

BCH 4054 Fall 2000 Chapter 24 Lecture Notes

Slide 1

Chapter 24

Fatty Acid Catabolism

Slide 2

Fatty Acids as Energy Source

- Triglycerides yield 37 kJ/g dry weight
 - Protein 17 kJ/g
 - Glycogen 16 kJ/g (even less wet weight)
- Total stored energy in body (Table 24.1)
 - Fat ~555,000 kJ
 - Protein ~ 102,000 kJ
 - Glycogen ~ 3,000 kJ
- More reduced than carbohydrate

Slide 3

Fatty Acids as Energy Source, con't.

- Major Sources of Fatty Acids
 - Stored Fat (Adipose Tissue)
 - Dietary Fat
 - Biosynthetic Fat (from glucose in liver)
- Low solubility of Triglyceride and Fatty Acids require special transport mechanisms involving lipoproteins

Slide 4

Adipose Tissue Triglycerides

- Triglycerides hydrolyzed by **hormone sensitive lipase**
 - Hormonal (epinephrine, glucagon, ACTH) stimulation activates the cyclic AMP pathway
 - Fatty acids and glycerol released to the blood
 - Fatty acids bound to **serum albumin** for transport in blood
 - See Fig 24.2

Binding to serum albumin helps to minimize the detergent properties of fatty acids, which otherwise might be strong enough to disrupt cellular membranes.

Slide 5

Dietary Triglycerides

- Mixed with bile salts to form micelles
 - Hydrolyzed in the duodenum by **pancreatic lipase** to fatty acids plus **monoglycerides**
 - Micelles adsorbed into epithelial cells where triglycerides are resynthesized and packaged into **chylomicrons**, which are released into the lymphatic system, then the blood
 - Short chain fatty acids are transported directly to the portal vein.
- (See Fig 24.3 and 24.4)

Slide 6

Biosynthetic Triglycerides

- Made in the liver from carbohydrate
- Exported as part of a lipoprotein called **very low density lipoprotein (VLDL)**
 - (VLDL is discussed in Section 25.5, page 840)
- Triglycerides from both VLDL and chylomicrons are hydrolyzed in the blood by **lipoprotein lipase**, releasing free fatty acids (FFA) to tissues

Lipoprotein lipase is attached to the surface of blood vessels in tissues. The attachment can be released by administration of heparin.

Slide 7

Fatty Acid Activation

- Once fatty acids get into the cell, they are immediately activated to thiol esters of coenzyme A.
 - This costs the equivalent of 2 ATP (Fig 24.7)
- Oxidation occurs in the mitochondria, but CoASH esters cannot cross the mitochondrial membrane

Slide 8

Role of Carnitine in Fatty Acid Oxidation

- To cross the mitochondrial membrane, fatty acids are **transesterified** to form esters of the amino acid **carnitine**
 - The enzyme is **carnitine acyltransferase**
- A carnitine/acylcarnitine **antiport** transport protein transports the acyl carnitine across the inner mitochondrial membrane
- Carnitine acyl transferase in the mitochondria reforms the fatty acyl-CoA (See Fig 24.9)

Slide 9

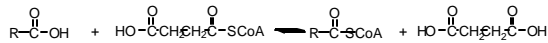
Beta Oxidation

- Franz Knoop's early labeling experiments established that fatty acids are degraded two carbons at a time
 - Cleavage occurs at the beta-carbon, hence the term beta oxidation
- A series of phenyl derivatives of fatty acids with different chain lengths produced either phenyl acetate or benzoate as excreted products. (See Fig 24.5)

Slide
10

Activation of Short Chain Fatty Acids

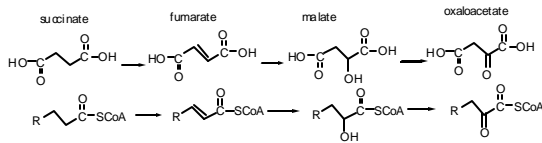
- Short chain acids can bypass the cytoplasmic activation and enter the mitochondria directly.
- They are activated by a transfer of CoASH from succinyl CoA



