The Bronchial Tree and Lobular Division of the Horse Lung

Shoichi NAKAKUKI

Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Faculty of Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, 3-5-8 Saiwai-cho, Fuchu-shi, Tokyo 183, Japan

(Received 13 November 1992/ Accepted 8 March 1993)

ABSTRACT. The lungs of five horses were examined. At present, in veterinary anatomy, the horse lung is divided into the cranial and caudal lobes by the cardiac notch on either side. In addition to these lobes, in the right lung, the accessory lobe is present. However, from the viewpoint of the bronchial ramifications, the horse lung can be divided into the cranial, middle, caudal and accessory lobes bilaterally. The horse lung has four bronchiolo systems on either side, dorsal, lateral, ventral and medial. The cranial lobe is formed by the first bronchilo of the dorsal bronchiolo system. The middle lobe is formed by the first bronchilo of the lateral bronchiolo system. The accessory lobe is formed by the first bronchilo of the ventral bronchiolo system. The remaining bronchiolo systems of the dorsal, lateral and ventral bronchiolo systems and all bronchiolo of the medial bronchiolo system constitute the caudal lobe. These features were compared with those of the lungs of other domestic animals.—KEY WORDS: bronchial tree, horse, lobular division, lung.


Aeby [1] examined the lungs of many mammals including man, and classified the bronchiolo into the dorsal and the ventral bronchiolo systems. Furthermore, he classified the bronchiolo into the epiarterial and hypoarterial bronchiolo according to the course of the pulmonary artery, and considered that the left epiarterial bronchiolo, i.e. the left upper lobe bronchiolo, is lacking in the human lung. Huntington [3] also examined many mammalian lungs and considered that the left cranial and middle lobe bronchiolo have a common trunk from the left bronchus. Jackson and Huber [4] divided the human lung into ten pulmonary segments for the convenience of surgery, and considered that the left upper lobe corresponds to the right upper and middle lobes from the viewpoint of pulmonary segments.

On the other hand, in veterinary anatomy, the lobular division of Ellenberger and Baum [2] was widely accepted for many years. They considered that the right lung comprises the apical, cardiac, diaphragmatic and intermediate lobes, and that the left lung comprises the apical, cardiac and diaphragmatic lobes, except in the horse. In the horse lung, they considered that the right lung contains the apical, diaphragmatic and intermediate lobes, and that the left lung has the apical and diaphragmatic lobes. However, Seiferle [7] considered that the left cardiac lobe of Ellenberger and Baum [2] is a part of the apical lobe, except for the horse lung in which the lobular division of Ellenberger and Baum [2] is accepted. Thus, the way of interpretations of the left lung have differed among authors.

Therefore, the present author has examined the lungs of many mammals including man to establish the fundamental structure of the bronchial ramifications. From these examinations, it has been proposed as follows: The dorsal, lateral, ventral and medial bronchiolo systems arise from the dorsal, lateral, ventral and medial sides of the bronchus on either side, respectively. Furthermore, two pairs of bronchiolo arise from the lateral sides of the trachea. The cranial lobe bronchiolo are composed of the first bronchilo of the dorsal bronchiolo system (cranial lobe bronchilo I), and the two bronchiolo arising from the lateral side of the trachea (cranial lobe bronchiolo II and III). Thus three kinds of cranial lobe bronchiolo can be enumerated. Generally, however, the cranial lobe can be formed by any one of them. The middle lobe bronchiolo is the first bronchilo of the lateral bronchiolo system, and the accessory lobe bronchiolo is the first bronchilo of the ventral bronchiolo system. The remaining bronchiolo of the dorsal, lateral and ventral bronchiolo systems and all bronchiolo of the medial bronchiolo system constitute the caudal lobe [5, 6].

The present paper describes the structure of the horse lung, on the basis of the fundamental structure of the bronchial ramifications of the mammalian lung [5, 6].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The lungs of five horses were used. The lungs of three horses were injected with celluloid solutions with different colors into the bronchial tree through the trachea and into the pulmonary blood vessels through the heart using a metal syringe. The other one was injected with a celluloid solution into the bronchial tree and pulmonary artery. The remaining one was injected only into the bronchial tree. After injection the lungs were placed in water until the injected materials coagulated completely. The soft tissues were then treated with hydrochloric acid (HCl) to obtain celluloid cast models after washing in running water.

RESULTS

Bronchial ramifications and lobular division (Figs. 1-4): Systematically, bronchiolo can be classified into four systems: dorsal (D), lateral (L), ventral (V) and medial (M) bronchiolo systems on either side.

