

*HEME*

# HEME

- Constituent of protein
- HB, MB, CYTCHROME, CATALASE, PER  
OXIDASE

## Vital function

Oxygen storage and transport

Oxidation- reduction

Electron transport in respiratory chain

Destruction of harmful metabolite like H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

# Heme is metalloporphyrin

- Iron is joined with porphyrin called protoporphyrin IX
- Porphyrin are tetrapyrrole derivative
- Four pyrrole ring join by methenyl bridges
- Different porphyrin have different side chain attached to four pyrrole

- Heme is protoporphyrin IX
- Methyl, vinyl and propionyl group are attached to tetrapyrrole ring as side chain
- Type III isomer because asymmetric arrangement of side chain(methyl group) in ring IV

- Heme is metalloporphyrin in four N-atom of protoporphyrin III are joined to Fe atom
- Heme as prosthetic group attached to various protein to make heme-protein

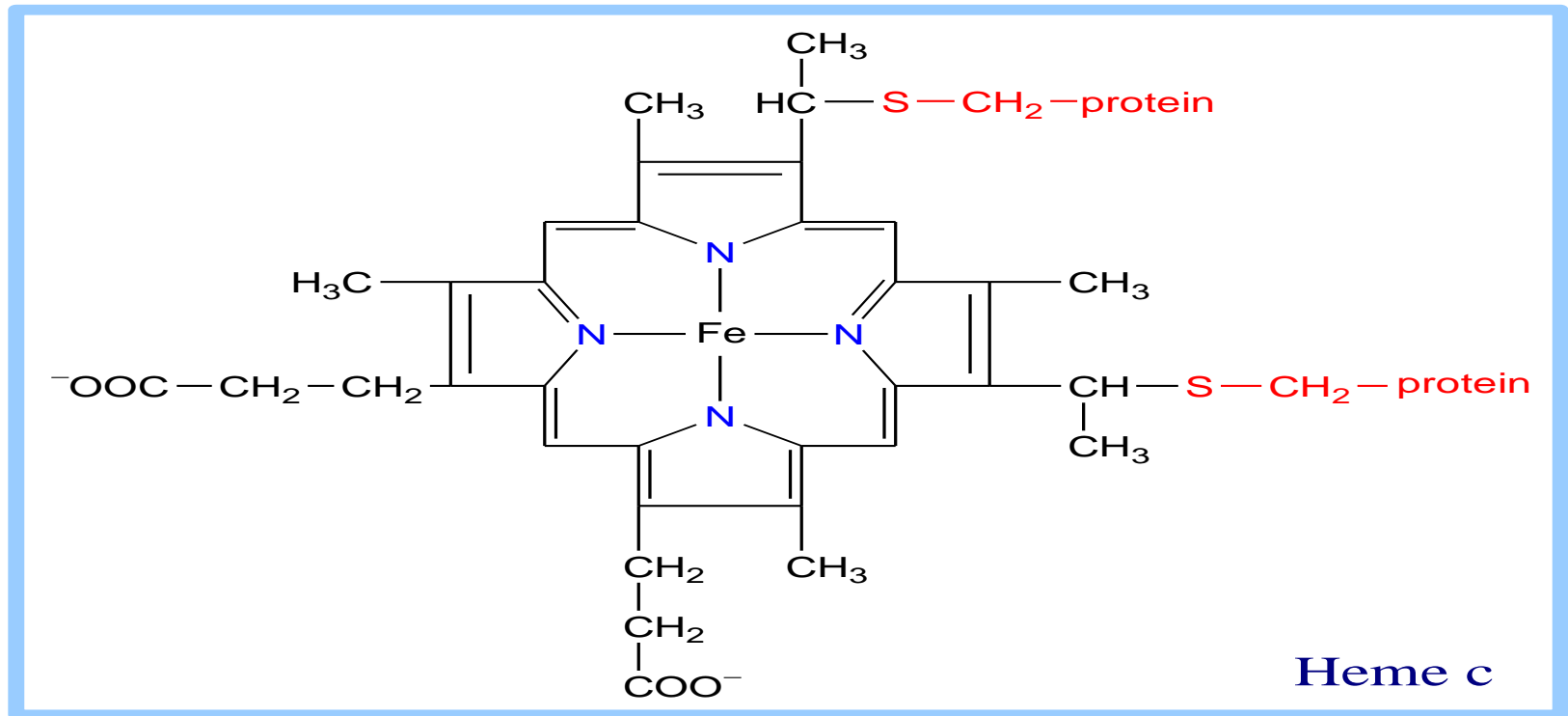
- Pyrrole ring are named as I, II, III, IV and the bridges as alpha, beta, gamma and delta
- Possible group of substitution is 1 to 8
- Substituent group have symmetrical arrangement 1,3,5,7 and 2,4,6,8----I series
- Asymmetrical distribution of substituent group 1,3,5,8 and 2,4,6,7-----III series

