



# Purine Degradation & Gout (Musculoskeletal Block)

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Doctors slides

Notes and explanations

Extra information

Highlights

# *Objectives:*

By the end of this lecture, students should be familiar with:

- Purine degradation, uric acid formation and its association with gout.
- Fate of uric acid in humans.
- Recognize the importance of uric acid in the pathogenesis of gout.
- Overview of Gout classification and treatment.

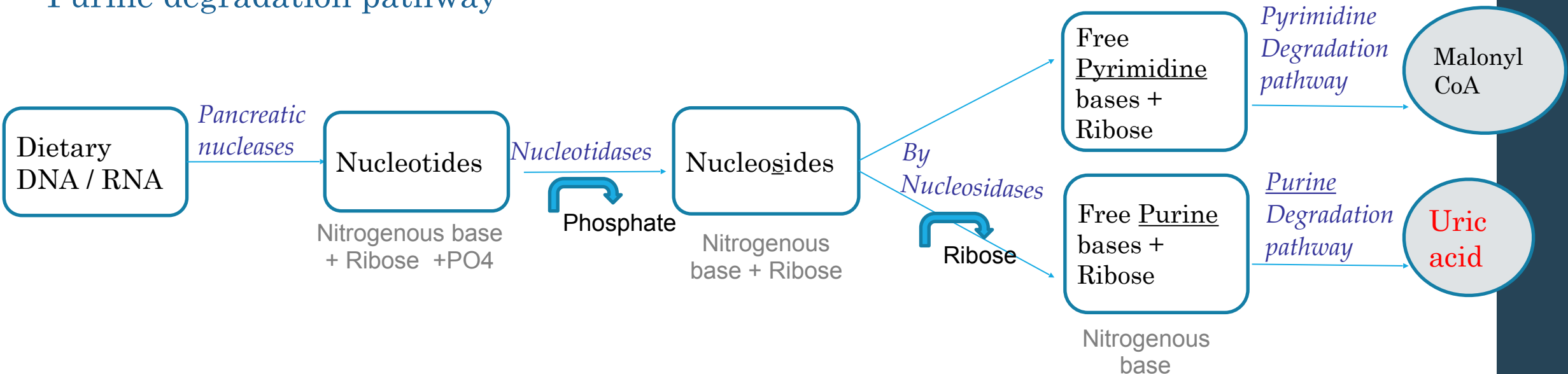
# Purine degradation pathway

Purines are nitrogen bases

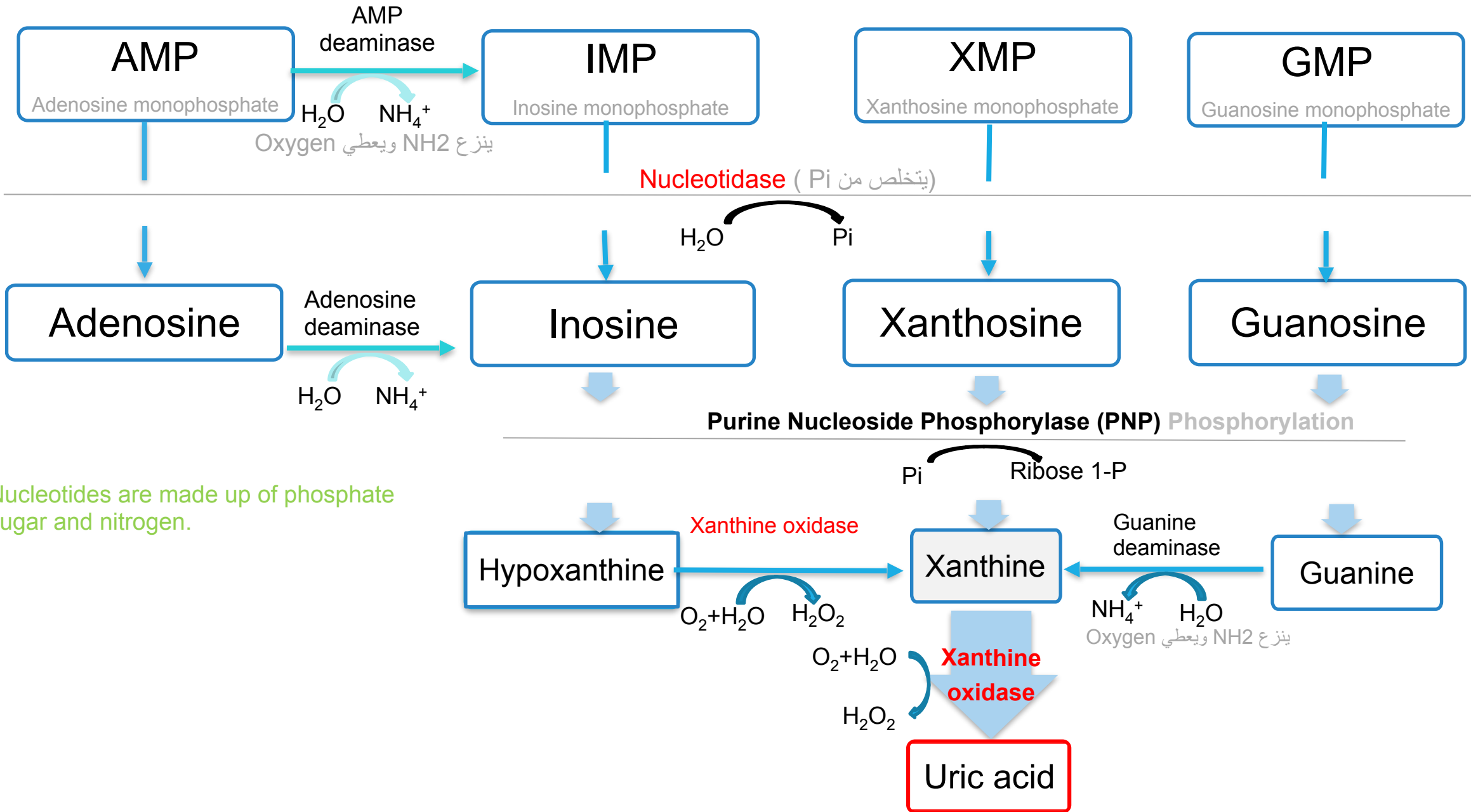
The major source of nucleic acid is meat but the amount differ from a type to another sea food and internal organs like the liver have more nucleic acid

