An *in situ* cell marker for clonal analysis of development of the extraembryonic endoderm in the mouse*

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SUMMARY

Conditions were found for staining whole mid-gestation capsular parietal endoderms and visceral yolk sacs for malic enzyme activity that gave excellent discrimination between wild-type (*Mod-1*/*Mod-1*) cells and mutant (*Mod-1*/*Mod-1*) cells that lack the cytoplasmic form of the enzyme. Reciprocal blastocyst injection experiments were undertaken in which single primitive endoderm cells of one genotype were transplanted into embryos of the other genotype. In addition, *Mod-1*/*Mod-1* early inner cell mass (ICM) cells were injected into *Mod-1*/*Mod-1* blastocysts, either in groups of two or three singletons or as daughter cell pairs. A substantial proportion of the resulting conceptuses showed mosaic histochemical staining in the parietal endoderm, visceral yolk sac, or in both these membranes. Stained cells were invariably intimately intermixed with unstained cells in the mosaic parietal endoderm.

In contrast, one or both of two distinct patterns of staining could be discerned in mosaic visceral yolk sacs. The first, a conspicuously 'coherent' pattern, was found to be due to endodermal chimaerism; the second, a more diffuse pattern, was attributable to chimaerism in the mesodermal layer of this membrane. The overall distribution of cells with donor staining characteristics resulting from primitive endoderm versus early ICM cell injections was consistent with findings in earlier experiments in which allozymes of glucosephosphate isomerase were used as markers.

The conspicuous lack of phenotypically intermediate cells in predominantly stained areas of mosaic membranes suggested that the histochemical difference between *Mod-1*/*Mod-1* and *Mod-1*/*Mod-1* genotypes was cell-autonomous. This conclusion was strengthened by the results of staining mixed *in vitro* cultures of parietal endoderm in which presence or absence of phagocytosed melanin granules was used as an independent means of distinguishing wild type from null cells.

By substituting tetranitro blue tetrazolium for nitro blue tetrazolium in the incubation medium, satisfactory differential staining was obtained for both the extraembryonic endoderm and other tissues of earlier postimplantation wild type versus null embryos.

Finally, absence of cytoplasmic malic enzyme activity does not appear to have a significant effect on the viability or behaviour of mutant cells.

INTRODUCTION

The extraembryonic endoderm of the mouse conceptus consists of two types of cell, parietal and visceral, that are spatially, morphologically and biochemically

*This paper is dedicated to Dr Sydney Smith who kindled my interest in embryological research.*
distinct (see Gardner, 1983, for review). Two different lineage schemes have been proposed to account for the origin of these cell populations. According to the first, parietal and visceral endoderm cells share a common origin from the primitive endoderm that is formed on the free surface of the inner cell mass (ICM) in the mature blastocyst (Gardner & Papaioannou, 1975; Gardner, 1978). The second scheme equates primitive with early parietal endoderm, visceral endoderm being assigned a separate and somewhat later origin from the underlying primitive ectoderm (Dziadek, 1979). Support for this second scheme comes from observations on isolated ICMs maintained in vitro (Pedersen, Spindle & Wiley, 1977; Atienza-Samols & Sherman, 1979; Dziadek, 1979).

Experiments in which the technique of blastocyst injection (Gardner, 1968, 1978b) was used to assay the developmental potential of ICM-derived cells in intact embryos in vivo have provided results that support the first of the above schemes rather than the second. Thus, ability to colonize the extraembryonic endoderm of host embryos was found to be restricted to primitive endoderm cells from the mature blastocyst, and to parietal and visceral endoderm cells from early postimplantation embryos (Rossant, Gardner & Alexandre, 1978; Gardner & Rossant, 1979; Gardner, 1982). Furthermore, such experiments demonstrated unequivocally that clones formed by transplanting single primitive endoderm cells could span both the visceral and parietal endoderm of the same conceptus (Gardner, 1982). Nevertheless, the majority of such primitive endodermal clones were confined to the parietal endoderm. Indeed, even within the parietal endoderm, distal colonization seemed to be preferred over proximal.

More surprising, perhaps, was the finding that established visceral endoderm cells exhibited a marked preference for parietal rather than visceral colonization as their primitive endodermal progenitors (Gardner, 1982). Unfortunately, it was necessary to resort to electrophoresis of tissue homogenates in order to separate the allozymes of glucosephosphate isomerase (GPI, E.C. 5.3.1.9.) that were used to distinguish donor from host cells in these blastocyst injection experiments. Hence, spatial resolution was too poor both to enable more detailed analysis of the distribution of donor cells within the extraembryonic endoderm and to determine whether visceral cells that had colonized the parietal endoderm displayed a phenotype appropriate for this layer.

Clearly, much more effective use could be made of clonal analysis to study both the growth of parietal and visceral endoderm and the relationship between them if individual donor cells could be distinguished from host cells in situ. Several genetic markers are currently available that enable mosaicism to be visualized at the cellular level in certain adult tissues (reviewed by McLaren, 1976; West, 1984), although not all of these have been critically evaluated (Gardner, 1984).

The most promising attempts to exploit genetic polymorphism as the basis of a more general in situ cell marker that might also be employed prenatally have depended on three different approaches. The first involves the production of
In situ cell marker for extraembryonic endoderm

interspecific chimaeras in which species-specific antisera or DNA probes can be used to visualize mosaicism in all tissues (Gardner & Johnson, 1973, 1975; Siracusa et al. 1983; Rossant, Vijh, Siracusa & Chapman, 1983). One cannot neglect the possibility that adoption of this particular solution to the marker problem might entail substantial perturbation of the developmental phenomena under investigation. Such concern would seem to be fully justified with regard to rat–mouse chimaeras which typically show runting at birth and have so far failed to survive thereafter (Gardner & Johnson, 1973, 1975). It is perhaps less warranted in the case of chimaeras that have been produced more recently between Mus musculus and Mus caroli because these organisms can develop into healthy, fertile adults (Rossant & Chapman, 1983). The second approach has been to obtain allozyme-specific antisera against GPI as a means of harnessing this ubiquitous enzyme as an in situ marker in intraspecific chimaeras in the mouse (Gearhart & Oster-Granite, 1978, 1980; Oster-Granite & Gearhart, 1981). Finally, haplotype-specific monoclonal antibodies have recently enabled H-2 antigens to be used as markers in a variety of tissues of post-natal mouse chimaeras (Ponder, Wilkinson & Wood, 1983). However, the task of assigning individual cells to one or other H-2 type may be difficult at the interfaces between patches in certain epithelia and impossible throughout other tissues that show very fine grained mosaicism (Ponder et al. 1983). In addition, it is not clear how useful H-2 antigens will be prenatally as markers since they do not appear to be expressed in many tissues until a relatively late stage of development (Kirkwood & Billington, 1981).

An important limitation of all three of these approaches to in situ cell marking is that they utilize reagents that are applicable to sectioned material rather than whole-mount preparations. They are therefore ill-suited for studying patterns of chimaerism in extraembryonic membranes (Gardner, 1984).

The present investigation was prompted by the recent discovery of a null mutation at the Mod-1 locus which codes for cytoplasmic malic enzyme in the mouse (Lee et al. 1980a; Lee, Lee, Lewis & Johnson, 1980b; Johnson et al. 1981). Its aim was to explore the possibility of using the presence versus absence of a functional gene at this locus as an in situ marker with which to undertake clonal analysis of development of the extraembryonic endoderm. Initially cytoplasmic malic enzyme did not appear to be a very promising candidate for such a marker for several reasons. First, it evidently belongs to the class of soluble cytoplasmic enzymes which tend to be particularly difficult to localize histochemically (Pearse, 1972). Second, virtually nothing is known about either the temporal or spatial patterns of expression of the Mod-1 locus during prenatal development. Engel & Wolfe (1971) could not detect the presence of the enzyme prior to the 10th day of gestation using an electrophoretic assay. However, homogenates of entire conceptuses were used in this study and no indication of the sensitivity of the assay was provided. Finally, as illustrated in Table 1, cytoplasmic malic enzyme is but one of five different mammalian cell enzymes
that can utilize L-malate as a substrate. However, the fact that there are differences in intracellular location, co-enzyme requirements, and in certain physico-chemical properties between the various enzymes (see Tables 1 and 2) suggested that conditions might nevertheless be found in which wild-type cells could be distinguished unequivocally from homozygous mutant cells in chimaeric membranes. All reagents that are needed for the histochemical demonstration of malic enzyme activity are relatively small molecules (Pearse, 1972). This meant that staining could be attempted using intact cells, a strategy that has been employed very successfully in similar studies in *Drosophila* (Janning, 1972; Kuhn & Cunningham, 1978; Szabad, Schupbach & Wieschaus, 1979; Lawrence, 1981).

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Mice**

A stock of mice that was homozygous for the lack of cytoplasmic malic enzyme activity (*Mod-l^a/Mod-l^a* mice) was obtained by intercrossing heterozygous progeny from the fifth generation of backcrossing to the C57BL/6J inbred strain in which the null mutation had originated. Corresponding wild-type mice belonged to the random-bred PO (Pathology, Oxford) albino strain and are designated *Mod-l^+/*Mod-l^+* mice because no attempt was made to determine whether they were *Mod-l^a/Mod-l^a*, *Mod-l^b/Mod-l^b*, or heterozygous for these two functional alleles. Females were paired overnight (dark period 19.00–07.00 h) with fertile males of the same strain and checked for the presence of vaginal plugs the following morning. Additional *Mod-l^+/*Mod-l^+* females were mated to vasectomized males to serve as recipients of transplanted blastocysts. The day on which the plug was found was designated the first day of pregnancy or pseudo-pregnancy.

