



Biochemistry
Team 434

Aerobic and anaerobic metabolism in muscle

Musculoskeletal Block

Color index

Red= Important

Purple= Addition

Orange= Explanation

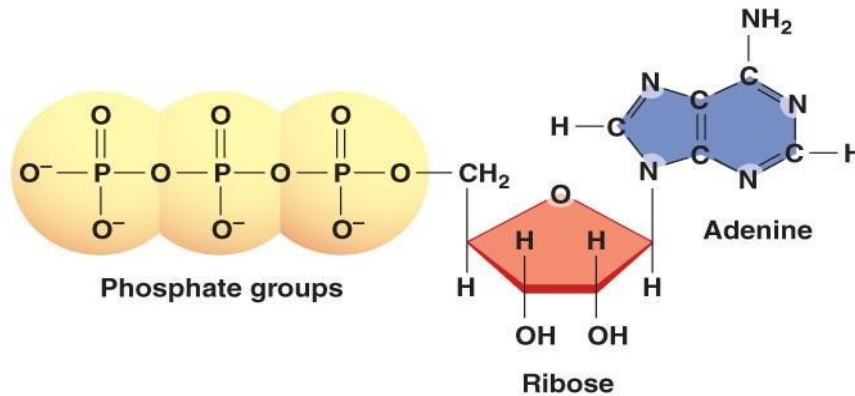
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Objectives:

1. Recognize the importance of ATP as energy source in skeletal muscle.
2. Understand how skeletal muscle derive and utilize ATP for energy.
3. Differentiate between energy metabolism in red and white muscle fibers.

(a) ATP consists of three phosphate groups, ribose, and adenine.



Adenosine TriPhosphate

-Adenosine Triphosphate (coenzyme) is the most important form of chemical energy stored in cells.

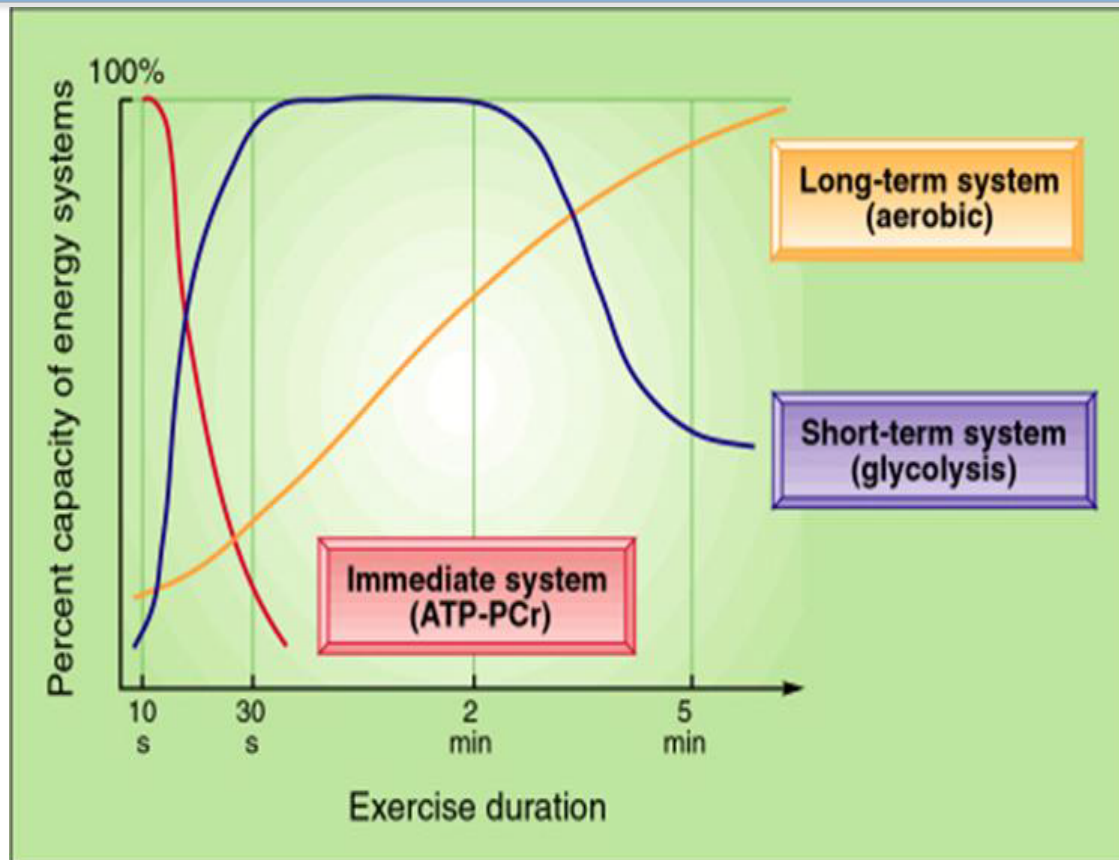
-Breakdown of ATP into **ADP+PO₄** releases energy, this energy is used for all body function

-Muscles typically store limited amount of ATP enough to power 4-6 seconds of activity.