- The major source of dietary nucleic acids (purines and pyrimidines) is **meat**
- Purine and pyrimidine bases are absorbed by the intestine. (small intestine)
- The ingested bases are mostly degraded into different products by degradation pathways
- These products are then excreted by the body. (small intestine). (product for purine degradation = uric acid)
- Adenosine and guanosine (purines) are finally degraded to uric acid by:  
**Purine degradation pathway**

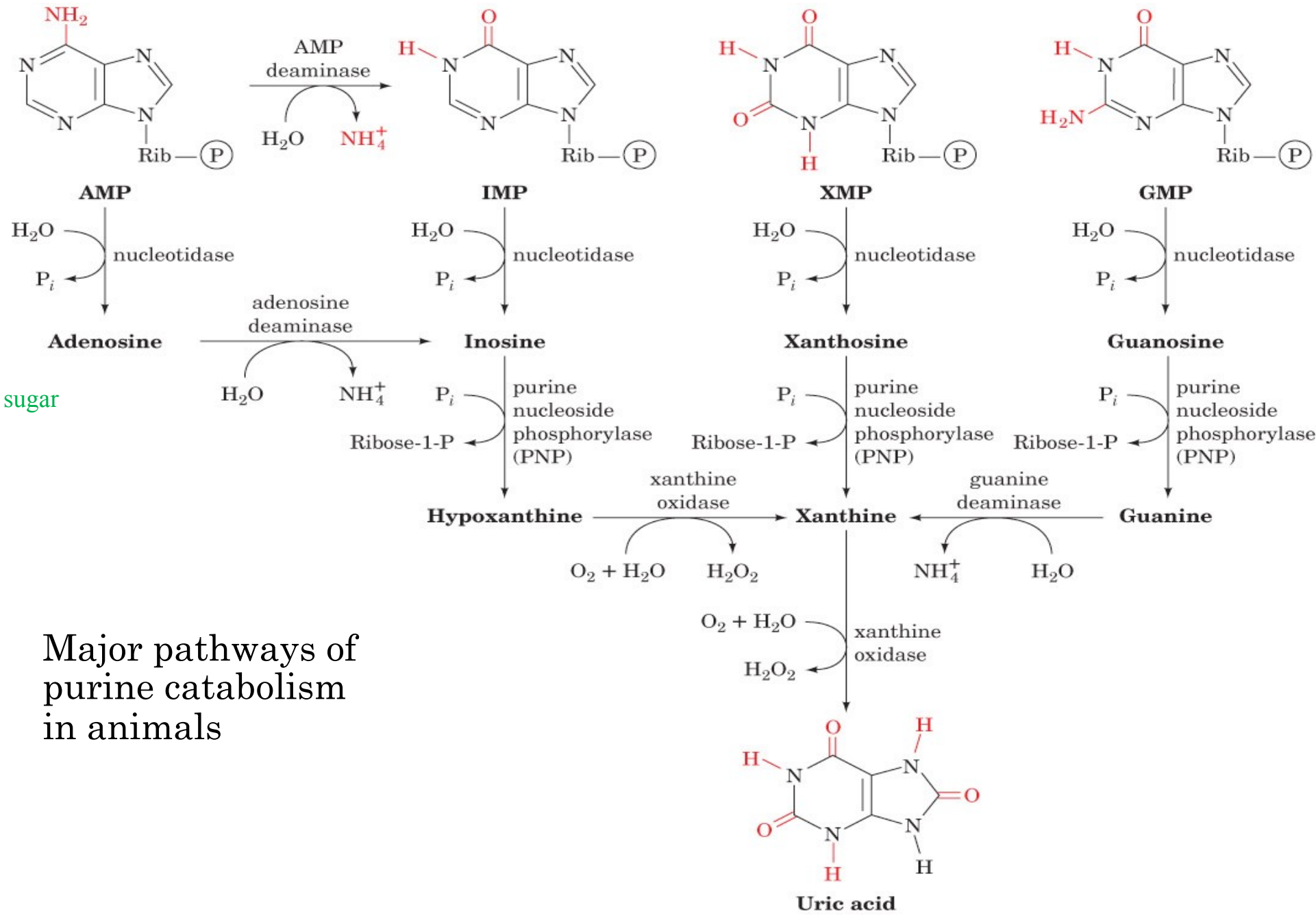
*Remember:*  
Nucleoside = Nitrogenous base + Ribose  
Nucleotide = Nitrogenous base + Ribose +  $PO_4$



