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EXTRAHEPATIC AND INTRAHEPATIC VEINS OF THE PORTAL SYSTEM IN THE GROUND SQUIRREL (*CITELLUS CITELLUS*)

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From studies of the extrahepatic veins and intrahepatic veins of the portal system in the ground squirrel, using anatomical methods and rentgenography, the following can be concluded: The portal vein is formed by the confluence of three venous blood vessels which are present the extrahepatic part of the portal system in the ground squirrel: V. gastropancreaticoduodenalis, V. gastrolienalis and V. mesenterica cranialis. V. portae runs towards the portal fissure and divides, upon entering the liver, into a small right branch which is dispersed in the right lobes and a large left branch which ramifies in the remainder of the liver.

V. gastropancreaticoduodenalis receives blood from the greater omentum of the stomach (V. gastroepiploica dextra), the cranial part of the duodenum and the right segment of the pancreas (V. pancreaticoduodenalis cranialis).

Truncus gastrolienalis drains the parietal and visceral wall of the stomach (V. gastrica sinistra), the spleen and left portion of the greater omentum (V. lienalis).

V. mesenterica cranialis collects blood from the middle part of the duodenum and adjacent part of the pancreas (V. pancreaticoduodenalis media), from the caudal part of the duodenum and the caudal segment of the pancreas (V. pancreaticoduodenalis caudalis), from the jejunum (Vv. jejunales) and from the ileum, cecum and colon (Truncus ileocecolicus).

The extrahepatic veins of the portal system in the ground squirrel are joined through a number of anastomoses.

V. portae enters the portal fissure and divides into V. advehens lobi dextri lateralis et processus caudatus, V. advehens lobi dextri medialis, V. advehens processus papillaris, V. advehens lobi quadrati et lobi sinistri medialis and Vv. advehentes lobi sinistri lateralis which branch into a large number of smaller vessels in corresponding lobes of the liver. These veins form the intrahepatic part of the portal system in the ground squirrel

Key words: ground squirrel, extrahepatic veins, intrahepatic veins, portal system

INTRODUCTION

The ground squirrel (*Citellus citellus*) is a rodent which lives in Yugoslavia and Macedonia. It is a very interesting hibernating animal and most investigations have been focused in that direction. Thus, the effects of TSH-releasing hormone on neurons of brain in hibernating and active ground squirrel were described (Belousov and Belousova, 1993), as well as changed aortic tissue and persistent circadian rhythmicity in hibernating ground squirrels (Hut *et al.*, 1999, Deelman *et al.*, 1998; Grahn *et al.*, 1994) and changed body temperature during hibernation (Hut *et al.*, 2001; Strijkstra, 1999). This was a reason for a systematic study of the organs and organs of systems in the ground squirrel. Our plan involved the liver and its vascularization. Stanojević *et al.* (1979) have described branches of A.hepatica and a portal vein in the liver of the ground squirrel, but data about extrahepatic veins of the portal system have not been found. The primary purpose of this work was to study the extrahepatic veins of the portal system in the ground squirrel and our results correspond with the system in other experimental rodents.

The portal vein of experimental animals has been the subject of studies by many authors. This includes the portal vein of the rabbit (Barone *et al.*, 1973, Janković, 1960; Dumas, 1953), rat (Blanc, 1966; Janković *et al.*, 1962) and mottle rat (Blagojević *et al.*, 1989). However, available literature offers very little information on the extrahepatic and intrahepatic veins of the portal system in the ground squirrel.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The studies of the portal system in the ground squirrel involved 10 animals of both sexes and various ages. The veins of the portal system was studied after preparing veins from animals previously sacrificed without bleeding. For rentgenography minium solution in linseed oil was injected into the portal vein in situ. The injected blood vessels were X-rayed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The portal vein in the ground squirrel arises from a capillary bed and ends in a capillary bed. It collects blood from the pancreas, spleen and all of the gastrointestinal tract except the rectum. The portal vein extends through the hepatoduodenal ligament, ventral to the caudal vena cava. It is about 1-1,5 cm in diameter at the porta of the liver, where it terminates in a spiral (fig. 2₁), similiary to the rat (Hebel and Stromberg, 1976).