-Muscle Contraction requires huge amount of ATP. So resting muscles must have energy stored in other ways.

Muscle fibers produce ATP in 3 ways:

1. Creatine phosphate.
2. Aerobic metabolism.
3. Anaerobic metabolism.



- The three energy systems often operate simultaneously during physical activity.
- Relative contribution of each system to total energy requirement differs significantly on exercise (**intensity & duration**).
- Magnitude of energy from anaerobic sources depends on: **person's capacity and tolerance for lactic acid accumulation** (Athletes are trained so that they will have better tolerance for lactic acid)
- As exercise intensity diminishes and duration extends beyond **4 minutes**, energy become more dependent on (**Aerobic metabolism**)

Energy Metabolism

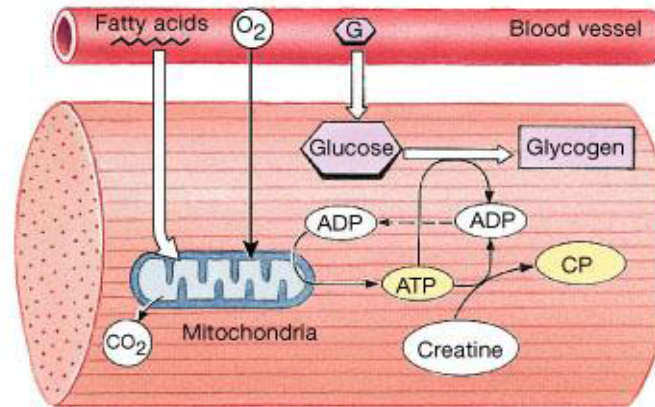
Aerobic

- ✓ With oxygen.
- ✓ Source of energy: mainly **fatty acids**, then carbohydrate.
- ✓ End products: **CO₂, H₂O & ATP**.

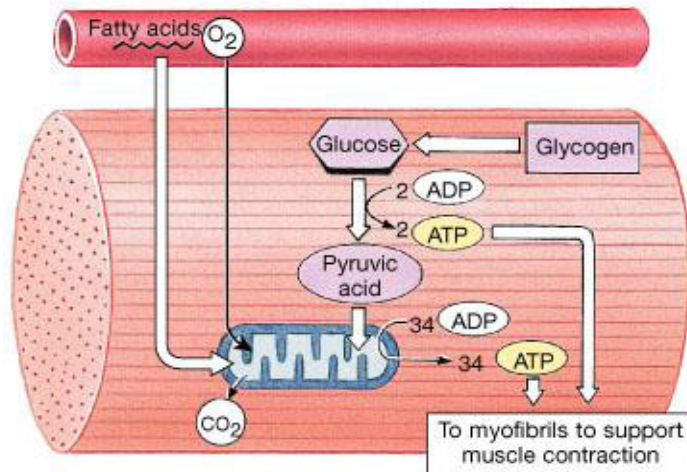
Anaerobic

- ✓ Without oxygen.
- ✓ Source of energy: **Carbohydrate** (glycolysis).
- ✓ End products: **Lactate & ATP**.

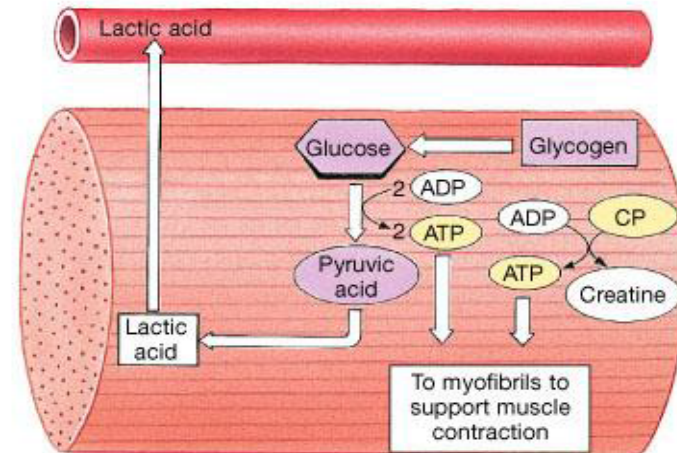
Muscle Metabolism



(a) Resting muscle: Fatty acids are catabolized; the ATP produced is used to build energy reserves of ATP, CP, and glycogen.



(b) Moderate activity: Glucose and fatty acids are catabolized; the ATP produced is used to power contraction.