# Major pathways of purine catabolism in animals



Nucleotides are made up of phosphate sugar and nitrogen.



Sine in adenosine means sugar

### Major pathways of purine catabolism in animals

# Fate of uric acid in humans

- In humans, primates, birds and reptiles the final product of purine degradation is **uric acid**

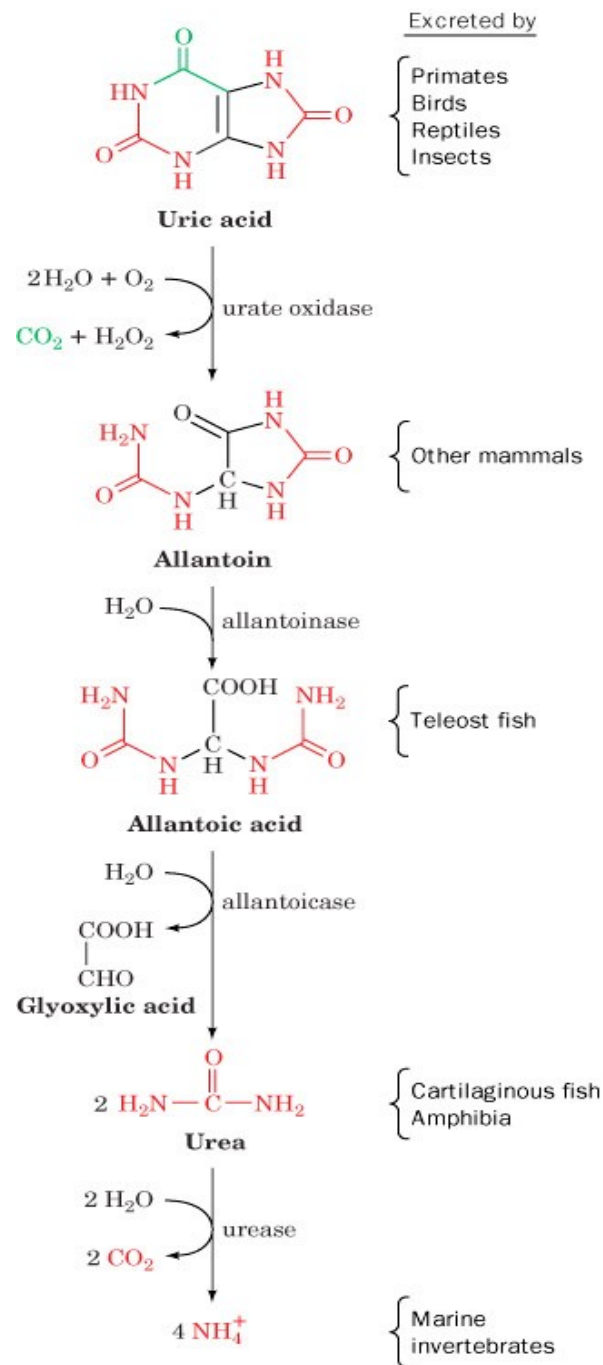
- Uric acid is excreted in the **urine**

