



Important Doctors slides
Extra Information Doctors notes



Biochemistry

Structure and function
of hemoglobin

Be like stem cells,
differentiate yourself
from others!



[Editing file](#)

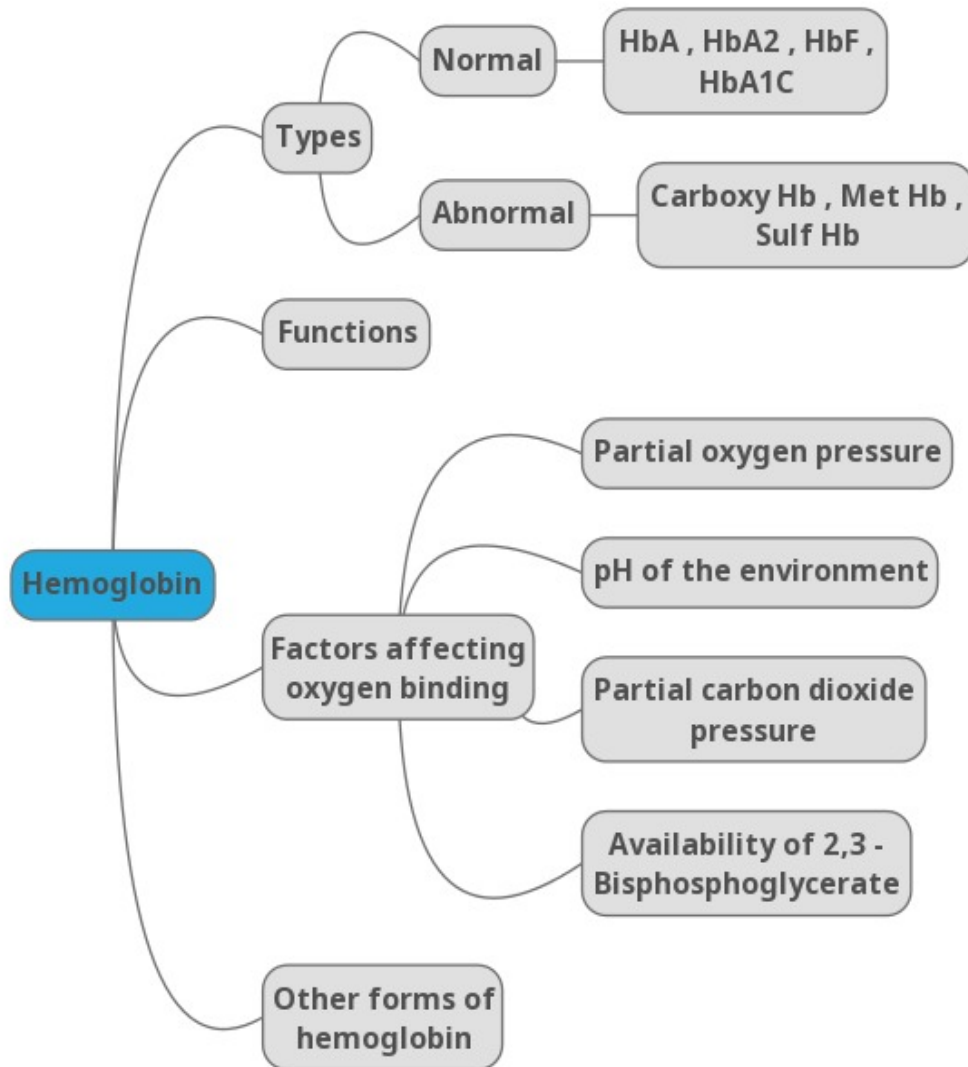
OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lecture, the students should be able to know:

- The structure and function of hemoglobin.
- The factors affecting oxygen binding to hemoglobin.
- Examples of normal and abnormal hemoglobin structures.



Lecture overview



* Hemoglobin has 2 parts

1- non protein part

2- protein part (heme)

* Myoglobin found in muscles and gives the red color



[Recommended video 8:54 mins](#)

Please watch this video before studying the lecture

*BPG = Bisphosphoglycerate

Hemoglobin

Hemoglobin (Hb)

- A hemeprotein (heme + protein) found only in red blood cells.
- Oxygen transport function.
- Contains heme as prosthetic group. →
Prosthetic means it acts as a co-factor (it doesn't consume the oxygen itself but it delivers O₂ to the tissues).
- Heme reversibly (not permanent) binds to oxygen.

Prosthetic (it is a co factor that is required, when we talk about the enzymes which are not active and required non protein part to become active we call it Apo enzyme. And then when the non protein part become attached to it we call it holoenzyme so it is not an enzyme it is protein but it required a non protein part which is heme and it act as prosthetic group which is permanently attached to the protein

Attached temporarily → co enzyme

Attached permanently → prosthetic group



Hemoglobin

The heme group :

A complex of protoporphyrin IX and ferrous iron (Fe^{2+}).

- Fe^{2+} is present in the **center** of the heme.
- Fe^{2+} binds to four **nitrogen atoms** of the porphyrin ring.
- Forms two additional bonds with:
 1. Histidine residue of globin chain.
 2. Oxygen molecule not atom.

