

Biochemistry
Team 434

Oxidative Stress and Atherosclerosis

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Introduction

Some basic (extra) information before we start:

- **Oxygen** is important for humans as it serves as the final electron acceptor in the electron transport chain in the mitochondria
- Unfortunately, oxygen has the potential of transforming to other **reactive oxygen species (ROS)**
- This is very significant in practice & here are some examples of its importance:
 - 1) Reperfusion injury after thrombolysis in patients who suffered a MI
 - 2) Respiratory distress syndrome (decreased surfactant in infants) → infants must receive supplemental oxygen → ROS cause damage to the retina potentially causing blindness (retinopathy of prematurity)

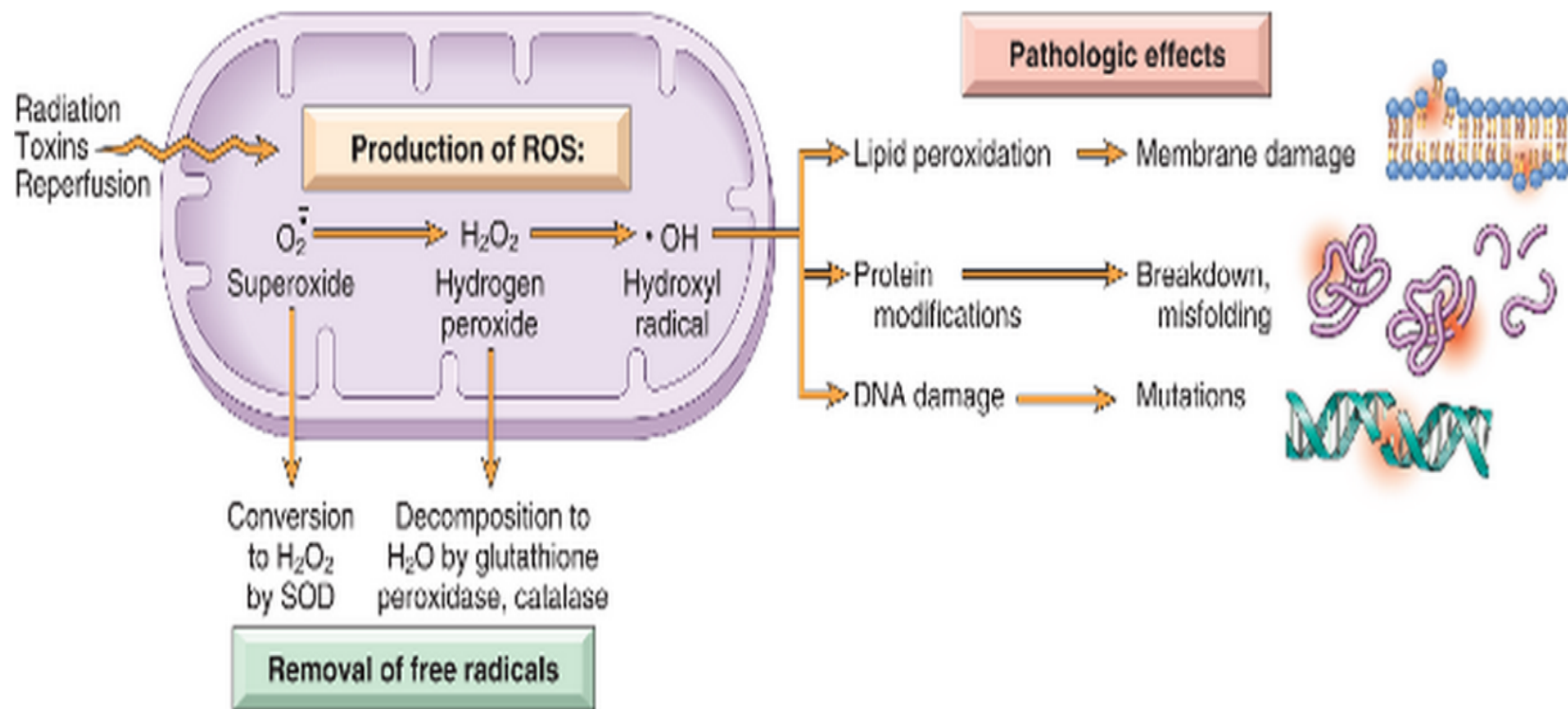
Now take a deep breath, (but not too deep to avoid any free radical injury), & enjoy the lecture

