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التصريف الوريدى لجدار الصدر
فى بعض الطيور

رفعت شحاته ، محمد نبيل صالح ، محمد وهبة

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VENOUS DRAINAGE OF THE THORACIC WALL OF SOME BIRDS (DUCK AND CHICK)
(With 4 Figures)

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SUMMARY

The present study was done on fifteen adult domestic ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and twelve adult domestic chicks (*Gallus domesticus*, Rhode Island Red). It was observed that each side of the ventral thoracic wall was drained by means of two internal thoracic veins. Each side of the dorsal thoracic wall was drained by means of the caudal vertebral vein, the internal vertebral sinus and the septal vein. It was concluded that the internal vertebral sinus, in birds, was analogous with the azygos vein in mammals as both received most of the dorsal intercostal veins. The present work proved the presence of profuse anastomoses between the intercostal veins. These were attributed to the rapid circulation which was caused by the high metabolic rate and consequently the great activity of birds (Bellaris and Jenkin, 1960).

The present findings were compared with those obtained by other investigators in different vertebrates.

INTRODUCTION

Birds especially the domestic ones are widely used as experimental animals in medical research. Many published literatures, Saunders and Manton, (1949); Bellaris and Jenkin, (1960); Bradley, (1960); Al-Hussini and Demian, (1964); Ede, 1968; Baumel, (1975); King and McLelland, (1975), on the venous system of birds were perused. However all except, Baumel (1975), gave no attention to the veins draining the thoracic walls.

The present study described the veins draining the thoracic walls because these veins are also directly connected with those of vital organs such as the brain and spinal cord.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In the present study fifteen adult ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and twelve adult chicks (*Gallus domesticus*, Rhode Island Red) were used. The birds were killed with high chloroform anaesthesia, in a bell jar. The thoracic and abdominal cavities were opened. The birds were preserved in 10% formaldehyde solution. The veins were not injected as the clotted blood acted as an injection mass.

All abdominal viscera as well as the heart and lungs were removed carefully. The first thoracic vertebra was identified and used as a landmark from which other thoracic vertebrae were counted. The intercostal spaces, their boundaries and the veins draining them were identified. With the aid of a bone nipping forceps, the laminae of all vertebrae were removed to expose the internal vertebral sinus and the different veins connected with it.

An outline of the inner aspect of the thoracic wall, showing the intercostal spaces and their draining veins, was drawn. The same was done for the dorsal aspect of the dorsal thoracic wall and the adjacent part of the neck, showing the spinal cord, the vertebrae and the rib stumps, was drawn. Mimeographed copies of these outlines were made and used to record the results (Seib, 1932). The veins, under investigation, were drawn with regard to their relative size and bony relations.

The terms for avian anatomy and orientation used were according to *Nomina Anatomia Avium* of I.C.A.A.N. (1975).

RESULTS

1- DUCK

THE INTERCOSTAL SPACES

There were seven intercostal spaces in duck. Each space had two ventral intercostal veins and single dorsal

one. (Fig. 1). The two ventral intercostal veins; a cranial vein present along the caudal border of the numerically corresponding rib and a caudal one present along the cranial border of the next rib (Fig. 1). The dorsal intercostal vein was present along the cranial border of the next rib.

THE VENOUS DRAINAGE OF THE VENTRAL THORACIC WALL

The Internal Thoracic Veins:

There were two internal thoracic veins on each side; a ventral vein and dorsal one (Fig. 2).

The ventral internal thoracic vein began opposite the sternal end of the last rib as a direct continuation of the cranial epigastic vein. Dorsal to all ribs, the vein passed cranially along the sternal margin, crossed the first rib, and terminated immediately into the corresponding subclavian vein in company with the dorsal internal thoracic vein (Fig. 2). The ventral internal thoracic received the ventral ends of the ventral intercostal veins of all spaces and also small veins from the back of the sternum.

The dorsal internal thoracic vein arose opposite the last rib by confluence of small veins from the adjacent all ribs. Finally, it opened into the corresponding subclavian vein. The dorsal internal thoracic vein received the dorsal ends of all ventral intercostal veins (Fig. 2).

Profuse anastomotic venous channels were present between the ventral intercostal veins of adjacent spaces. Some of them were short and connected the veins of adjacent two spaces. Others were long and connected the veins of three or four spaces. An example of the latter was that present just dorsal to the dorsal internal thoracic vein (Fig. 2). It joined the dorsal internal thoracic vein at the level of the fourth intercostal spaces.