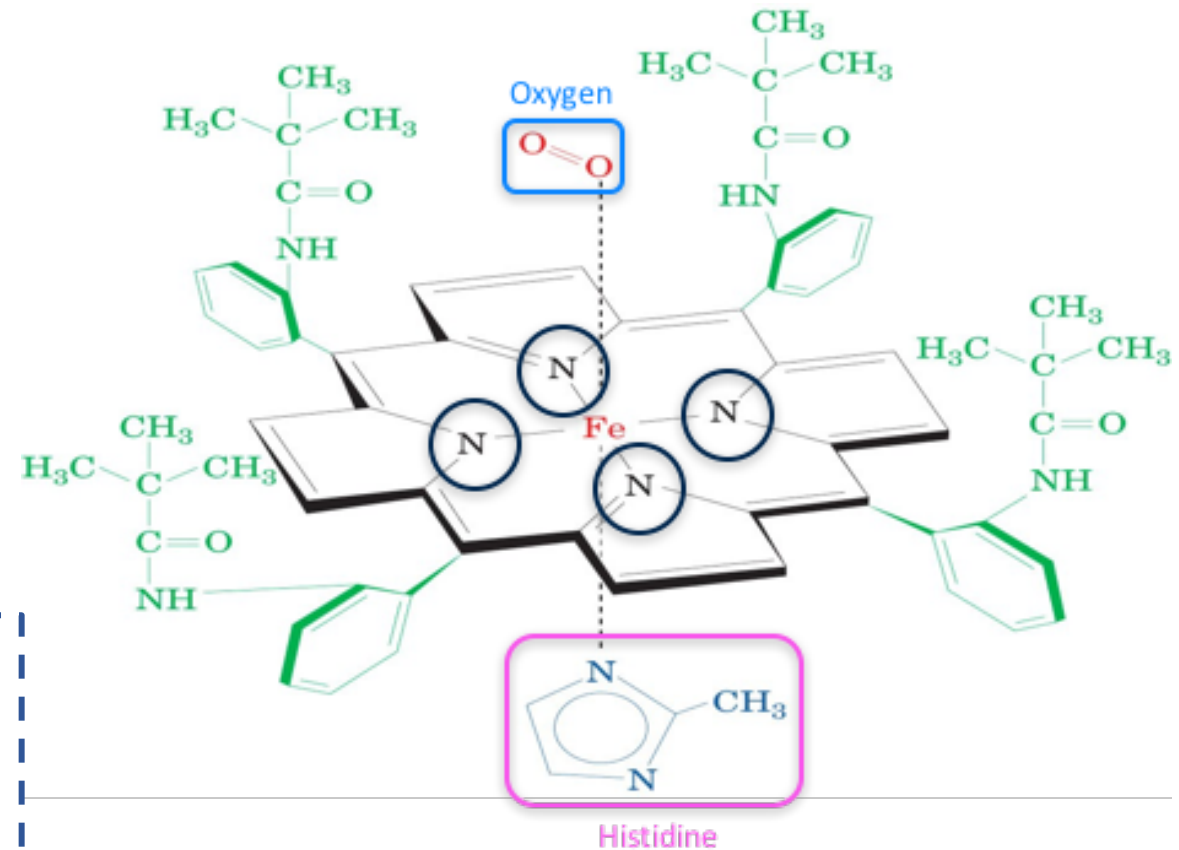
*Heme group has iron in the center in **ferrous** state , if it is in **ferric** state it will not bind to **oxygen**

*in ferrous state it can have 6 bonds

4 with **nitrogen** we call it
porphyrin ring

1 bond with molecular **O₂** (molecule(O₂) NOTE atom(O))

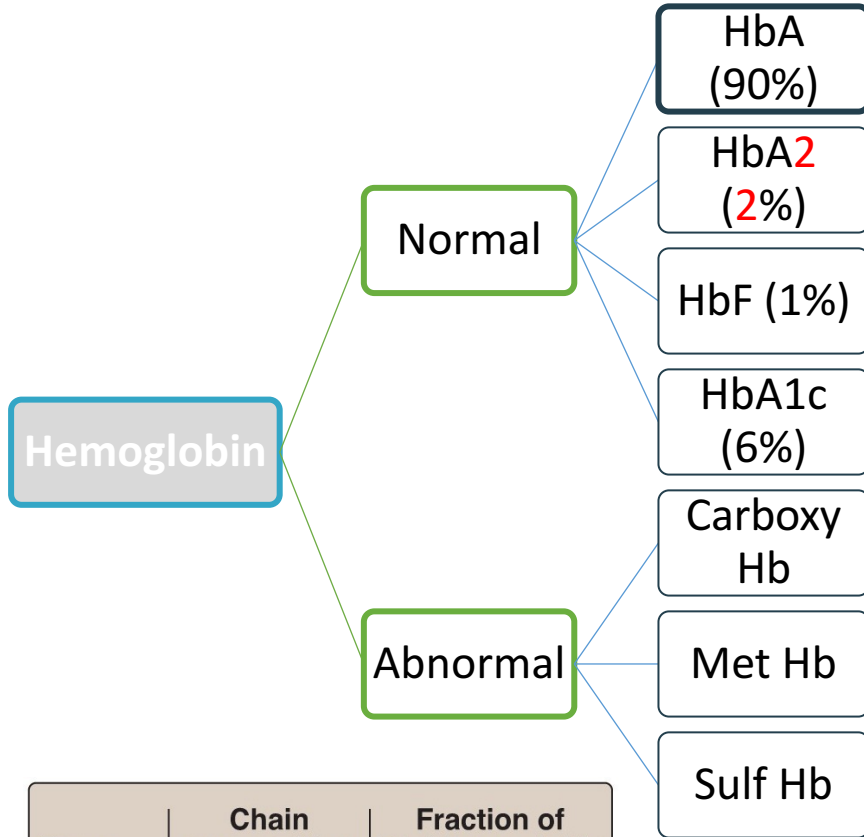
1 attached to the **globin chain** (polypeptide)



The heme group: Fe^{2+} – porphyrin complex with bound O₂

Hemoglobin

Types of hemoglobin in adults



Form	Chain composition	Fraction of total hemoglobin
HbA	$\alpha_2\beta_2$	90%
HbF	$\alpha_2\gamma_2$	<2%
HbA ₂	$\alpha_2\delta_2$	2%–5%
HbA _{1c}	$\alpha_2\beta_2$ -glucose	3%–9%

*all the discussion in this lecture will be about hemoglobin A because it is the majority of the normal adult = 90%

*HbA_{1c} is a modified form of HbA by adding glucose

*chain composition means the types of the globin chains which are present

The 4 subunits of the hemoglobin are : 2 alpha and 2 beta and they're present as alpha -beta dimers and you can see this in HbA , in HbA_{1c} the same as HbA but with addition of glucose

HbF is a fetal hemoglobin it is present in the fetus and by the time of delivery the levels of it goes down so in adult it is less than 2% , it composed of 2 alpha and 2 gamma chains

*HbA₂ formed before birth and stay for a long time in a very small amount

*Abnormal = unable to carry oxygen

*Carboxy Hb = CO (carbon monoxide) is added NOT CO₂

*Met Hb = the iron in ferric state NOT ferrous so can not bind to oxygen

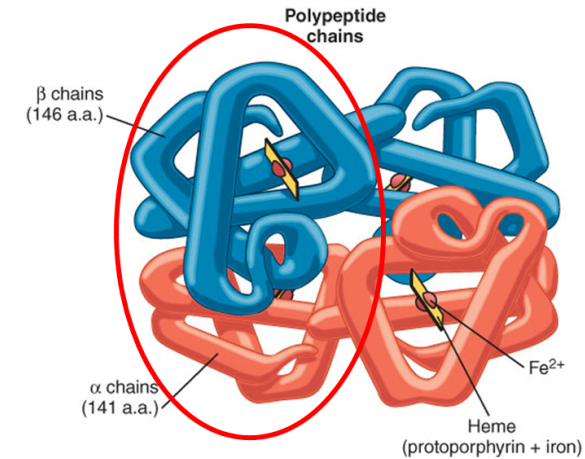
*sulf Hb = amount of sulfa increased in blood because of sulfa containing drugs or chronic constipation

HbA

Hemoglobin A (HbA)

