

# CASE REPORT

# HYPERGLYCINEMIA



**MONA NOURBAKHSH MD.**

PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGIST

IRAN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

H.ALI ASGHAR CHILDREN HOSPITAL

# CASE

A 3-years-old girl

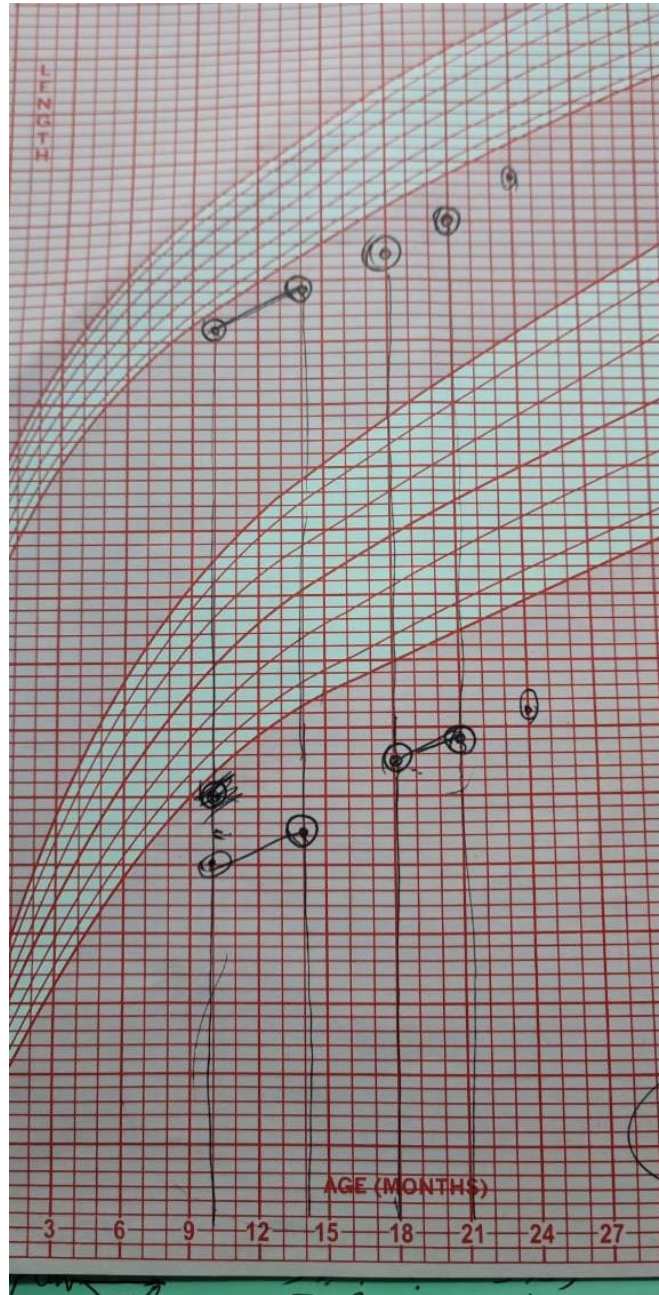
CC:

- Short stature
- Developmental delay
- Generalized edema
- Her signs & symptoms began at 5 months of age with:
  - Inability to hold her head up
  - Mild hypotonia
  - Regression of her developmental milestones.



# PAST MEDICAL HISTORY

- Born by C/S due to maternal GDM
- GA:37 wk
- Birth weight: 3.550 kg.
- No history of asphyxia or any difficulty in the newborn period
- Her attention and verbal development were quite normal until the first year of age
- She was not able to stand up or walk until 2 years



Height and weight were – 3 SD  
Poor catch-up growth

# Family history

- First cousin
- Hypothyroidism and GDM in mother
- No CNS abnormality
- No history of abortion or still birth

# Past medical history

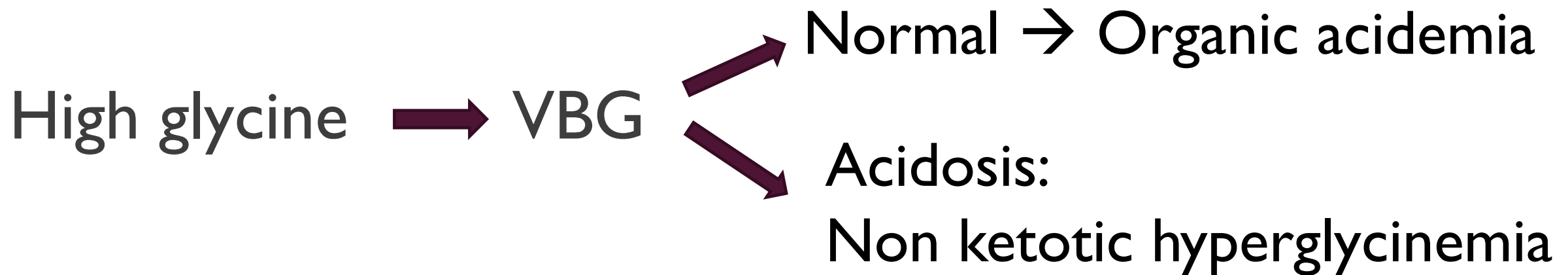
- Newborn metabolic screening was normal
- Urine organic acid    Normal
- Acylcarnitine Profile    Normal

## **At the age of 1 year**

- Urine amino acid profile → Excessive amount of glycine 1712 (normal 105-403)
- Plasma amino acid chromatography → Normal.
- VBG → Normal

## After one year

- Plasma Glycine Level → 581 (normal 135-350) (× 1.6)
- Urine Glycine → 1932 (normal 105-403) (× 4.6)
- Other amino acids were within the normal limit



# Treatment for NKH

- Low glycine diet
- Folinic acid
- Sodium benzoate
- Referred for measurement of glycine in CSF
- Genetic study recommended



CSF →

Entry	Compound	Amount (umol/L)	<1Month	1-23 Month	2-17 Years	>18 Years
1	Aspartate	1	≤3	<1	<1	≤2
2	Glutamate	3	1-9	≤5	≤11	1-13
3	Serine	51	30-88	22-61	15-62	15-220
4	Glutamine	534	525-1583	386-742	377-1738	361-1175
5	Histidine	12	8-32	4-25	7-25	7-22
6	Glycine	8	3-26	≤12	≤13	≤10
7	Threonine	21	23-104	10-55	8-85	12-64
8	Citrulline	3	1-4	≤3	1-2	≤2
9	Argenine	24	2-27	7-32	9-31	10-32
10	Alanine	29	13-50	8-48	5-62	1-107
11	Tyrosine	15	9-41	5-20	5-32	5-18
12	Methionine	2	2-14	1-7	≤9	1-8
13	Valine	18	11-31	8-19	2-37	7-42
14	Tryptophane	3	≤6	≤8	1-5	≤9
15	Phenylalanine	13	4-31	4-14	≤25	6-31
16	Isoleucine	4	3-11	3-7	2-13	3-10
17	Ornithine	3	≤26	≤5	≤5	≤14
18	Leucine	11	7-22	7-12	8-27	9-32
19	Lysine	20	6-38	3-29	9-58	19-60

