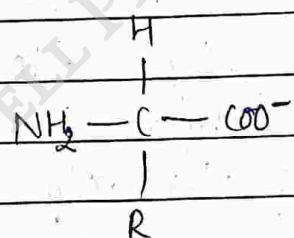
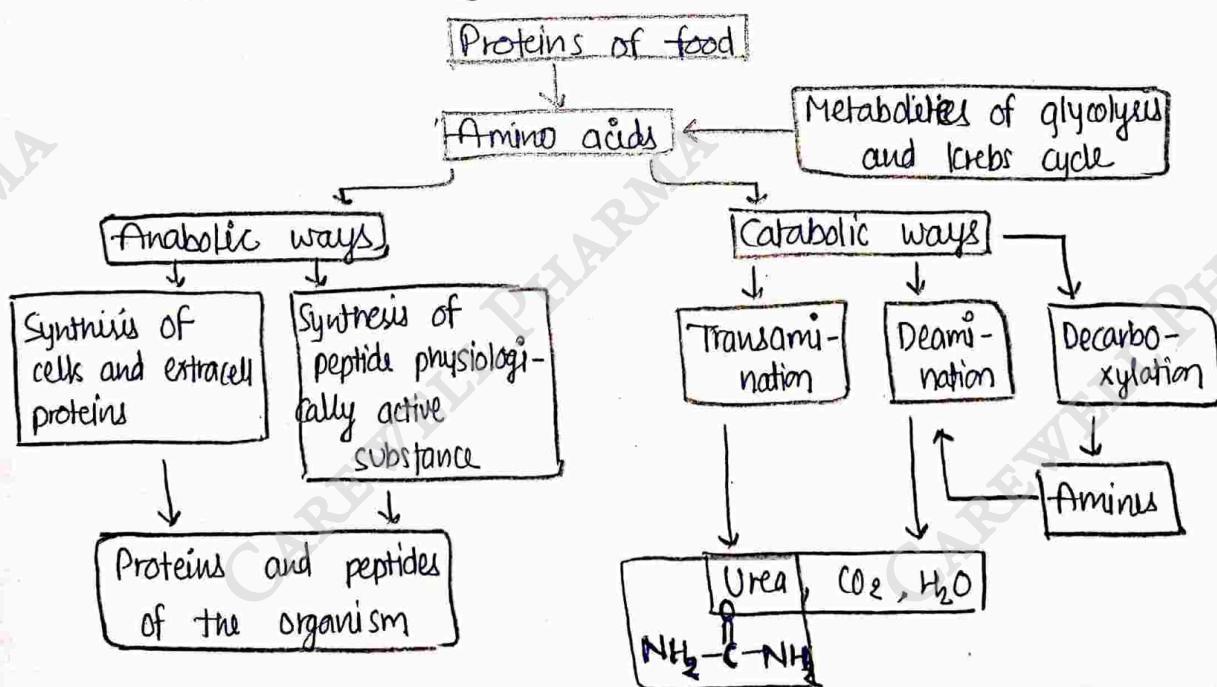


Amino Acid

An amino acid is an organic compound characterized by having a carboxyl group, amino group, and side chain attached to the central carbon atom.

General Pathway of Amino Acids Metabolism

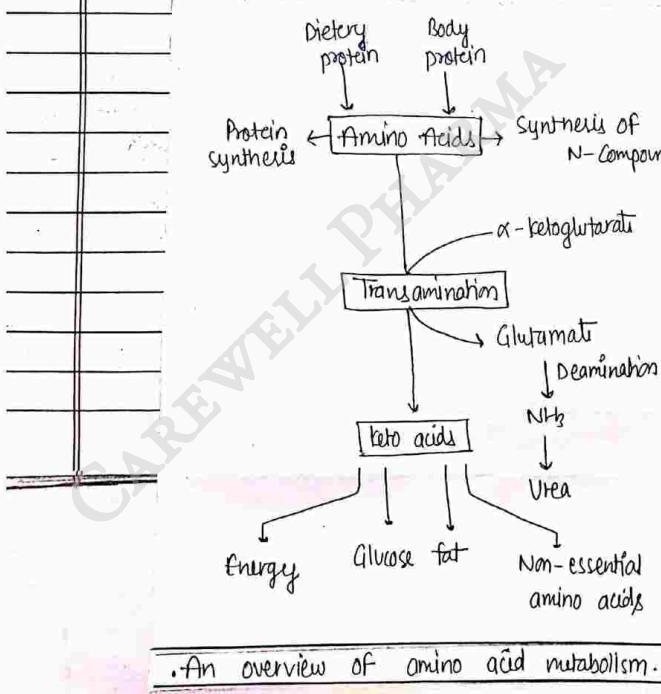
Amino Acid metabolism

The amino acid undergoes certain common reaction like transamination followed by deamination for the liberation of ammonia. The amino group of the amino acid is utilized for the formation of urea which is an excretory end product of protein metabolism. The carbon skeleton of the amino acids is first converted to keto acids (by transamination) which meet one or more of the following fates.

- (i) Utilized to generate energy.
- (ii) Used for the synthesis of glucose.
- (iii) Diverted for the formation of fat or ketone bodies.
- (iv) Involved in the production of non-essential amino acids.

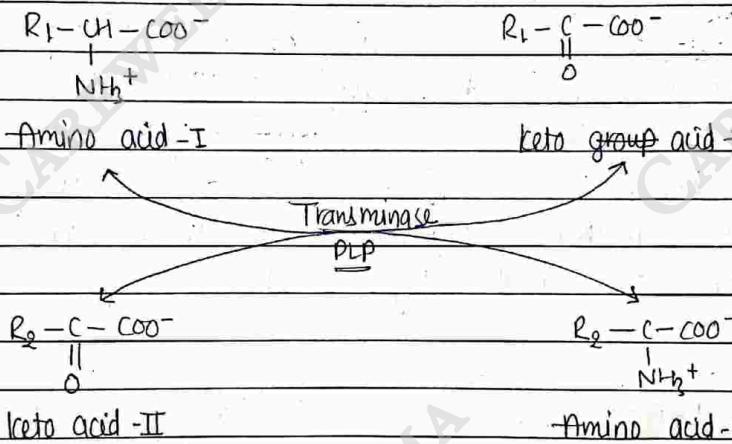
Transamination

The transfer of an amino ($-NH_2$) group from an amino acid to a keto group is known as transamination. This process involves the interconversion of a pair of amino acids and a pair of keto acid, catalysed by a group of enzymes called transaminases (recently aminotransferase).



Salient features of transamination

- 1) All transaminases require pyridoxal pyridoxal phosphate (PLP), a coenzyme derived from Vitamin B6.
- 2) Specific transaminases exist for each pair of amino acid and keto acids. However, only two - namely, aspartate transaminase and alanine transaminase - make a significant contribution for transamination.
- 3) There is no free NH₃ liberated, only the transfer of amino group occurs.
- 4) Transamination is reversible.

Transamination reactions

- 5) It is important for production of non-essential amino acids as per the requirement of the cells. It involves catabolism + anabolism both.
- 6) Transamination diverts the excess amino acid towards energy generation.

Deamination

The removal of amino group from the amino acids as NH₃ is deamination. Transamination involves only the shifting of amino groups among the amino acids. On the other hand, deamination result in the liberation of ammonia for urea synthesis. Simultaneously, the carbon skeleton of amino acid is converted of keto

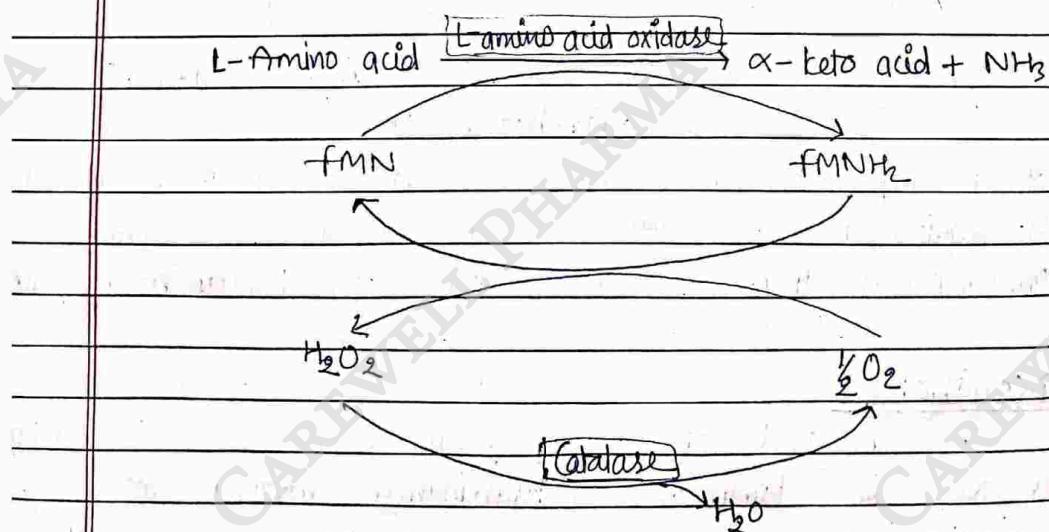
acids. Deamination may be either oxidative or non-oxidative.

I. Oxidation deamination

It is the liberation of free ammonia from the amino group of amino acids coupled with oxidation. This takes place mostly in liver & kidney.

The purpose of oxidative deamination is to provide NH₃ for urea synthesis and α -keto acids for a variety of reactions, including energy generation.

- Oxidative deamination by amino acid oxidases: L-amino acid oxidase and D-amino acid oxidase are flavoproteins, possessing FMN and FAD, respectively. They act on the corresponding amino acid (L or D) to produce α -keto acids and NH_3 . In this reaction, oxygen is reduced to H_2O_2 , which is later decomposed by catalase.



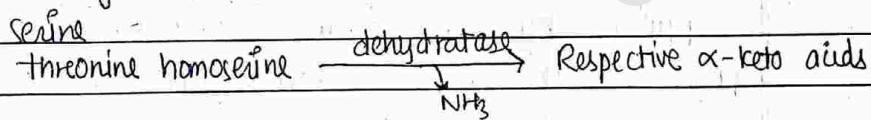
Oxidative deamination of amino acids

The activity of L-amino acid oxidase is much low while that D-amino acid oxidase is high in tissue (mostly liver and kidney). L-Amino acid oxidase does not act on glycine and dicarboxylic acids. This enzyme, due to its very low activity, does not appear to play any significant role in the amino acid metabolism.

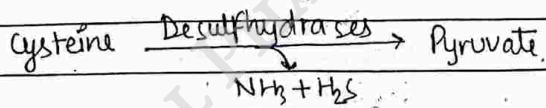
II. Non-oxidative deamination

Some of the amino acids can be deaminated to liberate NH_3 without undergoing oxidation.

