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• Formation of blastocyst

- The cells of the morula rapidly proliferate and forming a large number of cells.
- Fluid collects between the cells and form a single cavity called **blastocele**
- The cystic structure called **blastocyst** at the 5th days after fertilization.
- The blastocyst is divided by **blastocele** cavity into;
 - a-Outer layer of flat cells called trophoblast that forms the placenta.
 - **b-Inner** cell mass (**embryoblast**). This mass will form the **embryo**.



- The inner cell mass (Embryoblast) of the blastocyst proliferates and takes shape of flat circular disc.
- The cells are differentiated into 2 layers:
- 1. Dorsal columnar layer called epiblast, adjacent to cytotrophoblast.
- 2. Ventral cuboidal layer called hypoblast, adjacent to blastocele.



- A small cavity appears within the epiblast. This cavity enlarges to become the amniotic cavity containing amniotic fluid.
- Epiblast cells adjacent to the cytotrophoblast are called amnioblasts.
- The amniotic cavity is lined by Amniotic membrane
 - It is a thin, transparent and non-vascular membrane.
 - After folding of the embryo, the amnion completely surrounds the embryo

and becomes attached to the margins of the umbilical ring.

Amniotic Fluid

- It is a clear, watery fluid containing salt, sugar, urea, and proteins.
- Source of fluid:
- A. Secretion of amniotic cells
- B. Fetal urine from the kidneys
- C. Secretion of lung cells
- D. Secretion by placenta.
- Elimination of the amniotic fluid:
- The amniotic fluid is swallowed by fetus, absorbed by intestine to fetal blood, then secreted again by fetal kidneys or excreted by placenta to maternal blood.

- Amount of amniotic fluid
- At 10 weeks: 30 ml.
- At 20 weeks: 350 ml.
- At 36 weeks: 1 liter.
- At full term reaches 1-1.5 liters.
 - Composition of the amniotic fluid
 - 98% water
 - 2% organic and inorganic salts, protein, carbohydrate, fat, urea, enzymes, hormones, desquamated fetal epithelial cells and fetal urine.
 - All are important for growth of the fetus.
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Functions of the amnion

I) During pregnancy:

- 1. Protection of the fetus against external trauma.
- 2. Nutrition for the fetus.
- 3. Medium for excretion of the fetus.



- 4. Allows free movement of the fetus helping development of the locomotor system.
- **5.** Prevents adhesion of the parts of the fetus.
- 6. Keeps a constant temperature around the fetus.
- 7. Development of suckling reflex due to swallowing of amniotic fluid.

II) During labor:

- 1) Dilatation of the cervix of the uterus at early stage of labor.
- 2) Acts as **antiseptic medium** for the vagina.
- 3) Acts as a lubricant that facilitates delivery of the fetus.



Congenital anomalies of amnion



- Polyhydramnios The excessive accumulation of amniotic fluid (2000 ml or more) in the amniotic cavity
- •This occurs due to:
 - Fetuses of diabetic mothers.
 - Excess of secretion as twin pregnancy.
 - Decrease elimination as in **esophageal atresia** and **anencephaly**, because the fetus is unable to swallow the amniotic fluid

Oligohydramnios:

- the volume of amniotic fluid is less than ½ liter leading to adhesion.
- This occurs due to decreased secretion as in bilateral agenesis of the kidneys
 Leading to adhesion of the fetus

Amniocentesis Aspiration of the amniotic fluid for diagnostic purposes.

- It is usually done at 14th or 15th week of pregnancy, when the amniotic sac contains 175–225 ml of amniotic fluid.
- Detection of the sex of a fetus by chromosomal studies.
- It can be used to study fetal enzymes and fetal hormones (high level of alpha fetoprotein indicating neural tube defects).
- Chromosomal analysis to detect the congenital anomalies early (Down syndrome, Trisomy 21).
- Detection the amount of surfactant of the respiratory system.
- Rh–incompatibility in case of hemolysis.



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- Formation of primitive yolk sac at the 9th day
- Blastocele is lined by a new membrane exocoelomic (Heuser's) membrane
- It is formed by flattened cells originate from hypoblast.
- The cavity is now called exocoelomic cavity or primitive yolk sac.



 Large portion of primitive yolk sac are pinched off is called Exocoelomic cyst in the extraembryonic coelom.



- The exocoelomic cyst is separated from the primitive yolk sac
- The endodermal cells proliferates and migrates to line the Heuser's membrane forming the secondary yolk sac.
- The 2ry yolk sac is completely lined by endoderm.

Formation of the definitive yolk sac

** After folding of the embryo

- The 2ry yolk sac divides into:
 a- Part of the 2ry yolk sac inside the embryo forming the primitive gut.
 b- Part remains outside the embryo called the definitive yolk sac.
- c- The 2 parts are connected at the umbilical ring by the vitello-intestinal duct (VID) in the connecting stalk.

** Fate of the yolk sac

 The definitive yolk sac gradually becomes smaller and separated from the body of the embryo.
 The VID will atrophy and degenerate.



Functions of the yolk sac

- 1) Nutrition of the embryo before the development of the placenta
- 2) Formation of the primitive gut except lower part of the anal canal
- 3) Hemopoiesis: formation of embryonic blood cell via blood islands near the sac
- 4) Formation of the primordial germ cells (spermatogonia or oogonia) from the wall of the yolk sac and migrate during the fourth week through dorsal mesentery of hind gut to the genital ridges of the primitive gonads (testes or Ovary)



- ** Congenital anomalies of Vitellointestnial duct:
- i) Vitelline fistula (patent VID): persistence of the duct leading to discharge of the intestinal contents through the umbilicus.
- ii) Meckel's diverticulum, persistence of the proximal end of the duct.
- iii) Vitelline sinus: persistence of distal end of the duct leading to discharge mucus from the umbilicus.
- iv) Viteline cyst: persistence of the middle part of the duct.
- v) Fibrous band, The duct completely fibrosed and persistence leading to Volvulus and intestinal obstruction. dr_youssefhussein@yahoo.com



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