

# Role of Salivary Glands and Stomach in Digestion

### By

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### **Objectives:**

- Understand the principle and importance of digestion of dietary foodstuffs
- Understand the role of salivary glands in digestion
- Understand the role of stomach in digestion

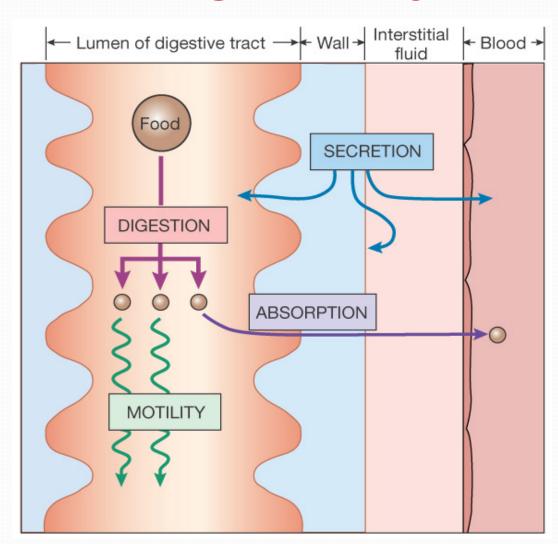
## **Background:**

- ➤ Most of dietary foodstuffs are ingested in the form that cannot be readily absorbed from the digestive tract
- Digestion: The breakdown of the naturally occurring foodstuffs into smaller, easily absorbable forms

### Processes of the digestive system

- Motility
- Secretion
- Absorption

Elimination



### **Digestion:**

> Mechanical effects:

e.g., mastication

**Enzymatic effects:** 

Digestive enzymes (hydrolases)

### **End Products of Digestion:**

- > Carbohydrates Monosaccharides
- ➤ Triacylglycerols (TAG) Fatty acids & monoacylglycerols
- > Proteins ----- Amino acids

### **Role of Salivary Glands in Digestion**

- > They secrete saliva
- > Saliva:

Acts as lubricant

Contains salivary \alpha-amylase

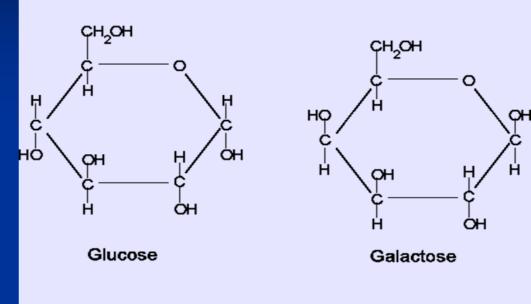
**Contains lingual lipase** 

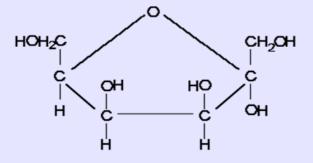
### Salivary *q***-Amylase**

- > Secreted by: Parotid glands
- **>** Optimum pH: 6.6 − 6.8
- > Substrate: Starch and glycogen
- $\rightarrow$  Hydrolyzes:  $\alpha(1,4)$  glycosidic bonds
- > Produces: Short oligosaccharides

# Simple Sugars -

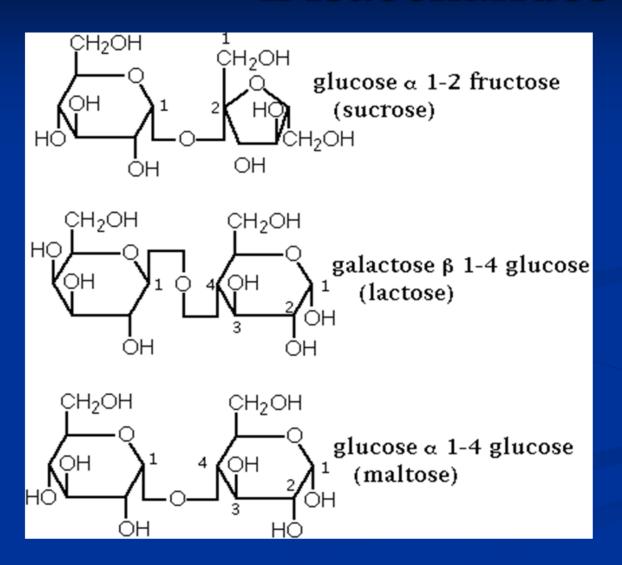
### Structures of Common Monosaccharides

