M1 - Renal, Fall 2007

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Nitrogen Metabolism (and Related Topics)

- Amino Acid Metabolism (Nitrogen metabolism)
- Folate Metabolism ("One-Carbon pathways")
- Nucleotide Metabolism

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There are also PDF’s of class handouts with supplemental information available in the table of contents for this course.

Supplementary study material on the Web:
http://seqcore.brcf.med.umich.edu/mcb500
Protein Degradation:

• Endogenous proteins degrade continuously
  - Damaged
  - Mis-folded
  - Un-needed
• Dietary protein intake - mostly degraded

Nitrogen Balance - expresses the patient’s current status - are they *gaining* or *losing* net Nitrogen?
Transaminases Collect Amines

General reaction overview:

\[
\begin{align*}
R_1 - C - COO^- + NH_2 & \quad \rightarrow \quad R_1 - C - COO^- + NH_2 \\
\text{α-keto acid} & \quad \text{(typically α-ketoglutarate)} \\
\text{amino acid} & \\
\end{align*}
\]

Details of reaction mechanism:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{amino acid} \quad \rightarrow \quad & \quad \text{H} \\
R - C - COO^- + H_2O \quad \rightarrow \quad & \quad \text{H}^+ \\
\text{pyridoxal phosphate} \quad \rightarrow \quad & \quad \text{pyridoxamine phosphate}
\end{align*}
\]
Transfer the amine back to an acceptor $\alpha$-keto acid.
In peripheral tissues, transaminases *tend* to form Glutamate when they catabolize amino acids.

In other words, alpha-ketoglutarate is the preferred acceptor, and Glutamate is the resulting amino acid:

Some amino acid + α-ketoglutarate $\rightarrow$ some alpha keto acid + Glutamate
Glutamate can donate its amines to form other amino acids as needed

A specific example - production of Aspartate in liver (described a few slides from now):

Glutamate + oxaloacetate $\rightarrow$ $\alpha$-ketoglutarate + aspartate
Getting Amines Into the Liver

**Glutamate Dehydrogenase:**

\[
\text{glutamate} \xrightarrow{\text{NAD}(P)} \text{\text{\text{-\text{-}}C\text{\text{-\text{-}}CH}\text{\text{-\text{-}}C\text{\text{-\text{-}}}NH\text{\text{_{2}}}} \xrightarrow{\text{mito}} \text{\text{\text{-\text{-}}C\text{\text{-\text{-}}CH}\text{\text{-\text{-}}C\text{\text{-\text{-}}}NH\text{\text{_{2}}}} + \text{NH}_{3}}
\]

**Glutamine Synthetase:**

\[
\text{glutamate} \xrightarrow{\text{ATP} + \text{NH}_{3}} \text{\text{\text{-\text{-}}C\text{\text{-\text{-}}CH}\text{\text{-\text{-}}}COO^{-}} \xrightarrow{\text{ADP} + P_i} \text{\text{\text{-\text{-}}C\text{\text{-\text{-}}CH}\text{\text{-\text{-}}}COO^{-}} + \text{NH}_{3}
\]
In the Liver: Precursors for Urea Cycle

Glutamine is hydrolyzed to glutamate and ammonia:

\[
\text{H} \quad \text{NH}_3 \\
\text{O}\quad \text{C} \quad \text{NH} \quad \text{C} \quad \text{H}_2 \quad \text{C} \\
\text{glutamine} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{O}\quad \text{C} \quad \text{NH} \quad \text{C} \quad \text{H}_2 \quad \text{C} \\
\text{NH}_3 \quad \text{glutamate} \\
\text{H}_2 \quad \text{O}
\]

Ammonia can also be formed by the glutamate dehydrogenase reaction and several other reactions as well.

Glutamate donates its amino group to form aspartate:

\[
\text{Glutamate-aspartate aminotransferase:}
\]

\[
\text{H} \quad \text{NH}_3 \\
\text{O}\quad \text{C} \quad \text{NH} \quad \text{C} \quad \text{H}_2 \quad \text{C} \\
\text{Glutamate} \quad \text{oxaloacetate} \quad \text{\textit{\alpha}-keto glutarate} \\
\text{NH}_3 \quad \text{aspartate}
\]
Carbamoyl phosphate synthetase I

bicarbonate → carbonyl phosphate → carbamate → carbamoyl phosphate

ATP → ADP

$\text{H}_2\text{O}$ → $\text{NH}_3$ → $\text{P}_i$ → $\text{P}_i$
Ornithine Transcarbamoylase