Oxidative stress

- Oxidative stress is an imbalance between oxidant production & antioxidant mechanisms
- Reactive species contribute to aging & to some serious diseases such as atherosclerosis
- Oxidative stress causes damage to DNA, proteins, & lipids
- Chronic inflammatory conditions, cancers, & obesity increase reactive species (example: Rheumatoid Arthritis)



[Oxidative Stress](#)



ROS

- **Free radical:** a molecule that has an unpaired electron in its outer orbit (extra info) such as superoxide & hydroxyl radical
- We can see from the previous figure that ROS include superoxide, hydrogen peroxide, & hydroxyl radical

Antioxidant mechanisms:

- Superoxide → Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) by Superoxide dismutase
- H_2O_2 → H_2O by glutathione dismutase / or by catalase
- Vitamins A,C,E (remember ACE in pharm.) are antioxidants
- Vitamin C is also called ascorbic acid
- Selenium also an antioxidant but found in very small amounts (trace element)

Sources of ROS

- Sources:

- During course of metabolism

- e.g., $O_2\cdot^-$ by auto-oxidation of hemoglobin
and xanthine oxidase

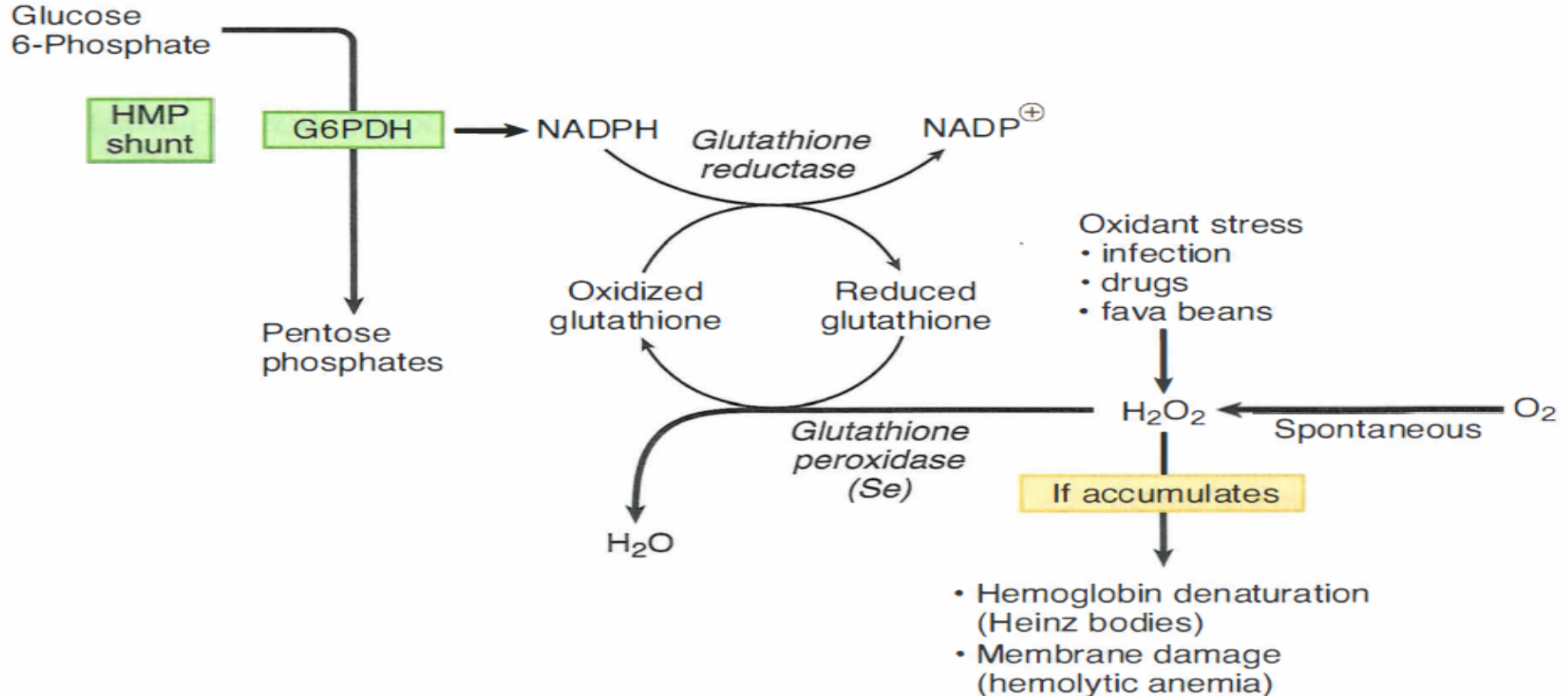
- $OH\cdot$ by Fenton reaction

- $O_2\cdot^-$, H_2O_2 , $OH\cdot$ By partial reduction of molecular oxygen in
electron transport chain in mitochondria