The right cranial lobe bronchiolo arises from the
dorsolateral side of the right bronchus. This bronchiole is the first bronchiole (D₁) of the dorsal bronchiole system (cranial lobe bronchiole I) and divides immediately into two branches, cranial (a) and caudal (b), the former branch being larger. This bronchiole forms the right cranial lobe. The right middle lobe bronchiole is the first bronchiole (L₁) of the lateral bronchiole system. This bronchiole arises from the ventrolateral side of the right bronchus and divides into two branches, cranial (a) and caudal (b), the latter branch being more developed. This bronchiole forms the right middle lobe and is well developed. However, this lobe is united with both the cranial and the caudal lobes. The right accessory lobe bronchiole is the first bronchiole (V₁) of the ventral bronchiole system, and arises from the ventromedial side of the right bronchus, dividing into two branches, lateral and medial. The area formed by this bronchiole is the right accessory lobe, and a part of this lobe is united with the right caudal lobe. The remaining bronchioles of the dorsal, lateral and ventral bronchiole systems and all bronchioles of the medial bronchiole system constitute the right caudal lobe. In this lobe, the dorsal and lateral bronchiole systems are well developed, especially the

Fig. 1. Celluloid cast model of the bronchial tree of the horse lung, dorsal aspect.
Fig. 2. Bronchial tree of the horse lung, ventral aspect.
Fig. 3. Lateral aspect of the right lung.
Fig. 4. Lateral aspect of the left lung.
latter. The dorsal bronchiolo system has the second (D₂) to the sixth (D₆) bronchioles. The lateral bronchiolo system has the second (L₂), the fourth (L₄) and the fifth (L₅) bronchioles without the third bronchiolo (L₃). The second (L₂) and the fourth (L₄) bronchioles are divided into two branches, in the distal portion. The ventral and medial bronchiolo systems are poorly developed. The ventral bronchiolo system has the third bronchiolo (V₃) only. This bronchiolo is represented by two bronchioles. The medial bronchiolo system has the third (M₃) and the fifth (M₅) bronchioles. These bronchioles constitute the right caudal lobe. Accordingly, the right lung consists of the cranial, middle, caudal and accessory lobes.

The left cranial lobe bronchiolo is the first bronchiolo (D₁) of the dorsal bronchiolo system (cranial lobe bronchiolo I). This bronchiolo arises from the dorsolateral side of the left bronchus, somewhat more caudal than the origin of the right cranial lobe bronchiolo. This bronchiolo divides into two branches, cranial (a) and caudal (b), as in the right lung. The area formed by this bronchiolo is the left cranial lobe. The left middle lobe bronchiolo is the first bronchiolo (L₃) of the lateral bronchiolo system. This bronchiolo arises from the ventrolateral side of the left bronchus and divides into two branches, cranial (a) and caudal (b). This bronchiolo forms the left middle lobe and is well developed. However, this lobe is united with both the cranial and the caudal lobes, as in the right lung. Thus, the horse lung has the middle lobe bronchiolo on either side. The left accessory lobe bronchiolo, i.e. the first bronchiolo (V₁) of the ventral bronchiolo system, arises from the ventral side of the left bronchus. This bronchiolo is smaller than the right accessory lobe bronchiolo, and is more caudal in origin. The area formed by this bronchiolo is the left accessory lobe, which is united with the left caudal lobe. The remaining bronchioles of the dorsal, lateral and ventral bronchiolo systems and all bronchioles of the medial bronchiolo system constitute the left caudal lobe. The dorsal bronchiolo system has the second (D₂) to the sixth (D₆) bronchioles. The lateral bronchiolo system has the second (L₂), the fourth (L₄) and the fifth (L₅) bronchioles without the third bronchiolo (L₃), as in the right lung. The second bronchiolo (L₂) is divided into two branches in its distal portion. The ventral bronchiolo system has the third (V₃) and the fourth (V₄) bronchioles. The medial bronchiolo system has the second (M₂), the third (M₃), the fourth (M₄) and the fifth (M₅) bronchioles. The third bronchiolo (M₃) is represented by two bronchioles. Accordingly, the left lung also consists of the cranial, middle, caudal and accessory lobes.

**Discussion**

The anatomical terms used in this paper, the cranial lobe, middle lobe, caudal lobe and right accessory lobe correspond to the upper lobe, middle lobe, lower lobe and the right medial basal segment (S₅) in human anatomy, respectively. However, in the human left lung, the upper lobe and the medial basal segment (S₅) are absent, and the left upper lobe should be called the left middle lobe from the viewpoint of comparative anatomy [5, 6]. The term bronchiolo corresponds to a lobar bronchus arising from the right and left bronchi, or a segmental bronchus arising from the caudal (lower) lobe bronchi in veterinary or human anatomy.