- Some animals convert uric acid to other products:

*(because they have the enzymes that humans lack that enable them to convert uric acid to other products)*

1. Allantoin
2. Allantoic acid
3. Urea
4. Ammonia

# Degradation of uric acid to ammonia in some animals



You don't need to memorize this slide, it is only to show that uric acid degradation is different depending on the enzymes found in the creature

Some animals convert uric acid in to other products by special enzymes that are not found in humans

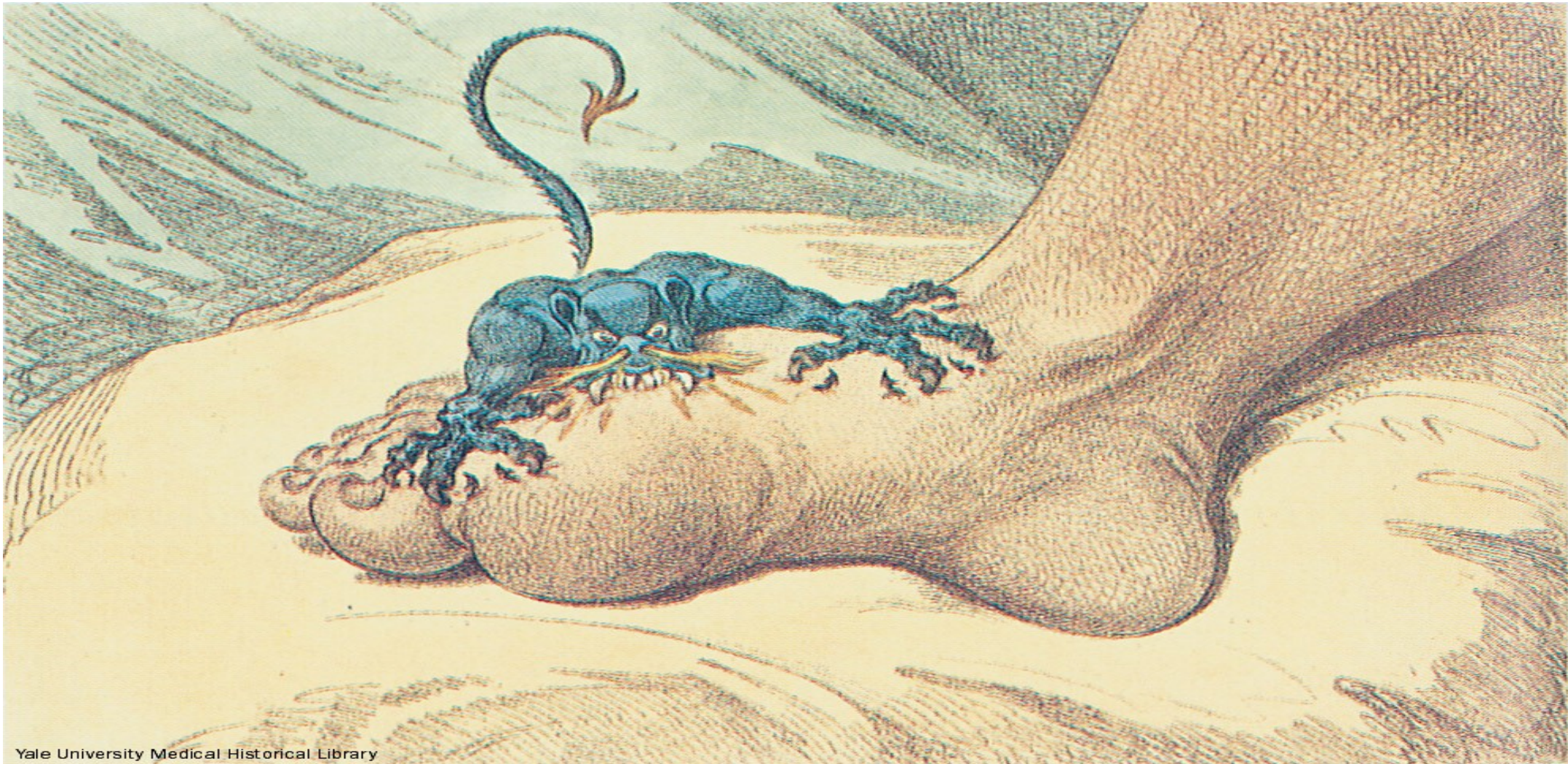
# Fate of uric acid in humans

- Humans can't convert uric acid to other products Because they don't have Urate Oxidase enzyme
- This enzyme is used in treatment of Gout

- Uric acid is less soluble in water.
- Reptiles, insects and birds excrete uric acid as a paste of crystals; to save water.
- Humans excrete uric acid in *urine*.
- Humans do not have enzymes to further degrade uric acid.
- **Excessive production** of **uric acid** causes deposition of uric acid crystals in the joints leading to:
  - Gout
  - Hyperuricemia (*Hyperuricemia is not a disease. It is a condition of elevated uric acid in the blood. It can be referred as a disease once it shows symptoms or causes other diseases such as gout.)*  
*(hyperuricemia doesn't always lead to gout)*



# The Gout, a cartoon by James Gilroy (1799)



# Gout

Uric acid accumulates because of

disease due to high levels of uric acid in body fluids .

Affects 3 per 1000 persons .

7.0 mg/dL and above (normal 6.8)

Underexcretion

Overproduction

Sodium urate crystals accumulate in kidneys, ureter, joints leading to chronic gouty arthritis .

Painful arthritic joint inflammation due to deposits of insoluble sodium urate crystals (especially big toe)

٩٨٪ من - uric acid يتحد مع  $\text{Na}^+$  . لأنه يمتلك شحنة -ve