# One month later

- Irritability
- Loss of concentration
- Bizarre movement of the hand
- One episode of seizure

Admitted to hospital and sodium benzoate discontinued  
Phenobarbital for seizure

# New symptoms

- Inability to stand
- Generalized edema
- Autism

## Urine

<u>Test</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Ref value</u>
Complete Urinalysis			
Macroscopic			
Color	Yellow		
Appearance	Semi Turbid		
PH	6		
Sp.Gravity	1010	gr/cc	
Protein	4+		
Blood/Hb	3+		
Glucose	Weakly Positive		
Ascorbic Acid	Negative		
Urobilinogen	Negative		
Bilirubin	Negative		
Nitrite	Negative		
Ketone	Negative		

## Microscopic

WBC	25-30
RBC	35-40
Epithelial	8-10
Bacteria	Moderate
Mucus	Many
Crys	
Cast	
Granular	3-4
Hyaline	0-1

## Biochemistry

### Test

Total Protein

Result  
2.72

Albumin

1.54

## Biochemistry

### Test

LDL \*

### Result

345

# Lipid profile

- Total cholesterol: 957 mg/dl
- Triglyceride: 2596 mg/dl
- HDL: 34 mg/dl
- LDL: 306 mg/dl

Nephrotic syndrome → prednisolone  
Cyclosporine for 6 month

# Genetic study

Results: Final ☒ Preliminary ☐ Revised ☐

Patient name& ID	Gene & transcript	Variant	Zygosity	ACMG Classification	Inheritance
Narges Nourmohamadi *****51067	GLYAT NM_201648	c.322C>T p.Q108X	Homozygous	VUS	?
Masoud Nourmohamadi *****42702			Heterozygous		
Zahra Nourmohamadi *****26220			Heterozygous		

**Interpretation:** According to the results Masoud Nourmohamadi and Zahra Nourmohamadi are Heterozygous and Narges Nourmohamadi is Homozygous for variant c.322C>T in GLYAT gene. Mutation in this gene is associated with Glycine N-acetyltransferase deficiency. This variant has not been previously reported. The frequency of this variant in normal population is very low. With a CADD score of 40

**Comment:** For this family genetic counseling is recommended.

# Glycine N-acyl transferase (GLYAT)

- GLYAT was first identified in bovine liver in 1953
- It was subsequently isolated and characterized from human liver in 1976
- Mawal and Qureshi (1994) characterized human GLYAT and its substrate specificity
- The monomeric enzyme had an apparent molecular mass of 30 kD.

Substrate	Human ACGNAT	
	Km*	Vmax**
Benzoyl CoA	57.9	17.1
Salicyl CoA	83.7	10.1
Isovaleryl CoA	124	7.64
Octanoyl CoA	198	3.3

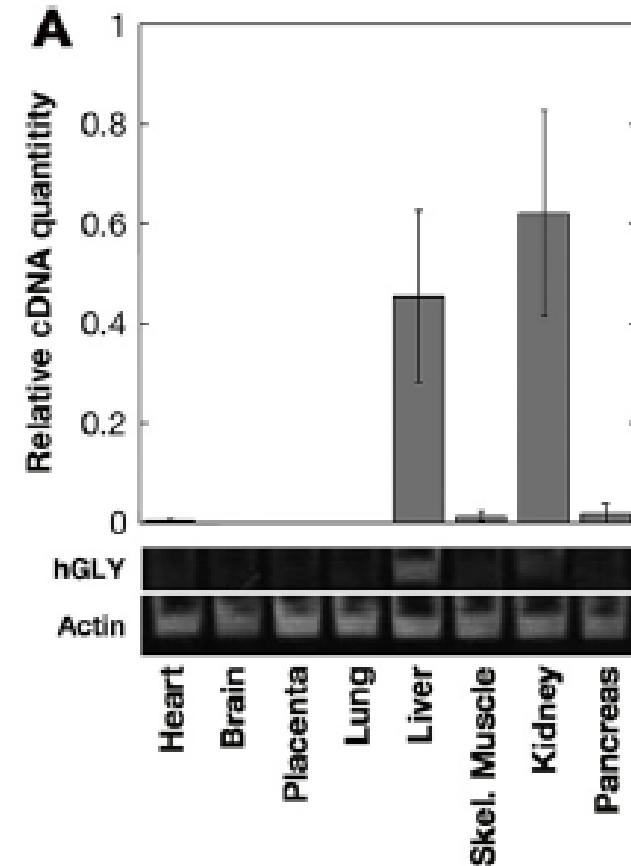
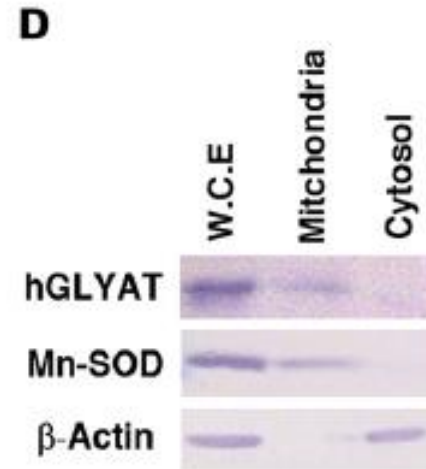
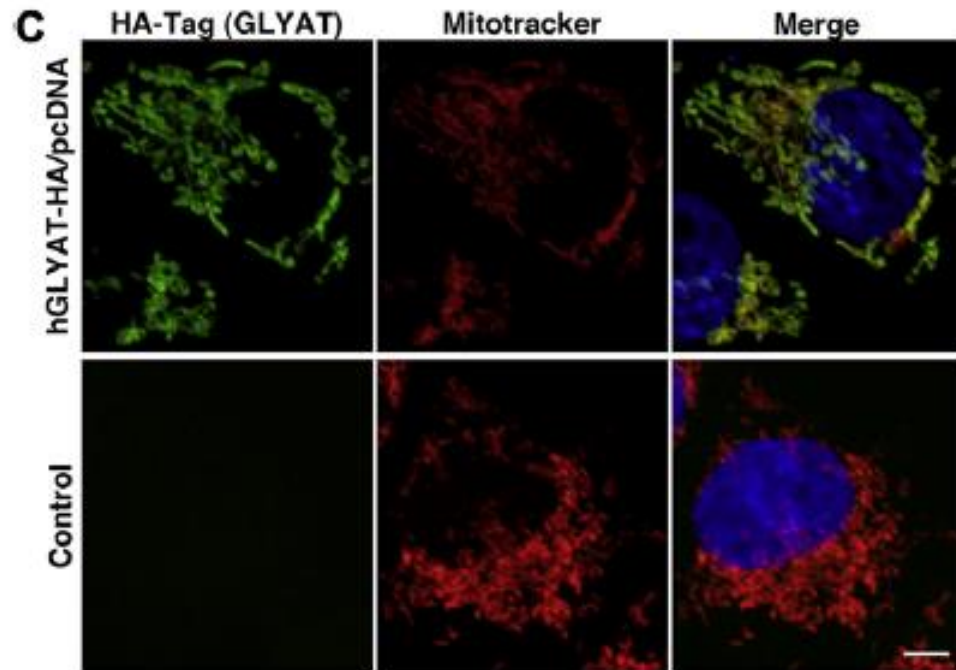
Mawal and Qureshi, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 1994; 205: 1373-1379.

