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# **Drx Notes**

# Biochemistry | Chapter-8(3)

# **Chapter-8**

Metabolism (Study of cycle/pathways without chemical structures)

# (BIOCHEMISTRY & CLINICAL PATHOLOGY)

Metabolism (Study of cycle/pathways without chemical structures)

### Unit-1

• Metabolism of Carbohydrates: Glycolysis, TCA cycle and glycogen metabolism, regulation of blood glucose level. Diseases related to abnormal metabolism of Carbohydrates.

#### Unit-2

Metabolism of lipids: Lipolysis, β-oxidation of Fatty acid (Palmitic acid) ketogenesis and ketolysis. Diseases related to abnormal metabolism of lipids such as Ketoacidosis, Fatty liver, Hypercholesterolemia

### Unit-3

- Metabolism of Amino acids (Proteins): General reactions of amino acids and its significance– Transamination, deamination, Urea cycle and decarboxylation. Diseases related to abnormal metabolism of amino acids, Disorders of ammonia metabolism, phenylketonuria, alkaptonuria and Jaundice.
- Biological oxidation: Electron transport chain and Oxidative phosphorylation

# Unit-3

# Metabolism of amino acids.

**Proteins** are the most abundant organic compounds and constitute a major part of the body dry weight (10-12 kg in adults). They perform a wide variety of static (structural) and dynamic (enzymes, hormones, clotting factors, receptors etc.) functions. About half of the body protein (predominantly collagen) is present in the supportive tissue (skeleton and connective) while the other half is intracellular.

**Amino acid**—Proteins are nitrogen-containing macromolecules consisting of L-D-amino acids as the repeating units. Of the 20 amino acids found in proteins, half can be synthesized by the body (non-essential) while the rest have to be provided in the diet (essential amino acids).

The proteins on degradation (proteolysis) release individual amino acids. Amino acids are not just the structural components of proteins. Each one of the 20 naturally occurring amino acids undergoes its own metabolism and performs specific functions. Some of the amino acids also serve as precursors for the synthesis of many biologically important compounds (e.g., melanin, serotonin, creatine etc.). Certain amino acids may directly act as neurotransmitters (e.g., glycine aspartate, glutamate).

# General reactions of amino acids and its significance.

Amino acid pool—An adult has about 100 g of free amino acids which represent the amino acid pool of the body. Glutamate and glutamine together constitute about 50%, and essential amino acids about 10% of the body pool (100 g). The concentration of intracellular amino acids is always higher than the extracellular amino acids. The amino acid pool of the body is maintained by the sources that contribute (input) and the metabolic pathways that utilize (output) the amino acids.

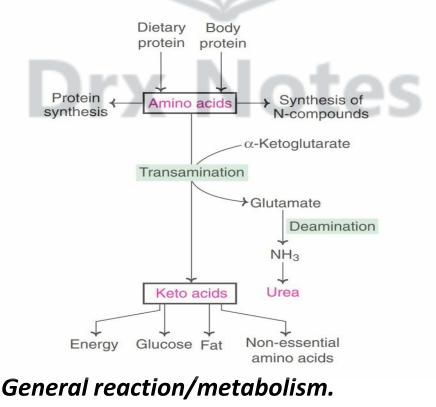
Sources of amino acid pool— Three major sources of amino acid pool.

• Protein turnover—The protein present in the body is in a dynamic state. It is estimated that about 300-400 g of protein per day is constantly degraded and synthesized which represents body protein turnover.

- Dietary protein— There is a regular loss of nitrogen from the body due to degradation of amino acids. In healthy adults, it is estimated that about 30-50 g of protein is lost everyday from the body. This amount of protein must, therefore, be supplied daily in the diet to maintain nitrogen balance. The purpose of dietary protein is to supply amino acids for the synthesis of proteins and other nitrogen compounds.
- Synthesis of non-essential amino acids—Ten out of the 20 naturally occurring amino acids can be synthesized by the body which contribute to the amino acid pool.