- Usual substitution are
- propionyl group
- Acetyl group
- Methyl group
- Vinyl group

- Type III is predominant in biological system.
- Called as series 9 -----**FISCHER**



# Structure of Heme



**Heme** is the prosthetic group of hemoglobin, myoglobin, & cytochromes



# Synthesis of Heme

- Many tissue synthesis heme but liver and erythroid cells(bone marrow)

**GLYCINE + SuccinylCoA**

↓ *ALA synthase*

**δ-aminolevulinic acid(ALA)**

↓ *ALA dehydratase*

**Porphobilinogen(PBG)**

↓ *PBG deaminase*

**hydroxymethylbilane**

↓ *Uroporphyrinogen III  
cosynthase*

**uroporphyrinogen III**

↓ *Uroporphyrinogen  
decarboxylase*

**coproporphyrinogene III**

↓ *Coproporphyrinogen  
oxidase*

**Protoporphyrinogene IX**

↓ *Protoporphyrinogen  
oxidase*

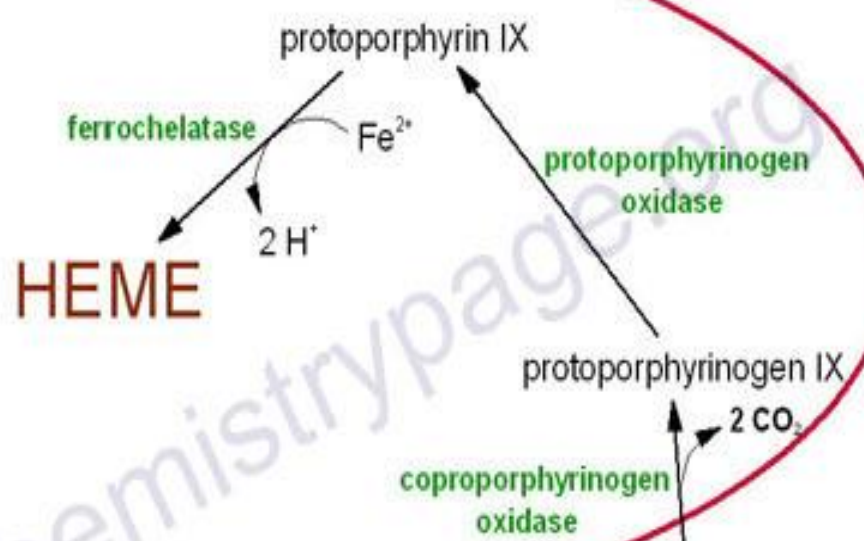
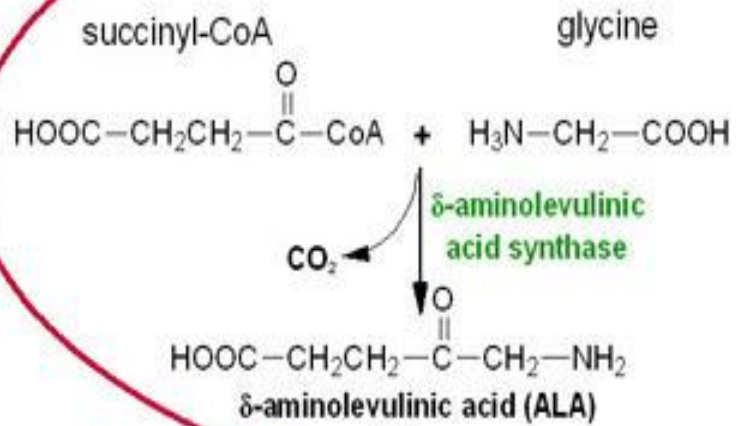
**protoporphyrin IX**

↓ *Ferrochelatase*

**Heme**



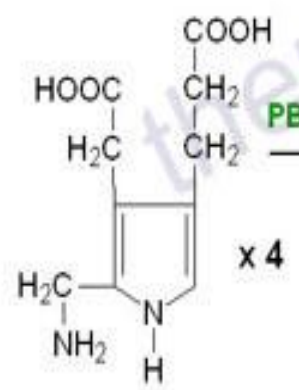
mitochondria



cytosol

2x ALA

$\xrightarrow{\text{ALA dehydratase (porphobilinogen synthase)}}$



$\xrightarrow{\text{PBG deaminase}}$

hydroxymethylbilane

$\xrightarrow{\text{uroporphyrinogen III synthase}}$

uroporphyrinogen III

$\xrightarrow[\text{4 CO}_2]{\text{uroporphyrinogen decarboxylase}}$

coproporphyrinogen III

# Synthesis of d-aminolevulinic acid

- Glycine+succinyl-coA-----ALA
- ALA synthase
- Pyridoxal phosphate---co-enzyme
- Rate-limiting and inducible
- ALA synthase has isoenzyme:
- ALA1(Liver)
- ALA 2(erythroid)