- Major Hb in adults.
- Composed of four polypeptide chains:
 - ✓ **Two α two β** chains.
- Contains two dimers of $\alpha\beta$ subunits (each dimer has 2 heme)
- Held together by **non-covalent (hydrophobic)** interactions.
- Each chain is a subunit with a heme group in the center that carries oxygen
- A Hb molecule contains 4 heme groups and carries 4 **molecules** of O_2

One dimer ($\alpha\beta$ subunit)



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Dimers =(2 sub unites)

*Within the dimer →intradimer bonding it is a strong bond (hydrophobic bonds)

*between 2 dimers→ ionic and hydrogenic bond weaker bond causes a little movement between 2 dimers

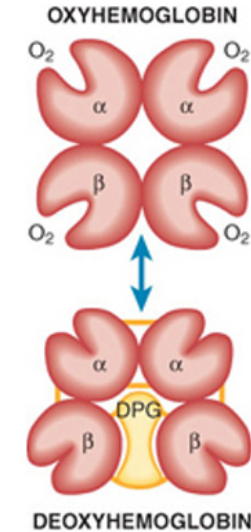
4 subunits binding to 4 hems and each heme can bind to 1 molecule of oxygen so when it is maximally saturated how many **molecules** of oxygen can be bind into one hemoglobin ? Four

HbA

HbA structure :

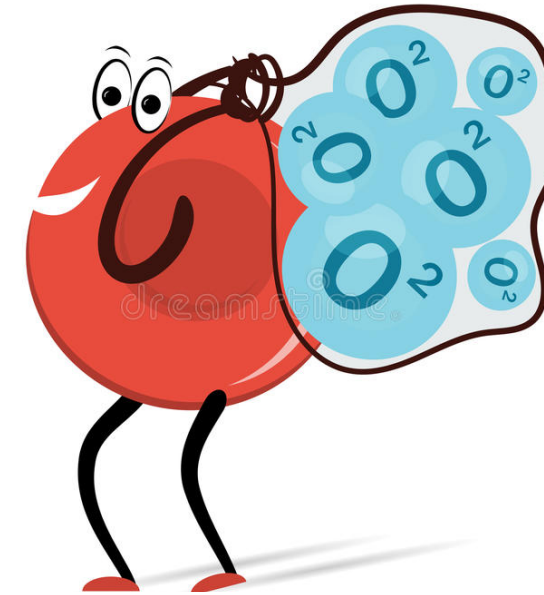
T form (taut form)	R form (Relaxed form)
The de oxygenated form of Hb	The oxy genated form of Hb
Taut form	Relaxed form
The movement of dimers is constrained (restricted)	The dimers have more freedom of movement
Low -oxygen-affinity form unloaded oxygen	High -oxygen-affinity form

When 4 oxygen molecules bind to the hemoglobin there will be a conformational change in the globin chains which will break the ionic bonds R or relaxed structure of oxyhemoglobin = bind to oxygen = broken ionic bonds
T or taut of deoxyhemoglobin = no oxygen bound = present of ionic bond



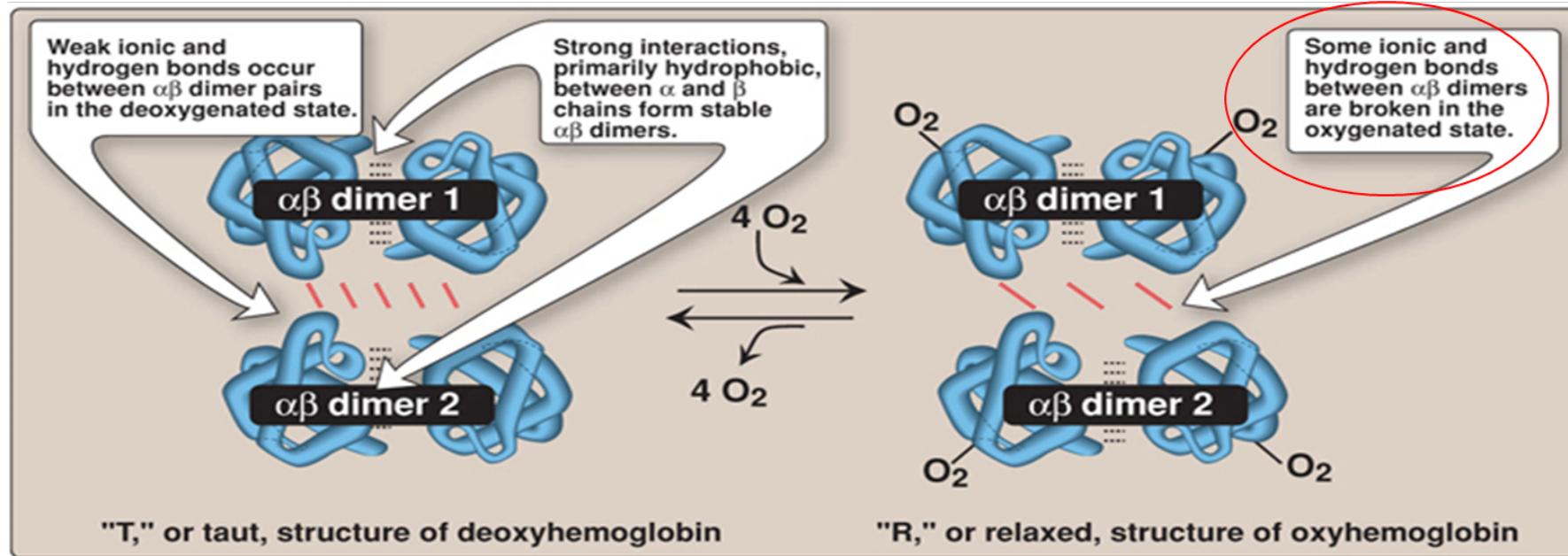
كيف احفظها ؟

الريلاكسد فورم عندها الكثير من الاوكسجين لذلك تشعر بالحرية وترتبط فيه بشكل قوي . التوت فورم انسحب منها الاوكسجين لذلك حركتها صعبة وتكونت عندها عقدة انها ما ترتبط بالأوكسجين بشكل قوي



HbA:

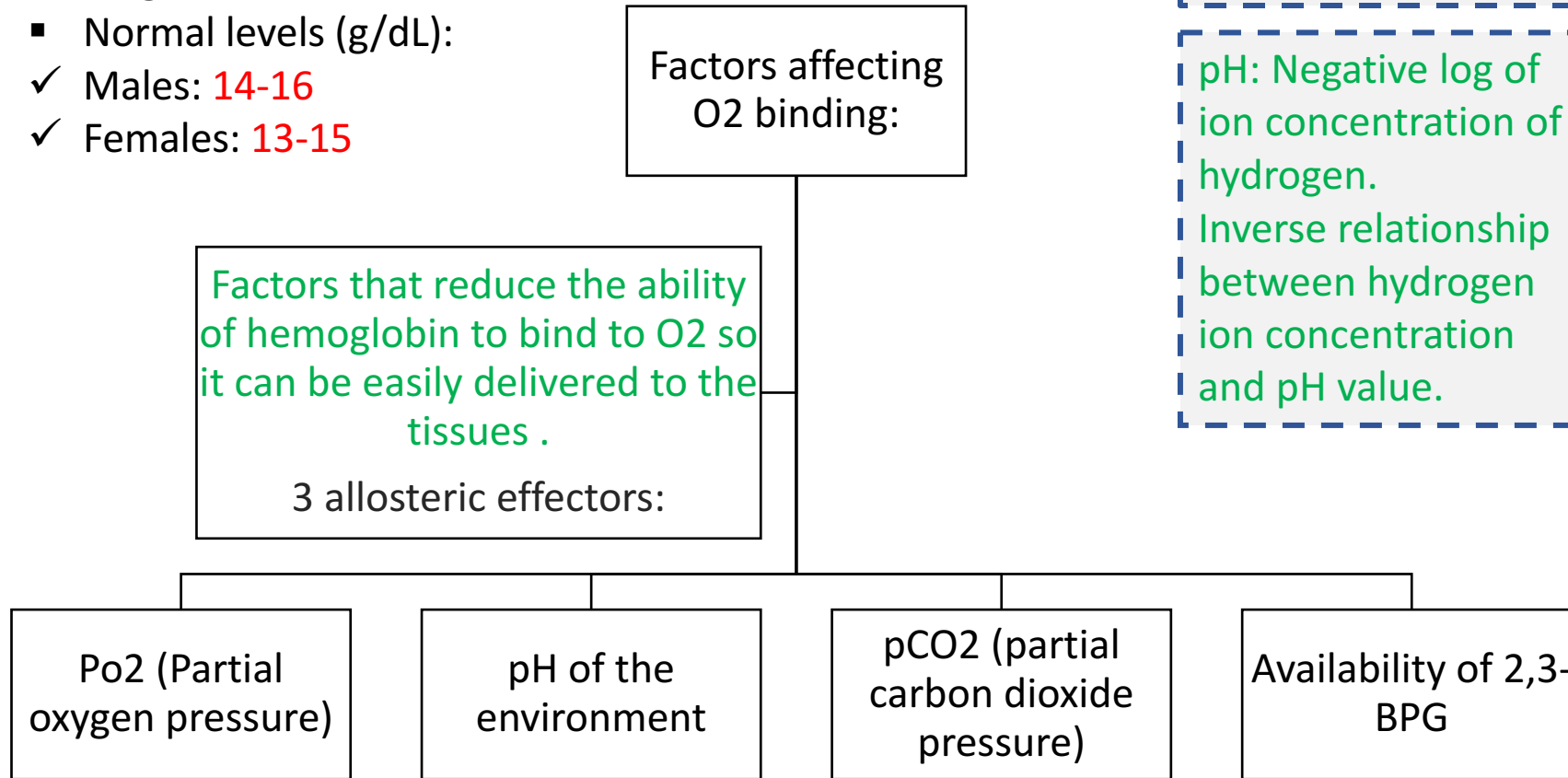
مجرد صورة توضيحية للجدول السابق



Hemoglobin function and factors affecting O₂ binding:

❖ Hemoglobin functions :

- Carries oxygen from the lungs to tissues
- Carries carbon dioxide from tissues back to the lungs
- Normal levels (g/dL):
 - ✓ Males: 14-16
 - ✓ Females: 13-15



about 10% only but the majority of carbon dioxide goes back to the lung as bicarbonate(major buffer) after dissolved in the blood . Hemoglobin can bind also to protons from tissues and take them back to the lung

pH: Negative log of ion concentration of hydrogen.
Inverse relationship between hydrogen ion concentration and pH value.

normally (2 molecules of ATP are formed) 1,3-BPG get converted to 3-Phosphoglycerate
But in RBCs glycolysis (no ATP is formed) so they take the BPG shunt to convert 1,3-BPG to 3 Phosphoglycerate by 2,3-BPG .
2,3-BPG is produced in RBCs and its very important abundant there.
When it binds to hemoglobin it reduces it's affinity to bind to oxygen which means make the delivery of oxygen to tissues easier

Oxygen dissociation curve (the curve is explained in details in the next slide)

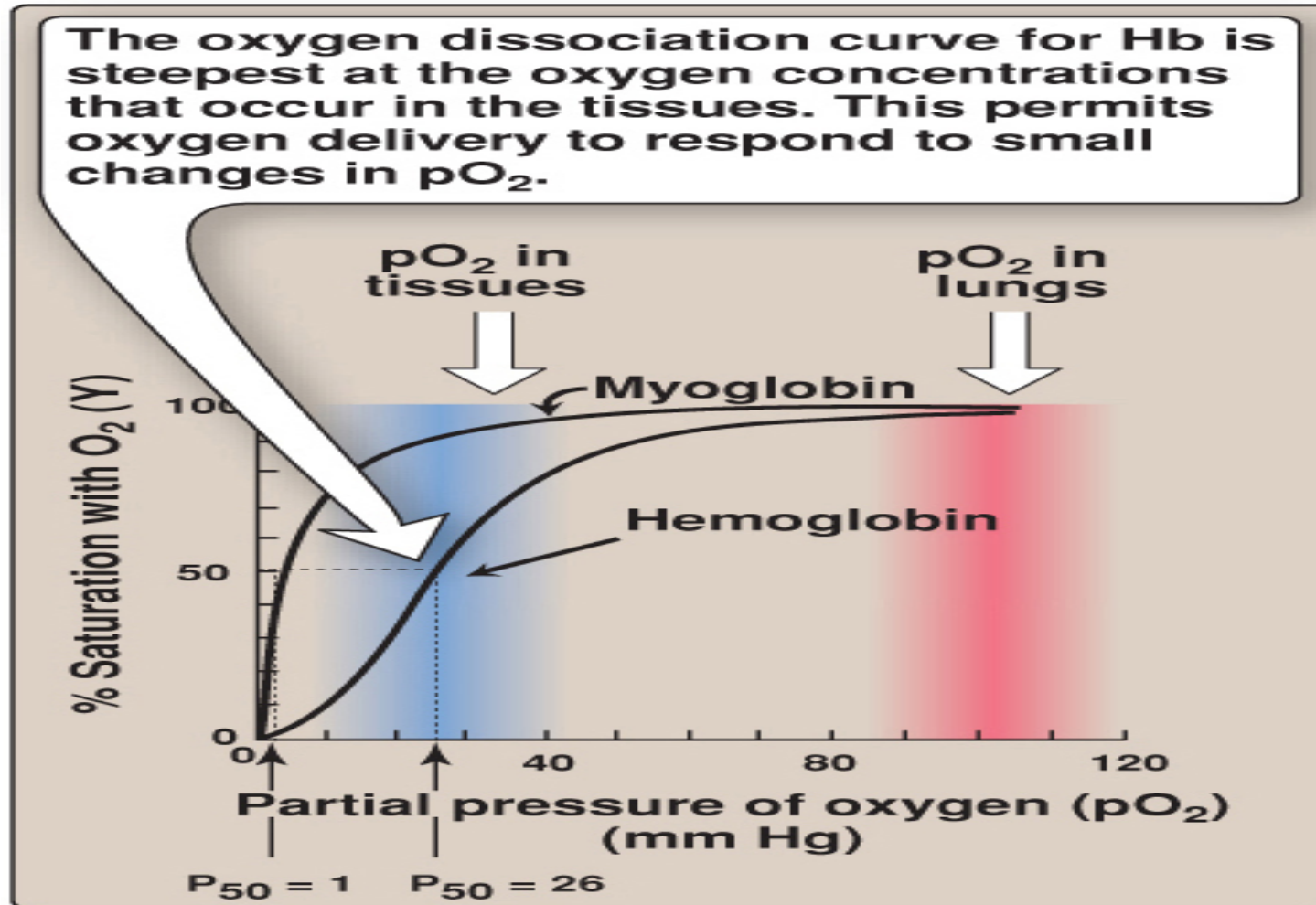
Oxygen dissociation curve :