### General metabolism and significance.

- Most of the body proteins (300-400 g/day) degraded are synthesized from the amino acid pool. These include enzymes, hormones, immunoproteins, contractile proteins etc.
- Many important nitrogenous compounds (porphyrins, purines, pyrimidines, etc.) are produced from the amino acids. About 30 g of protein is daily utilized for this purpose.
- Generally, about 10-15% of body energy requirements are met from the amino acids.
- The amino acids are converted to carbohydrates and fats. This becomes predominant when the protein consumption is in excess of the body



requirements.

# Transamination.

The transfer of an amino (NH2) group from an amino acid to a keto acid is known as transamination. This process involves the interconversion of a pair of amino acids and a pair of keto acids, catalysed by a group of enzymes called transaminases /aminotransferases.

# Silent features of Transamination-

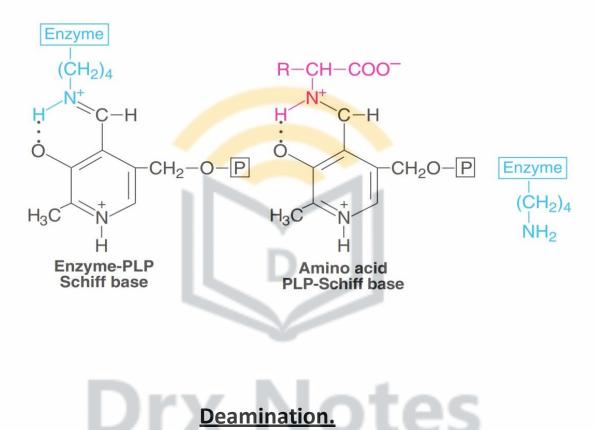
- All transaminases require pyridoxal phosphate (PLP), a coenzyme derived from vitamin B6. It is **reversible** and no free NH3 liberated, only the transfer of amino group occurs. Transamination diverts the excess amino acids towards energy generation.
- Specific transaminases exist for each pair of amino and keto acids. However, only two— namely, aspartate transaminase and alanine transaminase—make a significant contribution for transamination.
- Transamination is very important for the redistribution of amino groups and production of non-essential amino acids, as per the requirement of the cell. It involves both catabolism and anabolism of amino acids.
- The amino acids undergo transamination to finally concentrate nitrogen in glutamate. Glutamate is the only amino acid that undergoes oxidative deamination to a significant extent to liberate free NH3 for urea synthesis.
- All amino acids except lysine, threonine, proline and hydroxyproline participate in transamination. Serum transaminases are important for diagnostic and prognostic purposes.

### Mechanism of transamination— it occurs in two stages.

- 1. Transfer of the amino group to the coenzyme pyridoxal phosphate (bound to the coenzyme) to form pyridoxamine phosphate.
- 2. The amino group of pyridoxamine phosphate is then transferred to a keto acid to produce a new amino acid and the enzyme with PLP is regenerated.
- All the transaminases require pyridoxal phosphate (PLP), a derivative of vitamin B6. The aldehyde group of PLP is linked with H-amino group of

lysine residue, at the active site of the enzyme forming a Schiff base (imine linkage).

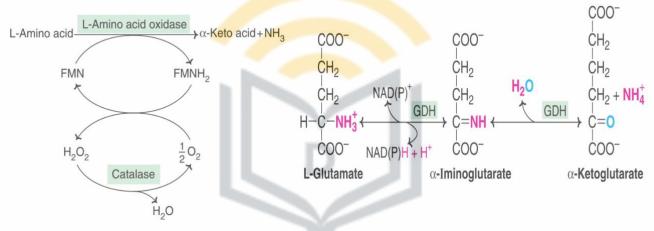
When an amino acid (substrate) comes in contact with the enzyme, it displaces lysine and a new Schiff base linkage is formed. The amino acid-PLP-Schiff base tightly binds with the enzyme by noncovalent forces.
 Snell and Braustein proposed a Ping Pong Bi Bi mechanism involving a series of intermediates (aldimines and ketimines) in transamination reaction.