# Formation of porphobilinogen

- Two molecule of ALA condense ---- porphobilinogen(pyrrole derivative)
- ALA dehydratase
- Cytosolic enzyme



# Formation of UroporphyrinogenIII

- Four porphobilinogen condenses to form uroporphyrinogenIII
- uroporphyrinogenI synthase and cosynthase III
- UPGIII has pyrrole ring connected by methylene bridges
- Acetate and propionate side chain attach in asymmetric on ring IV giving type III isomer

# Formation of coproporphyrin III

- UPG III decarboxylase converts UPGIII into coproporphyrinogen III by decarboxylating all four acetate group to methyl group

# Formation of protoporphyrin IX

- CPG III diffuse into mitochondria where it undergoes
- Oxidative decarboxylation of propionate side chain of ring I and II to vinyl group.
- Protoporphyrinogen IX forms
- Protoporphyrinogen oxidase oxidises methylene bridges connecting four pyrrole rings to form protoporphyrin IX

# Formation of HEME

- Fe +2 atom is incorporated into proto porphyrin IX
- Ferrochelatase

# REGULATION OF ALA SYNTHASE

- **Down regulated**

**Heme**

- **UP regulated**

**Barbiturates, Steroids (e.g. testosterone)**

- **These drugs are metabolized by the *microsomal***

***cytochrome P<sub>450</sub> mono-oxygenase system, a heme-***

**containing protein. So increase utilisation of Cyt p450 depletes heme**

- Barbiturates, griesofulvin, synthetic oestrogen and progesteron are inducer of ALA-1

**ALA Synthase** is the **committed step** of the heme synthesis pathway, & is usually rate-limiting for the overall pathway.

**Regulation** occurs through control of gene transcription.

**Heme** functions as a feedback inhibitor, **repressing transcription** of the ALA Synthase gene in most cells.

A variant of ALA Synthase expressed only in developing erythrocytes is regulated instead by availability of iron in the form of iron-sulfur clusters.

# ferrochelatase

- Fe availability regulates heme synthesis through ferrochelatase
- Lead also inhibits ferrochelatase and decreases heme synthesis



# Properties of porphyrins

- Porphyrin are coloured
- Porphyrinogen are colourless while porphyrin are brownish red in colour
- All porphyrinogen on oxidation are converted into corresponding porphyrins eg
- Uroporphyrinogen ----->uroporphyrin
- Coproporphyrinogen----->coproporphyrin
- Protoporphyrinogen----->protoporphyrin

# Soret band

- All porphyrins show sharp absorption peak at 400 nm referred to as soret band
- Double band of methylene bridges

# Red fluorescence

- Exposed to ultra-violet light shows red fluorescence
- Double band of methylene bridges

# **Clinical significance**

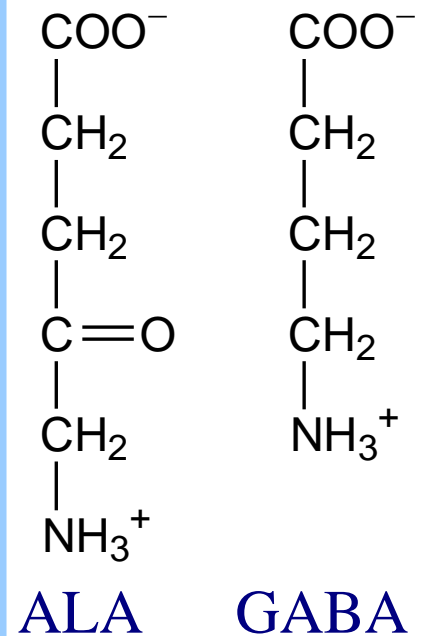
The **Zn<sup>++</sup>** binding sites in the homo-octomeric mammalian Porphobilinogen Synthase, which include cysteine S ligands, can also bind **Pb<sup>++</sup>** (lead).

**Inhibition** of Porphobilinogen Synthase by **Pb<sup>++</sup>** results in **elevated** blood **ALA**, as impaired heme synthesis leads to de-repression of transcription of the ALA Synthase gene.