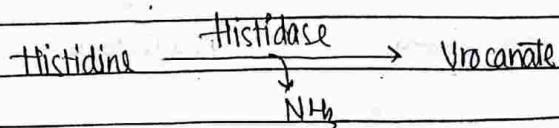
a) Amino acid dehydratases: Serine, threonine and homoserine are the hydroxy amino acids. They undergo non-oxidative deamination catalysed by PLP-dependent dehydratases (dehydratases).



b) Amino acid desulfhydrases: The sulfur amino acids, namely cysteine and homocysteine, undergo deamination coupled with desulfhydration to give keto acids.



c) Deamination of histidine: The enzyme histidase acts on histidine to liberate NH_3 by a non-oxidative deamination process.



Metabolism of ammonia

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- formation of ammonia → The production of NH_3 occurs from transamination & deamination of amino acids.
- Transport & storage of NH_3 → The maintenance of NH_3 conc in circulation is done by its transportation between various tissue and the liver mostly occurs in the form of glutamine or alanine & not as free NH_3 .
- function of NH_3 → Inspite of being waste product of nitrogen metabolism, it is involved directly for the synthesis of many compounds in the body like purines, pyrimidine etc.
- Disposal of NH_3 → Urea is non-toxic and soluble compound & hence easily excreted in humans.

Toxicity of Ammonia

Ammonia when accumulates in the body results in



Speech slurring & blurring of vision.



which leads to coma, & finally death.

Hyperammonia

Elevation of blood NH_3 level



cause hepatic coma & mental retardation.

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UREA CYCLE

Urea is the end product of protein metabolism (amino acid metabolism). The nitrogen of amino acids, converted to ammonia, as described is toxic to the body. It is converted to urea and detoxified. As such, urea account for 80-90% of the nitrogen containing substance excreted in urine.

Urea is synthesized in liver and transported to kidney for excretion in urine. Urea cycle is the first metabolic cycle that was elucidated by Hans Krebs and Kurt Henseleit (1932), hence it is known as Krebs-Henseleit cycle.

Urea has two amino (-NH₂) groups, one derived from NH₃ and the other from aspartate. Carbon atom is supplied by CO₂. Urea synthesis is a five-step cyclic process, with five distinct enzymes. The first two enzymes are present in mitochondria while the rest are localized in cytosol.

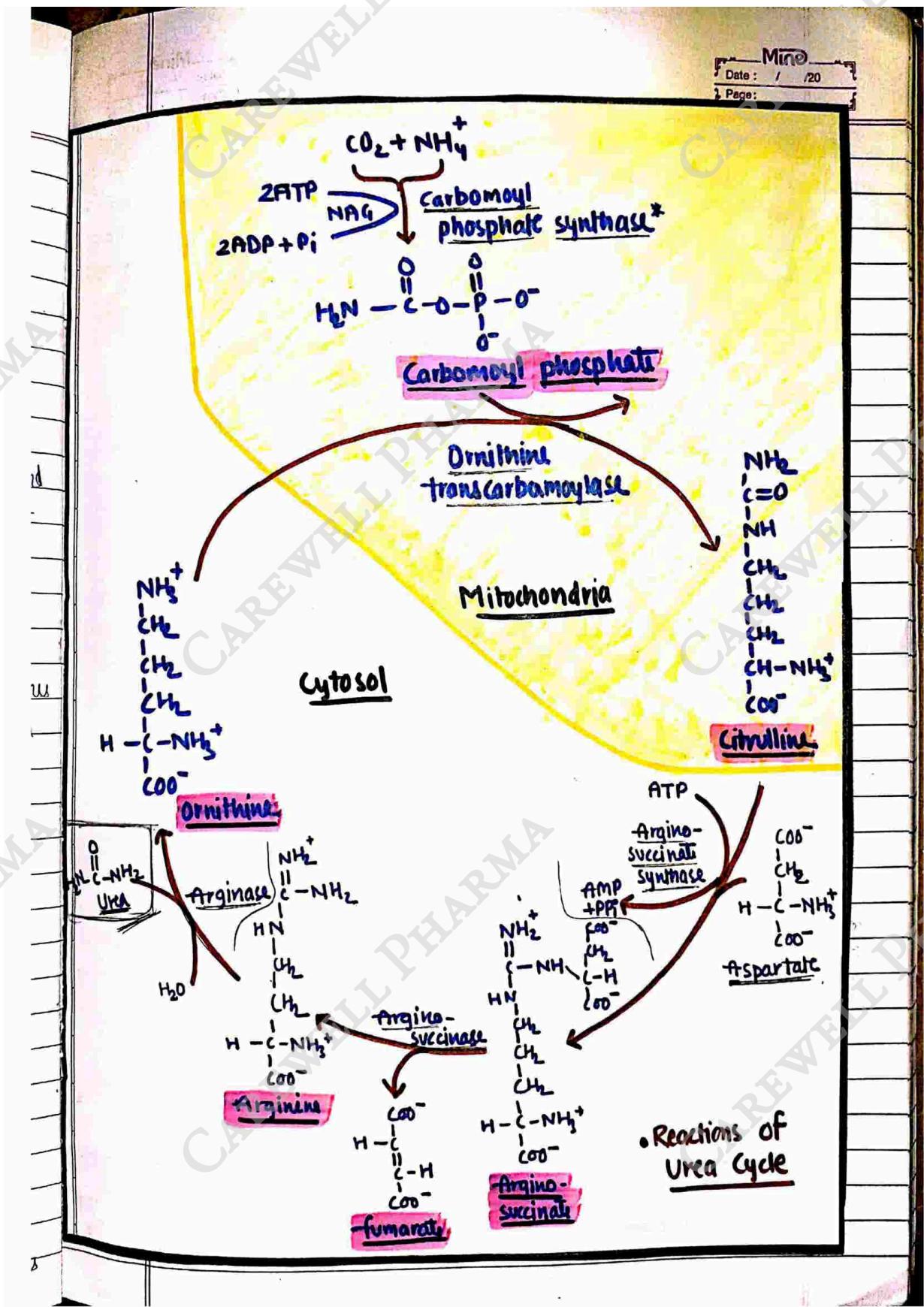
The diagram illustrates the five-step process of the urea cycle:

- $\text{CO}_2 + \text{NH}_4^+$ → Carbamoyl phosphate
- Carbamoyl phosphate + Ornithine → Citrulline
- Citrulline + H₂O → Arginine
- Arginine → Fumaramide
- Fumaramide → Ornithine (completing the cycle)

Aspartate ($\text{R}'-\text{NH}_2$) is shown participating in the cycle, likely as a source of the second amino group for arginine synthesis.

• Outline of urea cycle (In the synthesis of urea one amino group comes from ammonium ion while the other is from aspartate).

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1. Synthesis of carbamoyl phosphate →
 Carbamoyl phosphate synthase I (CPSI) of mitochondria catalyses the condensation of NH_4^+ ion with CO_2 to form carbamoyl phosphate. This step consumes two ATP and is irreversible, and rate-limiting. CPSI requires N-acetylglutamate for its activity. Another enzyme, carbamoyl phosphate synthase II (CPSII)- involved in pyrimidine synthesis - is present in cytosol. It accepts amino group from glutamine and does not require N-acetylglutamate-N-acetylglutamine for its activity.
 2. formation of citrulline → Citrulline is synthesized from carbamoyl phosphate and ornithine by ornithine transcarbamoylase. Ornithine is regenerated and used in urea cycle. Ornithine and citrulline are basic amino acid. Citrulline produced in this reaction is transported to cytosol by a transporter system.
 3. Synthesis of arginosuccinate →
 Arginosuccinate synthase condenses citrulline with asparagine to produce arginosuccinate. The second amino group of urea is incorporated in this reaction. This step requires ATP which is cleaved to AMP and pyrophosphate (PP_i). The latter is immediately broken down to inorganic phosphate (Pi).
 4. Cleavage of arginosuccinate: Arginosuccinate cleaves arginosuccinate to give arginine and fumarate. Arginine is the intermediate precursor of urea. Fumarate liberated here provide a connecting link with TCA cycle, gluconeogenesis etc.

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5. formation of urea - Arginase is the fifth and final enzyme that cleaves arginine to yield urea and ornithine. Ornithine, so regenerated, enters mitochondria for its reuse in the urea cycle. Arginase is activated by Co^{2+} and Mn^{2+} . Ornithine and lysine compete with arginine (competitive inhibition). Arginase is mostly found in the liver, while the rest of the enzymes (four) of urea cycle are also present in other tissue. For this reason, arginine synthesis may occur to varying degree in many tissue. But only the liver can ultimately produce urea.

Overall reactions and energetics

The urea cycle is irreversible and consumes 4 ATP. Two ATP are utilized for the synthesis of carbamoyl phosphate. One ATP is converted to AMP and PPi to produce arginosuccinate which equal to 2 ATP. Hence 4 ATP are actually consumed.

$$\text{NH}_4^+ + \text{CO}_2 + \text{Aspartate} + 3\text{ATP} \longrightarrow \text{Urea} + \text{fumarate} + 2\text{ADP} + 2\text{Pi} + \text{AMP} + \text{PPi}$$

Regulation of urea cycle.

The first reaction catalysed by carbamoyl phosphate synthase I (CPSI) is rate-limiting reaction or committed step in urea synthesis. CPSI is allosterically activated by N-acetylglutamate (NAG). It is synthesized from glutamate and acetyl CoA by synthase and degraded by a hydrolase.

The rate of urea synthesis in liver is correlated with the concentration of N-acetylglutamate. High concentrations of arginine increase NAG. The consumption

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of a protein-rich meal increases the level of NAG in liver, leading to enhanced urea synthesis.

Carbamoyl phosphatase synthase I and glutamate dehydrogenase are localized in the mitochondria. They coordinate with each other in the formation of NH_3 , and its utilization for the synthesis of carbamoyl phosphate. The remaining four enzymes of urea cycle are mostly controlled by the concentration of their respective substrates.

