

List of Contents

1	Introduction and Review of the Literature	1
1.1	General Remarks: Main Functions of the Serosal Membranes	1
1.2	Common Organization of the Pleura, Peritoneum and Pericardium. Mesothelial Cells. Surface Membrane Specializations	3
1.3	Stomata	5
1.4	Milky Spots	7
1.5	Transport Across the Serosal Membranes	9
1.6	Secretory Functions of the Mesothelium	11
1.7	Healing and Regeneration. Serosal Adhesions	13
1.8	Response to Inflammation	15
2	Materials and Methods	17
2.1	Material	17
2.1.1	Animals	17
2.1.2	Human	18
2.2	Methods	19
2.2.1	Transmission and Scanning Electron Microscopy	19
2.2.2	Staining with Ruthenium Red	19
2.2.3	Experiments with Horseradish Peroxidase	20
2.2.4	Experimental Pathology	20
2.2.4.1	Hemothorax	21
2.2.4.2	Pneumonectomy	21
2.2.4.3	Peritonitis Caused by <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	21
2.2.4.4	Application of Melted Paraffin	22
2.2.5	Injection with India Ink	23
2.2.6	Data and Image Analysis	23
3	Results	23
3.1	General Organization of the Human and Animal Serosal Membranes	23
3.1.1	Surface Relief of the Pleura, Peritoneum and Pericardium	24
3.1.2	Cell Organelles, Vesicular System and Intercellular Junctions of the Cubic and Flat Mesothelial Cells	31
3.1.3	Membrane Specializations	40
3.1.4	Basal Lamina, Elastic Membrane and Submesothelial Connective Tissue Layer	43
3.1.5	Stomata	47
3.1.6	Milky Spots	52
3.2	Development of the Pleura	56

3.2.1	Rat Prenatal and Postnatal Development	56
3.2.2	Human Prenatal Development	61
3.3	Horseradish Peroxidase Transfer Across the Pleura and Peritoneum	67
3.4	The Injured Serosal Membranes and Their Response	70
3.4.1	Experimental Hemothorax	70
3.4.2	Healing after Pneumonectomy	76
3.4.3	Postinflammatory Changes of the Peritoneum with Special Reference to Stomata	78
3.4.4	Pleura after Application of Melted Paraffin	88
4	Discussion	92
4.1	Normal Structures of the Serosal Membranes	92
4.1.1	General Organization	92
4.1.2	Cubic and Flat Mesothelial Cells	93
4.1.3	Membrane Specializations and Lammelar Formations	95
4.1.4	Mesothelial Basal Lamina	98
4.1.5	Elastic Membrane	99
4.1.6	Submesothelial Connective Tissue Layer	100
4.1.7	Stomata in Normal Conditions and Postinflammatory Changes	102
4.1.8	Human and Animal Milky Spots	105
4.2	Prenatal and Postnatal Development of the Pleura	107
4.3	Transport Across the Serosal Membranes	110
4.3.1	General Pathways	110
4.3.2	Transport of Horseradish Peroxidase Through the Pleura and Peritoneum ..	113
4.4	Injured Serosal Membranes and Their Recovery	114
4.4.1	Early Alterations	114
4.4.2	Late Alterations	115
5	Summary	117
	Subject Index	143