**Media**

**PB1 medium** (Whittingham & Wales, 1969) containing glucose (1 g/l) in place of lactate and foetal calf serum (10 % v/v) in place of bovine serum albumin, was used for the recovery, storage at room temperature and manipulation of blastocysts. It was also used for the recovery and dissection of conceptuses whose visceral yolk sacs and or capsular parietal endoderms were intended for *in vitro* culture. Culture of blastocysts, isolated inner cell mass (ICM) cells, and cells or tissues for postimplantation embryos was done in modified α-medium (Stanners, Eliceiri & Green, 1971), which was also supplemented with 10 % (v/v) foetal calf serum, at 37°C in an atmosphere of 5 % CO₂ in air.

**Production of chimaeric conceptuses**

Chimaeras were produced by injecting cells into blastocysts (Gardner, 1968) using a technique that has been described fully elsewhere (Gardner, 1978b). All
micromanipulative procedures were done in hanging drops maintained at approximately 11°C by means of a thermocirculator (Model 02/CTCV/H.P., Churchill, U.K.) connected to the microscope stage (Leitz, heating and cooling stage 80). Donor Mod-1+/Mod-1+ blastocysts were recovered at approximately 11.00 h on the 4th or 14.30 h on the 5th day of pregnancy. Host Mod-1+/Mod-1+ blastocysts were invariably recovered before 10.00 h on the 4th day because they usually showed such a marked degree of developmental precocity as to suggest that ovulation was being induced by coitus in this stock. In reciprocal cell injection experiments, donor Mod-1+/Mod-1+ blastocysts were recovered at roughly 10.00 h on the 5th day and host Mod-1+/Mod-1+ blastocysts at 15.00 h on the 4th day of pregnancy.

Primitive endoderm cells were isolated from 5th day blastocysts as described recently (Gardner, 1982), and one such cell injected into each host blastocyst. Fourth day Mod-1+/Mod-1+ blastocysts were incubated for up to 1 h to compensate for any adverse effects of recovery and removal of the zona pellucida (Nichols & Gardner, 1984) on their state of expansion. Those whose blastocoel did not exceed the ICM in volume following culture were selected as early ICM cell donors. The trophectoderm of these blastocysts was destroyed immuno-surgically (Solter & Knowles, 1975; Nichols & Gardner, 1984) using normal rat rather than guinea pig serum as the source of complement (see Spielmann, Jacob-Muller & Beckord, 1980). Following elimination of trophodermal debris by pipetting, the ICMs were incubated in 0.25% pronase (Calbiochem. Grade B) in Dulbecco ‘A’ phosphate-buffered saline (PBS, Oxoid, U.K.) for 12 min at room temperature. Thereafter, they were rinsed and then incubated in OC medium (table 6.5 of Biggers, Whitten & Whittingham, 1971) without calcium at 37°C for the 15–35 min required to decompact them. Once decompacted, the ICMs were transferred to drops of PB1 for mechanical dissociation. The dissociated single cells were then transferred in groups of 10–30 into approximately 2 mm diameter drops of α-medium that had been placed on sterile siliconized coverslips and covered with paraffin oil (Boots, Pure Drug Co., U.K.). The cells were deposited well apart from each other, and the precise number in each drop recorded before culture. They were incubated for up to 2½ h at 37°C and examined at roughly half hourly intervals in order to identify any that had divided. Daughter cell pairs were removed to a manipulation chamber in which they were kept at 11°C until transplantation. Finally, a daughter cell pair was injected into each of one series of blastocysts, and a group of either two or three single cells that had not divided during culture into each of another.

Production of mixed parietal endoderm cell cultures

Conceptuses were removed from the uteri of females killed either on the morning of the 11th or 12th day of pregnancy and placed in PB1. Capsular Reichert’s membrane was detached from the placental region of each conceptus with iris scissors, dissected free of adherent trophoblast and capsular decidua.
tissue, and rinsed in fresh PB1 to eliminate maternal blood cells. Five or six isolated Reichert's membranes of the same genotype were then transferred to a 35 × 10 mm tissue culture dish (Falcon, Beckton-Dickinson, U.S.A.) containing α-medium. Each membrane was stretched out flat with its parietal endoderm layer uppermost and held thus by focally embedding it in the floor of the dish with the tips of watchmaker's forceps at intervals round its periphery. A dense suspension of melanin granules was added either to the dish containing the wild-type or mutant Reichert's membranes or, in controls for assessing the effect of labelling with melanin granules on staining for malic enzyme activity, to one of a pair of dishes containing wild type membranes.

The melanin granule suspension was prepared by repeatedly teasing the freshly recovered pigmented iris epithelia from three mice in α-medium. After standing for 5–10 min to allow debris to sediment, the suspension was transferred to a sterile siliconized glass centrifuge tube and made up to approximately 8 ml with additional α-medium. The granules deposited by centrifugation at 4300 r.p.m. for 25 min were resuspended in 0.25–0.5 ml of fresh α-medium and added to the appropriate dish of Reichert's membranes to make a final volume of approximately 2 ml.

Pairs of dishes were incubated for 3 h, the one containing the melanin granule suspension being pipetted briefly at hourly intervals so as to ensure that granules continued to sediment on the parietal endoderm cells throughout. Following culture, the central flattened part of each Reichert's membrane was cut out with iris scissors so as to avoid the peripheral folds in which cells were shielded from melanin granules and ensure that equivalent regions were obtained from both labelled and unlabelled specimens. All excised fragments from a given dish were pooled and transferred to a mixture of 0.05 % w/v trypsin (Difco, 1/250) and 0.02 % w/v sodium diaminoethanetetra-acetate (E.D.T.A., B.D.H. Poole, U.K.) in PBS for 12 min at room temperature. Thereafter, they were transferred via two rinses of PB1 to a cavity cell containing approximately 1 ml of this medium and stripped of cells by being raised repeatedly through the medium-air interface. The resulting suspension of the cells that had not been exposed to melanin granules was refrigerated while single unequivocally labelled cells were selected at ca. 11 °C with a micropipette held in a micromanipulator from the suspension prepared from membranes that had been exposed to these particles. When sufficient labelled cells had been collected they were mixed with an excess of those from the unlabelled suspension and the mixture deposited at as high a density as possible on a piece of glass coverslip placed in the bottom of a 35 × 10 mm tissue culture dish containing α-medium (see Fig. 1). Dispersal of the cells by convection was reduced by refrigerating each dish prior to seeding. The dishes were incubated either for 2½–2½ h or for approximately 16 h. Thereafter, the medium was replaced by PBS and each dish swirled vigorously to detach all loosely adhering cells before the cultures were fixed with glutaraldehyde. Each dish was rinsed three times with PBS following removal of the fixative. After a further change of PBS, the dishes were refrigerated for 12–36 h.
Recovery and handling of parietal and visceral yolk sacs

Conceptuses of $\text{Mod-1}^+ / \text{Mod-1}^+$, $\text{Mod-1}^n / \text{Mod-1}^n$ and of presumptively chimaeric constitution were usually recovered from females killed on the 10th to 12th day of pregnancy. Capsular parietal endoderms were isolated as described earlier, except that a single proximodistal cut was made in those of presumptive chimaeras prior to their final separation from the placenta. A corresponding incision was made in the rim of the placenta so that a circumferentially coincident proximodistal cut could be made later in the visceral yolk sac during its fixation. Such cuts enabled mutual alignment of pairs of membranes following histochemical staining so that the pattern of distribution of wild-type and mutant cells in one could be compared with that in the other in cases in which both were chimaeric. Capsular parietal endoderm were usually pinned out on the floor of plastic culture dishes for fixation to avoid the wrinkling and folding that tended to occur if they were unattached. In order to retain the shape of visceral yolk sac during fixation, conceptuses from which the capsular parietal yolk sac only had been removed were placed in several ml of fixative. After approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ min, each visceral yolk sac was cut open proximodistally and the foetus plus amnion removed as quickly as possible through this aperture so that the fixative had access to the mesodermal as well as the endodermal surface of the membrane.

The parietal endoderm was fixed in situ in 7th to 9th day embryos which had been cut in two just below the base of the ectoplacental cone or developing...
placenta, after removal of as much decidual and trophoblast tissue as possible from Reichert’s membrane. It retained its natural shape if removed carefully thereafter. Additional embryos from which both the placental region and Reichert’s membrane had been removed were fixed after opening the amnion to ensure ready access of the fixative to the internal as well as the external surface.

Fixation

Following initial trials with various reagents, the principle of minimal fixation with dilute glutaraldehyde (Flitney, 1966) was adopted for all material that was to be stained for malic enzyme activity. Two different stocks of aqueous glutaraldehyde were tested. One was a standard (approximately 25%) solution (B.D.H., Poole, U.K.) and the other a vacuum-distilled 8% solution stored under nitrogen (Polysciences, U.S.A.). The stocks were diluted in 0.2M-phosphate buffer which, after addition of L-malate at a final concentration of 10 mM, was adjusted to a pH of 7.2. Fixation was invariably done at room temperature and, as described in the Results, a range of concentrations and durations of exposure to fixative were explored. It was followed by three rinses in PBS during which the 10th to 12th day visceral yolk sacs were separated from their placentae. Initially, corresponding parietal endoderms that were pinned out for fixation were detached at this stage. In later experiments they were not released until after staining. Finally, the PBS was changed once again and the fixed specimens either refrigerated or incubated at 37 °C for various periods in order to deplete the cells of endogenous substrates and or co-enzymes which might impair the specificity of the subsequent histochemical reaction.