Acetyl CoA Glutamate Acetate
NAG synthase NAG hydrolase
 CO_2 N-Acetylglutamate
formation and degradation of N-acetylglutamate

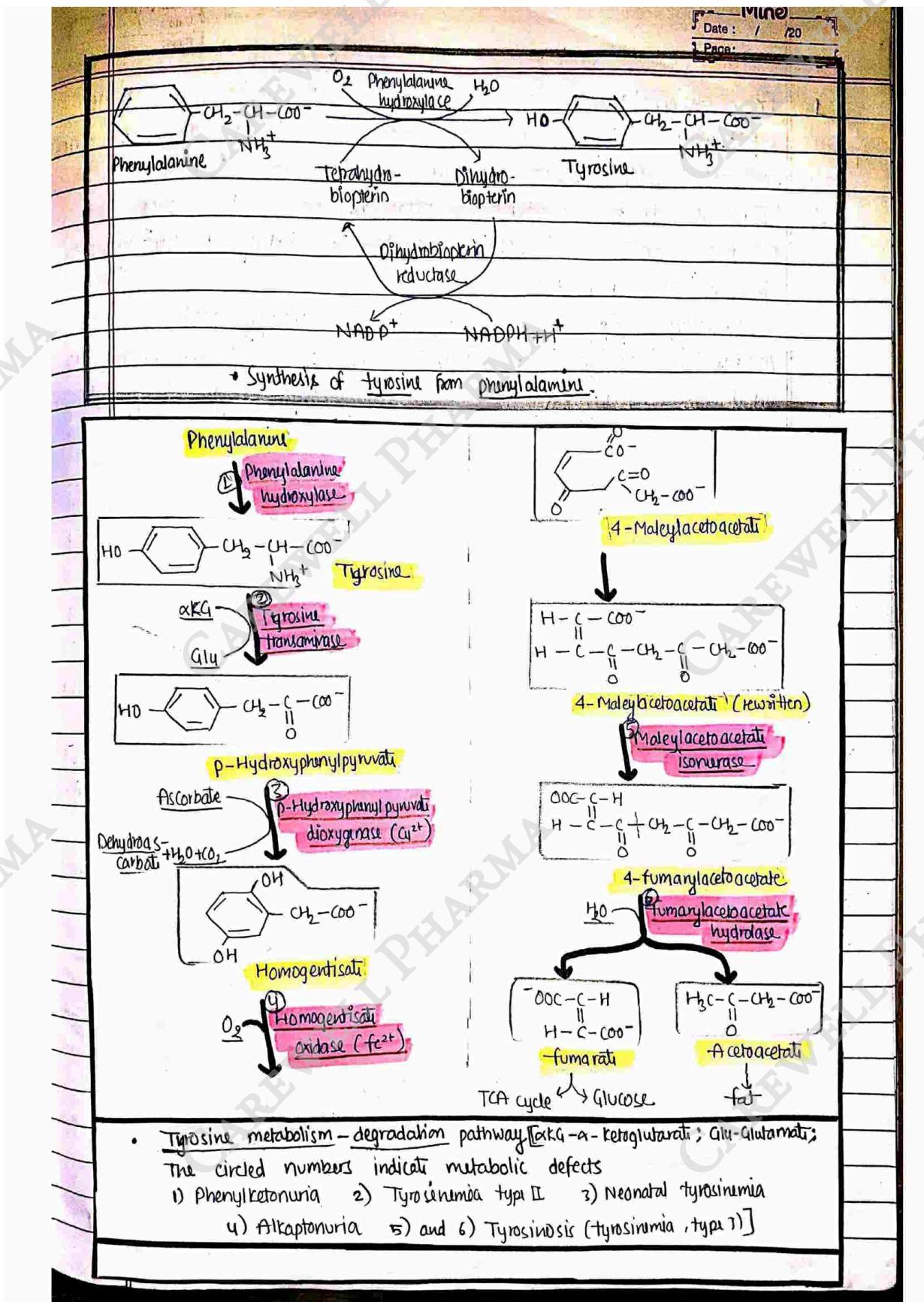
- **Decarboxylation** → It is the removal of carbon dioxide from amino acids with formation of amines.

$$\text{R}-\text{CH}-\text{COOH} \xrightarrow{\text{NH}_2} \text{R}-\text{CH}_2-\text{NH}_2 + \text{CO}_2$$

amine

- **Degradation (Catabolism) of Tyrosine (Phenylalanine)**
The metabolism of phenylalanine and tyrosine is considered together. The sequence of the reaction in the degradation of these amino acids,

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1. As phenylalanine is converted to tyrosine, a single pathway is responsible for degradation of both these amino acids, which occurs mostly in liver.
 2. Tyrosine first undergoes transamination to give p-hydroxyphenylpyruvate. This reaction is catalyzed by tyrosine transaminase (PLP dependent).
 3. p-Hydroxyphenylpyruvate hydroxylase (or dioxygenase) is a copper-containing enzyme. It catalyses oxidative decarboxylation as well as hydroxylation of the phenyl ring of p-hydroxyphenylpyruvate to produce homogentisate. This rxn involves a shift in hydroxyl group from para position to meta position, and incorporates a new hydroxyl group at para position. This step in tyrosine metabolic required ascorbic acid.
 4. Homogentisate oxidase (iron metalloprotein) cleaves the benzene ring of homogentisate to form 4-maleylacetoacetate. Molecular oxygen is required for this rxn to break the aromatic ring.
 5. Maleylacetoacetate undergoes isomerization to form 4-fumaryl acetoacetate and this rxn is catalyzed by maleylacetoacetate isomerase to form 4-fumarylacetoacetate.
 6. fumaryl acetoacetate (fumaryl acetoacetate hydrolase) brings about the hydrolysis of fumaryl acetoacetate to liberate fumarate and acetoacetate.
- fumarate is an intermediate of citric acid cycle and can also serve as precursor for gluconogenesis. Acetoacetate is a ketone body from which fat can be synthesized. Phenylalanine and tyrosine are therefore, both glucogenic and ketogenic. The inborn errors of phenylalanine and tyrosine metabolism are indicated in ~~cysteine~~ pathway.

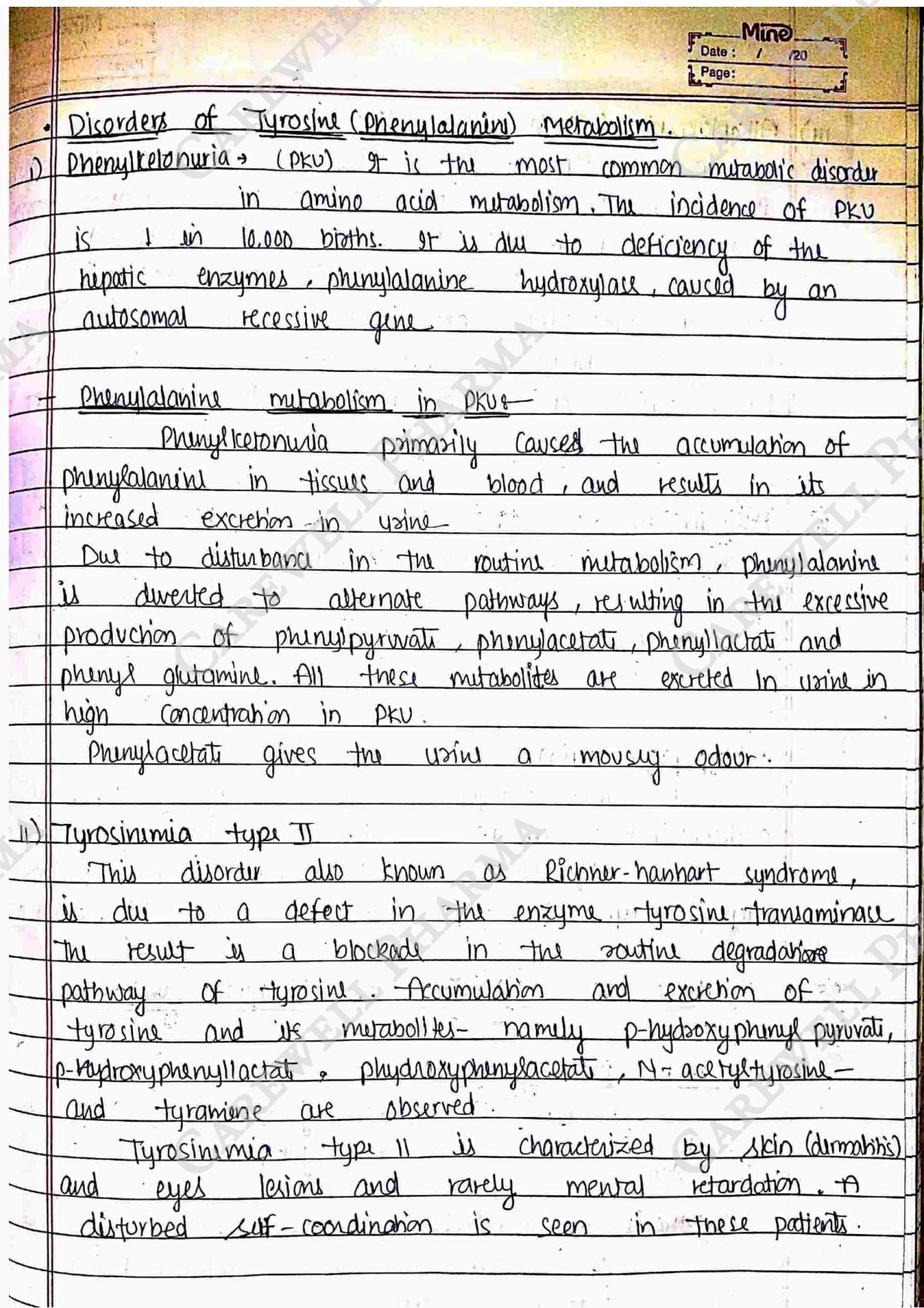
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Disorders of Tyrosine & Phenylalanine Metabolism

Disorder	Enzyme defective	Cause symptoms
1) Phenylketonuria	a) Phenylalanine hydroxylase b) Dihydrobiopterin reductase	Growth failure, seizures, mental retardation
2) Tyrosinuria Type-II	Tyrosine transaminase	Eye lesion, Dermatitis
3) Neonatal Tyrosinemia	p-Hydroxyphenyl pyruvate dioxygenase	Mental retardation, Growth retardation
4) Alkaptonuria. (Black urine disease)	Homogentisate oxidase	Urine resemble colour of coke. Diagnosis - Arthritic's.
5) Tyrosinosis Tyrosinemia Type-I	a) fumarylacetoacetate hydroxylase b) Maleylacetoacetate isomerase	Liver failure, Diarrhea, Vomiting, polyneuropathy
6) Albinism	Tyrosinase responsible for synthesis of melanin	photophobia

Phenylalanine (Phe, F) and tyrosine (Tyr, T) are structurally related aromatic amino acids. Phenylalanine is an essential amino acid while tyrosine is non-essential. Besides its incorporation into proteins, the only function of phenylalanine is its conversion to tyrosine. For this reason, ingestion of tyrosine can reduce the dietary requirement of phenylalanine. This phenomena is referred to as 'spare' action of tyrosine on phenylalanine. The predominant metabolism of phenylalanine occurs through tyrosine. Tyrosine is incorporated into proteins and is involved in the synthesis of a variety of biological important compounds - epinephrine, norepinephrine, dopamine, thyroid hormones - and the pigment melanin.

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iii) Alkaptonuria (Black Urine disease)
 Enzyme defect → The defective enzyme in alkaptonuria is homogentisate oxidase in tyrosine metabolism. Homogentisate accumulates in tissue and blood, and is excreted into urine. Homogentisate, on standing, gets oxidized to the corresponding quinones, which polymerize to give black or brown colour. For this reason, the urine of alkaptonuria patients resembles coke in colour.

iv) Albinism →

Albinism (Greek: albino - white) is an inborn error due to the lack of synthesis of the pigment melanin. It is an autosomal recessive disorder with a frequency of 1 in 20,000.

