A number of publications in modern Ukrainian and foreign publications deal with investigations of the anatomy of the ileocecal segment. The data of the majority of authors are fragmentary and incomplete, and mostly deal with investigations of anatomy of a definite form of the ileocecal segment or embryonic formation of iliac papilla. The literature does not contain common opinion concerning the dynamics of formation of the iliac papilla. The literature does not contain common opinion concerning the character of fixation of certain researchers that in addition to genetically stipulated factors, the character of fixation and plastic processes of growth, meconium filling is one of the factors influencing on the formation and changes of spatial location of the components of the ileocecal segment.

In the result of checking the samples concerning their belonging to one general totality according to Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney criterion a reliable difference in morphometric parameters of the ileocecal segment components on the significance level at the target significance levels for male and female fetuses was not determined. Therefore, there is no reason to consider these components of the ileocecal segment to have different significance levels.

**Results and discussion.** After the components of the ileocecal segment are separated, the dynamics of changes of their shape and spatial orientation between themselves can be followed. We agree with the suggestions of certain researchers that in addition to genetically stipulated factors, the character of fixation and plastic processes of growth, meconium filling is one of the factors influencing on the formation and changes of spatial location of the components of the ileocecal segment.

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assert that morphometric parameters of the ileocecal segment components in fetuses and newborns depend on their sex.

During the fetal period the location of the ileocecal segment components is considerably affected by their interrelationships with the right kidney. At the beginning of the fetal period the ileocecal transition is located close to the ventromedial surface of the right kidney upper pole to which dorsolateral surface of the cecum and ileum adjoins. At the sixth-eighth months of development the ileocecal transition shifts in the caudal direction and is located on the ventromedial surface of the middle third and lower pole of the right kidney, and adjoins it by the dorsolateral wall of the cecum and ileum. At the end of the fetal period the ileocecal transition is further shifting to the caudal direction and laterally. The cecum and ileum adjoin the ventrolateral surface of the right kidney lower pole by their dorsomedial surface. In this case the terminal segment of the ileum goes about the right kidney lower pole in the caudal direction. The ventromedial surface of the cecum and ileum adjoins the internal surface of the anterior-lateral abdominal wall. In newborns the ileocecal transition is located at the distance of 8 mm lower from the right kidney.

A large amount of meconium is accumulated in the lumen of the terminal portion of the ileum till the sixth-eighth months of the intrauterine development. Since the ninth month and in newborns the majority of meconium is accumulated in the lumen of the colon.

A number of transformations occur in the histological structure of the ileocecal transition. At the beginning of the fetal period both villi and crypts are found in the mucous membrane of the small and large intestines. In the middle of the fetal period the mucous membrane of the small and large intestines begins to differentiate. Crypts gradually disappear in the structure of the mucous membrane of the small intestine, and at the same time their number increases in the large intestine. At the end of the fetal period and in newborns the villi of the small intestine increase, and the cellular content of their epithelium becomes more variable. The crypts become less deep and wider in the large intestine. The cellular content of the mucous membrane of the small and large intestines is clearly differentiated, and their structure becomes more definite.

During the early period of human ontogenesis the thickness of the walls of the ileocecal transition components increases inharmoniously with the periods of intensive and slow growth. In the period from the sixth to eighth month the thickness of the wall of the ileac terminal portion increases slowly, and in the period from the seventh to ninth month the thickness of the wall of the ileac papilla increases slowly. At the same period the thickness of the large intestine increases quickly. The thickness of the walls of the large intestine grows slower at the ninth and tenth months. At the same period of time the walls of the small intestine increase quickly.

All the above described changes concerning direction, spatial location, morphology and histoarchitectonics occurring with the components of the ileocecal transition are closely connected with themselves, and they occur logically and regularly.

The processes occurring in the ileocecal segment during the fetal period are similar to those occurring during invagination. The lumen of the ileocecal transition at the fourth month of the intrauterine human development is partially closed in the area of the iliac papilla which is evidenced by the shape and character of the iliac opening. At the beginning of the fetal period the iliac papilla is round in shape with a dotted iliac opening. Maximal amount of meconium accumulates in the afferent loop (terminal segment of the ileum) till the 8th month. It results in the formation of the ampule-like dilation of the ileum, decreasing thickness of its wall, flattening and dilation of the crypts and villi of the mucous membrane. During this period the growth of the iliac terminal portion diameter accelerates, that coincides with the period of slow enlargement of the colon diameter. In the middle of the fetal period during formation of the ampule-like dilation of the terminal portion of the ileum the diameter of the latter exceeds the diameter of the colon.

