Conclusion

In conclusion, it appears well-established that the mammalian cleavage stage embryo possesses vast regulative capacities as impressively demonstrated by transplantation (fusion) experiments. The inside or outside position of blastomeres does influence their fate and can become decisive for their determination to form either trophoblast or embryonie knot. On the other hand, the egg does exhibit polarity, and blastomeres seem to be unequal, independent of their inside or outside position, as shown by their histochemical properties as well as their inclination to form only trophoblast or both trophoblast and embryonic knot. lt is probable that this type of "preformation" is, in the beginning, weak and changeable, and can easily escape the experimentalist (cryptic preformation, Graham, 1971). The question remains open which type of experiment might be the most suitable to reveal physiologic in vivo mechanisms rather than in vitro regulations.

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