• Hypopigmentation

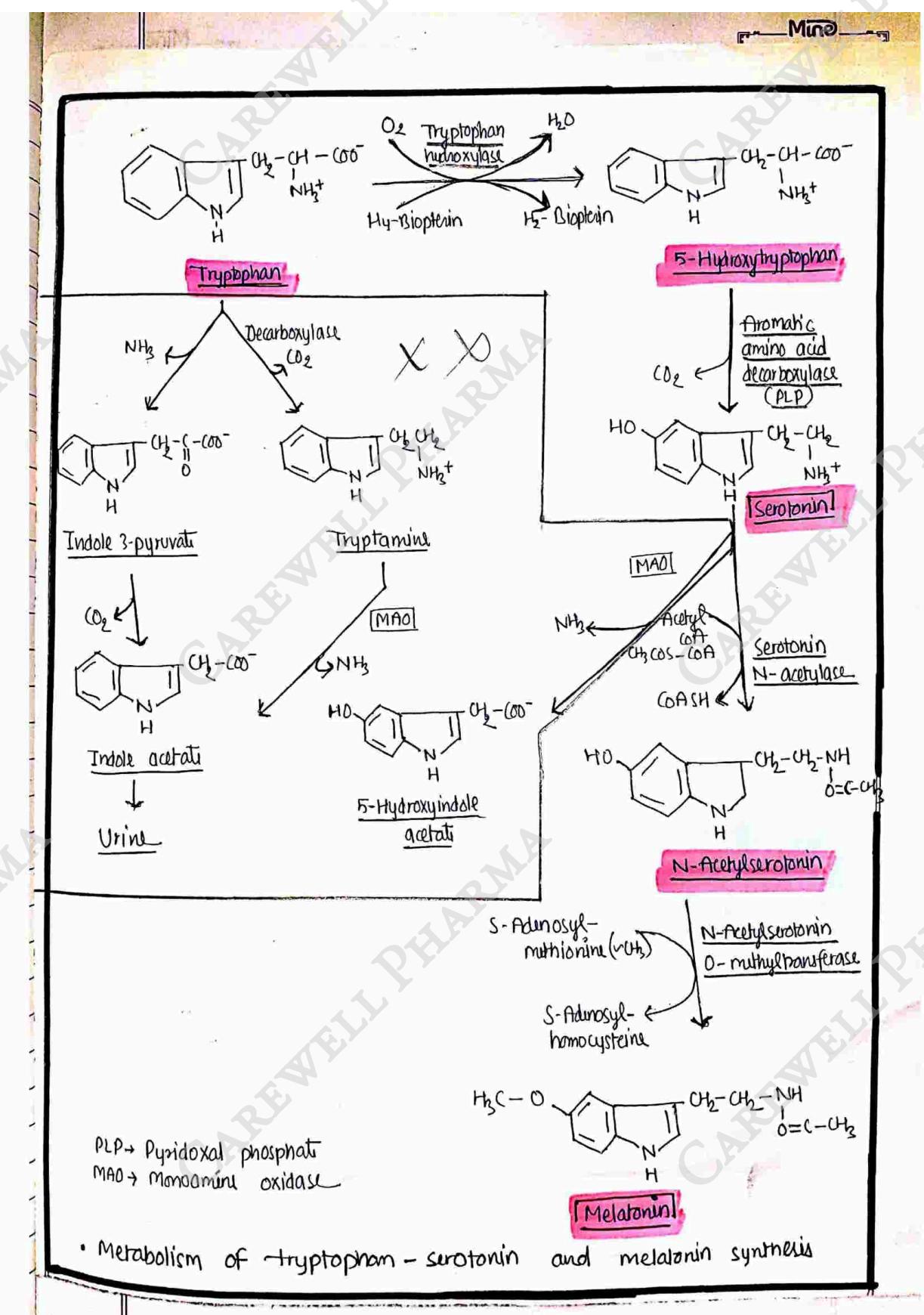
A good example of diffuse hypopigmentation is oculocutaneous albinism which is mostly due to mutations in the tyrosinase gene. The degree of hypopigmentation depends upon the type and severity of mutated genes.

⇒ Synthesis or significance of biological substance

i) Serotonin pathway

Serotonin or 5-Hydroxytryptamine is a neurotransmitter, synthesized from tryptophan.

- Synthesis of serotonin: In mammals, the largest amount of serotonin is synthesized in the intestinal cells.



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Reactions of serotonin pathway

Serotonin is a neurotransmitter and performs a variety of functions.

- It is a powerful vasoconstrictor and result in smooth muscle contraction in bronchioles and arterioles.
- It is closely involved in the regulation of cerebral activity (excitation).
- Serotonin controls the behavioural patterns, sleep, blood pressure and body temperature.
- It evokes the release of peptide hormones from gastrointestinal tract.
- It is also necessary for the motility of GIT (peristalsis).

→ When tryptophan hydroxylase enzyme hydrolysed tryptophan to 5-Hydroxytryptophan, further α -Amino acid decarboxylase enzyme act on it and it produced a Serotonin.

→ Then Serotonin N-acetylase (the rate limiting enzyme) acted on Serotonin and give N-Acetylserotonin. The latter undergoes methylation in the presence of enzyme N-Acetylserotonin ^{methylation} transferase give melatonin.

• Melatonin is a hormone, mostly synthesized by the pineal gland.

• It is involved in circadian rhythms or diurnal variations (24 hr cyclic process) of the body. It plays a significant role in sleep and wake process.

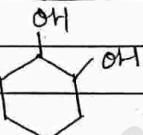
• Melatonin inhibits the production of melanocyte stimulating hormone (MSH) and adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH).

• It also performs a neurotransmitter function.

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- Biosynthesis of catecholamines (dopamine, norepinephrine, epinephrine).

The name catechol refers to the dihydroxylated phenyl ring. The amin derivatives of catechol are called catecholamines.

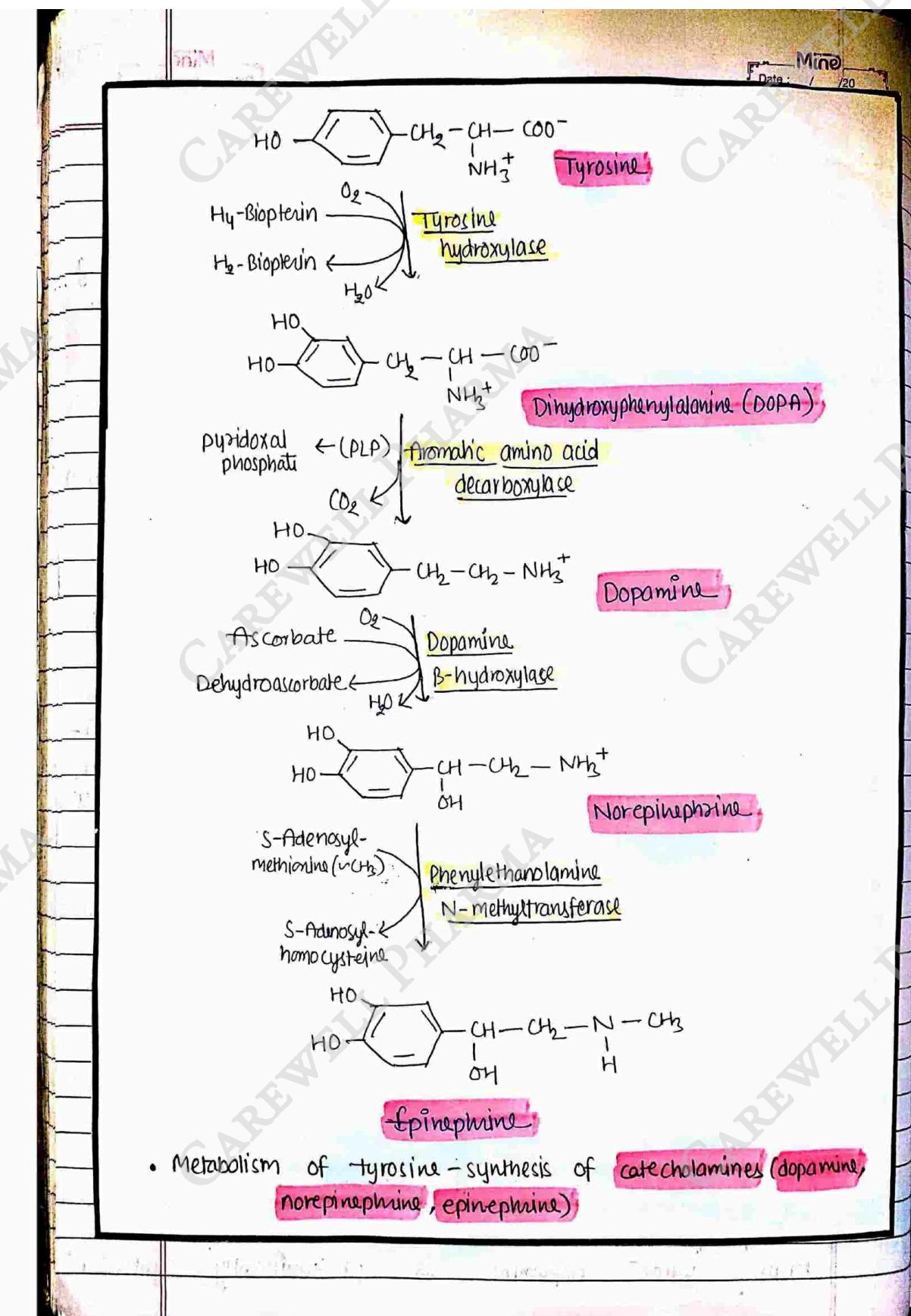


Tyrosine is the precursor for the synthesis of catecholamines, namely dopamine, norepinephrine (noradrenalin) and epinephrine (adrenalin).