The removal of amino group from the amino acids as NH3 is deamination. Deamination results in the liberation of ammonia for urea synthesis (transamination involves only the shuffling of amino groups). It may be either oxidative or non-oxidative.

 Oxidative deamination — Oxidative deamination is the liberation of free ammonia from the amino group of amino acids coupled with oxidation. This takes place mostly in liver and kidney. The purpose of oxidative deamination is to provide NH3 for urea synthesis and D-keto acids for a variety of reactions, including energy generation.

- Oxidation of glutamate-by-glutamate dehydrogenase—In the transamination process glutamate is form. Now, Glutamate rapidly undergoes oxidative deamination, catalysed by glutamate dehydrogenase (GDH) to liberate ammonia. This enzyme is unique in that it can utilize either NAD<sup>+</sup> or NADP<sup>+</sup> as a coenzyme. Conversion of glutamate to α-ketoglutarate occurs through the formation of an intermediate, α-iminoglutarate.
  - Oxidative deamination by amino acid oxidases—L-Amino acid oxidase and D-amino acid oxidase are flavoproteins, possessing FMN and FAD, respectively. They act on the corresponding amino acids (L or D) to produce D-keto acids and NH3. In this reaction, oxygen is

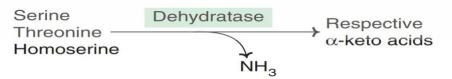


# Oxidative deamination of amino acids.

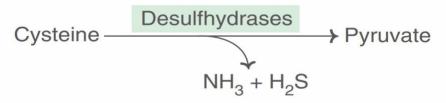
Oxidation of glutamate-by-glutamate dehydrogenase (GDH)

reduced to  $H_2O_2$ , which is later decomposed by catalase.

- 2. **Non-oxidative deamination** Some of the amino acids can be deaminated to liberate NH3 without undergoing oxidation.
  - Amino acid dehydrases Serine, threonine and homoserine are the hydroxy amino acids. They undergo non-oxidative deamination catalysed by PLP-dependent dehydrases (dehydratases).

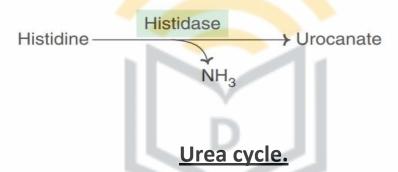


b. **Amino acid desulfhydrases**— The sulphur amino acids, namely cysteine and homocysteine, undergo deamination coupled with



desulfhydration to give keto acids.

c. **Deamination of histidine**—The enzyme histidase acts on histidine to liberate NH3 by a non-oxidative deamination process.

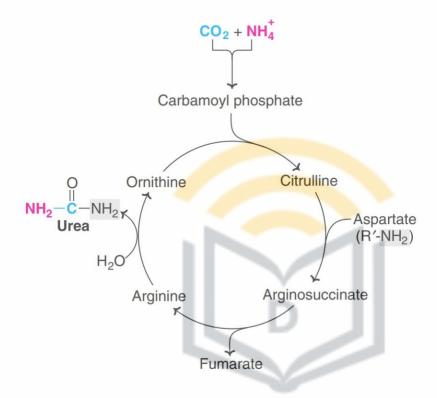


- Ammonia is constantly being liberated in the metabolism of amino acids (mostly) and other nitrogenous compounds. At the physiological pH, ammonia exists as ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub>+) ion. Ammonium ions are very important to maintain acid-base balance of the body.
- The production of NH3 occurs from the amino acids (transamination and deamination), biogenic amines, amino group of purines and pyrimidines and by the action of intestinal bacteria (urease) on urea.