(c) Peak activity: Most ATP is produced through glycolysis, with lactic acid as a by-product. Mitochondrial activity (not shown) now provides only about one-third of the ATP consumed.

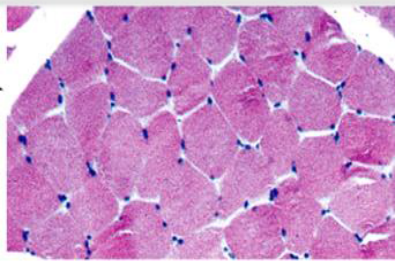
Muscle Fatigue

- Fatigued muscle no longer contracts due to:

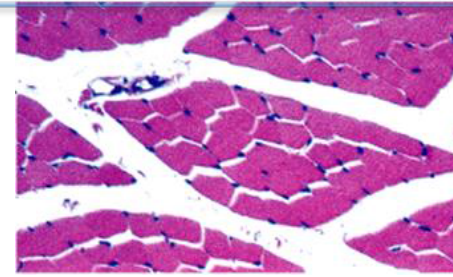
- ✓ Build up of lactic acid (low pH of sarcoplasm){NOTE: when there is excessive anaerobic metabolism}
- ✓ Exhaustion of energy resources (\uparrow ADP & \downarrow ATP)
- ✓ Ionic imbalance

- ❖ How would a fatigued muscle be able again to contract?

- Recovery period: Begins immediately after activity ends
- Oxygen debt (excess post-exercise oxygen consumption):
 - Amount of oxygen required during resting period to restore muscle to normal conditions



Types of skeletal Muscle Fibers

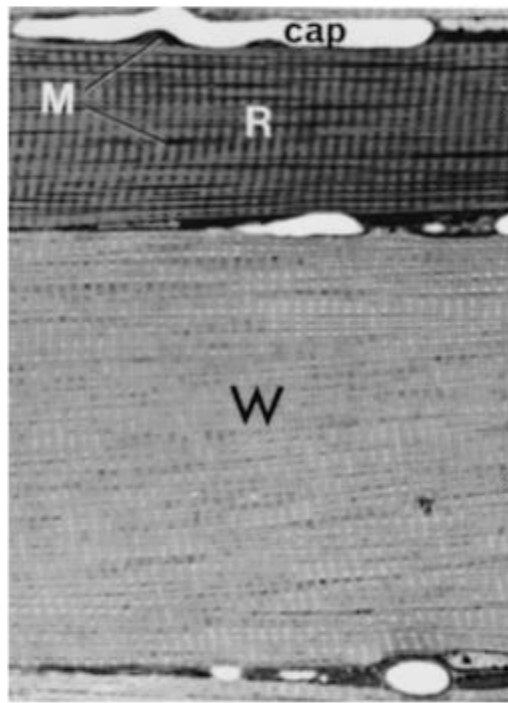


FAST FIBERS (white, glycolytic)

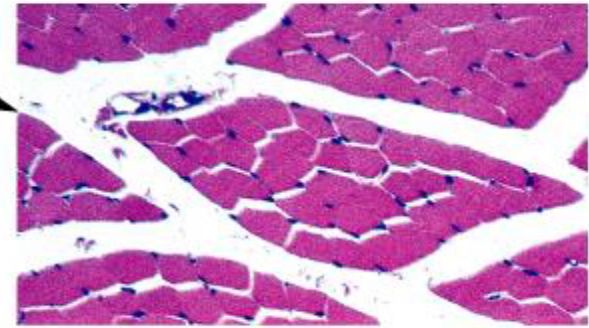
- 1-Large in diameter
- 2-Contain densely packed myofibrils
- 3-Large glycogen reserves
- 4-Relatively few mitochondria
- 5-Produce rapid, powerful contractions of short duration
- 6-Easily fatigued
- 7-Obtain their ATP mainly from **Anaerobic glycolysis**

SLOW FIBERS (red, oxidative)

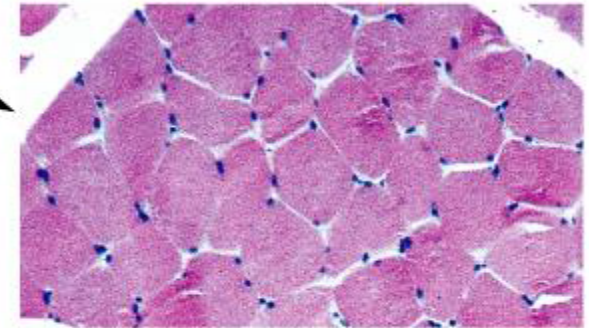
- 1-Half the diameter of fast fibers
- 2-Take three times as long to contract after stimulation
- 3-Abundant mitochondria
- 4-Extensive capillary supply
- 5-High concentrations of myoglobin
- 6-Can contract for long periods of time
- 7-Fatigue resistant
- 8-Obtain their ATP mainly from FA - **oxidation, TCA cycle, and the ETC**



Slow-twitch oxidative muscle fibers
 Note smaller diameter, darker color due to myoglobin. Fatigue-resistant.



