Enzyme inhibition

Inhibition is a process by which the enzyme activity is regulated or controlled or stopped

To inhibit means to stop enzyme activity



An enzyme without inhibitor





An enzyme with inhibitor

*K*_i (Inhibitor constant)

K_i is a measure of the affinity of inhibitor for enzyme

Also called dissociation constant

Enzyme inhibition

- There are three types of enzyme inhibition:
 - Competitive
 - Noncompetitive
 - Uncompetitive

Competitive inhibition

The inhibitor is a structural analogue (similar) that competes with the substrate for binding to the active site of enzyme
 Two reactions are possible:

 $E + S \leftrightarrow ES \square E + P$ and $E + I \leftrightarrow EI$

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Competitive inhibition

In competitive inhibition, V_{max} is unchanged in the presence and the absence of inhibitor

- The value of K_m is increased
 because S and I compete for
 binding at the same site
- A higher [S] is required to achieve half-maximal velocity

Noncompetitive inhibition

- The inhibitor does not have structural similarity to the substrate
- The inhibitor binds to the enzyme at a site away from the substrate binding site
- No competition exists between the inhibitor and the substrate
- The inhibitor can bind to a free enzyme or to an enzyme-substrate complex
- In both cases the complex is catalytically inactive

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Noncompetitive inhibition

ES + I ↔ ESI (inactive) E + I ↔ EI (inactive)
The value of V_{max} is decreased by the inhibitor
K_m is unchanged because the affinity of S for E is unchanged



Noncompetitive inhibition

Regulation of enzyme activity

- Regulatory enzymes usually catalyze the first or an early reaction in a metabolic pathway
- They catalyze a rate limiting reaction that controls the overall pathway
- They may also catalyze a reaction unique to that pathway known as committed step

Feedback inhibition:

When the end-product of a metabolic pathway exceeds its conc. limit, it inhibits the regulatory enzyme to normalize the pathway (feedback inhibition)
 Feed positive activation:

When the end-product of a metabolic pathway is below its conc. limit, it activates the regulatory enzyme to normalize the pathway WILEY

Feedback Inhibition



Types of regulation

- Allosteric enzyme regulation
 - Enzymes in metabolic pathways are regulated by certain compounds (ligands)
 - These ligands do not bind to active site
 - They bind to other site (regulatory site) on the enzyme (allosteric enzymes)
 - The term "allosteric" came from Greek word "allos" meaning "other"

Cooperative binding
 Binding of a ligand to a regulatory site affects binding of the same or of another ligand to the enzyme
 This is called cooperative binding

- Binding of a ligand causes a change in the active site of enzyme
- This causes a change in the binding affinity of enzyme for the substrate

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(b) Allosteric regulation



Allosteric activation

The active site becomes available to the substrates when a regulatory molecule binds to a different site on the enzyme.

Allosteric deactivation

The active site becomes unavailable to the substrates when a regulatory molecule binds to a different site on the enzyme.

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- The effect of a ligand may be positive (activation) or negative (inhibition)
 - Positive: increased E, S affinity
 - Negative decreased E, S affinity
- Most allosteric enzymes are oligomers (two or more polypeptide chains or subunits)
- The subunits are known as protomers

- Two types of interactions occur in allosteric enzymes:
 - Homotropic
 - Heterotropic
- Homotropic: Effect of one ligand on the binding of the same ligand
- A regulatory enzyme controlled by its own substrate
- Heterotropic: Effect of one ligand on the binding of a different ligand

Enzymatic diagnosis and prognosis of diseases

- Enzymes are used clinically in three ways:
 - As indicators of enzyme activity or conc. in body fluids (serum, urine) in the diagnosis/prognosis of diseases
 - As analytical reagents in measuring activity of other enzymes or compounds in body fluids

The most commonly used body fluids for measuring enzyme activity are serum and plasma

- There are:
 - Plasma-specific enzymes
 - Nonplasma-specific enzymes

Serum markers in the diagnosis of diseases

Heart disease
 Pancreatic diseases
 Liver diseases

Take home message

- Enzymes are essential for all biochemical reactions in the body
- A number of diseases are treated by inhibiting specific enzymes
- Many enzymes are used as biomarkers for diagnosis of diseases

References

Lippincott's Biochemistry
 5th Edition, pp 53-68, Lippincott
 Williams & Wilkins, New York, USA