The Venous Drainage Of The Dorsal Thoracic Wall:

Each dorsal intercostal vein began about the middle of the space. It ran medially along the cranial border of the next rib (Fig. 1&2). The first one became continuous cranially as the caudal vertebral vein. Each of the remaining ones, on reaching the vertebral column, entered the vertebral canal through the corresponding intervertebral foramen to open into the internal vertebral sinus (Fig. 2&3). Each dorsal intercostal vein received the collateral vein which passed medially along the caudal border of the next rib. Just before reaching the vertebral column, it turned cranially to pass through the forked vertebral end of the rib and opened into its parent trunk (Figs. 1&2). The dorsal intercostal vein also received veins from the adjacent muscles and vertebrae.

Profuse anastomoses between the adjacent dorsal intercostal veins were seen. In one specimen, a longitudinal anastomotic channel, connecting the dorsal intercostal veins, was seen alongside the vertebral column.

The Caudal Vertebral Vein:

The caudal vertebral vein, originated as the direct continuation of the first dorsal intercostal vein, ran cranially along the vertebral column, to the first rib where it passed through its forked vertebral end to terminate into the vertebral vein in common with the cranial vertebral vein (Fig. 2). In addition to its collateral tributary, it received a vein present along the caudal border of the first rib. In two specimens, the caudal vertebral vein received also the second dorsal intercostal vein.

The Internal Vertebral Sinus:

The internal vertebral sinus was present along the middorsal line of the spinal cord (Fig. 3). It extended from the foramen magnum to the level of the last thoracic vertebra. Cranially the sinus was directly communicated with the occipital and marginal cranial venous sinuses. Caudally it communicated with the ilio-femoral vein through two small veins. Each of the latter arose from the caudal end of the sinus and passed ventrally across the side of the last thoracic vertebral to open into the corresponding ilio-femoral vein. The internal vertebral sinus received all dorsal intercostal veins except the first (Fig. 3).

At the root of the neck; on each side, there were two veins connecting the internal vertebral sinus to the vertebral vein (Fig. 3). These veins were termed the cranial and caudal communicating veins. The cranial communicating vein arose from the caudal part of the cervical segment of the sinus. It passed out the vertebral canal through the nearly intervertebral foramen. It ran medially to join the vertebral vein either directly or through the cranial vertebral vein. The caudal communicating vein arose from the cranial end of the thoracic segment of the sinus. It left the vertebral canal through the nearly intervertebral foramen (usually present between the first and second thoracic vertebral), ran medially to terminate into the vertebral vein.

The Septal Vein:

The septal vein arose from the fifth dorsal intercostal (Fig. 2), passed caudally on the dorsal thoracic wall until it reached the seventh rib. It continued ventromedially, pierced the pleuro-peritoneal septum and opened in the caudal vena cava.

II- CHICK

There were five pairs of intercostal spaces (Fig. 4). Otherwise, results present here were nearly similar to those obtained in duck.

DISCUSSION

THE VENOUS DRAIGAGE OF THE VENTRAL THROACIC WALL

The Internal Thoracic Veins:

In relation to the number, the present study showed that there were two internal thoracic veins, a ventral vein and a dorsal one, on each side. Similar results were obtained by BAUMEL (1975) in birds.

As regards the origin of the internal thoracic veins, the present work proved that the ventral vein began as a direct continuation of the cranial epigasteric vein while the dorsal one arose as a result of the confluence of small veins from the muscles of the ventral abdominal wall.

Regarding the mode of termination, the present work showed that the ventral and dorsal internal throacic veins terminated usually by a common opening into the subclavian vein. BAUMEL (1975) in birds stated that the larger vein opened into the cranial vena cava, while the smaller one joined the pectoral or sternoclavicular which were tributaries of the cranial vena cava.

TYLOR and WEBER (1956) and WEICHERT (1958), in cat, MILLER *et al.* (1964), in dog and WARWICK and WILLIAMS (1973), in man, stated that the ventral thoracic wall was drained by two internal thoracic veins, one on each side.

On the other hand, the internal thoracic veins were completely absent in the remaining vertebrates such as fishes, amphibians and reptiles. Their place was taken either by the two lateral abdominal veins, in elasmobranch fishes, or by a single mid-ventral abdominal vein, in lung fishes, amphibians and reptiles (WEICHERT, 1958; TORREY, 1961; ROMER, 1962). These veins collected the venous blood from the whole of the ventral body wall.

From the above mentioned data, it can be concluded that the internal thoracic veins were present only in birds and mammals. In birds (duck and chick), these veins were similar in all respects.

