Embryonic skeletal muscle development-
Novel aspects in the formation of avian perineal complex and lymph hearts

Summary

Much progress has been made to identify the mechanisms that regulate the development of the skeletal muscle lineage in vertebrates. In contrast, we have only a sketchy picture of how committed myogenic cells moved around the developing body to form individual muscles. We have been investigating the development of two groups of novel skeletal muscles and show that they arise through unusual mechanisms. Firstly we show that the development of the perineal complex in birds (and mammals), muscles associated with sexual and excretory functions rely on the hindlimb for their formation. Secondly, we show the function of the lymph heart is responsible for prevention of oedema during post-hatch life of birds.