

Oxalithine Cycle

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What is Urea cycle :-

Urea cycle is biochemical reaction that involve removal of excess ammonia (NH_3) by production of urea. The urea cycle excrete excess nitrogen as ammonia which is toxic, by converting it as urea. This cycle steps also known as Oxalithine Cycle discovered by two scientists Korb's & Henseleit in 1932.

Substrate for the Urea cycle :-

Urea cyclic process have five reaction Oxalithine, Citrulline, ~~from ornithine~~ arginine and aspartic acid.

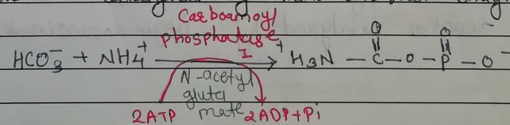
Site of Urea cycle :-

Urea formation mainly occur in liver of the mammals. Enzymes for urea cycle present in liver. Due to absence of arginase enzyme in kidney urea cycle is ~~comp~~ limited in kidney. Brain can form urea from citrulline but lack enzyme to form citrulline from ornithine.

Steps in Urea cycle :-

① Synthesis of Carbamoyl-phosphate :-

In this mitochondrial reaction of Urea cycle HCO_3^- react with ammonium ion NH_4^+ and phosphate derived from ATP reacts to form Carbamoyl-P. The reaction is catalysed by mitochondrial enzymes.



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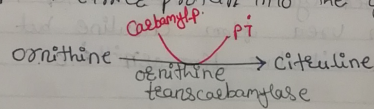
* 1) Carbamoyl phosphate synthetase I :- It is present in mitochondria of liver cells and it is involved in urea cycle.

* 2) Carbamoyl phosphate synthetase II :- It is present in cytosol of liver cells and it involves in pyrimidine synthesis.

2) Synthesis of Citrulline :->

Mitochondrial Citrulline is formed by the reaction which involved nucleophilic addition of ornithine to the Carbamoyl phosphate to produce Citrulline. This reaction is catalysed by ornithine transcarbamoylase enzyme also called as ornithine carbamoyl transferase.

This enzyme is associated with Carbamoyl phosphate synthetase I. The mitochondrial Citrulline is transported through a carrier protein into the cytosol of the cell.



④ Synthesis of Argininosuccinate :->

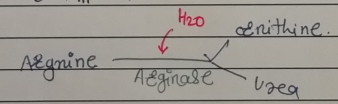
It is catabolic reaction in which Citrulline present in cytosol is added with Aspartate to form argininosuccinate. This is an ATP dependent reaction argininosuccinate. This is an ATP-dependent reaction catalysed by argininosuccinate synthetase.

4) Cleavage of Argininosuccinate:-

In this reaction of urea cycle the Argininosuccinate is cleaved to arginine and fumarate. This reaction is carried out in the presence of the enzyme argininosuccinase also known as Argininosuccinate lyase. This reaction urea cycle linked to the TCA-cycle through the production of fumarate. Urea cycle is coupled with energy production. The fumarate is converted to oxaloacetate. The oxaloacetate is transferred to regenerate aspartate to participate in the urea cycle.

5) Cleavage of Arginine to ornithine and Urea :-

Arginase an enzyme which is found only in the liver cell catalyse the hydrolysis of the guanidine group of arginine, releasing urea and regenerating ornithine. In this reaction of urea cycle the ornithine enters mitochondria through inner mitochondrial membrane by a specific transport protein, ornithine and lysine are potent inhibitors competitive with arginine. Purified arginase from mammalian liver is activated by C^{+} and Mn^{++} .



Clinical Significance of urea cycle :-

A normal man excrete about 16.5 gm of N daily if he take about 300 gm. Carbohydrates, 100 gm of fats and 100 gm of proteins daily. Major part about 95 percent is eliminated by the kidneys and the remaining 5 percent as nitrogen in the faeces.

Beta Oxidation

Beta Oxidation Definition

Beta oxidation is a metabolic process involving multiple steps by which fatty acid molecules are broken down to produce energy. More specifically, beta oxidation consists in breaking down long fatty acids that have been converted to acyl-CoA chains into progressively smaller fatty acyl-CoA chains. This reaction releases acetyl-CoA, FADH₂ and NADH, the three of which then enter another metabolic process called citric acid cycle or Krebs cycle, in which ATP is produced to be used as energy. Beta oxidation goes on until two acetyl-CoA molecules are produced and the acyl-CoA chain has been completely broken down. In eukaryotic cells, beta oxidation takes place in the mitochondria, whereas in prokaryotic cells, it happens in the cytosol.