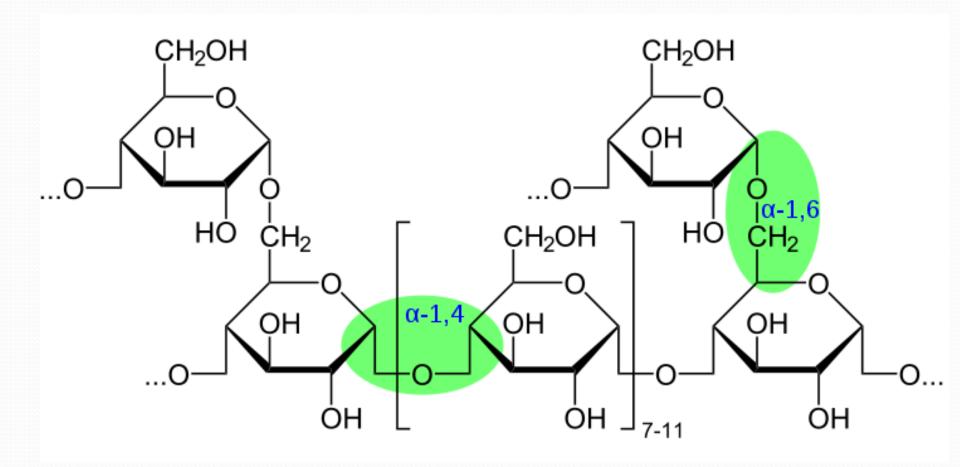




Fructose

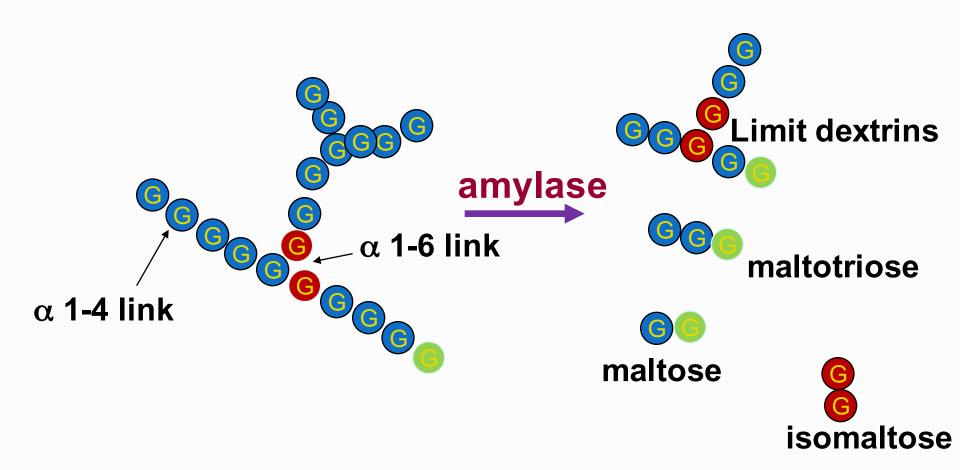
### Disaccharides



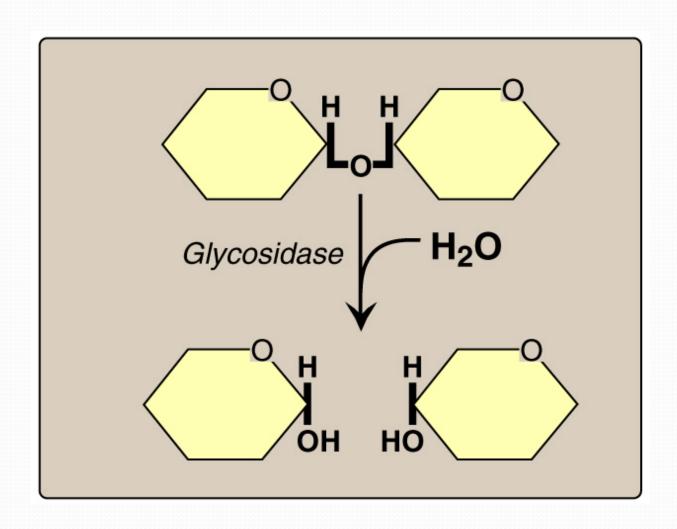


# Digestion

• Pre-stomach – Salivary amylase :  $\alpha$  1-4 endoglycosidase



# Hydrolysis of a(1,4) Glycosidic Bonds



# Effect of α-Amylase on Glycogen

> Hydrolysis of:

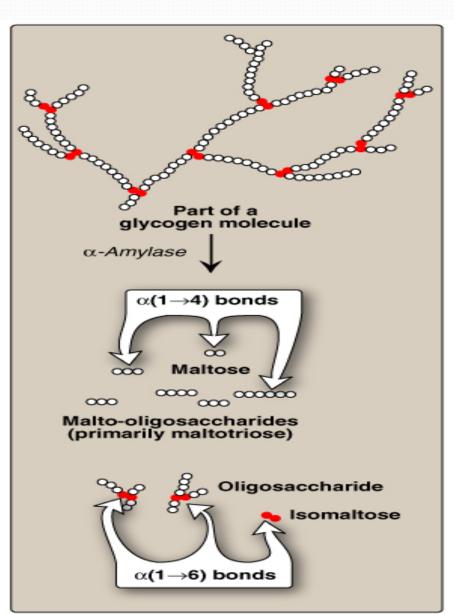
 $\alpha(1,4)$  glycosidic bonds

**Products:** 

Mixture of short oligosaccharides (both branched & unbranched)

**Disaccharides: Maltose and** 

isomaltose



## Salivary *q***-Amylase**

**CONT'D** 

- Its digestive action on the polysaccharides is of little significance because of the short time during which the enzyme can act on the food in the mouth
