescent changes of living creatures, i.e. plants and animals.

How to reference

In order to correctly reference this scholarly work, feel free to copy and paste the following:

Tetsuji Nagata (2012). Macromolecular Synthesis in the Digestive and Respiratory Systems, Senescence, Dr. Tetsuji Nagata (Ed.), ISBN: 978-953-51-0144-4, InTech, Available from:
<http://www.intechopen.com/books/senescence/macromolecular-synthesis-in-the-digestive-and-respiratory-systems>

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