Fast-twitch glycolytic muscle fibers
 Larger diameter, pale color. Easily fatigued.



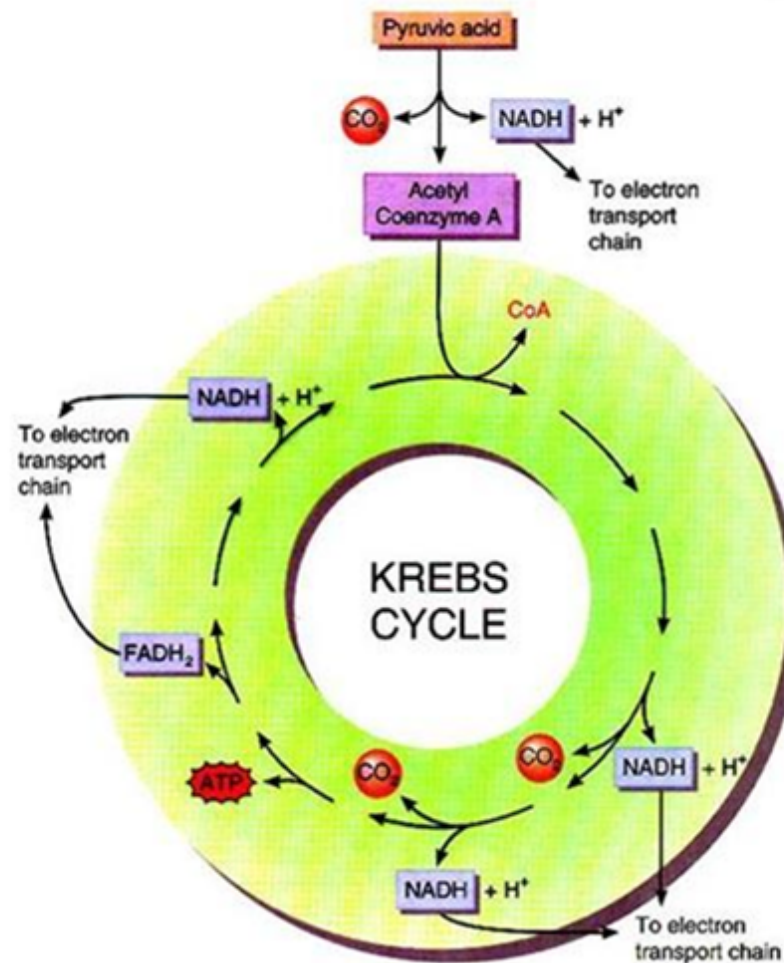
Q-Why do chickens have white breast meat and dark leg meat? Why do migrating ducks have dark breast meat?

A-because of the myoglobin, blood capillaries and mitochondria, long term activities need more oxygen, more blood supply and more mitochondria.

صدر البط يكون أحمر لأن البط يعتمد عليه في الهجرة بينما في الدجاج تكون الأرجل حمراء لأنها لا تطير بل تعتمد على المشي بشكل أساسي
 أي نشاط طويل المدى يحتاج الأكسجين والميتوكوندريا بشكل أكثر فتكون العضلة حمراء والعكس صحيح.

Resting Muscle & the Krebs Cycle

- Resting muscle fibers typically take up fatty acids from the blood stream.
- Inside the muscle fiber, the FA's* are oxidized (in the **mitochondria**) to produce **Acetyl-CoA** & several molecules of **NADH** and **FADH₂**
- Acetyl-CoA will then enter the **Krebs cycle** (in the **mitochondria**) → **CO₂**, **ATP**, **NADH**, **FADH₂**, and oxaloacetate
- NADH** and **FADH₂** will enter the **Electron Transport Chain**. (in the **inner mitochondrial membrane**) → synthesis of **ATP**



What is going on in a resting muscle?