High **ALA** is thought to cause some of the neurological effects of **lead poisoning**, although **Pb<sup>++</sup>** also may directly affect the nervous system.

**ALA** is **toxic to the brain**, perhaps due to:

- Similar ALA & neurotransmitter **GABA** ( $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid) structures.
- ALA autoxidation generates **reactive oxygen species** (oxygen radicals).



# LEAD TOXICITY

- **Inhibits multiple enzyme reactions including those involved in heme biosynthesis (PBG synthase & ferrochelatase) Binds to any compound with a sulfhydryl group**
- **One symptom of lead toxicity is increases in 5-ALA without concomitant increases in PBG**

# Porphyrias

**Porphyrias** are **genetic diseases** in which activity of one of the enzymes involved in heme synthesis is decreased (e.g., PBG Synthase, Porphobilinogen Deaminase, etc...).

**Symptoms vary** depending on

- ◆ the enzyme
- ◆ the severity of the deficiency
- ◆ whether heme synthesis is affected primarily in liver or in developing erythrocytes.

Occasional **episodes** of severe **neurological symptoms** are associated with some **porphyrias**.

- ◆ Permanent **nerve damage** and even death can result, if not treated promptly.
- ◆ **Elevated  $\delta$ -aminolevulinic acid (ALA)**, arising from de-repression of ALA Synthase gene transcription, is considered responsible for the neurological symptoms.

**Photosensitivity** is another common symptom.

- ◆ **Skin damage** may result from exposure to light.
- ◆ This is attributable to elevated levels of **light-absorbing pathway intermediates** and their degradation products.



# Types porphyria

- Depending on the tissue of involvement
- Hepatic
- Erythropoietic
- Mixed

# Hepatic porphyria

- Acute intermittent porphyria
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Hereditary coproporphyria
- Porphyria variegata

# Hepatic porphyria

Precipitated by various drugs alcohol, steroids, griseofulvin etc

Typical neurological symptoms

Pain in abdomen, nausea, vomiting

Pain in neck, chest, limbs

Abnormal sensation like numbness, tingling or loss of sensation

- Weakness in muscle presenting as fatigue or difficulty in walking
- Psychiatric symptoms like lack of sleep, nervouness, anxiety, depression,
- hallucination

# Erythropoietic porphyria

- Congenital erythropoietic porphyria
- protoporphyria

# Present as.....

- Anaemia
- Hemolysis
- splenomegaly

# Biological basis of symptoms and photosensitivity

- Due accumulation of product from enzyme deficiency
- Autonomic neuropathy
- ALA-----inhibit ATPASE interferes in nerve and muscle conduction
- Autonomic disturbance---alteration of GIT mobility producing abdomen pain,nausea,vomiting,diarrhoea

- Sensory and motor involvement leading in pain in limbs, chest, neck, weakness of muscle fatigue, urinary retention
- Restlessness, anxiety, depression, hallucination, excessive sweating, tremors and hypertension due to sympathetic overactivity.



# photosensitivity

- Excessive accumulation of porphyrins
- Porphyrin react with UV light and generate free radicals with oxygen
- These radicals damage lysosomes and other cell organelle releasing many hydrolytic enzyme
- Skin damage and scarring

# Acute intermittent porphyria(AIP)

- Hepatic type of porphyria
- Commonest variety 1:10,000 to 1:1,00,000
- UPG-I synthase deficiency
- Accumulation of ALA,PBG leading to neuropsychiatric symptoms
- Young adult
- Present as acute attack with acute pain in abdomen with or without other symptoms

- No photosensitivity
- Precipitated by drugs like steroid, alcohol, barbiturates, sulphonamide,
- carbamazepine, griseofulvin
- Diagnosis----high urine and blood ALA and PBG
- Enzyme deficiency in RBC

- Glucose inhibit induction of ALA synthase.
- and heme inhibit ALA synthase induction
- Hemealbumin or hemearginate is given

# Characteristics of different porphyria

- X-linked sideroblastic anaemia
- ALA synthase defect
- Anaemia main symptoms
- Lab finding---decrease RBC and decrease Hb

# Hepatic ALA dehydratase

- ALA dehydratase deficiency
- Abdominal pain
- Psychiatric symptoms
- Urinary ALA levels

# Acute intermittent porphyria

- UROSYNTHETASEI deficiency
- Abdominal pain
- Psychiatric symptoms
- Blood ALA and PBG

# Porphyria cutanea tarda

- Uroporphyrinogen decarboxylase
- Photosensitivity
- Uroporphyrinogen decarboxylase
- Photosensitivity
- Uroporphyrin +ve
- Uroporphyrinogen -ve



