

HISTOGENESIS OF HUMAN FETAL PANCREATIC ISLETS AT DIFFERENT FOOT LENGTHS

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A preliminary study is made to determine the time (age) in terms of foetal foot length when endocrine secretory granules appear in pancreatic cells. Aborted human foetuses were obtained and transported in a ice box to our laboratory immediately after medical termination. The pancreas was removed and processed for histological study. Gremelius stain was used. 67 foetuses of foot lengths (FL) ranging from 7 mm to 30mm. were studied. In the younger

fetuses (9 to 14 mm. FL), argyrophilic cells were present singly or more in number in the tubules, ducts and acini. In foetuses of intermediate stage (15 to 18 mm FL), they were present in the periphery of acini. In the older foetuses, (19 to 30 mm FL) small and large clusters of argyrophilic cells were found outside the acini. These are the islets. The time of appearance and site of argyrophilic cells are presented at different ranges of foot lengths.