The author considers the cranial, middle, caudal and accessory lobes to be sub-lobes, respectively, since in the horse and some other mammals, these lobes are united with one another and form a larger lobe on one or either side. For this reason, the author used the term lobular division.

The horse lung has four bronchiolo systems, as in most other mammalian lungs [5, 6]. The right cranial lobe bronchiolo corresponds to the first bronchiolo (D₁) of the dorsal bronchiolo system, and arises from the dorsolateral side of the right bronchus. This bronchiolo is situated on the cranial side of the right pulmonary artery. Accordingly, it is the epiarterial bronchiolo. The right middle lobe bronchiolo corresponds to the first bronchiolo (L₁) of the lateral bronchiolo system, and arises from the ventrolateral side of the right bronchus. This bronchiolo is hyparterial, since it is located on the caudal side of the right pulmonary artery. Thus the right cranial lobe bronchiolo and the right middle lobe bronchiolo are completely different, with regard to the bronchiolo system to which they belong, the site of their origins and the relationship to the pulmonary artery. Furthermore, in the horse lung, the main bronchial ramifications are bilateral, as mentioned in Results. Therefore, in the horse lung, the left cranial lobe bronchiolo and the left middle lobe bronchiolo can also be clearly discriminated. At the same time, the right and left

---

**Abbreviations**

Figs. 2–4:

D — dorsal bronchiolo system
L — lateral bronchiolo system
V — ventral bronchiolo system
M — medial bronchiolo system
D₁ — cranial lobe bronchiolo
L₁ — middle lobe bronchiolo
V₁ — accessory lobe bronchiolo

The remaining bronchioles of the dorsal, lateral and ventral bronchiolo systems and all bronchioles of the medial bronchiolo system constitute the caudal lobe.

R.P.A. — Right pulmonary artery
L.P.A. — Left pulmonary artery
middle lobes can be discriminated from the large diaphragmatic (caudal) lobes of Ellenberger and Baum [2] and Seiferle [7].

The right cranial lobe bronchiolo (cranial lobe bronchiolo I) of the horse lung does not correspond to the right cranial lobe bronchiolo of the cow, goat or pig lung, which arises from the right lateral side of the trachea. These bronchioloes correspond to the right cranial lobe bronchiolo III in the fundamental structure of the bronchial ramifications of the mammalian lung. The right cranial lobe bronchiolo of the horse is the first bronchiolo (D₁) of the dorsal bronchiolo system i.e. the cranial lobe bronchiolo I [5, 6], and corresponds to the right upper lobe bronchiolo of the dog.

The right middle lobe bronchiolo of the horse lung corresponds to the right middle lobe bronchiolo of the cow, goat, pig or dog lung, because in all these animals, including the horse, the right middle lobe is formed by the first bronchiolo (L₁) of the lateral bronchiolo system, as in the lungs of other mammals [5, 6].

The left cranial lobe bronchiolo (cranial lobe bronchiolo I) of the horse does not correspond to that of the cow, goat, pig or dog. The left cranial lobe bronchiolo of the cow, goat, pig or dog corresponds to the left middle lobe bronchiolo of the horse, from the viewpoint of comparative anatomy, because the cranial lobe of the cow, goat, pig or dog is the first bronchiolo (L₁) of the lateral bronchiolo system, whereas that of the horse is the first bronchiolo (D₁) of the dorsal bronchiolo system [5, 6]. In the cow, goat, pig or dog, the true left cranial lobe bronchioloes, i.e. the first bronchiolo (D₁) of the dorsal bronchiolo system (cranial lobe bronchiolo I) and the two bronchioloes arising from the lateral side of the trachea (cranial lobe bronchiolo II and III), are lacking. Therefore, the left cranial lobe bronchiolo of the cow, goat, pig or dog should be called the left middle lobe bronchiolo from the viewpoint of comparative anatomy [5, 6].

The present author considers that the third bronchiolo (L₂) of the lateral bronchiolo system is lacking on either side, because the distance between the origins of the second (L₂) and the fourth (L₄) bronchioloes is greater than the other distances between the two bronchioloes in the same bronchiolo systems.

In veterinary anatomy, it has been accepted the horse lung consists of the cranial and caudal lobes on either side. In addition to these lobes, in the right lung, the accessory lobe is present. On the other hand, the present author discriminates the cranial, middle, caudal and accessory lobes on either side. Such difference in the lobular division of the horse lung is probably due to the difference in viewpoint. Anatomy, at present, is based on the external features, especially the presence of the cardiac notch. The present author, however, takes into consideration not only the external features but also the bronchial ramifications and the course of the pulmonary artery, with special emphasis on the bronchial ramifications from the viewpoint of comparative anatomy.

REFERENCES