# GLYAT substrates

- Benzoate
  - ~83 - 90% of ingested benzoate is excreted as glycine conjugates
- Salicylate
  - ~75- 84% of ingested salicylate is excreted as glycine conjugates
- Isovaleric acid
- Octanoyl CoA
- Short chain fatty acids
- Phenyl acetate
- Indoleacetic acid
-



# Tissue and cell distribution



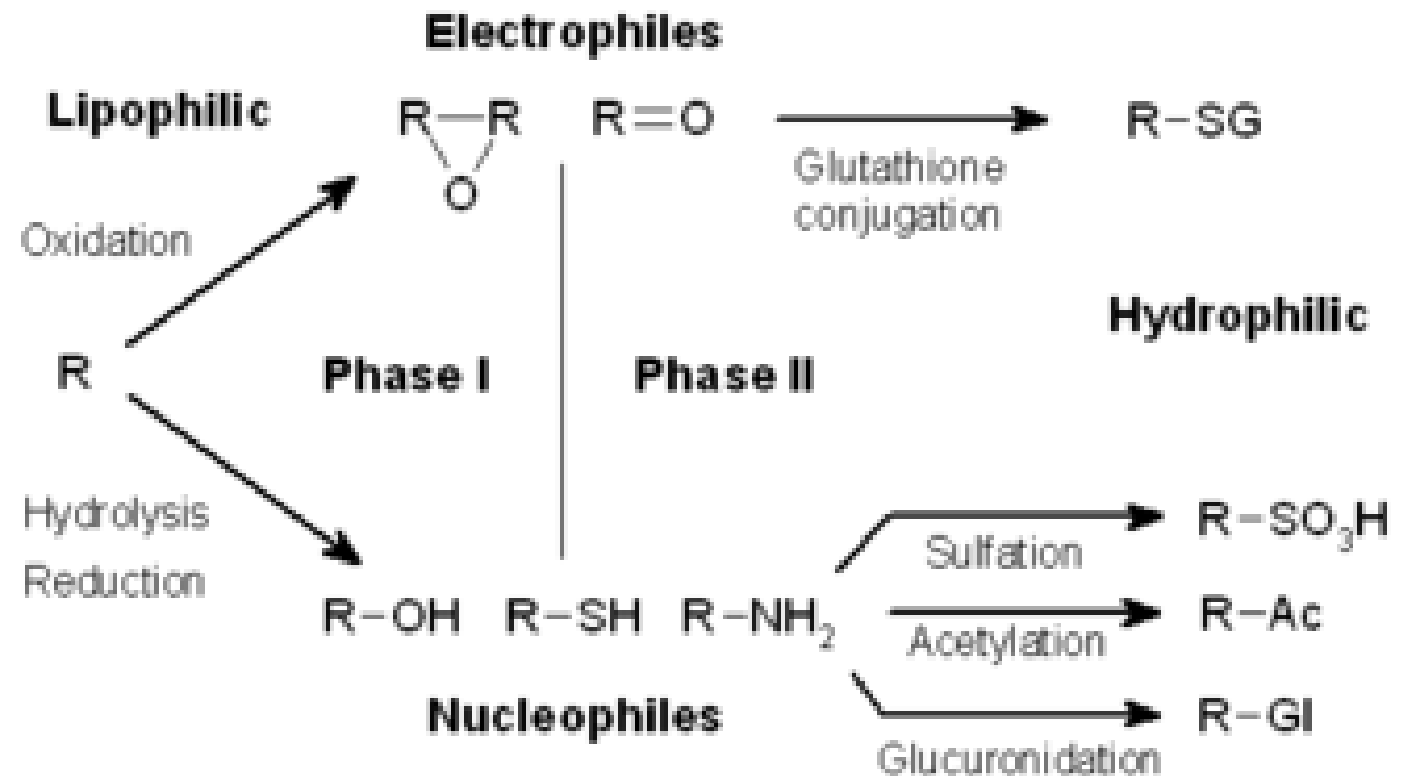


# Metabolic processes of GLYAT

- Acyl-Co A metabolism
- Benzoyl-Co A metabolism
- Glycine metabolism
- Monocarboxylic acid metabolism
- Response to toxic substance; detoxification
- Xenobiotic metabolic process

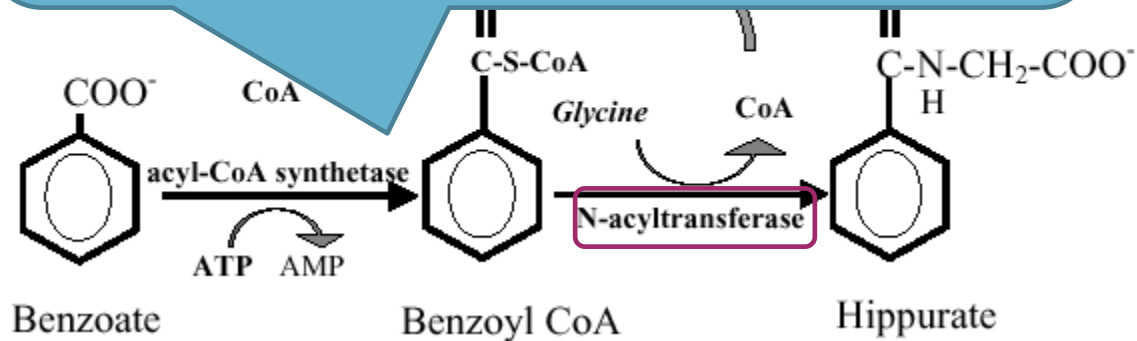
# Different types of conjugation reactions