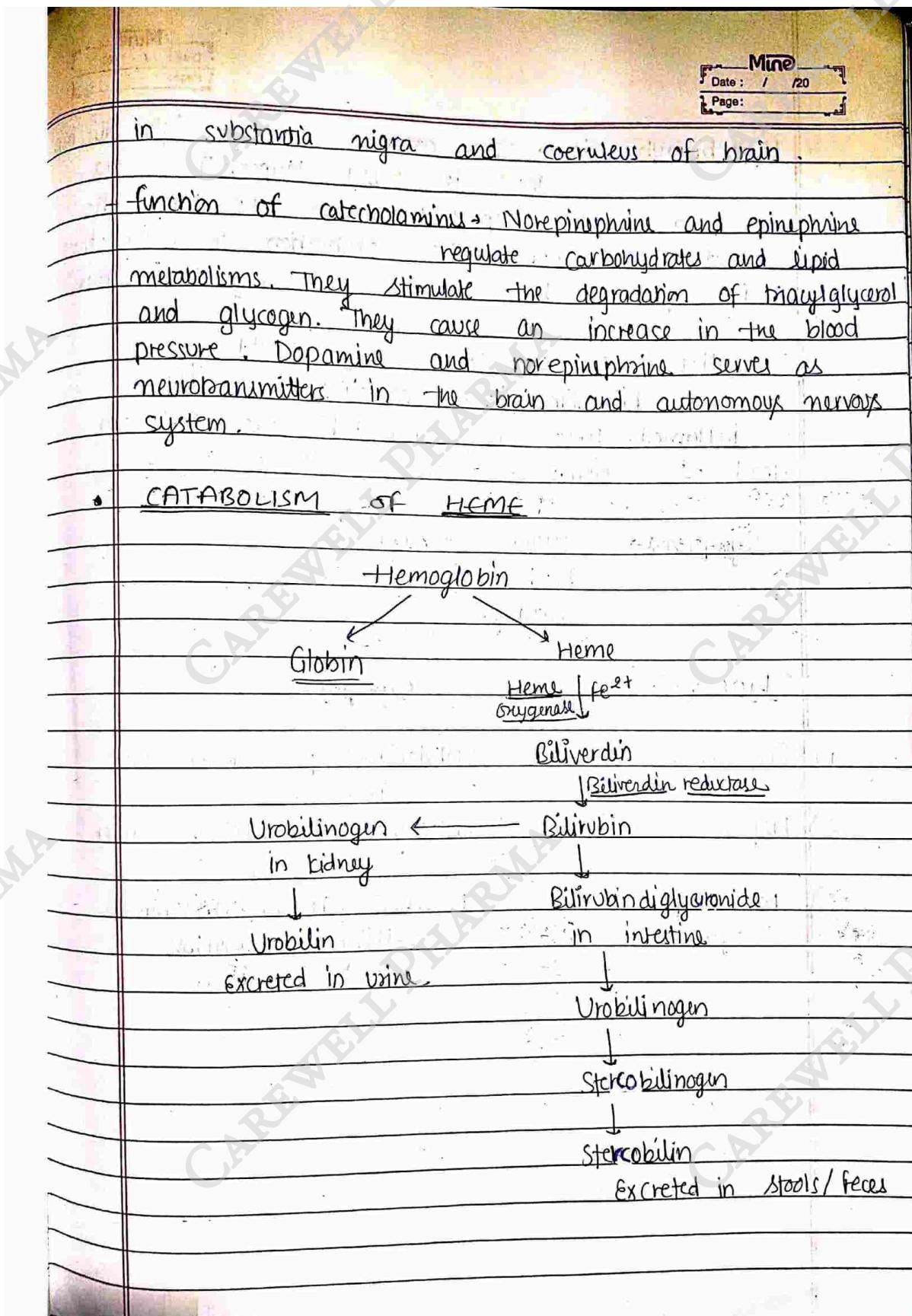
The conversion of tyrosine to catecholamines occurs in adrenal medulla and central nervous system involving the following reactions (in pathway on next page).

- Tyrosine is hydroxylated to 3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine (DOPA) by tyrosine hydroxylase. This enzyme catalyses the rate limiting reaction and requires tetrahydrobiopterin as coenzyme (like phenylalanine hydroxylase). In contrast to this enzyme, tyrosinase present in melanocytes convert tyrosine to DOPA. Hence, two different enzymes system exist to convert tyrosine to DOPA.
- DOPA undergoes PLP-dependent decarboxylation to give dopamine which, in turn, is hydroxylated to produce norepinephrine. Methylation of norepinephrine by S-adenosyl methionine gives epinephrine. The difference b/w epinephrine is only a methyl group (remember that norepinephrine has no methyl group).
- There exists tissue specificity in the formation of catecholamines. In adrenal medulla, synthesis of the hormones, norepinephrine and epinephrine is prominent. Norepinephrine is produced in certain areas of the brain while dopamine is predominantly synthesized.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyperbilirubinemia → The condition having high bilirubin level is called Hyperbilirubinemia. 		
<p>The cause of hyperbilirubinemia are Intrahepatic cholestasis and extrahepatic obstruction of biliary tract which prevent bilirubin from moving to intestine</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaundice → It is caused by build up of bilirubin (waste material in blood). An inflamed liver or obstructed bile duct can lead to jaundice. 		symptoms
<p>Symptoms → Yellowing of eyes, Dark urine itching</p>		
<u>Types:-</u>		<u>Symptoms</u>
1) Pre Hepatic Jaundice		Abdominal pain, fever, dark urine
2) Hepatic Jaundice		Bloody nose, weakness, fever, appetite
3) Post hepatic Jaundice		Diarrhea, fever, Abdominal swelling, weight loss

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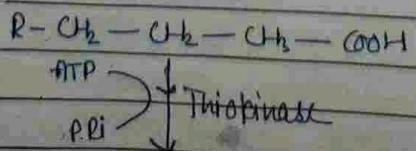
LIPID METABOLISM

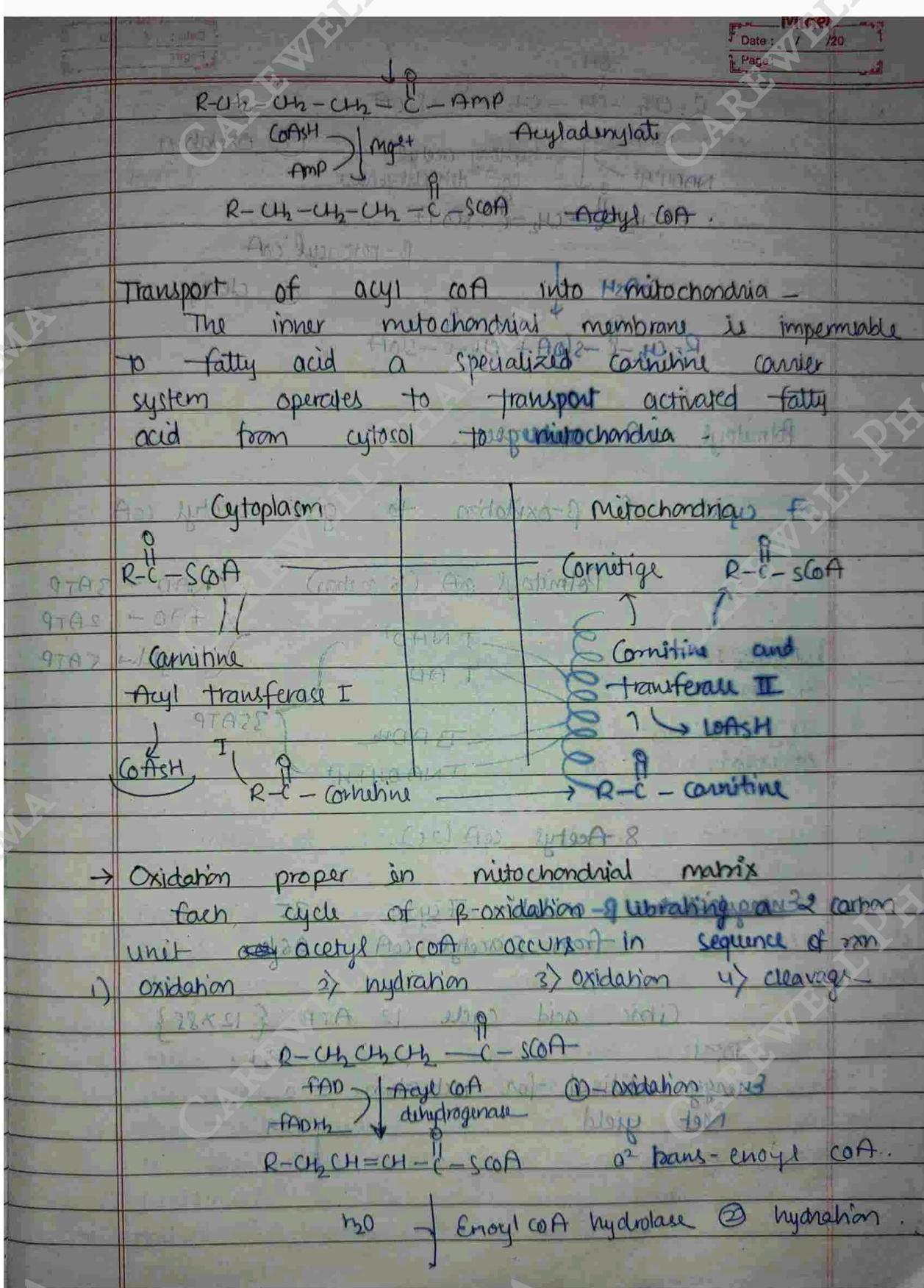
A lipid is a chemically diverse substance defined as a substance that is insoluble in water and soluble in alcohol, ether and chloroform. Lipid are an important component of living cells together with carbohydrates, and protein. Lipids are the most abundant lipid comprises 85-90% of body lipids. Most of the triglycerides are stored in the adipose tissue and serve as energy reservoirs of the body.

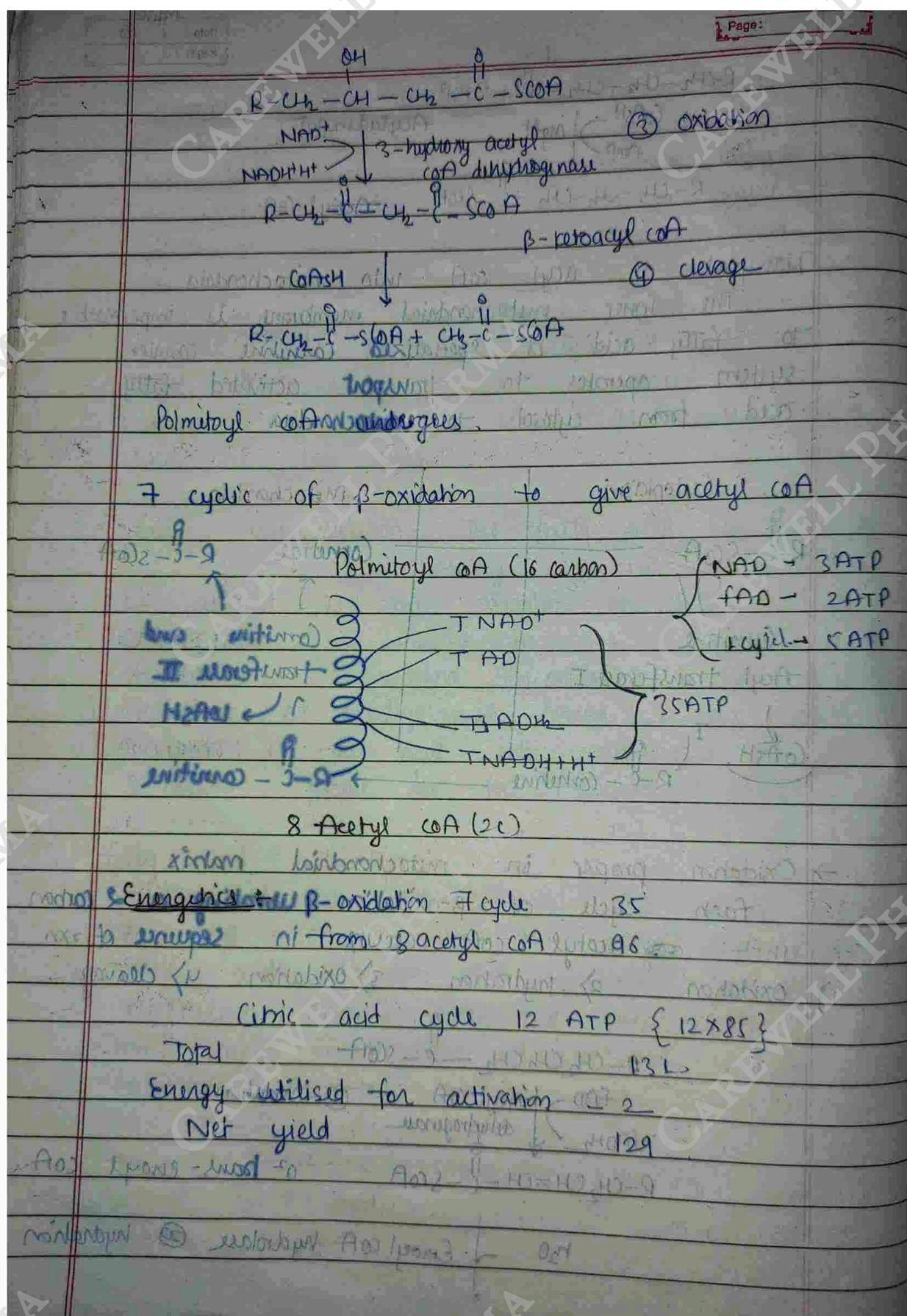
- fatty acid oxidation → The fatty acids in the body are mostly in the oxidation may be defined as the oxidation of fatty acid on the carbon atoms. This results in the sequential removal of carbon compound. β -oxidation involves (acetyl CoA)
 - i) Activation of fatty acids occurs in the cytosol.
 - ii) Transport of fatty acid into mitochondria.
 - iii) β -oxidation proper in the mitochondrial matrix.