- Salivary amylase is inactivated by the acidity of stomach (The enzyme is inactivated at pH 4.0 or less)

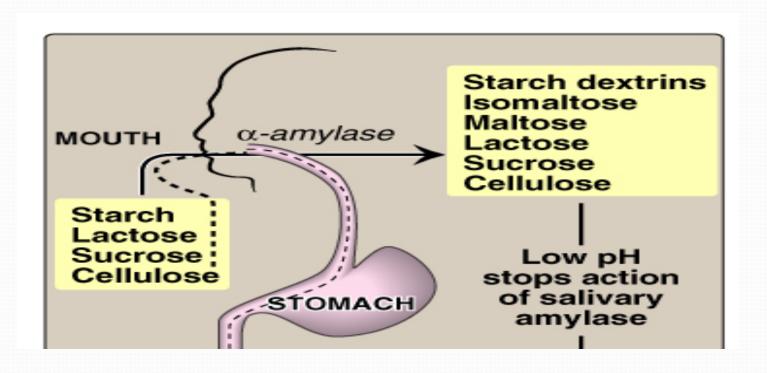
### Salivary *a-Amylase*

CONT'D

Salivary α-amylase does not hydrolyze:
α(1,6) glycosidic bonds
(The branch points of starch and glycogen)

Salivary α-amylase cannot act on:
 β(1,4) glycosidic bonds of cellulose
 Salivary α-amylase does not hydrolyze
 disaccharides

### Digestion of Carbohydrates in the Mouth



## **Lingual Lipase**

- Secreted by the dorsal surface of the tongue (Ebner's glands)
- Acts in the stomach for the digestion of TAG
- Produces fatty acids and monoacylglycerols
- Its role is of little significance in adult humans