Figure 1. Roentgenogram of extrahepatic veins of the portal system of the liver in the ground squirrel: 1 - *V. portae*, 2 - *V. pancreaticoduodenalis cranialis*, 3,3 - *V. gastroepiploica dextra*, 4 - *Truncus gastrolienalis*, 5 - *V. gastrica sinistra*, 6 - *V. lienalis*, 6 - *V. gastroepiploica sinistra*, 7 - *V. mesenterica cranialis*, 8 - *V. colica sinistra*, 9 - *V. colica dextra*, 10 - Comon truncus for *V. pancreaticoduodenalis caudalis* and *V. pancreaticoduodenalis media*, 11 - *Vv. jejunales*, 12 - *Truncus ileocecolicus*, 13 - *ramus ilei*, 14 - *ramus cecalis*, 15 - *rami colici*

This is triangular in cross section. At the porta, the portal vein gives off branches which enter the liver lobes and further divide intrahepatically. The extrahepatic system in the ground squirrel and mottle rat (Blagojević *et al.* 1989) is formed by the confluence of three vessels (*V. gastropancreaticoduodenalis*, *V. gastrolienalis* and *V. mesenterica cranialis*). In the rat (Janković and Stanojević, 1962; Hebel and Stromberg, 1976) this system is comprised of four veins (*V. gastropancreaticoduodenalis*, *Truncus gastrolienalis*, *V. colica sinistra* and *V. mesenterica cranialis*).

V. gastropancreaticoduodenalis is the smallest tributary of the portal vein in the ground squirrel. It is 2 to 3 mm in length and empties into the portal vein about 1 cm from the portal fissure. It drains blood from the pyloric region of the stomach, from the beginning of the duodenum, right segment of the pancreas and the greater omentum of the stomach. *V. gastropancreaticoduodenalis* in the ground squirrel, mottle rat (Blagojević and Nikolić, 1989) and rat (Hebel and Stromberg, 1976) is formed by the fusion of *V. gastroepiploica dextra* and *V. pancreaticoduodenalis cranialis*.

V. gastroepiploica dextra (Figure 1_{3,3}) is formed from the veins from the cranial part of the duodenum and smaller branches from the right segment of the

pancreas (rami pancreatici). It also receives a number of smaller branches from the right part of the greater omentum of the stomach and several veins from the greater curvature of the stomach (*Vv. gastricae breves*). Then it extends towards the beginning of the duodenum and right segment of the pancreas (*rami pancreatici*) and collects blood from them.

V. pancreaticoduodenalis cranialis (Figure 1₂) extends through the pancreas and mesoduodenum and drains blood from the right segment of the pancreas and cranial part of the duodenum.

Truncus gastrolienalis (Figure 1₄) is a larger branch which participates in forming the portal vein in the ground squirrel, molle rat (Blagojević and Nikolić 1989) and rat (Hebel and Stromberg 1976). This truncus is formed by the confluence of the smaller caudally running *V. gastrica sinistra* and the larger *V. lienalis*. These veins drain blood from the stomach and the spleen.

V. gastrica sinistra (Figure 1₅) originates from the branches which drain the parietal side (*ramus cranialis*) and visceral side (*ramus caudalis*) of the stomach. It also receives small branches from the blind sac of the stomach (*Saccus cecus ventriculi*). Like the corresponding artery it anastomoses with *V. gastrica dextra*.

V. lienalis (Figure 1₆) receives blood from the spleen, left segment of the pancreas and left part of the greater omentum. *V. lienalis* arises from two branches which receive tributaries from the long hilus of the spleen. Both branches of the splenic vein receive *V. gastrica sinistra* which evacuates blood from the left part of the greater omentum and Rami pancreatici which drains the left segment of the pancreas.