fatty acid activation :-

fatty acids are activated to acyl CoA by thioesterase or acyl CoA synthase. The rxn occurs in 2 steps and requires ATP co-enzymes A and magnesium. Fatty acid react with ATP to form acyl adenylate which then combine with Co-enzyme A to produce acyl CoA.

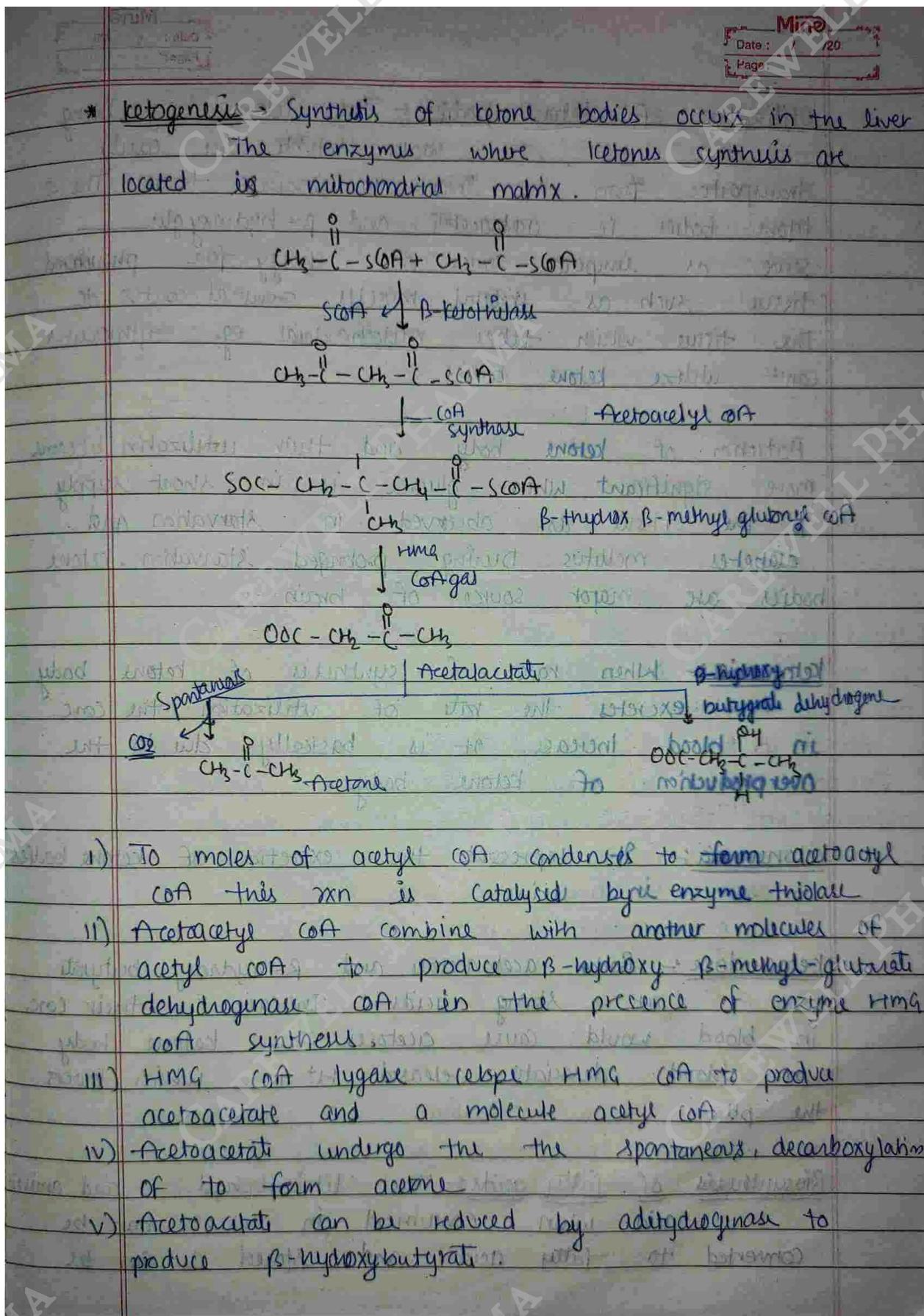






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Utilization of ketone bodies → The ketone body being water soluble are easily transported from the liver to various tissue. The 2 ketone bodies i.e. acetacetate and β -hydroxybutyrate serve as important source of energy for peripheral tissue such as skeletal muscle, cerebral cortex etc. The tissue which takes mitochondrial eg. erythrocytes can't utilize ketone bodies.

Production of ketone body and their utilization becomes more significant when glucose is in short supply to the tissue as observed in starvation and diabetes mellitus. During prolonged starvation ketone bodies are major source of brain.

Ketogenesis: When rate of synthesis of ketone body exceeds the rate of utilization the conc. in blood increase. It is basically due to the overproduction of ketone body.

Ketoururia: It represents the excretion of ketone bodies in urine.

Ketacidosis: Both acetacetate and β -hydroxybutyrate are strong acids. Increase in their conc. in blood would cause acidosis. The ketone body in blood dissociates & released H^+ ion which lowers the pH.

Biosynthesis of fatty acids: The dihydroxyacid and amino acid when consumed in excess can be converted to fatty acid and stored or can be

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converted to fatty acid and stored as triglycerides. The de novo biosynthesis of fatty acid occurs predominantly in occur in adipose tissue & kidney the enzyme machinery for fatty acid synthesis is located in cytosomal fraction of cells. The fatty acid synthesis takes place in 3 step.

- Production of acetyl CoA and NADPH.
- Conversion of acetyl CoA to malonyl CoA.
- Rxn of fatty acid synthesis complex.

i) Production of acetyl CoA and NADPH

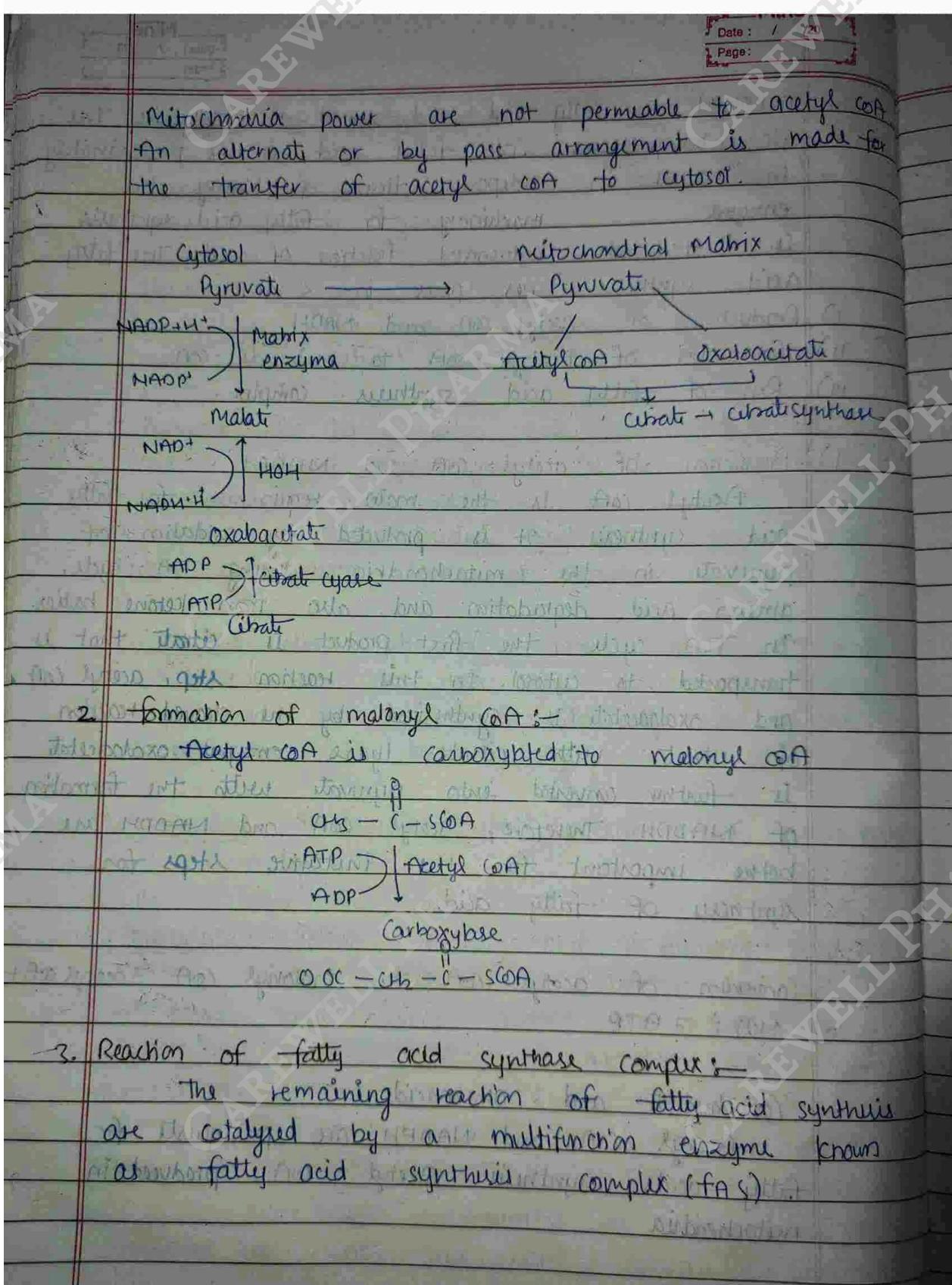
Acetyl CoA is the main requirement for fatty acid synthesis. It is produced by oxidation of pyruvate in the mitochondria during TCA cycle, amino acid degradation and also from ketone bodies. In TCA cycle, the first product is citrate that is transported to cytosol. In this reaction step, acetyl CoA and oxaloacetate is synthesized by the cleavage reaction of citrate with citrate lyase enzyme. Oxaloacetate is further converted into pyruvate with the formation of NADPH. Therefore, acetyl CoA and NADPH are both important for the initial steps for synthesis of fatty acids.

