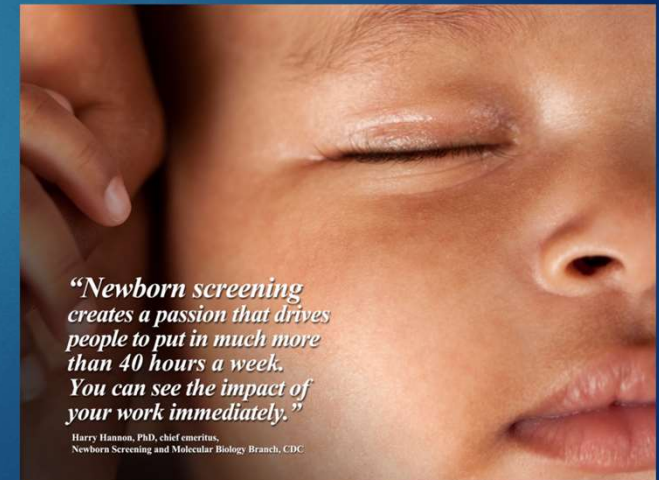






Laboratory techniques for diagnosis of metabolic disorders through tandem mass spectrometry

Dr. Saeedeh Abdolapour
Clinical Biochemistry, Ph.D



"Newborn screening creates a passion that drives people to put in much more than 40 hours a week. You can see the impact of your work immediately."

Harry Hamann, PhD, chief emeritus,
Newborn Screening and Molecular Biology Branch, CDC