- The curve is sigmoidal in shape
- Indicates co-operation of subunits in O₂ binding
- Binding of O₂ to one heme group increases O₂ affinity of others
- Heme-heme interaction

The hemoglobin has 4 sites to bind oxygen when the first molecule binds the globin chain of one subunit it creates a conformational change then the binding of the next molecule will be faster then another conformational change occur and so on, the binding of the last one is the fastest and this is called heme-heme interaction .

*myoglobin only one subunit and it can bound to 2 oxygen or don't bound .

Oxygen dissociation curve



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In oxygen dissociation curve we measure the saturation of hemoglobin with oxygen at different partial pressures of oxygen so you keep on increasing the amount of oxygen and notice how the saturation of hemoglobin is affected .

The hemoglobin has 4 sites to bind oxygen when the first molecule binds the globin chain of one subunit it creates a conformational change then the binding of the next molecule will be faster then another conformational change occur and so on, the binding of the last one is the fastest and this is called heme-heme interaction .

Factors affecting oxygen binding

Factors affecting oxygen binding :

1. pO_2 (partial oxygen pressure) :

- P_{50} (mm Hg): the pressure at which Hb is 50% saturated with O_2
- Indicates affinity of Hb to O_2 :
 - High** affinity \rightarrow slow unloading of O_2 (**low** P_{50} value)
 - Low** affinity \rightarrow fast unloading of O_2 (**high** P_{50} value)
- ✓ Lung pO_2 is 100 mm \rightarrow Hb saturation 100%
- ✓ Tissue pO_2 is 40 mm \rightarrow Hb saturation reduces *
- ✓ Hence O_2 is delivered to tissues

The mechanism depends on (K_m) concept which is the substrate concentration at which an enzyme has achieved half of its maximal velocity which influences the affinity. So if the K_m value is high the affinity is low and vice versa

*When the oxygen in the lungs :

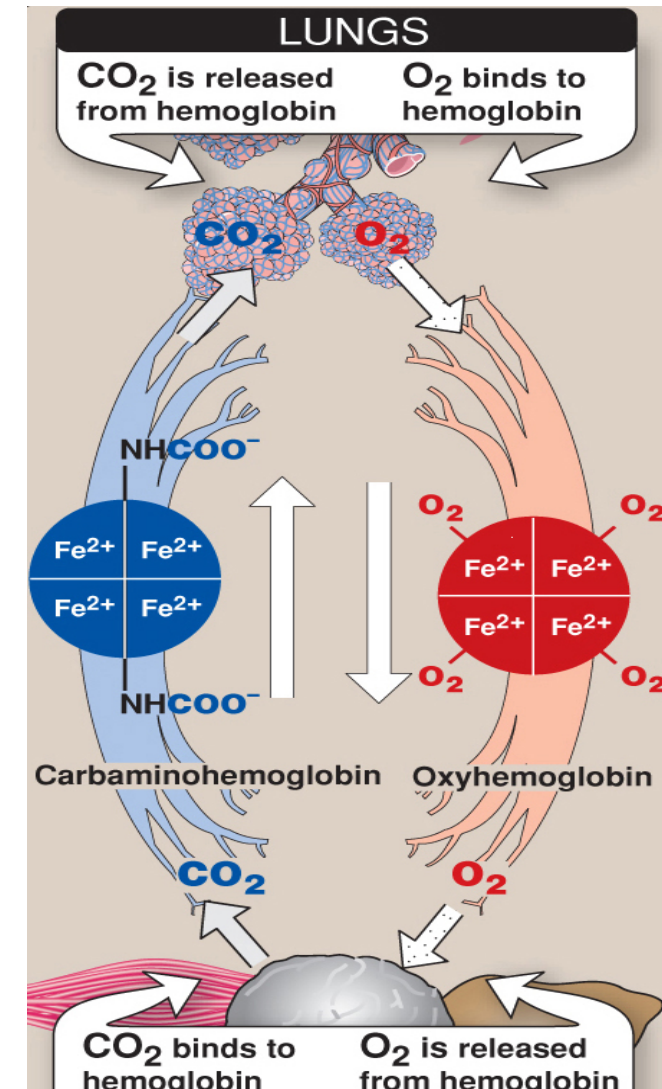
High partial pressure of oxygen so O_2 bind to the Hb, saturated completely and we call it oxyhemoglobin, 4 oxygen molecules are bound and it goes to tissues

*in the tissues : the oxygen is released from Hb and from the tissues the hemoglobin carries carbon dioxide and when it binds to hemoglobin we call it carbaminohemoglobin it goes to the lung