Slide
11

Beta Oxidation Spiral

- A series of four reactions that results in shortening the chain by two carbons
- First three reactions analogous to reactions of the TCA cycle:



Slide
12

Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase

- A family of three soluble matrix enzymes
- All are flavoproteins with differing chain length specificity (long, medium, short)
- Electrons passed to an electron transfer flavoprotein (ETF), then via an Fe/S protein to Coenzyme Q
 - See Fig 24.11
 - Enzyme inhibited by Hypoglycin from akee fruit. (Fig 24.14)

Note this pair of electrons would yield 1.5 ATP's when reduced coenzyme Q is reoxidized by the electron transport chain.

Slide
13

Enoyl-CoA Hydratase

- Also called **crotonase**
- Converts **trans** enoyl CoA ester to the **L**-betahydroxy acyl-CoA ester
- Enzymes with other specificity also found
 - (See Fig 24.15)

Slide
14

Hydroxyacyl-CoA Dehydrogenase

- Oxidizes L-hydroxy to keto
- NAD is the electron acceptor
 - Reoxidation of the NADH can produce 2.5 ATP
- See Fig 24.16

Slide
15

Thiolase (or beta-ketothiolase)

- Thiolytic cleavage of C-C bond
 - Cysteine SH on enzyme first attacks the carbonyl, cleaving the alpha-beta bond
 - Acyl group then transferred to CoASH
 - See Fig 24.17
- Overall reaction is a “reverse Claisen condensation”
- Reaction is reversible
- Products are acetyl-CoA and fatty acyl-CoA two carbons shorter

Slide
16

Beta Oxidation Summary

- Each turn of the “spiral” produces an acetyl-CoA, CoQH₂, and NADH
- Palmitic Acid (C₁₆)
 - 8 Acetyl-CoA, 7 CoQH₂, 7 NADH
- Stearic Acid (C₁₈)
 - 9 Acetyl-CoA, 8 CoQH₂, 8 NADH
- Acetyl-CoA can be oxidized by TCA cycle

Slide
17

Odd Chain Fatty Acids

- Last unit is propionyl CoA
- Three reactions convert propionyl-CoA to succinyl-CoA (Fig 24.19)
 - Propionyl-CoA carboxylase
 - A biotin enzyme
 - Methylmalonyl-CoA epimerase
 - Methylmalonyl-CoA mutase
 - A B₁₂ enzyme (See Fig 24.21 and Page 793)

Compare the biotin mechanism with pyruvate carboxylase (an anaplerotic reaction and a gluconeogenic enzyme) and acetyl-CoA carboxylase, which we will discuss in the next chapter.

Slide
18

Unsaturated Fatty Acids

- As chain is degraded, double bond ends up in wrong place and must be isomerized.
- Extra double bonds in polyunsaturated fatty acids also require special enzymes.
- See Fig 24.23 and 24.24
- Don't worry about details

Slide
19

Peroxisomal Oxidation

- Takes place in peroxisomes
- Initial double bond formation is by an acyl-CoA oxidase containing FAD
- FADH₂ of the oxidase is reoxidized by oxygen, producing hydrogen peroxide
 - Fig 24.25

Slide
20

Branch Chain Fatty Acids

- Phytanic acid has CH₃ group on beta-carbon, so one could not produce a keto group there.
- Oxidation at the alpha carbon by a hydroxylase can cleave one carbon
- The process is called **alpha oxidation**
- **Also occurs in brain fatty acids producing some alpha hydroxy and odd chain fatty acids.**
- Defect in pathway found in **Refsum's Disease** in which phytanic acid accumulates.
 - Fig 24.26

Phytanic acid is produced from phytol in ruminant animals and thus appear in dairy products.

Slide
21

Synthesis of Acetoacetate

- "Burning" acetyl-CoA requires oxaloacetate. (**OAA**)
- When **OAA** concentrations are low, acetyl-CoA can build up.
- Fatty acid oxidation would stop when all of the cell's CoASH is tied up as acetyl-CoA.
- How can the cell release the CoA?