< Sodium-urate (Poorly soluble product) < accumulation of crystals

- Excessive production of uric acid causes deposition of uric acid crystals in the joints

leading to:

- (2) Gout
- (1) Hyperuricemia (increase of uric acid in blood)
- Hyperuricemia doesn't always develop to Gout

# Gout



redness  
Swelling  
Loss of function

Some reasons that which lead to increase the uric acid:

Inaccurately associated with overeating and drinking.

Alcohol used to be contaminated with lead during manufacture and storage .

Lead decreases excretion of uric acid from kidneys causing hyperuricemia and gout

Excessive meat consumption increases uric acid production in some individuals

Gout affect Big Toe joints because:

It's a big joint  
Weak blood circulation ]

Two main causes of gout

→ Overproduction of uric acid

→ Underexcretion of uric acid



Sodium urate crystals in urine this is under microscope from urine

# Classification of Gout

Clinical Category	Metabolic defect
<b>Primary Gout (90% of cases)</b>	
Enzyme defects-Unknown (85% to 90% of cases )	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Overproduction of uric acid</b> -Normal excretion (Majority) -Increased excretion (Minority )  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Underexcretion of uric acid with normal production</b>
Known enzyme defects – e.g., Partial HGPRT deficiency (rare)	<b>Overproduction of uric acid</b>
<b>Secondary Gout (10% of cases )</b>	
Associated with increase nucleic acid turnover – e.g.. Leukaemia	<b>Overproduction of uric acid with increase urinary excretion</b>
Chronic renal disease	<b>Reduced excretion of uric acid with normal production</b>
Inborn errors of metabolism – e.g. complete HGPRT deficiency (Lesch-nyhan syndrome)	<b>Overproduction of uric acid with increased urinary excretion</b>