*in the lungs: the CO_2 get released from Hb and O_2 bind to Hb

* CO_2 reduce affinity to O_2

When it is released the affinity to O_2 increases



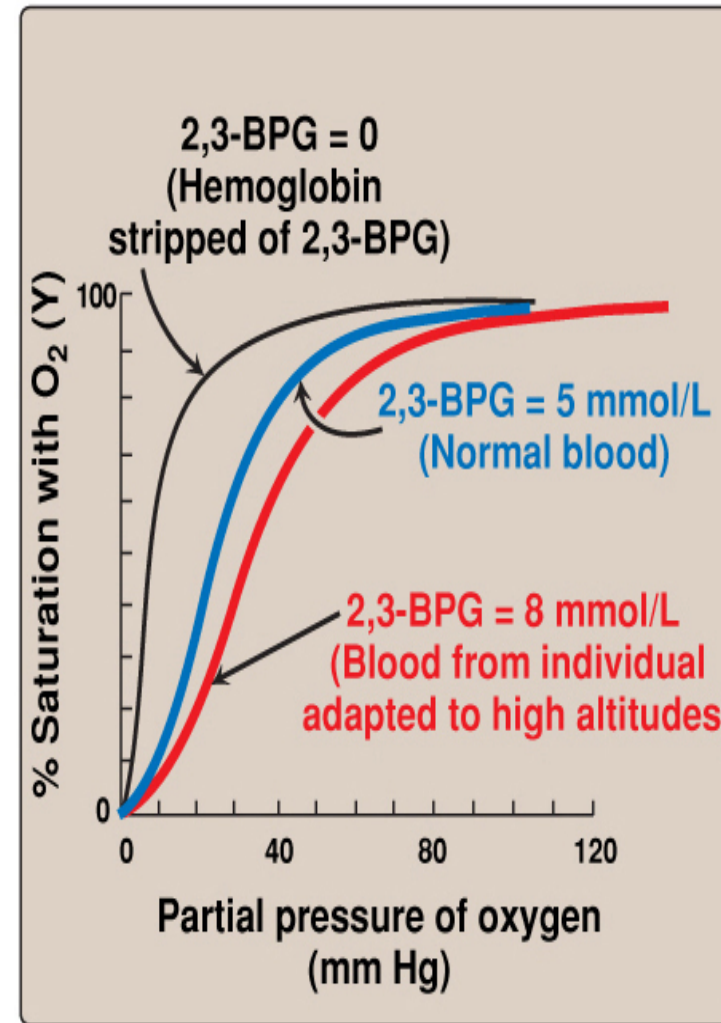
Factors affecting oxygen binding

2. pH of the environment



pH is the negative log of hydrogen ion concentration .
If the hydrogen ion concentration high the ph will be low and if the hydrogen concentration low the ph will be high

- 1- Decrease in pH = increased acidity
 - 2- increasing carbon dioxide pressure
- Are both important factors for oxygen delivery



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Factors affecting oxygen binding

3. pCO₂ (partial carbon dioxide pressure) :

– The Bohr effect :

- It is the shift of the ODC to the right in response to an increase in pCO₂ or a decrease in pH

- Is the effect of pH and pCO₂ on:

A. Oxygenation of Hb in the lungs

B. Deoxygenation in tissues

- Tissues have lower pH (**acidic**) than lungs

- Due to proton generation (two reactions):



- Protons **reduce** O₂ affinity of Hb Causing easier O₂ release into the tissues.

- The free Hb binds to **two** protons.

- Protons are released and react with HCO₃⁻ – to form CO₂ gas
($\text{HCO}_3^- + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$)

- The proton-poor Hb now has **greater** affinity for O₂ (in lungs).

- The Bohr effect removes insoluble CO₂ from blood stream and produces **soluble bicarbonate** .



شرحنا لكم Bohr effect هنا

The Bohr effect tells you how affinity of Hb to O₂ change with changes in amount of the carbon dioxide and (protons =pH) and that is important because you are generating carbon dioxide and protons in the tissue

*normally without any modifiers or any effectors p₅₀ requires 26 mmHg oxygen pressure to achieve 50% saturation pressure

*shifting the curve to right = p₅₀ value increased and that's mean affinity is decreased (Faster unloading of O₂)

So whenever you need oxygen you will have effectors to increase p₅₀ values = to shift (OCD) to the right

*shifting the curve to the left = p₅₀ value get reduced and that's mean increased affinity and less delivery to tissues

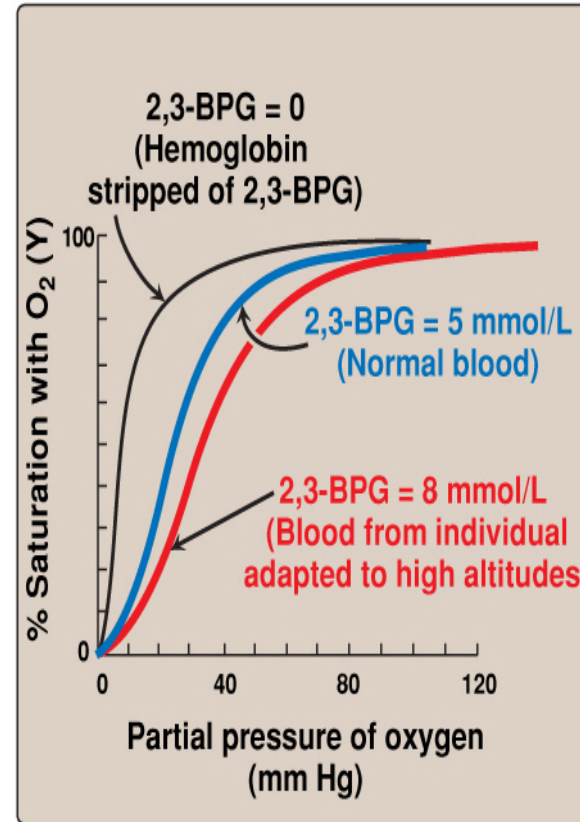


Factors affecting oxygen binding

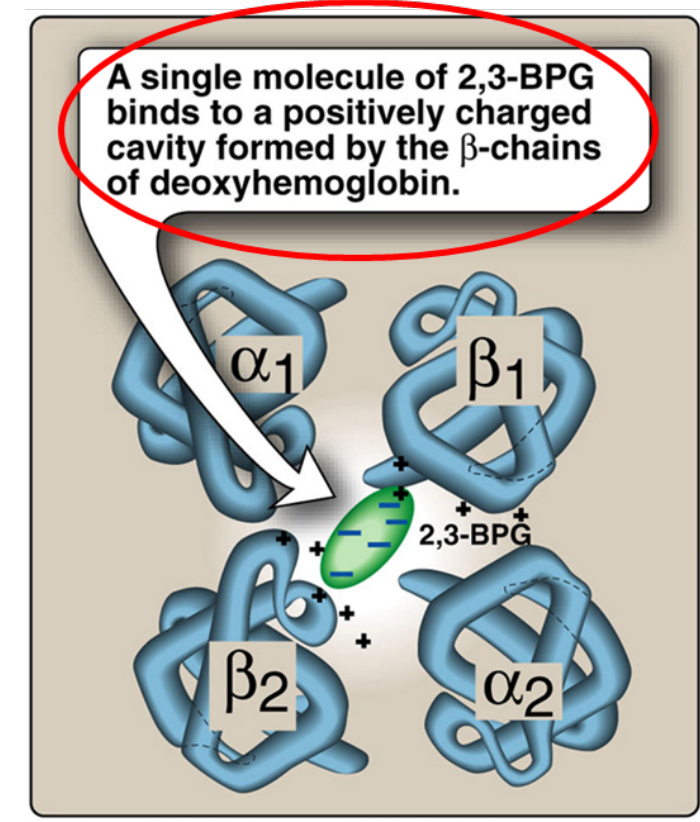
4. Availability of 2,3- BPG :

