

Recurrent respiratory infection may be a feature of patients who have deficiency of humoral or antibody response to some respiratory pathogens and to some antibody challenge tests whilst maintaining apparently normal levels of immunoglobulins (dysgammaglobulin-aemia). Other patients may lack cellular immunity.

The conditions mentioned above are illustrated by reference to case histories.

THE HISTOCHEMISTRY AND FINE STRUCTURE OF EPITHELIOID CELLS IN SARCOIDOSIS

W. JONES WILLIAMS, D. ERASMUS, E. M. VALERIE JAMES and D. WILLIAMS Epithelioid cells in the granulomas of sarcoidosis, Kveim tests, tuberculosis, chronic beryllium disease, Crohn's disease and farmer's lung on light microscopy show similar histochemical features. They are rich in lysosomal enzymes and residual bodies (end products of lysosomal digestion) and show high pentose cycle, biosynthetic, enzyme activity. We considered that the biosynthetic activity is concerned with the production of lysosomal enzymes and that the cells were therefore primarily phagocytic.

On electron microscopy, epithelioid cells in sarcoidosis, Kveim tests and tuberculosis appear as two probably related cell types, A and B. Both A and B cells show very scanty pinocytotic vesicles and occasional 'dense' (residual) bodies, which suggests that they are not primarily phagocytic. However, both types show morphological features suggesting active biosynthesis. A cells may be producing protein and B cells lipo- and mucoproteins.

We are currently attempting to characterize these cells further by electron microscope histochemistry.

PULMONARY MECHANICS AND SURFACTANT FOLLOWING RE-IMPLANTATION OF DOG'S LUNG

J. C. R. LINCOLN, N. BARNES, T. GOULD and E. O. REYNOLDS Eighteen dogs were studied before, during and immediately after autotransplantation of the left lung; 13 survivors were studied at intervals. Total pulmonary compliance, and that of the left lung after removal, pulmonary surfactant and lung stability were measured.

Pulmonary surfactant was normal in all cases studied from 3 days to 22 weeks. There was considerable reduction in *total* lung compliance with the chest closed after autotransplantation; this value returned to normal within 14 days. Composite pressure volume curves showed a reduction in volume of the autotransplanted lung at any time from 8 days to 22 weeks.

Pulmonary surfactant and lung stability remained unchanged in the autotransplanted lung when studied 3 days to 22 weeks after operation. There was an immediate fall in *total* lung compliance during the operative procedure which returned to normal within 14 days. Since there was a 33% reduction in volume in the autotransplanted lung from 1 to 22 weeks after the procedure, despite normal values for surfactant, it is suggested that early changes in compliance are due to acute interstitial oedema. The long-term reduction in volume with normal pulmonary surfactant is probably due to permanent interstitial changes.

PATTERNS OF BREATHING IN HEALTH AND DISEASE

A. R. TANSER An impedance pneumograph provides a method of recording breathing from electrodes on the chest wall. Under suitable conditions the record is quantitative, and recording may be continued for long periods without interference to the patient.

There is a wide variation in the pattern of breathing of normal subjects. Disease of the central nervous system, cardiovascular system or respiratory system may be associated with a pattern of breathing which can be recognized as abnormal, although some patients with gross disease have patterns of breathing indistinguishable from normal.

Continuous records of breathing may be useful in indicating a change in a patient's condition, as in developing carbon dioxide narcosis. Arterial puncture may be associated with a gross change in the pattern of breathing, and such recordings confirm the need for waiting until a stable state returns before withdrawing a blood sample.

BREATH SOUNDS

P. FORGACS The white noise of breathing heard at a distance with the unaided ear is often abnormally loud in patients with diffuse airways obstruction. Measurement of the mid-inspiratory breath sound, recorded through a microphone close to the mouth and correlated with instantaneous flow rate, confirms this clinical observation. The rise in the intensity of this sound for equal increments of flow rate is much greater in chronic bronchitis and asthma than in healthy subjects. Exercise, hyperventilation and cigarette smoke often intensify the breath sounds, while atropine and isoprenaline aerosol usually quietens them. The white noise of breathing is generated by turbulent flow in the mouth, larynx, and the first few generations of the airways. Variations in the loudness of the inspiratory sound reflect calibre changes in the large bronchi.

THE LYMPHATICS OF THE THORAX

The Anatomy of the Lymphatics of the Lungs and Chest Wall

DAVID H. TRAPNELL There are three main groups of pulmonary lymphatics in man, distinguished not only by their site but also by their origin. Some lymphatics begin at the periphery of the lung lobules, many of them thus lying in the pleura or interlobular septa. The pleural channels drain into the interlobular lymphatics, which join to give rise to the perivenous lymphatics.

A second group originates as blind-ended tubes in the centre of acini around the alveolar ducts. (There are no lymphatics in the walls of alveoli.) These vessels give rise to the peribronchial lymphatics which form a network around the broncho-arterial bundle to reach the hilum.

The third group of pulmonary lymphatics, lying in the interlobular septa of the depth of the lung, are anastomotic and join the peribronchial and perivenous groups together.