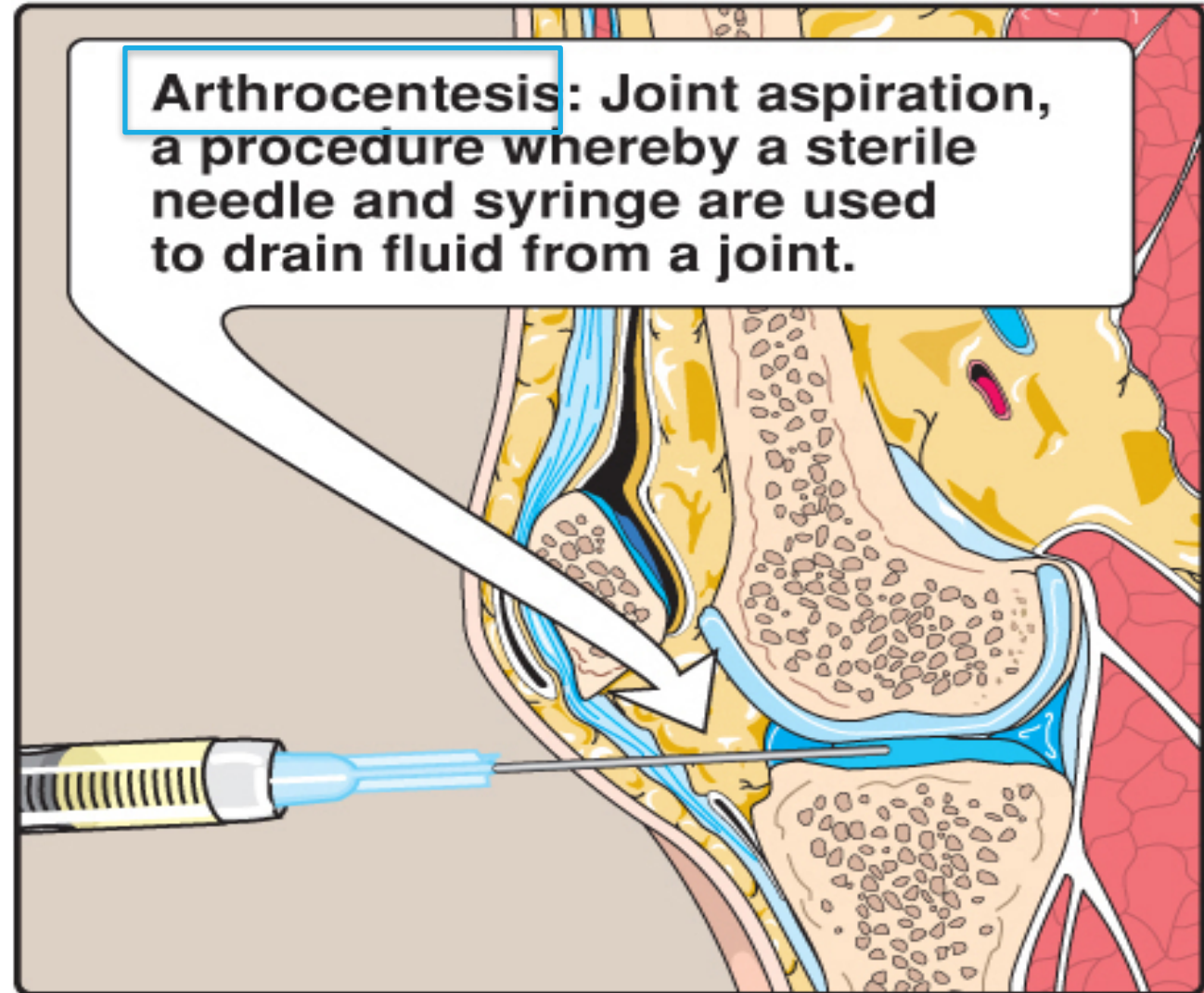
# Biochemical Diagnosis

## □ Joint fluid test

The definitive diagnosis of gout requires aspiration and examination of synovial fluid from an affected joint (or material from a tophus) using polarized light microscopy to confirm the presence of needle-shaped monosodium urate crystals.