- Binds to deoxy-Hb and stabilizes the T-form.
- When oxygen binds to Hb, BPG is released.

normally (2 molecules of ATP are formed) 1,3-BPG get converted to 3-Phosphoglycerate
But in RBCs glycolysis (no ATP is formed) so they take the BPG shunt to convert 1,3-BPG to 3 Phosphoglycerate by 2,3-BPG .
2,3-BPG is produced in RBCs and its very important abundant there. When it binds to hemoglobin it reduces it's affinity to bind to oxygen which means make the delivery of oxygen to tissues easier



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*When it stabilizes the t form it reduces the affinity to oxygen which means more O₂ needs to be delivered

*due to any reason (e.g. 1- high altitude (hypoxia)
2- anemic people)

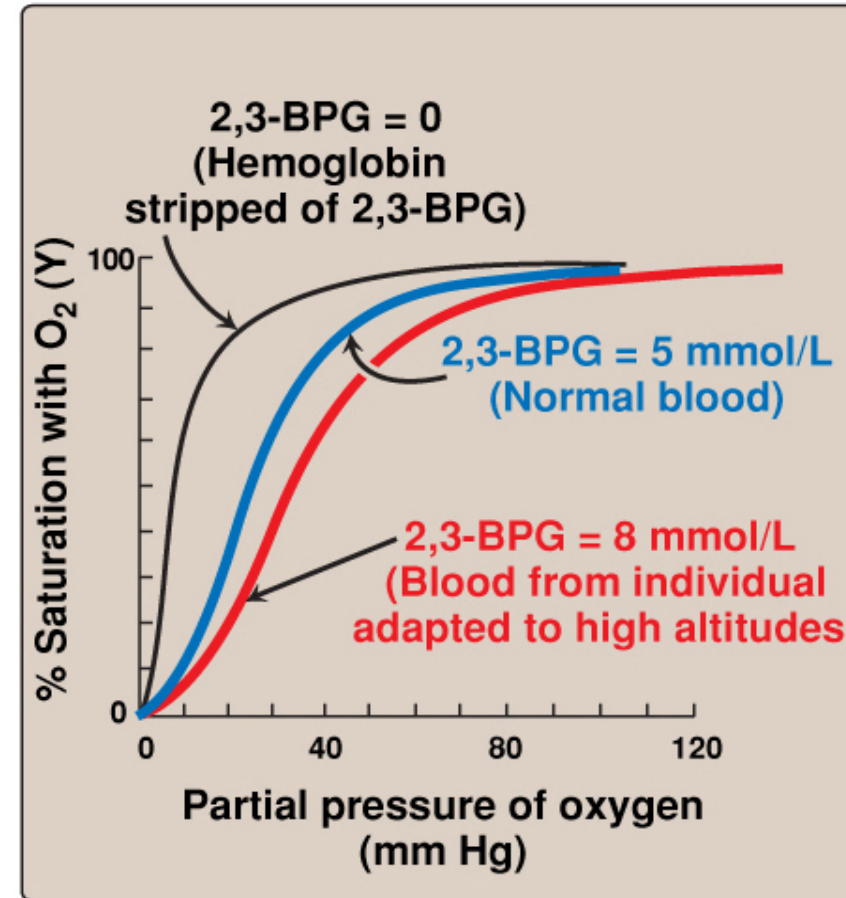
the amount of 2,3 BPG increases so it will reduce the affinity of the o₂ and more delivery of it

Factors affecting oxygen binding

Compensatory mechanisms:

- At high altitudes and “hypoxia” :
- ✓ RBC number increases
 - ✓ Hb concentration increases
 - ✓ BPG** increases
 - ✓ This decreases O₂ affinity of Hb
 - ✓ Thus increases O₂ delivery to tissues

People getting multiple blood transfusions their 2,3 BPG becomes low . When you transfused blood to a patient , initially the affinity of Hb to O₂ is too high so O₂ is not delivered to tissue but if the patient not very sick (compromised) within 6-24 h they will start form 2,3 BPG



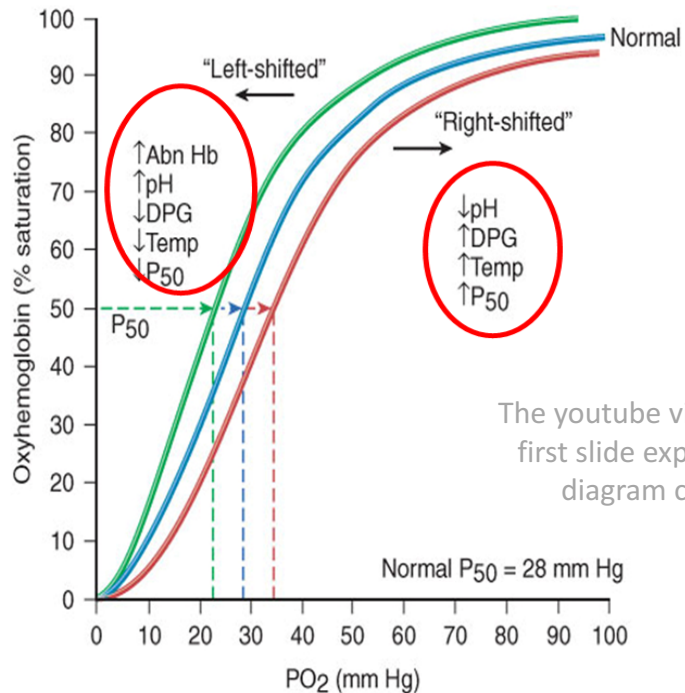
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Factors affecting oxygen binding

Oxygen affinity :

❖ **High O₂ affinity is due to:**

1. Alkalosis
2. High levels of Hb F
3. Multiple transfusion of 2,3 DPG-depleted blood



Recall : Fe²⁺ called Ferrous while Fe³⁺ called Ferric

Abnormal hemoglobin :