The direction and spatial location of the ileocecal segment components change, which in their turn depends on their relations with the right kidney. At the beginning of the fetal period the ileocecal transition is located close to the medial surface of the right kidney upper pole stipulating dorsolateral direction of the iliac terminal portion. In the middle of the fetal period the ileocecal transition descends to the middle and lower third of the ventromedial surface of the right kidney stipulating ventral direction of the iliac terminal portion.

Further increase of meconium amount results in extension of the “invagination cervix” which is the iliac papilla. At the same time the wall of the iliac papilla becomes thinner, its diameter increases, its shape changes from the round to oval along the axis of the ascending ileum, and the iliac opening changes from dotted to oval. All these changes result in renewal of intestinal permeability beginning from the 8th month. Since this period the large intestine is filled with meconium which is evidenced by enlargement of its diameter prevailing over the diameter of the small intestine, flattening and dilation of the crypts and villi.
of the mucous membrane and thinning of the walls. At the same time appendix shape changes from a curl at the beginning of the fetal period to a loop in the middle. “Invagination head” (iliac papilla) partially suppresses reflux, and due to extension of the wall the colon becomes thinner. At the same time the diameter of the colon intensively increases which coincides in time with the period of slow enlargement of the diameter of the small intestine. The large intestine dilates most intensively in front and lower from the iliac papilla, and the base of the appendix dilates which is the beginning of cecum formation.

Intensive filling of the large intestine with meconium is associated with changes of its location. Relocation of the ascending ileum from the ventromedial surface of the right kidney upper pole to the ventral surface of its middle and lower third causes changes of the location of the ascending ileum from dorsomedial to ventromedial. Decrease of pressure in the terminal portion of the ileum results in enlargement of its wall thickness.

In its turn, extension of the colon walls results in extension of the iliac papilla, which at the beginning is oval in shape perpendicular to the axis of the ascending ileum; the ileal opening becomes a slit, and later at the beginning of an active functioning of the digestive system, cyclic periodical filling of the intestine with dejection, it becomes labellloid in shape. The appendix becomes a hook in shape.

Conclusions. Macroanatomical signs of the cecum are clearly determined in the neonatal period which is evidenced by dilation of the initial segment of the large intestine proximally from the iliac papilla and formation of anatomical border between the colon and appendix.

Morphogenesis of the iliac papilla is characterized by five successive shape-generating stages: 1) round papilla with a dotted opening – at the 4-5th months; 2) oval papilla located longitudinally – at the 6-7th months; 3) round papilla with a gaping opening – at the 8-9th months; 4) oval papilla located transversally – on the 10th month; 5) labelloid (bilabial) papilla – in the neonatal period.

Delay of the formation processes of the iliac papilla structure results in the formation of its anatomical variants – round papilla with stellate opening or oval papilla with slit-like opening. In case iliac papilla is lacking the ileocecal segment becomes of a funnel shape that is anatomical base of possible occurrence of reflux-ileitis.

Prospects of further studies. Investigation of anatomical peculiarities of the ileocecal segment components during postnatal period is considered to be reasonable.

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FETAL ANATOMY OF THE ILEOCECAL SEGMENT

Abstract. A number of publications in modern Ukrainian and foreign publications deal with investigations of the anatomy of the ileocecal segment. The data of the majority of authors are fragmentary and incomplete, mostly deal with investigations of anatomy of a definite form of the ileocecal segment or embryonic formation of the ileocecal segment. The literature does not contain a common opinion concerning the dynamics of formation of the ileocecal transition or sphincter function. The study is conducted on 125 dead fetuses and complexes of organs of fetuses without evident macroscopic signs of deviation from a normal structure of the digestive tract. Morphogenesis of the ileocecal transition is affected by a syntopogenetic influence of the right kidney, the processes of colon fixation to the abdominal wall, and degree of filling the intestine with meconium.

Key words: caecum; ileum; appendix; fetus; human.

10.1186/s40792-018-0527-z.

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Надійшла 19.03.2018 р.
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