For beta oxidation to take place, fatty acids must first enter the cell through the cell membrane, then bind to coenzyme A (CoA), forming fatty acyl CoA and, in the case of eukaryotic cells, enter the mitochondria, where beta oxidation occurs.

Where Does Beta Oxidation Occur?

Beta oxidation occurs in the mitochondria of eukaryotic cells and in the cytosol of prokaryotic cells. However, before this happens, fatty acids must first enter the cell and, in the case of eukaryotic cells, the mitochondria. In cases where fatty acid chains are too long to enter the mitochondria, beta oxidation can also take place in peroxisomes. First, fatty acid protein transporters allow fatty acids to cross the cell membrane and enter the cytosol, since the negatively charged fattyacid chains cannot cross it otherwise. Then, the enzyme fatty acyl-CoA



synthase (or FACS) adds a CoA group to the fatty acid chain, converting it to acyl-CoA. Depending on the length, the acyl-CoA chain will enter the mitochondria in one of two ways:

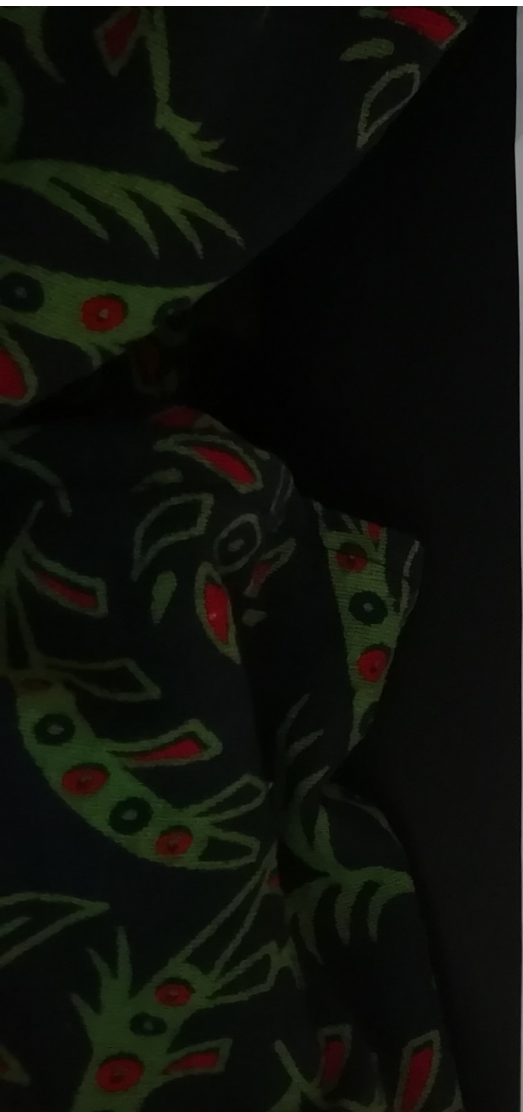
1. If the acyl-CoA chain is short, it can freely diffuse through the mitochondrial membrane.
2. If the acyl-CoA chain is long, it needs to be transported across the membrane by the carnitine shuttle. For this, the enzyme carnitine palmitoyltransferase 1 (CPT1)—bound to the outer mitochondrial membrane—converts the acyl-CoA chain to an acylcarnitine chain, which can be transported across the mitochondrial membrane by carnitine translocase (CAT). Once inside the mitochondria, CPT2—bound to the inner mitochondrial membrane—converts the acylcarnitine back to acyl-CoA. At this point, acyl-CoA is inside the mitochondria and can now undergo beta oxidation.

As mentioned above, if the acyl-CoA chain is too long to be processed in the mitochondria, it will be broken down by beta oxidation in the peroxisomes.

Research suggests that very long acyl-CoA chains are broken down until they are 8 carbons long, after which they are transported and enter the beta oxidation cycle in the mitochondria. Beta oxidation in the peroxisomes yields H_2O_2 instead of FADH₂ and NADH, producing heat as a result.