## □ Blood test

It uses to measure the levels of uric acid



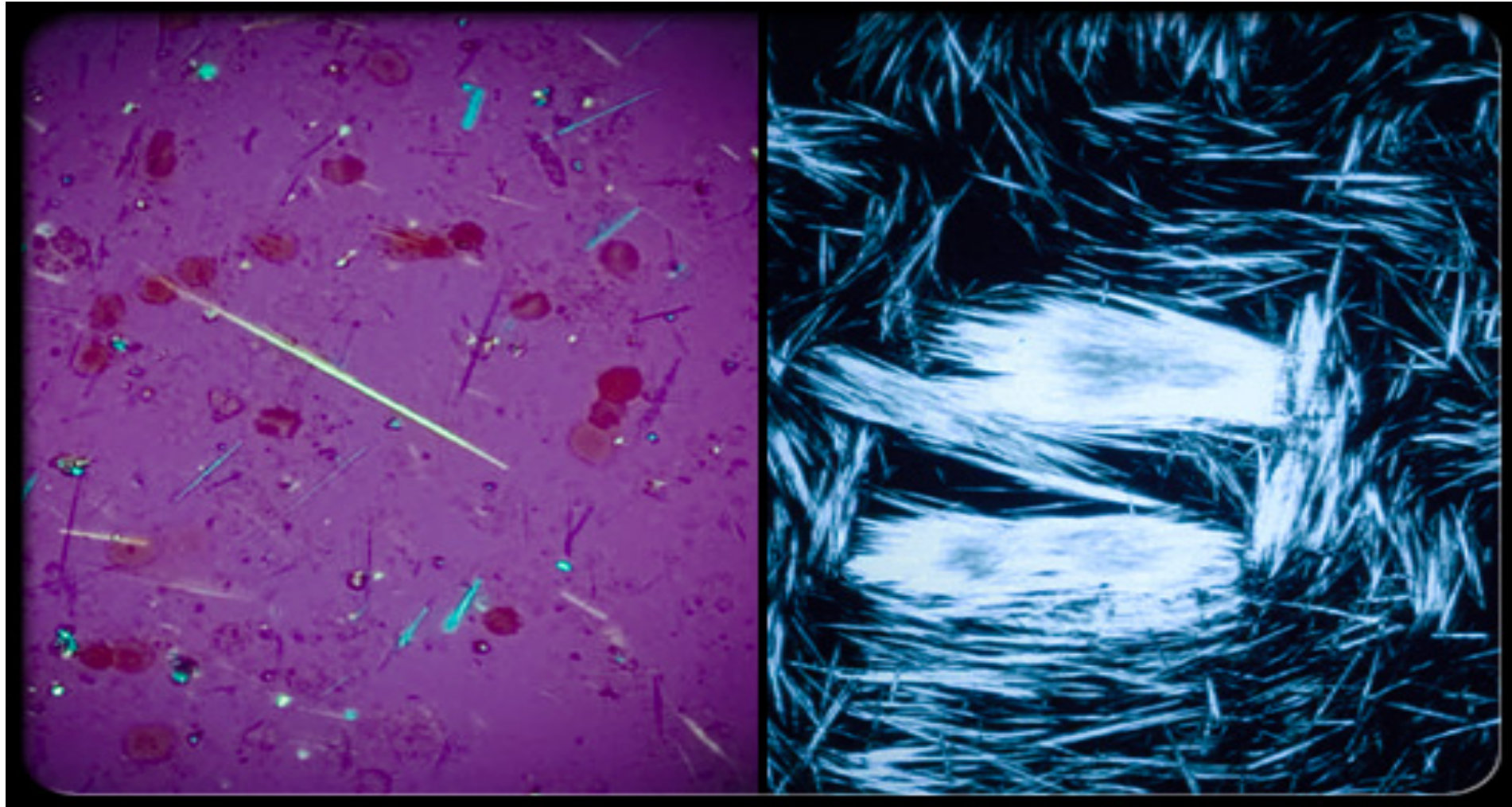


\*Color of synovial fluid is yellow

\* It is sticky



# Monosodium urate crystals

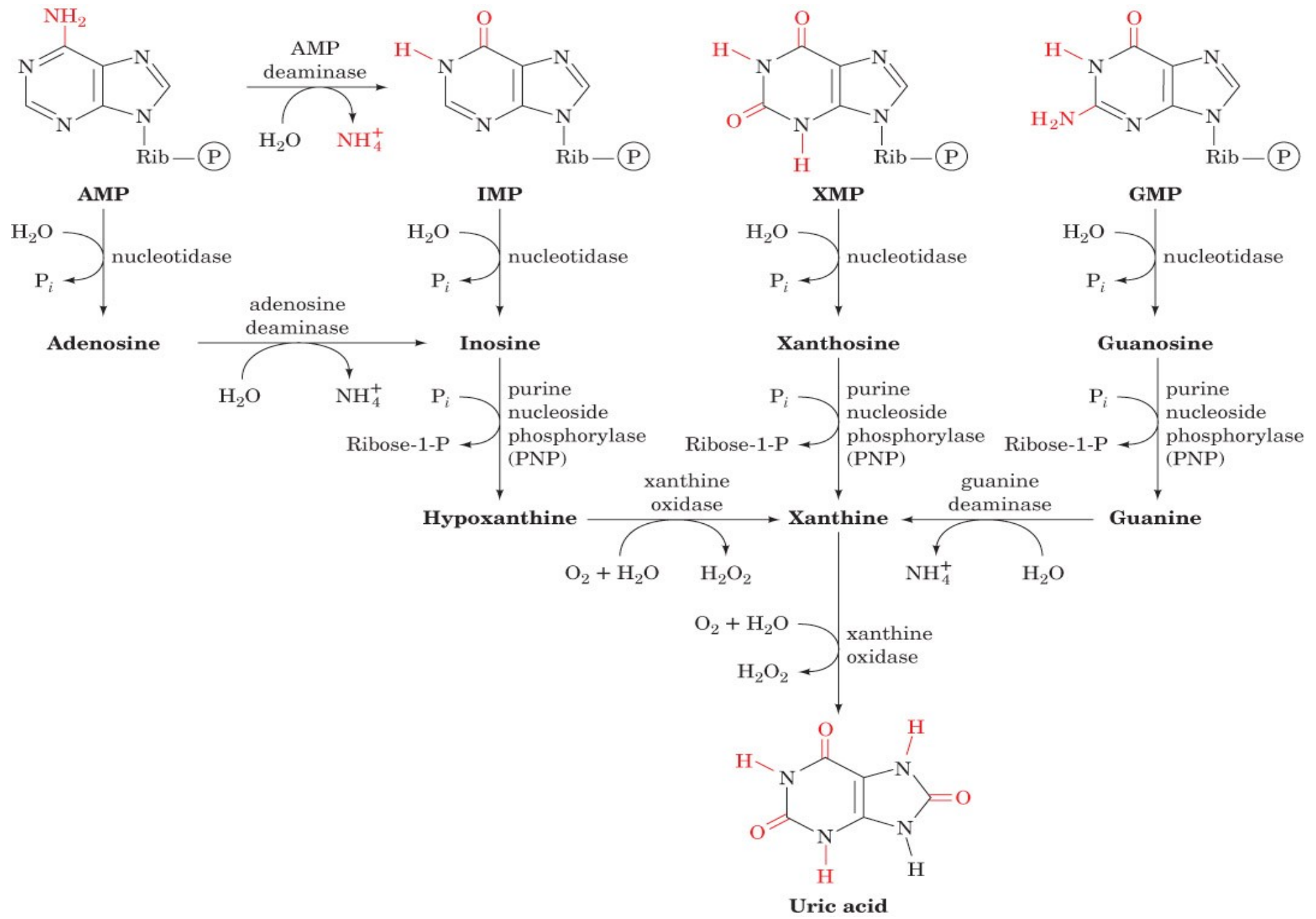


# Treatment

- To reduce pain and inflammation (analgesics, anti-inflammatory drugs)
- To increase uric acid excretion (uricosuric agents)
- To reduce uric acid production  
Allopurinol (xanthine oxidase inhibitor)



**Major pathways of purine catabolism in animals**



# Take home message

- **The biochemical causes that contribute to the development of gout and hyperuricemia are defects in purine degradation pathway and impaired excretion of uric acid.**
- **Hyperuricemia does not always cause gout.**

# Test your self

• *1- gout is a disease due to high levels of:*

• A-uric acid    B- lactic acid    C- purine

• *2- uric acids is ..... soluble in water:*

• A- more            B- less            C- same