# Hereditary coproporphyria

- Coproporphyrinogen oxidase
- Photosensitivity
- Pain abdomen
- Psychiatric symptoms
- Uroporphyrin +ve
- Uroporphyrinogen +ve(urine)

# Variegata porphyria(hepatic)

- Protoporphyrinogen oxidase deficiency
- Photosensitivity
- Pain in abdomen
- Psychiatric symptoms
- Urophorphyrin +ve
- Uroporphyrinogen +ve(urine)

# Proto-porphyrin

- Ferrochelatase deficiency
- Photosensitivity
- Fecal protoporphyrin +ve also RBC +ve

# Congenital erythropoietic porphyria

- Autosomal recessive
- Type 111 increase due loss of feedback inhibition
- Photosensitivity
- Dermatitis and scarring --→ Monkey Face
- Erythrodontia
- Urine dark in color (port wine appearance)

- THANKS

# HAEMOGLOBINOPATHIES

- 1. Sickle cell anemia (Hb S)**
- 2. Hemoglobin C disease (Hb C)**
- 3. Hemoglobin SC disease (Hb S+ Hb C)**
- 4. Thalassemia**

# Sickle cell anemia

**A 10-years-old African American male presented to ER with complain of pain "all over his body." His mother brought him into the ED at 4 pm .She reported that the pain began early that morning and had "gotten worse." She reported that it was not relieved by his usual doses of ibuprofen. He was medicated with strong IM pain killer. He reported minimal pain relief after receiving the medication. He reported that the slight relief was short-lived, and he continued to complain of unbearable pain through the night.**

**His past history is significant with many such hospital admissions and history of repeated chest infections and a non healing ulcer on his right ankle.**

**Family History: History of similar episodes of pain crisis and chest infection in two of the 5 siblings.**

# Sickle cell anemia

**Examination:** Pale appearing child in agony oriented in time, space and person having a chronic ulcer on right ankle.

**Cardiovascular System:** Moderate tachycardia, grade II/VI systolic murmur heard best over the upper left sternal border.

**Gastrointestinal Tract: Abdomen:** Moderate hepatosplenomegaly.

**Complete Blood Count:** Hb: 5gm/dl, TLC: 12,000/ul, Platelet count: 150,000/ul.

**Reticulocyte Count:** 12%.

**Peripheral Film:** Moderate poikilocytosis, anisocytosis, hypochromia, polychromasia target cells, many fragmented and sickle red cells.

