



Review

Primary Roles of Branched Chain Amino Acids (BCAAs) and Their Metabolism in Physiology and Metabolic Disorders

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Abstract: Leucine, isoleucine, and valine are collectively known as branched chain amino acids (BCAAs) and are often discussed in the same physiological and pathological situations. The two consecutive initial reactions of BCAA catabolism are catalyzed by the common. enzymes referred to as branched chain aminotransferase (BCAT) and branched chain α-keto acid dehydrogenase (BCKDH). BCAT transfers the amino group of BCAAs to 2ketoglutarate, which results in corresponding branched chain 2-keto acids (BCKAs) and glutamate. BCKDH performs an oxidative decarboxylation of BCKAs, which produces their coenzyme A-conjugates and NADH. BCAT2 in skeletal muscle dominantly catalyzes the transamination of BCAAs. Low BCAT activity in the liver reduces the metabolization of BCAAs, but the abundant presence of BCKDH promotes the metabolism of muscle-derived BCKAs, which leads to the production of glucose and ketone bodies. While mutations in the genes responsible for BCAA catabolism are involved in rare inherited disorders, an aberrant regulation of their enzymatic activities is associated with major metabolic disorders such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. Therefore, an understanding of the regulatory process of metabolic enzymes, as well as the functions of the BCAAs and their metabolites, make a significant contribution to our health.

Keywords: branched chain aminotransferase; branched chain a-keto acid dehydrogenase; ketogenesis; gluconeogenesis; diabetes; cancer

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1. Introduction

Amino acids are the sources of biological components such as proteins, nucleic acids, and bioactive amines in anabolic reactions, and they also are the primary energy substrates in catabolic reactions during both periods of fasting and sustained exercise. Among hundreds of amino acids, twenty are considered to be the building blocks of proteins, and these are metabolized according to corresponding nutritional requirements. In humans, almost half of the proteinaceous amino acids cannot be synthesized from metabolic intermediates and must be consumed in food [1,2]. Leucine (Leu), isoleucine (Ile), and valine (Val) are essential amino acids and are collectively referred to as branched chain amino acids (BCAAs) because they have branched structures in their side chains and uniquely share two of the initial metabolic pathways. Muscular proteins are dominantly built with BCAAs, which make up 20% to 25% of all amino acids in dietary proteins and play primary roles in muscular function [1,2].

The first process of BCAA catabolism catalyzed by branched chain aminotransferase (BCAT) and the second process catalyzed by branched chain a-keto acid debydrogenase

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Richard Odessey

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Organ Metabolism and Nutrition John M. Kinney, Hugh N. Tucker, 1994 **Principles and Practice of Research** H. Troidl, W.O. Spitzer, B. McPeek, D.S. Mulder, Martin F. Bach, 2012-12-06 emerging on the surgical scene to challenge or For some readers the title of this book will im thodoxy Although these innovations are often mediately raise the guestion what exactly is greeted with great optimism a factual basis for meant by surgical research In the very broadest that enthusiasm is sometimes far from secure sense the term can be taken to include all en and much further work is frequently required to deavors however elementary or limited in discover whether we are dealing with genuine scope to advance surgical knowledge Ideally advances or not it refers to well organized attempts to establish The most exciting and attractive scenario for on a proper scientific basis i e to place beyond surgical research is unquestionably one that de reasonable doubt the truth or otherwise of any picts a successful attempt by a researcher to es concepts old or new within the ambit of sur gery and of course anaesthesia tablish the accuracy of some bold innovation for which he himself is responsible Joseph Lister The methods used to achieve that end vary demonstrating by clinical trial that wound sup enormously depending on the issue Whitaker's Cumulative Book List ,1986 being in vestigated Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Studies of a Murine Hybridoma in Hollow Fiber Bioreactor Culture Anthony Mancuso, 1993 **Proceedings of the National Academy of** Sciences of the United States of America ,1987 International Books in Print, 1995 Barbara Hopkinson, [Anonymus The British Library General Catalogue of Printed Books, 1986 to 1987 British Library, 1988 AC014012311,1995

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