# Introduction about urea cycle-

- Urea is the end product of protein metabolism (amino acid metabolism). The nitrogen of amino acids, converted to ammonia, is toxic to the body. It is converted to urea and detoxified. As such, urea accounts for 80-90% of the nitrogen containing substances excreted in urine.
- Urea is synthesized in liver and transported to kidneys for excretion in urine. Urea cycle is the first metabolic cycle that was elucidated by Hans Krebs and Kurt Henseleit (1932), hence it is known as Krebs-Henseleit

cycle. The individual reactions, however, were described in more detail later on by Ratner and Cohen. Urea has two amino  $(NH_2)$  groups, one derived from  $NH_3$  and the other from aspartate. Carbon atom is supplied by  $CO_2$ . Urea synthesis is a five-step cyclic process, with five distinct enzymes. The first two enzymes are present in mitochondria while the rest are localized in cytosol.



# **Outline of urea cycle**

Steps of urea cycle-

- Synthesis of carbamoyl phosphate Carbamoyl phosphate synthase I (CPS I) of mitochondria catalyses the condensation of NH4 <sup>+</sup> ions with CO<sub>2</sub> to form carbamoyl phosphate. This step consumes two ATP and is irreversible, and rate-limiting.
- Formation of citrulline Citrulline is synthesized from carbamoyl phosphate and ornithine by ornithine transcarbamoylase. Ornithine is regenerated and used in urea cycle. Ornithine and citrulline are basic amino acids. Citrulline produced in this reaction is transported to cytosol by a transporter system.
- 3. Synthesis of arginosuccinate Arginosuccinate synthase condenses citrulline with aspartate to produce arginosuccinate. The second amino

group of urea is incorporated in this reaction. This step requires ATP which is cleaved to AMP and pyrophosphate (PPi). The latter is immediately broken down to inorganic phosphate (Pi).

- Cleavage of arginosuccinate Arginosuccinase cleaves arginosuccinate to give arginine and fumarate. Arginine is the immediate precursor for urea. Fumarate liberated here provides a connecting link with TCA cycle, gluconeogenesis etc.
- 5. Formation of urea Arginase is the fifth and final enzyme that cleaves arginine to yield urea and ornithine. Ornithine, so regenerated, enters mitochondria for its reuse in the urea cycle. Arginase is activated by Co2+ and Mn2+. Ornithine and lysine compete with arginine (competitive inhibition). Arginase is mostly found in the liver, while the rest of the enzymes (four) of urea cycle are also present in other tissues.

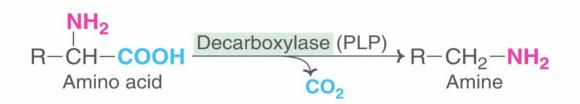
#### Regulation of urea cycle.

- Regulation of the urea cycle is depending on concentration of ammonium ions in the liver. When the concentration of ammonium ions is high, the urea cycle is activated to convert ammonia to urea and viceversa.
- Another important regulator of the urea cycle is the availability of substrates. The urea cycle requires several substrates, including ammonia, bicarbonate, and ornithine.
- The activity of the urea cycle is also regulated by hormones, including insulin, glucagon, and cortisol. Insulin and glucagon, for example, can modulate the expression of urea cycle enzymes, while cortisol can increase the activity of the enzyme that converts arginine to ornithine.

# **Decarboxylation.**

- Decarboxylation of an amino acid is a chemical reaction in which the carboxyl group (-COOH) of an amino acid is removed, leading to the formation of an amine group (-NH<sub>2</sub>) and the release of carbon dioxide (CO2). This reaction is catalysed by enzymes called decarboxylases.
- In general, the decarboxylation of amino acids or their derivatives results in the formation of amines.
- The decarboxylation of amino acids plays an important role in many biological processes. For example, the amino acid histidine is

decarboxylated to form histamine, which is involved in regulating many physiological processes, including digestion and immune response. Similarly, the amino acid glutamic acid is decarboxylated to form the neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), which is involved in the regulation of neuronal activity.



# Disorders of ammonia metabolism.

 Hyperammonemia—Elevation in blood NH<sub>3</sub> level may be genetic or acquired. Impairment in urea synthesis due to a defect in any one of the five enzymes is described in urea synthesis. All these disorders lead to hyperammonemia and cause hepatic coma and mental retardation. The acquired hyperammonemia may be due to hepatitis, alcoholism etc. where the urea synthesis becomes defective, hence NH3 accumulates.