Carbamoyl phosphate

Ornithine

Citrulline
Argininosuccinate synthetase

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Citrulline} & \rightarrow \text{Argininosuccinate} \\
\text{ATP} & \rightarrow \text{AMP + PP}_i
\end{align*}
\]
Argininosuccinate lyase

Argininosuccinate → Fumarate → Arginine
Arginase

Arginine $\xrightarrow{H_2O} \text{Urea} \xrightarrow{} \text{Ornithine}$
2ATP + HCO₃⁻ + NH₃ → Carbamoyl phosphate → ATP + P₃

2ADP + P₃ → Ornithine → Liver mitochondrion

Liver cytoplasm → Citrulline

H₂O + Ornithine → Urea

Citrulline → ATP

Aspartate → Argininosuccinate → Fumarate
Urea Cycle Connects to TCA Cycle

- Ornithine
- Citrulline
- Argininosuccinate
- Arginine
- Oxaloacetate
- Fumarate
- Aspartate
- Urea

TCA Cycle:
- Citrate
- α-Ketoglutarate

Chemical Structures:
- \((-\text{b} \text{C}-\text{H}_2\text{C} - \text{CO}_2\text{H})\)
- \((-\text{b} \text{C} - \text{C} - \text{CO}_2\text{H})\)
Getting Amines Into the Liver

Glutamate Dehydrogenase:

\[ \text{glutamate} \xrightarrow{\text{NAD}(P)} \text{NAD}(P)\text{H} \]
\[ \text{(mito)} \]
\[ \xrightarrow{\text{NAD}(P)\text{H}} \text{\(\alpha\)-ketoglutarate} + \text{ammonia} \]

Glutamine Synthetase:

\[ \text{glutamate} \xrightarrow{\text{ATP}+\text{NH}_3} \text{glutamine} \]
\[ \text{ADP} + \text{P}_i \]
CPS I is Stimulated by NAG

(glutamate) + (acetyl CoA) → (N-acetyl glutamate (NAG))

(repeating the figure from page 3 of your handout)
Complicating the picture: Other tissues may be involved
Why is Ammonia Toxic?
Why is Ammonia Toxic?

• Possible neurotoxic effects on glutamate levels (and also GABA) (due to shifting equilibria of reactions involving these compounds)
Why is Ammonia Toxic?

• Possible neurotoxic effects on glutamate levels (and also GABA) (due to shifting equilibria of reactions involving these compounds)

• Possible metabolic/energetics effects:
  - alpha-ketoglutarate levels
  - glutamate levels
  - glutamine
Inherited Defects of Urea Cycle Enzymes: Diagnosis

Defects are diagnosed based on the metabolites seen in the blood and/or urine.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CPSD</strong></td>
<td>No elevation except ammonia; diagnosed by elimination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTCD</strong></td>
<td>Elevated CP causes synthesis of Orotate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASD</strong></td>
<td>Elevated citrulline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALD</strong></td>
<td>Elevated argininosuccinate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AD</strong></td>
<td>Elevated arginine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CPS I is Stimulated by NAG

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{glutamate} & \quad + \quad \text{acetyl CoA} \\
\text{N-acetyl glutamate (NAG)} &
\end{align*}
\]

(repeating the figure from page 3 of your handout)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{bicarbonate} & \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{carbonyl phosphate} & \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{carbamate} & \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{carbamoyl phosphate} \\
\text{ATP} & \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{ADP} & \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{P}_{i} & \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{P}_{i} \\
\text{NH}_{3} & \\
\text{ADP} & \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{ADP}
\end{align*}
\]
Clinical Management of Urea Cycle Defects

• Dialysis to remove ammonia
• Provide the patient with alternative ways to excrete nitrogenous compounds:
  * Intravenous sodium benzoate or phenylacetate
  * Supplemental arginine

• Levulose - acidifies the gut
• Low protein diet
Degrading the Amino Acid Carbon Backbone
Easily-degraded products after transamination:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Glutamine} & \xrightarrow{\text{glutaminase}} \text{glutamate} + \text{ammonia} \\
\text{Asparagine} & \xrightarrow{\text{asparaginase}} \text{aspartate} + \text{ammonia}
\end{align*}
\]
Many amino acids are purely glucogenic: Glutamate, aspartate, alanine, glutamine, asparagine,…

Some amino acids are both gluco- and ketogenic: Threonine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan

The only PURELY ketogenic Amino Acids: leucine, lysine
Amino acids with 5-carbon backbones tend to form α-ketoglutarate.
Degradation and Biosynthesis of Serine and Glycine

**Glycine Synthase:**

\[
(-)_\text{OOC} \text{C} \text{H} \text{NH}_3 \overset{(+)\text{H}}{\text{H}} \rightarrow \text{CO}_2 + \text{NH}_4^{(+)}
\]

**Serine Hydroxymethyltransferase:**

\[
(-)_\text{OOC} \text{CH} \text{NH}_3 \overset{(+)\text{H}_2\text{O}}{\text{CH}_2\text{OH}} \rightarrow \text{THF} \rightarrow \text{N}^5 - \text{N}^{(0)} - \text{methylene THF}
\]

**Serine Dehydratase:**

\[
(-)_\text{OOC} \text{CH} \text{NH}_3 \overset{(+)\text{H}_2\text{O}}{\text{CH}_2\text{OH}} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{NH}_4^{(+)}
\]
Methionine Cycle
And Biological Methyl Groups
Phenylalanine and Tyrosine
(Normal path shown in black, pathological reaction shown in red)

Phenylalanine → Phenylpyruvate

Tetrahydrobiopterin + O₂ → Dihydrobiopterin + H₂O

Enzyme: Phenylalanine hydroxylase

Phenylalanine hydroxylase

Tyrosine

Homogentisate

Deficiency: Alkaptonuria “Ochronosis”

Enzyme: homogentisate dioxygenase

(you don’t need to know the rest)
Branched Chain Amino Acids

Isoleucine

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH} - \text{CH} - \text{COO}^(-) \\
\text{CH}_3 \text{ NH}_3^+ 
\]

Leucine

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CHCH}_2 - \text{CH} - \text{COO}^(-) \\
\text{CH}_3 \text{ NH}_3^+ 
\]

Valine

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CH} - \text{CH} - \text{COO}^(-) \\
\text{CH}_3 \text{ NH}_3^+ 
\]

------------- Transamination -------------

Glu

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH} - \text{C} - \text{COO}^(-) \\
\text{CH}_3 
\]

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CHCH}_2 - \text{C} - \text{COO}^(-) \\
\text{CH}_3 
\]

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CH} - \text{C} - \text{COO}^(-) \\
\text{CH}_3 
\]

NAD\(^+\), CoASH

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH} - \text{C} - \text{S-CoA} \\
\text{CH}_3 
\]

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CHCH}_2 - \text{C} - \text{S-CoA} \\
\text{CH}_3 
\]

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CH} - \text{C} - \text{S-CoA} \\
\text{CH}_3 
\]

--- Branched-chain \(\alpha\)-keto acid dehydrogenase ---

\[
\text{NADH} + \text{CO}_2 \\
\text{NADH} + \text{CO}_2 \\
\text{NADH} + \text{CO}_2 \\
\]

(continues on to degradation path similar to \(\beta\)-oxidation of fatty acids)
Synthesis of Bioactive Amines

Tyrosine → Dihydroxyphenylalanine (L-DOPA) → Dopamine → Norepinephrine → Epinephrine
Synthesis of Bioactive Amines

Tryptophan $\xrightarrow{\text{Tryptophan hydroxylase}}$ 5-hydroxytryptophan $\xrightarrow{\text{PLP-dependent decarboxylation}}$ Serotonin

NAD$^+$
Synthesis of Bioactive Amines

Glutamate

\[ \text{COO}^{(-)} - \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH} - \text{COO}^{(-)} \]

\[ \text{NH}_3^{(+)} \]

Glutamate decarboxylase (PLP-dependent)

\[ \text{COO}^{(-)} - \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_3^{(+)} \]

\[ \gamma\text{-aminobutyric acid (GABA)} \]

Histidine

\[ \text{CH}_2 - \text{CH} - \text{COO}^{(-)} \]

\[ \text{NH}_3^{(+)} \]

Histidine decarboxylase (PLP-dependent)

\[ \text{CH}_2 - \text{CH}_2 - \text{NH}_3^{(+)} \]

Histamine
NON-Essential Amino Acids:

- Glutamate, aspartate, alanine, glutamine, asparagine, (proline), glycine, serine (cysteine, tyrosine)

Essential Amino Acids:

- Arginine (!), phenylalanine, methionine, histidine, Isoleucine, leucine, valine, threonine, tryptophan, lysine