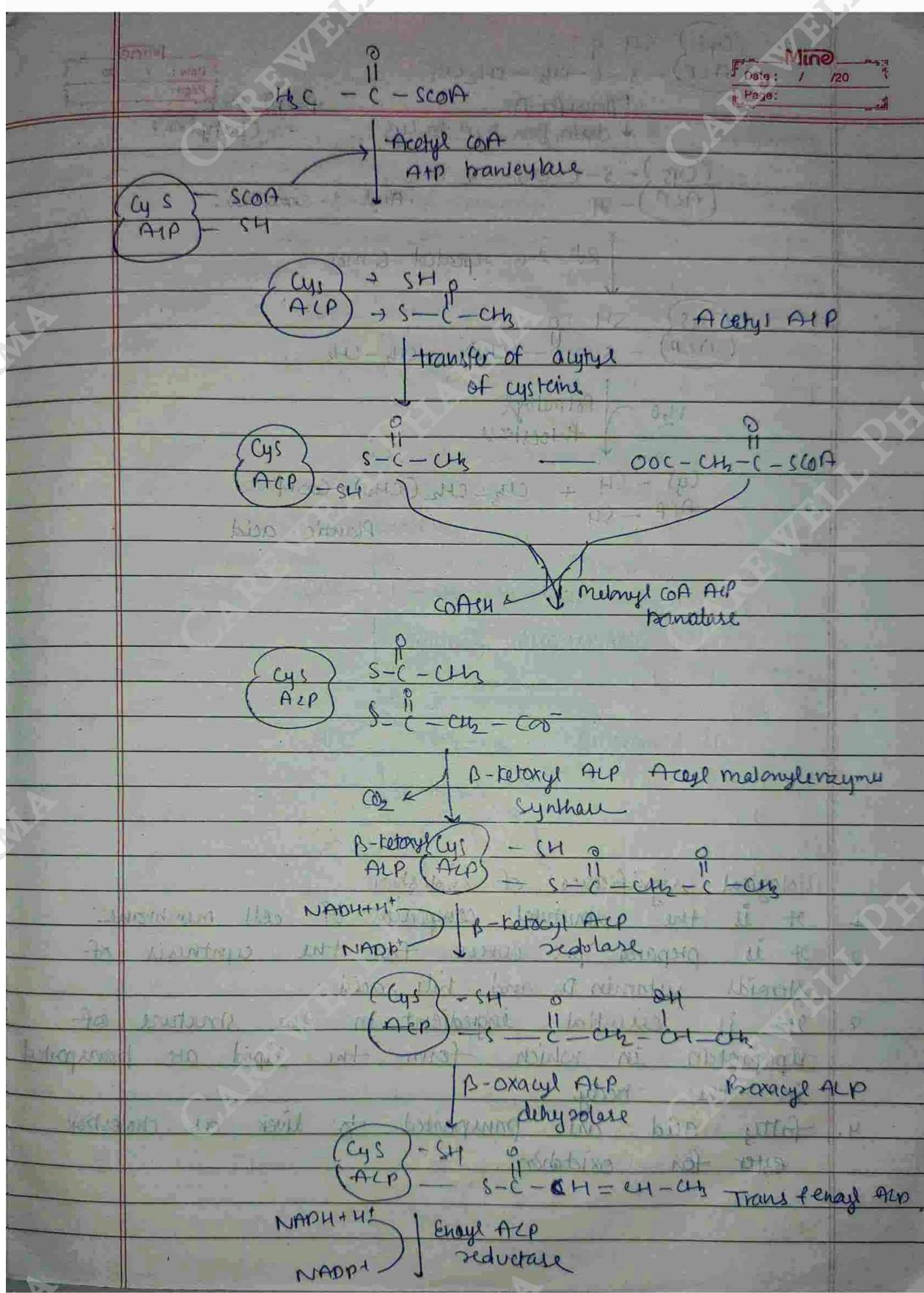
Conversion of acetyl CoA to malonyl CoA

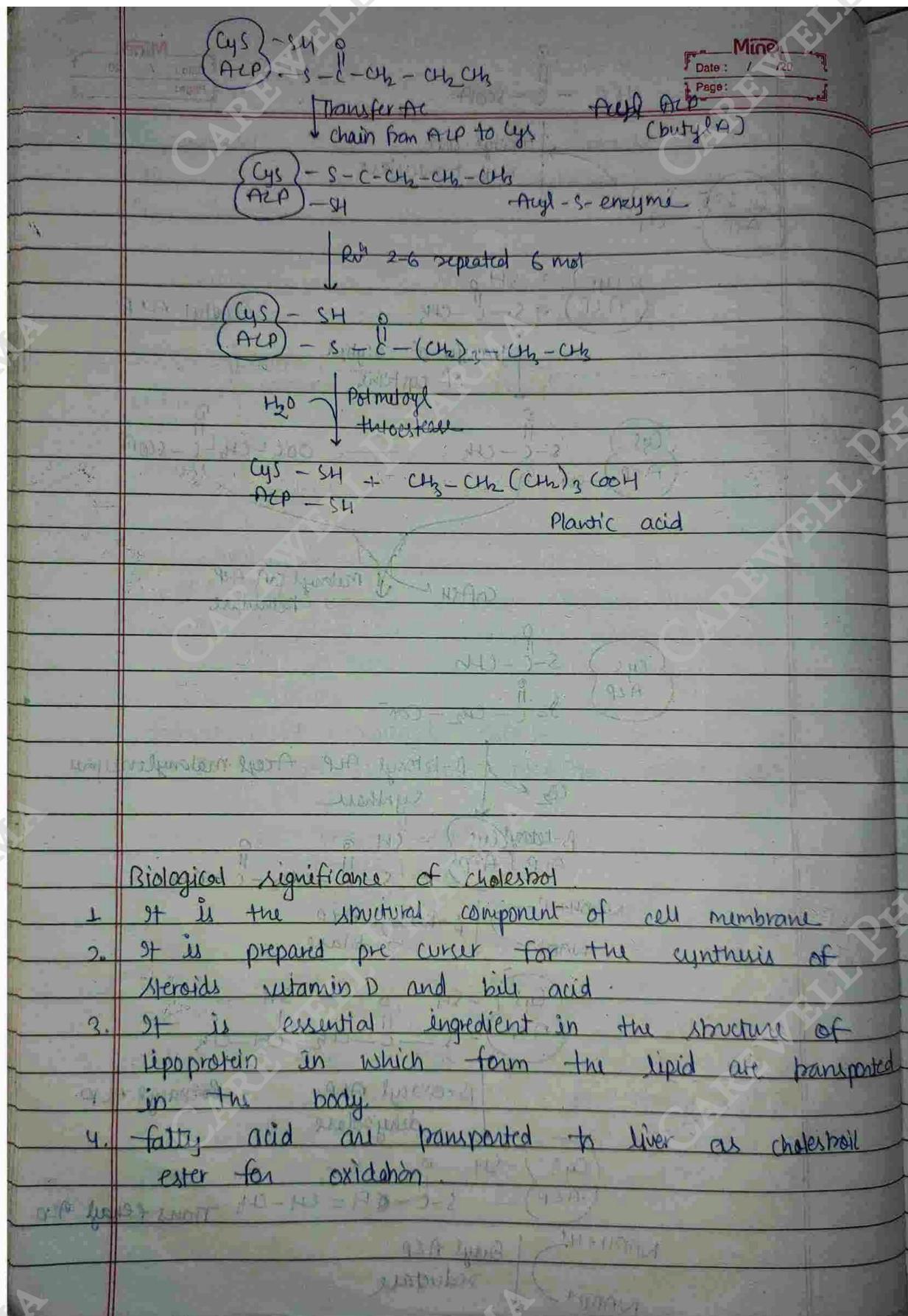
$$\text{Acetyl CoA} + \text{NADPH} + \text{ATP} \rightarrow \text{Malonyl CoA} + \text{NADP} + \text{AMP}$$

(Carbohydrates and amino acids)

Acetyl CoA and NADPH are precursors for fatty acid synthesis. Acetyl CoA is produced in mitochondria.