<u>Diseases related to abnormal metabolism of amino acids.</u> Amino aciduria — The term amino aciduria is generally used to indicate the urinary excretion of amino acids. It is frequently associated with defects in amino acid metabolism. Most of the amino acidurias manifest in mental retardation

# **Phenylketonuria**

- Phenylketonuria (PKU) is the most common metabolic disorder in amino acid metabolism. It is due to the deficiency of the hepatic enzyme, phenylalanine hydroxylase, caused by an autosomal recessive gene.
- Phenylketonuria primarily causes the accumulation of phenylalanine in tissues and blood, and results in its increased excretion in urine. Due to disturbances in the routine metabolism, phenylalanine is diverted to alternate pathways resulting in the excessive production of phenylpyruvate, phenylacetate, phenyllactate and phenylglutamine.

- All these metabolites are excreted in urine in high concentration in PKU. Phenylacetate gives the urine a mousey odour.
- Clinical condition considered as- mental retardation, hypopigmentation.
  <u>Alkaptonuria (Black urine disease).</u>
- Alkaptonuria is a rare genetic disorder characterized by the inability of the body to break down certain amino acids, specifically phenylalanine and tyrosine, which leads to the accumulation of a pigment called homogentisic acid in the connective tissues, cartilage, and bones.
- The defective enzyme in alkaptonuria is homogentisate oxidase in tyrosine metabolism. Homogentisate accumulates in tissues and blood, and is excreted into urine. Homogentisate, on standing, gets oxidized to the corresponding quinones, which polymerize to give black or brown colour. For this reason, the urine of alkaptonuric patients resembles coke in colour.
- Homogentisate gets oxidized by polyphenol oxidase to benzoquinone acetate which undergoes polymerization to produce a pigment called alkapton. Alkapton deposition occurs in connective tissue, bones and various organs (nose, ear etc.) resulting in a condition known as ochronosis.
- **Symptoms** of alkaptonuria typically appear in early childhood and include dark urine that turns brown upon standing, as well as joint pain and stiffness, especially in the spine and large joints such as the hips and knees.

# Jaundice.

- Amino acid metabolism disorders can lead to jaundice if there is a disruption in the pathway that converts bilirubin into a form that can be eliminated from the body. For example, a genetic disorder called Crigler-Najjar syndrome can lead to jaundice because it impairs the ability of the liver to convert bilirubin into a form that can be excreted in the bile. This can cause bilirubin to build up in the blood, leading to jaundice.
- Similarly, other genetic disorders such as Gilbert's syndrome can cause jaundice due to problems with bilirubin metabolism. In Gilbert's syndrome, there is a deficiency of an enzyme called UDPglucuronosyltransferase, which is responsible for conjugating bilirubin so

•that it can be eliminated from the body. Without this enzyme, bilirubin builds up in the blood and can lead to jaundice.

# Biological oxidation: Electron transport chain and Oxidative phosphorylation

# **Biological oxidation**

Prior to the understanding the biological oxidation we need to know that some important concept and terminologies.

**Bioenergetics**—Bioenergetics or biochemical thermodynamics deals with the study of energy changes (transfer and utilization) in biochemical reactions. The reactions are broadly classified as exergonic (energy releasing) and endergonic (energy consuming). Bioenergetics is concerned with the initial and final states of energy component of the reactants and not the mechanism of chemical reactions.

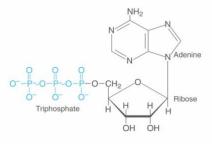
#### Free energy.