THE VENOUS DRAINAGE OF THE DORSAL THORACIC WALL

The Caudal Vertebral Vein:

MILLER (1903), in chick, stated that all dorsal intercostal veins were received by the (posterior) vertebral vein. The latter opened into the corresponding (precava) in common with the internal jugular and subclavian veins. Depending upon this statement McCCLURE (1906) concluded that the (posterior) vertebral vein was analogous with the azygos vein in mammals. The present study illusterated that the caudal vertebral vein received the first dorsal intercostal vein only. Therefore it can be concluded that the caudal vertebral vein, in birds is not analogous with the azygo vein in mammals, but represents the superior intercostal vein in cat (WEICHERT, 1958) and the vena intercostalis prima in pethicus rhesus (SEIB, 1932).

The Internal Vertebral Sinus:

The present work revealed that the internal vertebral sinus received the dorsal intercostal veins from the second to the last, inclusive. The same findings were obtained by BAUMEL (1973), in birds. McCCLURE (1903) in didelphys, TYLOR (1956) in cat, COOK (1965) in Laboratory mouse, MILLER *et al.*, (1964) in dog found an azygos vein. SEIB (1932), in pethicus rhesus, and WARWICK and WILLIAMS (1973) in man proved the presence of azygos, hemiazygos and accessory hemiazygos veins. These veins were present in close relation to the vertebral column and received most of the dorsal intercostal veins. As proved by the present study, neither the azygos nor the hemiazygos veins were present in birds. To interpret this difference, it is worth to mention that two supracardinal veins appeared in early embryonic life of mammals. These veins were responsible for the appearance of azygos veins (McCCLURE, 1906;

HUNTINGTON and McCLURE, 1920; NELSEN 1953 and HAMILTON and MOSSMAN, 1972), but they never develop in avian embryos (LILLIE, 1930; PATTEN, 1948). Hence azygos veins were absent in birds.

The venous system draining the dorsal intersegmental veins in fishes and amphibians was more primitive than that met with in birds and mammals. In 1958; WEICHERT stated that these veins opened into the posterior cardinal veins. In reptiles, different observations were noticed. WEICHERT (1958) postulated that the dorsal intersegmental veins terminated into two posterior vertebral veins which were developed from the anterior parts of the two postcardinals. In grass snake and lizards, SAUNDERS and MANTON (1949) mentioned that an azygos vein, representing the right posterior cardinal vein, drained the dorsal intersegmental veins of bothsides.

The present study proved the presence of profuse anastomoses between the intercostal veins. This result was confirmed by BELLARIS and JENKIN (1960), in birds. They attributed these profuse anastomoses to the high metabolic rate and rapid circulation.

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ABREVIATIONS

T.V.	: Thoracic vertebra
R.	: Rib.
St.	: Sternum.
Vent. I.T.V.	: Ventral internal thoracic vein.
D.I.T.V.	: Dorsal internal thoracic vein.
J.V.	: Jugular vein.
Sc.V.	: Subclavian vein.
Cr. ep.V.	: Cranial epigastric vein.
Cr.ver.v.	: Cranial vertebral vein.
Cr.Cc.v.	: Cranial communicating vein.
Cd.Ver.v.	: Caudal vertebral vein.
Cd.Cc.V.	: Caudal communicating vein.
V.C.Cr.	: Vena Cava Cranialis.
D.Ic.V.	: Dorsal intercostal vein.
Sep.V.	: Septal vein.
V.C.Cd.	: Vena Cava Caudalis.
I.F.V.	: Ilio femoral vein.
Cr.Vent.Ic.V.	: Cranial ventral intercostal vein.
Cd.Vent.Ic.V.	: Caudal ventral intercostal vein.
Ver.Col.	: Vertebral column.
Int. Ver.S.	: Internal vertebral sinus.
Sp.Cd.	: Spinal cord.
Co.V.	: Collateral vein.

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1: A diagram of the right third intercostal space of the duck showing its boundaries and pertained veins.
- Fig. 2: A diagram of a ventral aspect of the right half of the thoracic wall of duck showing the intercostal spaces and their draining veins.
- Fig. 3: A diagram of a dorsal aspect of all thoracic and last cervical vertebrae of duck, after removal of their laminae, showing internal vertebral sinus (Int. Vers.S.) and veins connected with it; dorsal intercostal veins (D.Ic.V) and Cranial and caudal communicating veins (Cr. Cc. V & Cd. Cc. V.).
- Fig. 4: A diagram of a ventral aspect of the right half of the throacic wall of chick showing the intercostal spaces and their draining veins.