Beta Oxidation Steps

Beta oxidation takes place in four steps: dehydrogenation, hydration, oxidation and thiolysis. Each step is catalyzed by a distinct enzyme. Briefly, each cycle of this process begins with an acyl-CoA chain and ends with one acetyl-CoA, one FADH₂, one NADH and water, and the acyl-CoA chain becomes two carbons

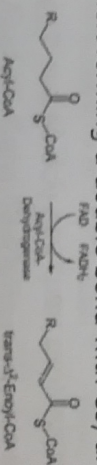


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shorter. The total energy yield per cycle is 17 ATP molecules (see below for details on the breakdown). This cycle is repeated until two acetyl-CoA molecules are formed as opposed to one acyl-CoA and one acetyl-CoA. The four steps of beta oxidation are described below and can be seen in the links to the figures at the end of each explanation.

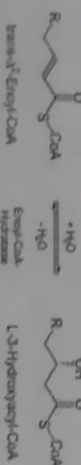
Dehydrogenation

In the first step, acyl-CoA is oxidized by the enzyme acyl CoA dehydrogenase. A double bond is formed between the second and third carbons (C2 and C3) of the acyl-CoA chain entering the beta oxidation cycle; the end product of this reaction is trans- Δ^2 -enoyl-CoA (trans-delta 2-enoyl CoA). This step uses FAD and produces FADH₂, which will enter the citric acid cycle and form ATP to be used as energy. (Notice in the following figure that the carbon count starts on the right side: the rightmost carbon below the oxygen atom is C1, then C2 on the left forming a double bond with C3, and so on.)



Hydration

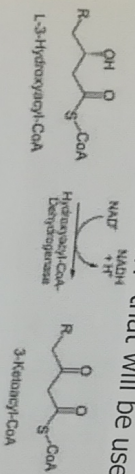
In the second step, the double bond between C2 and C3 of trans- Δ^2 -enoyl-CoA is hydrated, forming the end product L- β -hydroxyacyl CoA, which has a hydroxyl group (OH) in C2, in place of the double bond. This reaction is catalyzed by another enzyme: enoyl CoA hydratase. This step requires water.



Oxidation

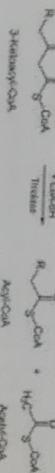
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In the third step, the hydroxyl group in C2 of L- β -hydroxyacyl CoA is oxidized by NAD⁺ in a reaction that is catalyzed by 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase. The end products are β -ketoacyl CoA and NADH + H. NADH will enter the citric acid cycle and produce ATP that will be used as energy.



Thiolysis

Finally, in the fourth step, β -ketoacyl CoA is cleaved by a thiol group (SH) of another CoA molecule (CoA-SH). The enzyme that catalyzes this reaction is β -ketothiolase. The cleavage takes place between C2 and C3; therefore, the end products are an acetyl-CoA molecule with the original two first carbons (C1 and C2), and an acyl-CoA chain two carbons shorter than the original acyl-CoA chain that entered the beta oxidation cycle.



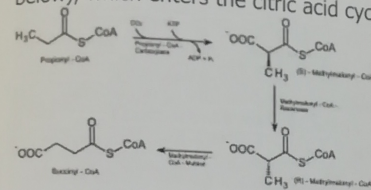
End of Beta Oxidation

In the case of even-numbered acyl-CoA chains, beta oxidation ends after a four-carbon acyl-CoA chain is broken down into two acetyl-CoA units, each one containing two carbon atoms. Acetyl-CoA molecules enter the citric acid cycle to yield ATP.

In the case of odd-numbered acyl-CoA chains, beta oxidation ensues in the same way except for the last step: instead of a four-carbon acyl-CoA chain being broken down into two acetyl-CoA units, a five-carbon acyl-CoA chain is broken down into a three-carbon propionyl-CoA and a two-carbon acetyl-CoA. Another

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chemical reaction then converts propionyl-CoA to succinyl-CoA (see the figure below), which enters the citric acid cycle to produce ATP.



Energy Yield and End Products

Each beta oxidation cycle yields 1 FADH₂, 1 NADH and 1 acetyl-CoA, which in terms of energy is equivalent to 17 ATP molecules:

- 1 FADH₂ (x 2 ATP) = 2 ATP
- 1 NADH (x 3 ATP) = 3 ATP
- 1 acetyl-CoA (x 12 ATP) = 12 ATP
- **Total = 2 + 3 + 12 = 17 ATP**

However, the theoretical ATP yield is higher than the real ATP yield. In reality, the equivalent of about 12 to 16 ATPs is produced in each beta oxidation cycle.

Besides energy yield, the fatty acyl-CoA chain becomes two carbons shorter with each cycle. In addition, beta oxidation yields great amounts of water; this is beneficial for eukaryotic organisms such as camels given their limited access to drinkable water.