

Glossary

Gastrulation: The event in early development that generates a three layered embryo from a single layer called the epiblast. The three germ layers are the ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm.

Primitive endoderm: The inner layer of the mouse embryo that induces the rostrocaudal (head-tail) axis and is replaced by definitive endoderm during gastrulation.

Epiblast: The outer layer of an early embryo that generates the three germ layered embryo during gastrulation.

Hypoblast: The inner layer of the chick embryo comparable to the primitive endoderm.

Primitive streak: A thickening on the dorsal surface of the embryo located in the midline formed by movement of cells from the epiblast into the embryo to form the mesoderm and endoderm.

HH stage: Hamburger-Hamilton stage of chick embryo development

Anterior lateral plate mesoderm: The most lateral of the mesoderm germ layer. This layer splits into an inner or splanchnic layer, and an outer or somatic layer. The heart field develops in the splanchnic layer.

Tunica media: The middle layer of the wall of a blood vessel containing smooth muscle.

Neural crest: A cellular band forming a crest located at the edge of the neural plate. The cells in the neural crest migrate widely in the body during development and are critical for formation of the peripheral nervous system, face and heart.

Tetralogy of Fallot: A congenital heart defect that includes pulmonary stenosis or atresia, overriding aorta, ventricular septal defect and right ventricular hypertrophy.

Proepicardium: Cells in the extracardiac mesenchyme that give rise to the epicardium.

Septum transversum mesenchyme: The group of cells that give rise to the diaphragm.

Splanchnic mesoderm: The inner layer of the lateral plate mesoderm.

Dorsal equatorial zone: The region of cells in the frog blastula that induce the head-tail axis

Mesolecithal: An egg with a moderate amount of yolk

Blastomeres: A type of cell produced by cleavage of the fertilized egg.

Embryonic organizer: A signaling center in the dorsal anterior of the embryo which acts to establish pattern nascent tissue.