- Ingestion of toxins, chemicals or drugs

Glutathione System

Erythrocyte



Glutathione system

Some notes on the previous image:

• **Glutathione** Is a sulfur amino acid composed of three amino acids: *Glycine*, *Cysteine*, and *Glutamate* that bound to sulfur group so, *Glutathione* has two forms: reduced form (2 *G-SH*) , and oxidized form (*G-S-S-G*).

- The function of the NADPH is to give reducing power to cells (extra info)
- G6PD produces NADPH in the red blood cells.
- NADPH is used by glutathione reductase to convert H_2O_2 to H_2O
- If there is G6PD deficiency → there will be decreased levels of NADPH → increased levels of H_2O_2 → hemolysis.
- Selenium work as cofactor in *Glutathione* system enzymes.



Molecular & Vascular Effects of ROS



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graph TD; Title[Molecular & Vascular Effects of ROS] --> Molecular[Molecular effects:]; Title --> Vascular[Vascular effects:];
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Molecular effects:

- Lipid peroxidation (polyunsaturated fatty acids)**
- Protein denaturation**
- Inactivation of enzymes**
- DNA damage**
- Cell signaling effects (e.g., release of Ca²⁺ from intracellular stores)**
- Cytoskeletal damage**
- Chemotaxis**

Vascular effects:

- Altered vascular tone**
- Increased endothelial cell permeability**

Nitric Oxide (NO)

Free radical gas
Very short half-life
(seconds)

Metabolized into
nitrates & nitrites

Synthesis:
Enzyme: NO synthase
Precursor: L-Arginine

Effects:

Relaxes vascular smooth muscle
Prevents platelet aggregation
Bactericidal & Tumoricidal effects
Neurotransmitter in brain

Oxidative Stress: Role of Nitric Oxide (NO)

This may be both beneficial and detrimental, depending upon when and where NO is released
NO produced by endothelial NOS (eNOS) improving vascular dilation and perfusion
(i.e., beneficial).

Vasodilators such as nitroglycerin is metabolized into NO and causes vasodilatation
In contrast, NO production by neuronal NOS (nNOS) or by the inducible form of NOS (iNOS) has
been reported to have detrimental effects.
Increased iNOS activity is generally associated with inflammatory processes

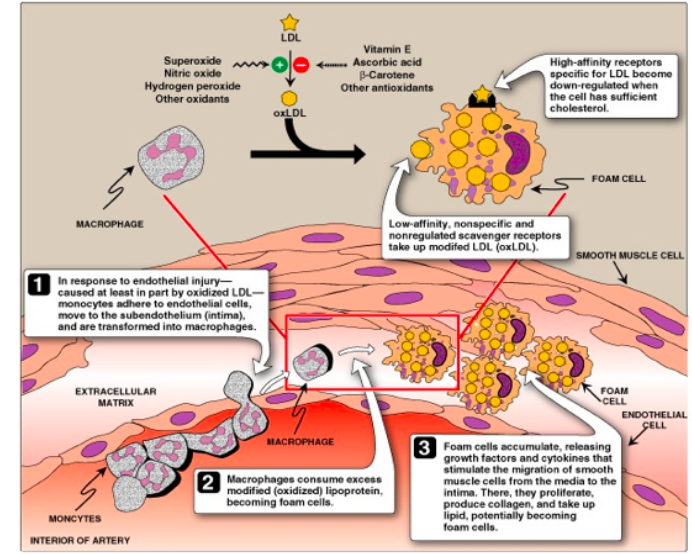
Pathogenesis of Atherosclerosis

**Modified (oxidized) LDL ... Oxidative stress
(imbalance between oxidants and antioxidants)**

Endothelial injury of arterial wall

Adherence of monocytes to endothelial cells and their movement into intima where it becomes macrophages

**Uptake of oxLDL by macrophage scavenger receptor:
Scavenger receptor class A (SR-A)
Low-affinity, non-specific receptor
Un-regulated receptor**