All specimens were refrigerated in Carnoy’s fixative after histochemical staining. Capsular parietal endoderms were then spread on slides and mounted in DPX, either directly or via cedar wood oil (B.D.H., Poole, U.K.). Some visceral yolk sacs were also made into flat whole-mount preparations. Others were kept in cedar wood oil for inspection and photography in order to conserve their natural shape. Pieces of some of these yolk sacs, and the remainder in their entirety, were embedded in paraffin wax for sectioning.

Additional visceral yolk sacs which were to be used for morphometric analysis were placed directly in Carnoy’s fixative on recovery for subsequent wax embedding, sectioning and staining with haematoxylin and eosin. All embedded material was sectioned at 5–7 μm.

Histochemistry

The following reagents were purchased from Sigma: amobarbital (amytal), dicoumarol, β-glycerophosphate, iodoacetic acid, D-L-lactic acid, L-malic acid, malonic acid, β-nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD), β-nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADP), nitro blue tetrazolium (NBT), phenazine methosulphate (PMS), sodium azide and tetranitro blue tetrazolium (TNBT). Additional reagents were cupric acetate, manganous chloride and zinc.
sulphate (B.D.H., Poole, U.K.); mercuric chloride and oxide (Fisons', U.K.); meldola-blue (Boehringer, Mannheim, West Germany), and 5,5'-dithiobis-(2-nitrobenzoic acid) (D.T.N.B., Emanuel, U.S.A.).

Staining for lactate dehydrogenase activity was done as described by Pearse (1972). The recipe of Pearse (1972), with inclusion of PMS and sodium azide, was also used initially for histochemical staining for malic enzyme activity. Except where stated otherwise, the tetrazolium used throughout this investigation was NBT. The various modifications to the incubation medium that were found to be necessary to obtain satisfactory discrimination between mutant and wild-type parietal and visceral endoderm cells are discussed in the Results. Whenever possible, wild-type and null mutant control specimens were processed and stained simultaneously with those from presumptive chimaeras.

**Appraisal of histochemical staining of parietal and visceral endoderm cells in situ**

The frequency of stained versus unstained cells in capsular parietal endoderm was assessed by scoring square fields of membrane of approximately 225 × 225 μm with the aid of camera-lucida drawings made with an R.A. microscope plus drawing tube (Zeiss, West Germany). In wild-type and null controls fields were chosen at low magnification with essentially dark-ground illumination so as to avoid folded areas without risk of bias with respect to possible regional variation in staining. Two such fields, one proximal and the other distal, were scored for each of the chimaeric specimens analysed in this way. The proximal field was selected from the part of the proximal extremity deemed to contain the highest proportion of donor cells. Obviously, because the capsular parietal endoderm is essentially dome shaped, there is much less flexibility in choice of the corresponding distal field. Hence, this procedure will tend to overestimate the proximal relative to distal contribution of donor cells.

Chimaeric visceral endoderms could usually be analysed satisfactorily as intact specimens after staining. Control visceral yolk sacs were sectioned before examination because mesodermal staining precluded scoring of the endoderm in whole mounts of wild-type specimens, and histochemical preparations of enzymatically isolated endoderm were unsatisfactory. However, although the number of inappropriately stained cells could readily be determined, the total number scored could not because it was often impossible to discern cell boundaries, particularly in sections of wild-type controls. Hence, total cell number was estimated as follows. The length (L) of the endodermal surface of haematoxylin- and eosin-stained sections of 12th day wild-type visceral yolk sac, in which cell counts could be made, was estimated from camera-lucida drawings by McIntyre's method (see Aherne & Dunnill, 1982). Dividing L by the number of cells counted yielded a mean width of 5.72 μm (s.d. = ±0.35) for endoderm cells in 5 μm thick sections. (Similar values were obtained on applying this procedure to the parts of histochemically stained sections of null controls in which cell boundaries could be resolved.) Three sections taken at four-section
intervals from a serial sequence were scored for each control specimen. The mean length (L) of the central of the three sections was estimated by McIntyre's method, and the total number of cells scored (N) calculated as follows:

\[ N = 3 \times \frac{L}{5.72} \]

**Cell viability in parietal endoderm tissue**

Freshly isolated capsular parietal endoderm were exposed to a 0.36 mg/ml solution of erythrosin B (Sigma) in PBS for 10 min at room temperature immediately after they had been pinned out. They were then rinsed in PBS and kept moist by addition of a coverslip while two or three fields per specimen were selected and scored for stained cells as described earlier for the histochemical control preparations of this tissue.

**Analysis of mixed parietal endoderm cell cultures**

Prior to staining for malic enzyme activity, a photographic record was obtained of the seeded area of each coverslip at a magnification of ×32 or ×64 with a Leica MDa camera attached to a Leitz Diavert microscope. The coverslips were transferred to Carnoy's fixative after histochemical staining and then mounted individually on glass slides in DPX (B.D.H., Poole, U.K.). Finally, the seeded area of each preparation was reproduced on layout paper under ×40 objective and ×10 ocular magnification by means of the drawing tube. As each cell was outlined it was marked as positive or negative for malic enzyme activity and assigned a consecutive number. An independent observer inspected the photographs that had been taken of the preparations before staining in order to identify cells which could not be scored either as unequivocally labelled or unlabelled with melanin granules. (Such equivocally labelled cells were rare, and attributable principally to irregularities in the coverslips which resulted in local departures from focus rather than inadequate uptake of the granules.) Finally, the photographic and camera-lucida records of each culture were compared so that the presence or absence of histochemical staining could be recorded for the first 1000 of the consecutively numbered cells classified as unequivocally labelled or unlabelled with melanin granules.

**RESULTS**

**Histochemical staining of wild-type versus mutant membranes**

Capsular parietal endoderm was used in initial investigations because this membrane consists of a monolayer of separate or very tenuously associated cells attached to a tough but relatively porous basement membrane (Jollie, 1968). Hence, optimal conditions for fixation, rinsing and staining were likely to be defined more readily for cells of this tissue than those of the substantially thicker
In situ cell marker for extraembryonic endoderm 261

and much more densely populated visceral yolk sac. Specimens were exposed to concentrations of glutaraldehyde ranging from 0.06% to 1.5% for periods of between 1 and 20 min. The most marked differential staining between wild-type and null 11th or 12th day parietal endoderm cells was observed consistently after fixation of the membranes in 0.6% standard glutaraldehyde for 2 min. Results were inferior with vacuum-distilled glutaraldehyde, even if the concentration was as low as 0.06%.

It was necessary to refrigerate the membranes in PBS for 3½–4 days after fixation before an acceptably low level of background staining was obtained when either L-malate or, more particularly NADP, was omitted from the incubation medium. When the staining of Mod-1+/Mod-1+ tissue was compared with that of Mod-1+/Mod-1+ tissue in complete incubation medium of Pearse (1972) after such prolonged storage in PBS, the majority of cells in wild-type specimens stained more strongly than those in their null counterparts. However, the results were not very satisfactory because there was clearly substantial overlap in staining intensity of cells of the two genotypes in specimens that had been treated identically throughout. It was considered that such differential staining would be unacceptable for discriminating between cells of the two genotypes in chimaeric membranes.

Dependence of the histochemical reaction on exogenous L-malate and NADP suggested that staining in null cells was most probably due to activity of the mitochondrial form of malic enzyme and or to the more recently described NAD(P)-dependent malic enzyme which also appears to reside in mitochondria (see Table 1). However, malate dehydrogenase(s) might also contribute to staining if significant conversion of the exogenous NADP to NAD was occurring as a result of endogenous alkaline phosphatase activity (Leeflang-de Pijper & Hulsman, 1974; Meijer & de Vries, 1975). This possibility was examined by comparing the staining of parietal endoderm tissue for lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) activity with NAD versus NADP as co-enzyme. Since LDH appears to have an absolute requirement for NAD (Dixon & Webb, 1964), NADP can only substitute for this co-enzyme in the reaction if it is converted to it. Specimens of parietal endoderm that had received exactly the same pretreatment as those used for malic enzyme histochemistry were incubated in aliquots of stain in which L-malate was replaced by the same concentration of DL-lactate (Pearse, 1972) and which contained either NAD or NADP, or neither co-enzyme. Whereas the presence of NAD ensured very intense staining, cells incubated in NADP-containing medium for up to 6 h exhibited the same low background level of staining as those incubated in the absence of exogenous co-enzyme. These results argued against NAD-dependent malate dehydrogenase activity playing a significant role in the staining of null cells, as did those obtained after addition of 16 mM β-glycerophosphate to the malic enzyme incubation medium as a competitive inhibitor of alkaline phosphatase (Leeflang-de Pijper & Hulsman, 1974). Therefore, further attempts to enhance the differential staining between
Table 1. Enzymes in the mouse which utilize L-malate as substrate

**Malic enzyme (E.C. 1.1.1.40)**

\[ \text{L-malate} + \text{NADP}^+ \rightarrow \text{pyruvate} + \text{CO}_2 + \text{NADPH}_2 \]

Cytoplasmic enzyme – coded by *Mod-1* locus on chromosome 9.(2,3)  
Alleles – *Mod-1^a*, *Mod-1^b* and *Mod-1^c*. (3,4,5)

Mitochondrial enzyme – coded by *Mod-2* locus on chromosome 7.(2,3)  
Alleles – *Mod-2^a* and *Mod-2^b*. (3)

**Malate dehydrogenase (E.C. 1.1.1.37)**

\[ \text{L-malate} + \text{NAD}^+ \rightarrow \text{oxaloacetate} + \text{NADH}_2 \]

Cytoplasmic enzyme – attributed to *Mor-2* locus for which neither the location nor existence of alleles seems to be known.(3)

Mitochondrial enzyme – coded by *Mor-1* locus on chromosome 5.(2,3)  
Alleles – *Mor-1^a* and *Mor-1^b*. (2,3)

**NAD(P)-dependent malic enzyme (E.C. ?)**(6)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{L-malate} & \quad \text{or} \quad \text{NAD}^+ \quad \xrightarrow{\text{NADPH}_2} \quad \text{pyruvate} + \text{CO}_2 \quad \text{or} \\
& \text{or} \quad \text{NADP}^+ \quad \xrightarrow{\text{NADH}_2} \quad \text{pyruvate} + \text{CO}_2
\end{align*}
\]

(NAD is preferred co-enzyme)

This is a mitochondrial enzyme which does not seem as yet to have been investigated genetically.