## Special investigations

**Sickle Screening Test:** Positive

**HbS: 70%, HbF: 13%, HbA: 17%**

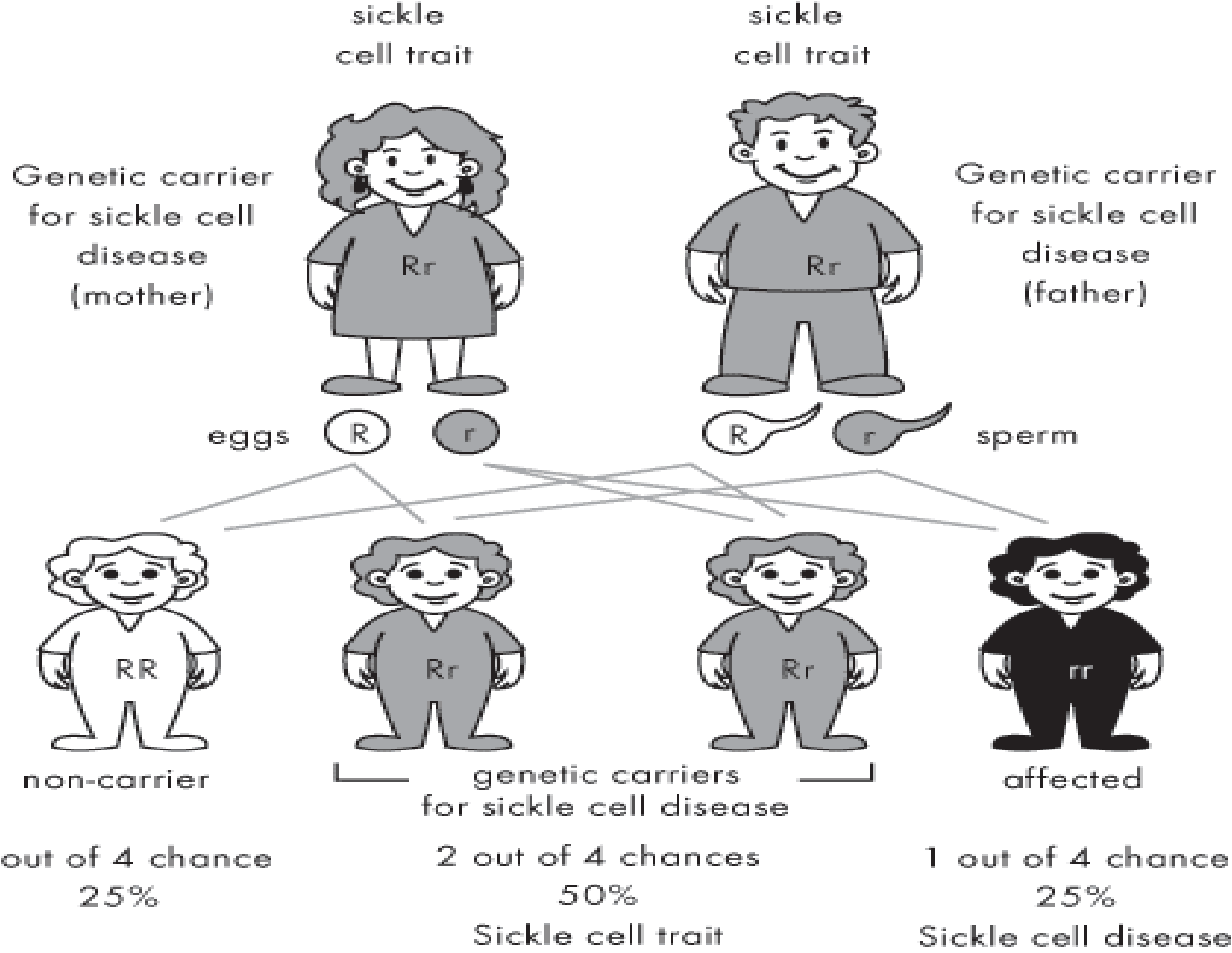


# Sickle cell anemia (Hb S disease)

Homozygous recessive (2 mutant genes that codes for  $\beta$ -chains of globin)----- $\beta^S$  ----- $\alpha_2\beta_2^S$  (Hb S)

**Valine** replaces glutamate in the 6<sup>th</sup> position of  $\beta$ -chains

- **Common in African blacks**
- **Confers resistance against malaria**
- **Hb crystallizes and take sickle shape under hypoxic conditions**
- **Increased RBC Sequestration**



## SECTION OF GENE FOR HEMOGLOBIN

Normal DNA sequences: GGA CTC CTC

Abnormal DNA sequences: GGA CAC CTC

## MESSENGER RNA CODON TABLE

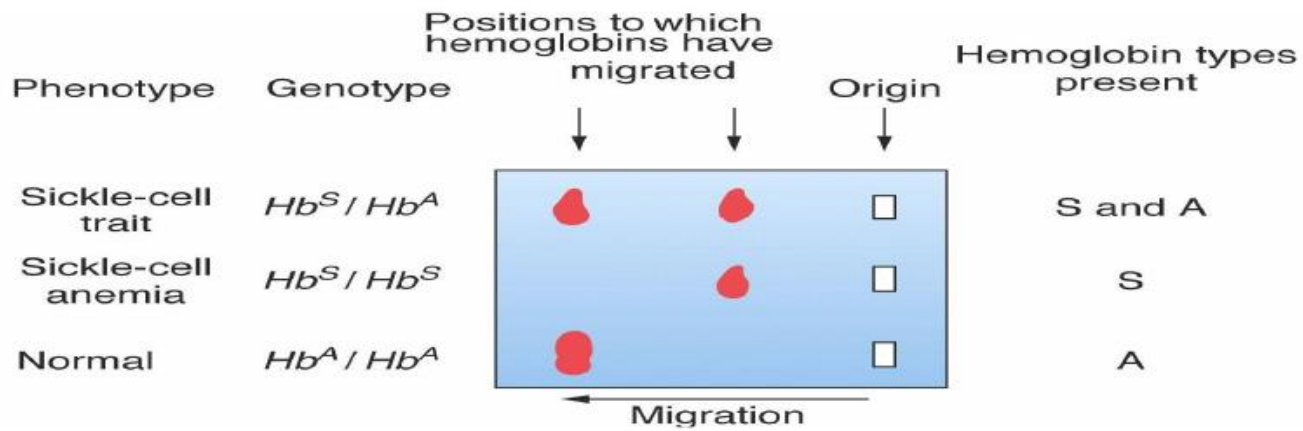
| Codon | Amino Acid    |
|-------|---------------|
| GUG   | Valine        |
| CAC   | Histidine     |
| CUC   | Leucine       |
| ACU   | Threonine     |
| CCU   | Proline       |
| GAG   | Glutamic acid |