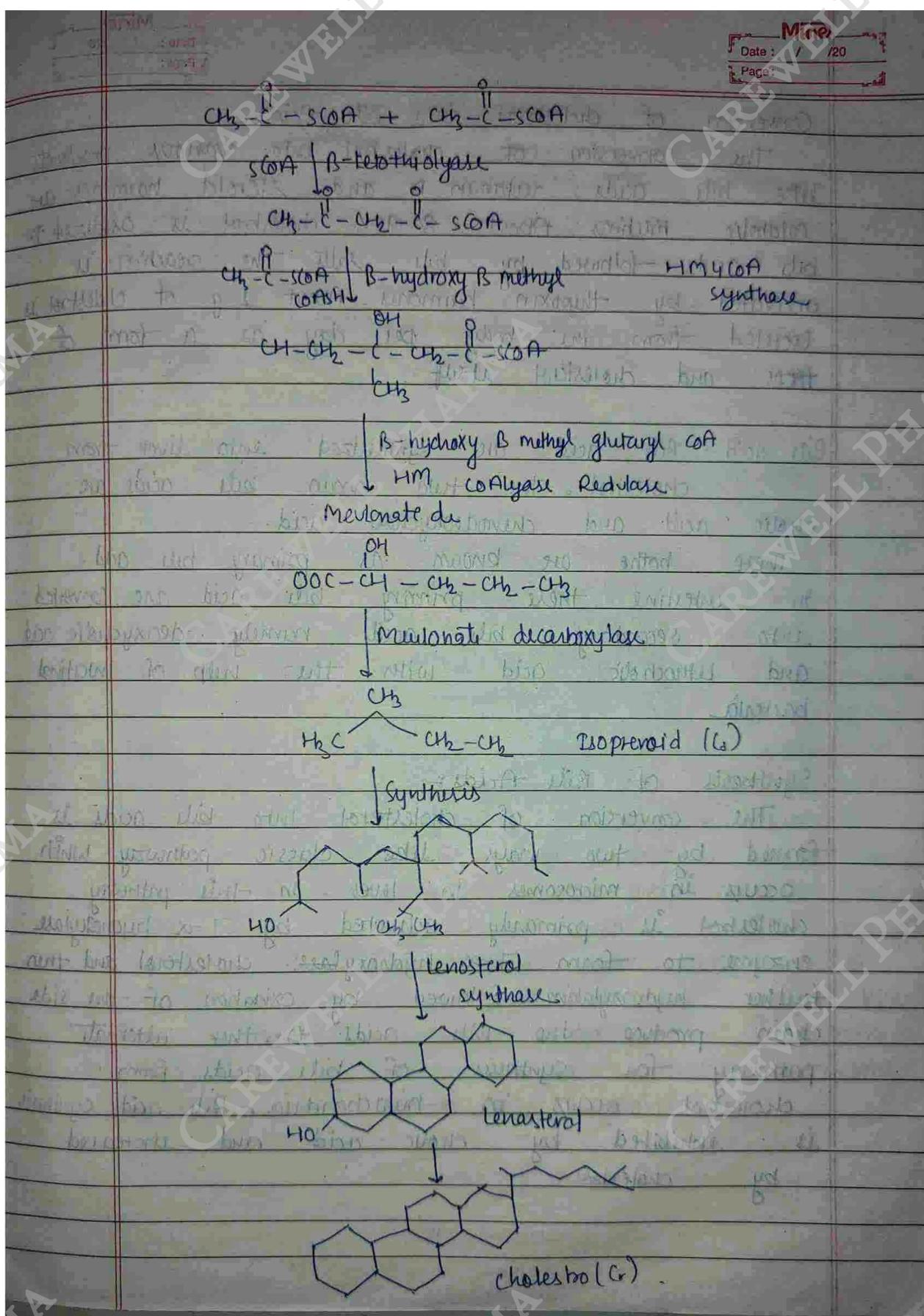






Biological significance of cholesterol

- It is the structural component of cell membrane.
- It is a pre-cursor for the synthesis of steroids, vitamin D and bile acid.
- It is an essential ingredient in the structure of lipoprotein in which form the lipid are transported in the body.
- Fatty acid are transported to liver as cholesterol ester for oxidation.



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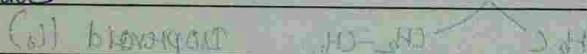
References - Internet

Conversion of cholesterol into bile acids

The conversion of cholesterol into various products like bile acids, vitamin D and steroid hormones are catabolic reactions. About 80-90% cholesterol is oxidized to bile acids followed by bile salts. The reaction is activated by thyroxin hormone. About 1 g of cholesterol is excreted from the body per day, as a form of feces and cholesterol itself.

Bile acid → Bile acid are synthesized into liver from cholesterol. The two main bile acids are cholic acid and chenodeoxycholic acid.

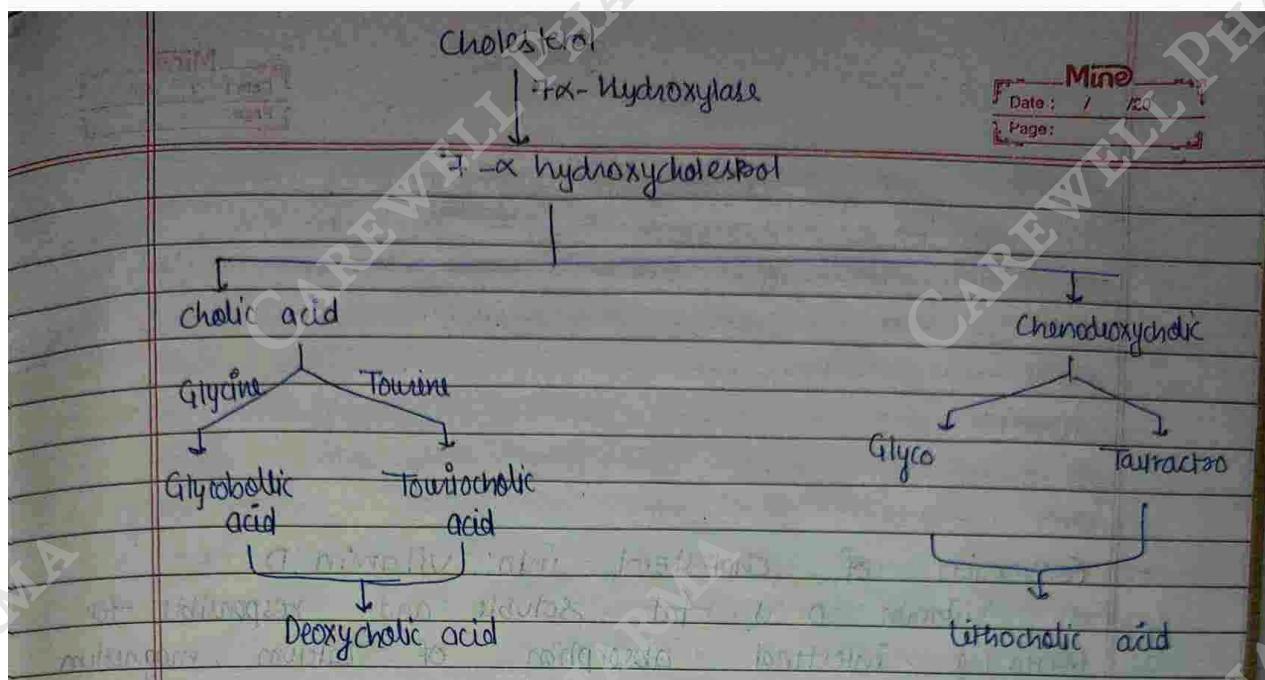
These both are known as primary bile acids. In intestine, these primary bile acids are converted into secondary bile acids namely deoxycholic acid and lithocholic acid with the help of intestinal bacteria.



Synthesis of Bile Acids

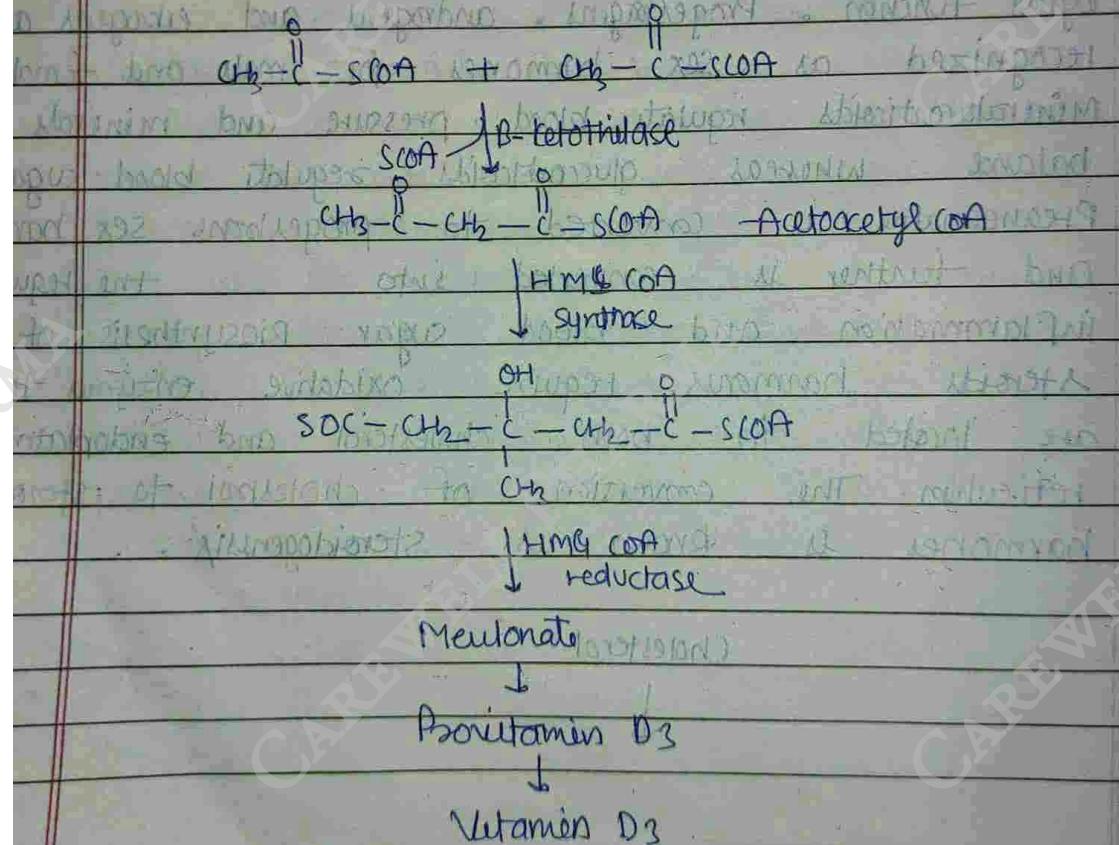
The conversion of cholesterol into bile acids is formed by two ways like classic pathway which occurs in microsomes in liver. In this pathway, cholesterol is primarily activated by $\text{7}-\alpha$ hydroxylase enzyme to form $\text{7}-\alpha$ hydroxycholesterol and then further hydroxylation followed by oxidation of the side chain produce the bile acids. Another alternative pathway for synthesis of bile acids from cholesterol occurs in mitochondria. Bile acid synthesis is inhibited by cholic acid and increased by cholesterol.





- Conversion of cholesterol into vitamin D.

Conversion of cholesterol into Vitamin D
Vitamin D is fat soluble and responsible for increasing intestinal absorption of calcium, magnesium and phosphate chemically. Vitamin D is a secosteroid. During cholesterol synthesis Δ^7 -dehydrocholesterol is formed as an intermediate product. On exposure to sun light Δ^7 -dehydrocholesterol is converted into cholecalciferol (vit D₃) in the skin and finally converted into calcitriol.



Disorders of lipid metabolism.

Lipids are an important source of energy. These are stored as fat and constantly broken down to release energy with the help of some group of specific enzymes. But sometimes certain abnormalities in these enzymes can lead to the accumulation of fatty substances that are harmful to many organs of the body, which is known as lipidoses. Cholesterol level vary by age, weight and gender. It is measured in three categories viz. total cholesterol, LDL or (Low Density Lipid), HDL or (High Density Lipid), VLDL (Very Low Density Lipid) and triglycerides. The normal amount of total cholesterol levels less than 200 milligrams per deciliter. LDL cholesterol level should be less than 100 mg/dl. Some of the important are discussed in this section.

(I) Hypercholesterolemia → It is the situation of high level of total cholesterol present in the blood. People with hypercholesterolemia have a high risk of coronary artery disease. It is observed in many disorders like diabetes mellitus, in case of hypothyroidism, nephrotic syndrome etc. Plant sterols such as sitostanol esters reduce the plasma cholesterol level. Fibres in vegetables also decrease the cholesterol absorption. Some drugs like statins inhibit HMG-CoA reductase and decrease cholesterol synthesis. It is diagnosed by using blood test.

(II) Atherosclerosis → It is a disease in which the inside of an artery narrow due to the build of plaque which is made up of fat,