Conjugation	Group in xenobiotic
Glucuronidation	-OH, -COOH, -NH <sub>2</sub>
Sulfatation	-OH, -NH <sub>2</sub> , -SH
Methylation	-OH, -NH <sub>2</sub>
Acetylation	-OH, -NH <sub>2</sub>
By GSH	Ar-halogen
By amino acid	-COOH

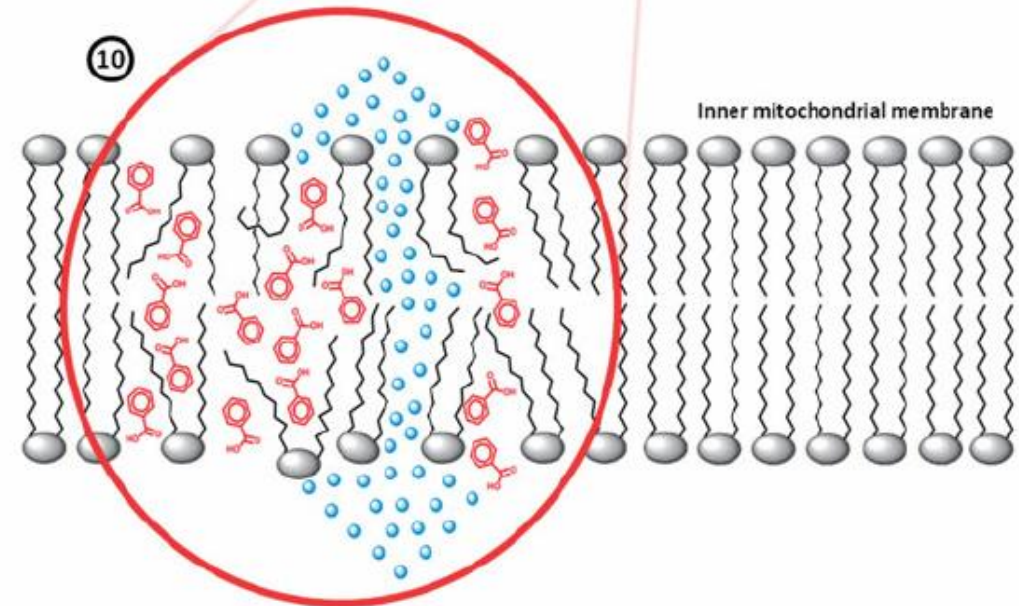
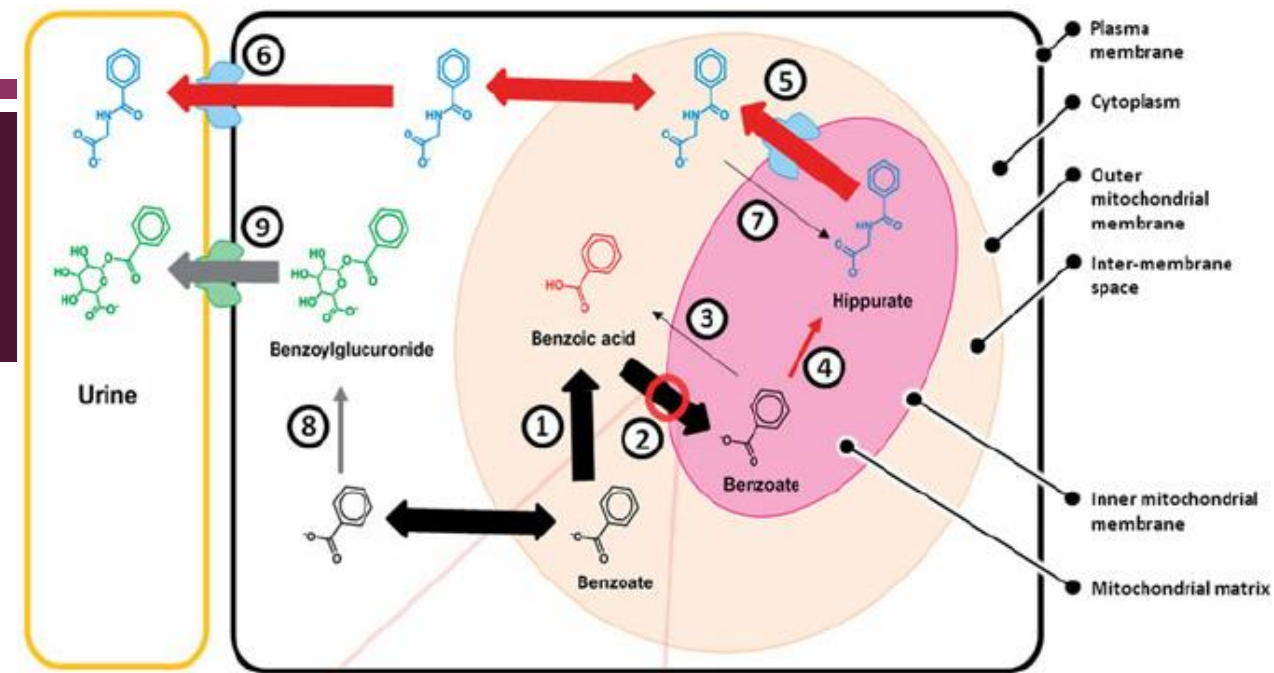


# Detoxification of Benzoate

Most xenobiotics that undergo glycine conjugation are activated by the mitochondrial medium-chain ligases, which also activate C4-C12 acids for  $\beta$ -oxidation



mitochondrial accumulation of xenobiotic acyl-CoA esters may interfere with  $\beta$ -oxidation and disturb mitochondrial metabolism



# The metabolic role of glycine conjugation

- Facilitating the excretion of xenobiotics
- Restoration of CoASH levels
- Homeostasis of glycine