- The energy actually available to do work (utilizable) is known as free energy. Changes in the free energy (ΔG) are valuable in predicting the feasibility of chemical reactions. If free energy change (ΔG) is represented by a negative sign, there is a loss of free energy. The reaction is said to be exergonic, and proceeds spontaneously. On the other hand, a positive ΔG indicates that energy must be supplied to the reactants. The reaction cannot proceed spontaneously and is endergonic in character.
- Enthalpy ( $\Delta$ H) is a measure of the change in heat content of the reactants, compared to products
- Entropy (ΔS) represents a change in the randomness or disorder of reactants and products. Entropy attains a maximum as the reaction approaches equilibrium.
- The relation between the changes of free energy ( $\Delta G$ ), enthalpy ( $\Delta H$ ) and entropy ( $\Delta S$ ) are expressed as.

### $\Delta G = \Delta H - T \Delta S.$

#### High energy compound—

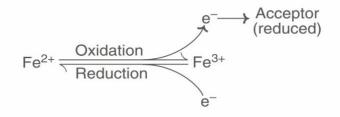
- Pyrophosphates e.g., ATP.
- Acyl phosphates e.g., 1,3-bisphosphoglycerate.
- Enol phosphates e.g., phosphoenolpyruvate.
- Thioesters e.g., acetyl CoA.
- Phosphagens e.g., phosphocreatine.



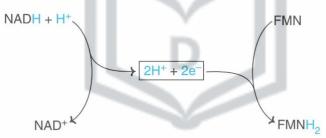
### Structure of ATP

# **Biological oxidation**

• Oxidation is defined as the loss of electrons and reduction as the gain of electrons. This may be illustrated by the interconversion of ferrous ion (Fe2<sup>+</sup>) to ferric ion (Fe3<sup>+</sup>).



- The electron lost in the oxidation is accepted by an acceptor which is said to be reduced. Thus, the oxidation-reduction is a tightly coupled process.
- The general principle of oxidation-reduction is applicable to biological systems also. The oxidation of NADH to NAD<sup>+</sup> coupled with the reduction of FMN to FMNH2 is illustrated.



• In the above illustration, there are two redox pairs NADH/NAD+ and FMN/FMNH2. The redox pairs differ in their tendency to lose or gain electrons.

### Redox potential.

- The oxidation-reduction potential or, simply, redox potential, is a quantitative measure of the tendency of a redox pair to lose or gain electrons. The redox pairs are assigned specific standard redox potential (E<sub>0</sub> volts) at pH 7.0 and 25°C.
- The more negative redox potential represents a greater tendency (of reductant) to lose electrons. On the other hand, a more positive redox potential indicates a greater tendency (of oxidant) to accept electrons. The electrons flow from a redox pair with more negative E0 to another redox pair with more positive E<sub>0</sub>.

- The inner mitochondrial membrane can be disrupted into five distinct respiratory or enzyme complexes, denoted as complex **I**, **II**, **III**, **IV** and **V**.
- The complexes I-IV are carriers of electrons while complex V is responsible for ATP synthesis.
- Besides these enzyme complexes, there are certain mobile electron carriers in the respiratory chain. These include NADH, coenzyme Q, cytochrome C and oxygen.
- The enzyme complexes (I-IV) and the mobile carriers are collectively involved in the transport of electrons which, ultimately, combine with oxygen to produce water. The largest proportion of the oxygen supplied to the body is utilized by the mitochondria for the operation of electron transport chain.

## Components and reactions of the electron transport chain.

There are five distinct carriers that participate in the electron transport chain (ETC). These carriers are sequentially arranged and are responsible for the transfer of electrons from a given substrate to ultimately combine with proton and oxygen to form water.

- A. Nicotinamide nucleotides— NAD<sup>+</sup> and NADP<sup>+</sup> derived from the vitamin niacin are the two coenzymes in this, NAD<sup>+</sup> is more actively involved in the ETC. NAD<sup>+</sup> is reduced to NADH + H<sup>+</sup> by dehydrogenases with the removal of two hydrogen atoms from the substrate (AH<sub>2</sub>). The substrates include glyceraldehyde-3 phosphate, pyruvate, isocitrate, D-ketoglutarate and malate.  $AH_2 + NAD^+ \rightleftharpoons A + NADH + H^+$ .
- B. **Flavoproteins** The enzyme NADH dehydrogenase (NADH-coenzyme Q reductase) is a flavoprotein with FMN as the prosthetic group. The coenzyme FMN accepts two electrons and a proton to form FMNH2. NADH dehydrogenase is a complex enzyme closely associated with non-heme iron proteins (NHI) or iron-sulphur proteins (FeS).

