# CREB'S CYCLE

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#### The Krebs Cycle is the Third Stage of Aerobic Respiration

#### **Mitochondria Structural Features**



### Products of the Krebs Cycle enter the Final Stage of Aerobic Respiration



### Krebs Cycle (KC)

- Also known as tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle, or citric acid cycle (TCA)
- Common final degradative pathway for breakdown of monomers of CHO, fat and protein to CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>0
  - Electrons removed from acetyl groups and attached to NAD<sup>+</sup> and FAD
  - Small amount of ATP produced from substrate level phosphorylation
- KC also provides intermediates for anabolic functions (eg gluconeogenesis)
- Under aerobic conditions, the pyruvate produced by glycolysis is oxidized to H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> in a process called cellular respiration.
- The citric acid cycle is a hub in metabolism, with degradative pathways leading in and anabolic pathways leading out. It's also known as an amphibolic pathway because it operates both catabolically and anabolically.

#### **Reactions of Citric Acid Cycle**

 Citrate synthase: Formation of Citroyl CoA intermediate. Binding of Oxaloacetate to the enzyme results in conformational change which facilitates the binding of the next substrate, the acetyl Coenzyme A. There is a further conformational change which leads to formation of products. This mechanism of reaction is referred as induced fit model.



**2.** Aconitase: This enzyme catalyses the isomerization reaction by removing and then adding back the water (H and OH) to cis-aconitate in at different positions. Isocitrate is consumed rapidly by the next step thus deriving the reaction in forward direction.



# **3. Isocitrate dehydrogenase**: There are two isoforms of this enzyme, one uses NAD<sup>+</sup> and other uses NADP<sup>+</sup> as electron acceptor.



4. a-Ketoglutarate dehydrogenase: This is a complex of different enzymatic activities similar to the pyruvate dyhdogenase complex. It has the same mechanism of reaction with E1, E2 and E3 enzyme units. NAD+ is an electron acceptor.



 $\Delta G'^{\circ} = -33.5 \text{ kJ/mol}$ 

**5** Succinyl CoA synthatse: Sccinyl CoA, like Acetyl CoA has a thioester bond with very negative free energy of hydrolysis. In this reaction, the hydrolysis of the thioester bond leads to the formation of phosphoester bond with inorganic phosphate. This phosphate is transferred to Histidine residue of the enzyme and this high energy, unstable phosphate is finally transferred to GDP resulting in the generation of GTP.



6. Succinate Dehydrogenase: Oxidation of succinate to fumarate. This is the only citric acid cycle enzyme that is tightly bound to the inner mitochondrial membrane. It is an FAD dependent enzyme. Malonate has similar structure to Succinate, and it competitively inhibits SDH.



7. Fumarase: Hydration of Fumarate to malate: It is a highly stereospecific enzyme. Cis-Maleate (the cis form of fumarate is not recognized by this enzyme.



8. L-Malate dehydrogenase: Oxidation of malate to oxaloacetate: It is an NAD<sup>+</sup>dependent enzyme. Reaction is pulled in forward direction by the next reaction (citrate synthase reaction) as the oxaloacetate is depleted at a very fast rate.





### **Pyruvate** $\rightarrow$ **Acetyl CoA**

- Pyruvate produced in cytosol and transported into mitochondria
  - $\rightarrow$  2 per glucose (all of Kreb's)
  - $\rightarrow$  Oxidative decarboxylation
  - $\rightarrow$  Makes NADH and -33.4kJ
- Cannot directly enter KC
  - First converted to acetyl CoA by pyruvate dehydrogenase complex



From: Summerlin LR (1981) Chemistry for the Life Sciences. New York: Random House p 548.