# BIOSYNTHESIS

GLYCEROL 3-PHOSPHATE

$\text{CO}_2 + \text{NH}_4^+$

5,10-MeTHF

THF

GLYCINE  
CLEAVAGE  
SYSTEM

NADH

NAD<sup>+</sup>

SER

SHMT

THF

H<sub>2</sub>O

5,10-MeTHF

GLY

NAD<sup>+</sup>

GLYOXYLATE

DAAO

NADH

LDH

OXALATE

NADH

GLYCINE  
CLEAVAGE  
SYSTEM

NAD<sup>+</sup>

THF

$\text{CO}_2 + \text{NH}_4^+$

5,10-MeTHF

SHMT

H<sub>2</sub>O

THF

SER

PYRUVATE

# DEGRADATION

DIET/MICROBIOTA

BENZOATE

ATP

CoASH

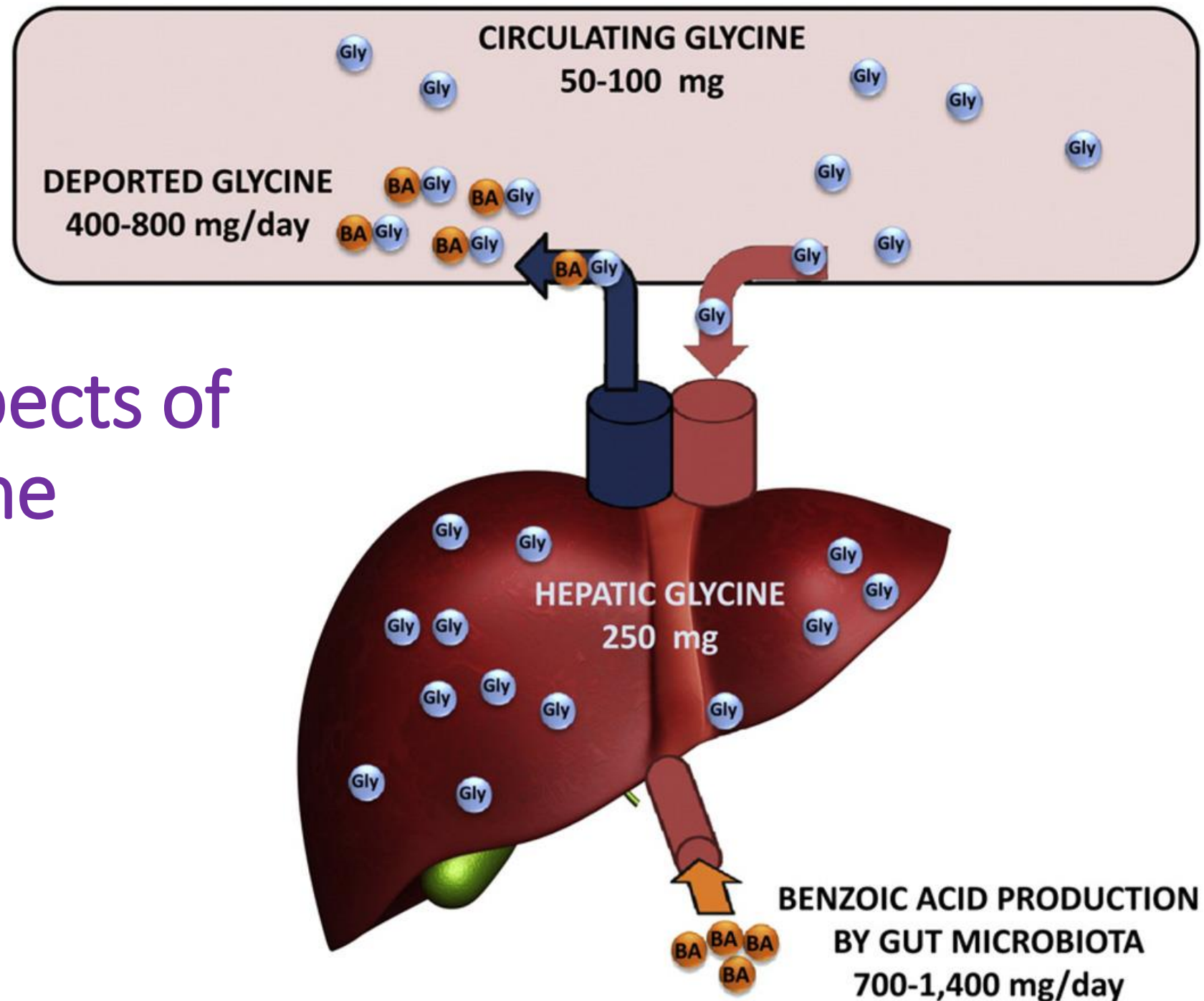
AMP + PPi