 $NADH + H^+ + FMN \rightarrow NAD^+ + FMNH2$ Succinate dehydrogenase (succinate-coenzyme Q reductase) is an enzyme found in the inner mitochondrial membrane. It is also a flavoprotein with FAD as the coenzyme. This can accept two hydrogen atoms (2H<sup>+</sup> + 2e<sup>-</sup>) from succinate.

Succinate + FAD  $\rightarrow$  Fumarate + FADH<sub>2</sub>.

- C. **Iron-sulphur proteins** The iron-sulphur (FeS) proteins exist in the oxidized (Fe3<sup>+</sup>) or reduced (Fe2<sup>+</sup>) state. About half a dozen FeS proteins connected with respiratory chain have been identified. However, the mechanism of action of iron-sulphur proteins in the ETC is not clearly understood. One FeS participates in the transfer of electrons from FMN to coenzyme Q. Other FeS proteins associated with cytochrome b and cytochrome c1 participate in the transport of electrons.
- D. Coenzyme Q— Coenzyme Q is also known as ubiquinone since it is ubiquitous in living system. It is a quinone derivative with a variable isoprenoid side chain. The mammalian tissues possess a quinone with 10 isoprenoid units which is known as coenzyme Q<sub>10</sub> (CoQ<sub>10</sub>). Coenzyme Q is a lipophilic electron carrier. It can accept electrons from FMNH2 produced in the ETC by NADH dehydrogenase or FADH2 produced outside ETC (e.g. succinate dehydrogenase, acyl CoA dehydrogenase).
- E. **Cytochromes** The cytochromes are conjugated proteins containing heme group. The latter consists of a porphyrin ring with iron atom. The iron of heme in cytochromes is alternately oxidized (Fe3<sup>+</sup>) and reduced (Fe2<sup>+</sup>), which is essential for the transport of electrons in the ETC. Three cytochromes were initially discovered from the mammalian mitochondria. They were designated as cytochrome a, b and c depending on the type of heme present and the respective absorption spectrum. Additional cytochromes such as c1, b1, b2, a3 etc. were discovered later.

# **Oxidative phosphorylation.**

The transport of electrons through the ETC is linked with the release of free energy. The process of synthesizing ATP from ADP and Pi coupled with the electron transport chain is known as oxidative phosphorylation. The complex V of the inner mitochondrial membrane is the site of oxidative phosphorylation.

### P: O Ratio

• The P : O ratio refers to the number of inorganic phosphate molecules utilized for ATP generation for every atom of oxygen consumed. More

appropriately, P : O ratio represents the number of molecules of ATP synthesized per pair of electrons carried through ETC.

• The mitochondrial oxidation of NADH with a classical P : O ratio of 3. Further, a P : O ratio of 2 has been assigned to the oxidation of FADH2.

### Sites of oxidative phosphorylation in ETC.

There are three sites in the ETC that are exergonic to result in the synthesis of 3 ATP molecules.

- 1. Oxidation of FMNH2 by coenzyme Q.
- 2. Oxidation of cytochrome b by cytochrome c1.
- 3. Cytochrome oxidase reaction.