- They are unable to transport O₂ due to abnormal structure

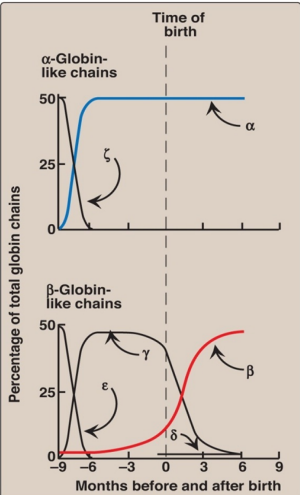
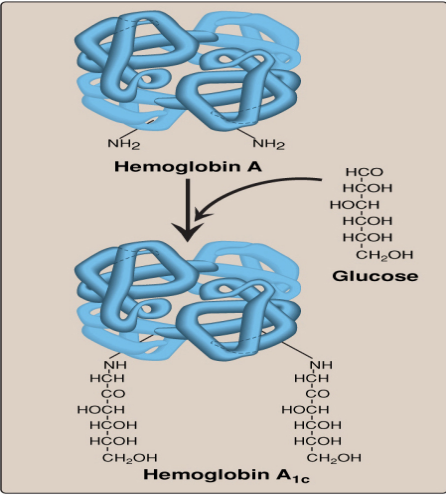
Sulf-Hb: Forms due to high sulfur levels in blood
(irreversible reaction)

Carboxy-Hb: CO₂ replaces O₂ and binds 220X tighter than O₂
(in smokers)

Met-Hb: Contains oxidized Fe³⁺ (~2%) that cannot carry O₂



Other hemoglobin forms

Fetal Hemoglobin (HbF)	HbA ₂	HbA _{1c}
Tetramer with two α and two γ chains	Composed of two α and two δ globin chains	Two α and two β -Glucose
Major hemoglobin found in the fetus and newborn	Appears shortly before birth.	HbA1c levels are high in patients with diabetes mellitus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Higher affinity for O₂ than HbA Important because the maternal O₂ which is mainly HbA has to be delivered to the fetal hemoglobin across the placenta which is HbF so it has to have higher affinity to O₂ ✓ Transfers O₂ from maternal to fetal circulation across placenta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Constitutes ~2% of total Hb Because they have higher amount of glucose *life span of RBCs =120 day so if the glucose bound to HbA1c level because it stays for 120 days so until the patient maintain his blood glucose level over a period of 3 months *fasten glucose test will show drop in glucose because the patient didn't eat sugar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ HbA undergoes non-enzymatic glycosylation ✓ Glycosylation depends on plasma glucose levels <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>

Summary

Hb functions :

Carries **oxygen** from the lungs **to tissues** .Carries **carbon dioxide** from tissues back **to the lungs**

Normal levels :

Males: 14-16 Females: 13-15

Factors affecting oxygen binding	pO ₂	<p>A. High affinity → slow unloading of O₂ (low P50 value)</p> <p>B. Low affinity → fast unloading of O₂ (high P50 value)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lung pO₂ is 100 mm → Hb saturation 100% - Tissue pO₂ is 40 mm → Hb saturation reduces
	pH	<p>Acidosis :Decreased O₂ affinity</p> <p>Alkalosis: increased O₂ affinity</p>
	pCO ₂	<p>The Bohr effect : Is the effect of pH and pCO₂ on</p> <p>A. Oxygenation of Hb in the lungs B. Deoxygenation in tissues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tissues have lower pH (acidic) than lungs $CO_2 + H_2O \rightarrow HCO_3^- + H^+$ -Protons reduce O₂ affinity of Hb -The free Hb binds to two protons - Protons are released ($HCO_3^- + H^+ \rightarrow CO_2 + H_2O$) -The proton-poorHb now has greater affinity for O₂ (in lungs) <p>-The Bohr effect removes insoluble CO₂ from blood stream and produces soluble bicarbonate .</p>
	Availability of 2,3-bisphosphoglycerate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Binds to deoxy-Hb and stabilizes the T-form -When oxygen binds to Hb, BPG is released <p>At high altitudes and “hypoxia” BPG increases</p> <p>This decreases O₂ affinity of Hb , Thus increases O₂ delivery to tissues</p>
Oxygen dissociation curve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sigmoidal in shape - Indicates co-operation of subunits in O₂ binding - Binding of O₂ to one heme group increases O₂ affinity of others - Heme-heme interaction 	

QUIZ

Q1 : Which of the following is irreversible ?

- A- Carboxy Hb
- B- Met Hb
- C- Sulf Hb
- D- Non of the above

Q2 : In Met Hb the iron is in the form of ... ?

- A- Ferrous
- B- Ferric
- C- Both of them
- D- Non of the above

Q3 : What is the form in which majority Carbon dioxide is transported in the blood ?

- A- Bicarbonate
- B- Carbon Monoxide
- C- Carbonic anhydrase
- D- Non of the above

Q4 : When does HbA2 appears ?

- A- 10 weeks after birth
- B- 12 week after birth
- C- 20 weeks after birth
- D- 22 weeks after birth

Q5 : Which of the following is true about HbA structure ?

- A- Weak ionic and hydrogen bonds between $\alpha\beta$ dimer pairs
- B- Strong interactions between α and β chains from stable $\alpha\beta$ dimer
- C- Both of them
- D- Non of the above

Q6 : What do we expect to see in the CBC of a patient from Abha ?

- A- High levels of hemoglobin
- B- Low O₂ affinity
- C- Decreased RBCs
- D- Low levels of 2,3 bisphosphoglycerate

QUIZ

Q7 : Which of the following result from Bohr effect ?

- A- Removes insoluble CO₂ from blood stream
- B- Produces soluble bicarbonate
- C- Produce CO₂ to the blood stream
- D- A&B

Q8 : HbA₂ is composed of ?

- A- Two α and two γ chains.
- B- Two α and two δ globin chains.
- C- Four α globin chains.
- D- Two α and two β chains.

Q9 : determine three factors that induces high O₂ affinity ?

1. Alkalosis
2. High levels of Hb F
3. Multiple transfusion of 2,3 DPG-depleted blood

Q10 : What are the components of heme group?

A complex of protoporphyrin IX and ferrous iron (Fe²⁺) that binds to four nitrogen atoms of the porphyrin ring

Q11 : How does oxygen partial pressure affects the oxygen binding ?

↓ p50 ↑ Increase Hb affinity to O₂
↑ p50 ↓ decrease Hb affinity to O₂

Q12 : What are normal levels of hemoglobin ?

Males: 14-16
Females: 13-15

[Suggestions and recommendations](#)

1) C 2) B 3) A 4) B 5) C 6) A 7) D 8) B



TEAM MEMBERS



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THANK YOU

FOR CHECKING
OUR WORK



PLEASE CONTACT
US IF YOU HAVE
ANY ISSUE



• Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews Biochemistry 6th E



[10:06 mins](#)



Review the notes



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