## **Role of Stomach in Digestion**

- > No further digestion of carbohydrates
- ➤ Lipid digestion begins by lingual and gastric lipases
- Protein digestion begins by pepsin and rennin

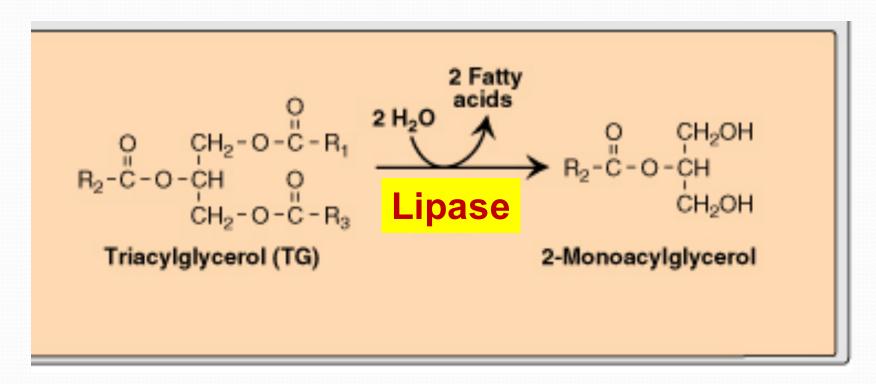
# Lingual and Gastric Lipases (Acid-Stable Lipases)

- Substrate: TAG molecules, containing medium- and short-chain fatty acids; such as found in milk fat
- The end products are:2-monoacylglycerols and fatty acids
- The role of both lipases in lipid digestion is of little significance in adult human

(The lipids in the stomach is not yet emulsified. Emulsification occurs in duodenum)

### **Lingual and Gastric Lipases**

CONT'D



Target substrate for acid-stable lipases is TAG containing:

O O 
$$\parallel$$
 R1 – C – O and R3 – C – O as short- or medium-chain fatty acids

### **Lingual and Gastric Lipases**

**CONT'D** 

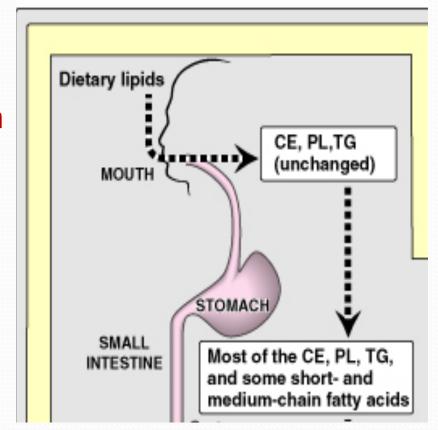
• They are important in neonates and infants for the digestion of TAG of milk

• They are also important in patients with pancreatic insufficiency where there is absence of pancreatic lipase

### **Digestion of Lipids in Stomach**

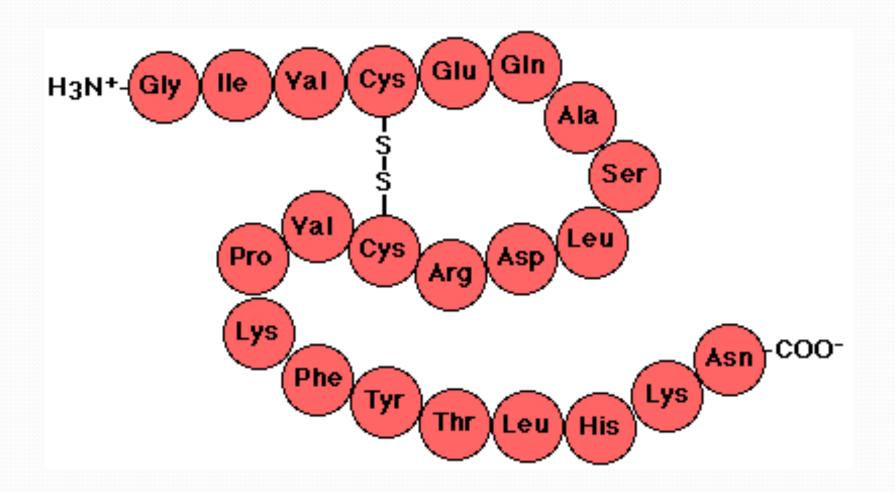
In adults, no significant effects because of lack of emulsification that occurs in duodenum