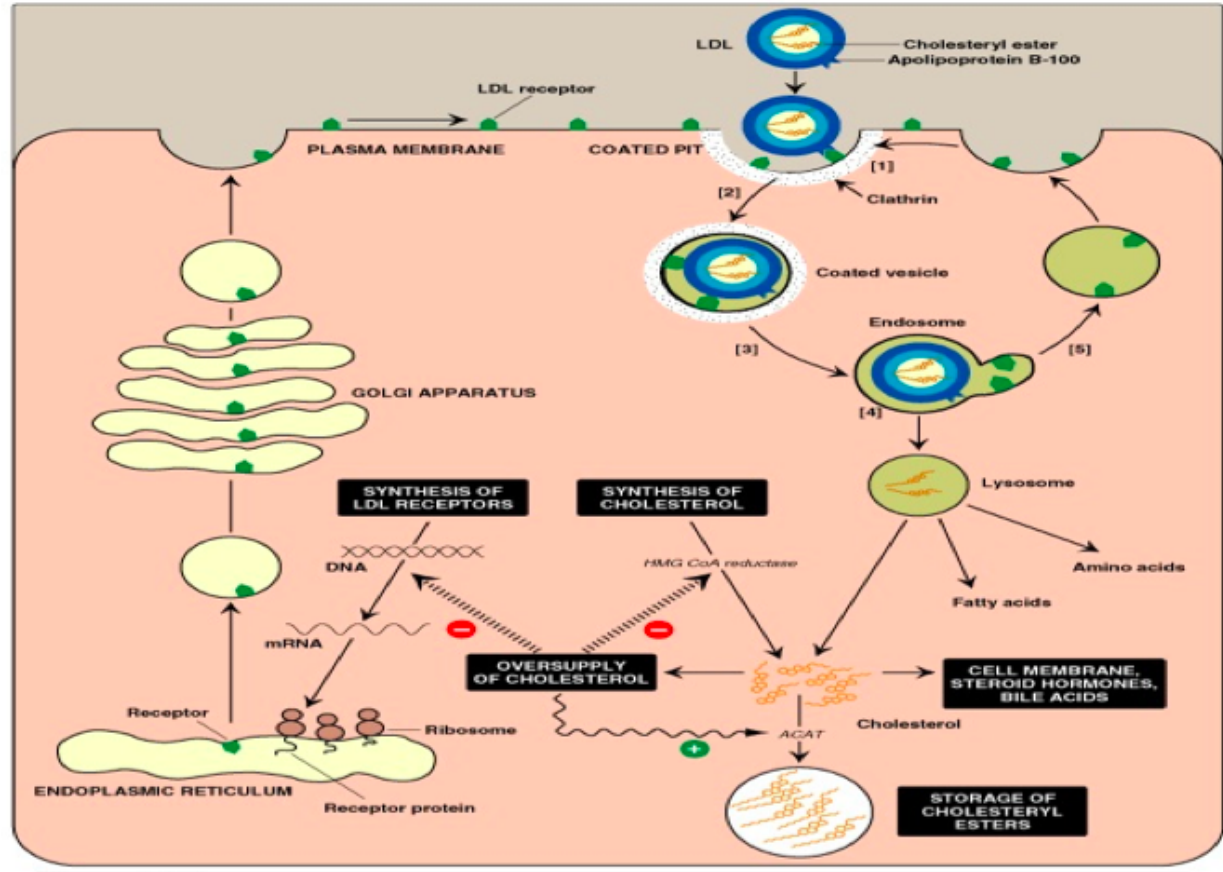


Atherosclerotic plaque formation

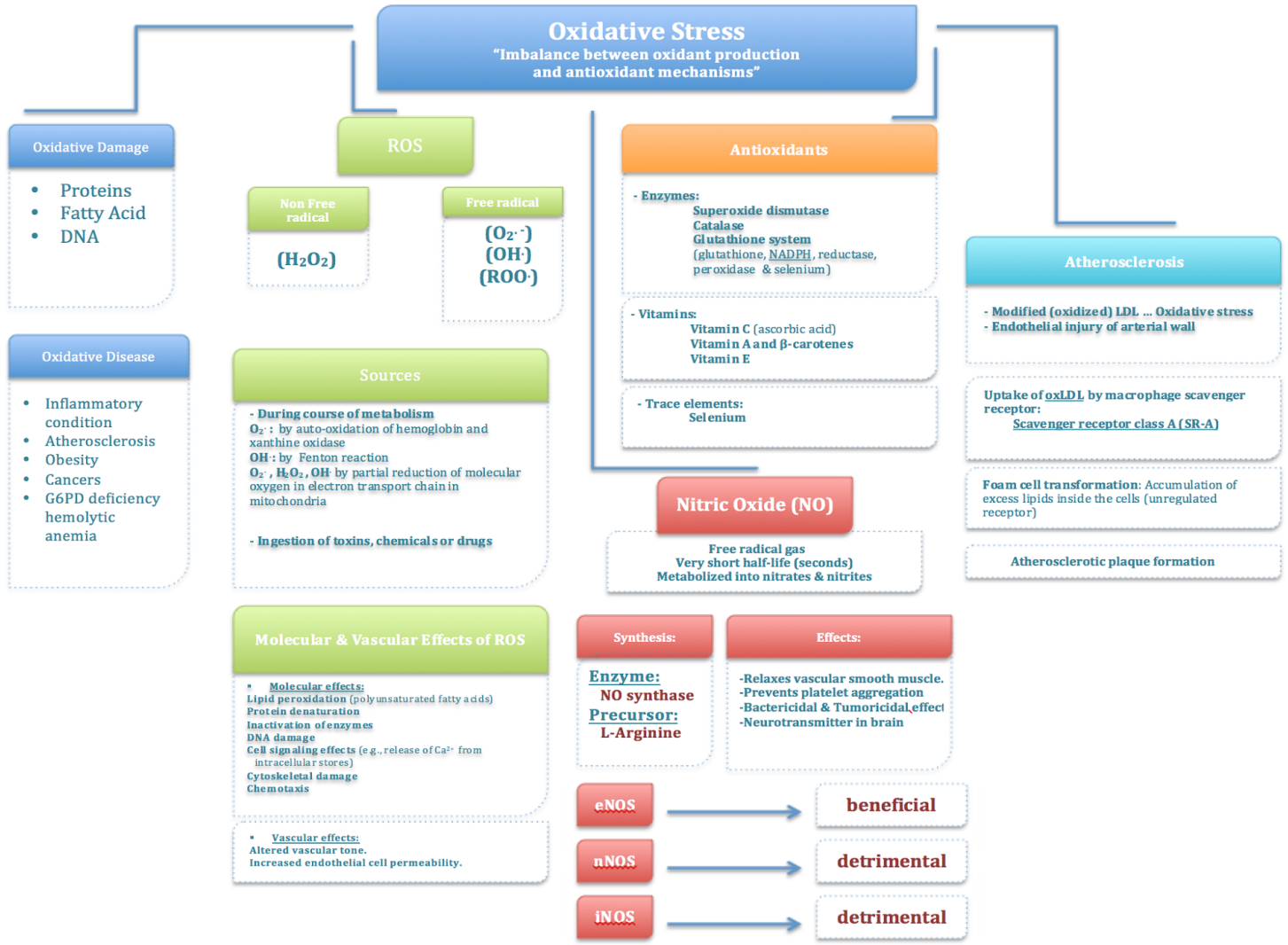
**Foam cell transformation:
Accumulation of excess lipids
inside the cells (
unregulated receptor)**

Compare to physiological uptake of LDL (unmodified) by high-affinity, specific & tightly regulated LDL-Receptor

LDL: Receptor-Mediated Endocytosis



SUMMARY



1- WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS A NON-FREE RADICALS?

- A- HYDROGEN PEROXIDE
- B- HYDROXYL RADICALS
- C- SUPEROXIDE

2- WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS A POSSIBLE RESULT FROM HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA?

- A- NADPH DEFICIENCY
- B- FAD DEFICIENCY
- C- REDUCTASE DEFICIENCY

3- WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS CONSIDERED AS A SOURCE OF REACTIVE OXYGEN SPECIES (ROS)?

- A- PEROXYL RADICAL
- B- INGESTION OF DRUGS
- C- CARBOHYDRATE INTAKE

4- GLUTATHIONE SYSTEM IS CONSIDERED AS A?

- A- OXIDANT PRODUCTION
- B- VASCULAR EFFECTOR
- C- ANTI-OXIDANT AGENT

Answers:

1-A

2-A

3-B

4-C

**Biochemistry
Team 434**

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