Slide
22

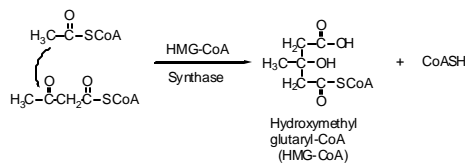
Synthesis of Acetoacetate, con't.

- **Thiolase** is reversible.
- As acetyl-CoA builds up, so does acetoacetyl-CoA.
- Cleavage of acetoacetyl-CoA can liberate CoASH, producing acetoacetate.
- While simple hydrolysis would accomplish that, it doesn't work that way.

Slide
23

Synthesis of Acetoacetate, con't.

- Acetoacetyl-CoA condenses with acetyl-CoA in a reaction similar to **citrate synthase** and **malate synthase**.

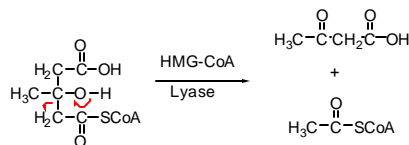


Note the addition of the methyl group of acetyl-CoA to a carbonyl carbon, coupled to the hydrolysis of the thiol ester bond.

Slide
24

Synthesis of Acetoacetate, con't.

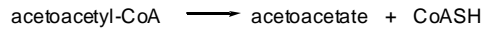
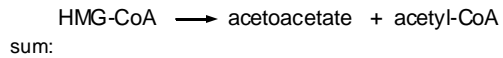
- After **HMG-CoA synthase** has formed a carbon-carbon bond, **HMG-CoA lyase** cleaves the other carbon-carbon bond.



Slide
25

Synthesis of Acetoacetate, con't.

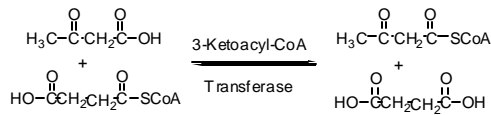
- The sum of these two reactions is the same as the hydrolysis of acetoacetyl-CoA.



Slide
26

Metabolism of Acetoacetate

- The **liver** excretes acetoacetate from fatty acid breakdown as a fuel for other tissues.
- Acetoacetate is taken up in other tissues, enters the mitochondria, and is activated by **3-ketoacyl-CoA transferase**.



Note this reaction bypasses the synthesis of a GTP in the mitochondria, so the cost of activation of the acetoacetate is equivalent to one GTP (or one ATP).

Slide
27

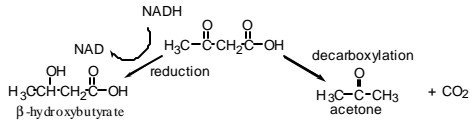
Metabolism of Acetoacetate, con't.

- Acetoacetyl-CoA is broken down by **thiolase** to acetyl-CoA, and the acetyl-CoA burned in the TCA cycle in peripheral tissues.
- Liver lacks the enzyme **3-ketoacyl-CoA transferase**, so it cannot re-activate acetoacetate once it is formed.

Slide
28

Ketone Body Formation

- When oxaloacetate is low, the acetyl-CoA cannot be metabolized, so acetoacetate builds up.
- Alternative reactions of acetoacetate include **reduction** and **decarboxylation**.



The three compounds **acetoacetate**, **beta-hydroxybutyrate**, and **acetone** constitute what are called **ketone bodies**.

Slide
29

Ketone Body Formation

- Accumulation occurs when fatty acids are broken down for energy in absence of sufficient carbohydrate to make **OAA**.
 - Occurs in **starvation**.
 - Occurs in **high fat diets** (eating eskimo diet without adaptation to it).
 - Occurs in **diabetes**, where cells are "starved" for glucose because of lack of insulin.
- **Ketosis** can lead to drop in blood pH.

The state of ketosis can often be detected by the odor of acetone on the breath. The lowered pH can lead to **acidosis**, which can be a dangerous condition.