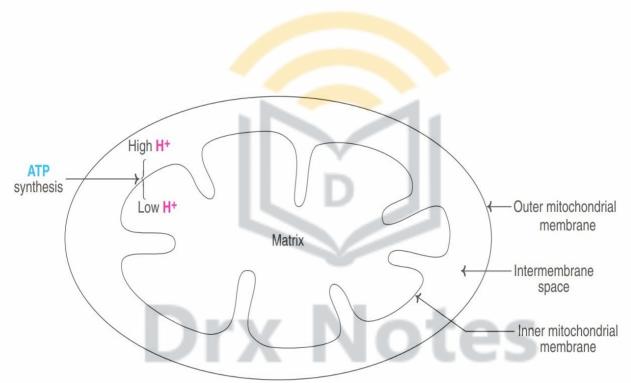
**Mechanism of oxidative phosphorylation**— Important hypothesis regarding the phosphorylation.

- Chemical coupling hypothesis— This hypothesis was put forth by Edward Slater (1953). According to chemical coupling hypothesis, during the course of electron transfer in respiratory chain, a series of phosphorylated high-energy intermediates are first produced which are utilized for the synthesis of ATP. These reactions are believed to be analogous to the substrate level phosphorylation that occurs in glycolysis or citric acid cycle. However, this hypothesis lacks experimental evidence, since all attempts, so far, to isolate any one of the high-energy intermediates have not been successful.
- Chemiosmotic hypothesis— This mechanism, originally proposed by Peter Mitchell (1961), is now widely accepted. It explains how the transport of electrons through the respiratory chain is effectively utilized to produce ATP from ADP + Pi. The concept of chemiosmotic hypothesis based on the positive and negative charges gradient (Proton gradient) and enzymatic induction.

**Proton gradient**— The inner mitochondrial membrane, as such, is impermeable to protons (H<sup>+</sup>) and hydroxyl ions (OH<sup>-</sup>). The transport of electrons through ETC is coupled with the translocation of protons (H+) across the inner mitochondrial membrane (coupling membrane) from the matrix to the intermembrane space.

The pumping of protons results in an electrochemical or proton gradient. This is due to the accumulation of more  $H^+$  ions (low pH) on the outer side of the inner mitochondrial membrane than the inner side. The proton gradient developed due to the electron flow in the respiratory chain is sufficient to result in the synthesis of ATP from ADP and Pi.

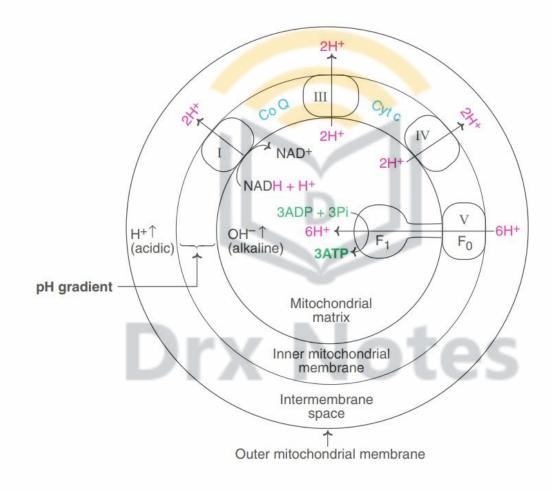
**Enzyme system for ATP synthesis**— ATP synthase, present in the **complex V**, utilizes the proton gradient for the synthesis of ATP. This enzyme is also known as ATPase since it can hydrolyse ATP to ADP and Pi. ATP synthase is a complex enzyme and consists of two functional subunits, namely F1 and F0. Its structure is comparable with 'lollipops'. The protons that accumulate on the intermembrane space re-enter the mitochondrial matrix leading to the synthesis of ATP.



# **Outline of chemiosmotic hypothesis for oxidative phosphorylation**

# **Rotary motor model for ATP generation.**

Paul Boyer in 1964 proposed (Nobel Prize, 1997) that a conformational change in the mitochondrial membrane proteins leads to the synthesis of ATP. The original Boyer hypothesis, now considered as rotary motor/engine driving model or binding change model, is widely accepted for the generation ATP.



Diagrammatic representation of chemiosmotic hypothesis for oxidative phosphorylation (I, III, IV and V–Respiratory chain complexes;  $F_0$ ,  $F_1$ –Protein subunits for phosphorylation).