References (1) = Dixon & Webb (1964); (2) = Green (1981); (3) = Shows, Chapman & Ruddle (1970); (4) = Lee et al. (1980a,b); (5) = Johnson et al. (1981); (6) = Sauer & Dauchy (1978).

null and wild-type cells were directed towards obtaining selective inhibition of mitochondrial malic enzyme activity.

There is evidence from studies on various types of mammalian cells that mitochondrial malic enzyme is more sensitive to inhibition by a number of reagents than its cytoplasmic counterpart (Table 2). The effect of several such inhibitors on the staining of wild-type versus null parietal endoderm cells was examined using the concentrations and conditions of exposure to each reagent shown in Table 3. No consistent improvement in differential staining was observed following any of the experimental treatments listed in this table. However, a striking difference in the degree of staining of wild-type and null cells was evident in malonate controls in which the concentration of L-malate had been reduced to 10 mM or less in the absence of the inhibitor (Table 3). Strong staining of wild-type cells was obtained consistently at this low substrate concentration, providing the period of incubation was increased to approximately 48 h (Fig. 2). Null cells, in contrast, remained essentially unstained under these conditions, typically exhibiting at most a dozen or so small grains of diformazan against an otherwise straw-coloured background (Fig. 3). Furthermore, the period for which the fixed specimens had to be refrigerated in PBS prior to incubation could
In situ cell marker for extraembryonic endoderm

Table 2. Some differences between cytoplasmic and mitochondrial malic enzyme in mammals

1. Conventional antisera can be raised against the cytoplasmic enzyme which do not cross-react with the mitochondrial enzyme and vice versa.5,2

2. The cytoplasmic enzyme has a lower $K_m$ for L-malate, pyruvate, NADP and NADPH$_2$ than the mitochondrial enzyme.3,4

3. The ratio of $V_{max}$ forward/$V_{max}$ reverse reaction is lower for the cytoplasmic than mitochondrial enzyme.5

4. The mitochondrial enzyme is more sensitive to inhibition by a variety of reagents than the cytoplasmic enzyme. Included among such reagents are the following: Hg$^{2+}$, Cu$^{2+}$, Zn$^{2+}$, 5,5'-dithiobis-(2-nitrobenzoic acid) (DTNB), iodoacetate, dicoumarol, and malonate (at low concentrations of L-malate).5,6

References (1) = Lee et al. (1980a,b); (2) = Bernstine (1979); (3) = Simpson & Estabrook (1969); (4) = Bartholomé, Brdiczka & Pette (1972); (5) = Frenkel & Cobo-Frenkel (1973); (6) = Lee, Yuan & Moser (1978).

Table 3. Selective inhibitors of mitochondrial malic enzyme (MOD-2) tested for effects on differential staining of wild type versus null parietal endoderm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inhibitor</th>
<th>Range of concentrations tested</th>
<th>Stage at which tissue exposed to reagent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hg$^{2+}$</td>
<td>$10^{-4}$-$10^{-7}$ M</td>
<td>throughout staining in standard medium*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cu$^{2+}$</td>
<td>$10^{-4}$-$10^{-7}$ M</td>
<td>throughout staining in standard medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zn$^{2+}$</td>
<td>$10^{-4}$-$10^{-7}$ M</td>
<td>throughout staining in standard medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dicoumarol</td>
<td>$1.5 	imes 10^{-4}$-$1.5 	imes 10^{-5}$ M</td>
<td>throughout staining in standard medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iodoacetate</td>
<td>$10^{-1}$-$10^{-3}$ M</td>
<td>throughout staining in standard medium in PBS for 20 min at ca. 18°C prior to staining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iodoacetate</td>
<td>$10^{-3}$ M</td>
<td>throughout staining in standard medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTNB</td>
<td>$10^{-4}$-$10^{-6}$ M</td>
<td>throughout staining in standard medium in PBS for 30–60 min at ca. 18°C prior to staining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTNB</td>
<td>$10^{-6}$ M</td>
<td>throughout staining in standard medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malonate</td>
<td>$10^{-1}$-$2.5 	imes 10^{-2}$ M</td>
<td>throughout staining in standard medium containing $10^{-2}$ or $10^{-3}$ M L-malate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malonate</td>
<td>$2.5 	imes 10^{-2}$ M</td>
<td>throughout staining in medium containing $10^{-2}$ or $10^{-3}$ M L-malate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Standard medium is the incubation medium described by Pearse (1972) which contains $10^{-3}$ M L-malate.

be reduced to 24 h without adversely affecting differential staining. Additional trials indicated that $10$ mM was the optimal concentration of substrate for obtaining satisfactory staining of wild-type parietal endoderm cells with minimal background in the nulls. Conspicuous staining of null cells occurred once the concentration of L-malate reached $20$ mM. Further modifications to the basic
Table 4. *Modified incubation medium for enhancing differential staining of Mod-1⁺/Mod-1⁺ versus Mod-1⁻/Mod-1⁻ cells for malic enzyme activity*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Conditions of storage</th>
<th>Quantity used per unit of incubation medium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NADP</td>
<td>powder — at −20°C — weighed out immediately prior to use</td>
<td>10 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBT (or TNBT)*</td>
<td>1.0 mg/ml in distilled water at 4°C</td>
<td>2.5 ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tris-HCl</td>
<td>0.2 M in distilled water at 4°C</td>
<td>2.5 ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manganese chloride</td>
<td>0.9 mg/ml in distilled water at 4°C</td>
<td>1.0 ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium azide</td>
<td>6.5 mg/ml in distilled water at 4°C</td>
<td>1.0 ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amytal**</td>
<td>125 mg/ml in absolute ethanol at 4°C</td>
<td>40 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-malate</td>
<td>1 M in distilled water* — 100 µl aliquots at −20°C</td>
<td>100 µl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distilled water</td>
<td>not stored</td>
<td>3.0 ml</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

pH of solution adjusted to 7.6 with 0.2 M Tris or 0.2 M HCl at this stage, prior to addition of one or other intermediate electron acceptor as follows:

- either ++ PMS 30-6 mg/ml in distilled water at 4°C 5 µl
- or Meldola blue 0.5 mg/ml 5 µl

*Specimens stained in NBT medium were usually incubated for approximately 48 h during which the medium was changed 1–3 times. Satisfactory differential staining could often be obtained in 14–24 h using TNBT without changing the medium unless a somewhat longer period of incubation proved necessary. TNBT gives better differential staining in extra-embryonic endoderm at earlier stages of development than NBT, though it produces a higher background in null cells.

**This reagent was omitted routinely from TNBT incubation medium.

+ L-malate was neutralized as described by Pearse (1972).

++ PMS is used in conjunction with NBT incubation medium for staining visceral yolk sacs. Meldola blue is used invariably with TNBT medium and with NBT medium for staining parietal endoderm.

incubation medium described by Pearse (1972) were tested for their effects on differential staining. These included varying the concentration of NBT and NADP, incorporating amytal in addition to sodium azide (Meijer & de Vries, 1975) and replacing Mg²⁺ by Mn²⁺ (Lee, Yuan & Moser, 1978) as well as PMS by meldola blue (Turner & Hopkinson, 1979). The basic composition of the incubation medium which was finally adopted for all subsequent work is given in Table 4,

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Fig. 2. Part of a 12th day wild-type preparation of capsular parietal endoderm after staining for malic enzyme activity in the modified incubation medium described in Table 4. Bar = 50 µm.

Fig. 3. Part of a 12th day null preparation of capsular parietal endoderm that had been treated identically to the wild-type specimen shown in Fig. 2. Bar = 50 µm.
Table 5. Incidence of inappropriately stained cells in wild-type and null parietal and visceral endoderm stained for malic enzyme activity (NBT stain)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tissue</th>
<th>Genotype</th>
<th>Age post-coitum</th>
<th>No. specimens</th>
<th>Total No. of fields/sections scored*</th>
<th>Total No. of cells scored*</th>
<th>No. (and %) inappropriately stained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parietal endoderm</td>
<td>Wild-type</td>
<td>11th day</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3346*</td>
<td>59(1.76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Null</td>
<td>11th day</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4293*</td>
<td>10(0.23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wild-type</td>
<td>12th day</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7974*</td>
<td>120(1.50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Null</td>
<td>12th day</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9886*</td>
<td>13(0.13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visceral endoderm</td>
<td>Wild-type</td>
<td>12th day</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18,850**</td>
<td>33(0.18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Null</td>
<td>12th day</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12,977**</td>
<td>2(0.02%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Fields were scored for the parietal and sections for the visceral endoderm. The total number of cells scored was counted directly for the parietal endoderm and estimated as described in Materials and Methods for the visceral endoderm.

