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JOURNAL ARTICLE

Synthesis and secretion of glycoprotein by the epididymal epithelium

C. J. Flickinger

The secretory activity of the middle segment of the mouse caput epididymidis was studied using 3H-fucose as a precursor to glycoprotein. Young adult male mice were injected with a concentrated solution of 3H-fucose interstitially, ie beneath the connective tissue capsule of the epididymis. Two animals were killed and prepared for light microscopic radioautography at each of six intervals between 10 minutes and 24 hours after injection. Silver grains were concentrated over the supranuclear Golgi region at 10 minutes and over the apical ends of the cells 30 minutes and 1 hour after injection. Quantitative analysis showed that luminal radioactivity increased greatly beginning with the 2-hour samples. The results indicate that the epididymal epithelium synthesizes and secretes glycoproteins, and that 1 to 2 hours are required for terminal glycosylation, intracellular transport, and release of the secretory product.

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S. Fouchécourt, S. Métayer, A. Locatelli, F. Dacheux, and J.-L. Dacheux
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Biol Reprod, June 1, 2000; 62(6): 1790 - 1803.

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