#### **Development of the**

### **Respiratory System**

- \* The development of respiratory system starts in the **4<sup>th</sup> week** from :
  - *I*) The epithelium develops from the endoderm of the floor of the pharyngeal part of the foregut:
    - A **respiratory diverticulum (lung bud)**, appears as an outgrowth from the ventral wall of foregut .
    - •Two longitudinal ridges (tracheoesophageal ridges) develop on both sides .
    - •Then these ridges fuse to form **tracheoesophageal septum** dividing the foregut from caudal to cranial into:
      - Dorsal part forms the future esophagus.
      - Ventral part forms the laryngo-tracheal tube.



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- The laryngo-tracheal tube grows caudally:
  - Its upper part forms the larynx and maintain it communication with the pharyngeal part of foregut through laryngeal inlet (orifice).
  - *The next part* forms trachea.
  - Its lower part divides into 2 lateral out pouching called bronchial buds.



II) The other components of the respiratory system (muscles, cartilages, connective tissue, vessels) develop from the surrounding splanchnic mesoderm.



#### THE LARYNX

- \* Cartilages :
  - **Epiglottis:** develops from the mesoderm of the caudal part of the hypobranchial eminence (part of 4<sup>th</sup> pharyngeal arch).
  - **Other cartilages**: develops from the mesoderm of 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> arches.
- \* Muscles :
  - **Cricothyroid muscle**: develops from the 4<sup>th</sup> arch (supplied by external laryngeal nerve which is branch from superior laryngeal nerve).
  - **Other muscles**: develop from the 6<sup>th</sup> arch (supplied by the recurrent laryngeal nerve).
- \* Mucous membrane :
  - *Supraglottic area*: derived from 4<sup>th</sup> arch (supplied by internal laryngeal nerve which is a branch of superior laryngeal nerve).
  - **Infraglottic area:** derived from 6<sup>th</sup> arch (supplied by the recurrent laryngeal nerve).
- \* Inlet of larynx :
  - The respiratory diverticulum communicates with pharyngeal part of the gut by the laryngeal inlet .
  - In the 4<sup>th</sup> week of gestation , the inlet of larynx appears as sagittal groove called **laryngotracheal groove** in the floor of the pharyngeal part of the foregut between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> arch .
  - From the 4<sup>th</sup> arch develop a single **epiglotic swelling** cranial to the the laryngotracheal groove , and from the 6<sup>th</sup> arch **2 arytenoid**

**swellings** develop caudal to this groove with formation of a **T shaped laryngeal inlet** .



- \* Lumen of larynx :
  - **Early**, due to rapid proliferation of laryngeal epithelium , temporary occlusion of the lumen occurs .
  - Subsequently , recanalization of the lumen occurs with formation of vocal folds , vestibular folds and 2 lateral recesses ( ventricles of larynx).



## Trachea , Bronchi and lungs

• During separation of respiratory diverticulum from the foregut, the laryngo-tracheal tube forms the trachea and two bronchial buds.



- These 2 buds grow laterally to form **right and left main bronchi**.
- The **right** bud then branches into **three** secondary lobar bronchi, while the **left** bud forms **two secondary lobar bronchi**.
- With further development, the secondary bronchi divide repeatedly forming 10 right tertiary (segmental) bronchi in the right lung and 8-10 left tertiary (segmental) bronchi with division of the surrounding splanchnic mesoderm creating the *bronchopulmonary segments* of the adult.
- 17 generations of subdivisions occur before birth & 7 more generations are formed after birth.



Figure 14.5 Stages in development of the trachea and lungs. A. 5 weeks. B. 6 weeks. C. 8 weeks.

- Maturation of the lungs is divided into 4 periods :
  - **1- Pseudoglandular period** : (5-17 weeks)
    - > The lungs resemble **exocrine glands** .
    - > At the end of this period , all elements of lungs are formed

#### except alveoli.

- > Respiration is **not** possible .
- 2) Canalicular period :( 16-25 weeks )
  - The lungs becomes highly vascular and each bronchiole divide into 3-6 alveolar ducts.
  - > At the end of this period , some thin wall terminal sacs develop at the end of alveolar duct  $\rightarrow$  respiration is **possible** and if the fetus is born , may survive in **intensive care**.
- **3)** Saccular period : (24 birth )
  - Many terminal sacs (future alveoli), develop at the end of the alveolar ducts, with their epithelium becomes very thin and comes in close contact with the endothelium of the capillaries to form blood-air barrier.
  - > **Gas exchange** can occur allowing premature fetus to survive .
  - Secretion of surfactant (which allow postnatal distension of the alveoli) starts from 24 weeks of gestations.
- 4) Alveolar period : ( 32 weeks 8 years )
  - Each respiratory bronchioles terminates into a clusters of thin wall mature alveoli with formation of alveolo-capillary membrane allowing gas exchange.
  - > 95% of mature alveoli develop **postnatally** .
- These **periods overlap** each others because the **cranial** segments of the lungs mature **faster** than the caudal segments .
- **Before birth** , respiratory movements allow suction of amniotic fluid in the airway which help expansion & development of the lungs , the

respiratory passage help in secretion of amniotic fluid and training of respiratory muscles .

- After birth , the lungs half filled with amniotic fluid which is cleared through the nose & mouth due to compression of the thorax during labour and absorption of this fluid through veins , capillaries and lymphatics . With the first inspiration , air enters the lungs , the lungs are inflated , starting of gas exchange with establishment of pulmonary circulation.
  - **Clinical importance :** The lung of **stillbirth** sinks in water while if the **baby die after birth** his lung float in water ( contain air )
- As the lungs develop, they acquire a layer of visceral pleura derived from splanchnic mesoderm and the thoracic wall is lined by a layer of parietal pleura derived from the somatic mesoderm. The space in between forms the pleural cavity.



**Canalicular period** 

Saccular period



**Alveolar period** 



## **Development of pleura**

 Please watch the following excellent video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nvo8XGMSCwU

## \* CONGENITAL ANOMALIES :

## **1- Anomalies of the lungs**

- •**Respiratory distress syndrome:** failure of the alveoli to inflate due to absence of the surfactant (which lowering surface tension).
- •Agenesis of the lungs .
- •Hypoplasia of the lungs
- Ectopic lung lobes arising from the trachea or esophagus.
- •Congenital cysts of the lung: which are formed by dilation of terminal or larger bronchi.



# 2- Esophageal atresia with or without tracheo-esophageal fistula

• It is due to failure of proper development of tracheaesophageal septum .











EA with proximal and distal TEF (Gross Type D)



H-type TEF (Gross Type E)

**Pure EA** (Gross Type A)

EA with proximal TEF (Gross Type B)

EA with distal TEF (Gross Type C)



