AROMATIC AMINO ACID DEGRADATION AND ASSOCIATED INBORN ERRORS OF METABOLISM

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AROMATIC AMINO ACID DEGRADATION

- The aromatic amino acids are those containing aromatic or benzene ring in their side chains.
- Examples include phenylalanine, tyrosine and tryptophan.
- The degradation of aromatic amino acids require molecular oxygen to break down the aromatic rings.
DEGRADATION OF PHENYLALANINE

Enzymes involved are (1) phenylalanine hydroxylase,
(2) aminotransferase, (3) p-hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase,
(4) homogentisate dioxygenase, (5) maleylacetoacetate isomerase, and (6) fumarylacetoacetate.
DEGRADATION OF TRYPTOPHAN

The pathway of tryptophan degradation. The enzymes involved are (1) tryptophan-2,3-dioxygenase, (2) formamidase, (3) kynurenine-3-monooxygenase, (4) kynureninase (PLP dependent), (5) 3-hydroxyanthranilate-3,4-dioxygenase, (6) amino carboxymuconate semialdehyde decarboxylase, (7) aminomuconate semialdehyde dehydrogenase, (8) hydratase, (9) dehydrogenase, and (10-16) enzymes of Reactions 5 through 11 in lysine degradation (Fig. 26-23). 2-Amino-3-carboxymuconate-6-semialdehyde, in addition to undergoing Reaction 6, spontaneously forms quinolinate, an NAD⁺ and NADP⁺ precursor.
Many genetic defects of phenylalanine catabolism in humans have been identified.

A deficiency in phenylalanine hydroxylase is responsible for the disease phenylketonuria (PKU).

Individuals with a deficiency in phenylalanine hydroxylase rely on a secondary catabolic pathway which in normal individuals is not used.
INBORN ERRORS OF METABOLISM: PHENYLKETONURIA CONT’D

The diagram illustrates the metabolic pathway of phenylalanine. Phenylalanine is converted to pyruvate and alanine by the enzyme aminotransferase with the cofactor PLP (pyridoxal phosphate). Pyruvate is then broken down to CO₂ and H₂O, while alanine is converted to phenylpyruvate. Phenylpyruvate is further metabolized to phenylacetate and phenyllactate.
Another inheritable disease of phenylalanine catabolism is alkaptonuria in which the defective enzyme is homogentisate dioxygenase. It is less serious than PKU.
Metabolism is the sum of all the chemical transformations taking place in a cell or organism. It occurs through a series of enzyme-catalyzed reactions that constitute metabolic pathways. Metabolism is broadly divided into anabolism and catabolism. Precursors are converted into products through a series of metabolic intermediates called metabolites. The term intermediary metabolism is often applied to the combined activities of all metabolic pathways that interconverts precursors, metabolites and products of low molecular weights.
Catabolism is the degradative phase of metabolism in which organic nutrient molecules (carbohydrates, fats and proteins) are converted into smaller, simpler end products (such as lactic acid, CO₂ and NH₃).

Catabolic pathways release energy, some of which is conserved in the formation of ATP and reduced electron carriers (NADH, NADPH and FADH₂); the rest as heat.

In Anabolism, also called biosynthesis, small simple precursors are built into larger and more complex molecules including lipids, polysaccharides, proteins and nucleic acids.

Anabolic reactions require an input of energy, generally in the form of the phosphoryl group transfer potential of ATP and the reducing power of NADH, NADPH and FADH₂.
Some metabolic pathways are linear, and some are branched, yielding multiple useful end products from a single product.

In general, catabolic pathways are convergent and divergent.

Some pathways are cyclic: one starting point of the pathway is regenerated in a series of reactions that converts another starting component into a product.

Anabolic and catabolic reactions are reciprocally regulated, when one is active, the other is suppressed.

Paired catabolic and anabolic reactions/pathways commonly take place in different cellular compartments as a further contribution to regulation.
INTERGRATION AND COMPARTMENTATION IN INTERMEDIARY METABOLISM CONT’D

Cell macromolecules
- Proteins
- Polysaccharides
- Lipids
- Nucleic acids

Anabolism

Energy-containing nutrients
- Carbohydrates
- Fats
- Proteins

Catabolism

ATP
- NADH
- NADPH
- FADH₂

Chemical energy

Precursor molecules
- Amino acids
- Sugars
- Fatty acids
- Nitrogenous bases

Energy-depleted end products
- CO₂
- H₂O
- NH₃
INTEGRATION OF METABOLISM

• The co-ordination between three metabolites (carbohydrates, lipids and protein) is called integration of metabolism

• Integration of metabolism ensures a supply of suitable fuel for all tissues, at all times

• The major pathways*glycolysis*gluconeogenesis*T.C.A cycle, pentose phosphate pathways*glycogen and fat metabolism* are all coordinately regulated and integrated to meet the needs of the cell

• Integration of metabolism must be studied at two levels (a) cellular (b) tissue and organ level
INTEGRATION OF METABOLISM, CONT’D

(a) integration of metabolism at cellular level
- It includes the flow of key metabolites (glucose, fatty acids, glycerol and amino acids) between different metabolic pathways at cellular levels

(b) Integration of metabolism at tissue or organ level
This includes the inter-relationship of different tissues and organs to meet metabolic demands for the whole body
BIOSYNTHESIS OF HORMONES DERIVED FROM AMINO ACIDS

- Amino acids are the building blocks of peptides and proteins.
- They also serve as precursors of specialized biomolecules, such as hormones, coenzymes, nucleotides e.t.c.
- The amino acid–derived hormones include epinephrine and norepinephrine, which are synthesized in the medulla of the adrenal glands and thyroxine, which is produced by the thyroid gland.
BIOSYNTHESIS OF EPINEPHRINE AND NOREPHRINE

Tyrosine

Dopa

Dopamine

Norepinephrine

Epinephrine
The thyroid gland produces two related hormones, triiodothyronine (T₃) and thyroxine (T₄).