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Journal of Andrology, Vol 12, Issue 4 240–243, Copyright $^{\odot}$ 1991 by The American Society of Andrology

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Mitosis in normal adult guinea pig Leydig cells

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In this study, Leydig cells in mitosis in adult guinea pigs were quantified. Testes of adult control guinea pigs (n = 10) were fixed by whole body perfusion with 2.5% glutaraldehyde in cacodylate buffer, postfixed in a mixture of osmium tetroxide-potassium ferrocyanide, and embedded in Epon Araldite for qualitative and quantitative microscopy. Using stereologic techniques, the total

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number of Leydig cells per testis and the number of dividing Leydig cells per testis were quantified. Light microscopic studies revealed the presence of dividing Leydig cells.

Ultrastructural studies on a few of these Leydig cells showed that they contained abundant smooth endoplasmic reticulum and mitochondria, which further supported this identity. The total number of Leydig cells per testis and the number of dividing Leydig cells per testis were determined as 14.1 x 10(6) (standard error [SE] = 0.33) and 8 x 10(3) (SE = 5), respectively. These results indicate that Leydig cells undergo mitosis at a rate of 1 per 1.75 x 10(4) in adult guinea pigs.

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