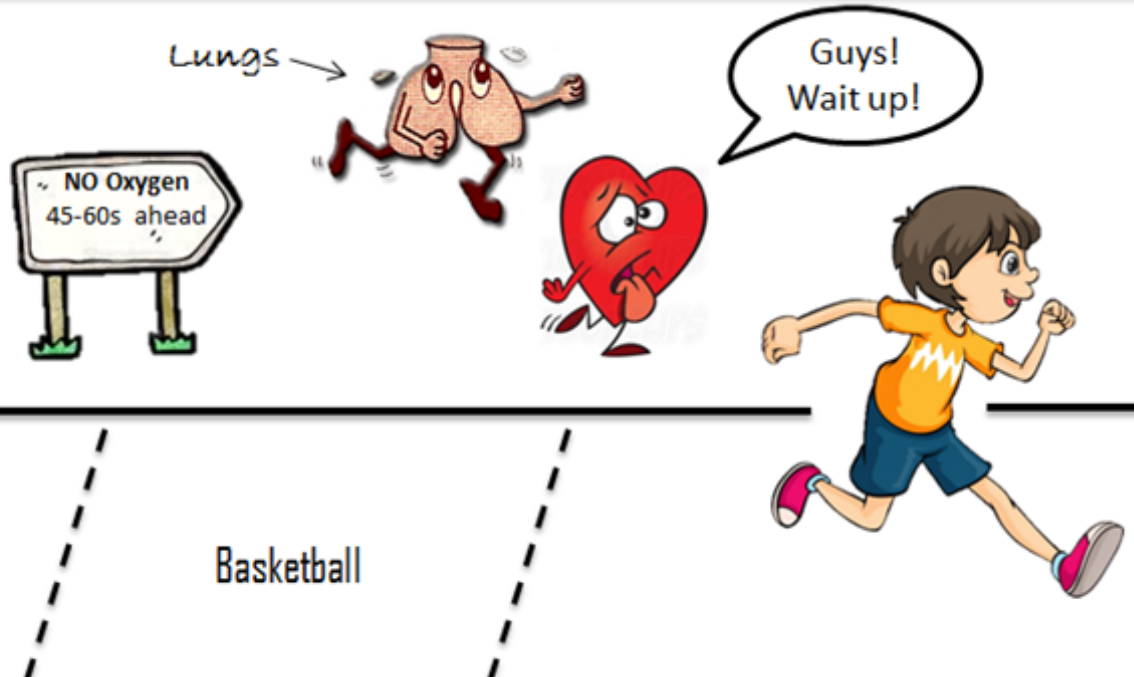
*FA= Fatty Acid

ATP Use in the Resting Muscle Cell

ATP is necessary for cellular housekeeping duties, e.g.:

- ATP is used for glycogenesis (storage form of glucose)
- ATP is used to create another energy storage compound called creatine phosphate





100m dash
Weight lifting

Basketball

Source of energy



Stored ATP
Immediately used

Creatine-phosphate
For the next 15s

Anaerobic metabolism*
ATP supply for about 45-60s

Aerobic metabolism*
Occurs when the respiratory and cardiovascular systems have "caught up with" the working muscles.

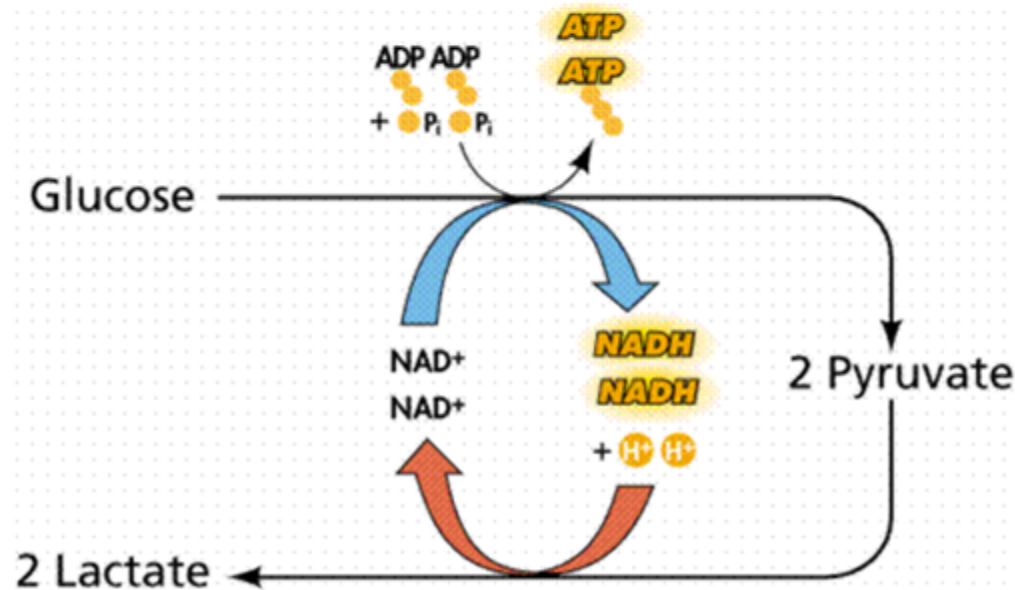
***Explanation follows..**

What is going on in a contracting muscle?