#### **Regulation of Pyruvate** → **Acetyl CoA**

PDH reaction regulated to spare pyruvate from being irreversibly lost

Glucose important for brain and once converted to Acetyl CoA cannot be used for glucose synthesis

PDH regulated by phosphorylation and allosteric control

- Dephosphorylation activates PDH
  - Phosphatase enzyme activated by high Ca2<sup>+</sup>
- Phosphorylation inactivates PDH
  - Kinase activated by acetyl CoA and NADH
- PDH allosterically inhibited by:
  - ATP
  - Acetyl CoA
  - NADH

### **Citrate synthase mechanism**

Citrate synthese catalyzes the aldol condensation of oxaloacetate with acetyl-CoA to form citrate.

- The reaction is very favorable due to hydrolysis of the high energy citroyl-CoA thioester bond.
- High energy release is required because the concentration of oxaloacetate is normally very low.



citrate

#### Citrate ↔ isocitrate

- Citrate isomerised to isocitrate in two reactions (dehydration a hydration)
- Equilibrium reactions catalysed by aconitase
- Results in interchange of H and OH
  - Changes structure and energy distribution within molecule
    - Makes easier for next enzyme to remove hydrogen

#### isocitrate $\rightarrow \alpha$ -ketoglutarate

- Isocitrate dehydrogenated and decarboxylated to give αketoglutarate
- Non-equilibrium reactions catalysed by isocitrate dehydrogenase
- Results in formation of: NADH + H<sup>+</sup>

• CO<sub>2</sub>

- Stimulated (cooperative) by isocitrate, NAD<sup>+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, ADP, Ca<sup>2+</sup> (links with contraction)
- Inhibited by NADH and ATP

#### $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate $\rightarrow$ succinyl CoA

- Series of reactions result in decarboxylation, dehydrogenation and incorporation of CoASH
- Non-equilibrium reactions catalysed by  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate dehydrogenase complex
- Results in formation of:
  - $-CO_2$

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- NADH + H<sup>+</sup>
- High energy bond
- Stimulated by Ca<sup>2+</sup>
  - Inhibited by NADH, ATP, Succinyl CoA (prevents CoA being tied up in matrix)

### Succinate ↔ fumarate



 $\Delta G'^{\circ} = 0 \text{ kJ/mol}$ 

#### Fumarate ↔ malate

- Fumarate hydrated to form malate
- Equilibrium reaction catalysed by fumarase
- Results in redistribution of energy within molecule so next step can remove hydrogen

#### Malate ↔ oxaloacetate

- Malate dehydrogenated to form oxaloacetate
- Equilibrium reaction catalysed by malate dehydrogenase
- Results in formation of NADH + H+



 $\Delta G'^{\circ}$  = 29.7 kJ/mol

# **ATP from Citric Acid Cycle**

- Reaction PathwayATP for One GlucoseATP from Citric Acid Cycle
- Oxidation of 2 isocitrate (2NADH)6 ATPOxidation of 2 α-ketoglutarate (2NADH)6 ATP2 Direct substrate phosphorylations (2GTP)2 ATPOxidation of 2 succinate (2FADH2)4 ATPOxidation of 2 malate (2NADH)6 ATP

Summary: 2Acetyl CoA -> 4CO<sub>2</sub> + 2H<sub>2</sub>O + 24 ATP

### Regulation of the Citric Acid Cycle

- The citric acid cycle is under tight regulation at two levels:
  - The conversion of pyruvate to acetyl-CoA (the pyruvate dehydrogenase complex).
  - The entry of acetyl-CoA into the cycle (citrate synthase).
- The cycle is also regulated at the isocitrate dehydrogenase and aketoglutarate dehydrogenase reactions.
- Oxidation of acetate appears to be a complicated process.
- The role of the citric acid cycle is not confined to oxidation of acetate, it serves as the hub of intermediary metabolism.
- Intermediates such as oxaloacetate and a-ketoglutarate can be drawn out of the cycle and used as precursors in biosynthetic pathways of most amino acids.
- Succinyl-CoA serves as a precursor of the porphyrin ring of heme groups.
- Oxaloacetate is also a precursor in glucose synthesis

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# There's always Hope....