* Note that the total number of cells is approximately 20% less for wild-type than null parietal endoderm on both the 11th and 12th day, despite the fact that counts were based on comparable areas of membrane in specimens of the two genotype at each stage. The mean cell densities (±s.d.) per square field of 225 × 225 µm are as follows:

11th day: Null = 537 ± 132, wild-type = 418 ± 65; 0.05 < P > 0.01.
12th day: Null = 471 ± 95, wild-type = 380 ± 91; 0.01 < P > 0.001.

** There was no obvious difference in size of null versus wild-type visceral yolk sacs on the 12th day (see Fig. 4). The substantial difference in estimated total cell number between wild-type and null specimens has a trivial explanation. Pairs of specimens of each genotype were embedded and sectioned together. Sections for examination were taken from the part of the block which appeared to be central for the wild-type specimen because lack of staining in the null specimen made its outline difficult to discern.

*** Three fields in each of five fresh-mounted 12th day wild-type parietal endoderm that had been exposed to erythrosin B were scored for the presence of cells that failed to exclude the dye. Unequivocal staining was observed in 114/4283 cells (=2.66%).
In situ cell marker for extraembryonic endoderm 267
together with the specific modifications that were found to be necessary for
different tissues or stages of development.

The proportion of cells staining in specimens of mid-gestation null parietal
endoderm exposed to the incubation conditions specified in Table 4 was only a
fraction of 1% (Table 5). Conversely, less than 2% of cells failed to stain in
corresponding wild-type specimens (Table 5). The proportion of non-viable cells
in 12th day parietal endoderm was somewhat over 2%, as judged by staining of
freshly isolated wild-type tissue with erythrosin B (see footnote 4 of Table 5).
Hence, the frequency of overlap in histochemical phenotype between cells in
wild-type and mutant parietal endoderm was very low using these modified
incubation conditions and, particularly in the case of wild-type cells, was unlikely
to be further improved. Even if pairs of null and wild-type membranes were
pinned out one on top of the other so that part of their endodermal surfaces were
in contact throughout incubation, no elevation of the null background was
discernible in the region of apposition. This suggested that blurring of the distinc-
tion between wild-type and null cells due to diffusion of NADPH2 or reduced
intermediate electron acceptor from the site of co-enzyme reduction (Leeflang-
de Pijper & Hulsmann, 1974) was not likely to be a significant complication in
chimaeric tissue.

Following initial trials, mid-gestation visceral yolk sacs were fixed routinely for
2½ min in 0.6% standard glutaraldehyde. Further improvement in histochemical
differentiation between wild-type and null cells was obtained in later experi-
ments by exposing the yolk sacs to 0.1% standard glutaraldehyde for 4 min. At
first, the incubation conditions described in Table 4 yielded relatively poor dif-
ferential staining of wild-type versus mutant yolk sacs, particularly in the
proximal folded or villous region of the organ that adjoins the placenta in situ.
Conspicuous proximal staining was also seen in both null and wild-type
specimens incubated in control stain without NADP, even if they had been
refrigerated in PBS for up to 5 days between fixation and staining. Enzyme
activity decreased markedly in wild-type cells if storage in PBS was extended
further in an attempt to eliminate such non-specific staining. This fairly high
background in null specimens complicated the task of identifying visceral yolk-
sac mosaicism in the earliest series of presumptive chimaeras. However, it was
discovered somewhat later that reactivity could be eliminated altogether in null
specimens without its being obviously diminished in wild-type ones if the yolk
sacs were incubated in PBS at 37°C for approximately 24 h prior to staining (Fig.
4). Under these conditions histochemical discrimination between visceral endo-
derm cells of the two genotypes was found to be even more reliable than between
parietal endoderm cells (Table 5).

Fig. 4. Three wild-type and three null 12th day visceral yolk sacs that were incubated
in PBS at 37°C for approximately 24 h prior to staining for malic enzyme activity.
Note the almost complete opacity of the wild-type specimens and absence of staining
throughout the nulls. Scale bar = 2 mm.
Fig. 5. Part of the histochemically mosaic parietal endoderm from a 12th day null conceptus (5RM36) that received a single wild-type primitive endoderm cell at the blastocyst stage. Note the extensive intermingling of stained and unstained cells. Lack of focus in parts of the periphery of the field is due to unavoidable slight undulations in the preparation. Bar = 50 μm.

Studies on presumptive extraembryonic endodermal chimaeras

Initially, a series of injections of single primitive endoderm cells from 5th day Mod-1+/Mod-1+ blastocysts into 4th day Mod-1“/Mod-1“ blastocysts was undertaken. The histochemical staining of the capsular parietal endoderms and visceral yolk sacs of all viable conceptuses obtained in these experiments was compared with that of corresponding membranes from conceptuses developing from uninjected Mod-1“/Mod-1“ control blastocysts.

Fig. 6. Flat-mount of the entire visceral yolk sac from an 11th day null conceptus (5RM17) that received a single wild-type primitive endoderm cell at the blastocyst stage. This specimen was stained before the practice of incubating yolk sacs in PBS at 37°C for ca. 24 h had been introduced. Several ‘coherent’ patches of stained cells are nevertheless clearly discernible, though an unacceptable level of background staining is present in the proximal (upper) region of the preparation. The round dark mass towards the lower left is a remnant of the amnion. Bar = 1 mm.

Fig. 7. Part of the proximal region of the histochemically mosaic visceral yolk sac from a 12th day null conceptus (4IDCP8) that received a daughter pair of wild-type early ICM cells at the blastocyst stage. The distinction between stained and unstained cells is as marked at the boundary between patches as elsewhere. Bar = 100 μm.
In situ cell marker for extraembryonic endoderm

The membranes of conceptuses derived from injected blastocysts could be assigned to one of two distinct categories after staining. They were either a very conspicuous mosaic of stained and unstained cells or indistinguishable from those of null controls in appearance. The proportion of these experimental conceptuses showing histochemical mosaicism in the visceral yolk sac and/or parietal endoderm was similar to that of extraembryonic endodermal chimaeras found in previous single primitive endoderm cell injections using GPI allozymes as markers (Table 6 and Gardner, 1982). Most interestingly, the spatial arrangement of the stained cells was strikingly different in the two membranes. In all 36 cases in which such cells occurred in the capsular parietal endoderm they were intimately intermixed with unstained cells regardless of their location within the tissue (Fig. 5). Furthermore, as indicated in Tables 7 and 8, the stained cells were more abundant distally than proximally in most of the mosaic specimens irrespective of whether they were disseminated throughout the membrane or confined to a limited part of it. In contrast, unequivocally stained cells were arranged in one or more irregularly shaped patches in the three cases in which they were detected in the visceral yolk sac in addition to the parietal endoderm (Table 6 and Fig. 6). Except in parts of the proximal villous region, the distinction between stained and unstained cells was extremely sharp wherever they confronted one another in these visceral yolk sac preparations. Likewise, the differential staining of cells in mosaic parietal endoderms was as marked in areas where one class of cell predominated as in those where the other did so.

The proportion of stained cells in the three positive visceral yolk sacs was estimated visually to be 15% or less. No attempt was made to obtain corresponding visual estimates for parietal endoderm because, as noted earlier, stained cells were not arranged in patches in this tissue and they typically showed considerable regional variation in frequency. Nevertheless, the contribution of stained cells to this membrane was clearly very variable, ranging from a sparse smattering on the one hand to cases in which they rivalled unstained cells in abundance on the other (Table 7).

A smaller series of reciprocal injection experiments was also carried out in which single 5th day Mod-1

\[
\text{Mod-1}^+/\text{Mod-1}^+ 
\]

primitive endoderm cells were introduced into Mod-1

\[
\text{Mod-1}^+/\text{Mod-1}^+ 
\]

blastocysts. Histochemical staining of parietal endoderms and visceral yolk sacs of the resulting conceptuses was compared with that of corresponding Mod-1

\[
\text{Mod-1}^+\text{Mod-1}^+ 
\]

controls. (Incubation of the visceral yolk sacs in

---

Fig. 8. Part of the histochemically mosaic visceral yolk sac from an 11th day null conceptus (4IDCP7) that received a daughter pair of wild-type early ICM cells at the blastocyst stage. Note the diffuseness of staining in this specimen compared to that shown in Fig. 7. Bar = 100 μm.