V. mesenterica cranialis (Figure 1₇) is the largest branch of the portal vein in the ground squirrel, molle rat (Blagojević and Nikolić, 1989) rat (Janković and Stanojević, 1962) and rabbit (Barone et al., 1973). It is about 2mm in diameter and runs along the corresponding artery. In the ground squirrel this large blood vessel arises from the confluence of *V. colica sinistra*, *V. colica dextra*, *V. pancreaticoduodenalis media*, *V. pancreaticoduodenalis caudalis*, *Vv. jejunaes* and *Truncus ileocecolicus*.

V. colica sinistra (Figure 1₈) is a long vein, about 4mm in length. It extends through the left mesocolon. It originates from 10 to 15 branches which drain blood from the colon descendens. The last branch of the colic vein drains blood from the rectum. *V. colica sinistra* in the ground squirrel and molle rat (Blagojević and Nikolić, 1989) leads blood into the *V. mesenterica cranialis*, but in the rat (Janković and Stanojević, 1962) it takes blood directly into the portal vein.

V. colica dextra (Figure 1₉) is comprised of many branches which collect blood from the colon transversum and caudal part of the colon ascendens. It takes blood into *V. mesenterica cranialis*. *V. colica dextra* in the molle rat (Blagojević and Nikolić, 1989) and rat (Janković and Stanojević, 1962) differs from in the ground squirrel by draining blood from the colon into *V. ileocecolica*.

V. pancreaticoduodenalis media (Figure 1₁₀) is formed from two branches which drain blood from the middle part of the duodenum and corresponding segment of the pancreas. These two branches also anastomose with *V. pancreaticoduodenalis cranialis*.

V. pancreaticoduodenalis caudalis (Figure 1₁₀) originates from a number of tiny veins which drain blood from the caudal part of the duodenum and a segment of the pancreas.

As in the mottle rat *Vv. jejunales* (Figure 1₁₁), the jejunal trunk, in the ground squirrel is most frequently composed of 5 to 10 jejunal veins. These veins drain blood from the jejunum.

Truncus ileocecolicus (Figure 1₁₂) is the end of the cranial mesentery artery. It arises from the confluence of *ramus ilei* (Figure 1₁₃), *ramus cecalis* (Figure 1₁₄) and *rami colici* (Figure 1₁₅) draining blood from the respective organs. *Truncus ileocecolicus* in the mottle rat (Blagoječić and Nikolić, 1989) and rat (Hebel and Stromberg, 1976) differs from that in the ground squirrel by arising from the confluence of *V. ilei*, *V. colica dextra* and *V. cecalis*.

The portal vein (*V. portae*) enters the portal fissure on the liver in the area of the right lateral lobe together with the hepatic artery (*A. hepatica*). Branches of different sizes separate from it and ramify in different lobes of the liver. The vein blood of the rabbit (Janković, 1960) and rat (Hebel and Stromberg, 1976) is brought to the liver by two branches of the portal vein. *Ramus dexter* is a smaller and thinner branch than *ramus sinister*. *Ramus dexter* ramifies into the right lateral lobe and caudal processus. *Ramus sinister* ramifies into the other lobes of the liver. The intrahepatic ramification of the portal vein in the ground squirrel is conditioned by the lobar structure of its liver. Namely, the liver in the ground squirrel is divided into *lobus dexter lateralis*, *lobus dexter medialis*, *lobus quadratus*, *lobus sinister medialis*, *lobus sinister lateralis* and *lobus caudatus* with *processus papillaris* and *processus caudatus* (Stanojević et al., 1978).

V. advehens lobi dextri lateralis and processus caudatus (Figure 2₂) is the first vein of the intrahepatic veins of the portal system in the ground squirrel. About 5 to 6 mm from its beginning it divides into two branches of which one extends to the right lateral lobe (Figure 2₂¹) and the second towards caudal processus (Figure 2₂²). In the rabbit (Janković 1960; Hebel and Stromberg 1976) *ramus dexter* of the portal vein brings the portal blood into the right lateral lobe and *caudal processus*.