Anaerobic Metabolism

(45-60s)

- ❑ It usually takes a little time for the respiratory and cardiovascular systems to catch up with the muscles and supply O₂ for aerobic metabolism, so the anaerobic metabolism is used meanwhile...
- ❑ Glycogen → Glucose → 2 **pyruvic acid** (2 ATP + 2NADH)
- ❑ 2 Pyruvic acid → 2 **lactic acid** (2 NAD⁺)
- ❑ Lactic acid diffuses out of muscles → blood → taken by the liver → Glucose (by gluconeogenesis) → blood → taken by the muscle again



What is going on in a contracting muscle?

Anaerobic Metabolism

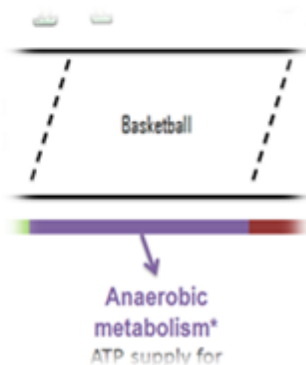
(45-60s)

❑ Why is the anaerobic metabolism insufficient?

- Large amounts of glucose are used for very small ATP returns.
- Lactic acid is produced whose presence contributes to muscle fatigue

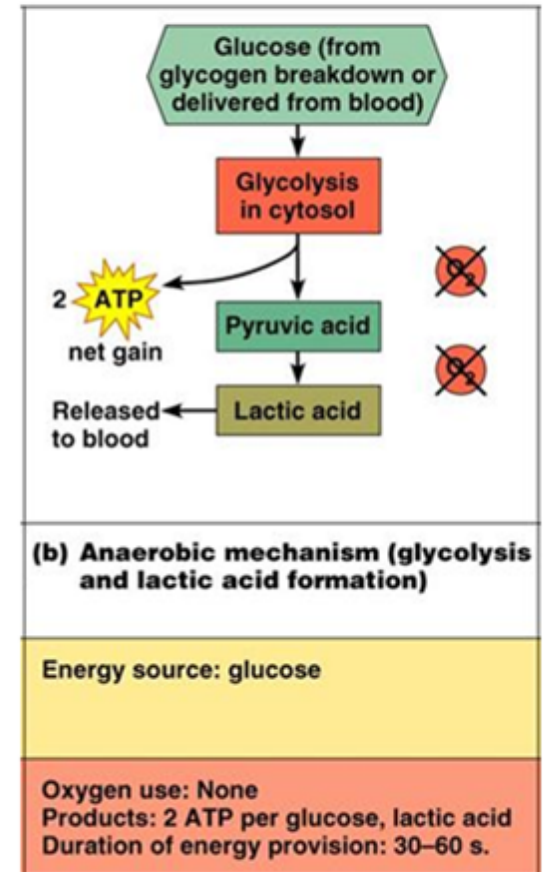
❑ Which type of sports uses anaerobic metabolism?

- Sports that require bursts of speed and activity, e.g., basketball.



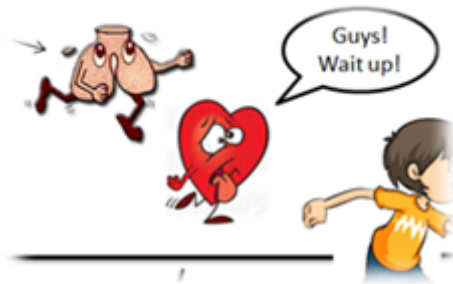
..You know

What is going on in a contracting muscle?