Fig. 9. Entire histochemically mosaic visceral yolk sac from a 12th day null conceptus (4IDCP10) that received a daughter pair of wild-type early ICM cells at the blastocyst stage. Both ‘diffuse’ and ‘coherent’ patches of staining are clearly discernible in this specimen. Bar = 1 mm.
Table 6. Summary of results of cloning single primitive endoderm cells from 5th day blastocysts in 4th day blastocysts using MOD-1 as a cell marker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genotype of donor blastocysts</th>
<th>Genotype of host blastocysts</th>
<th>No. of injected blastocysts transferred to recipients that became pregnant*</th>
<th>Total No. of conceptuses (% of total implantations)</th>
<th>No. of normal conceptuses (% of normal conceptuses)</th>
<th>No. of chimaeras among normal conceptuses (% of normal conceptuses)</th>
<th>No. with chimaerism in parietal endoderm only (% total chimaeras)</th>
<th>No. with chimaerism in both parietal and visceral endoderm (% total chimaeras)</th>
<th>No. with chimaerism in visceral endoderm only (% total chimaeras)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mod-1+/Mod-1+</td>
<td>Mod-1n/Mod-1n</td>
<td>79**</td>
<td>60(76)+</td>
<td>59(92)</td>
<td>36(65)</td>
<td>33(92)</td>
<td>3(8)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mod-1n/Mod-1n</td>
<td>Mod-1+/Mod-1+</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13(87)</td>
<td>10(77)</td>
<td>9(90)</td>
<td>9(100)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Six Mod-1n/Mod-1n host blastocysts were transferred to a further recipient that did not become pregnant.
** Six of these 79 blastocysts were transferred to one oviduct of a female on the first day of pseudopregnancy because of a temporary shortage of day 3 recipients. The resulting conceptuses were recovered 10 rather than 8 or 9 days later to compensate for the delay in implantation that blastocysts suffer in such circumstances.
* Four of these implantation sites were classified as resorptions. A fifth contained a conceptus which, despite exhibiting some stained cells in the parietal endoderm, was discounted because it was clearly non-viable.
** Scoring of whole-mount preparations of Mod-1+/Mod-1+ visceral yolk sacs for the presence of unstained cells in the endodermal layer is complicated by the presence of staining throughout the adjacent mesoderm. Hence, while no unequivocal cases of chimaerism were encountered in this series of visceral yolk sacs, one cannot altogether exclude the possibility of a minor donor cell contribution.
Table 7. Contribution of donor cells to proximal versus distal fields in capsular parietal endoderms+ colonized by primitive endoderm or early ICM cell clones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clone No.</th>
<th>Donor → host genotype*</th>
<th>Donor cell type**</th>
<th>Proximal field count</th>
<th>Distal field count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No. of donor cells</td>
<td>Total no. of cells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM1</td>
<td>+ → n</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM2</td>
<td>+ → n</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM3</td>
<td>+ → n</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM4</td>
<td>+ → n</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM5</td>
<td>+ → n</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM6</td>
<td>+ → n</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM8</td>
<td>+ → n</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM9</td>
<td>+ → n</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM11</td>
<td>+ → n</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM14</td>
<td>+ → n</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM26</td>
<td>+ → n</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM36</td>
<td>+ → n</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM37</td>
<td>- → +</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM39</td>
<td>- → +</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM40</td>
<td>- → +</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM41</td>
<td>- → +</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM42</td>
<td>- → +</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM44</td>
<td>- → +</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5RM45</td>
<td>- → +</td>
<td>R(s)</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4IDCP8</td>
<td>+ → -</td>
<td>I(dcp)</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4IDCP10</td>
<td>+ → -</td>
<td>I(dcp)</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ These represent the specimens recorded in rows 1–3 of Table 8 which were technically suitable for proximal versus distal field counts.
* + = wild-type; n = null.
** R(s) = single primitive endoderm cell
I(dcp) = daughter pair of early ICM cells.

In situ cell marker for extraembryonic endoderm
Table 8. Proximal (p) versus distal (d) distribution of donor cells in chimaeric capsular parietal endoderms

| Series of experiments                                           | No. d > p | No. d = p | No. p > d | No. p only | No. unscorable*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single wild-type primitive endoderm cells into null blastocysts</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single null primitive endoderm cells into wild-type blastocysts</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single daughter pairs of wild-type early ICM cells into null blastocysts</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 singleton wild-type early ICM cells into null blastocysts</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Specimens excessively folded or torn so that distinction between proximal and distal region not clear.

PBS at 37 °C following fixation, which resulted in selective elimination of staining throughout null specimens (Fig. 4), was introduced at this stage in the investigation.) The proportion of conceptuses developing from injected blastocysts that exhibited unequivocal mosaicism in the parietal endoderm was even higher than in the initial series of experiments (Table 6). Furthermore, both the pattern of distribution and range of contributions of unstained cells in this tissue was comparable with that of stained cells in the reciprocal injection experiments (Tables 7 and 8). However, in no case did progeny of the transplanted null cells appear to have colonized the visceral yolk sac (Table 6). It is obviously more difficult to discern null cells in the endodermal layer of whole-mounted wild-type host visceral yolk sacs than vice versa because of the presence of staining throughout the adjacent mesoderm. Nevertheless, had patches of null cells been present they should have been detectable, especially in view of the fact that the yolk sacs were incubated in PBS at 37 °C for approximately 24 h prior to staining.

It was clearly necessary to obtain further cases of mosaicism in the visceral yolk sac in order to establish whether the pattern of distribution of stained versus unstained cells in this membrane differed consistently from that in the parietal endoderm. However, transplanting primitive endoderm cells between blastocysts is evidently a very inefficient way of obtaining visceral as opposed to parietal colonization (Table 6; also see Gardner, 1982). Hence, in the final series of injection experiments, donor cells were taken from the ICMs of 4th day Mod-1+/Mod-1+ blastocysts and injected into Mod-1n/Mod-1n blastocysts of similar post-coital age in an attempt to increase the frequency of visceral yolk sac mosaicism (Gardner, 1981). This strategy was successful, as shown in Table 9, regardless of whether host blastocysts each received two or three single cells or a daughter cell pair.
Table 9. Summary of results of injecting ICM cells from 4th day Mod-1\(^*\)/Mod-1\(^*\) blastocysts into 4th day Mod-1\(^*\)/Mod-1\(^*\) blastocysts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of cells injected/blastocyst</th>
<th>No. injected blastocysts transplanted*</th>
<th>No. of normal conceptuses (% of total implantations)</th>
<th>No. of chimaeras among normal conceptuses (% of normal conceptuses)</th>
<th>No. (%) with chimaerism in parietal endoderm only</th>
<th>No. (%) with chimaerism in visceral endoderm only</th>
<th>No. (%) with chimaerism in parietal and visceral endoderm only</th>
<th>No. (%) with chimaerism in visceral mesoderm only++</th>
<th>No. (%) with chimaerism in visceral endoderm and visceral mesoderm++</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 daughter cell pair</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22(92)*</td>
<td>14(64)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>2(18)</td>
<td>3(27)</td>
<td>6(55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 singleton cells</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6(100)</td>
<td>6(100)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>1(50)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>1(50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 singleton cells</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8(100)</td>
<td>6(75)</td>
<td>6(100)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>1(17)</td>
<td>3(50)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All recipient mice became pregnant.

\(+\) Four implantation sites were classified as resorptions. A further four contained very retarded conceptuses, one of which clearly exhibited stained cells in the parietal endoderm. These conceptuses, three of which were recovered from one recipient, were therefore classified as abnormal.

++ The amnion was also studied in those conceptuses in which part or all of it remained attached to the visceral yolk sac. A precise correspondence was noted between the visceral mesoderm and amnion regarding presence versus absence of unequivocally stained cells in all cases in which both were examined.
Two distinct patterns of staining could clearly be resolved in histochemically mosaic yolk sacs with these younger donor cells. The first pattern consisted of irregular coherent patches of staining (= 'coherent' pattern) closely resembling that seen earlier in the three cases of colonization of null yolk sacs by wild-type primitive endoderm cells (e.g. compare Figs 6 and 7). The second pattern was a more granular and diffuse one (= 'diffuse' pattern) also occurring in irregular patches, through which vitelline blood vessels could be readily discerned (Fig. 8). Some yolk sacs exhibited only one or other pattern of staining. However, both patterns were evident in other specimens, including three obtained following transplantation of daughter cell pairs (Table 9). When they occurred in the same yolk sac the two patterns bore no consistent spatial relationship to each other (Fig. 9). Presence of the 'coherent' pattern of staining in the visceral yolk sac was invariably accompanied by the occurrence of stained cells in the corresponding parietal endoderm (Table 9). In contrast, stained cells were absent from the capsular parietal endoderm of all conceptuses exhibiting only the 'diffuse' pattern of staining in their visceral yolk sacs (Table 9). Fragments of amnion often remained attached to visceral yolk sacs following their isolation. Histochemical mosaicism was apparent in such fragments in all cases in which 'diffuse' staining was present in the corresponding visceral yolk sac (see footnotes to Table 9). In conjunction with the primitive endoderm cell injection data (Table 6), these findings suggested that the 'coherent' pattern was due to staining in the endoderm and the 'diffuse' pattern to staining in the mesodermal layer of this organ. This was indeed confirmed by comparing the distribution of staining between the two layers in sections of pieces of yolk sac excised from regions exhibiting one or other pattern relative to that in corresponding wild-type and null controls (see Figs 10–13).

All specimens of parietal endoderm that displayed mosaicism in the early ICM cell injection series showed a similar degree of intermixing of stained and unstained cells to that encountered in the experiments with primitive endoderm cells (Fig. 14). However, whereas the progeny of donor primitive endoderm cells were typically more abundant distally than proximally, those of early ICM cells were located primarily or exclusively in the proximal region of the tissue in most cases (Tables 7 and 8).