V. advehens lobi dextri medialis (Figure 2₃) extends along cystic ductus on the visceral surface of the medial lobe and then it enters the right medial lobe dividing into a large number of branches.

V. advehens processus papillaris (Figure 2₅) is a branch which emerges from the dorsal wall of the portal vein, enters papillar processus and divides into several little branches.

V. advehens lobi quadrati et lobi sinistri medialis (Figure 2₄) is a trunk which lies superficially between the quadratus and the left medial lobe. It divides into two branches (Figure 2₄^{1,4}) which bring the portal blood into the respective lobes.

Vv. advehentes lobi sinistri lateralis (Figure 2₆) represents four veins between the left lateral lobe and the left medial lobe. These four branches of the portal vein bring the portal blood into the dorsal, medial and ventral parts of the left lateral lobe.



Figure 2. Roentgenogram of intrahepatic branches of the portal vein in the ground squirrel: 1 - *V. portae*, 2 - *V. advehens lobi dextri lateralis et processus caudatus*, 2' - branch for *lobus hepatis dexter lateralis*, 2'' - branch for *processus caudatus*, 3 - *V. advehens lobi dextri medialis*, 4 - *V. advehens lobi quadrati et lobi sinistri medialis*, 4' - branch for *lobus quadratus*, 4'' - branch for *lobus hepatis medialis sinister*, 5 - *V. advehens processus papillaris*, 6 - *Vv. advehentes lobi sinistri lateralis*

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EKSTRAHEPATIČNE I INTRAHEPATIČNE VENE PORTALNOG KRVOTOKA JETRE U TEKUNICE (*CITELLUS CITELLUS*)

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SADRŽAJ

Na osnovu proučavanja ekstrahepatičnih i intrahepatičnih vena portalnog krvotoka jetre u tekunice, koristeći anatomske metode i rentgenografiju, mogu se izvesti sledeći zaključci:

Vena portae nastaje iz sliva tri venska krvna suda koja čine ekstrahepatični deo portalnog krvotoka u tekunice: *V. gastropancreaticoduodenalis*, *V. gastrolienalis* i *V. mesenterica cranialis*. *V. portae* se pruža prema portalnom žlebu i po ulasku u jetru deli se na manju, desnu granu koja se razgranava u desne režnjeve jetre i veću, levu granu koja se razgranava u ostale režnjeve jetre.

V. gastropancreaticoduodenalis odvodi krv iz *omentum majus-a* (*V. gastroepiploica dextra*), početnog dela duodenuma i desnog režnja pankreasa (*V. pancreaticoduodenalis cranialis*)

Truncus gastrolienalis odvodi krv iz parijetalnog i visceralnog zida želuca (*V. gastrica sinistra*) i slezine i levog dela *omentum majus-a* (*V. lienalis*).

V. mesenterica cranialis odvodi krv iz srednjeg i završnog dela duodenuma i odgovarajućeg dela pankreasa (*V. pancreaticoduodenalis media*), iz kaudalnog dela duodenuma i kaudalnog dela pankreasa (*V. pancreaticoduodenalis caudalis*) iz jejunuma (*V. jejunales*) i iz ileuma, cekuma i kolona (*Truncus ileocecolicus*).

Ekstrahepatične vene portalnog krvotoka jetre tekunice stoje u vezi preko mnogobrojnih anastomoza.

V. portae ulazi u portalni žleb i iz nje izbijaju vene (*V. advehens lobi dextri lateralis et processus caudatus*, *V. advehens lobi dextri medialis*, *V. advehens processus papillaris*, *V. advehens lobi quadrati et lobi sinistri medialis* and *V. advehentes lobi sinistri lateralis*) koje se razgranavaju u odgovarajućim režnjevima jetre tekunice i čine intrahepatični deo portalnog krvotoka tekunice.