BENZOYL-CoA

H<sub>2</sub>O

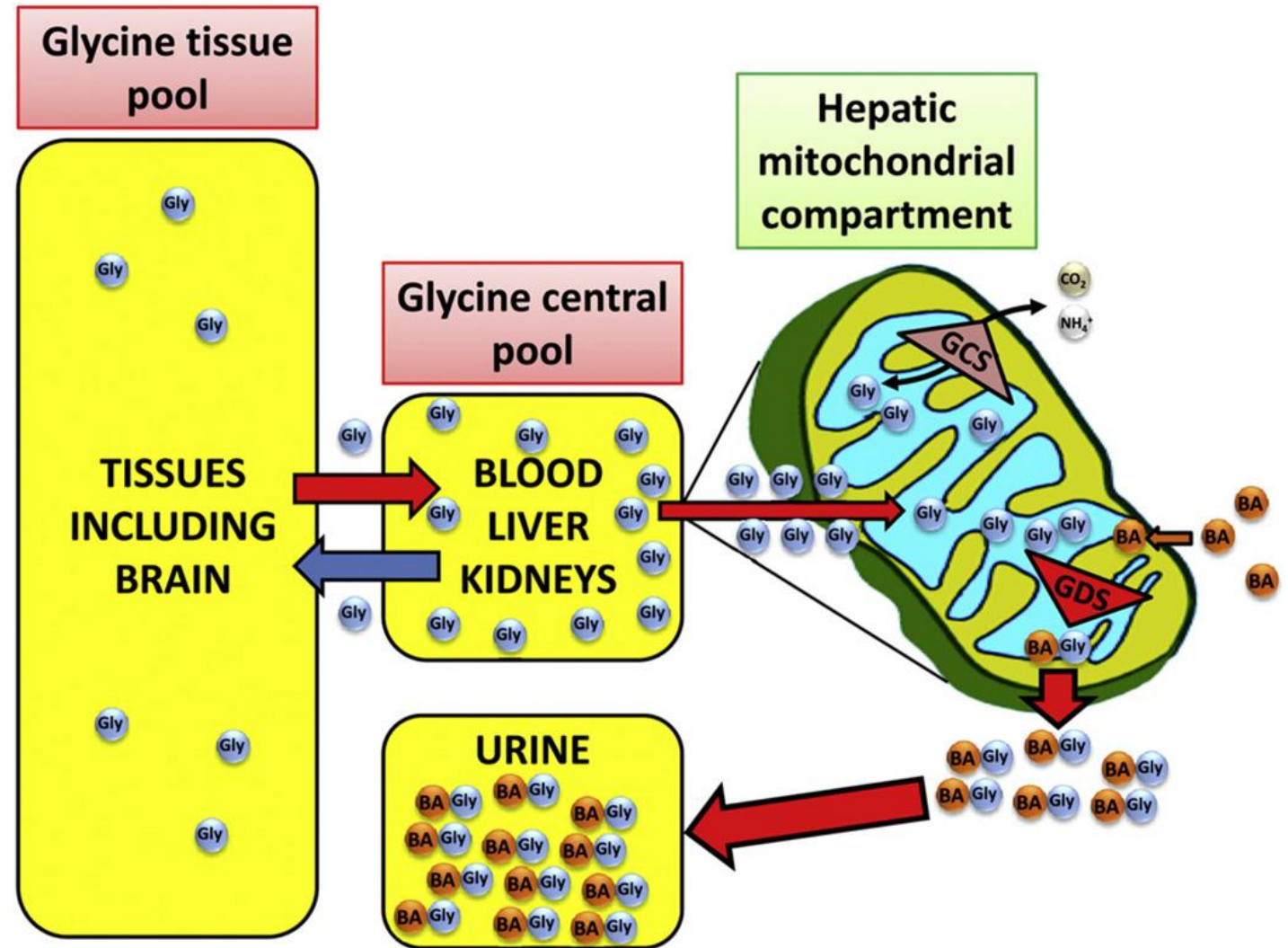
GLYCINE  
DEPORTATION  
SYSTEM

# Quantitative aspects of the fate of glycine





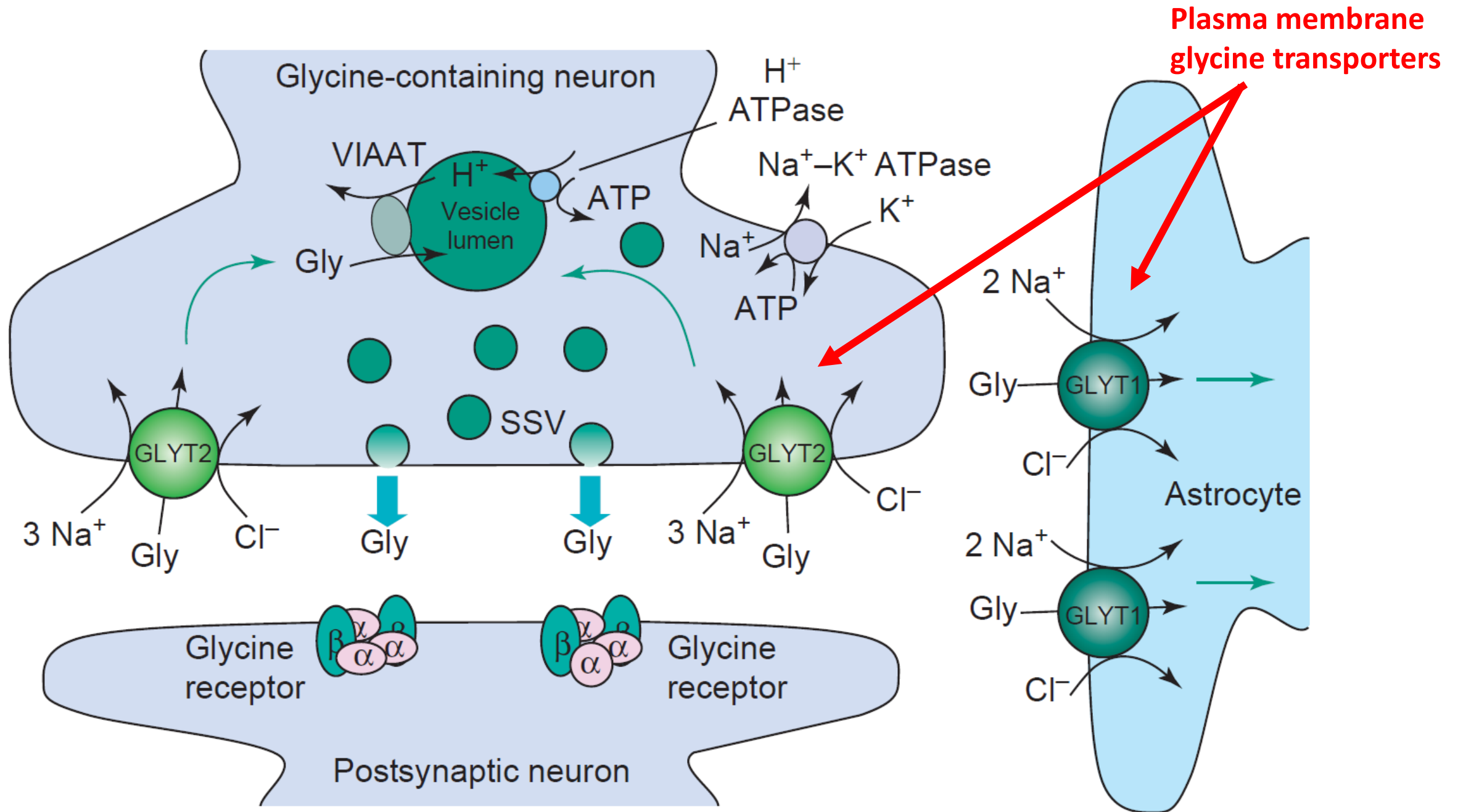
Glycine (GLY) molecules in tissues such as brain and muscle form part of a large volume compartment which is in equilibrium with a smaller central compartment that comprises the blood, liver, and kidneys where GLY is both synthesized and removed, both by metabolism and deportation into urine.