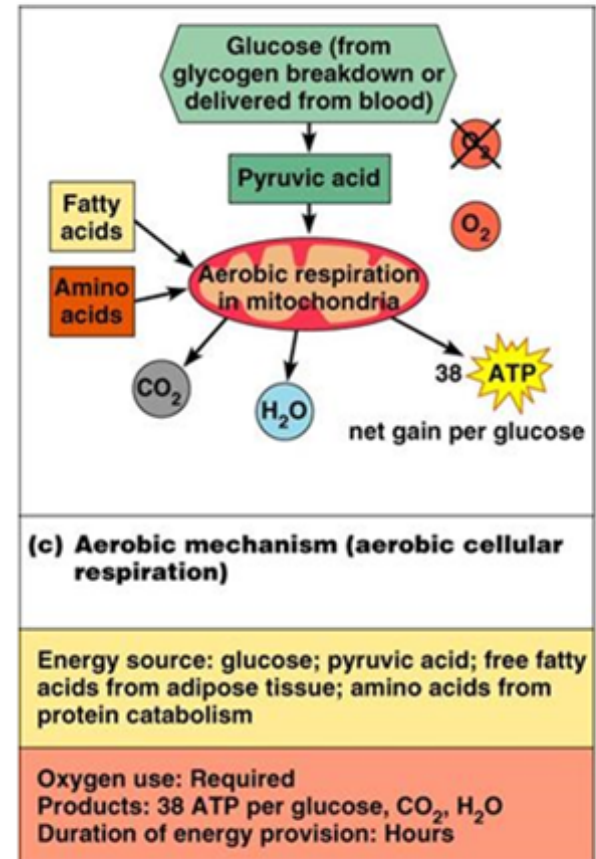


Aerobic Metabolism

- ❑ Occurs when the respiratory and cardiovascular systems have “caught up with” the working muscles.
- Prior to this, some aerobic respiration will occur thanks to the muscle protein, **myoglobin**, which binds and stores oxygen.
- ❑ During **rest** and **light to moderate** exercise, aerobic metabolism contributes 95% of the necessary ATP.
- ❑ Compounds which can be aerobically metabolized include:
 - Fatty acids**, Pyruvic acid (made via glycolysis), and amino acids.



What is going on in a contracting muscle?



❖ Cycles:

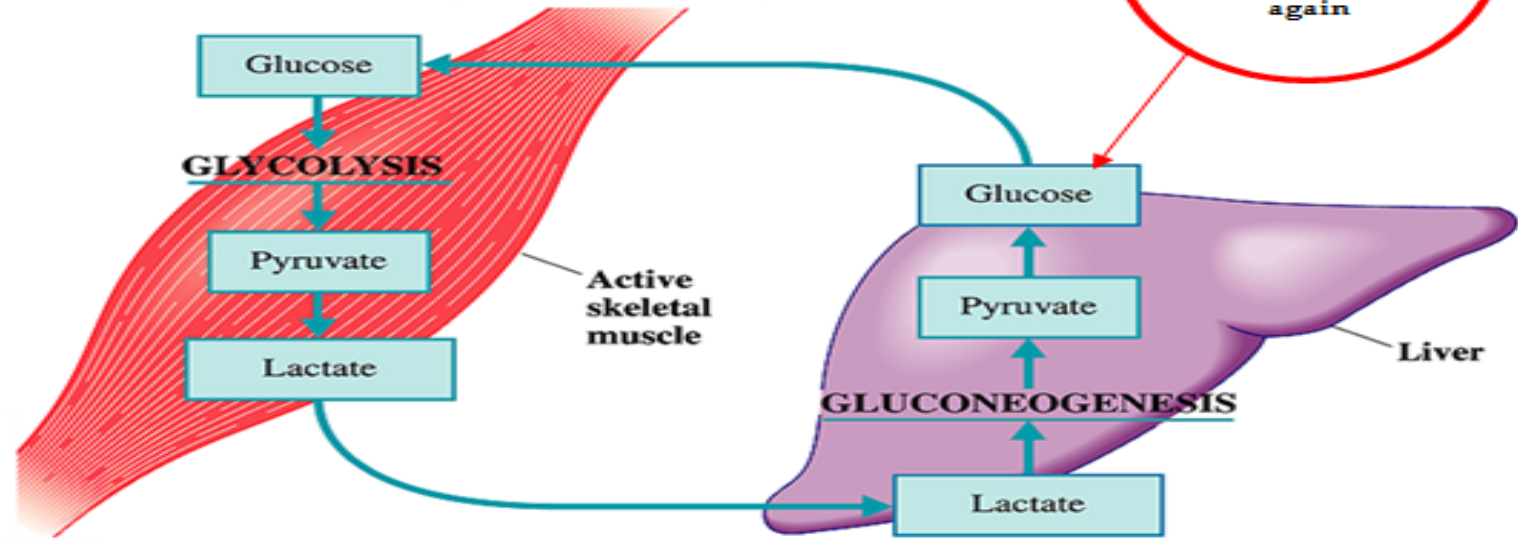
During exercise there are 2 cycles between muscles and liver and both form new Glucose:

1. The cori cycle:

- muscle: glucose $\xrightarrow{\text{glycolysis}}$ pyruvate $\xrightarrow{\text{lactate dehydrogenase}}$ lactate

- liver: lactate $\xrightarrow{\text{gluconeogenesis}}$ pyruvate $\xrightarrow{\hspace{2cm}}$ glucose

newly formed glucose is transported to muscle to be used for energy again



2. The glucose-alanine cycle:

-Do you remember protein degradation??