## HBB Sequence in Normal Adult Hemoglobin (Hb A):

|            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Nucleotide | CTG | ACT | CCT | GAG | GAG | AAG | TCT |
| Amino Acid | Leu | Thr | Pro | Glu | Glu | Lys | Ser |
|            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|            | 3   |     |     | 6   |     |     | 9   |

## HBB Sequence in Mutant Adult Hemoglobin (Hb S):

|            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Nucleotide | CTG | ACT | CCT | GTG | GAG | AAG | TCT |
| Amino Acid | Leu | Thr | Pro | Val | Glu | Lys | Ser |
|            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|            | 3   |     |     | 6   |     |     | 9   |



# THALASSAEMIA

- **An 8 month old boy was brought by his parents with complaints of lethargy, marked pallor, inactivity and abdominal distension. Eight month old infant presented with the marked pallor and growth failure. There is also history of change in facial appearance. Initially symptoms were less marked. But now they have progressed further.**
- **Family History: History of death of sibling at the age of 15 months diagnosed as deficiency of blood**

**Examination:** Pale appearing, inactive toddler

- **Mild tachycardia as above, grade II/VI systolic ejection murmur heard best over the upper left sternal border.**
- **Moderate hepatosplenomegaly**

**Complete Blood Count:** Hb: 5gm/dl, TLC: 18,000/ul, Platelet count: 150,000/ul.

- **Reticulocyte Count: 10%.**
- **Peripheral Film: Marked poikilocytosis, anisocytosis, microcytosis, hypochromia, polychromasia target cells, many fragmented red cells.**
- **Radiology: X-ray skull show crew cut appearance and maxillary prominence**

**Special investigations**

**HbF: 90%, HbA: 08%, HbA2: 02%**



# THALASSAEMIA

- **Beta-thalasseмии are a group of hereditary blood disorders characterized by anomalies in the synthesis of the beta chains of hemoglobin resulting in variable phenotypes ranging from severe anemia to clinically asymptomatic individuals.**
- **The total annual incidence of symptomatic individuals is estimated at 1 in 100,000 throughout the world and 1 in 10,000 people in the European Union. 1.5% of the global population (80 to 90 million people) are carriers of beta thalassaemia, with about 60,000 symptomatic individuals born annually, the great majority in the developing world.**



Beta Thalassemia

minor



Genetic carrier  
for  $\beta$   
thalassaemia  
(mother)

eggs



Beta Thalassemia

minor



Genetic carrier  
for  $\beta$   
thalassaemia  
(father)



sperm



non-carrier

1 out of 4 chance  
25%



genetic carriers  
for beta thalassaemia

2 out of 4 chances  
50%

Beta Thalassemia minor



affected

1 out of 4 chance  
25%

Beta Thalassemia major

# THALASSAEMIA

- **Thalassemia Major, "Cooley's Anemia" and "Mediterranean Anemia"**
- **Thalassemia Intermedia and Thalassemia Minor also called "beta-thalassemia carrier",**
- **"Beta-thalassemia trait or "heterozygous beta-thalassemia".**

