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**M1 - Renal, Fall 2007**

Lyons, R.; Burney, R.


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Nitrogen Metabolism (and Related Topics)

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

Dr. Robert Lyons
Assistant Professor, Biological Chemistry  
Director, DNA Sequencing Core
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:

\[ \text{R}_1\text{C} - \text{COO}^\text{(-)} + \text{R}_2\text{C} - \text{COO}^\text{(-)} \xrightarrow{\alpha\text{-keto acid (typically alpha-ketoglutarate)}} \text{R}_1\text{C} - \text{COO}^\text{(-)} + \text{R}_2\text{C} - \text{COO}^\text{(-)} \]

Details of reaction mechanism:

- **Amino acid**: \( \text{H} \quad \text{R} - \text{C} - \text{COO}^\text{(-)} \quad \text{NH}_2 \quad \text{O} \quad \text{CH}_3 \)
- **Pyridoxal phosphate**: \( \text{BOCH}_2\text{OH} \quad \text{N} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{CH}_3 \)
- **Pyridoxamine phosphate**: \( \text{BOCH}_2\text{OH} \quad \text{N} \quad \text{H} \quad \text{CH}_3 \)
Transfer the amine back to an acceptor $\alpha$-keto acid
Some amino acid $\rightarrow$ $\alpha$-ketoglutarate $\rightarrow$ some alpha keto acid + Glutamate

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:
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:

\[
\text{NAD(P)} \rightarrow \alpha\text{-ketoglutarate} + \text{ammonia}
\]

Glutamine Synthetase:

\[
\text{ATP} + \text{NH}_3 \rightarrow \text{ADP} + P_i + \text{glutamine}
\]
In the Liver: Precursors for Urea Cycle

Glutamine is hydrolyzed to glutamate and ammonia:

\[ \text{NH}_3 \]

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

Glutamate donates its amino group to form aspartate:

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

\[ \text{aspartate} \]
Carbamoyl phosphate synthetase I

bicarbonate $\xrightarrow{\text{ATP}}$ carbonyl phosphate $\xrightarrow{\text{NH}_3} \text{carbamate} $ $\xrightarrow{\text{ATP}}$ carbamoyl phosphate
Ornithine Transcarbamoylase

Carbamoyl phosphate

Ornithine

Citrulline
Argininosuccinate synthetase

Citrulline

Argininosuccinate
Argininosuccinate lyase

Argininosuccinate $\rightarrow$ Fumarate $\rightarrow$ Arginine
Urea Cycle Connects to TCA Cycle

Urea Cycle:
- Ornithine → Citrulline
- Arginine
- Argininosuccinate

TCA Cycle:
- Oxaloacetate
- Malate
- Fumarate
- α-Ketoglutarate
- Citrate
Getting Amines Into the Liver

Glutamate Dehydrogenase:

\[ \text{glutamate} \rightarrow \text{NAD}(P) \rightarrow \text{NADH} \]

\[ \text{α-ketoglutarate} + \text{ammonia} \]

Glutamine Synthetase:

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

\[
(-) \text{OOC} - \text{C} - \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C} - \text{OH} + \text{CoA} - \text{C} = \text{O} \xrightarrow{\text{N-acetyl glutamate synthetase}} \text{N-acetyl glutamate (NAG)}
\]

Glutamate  Acetyl CoA

(repeating the figure from page 3 of your handout)

\[
\text{HO-C-O}^{(-)} \xrightarrow{\text{ATP}} \text{HO-C-O}^{\text{P}} \xrightarrow{\text{NH}_3} \text{HO-C-NH}_2 \xrightarrow{\text{ATP}} \text{P}^{\text{O-C-NH}_2}
\]

Bicarbonate  Carbonyl phosphate  Carbamate  Carbamoyl phosphate
Complicating the picture: Other tissues may be involved

Muscle:
- Amino acids: Transamination, Deamination
- Alanine → Glutamate
- Glutamine → NH₄⁺
- NH₄⁺ → Purine deamination:

Liver:
- Glutamine
- Alanine → Glutamate
- Glu → Aspartate
- Urea

Intestine:
- Glutamine
- Alanine
- NH₄⁺ → Citrulline

Kidney:
- Glutamine → NH₃
- NH₃ → NH₄⁺
- NH₄⁺ → Arginine → Citrulline
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.

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

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

(repeating the figure from page 3 of your handout)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{bicarbonate} & \quad \text{ATP} \\
\text{carbonyl phosphate} & \quad \text{NH}_3 \\
\text{carbamate} & \quad \text{ATP} \\
\text{carbamoyl phosphate}
\end{align*}
\]
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:

Glutamine $\xrightarrow{\text{glutaminase}}$ glutamate + ammonia

Asparagine $\xrightarrow{\text{asparaginase}}$ aspartate + ammonia
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:

Glycine

Serine Hydroxymethyltransferase:

Serine

Serine Dehydratase:

Serine
Methionine Cycle
And Biological Methyl Groups
Phenylalanine and Tyrosine

(Deficiency: Alkaptonuria)

Phenylalanine $\rightarrow$ Tyrosine

Enzyme: Phenylalanine hydroxylase

Tetrahydrobiopterin $+ O_2 \rightarrow$ Dihydrobiopterin $+ H_2O$

Homogentisate

Deficiency: Alkaptonuria "Ochronosis"

Enzyme: homogentisate dioxygenase

YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW THE REST.
Branched Chain Amino Acids

Isoleucine

Leucine

Valine

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

Glu

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

NADH + CoASH

NADH + CO₂

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

Tyrosine $\xrightarrow{\text{Tyrosine hydroxylase}}$ Dihydroxyphenylalanine (L-DOPA)

Dopamine $\xrightarrow{}$ Norepinephrine $\xrightarrow{}$ Epinephrine
Synthesis of Bioactive Amines

Tryptophan → NAD+ → 5-hydroxytryptophan → CO2 → Serotonin

Tryptophan hydroxylase
PLP-dependent decarboxylation
Synthesis of Bioactive Amines

\[\text{Glutamate} \rightarrow \text{γ-aminobutyric acid (GABA)}\]

\[\text{Histidine} \rightarrow \text{Histamine}\]
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