Mixed parietal endoderm cell cultures

Dissociated null and wild-type cells were mixed thoroughly and then seeded

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Figs 10–13. Sections through stained 12th day visceral yolk sacs with the endodermal layer uppermost. Bar = 75 μm. Fig. 10. Wild-type control showing staining in both the endoderm and mesoderm. Fig. 11. Null control showing absence of staining in both layers. Fig. 12. Histochemically mosaic yolk sac with 'coherent' pattern of staining in which stained cells are confined to the endoderm layer. Fig. 13. Histochemically mosaic yolk sac with 'diffuse' pattern of staining in which stained cells are confined to the mesoderm layer.
In situ cell marker for extraembryonic endoderm
locally on a marked fragment of coverslip (Fig. 1) at high concentration in order to mimic as closely as possible their density on Reichert's membrane. By ensuring that all members of one or other population in the mixture contained melanin granules, it was possible to determine the fidelity with which the phenotype of cells following staining for malic enzyme activity reflected their genotype at the \textit{Mod-1} locus (Figs 15–18). The results of this comparison are presented in Table 10. Approximately 1\% or less of null cells were misclassified as wild-type cells on the basis of their histochemical phenotype in short-term
Table 10. Staining for malic enzyme activity of mixed parietal endoderm cell cultures using melanin granules as an independent marker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experiment No.</th>
<th>Genotype/melanin granule status of cells</th>
<th>Duration of culture h</th>
<th>Total cells scored</th>
<th>No. stained</th>
<th>No. unstained</th>
<th>No. ? stained</th>
<th>% inappropriately stained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wild type/mg⁻, Null/mg⁺</td>
<td>ca. 24</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4·8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0·0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wild type/mg⁻, Null/mg⁺</td>
<td>ca. 24</td>
<td>911</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1·1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>89</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1·1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wild type/mg⁻, Null/mg⁺</td>
<td>ca. 24</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20·8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>880</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0·1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wild type/mg⁻, Null/mg⁻</td>
<td>ca. 24</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5·9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>797</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0·1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wild type/mg⁻, Null/mg⁻</td>
<td>ca. 16</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4·6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>825</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0·0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Wild type/mg⁻, Null/mg⁻</td>
<td>ca. 16</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7·8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>889</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0·0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Wild type/mg⁻, Wild type/mg⁻</td>
<td>ca. 24</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15·3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>745</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3·5**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wild type/mg⁻, Null/mg⁺</td>
<td>ca. 24</td>
<td>839</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1·9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>161</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0·6***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Wild type/mg⁻, Null/mg⁻</td>
<td>ca. 24</td>
<td>832</td>
<td>816</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1·9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>168</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3·6***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Wild type/mg⁻, Null/mg⁻</td>
<td>ca. 24</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1·9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Cells labelled with melanin granules are denoted as mg⁺ and those not labelled as mg⁻.

** Specimens were incubated in NBT medium for approximately 48 h.

* Period of incubation of cultures 8, 9 and 10 in TNBT medium was 15 h, 22·4 h and 20·8 h respectively.

**χ² = 43·55; P < 0·001.

*** Not significantly different. However, the proportion of null cells that were stained in experiments 9 and 10 was significantly higher than in null whole-mount controls; χ² = 34·6 and 36·6, respectively: P < 0·001.
mixed cultures, irrespective of whether they had been labelled with melanin granules or not (Table 10, experiment 1–4). No null cells were misclassified in the two experiments in which the period of co-culture of the cells was increased from approximately 2½ to 16 h (Table 10, experiments 5 and 6). The data for wild-type cells are less straightforward because the proportion that failed to stain, and was therefore misclassified as null cells, tended to be higher when they constituted the melanin granule-labelled as opposed to the unlabelled population (compare experiments 1 and 2 with 3–6 in Table 10). One obvious explanation for this discrepancy is that labelling with melanin granules can interfere with the subsequent histochemical staining of wild-type cells. This possibility was supported by analysis of a further coverslip culture consisting of a mixture of unlabelled and melanin granule-labelled wild-type cells. The proportion of unstained cells was significantly higher in the labelled than in the unlabelled population in this culture (Table 10, experiment 7).

Staining of wild-type versus null tissues with TNBT incubation medium

Although NBT-containing incubation medium (Table 4) gave excellent discrimination between wild-type and null parietal and visceral endoderm from 10th–12th day conceptuses, it yielded poor and somewhat erratic differential staining in these tissues at earlier stages of development. This was manifest as an increased tendency towards punctate rather than diffuse staining in wild-type cells combined with failure of an unacceptable proportion of them to show greater deposition of diformazan than in nulls. The effect of using TNBT, a similar but somewhat more readily reduced tetrazolium (Altman, 1972; Pearse, 1972), instead of NBT was therefore examined. Despite producing a higher level of staining in null cells than NBT (compare Figs 19 and 20 with Figs 2 and 3), use of this tetrazolium ensured satisfactory differential staining in both the parietal and visceral endoderm at all stages investigated. A clear difference between wild-type and null embryos in staining of extraembryonic ectoderm, ectoplacental cone tissue and trophoblastic giant cells could be obtained using either NBT or TNBT. However, differential staining in the embryonic ectoderm was only seen consistently with TNBT, and was invariably less marked than in all other tissues of the early postimplantation embryo. The diformazan of TNBT tended to be distributed more uniformly throughout the cytoplasm of wild-type parietal endoderm cells than NBT and to render a higher proportion of such cells completely opaque (cf. Figs 2 and 19).

Staining was seen in only 7/2465 (= 0·28 %) cells in 12th day specimens of null parietal endoderm incubated in TNBT medium. The proportion of non-staining
In situ cell marker for extraembryonic endoderm

Figs 19 & 20
cells in corresponding wild-type specimens was 42/2200 (= 1.91%). The incidence of inappropriately stained cells in mid-gestation parietal endoderm using this tetrazolium is therefore very similar to that found with NBT (see Table 5). Furthermore, as in the case of NBT medium, no obvious elevation of background was seen in regions of null specimens which were in contact with wild-type tissue throughout staining. However, somewhat different results were obtained with TNBT as opposed to NBT medium for staining mixed parietal endoderm cell cultures (Table 10, cf. experiments 1–7 and 8–10). The frequency with which wild-type cells failed to stain was the same in these cultures as in whole-mount control specimens (ca. 1.9%, as noted above), regardless of whether they were labelled with melanin granules or not. In contrast, the frequency with which null cells stained above background was appreciably higher in two of the three cultures (Table 10, experiments 9 and 10) than in corresponding whole-mount controls. This appeared to be related to the duration of staining of the cultures rather than the melanin granule status of the null cells.

DISCUSSION

Conditions have been found for staining whole-mount preparations of capsular parietal endoderm and visceral yolk sac for malic enzyme activity that give excellent discrimination between endoderm cells in wild-type specimens versus mutant specimens that lack the cytoplasmic form of this enzyme. More than 98% of endoderm cells in preparations of wild-type membranes stained unequivocally above background under these conditions, whereas in corresponding mutant preparations less than 0.3% did so. When treated similarly, one or both extra-embryonic membranes from a substantial proportion of conceptuses developing from blastocysts of one genotype injected with one or more cells of the opposite genotype consisted of an impressive mosaic of stained and unstained cells. Evidence that such mosaicism was due to the presence of both mutant and wild-type cells in such membranes is as follows:

1. Though variable, the level of histochemical mosaicism in these membranes was much higher than in any corresponding controls from conceptuses which had developed from uninjected wild-type or mutant blastocysts.

2. The distribution of mosaicism within and between membranes that was seen with primitive endoderm versus early ICM donor cells corresponded with that found in earlier experiments in which allozymes of GPI were used as cell markers (Gardner & Rossant, 1979; Gardner, 1981, 1982; J. Rossant & R. L. Gardner, unpublished observations). Thus, in the single primitive endoderm cell injections, mosaicism could occur in both the visceral and parietal endoderm but was confined to the latter in most cases. Furthermore, cells within the parietal endoderm exhibiting the histochemical phenotype characteristic of the donor were more abundant distally than proximally in the majority of cases (Table 8). Visceral yolk sac mesoderm was never mosaic in conceptuses obtained in these
In situ cell marker for extraembryonic endoderm

experiments. In contrast, mosaicism could occur in either the extraembryonic endoderm or visceral mesoderm plus amnion or, indeed, in all these tissues following transplantation of daughter pairs of early ICM cells. In all cases in which mosaicism was detected in the extraembryonic endoderm in early ICM cell injection experiments, it could clearly be discerned in both the parietal and visceral cell layers.

The above findings provide compelling grounds for equating mosaic patterns of staining with the presence of chimaerism in extraembryonic tissues. Nevertheless, one cannot assume that the histochemical phenotype of cells will necessarily be as closely correlated with their genotype in chimaeric specimens as in mutant versus wild-type controls. Transfer of enzyme molecules between living cells (Feder, 1976; Herrup & Mullen, 1979; Olsen et al. 1983) and diffusion of reduced co-enzyme or intermediate electron acceptor molecules during staining (Leeflang-de Pijper & Hulsmann, 1974) are two possible ways in which the correlation might be reduced in chimaeras. Operation of either of these factors would be expected to result in the occurrence of phenotypically intermediate cells in areas in which unequivocally stained cells were concentrated. In fact, no such cells are seen in either the predominantly stained areas in parietal endoderm or adjacent to coherent patches of staining in visceral endoderm (e.g. Figs 5, 6, 7, 9 and 14). Rather, cells in chimaeric extraembryonic endoderm typically resemble those that are characteristic of either mutant or wild-type controls in staining, regardless of their location.