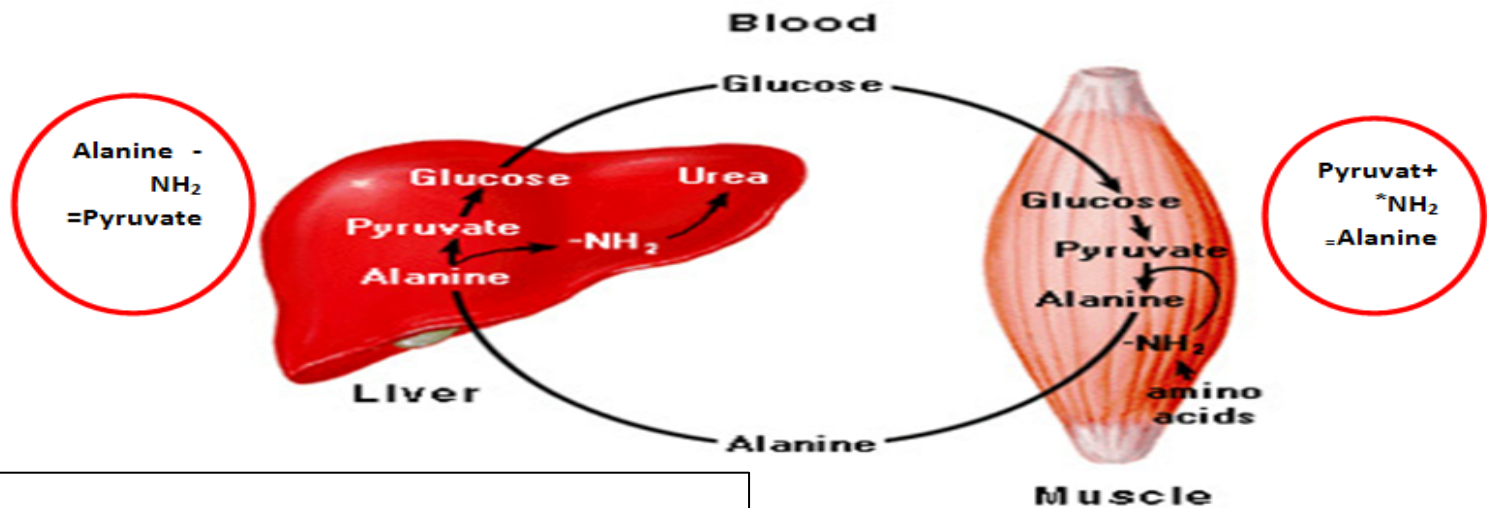
In muscle:

- α amino acid \rightarrow α keto acid.

this beautiful couple will give NH_2^* to the other couple(pyruvate and alanine)

In liver:

New glucose will be formed by deamination of alanine then it will go to the muscle



What will happen to NH_2 ?

- Liver converts it to urea for excretion (urea cycle)

Summary

Production of ATP:

1. Creatine phosphate (stimultaneous) > intermediate
2. Aerobic metabolism > long-term system
3. Anaerobic metabolism > short-term system



operate simultaneously during physical activity

Magnitude of energy from anaerobic sources depends on person's capacity and tolerance for lactic acid accumulation

Muscle Fatigue:

- 1) Build up of lactic acid = ↓ pH of sarcoplasm
- 2) ↑ ADP & ↓ ATP
- 3) Ionic imbalance

Glucose-alanine cycle: (Getting glucose from alanine (amino acid)):

in muscles;

Pyruvate > Alanine

(transported through blood to..)

in liver:

Alanine > Pyruvate > glucose (gluconeogenesis)

> to muscle again

Cori's cycle: (Gtting glucose from lactic acid)

Lactate (in exercising) > liver > glucose

(gluconeogenesis) > to muscle again.

Aerobic metabolism in Red (Slow) fibers/oxidative

Anaerobic metabolism in White (Fast) fibers/glycolytic

-Suitable for prolonged effort
 -(fatty acids) are broken down by b-oxidation, TCA cycle, and the respiratory chain
 -Red color > myoglobin
 -Releases O₂ when O₂ level drops

Suitable for fast, strong contractions
 -mainly obtain ATP from anaerobic glycolysis
 -Glycogen>glucose-1-PO₄> glucose-6-PO₄ > glycolysis> ATP
 -Lactate is formed and converted to glucose in liver (Cori cycle)

Quiz

1- Which of the following systems is exhausted in a very short period of time of muscle activity ?

- a) Anaerobic ATP-PCr
- b) Anerobic glycolysis
- c) Aerobic TCA cycle

2- The enzyme that makes ATP:

- a) ATPase
- b) ATP synthase

3- What is the fiber type used in a strong contraction?

- a) Type I
- b) Red
- c) Both
- d) White

4- Which fuel source does type I depend on?

- a) Carbohydrates
- b) Amino acid
- c) Protein
- d) Fat

5- Alanine consists of ?

- a) Pyruvate + No₂
- b) Pyruvate + NH₂

ANSWERS:

1- A

2- B

3- D

4- D

5- B

◆ Some videos about Aerobic and anaerobic metabolism in muscles:

- [Aerobic System \(Aerobic glycolysis\)](#)
- [Anaerobic System \(Anaerobic glycolysis\)](#)
- [Metabolic Circuits](#)
- [Educational video about Muscle Fatigue](#)
- [Cori Cycle](#)



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