Chemistry of Purines, Pyrimidines and Their Biological Significance

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## **Objectives**

- What are Purines and Pyrimidines?- Chemistry
- What is their role in human body?- Functions
- How do we get them or get rid of them?- Metabolism
- Will their be any pathology if the metabolism is defective?- Diseases
- Can this knowledge be utilized to develop drugs?-Chemo drugs

#### Q1. What are Purines and Pyrimidines? Chemistry

## Nucleic acids are polynucleotides

- Polysaccharides
- Polypeptides
- Polynucleotides

## Nucleoside, Nucleotide & Nucleic acid



nucleic acids

### **Base:** Purines, Pyrimidines



 $\begin{array}{c} & & | & 4 \\ & C & 5 \\ & | & C & CH \\ & | & | \\ HC & CH \\ & 2 & N & 6 \end{array}$ 

Purine

**Pyrimidine** 

#### **Base:** Purines, Pyrimidines



#### Sugar: Ribose, Deoxy ribose





#### Nucleosides:



## **Purine Bases**







Adenine

Guanine





#### Hypoxanthine

**Xanthine** 

What is their role in human body? Functions

#### **Role of nucleotides:**

- 1. Monomers of nucleic acids DNA & RNA
- 2. Used to activate substrates for biosynthetic reactions
  - UDP-glucose  $\rightarrow$  glycogen
  - UDP-glucuronic acid  $\rightarrow$  conjugation reactions
  - CDP-diacylglycerol  $\rightarrow$  phosphatidyl inositol synthesis
  - CDP-ethanolamine  $\rightarrow$  phosphatidyl ethanolamine synthesis
  - S-adenosylmethionine  $\rightarrow$  methyl donor
  - GDP-L-fucose  $\rightarrow$  Glycoproteins

- 3. ATP is the universal currency of energy. Thermodynamically unfavored reactions are made favorable by coupling of ATP hydrolysis.
- Adenine nucleotides are components of the coenzymes, NAD<sup>+</sup>, NADP<sup>+</sup>, FAD & CoA
- 5. c-AMP, c-GMP are 2<sup>nd</sup> messengers in signal transduction
- 6. ATP and AMP are allosteric regulators for many enzymes
- 7. ATP dependent phosphorylation regulates the action of enzymes & membrane transporters.

#### How do we get them or get rid of them? Metabolism

## **Dietary Nucleic acid**

- Broken down to nucleotides
- Further, Base is released
- Purine/pyrimidine transporters in enterocytes
- Enters circulation

## Purine/Pyrimidine Nucleotide Synthesis:

- De Novo Pathway
- Salvage Pathway

## Sources of purine ring atoms



## Phosphoribosyl Pyrophosphate:



## Purine Synthesis: De Novo Pathway



## Purine Synthesis: De Novo Pathway



## Purine Synthesis: Salvage Pathway





## Uric Acid is the End Product of Purine Degradation



## Disorders Associated with Purine Metabolism

- Gout
- Lesch-Nyhan's syndrome
- Adenosine Deaminase deficiency
- Xanthinuria

## Gout is the Manifestation of Hyperuricemia

#### Hyperuricemia:

- Increased production of uric acid
  - PRPP Synthetase overactivity
  - Von-Gierke's disease
  - Purine rich diet
  - Alcoholism
  - Malignancy

#### Decreased excretion of uric acid

- Renal failure
- Lactic acidosis



#### Gout:









## **Treatment of Gout**

- Low purine diet
- Avoid alcohol
- Increased water intake
- Anti-inflammatory drugs
- Allopurinol: Xanthine Oxidase Inhibitor
- Uricosuric drugs



## Adenosine deaminase deficiency

- Severe combined immunodeficiency
- B and T lymphocytes are affected
- First gene therapy



## Lesch-Nyhan's syndrome

- HGPRTase deficiency
- Purine Salvage Pathway is affected
- Hyperuricemia, self-destructive behavior, mental retardation





## Xanthinuria

- Rare
- Xanthine stones
- Hypouricemia
- Xanthine oxidase deficiency



#### **Pyrimidine Bases**



#### Sources of Pyrimidine Ring Atoms



#### Pyrimidine Synthesis: De Novo Pathway



## **Pyrimidine Synthesis**



### **Pyrimidine Catabolism**

• Water soluble products



## Disorders of Pyrimidine Metabolism

• Orotic aciduria



#### Can this knowledge be utilized to develop drugs?-Chemo drugs

## Anticancer Drugs can Target Purine and Pyrimidine Synthesis Pathways

• Methotrexate and 5-Flurouracil



## **ART-Zidovudine**



## Adenosine

- Acts via Purinergic receptors
- Cardiac arrythmias

# **Questions?**

Thank you