# THALASSAEMIA

## $\beta$ -Thalassemia

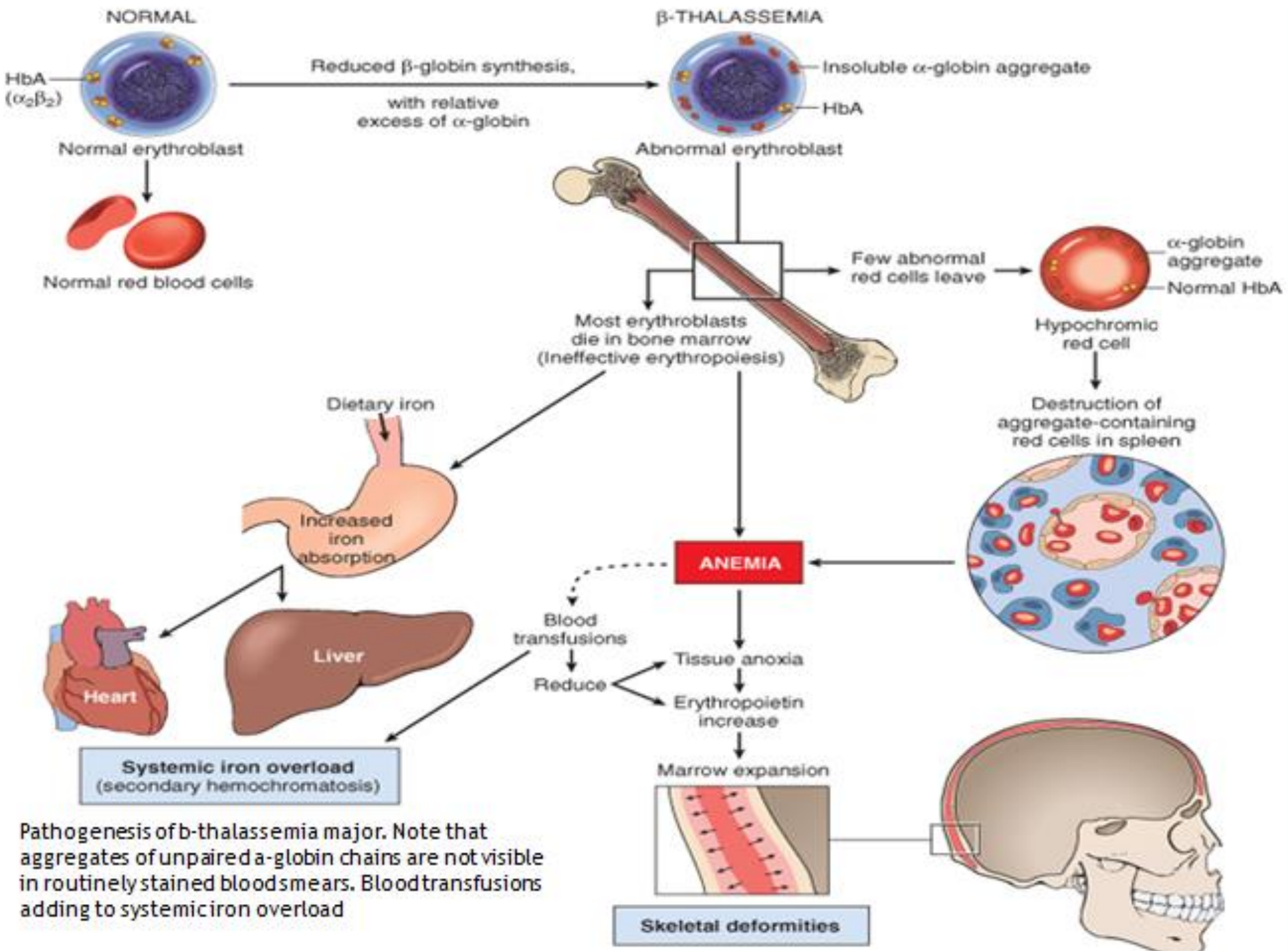
- **Reduced or absent synthesis of globin chains**
- **2 copies of  $\beta$ -globin gene on chromosome 11**
- **$\beta^0$  No globin chain synthesis**
- **$\beta^+$  Some globin chain synthesis**
- **$\beta^+/\beta^+$  Homozygote have anemia of variable severity**
- **$\beta^+/\beta^0$  Compound Heterozygote tend to be more severely affected**
- **$\beta^0/\beta^0$  Homozygote have severe disease**

# THALASSAEMIA

- **Excess  $\beta$ -chains form a homotetramer, HbH (Useless for delivering oxygen because of high oxygen affinity)**
- **Inclusion bodies (HbH precipitates trapped and destroyed in the spleen)**
- **Ineffective erythropoiesis: Precipitated  $\alpha$ -chains unable to form a stable tetramer**

# THALASSAEMIA

- **$\beta$  -Thalassemia Minor (Make some  $\beta$ -chains. No treatment required)**
- **$\beta$  -Thalassemia Major (Seemingly healthy at birth , but severely anemic, usually first or second year of life due to ineffective erythropoiesis)**
- **Skeletal changes as a result of extramedullary hematopoiesis**
- **Iron chelation therapy and Bone marrow replacement**



Pathogenesis of  $\beta$ -thalassemia major. Note that aggregates of unpaired  $\alpha$ -globin chains are not visible in routinely stained blood smears. Blood transfusions adding to systemic iron overload

# THALASSAEMIA

## $\alpha$ -Thalasemia

### Deletion mutations

**4 copies of the  $\alpha$ -Globin gene (2 on each chromosome 16)**

- **Silent carrier of  $\alpha$ -Thalasemia: One of the four gene is defective no physical manifestation**
- **$\alpha$  -Thalasemia trait: 3  $\alpha$ -globin genes are defective (Hb  $\beta_4$  disease)—Mild to severe hemolytic anemia**
- **(Hb Bart ( $\gamma_4$  disease)—All 4  $\alpha$ -globin gene defective . Hydrops fetalis**

**THANKS**