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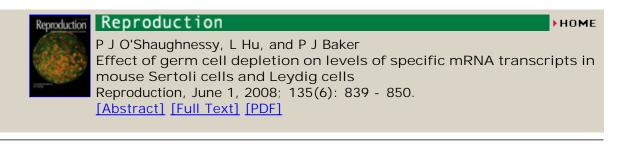
# Experimental cryptorchidism in the adult mouse: I. Qualitative and quantitative light microscopic morphology

S. M. Mendis-Handagama, J. B. Kerr and D. M. de Kretser Department of Population Dynamics, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland 21205.

Morphologic changes in the testes of adult mice after experimentally induced cryptorchidism were studied by light microscopy and stereology. Increasing duration of cryptorchidism resulted in a gradual decrease in the volume of seminiferous tubules per testis, and this was associated with germ cell degeneration. The volumes of Sertoli cell lipid droplets increased, and dilations of the

intercellular space between the Sertoli cell junctions was observed in the cryptorchid testis. The luminal volume of the seminiferous tubule was reduced by 50% after 28 days of cryptorchidism. However, the volumes of intertubular tissue and Leydig cells in control and cryptorchid testes were not significantly different. Leydig cell number per testis increased, and the average volume of a Leydig cell decreased gradually with the progression of the cryptorchid state. The volume of the connective tissue cells in the intertubular area increased, but no significant volume change was observed in the volume of intertubular macrophages. After 28 days, the cryptorchid testis contained a significantly increased volume of blood vessels and a reduced volume of lymphatic space per testis. These observations clearly demonstrate that, although the mouse is a species closely related to the rat, the morphologic changes that occur in the Leydig cell population after induction of experimental cryptorchidism in this species is different.

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