Obviously, in order to test the efficacy of staining for malic enzyme as a marker in chimaeric situations it is essential to have an independent means of reliably distinguishing between mutant and wild-type cells in situ. In the absence of a way of achieving this in vivo staining was studied in mixed cultures of parietal endoderm in which all cells of one or other genotype had previously been labelled with melanin granules. Whether labelled or not, mutant cells were misclassified in such cultures with a similarly low frequency to that with which they stained above background in whole-mount controls using NBT incubation medium (cf. Tables 5 and 10). This was so even if the period for which they were co-cultured with wild-type cells was increased from 2½ to approximately 16 h. Wild-type cells, in contrast, were usually misclassified more frequently in the mixed cultures when they constituted the labelled as opposed to the unlabelled population. This appears from the results obtained with cultures of labelled and unlabelled wild-type cells to be attributable to an adverse effect of melanin granules on histochemical staining. However, even when unlabelled, wild-type cells usually failed to stain in a higher proportion of cases than in corresponding whole-mount controls, suggesting that in vitro manipulation was also having an effect.

The difference in histochemical phenotype between Mod-1+/Mod-1+ and Mod-1-/Mod-1- genotypes appears to behave cell autonomously, and therefore to provide a reliable in situ marker system for use in chimaeras. However, exploitation of the marker for studying cell lineage and deployment during
development obviously requires that the absence of cytoplasmic malic enzyme from one constituent cell population in a chimaera does not lead to distortion of these processes. This is very difficult to ascertain, particularly since the normal physiological role of the enzyme is not entirely clear (Frenkel, 1975). Nevertheless, in view of its probable metabolic roles, absence of the enzyme is more likely to manifest itself through effects on viability rather than via more specific developmental perturbation. Unlike the mouse, *Drosophila* appears to possess only a single locus coding for malic enzyme (Geer, Krochko & Williamson, 1979). Using various null alleles from natural populations, it has been found that flies exhibiting little or no activity of the enzyme are nevertheless viable, fertile and devoid of any obvious abnormalities (Voelker et al. 1981). In mice, a deficit of offspring carrying the null allele at the locus coding for the cytoplasmic enzyme was reported in certain matings between heterozygotes, and it appeared to have some association with sex (Lee et al. 1980a; Johnson et al. 1981). However, the sex ratio is normal in the mutant stock used in the present experiments, and its mean litter size comparable with that of *Mod-1 +*/*Mod-1 +* mice which have a related genetic background (J. Green, personal communication). Hence, the possibility that viability is somewhat reduced in organisms carrying the mutant allele has yet to be substantiated. Even if this is found to be the case, it does not necessarily follow that the viability of mutant cells will be similarly affected in chimaeras (Lawrence, 1981). The cloning efficiency of mutant primitive endoderm cells injected into wild-type blastocysts was clearly not inferior to that of wild-type cells injected into mutant blastocysts (Table 6). In addition, there was no consistent difference in distribution of cells or in size range between mutant and wild-type clones in these reciprocal injection experiments. It is evident from studies that are in progress that the higher density and generally smaller size of parietal endoderm cells in mid-gestation mutant than wild-type embryos seen in the present experiments (see Table 5 and Figs 2 and 3) is related to genetic background rather than presence of the null allele (author's unpublished observations). Hence, there are no obvious grounds for suspecting that the deployment of cells in different tissues visualized with the aid of this marker system might be anomalous.

Detailed morphometric analysis of the clones obtained in the present cell injection experiments is still in progress. Therefore, only certain of their more general features will be discussed here, principally in relation to the parietal and visceral endoderm. Donor cells were typically arranged in one or more irregularly shaped patches in the visceral endoderm regardless of their location. Such coherent growth is consistent with the retention of the character of a continuous epithelium by this tissue throughout postimplantation development (Duval, 1892). In marked contrast, an extraordinary degree of admixture of donor and host cells was invariably seen in the parietal endoderm. It is worth emphasizing that this striking difference in arrangement of donor cells in the two layers of extraembryonic endoderm was also seen in every case in which progeny of single
transplanted primitive endoderm cells or daughter pairs of early ICM cells had colonized both tissues. Hence, it must reflect fundamental differences in growth characteristics of the tissues rather than the clones.

Nevertheless, the distribution of clonal descendants of early ICM cells that colonized the extraembryonic endoderm was typically different from that of primitive endodermal clones in both the present and previous experiments (Gardner, 1981, 1982; J. Rossant & R. L. Gardner, unpublished observations). Whether transplanted as singletons or daughter pairs, early ICM cells consistently colonized both the visceral and parietal endoderm and tended, furthermore, to be concentrated proximally in the latter tissue. Primitive endodermal clones, on the other hand, were confined to the parietal endoderm only in most cases where they showed a marked preference for colonization of the distal rather than proximal region of this tissue. The magnitude of this bias may in some cases have been somewhat greater than suggested in Table 7, because these data represent comparison between a distal field and a field from that part of the much more extensive proximal region showing the highest proportion of donor cells.

A scheme for the differentiation of endoderm in the late blastocyst has been proposed which provides an explanation for these disparate results (Gardner, 1982). It is based on the assumption that endoderm cells must retain contact with the underlying ectoderm in order to differentiate as visceral endoderm; loss of contact is presumed to trigger parietal differentiation. When primitive endoderm cells divide only one daughter is believed usually to retain contact with the ectoderm because the interface between the two tissues does not expand until somewhat later in development. Consequently, individual primitive endoderm cells would normally be expected to contribute progeny to both the parietal and visceral endoderm. The behaviour of transplanted early ICM cells which undergo endodermal differentiation is thus attributable to their being integrated efficiently into the incipient primitive endoderm layer in host blastocysts. Primitive endoderm cells are presumed to integrate much less readily following isolation and therefore usually become the first and hence the most distally migrating parietal endoderm cells. The trend towards preferential colonization of the proximal parietal endoderm by early ICM cells may simply be due to delay in division of donor relative to host cells in synchronous injection experiments. Clearly, further experiments in which the location of donor cells is analysed shortly after transplantation are necessary in order to test the adequacy of this explanation for the different distribution of the two types of clones. Likewise, the question whether the high degree of cell mixing seen in midgestation parietal endoderm is due to lack of coherent growth or secondary disruption of such growth can only be answered by shorter-term experiments.

While the greater part of both the parietal and visceral endoderm of midgestation conceptuses was analysed for chimaerism in the present investigation, the endodermal sinuses (Duval, 1892), which include the junctional zone between the two tissues, were not. Attempts are being made to obtain satisfactory
whole-mount preparations of placentae since the pattern of cellular deployment in the sinuses may help to explain the different growth characteristics of the two extraembryonic endoderm cell layers.

Apart from those of blood, all cells in the mesodermal layer of wild-type visceral yolk sacs appear to stain for malic enzyme activity, although they may do so less intensely than corresponding endoderm cells. Providing background staining is minimized by adequate prior incubation of fixed yolk sacs in PBS at 37 °C, wild-type donor cells can be identified unequivocally in the mesoderm of host mutant specimens. It is perhaps not surprising that the donor cells seem to be more diffusely distributed in this layer than in the adjacent endoderm because it is composed of a rather variable number of cell layers as opposed to a single one (Wislocki & Padykula, 1953). Nevertheless, the extent of cell mixing in visceral mesoderm is clearly much less than in parietal endoderm. Mosaicism was also discernible in fragments of amnion from conceptuses showing chimaerism in the visceral mesoderm. Stained cells appeared to be segregated more conspicuously from un-stained cells in the ectodermal than the mesodermal layer of this membrane, although this point requires confirmation on rather better preparations.

Blood cells are the only cells that have consistently failed to stain in wild-type as well as null conceptuses. Embryonic ectoderm has shown the weakest staining of all other wild-type tissues that have been examined so far. The possibility that differential staining is nevertheless adequate for studying patterns of chimaerism in this tissue is currently being explored. Lack of enzyme activity in wild-type cells may not be the only problem in applying this technique more widely. The slow rate at which glutaraldehyde penetrates tissues (Hayat, 1981) obviously imposes limitations on the thickness of specimens that can be fixed adequately by brief exposure to a dilute solution of this reagent. More importantly, it is not known why lowering the concentration of substrate results in selective elimination of staining of mutant cells. This practice might prove to be effective, for example, only for cell types in which the mitochondrial enzyme makes a relatively modest contribution to total malic enzyme activity.

In spite of the above reservations, the possibility of extending use of the marker to other tissues, including those of the definitive embryo, merits close investigation because of its applicability to intact cells. The great advantage of this approach is that it enables overall patterns of chimaerism to be studied without disruption of normal cellular relations in permanent preparations which can, if necessary, be dissected further or sectioned in order to resolve finer details. It thus avoids the difficult and time-consuming task of reconstructing such patterns from serial sections which is unavoidable with all other potential generalized in situ cell marking techniques that are currently available in the mouse.

I am grateful to Dr Susan E. Lewis and her colleagues for supplying mice carrying the Mod-ln mutation. I am particularly indebted to Dr John West for drawing my attention to the existence of the mutation, establishing a stock of homozygous mutant mice in the laboratory, and for so generously making his results on differential histochemical staining of adult tissue
In situ cell marker for extraembryonic endoderm sections available to me. I should like to thank Mrs Marilyn Carey and Miss Judy Green for technical assistance, Dr Michael Dunnill for advice, and Dr Rosa Beddington, Mr Stan Buckingham, Dr David Cockroft, Professor Henry Harris, Dr John West and Mrs Jo Williamson for help in preparing the manuscript. The work was supported by The Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Royal Society.

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In situ cell marker for extraembryonic endoderm


(Accepted 16 December 1983)