# Glycine

- Glycine is the major **inhibitory neurotransmitter** in posterior areas of the vertebrate CNS.
- Glycine acts as an essential **co-agonist of glutamate** at NMDA receptors



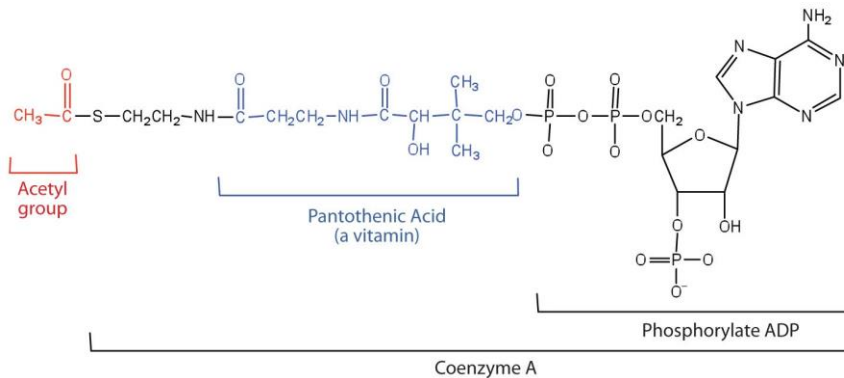


# Mechanisms of acyl-CoA toxicity and pathogenesis

1. **Depletion of CoASH**
2. **Toxic effects of accumulating acyl-CoAs**

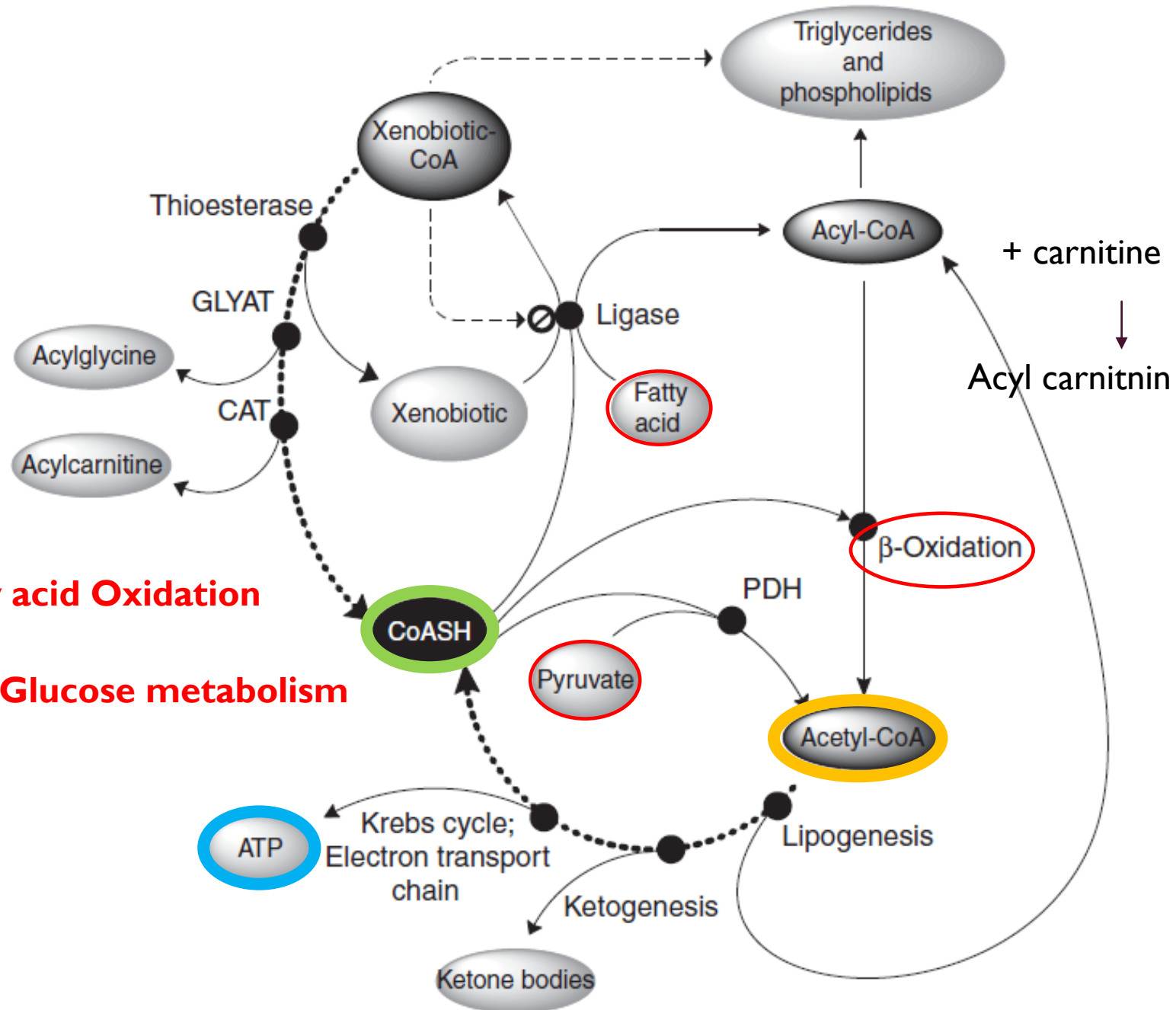
# Depletion of CoASH

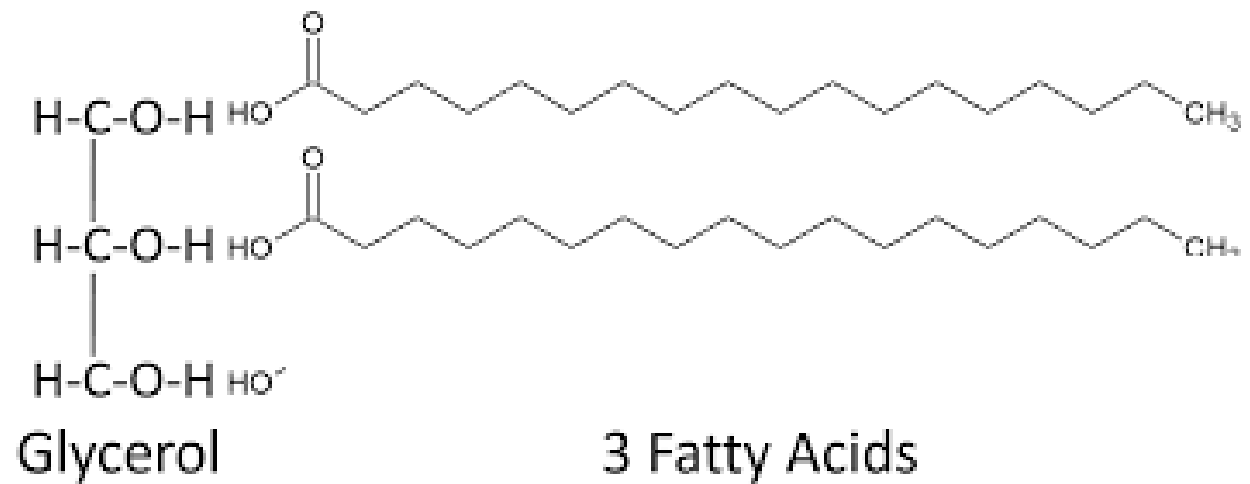
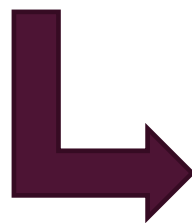
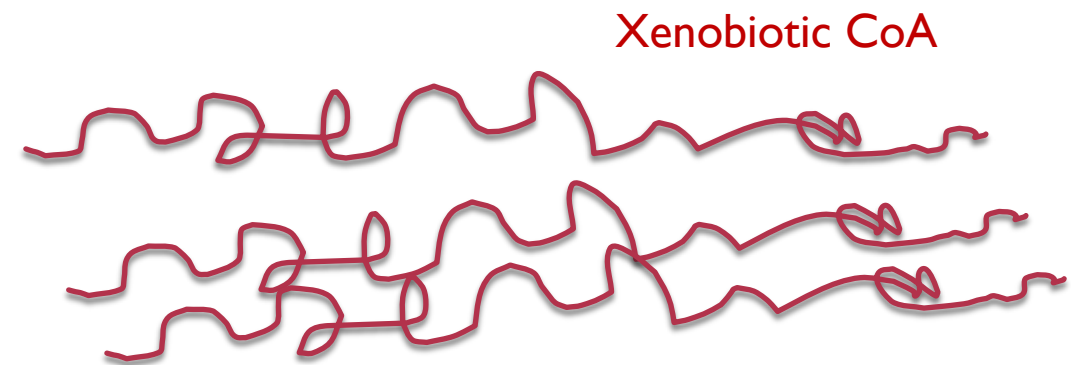
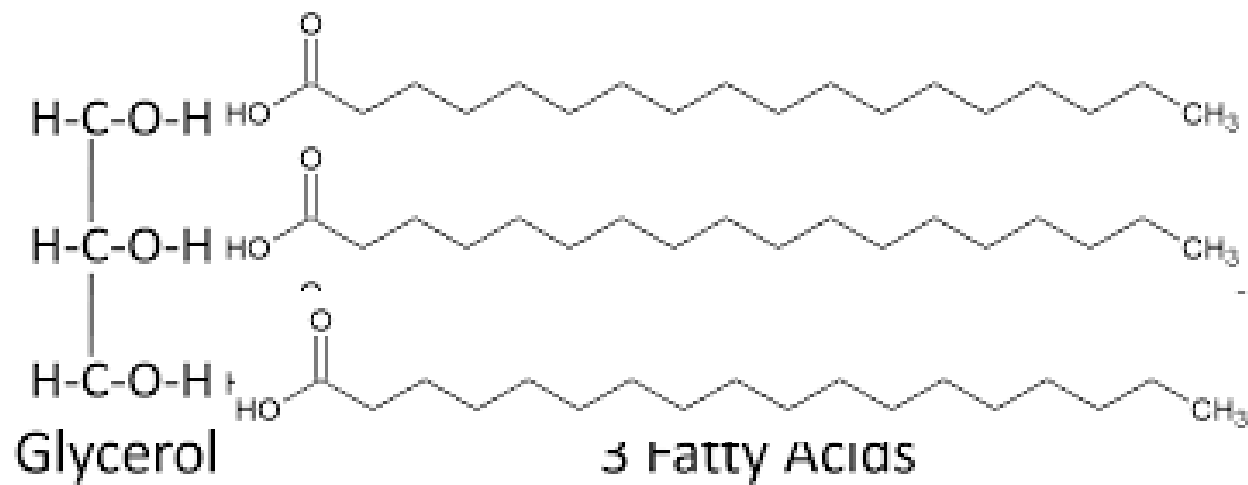
## ■ Role of Coenzyme A in metabolism



**Fatty acid Oxidation**

**Glucose metabolism**





# Accumulating acyl-CoAs

## 1. Depletion of carnitine

- When an acyl-CoA accumulates to high enough amounts, it may become a substrate for **carnitine acyltransferases**, resulting in the formation of an **acyl-carnitine** that can be excreted in the urine

## 2. Substitution for acetyl-CoA in lipogenesis

- Resulting in odd-chain, branched-chain, aromatic, and other unnatural fatty acids, which cannot be properly catabolized and may be incorporated into cell membranes
- It has also been shown that 2-arylpropionyl-coa esters, metabolites of NSAIDs, can be incorporated into adipocyte triglycerides

## 3. Inhibition of enzymes by acyl-CoAs (competitively or allosterically)

- Protein kinase C activity (important in signal transduction) is perturbed by ciprofibroyl-coa, a metabolite of the hypolipidaemic drug ciprofibrate