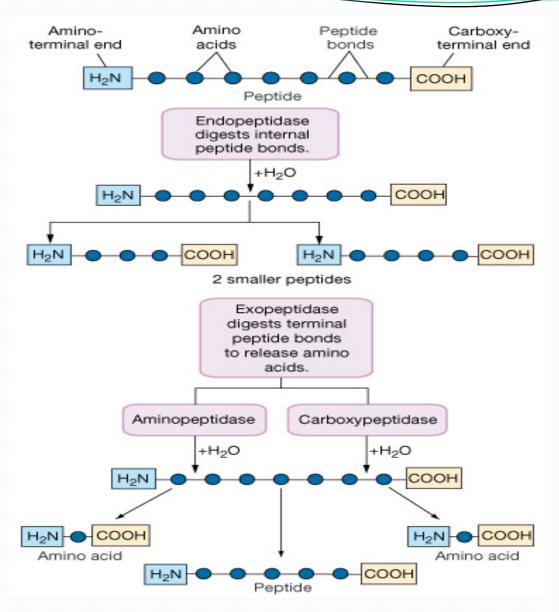
In neonates and infants, digestion of milk TAG and production of short- and medium-chain fatty acids



### **Pepsin**

- Secreted by chief cells of stomach as inactive proenzyme, pepsinogen
- Activated by HCl and autocatalytically by pepsin
- Acid-stable, endopeptidase
- Substrate: denatured dietary proteins (by HCl)
- End product: Smaller polypeptides





Endopeptidases and exopeptidases

### Rennin

- Secreted by chief cells of stomach in neonates and infants
- Substrate: Casein of milk (in the presence of calcium)
- End product: Paracasein with the formation of milk clot
- Effect: It prevents rapid passage of milk from stomach, allowing more time for action of pepsin on milk proteins

### **Digestion of Dietary Proteins in Stomach**

### HCI:

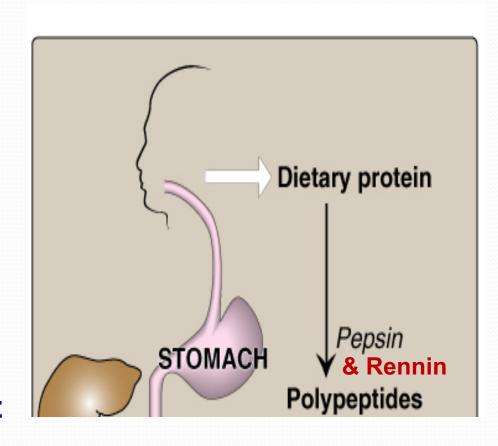
Denatures proteins Activates pepsin

### Pepsin:

Cleaves proteins into polypeptides

### Rennin:

Formation of milk clot



### **Take Home Message**

- Digestion involves both mechanical and enzymatic processes
- ➤ Digestion makes dietary foodstuffs readily absorbable by the digestive tract
- > Salivary α-amylase is of limited, but initial effect on digestion of starch and glycogen in the mouth
- > Salivary α-amylase converts starch and glycogen into short, branched oligosaccharides

### **Take Home Message**

CONT'D

- ➤ Limited digestion of TAG begins in the stomach by both lingual and gastric lipases producing 2-monoacylglycerols and fatty acids
- ➤ Digestion of proteins begins in the stomach by pepsin producing smaller polypeptides
- ➤ In neonates and infants, digestion of milk occurs in stomach by:

Acid-stable lipases for digestion of milk fat Rennin and pepsin for digestion of milk proteins

# Questions?