• *3- which one of the following can cause gout :*

• A- Excessive vegetables consumption B- Excessive fat consumption C- Excessive meat consumption

• *4-which of the following enzymes use to converts Guanine to Xanthine :*

• A-Guanine synthase    B – Guanine convetsae C- Guanine deaminase

• *5- 4-which of the following enzymes use to converts Hypoxanthine to Xanthine:*

• A- Xanthine oxidase B- AMP deaminase    C- Adenosine deaminase

[Answers](#)

## GIRLS TEAM:

- الهنوف الجلعود
- رهنف الشنننننننننن
- شهد الننننن
- لئنا الرنننن
- مننننن المسعد
- لئلى الصنننن
- العنود المنننن
- أرننننن العقئل
- رئنننن الغرنننن
- مننن البراك
- رزان الزهرانن
- لئان المننن
- مننننن القننننن
- رئما الءننن

## BOYS TEAM:

- عبدالملك الشرهان
- تركئ آل بنهار
- اءمن ابراهئم العرننن
- سعئء آل سرار
- عبدالرءمن التركئ
- سلطان بن عبئء
- صالح المنعقل
- صالح الوكئل
- عدنن المنقبل
- مننن صالح
- القسومئ
- نواف عبءالعرئز

## Team leaders:

- مننن حسن حكئم
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