- Propionyl-coa, at high concentrations, inhibits formation of n-acetylglutamate by n-acetylglutamate synthetase, resulting in urea cycle dysfunction and hyperammonemia

## 4. Function of acyl-CoAs as bioactive lipids

# Conclusions

- GLYAT is the enzyme responsible for glycine conjugation of the Acyl-CoA esters of several xenobiotic organic acids.
- GLYAT activity affects
  - Toxicity of various organic acids.
  - Mitochondrial ATP production
  - Glycine availability and homeostasis
  - CoASH availability



# Plasma Amino Acid HPLC Analysis

Amino Acid	Res.	Refere.	Amino Acid	Res.	Refere.
Aspartic acid	5	0-24	Alanine	184	210-661
Glutamic acid	138	14-192	Tyrosine	34	22-87
Asparagine	32	30-69	Tryptophane	11	25-191
Serine	119	65-193	Methionine	16	6-40
Histidine	32	32-107	Valine	241	141-317
Glutamine	609	369-711	Phenylalanine	25	48-109
Arginine	64	21-138	Isoleucine	59	37-98
Citruline	42	10-45	Leucine	85	75-175
Glycine	507	120-554	Ornithine	37	28-110
Threonine	85	79-193	Lysine	162	83-238



**Notice:** Reference value reported in the paper is the related to the adult and interpretation in different ages refer

# Outcome of Treatment

## Improvement in

- Amino acid profile
- Lipid profile
- Height velocity
- Cognition and behavior and developmental milestones



# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- Maryam Razzaghy Azar
- Mitra Nourbakhsh
- Ali Tale
- Seyed mohammad miryounesi
- Saeid talebi
- Parvane karimzadeh
- Rozzita Hosseini
- Nakisa hooman



*Thank you for your attention*