Outline

3

Basic Mass Spectrometry Concepts
& Its Applications In Clinical Lab

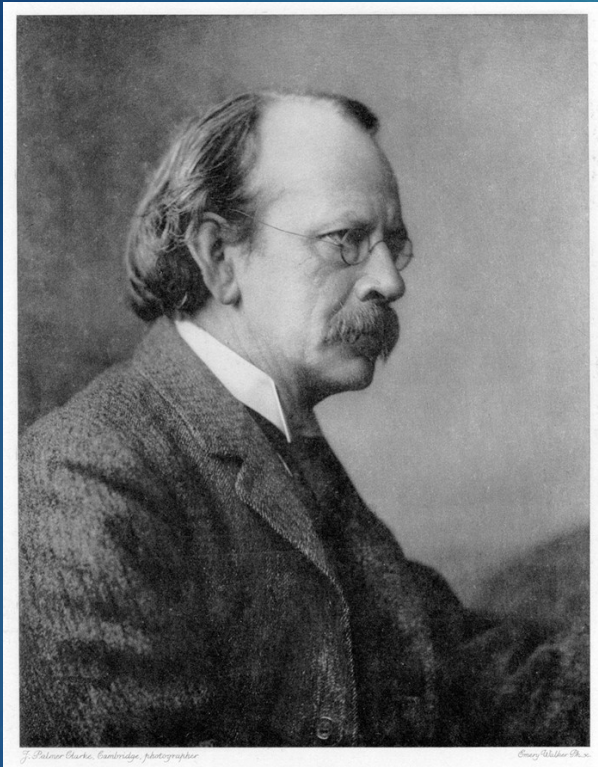
Inborn Errors Of Metabolism

Newborn Screening for Metabolic
Disorders With Mass Spectrometry

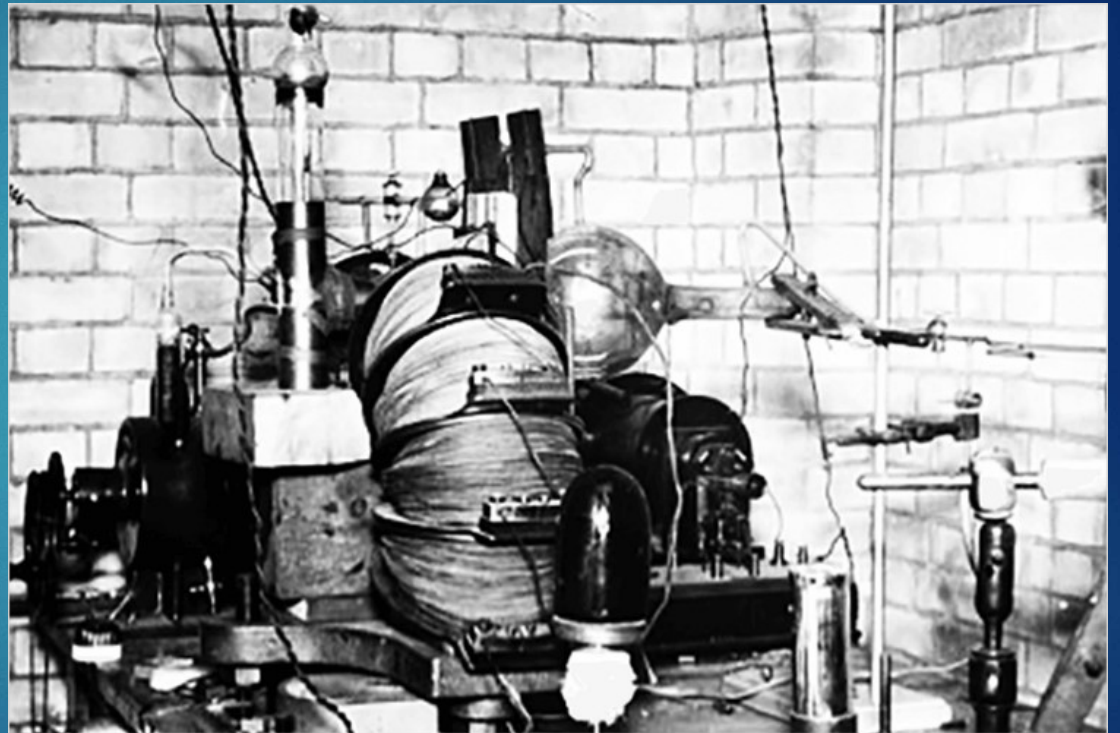
Basic Mass Spectrometry Concepts & Its Applications In Clinical Lab

Discovering the electron

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Portrait of Thomson



Thomson's positive ray analyzer in the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge.

What is a mass spectrometer?

6

An instrument that essentially weighs molecules



Mass spectrometry application

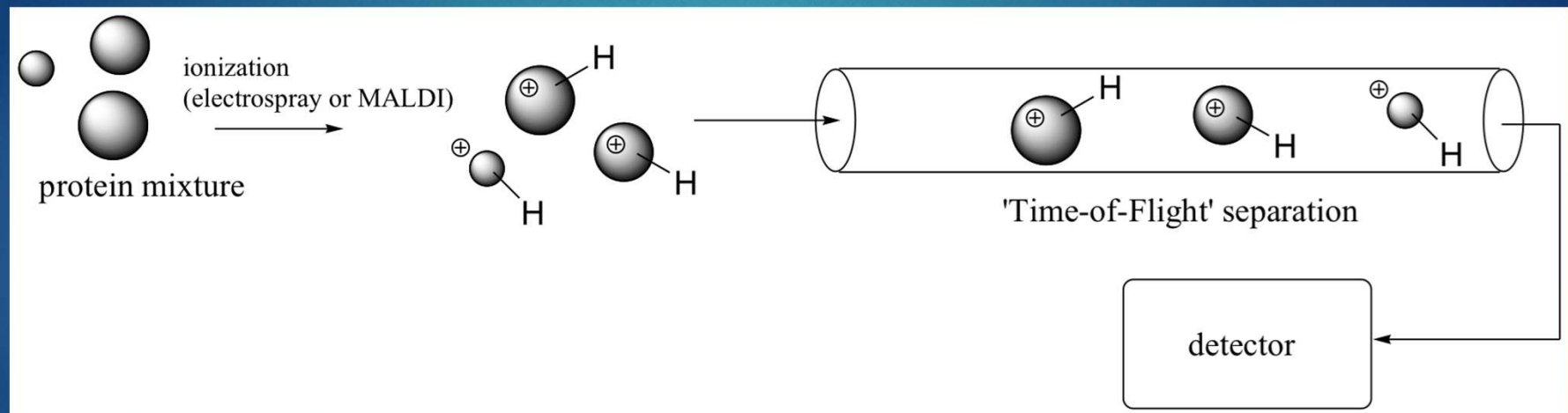
7

- ▶ **Identify** unknown organic or inorganic compounds
- ▶ Determine the **structure** of complex molecules
- ▶ **Quantitate** extremely low concentrations of known analytes (down to one part in 10^{12})



How to work mass spectrometry?

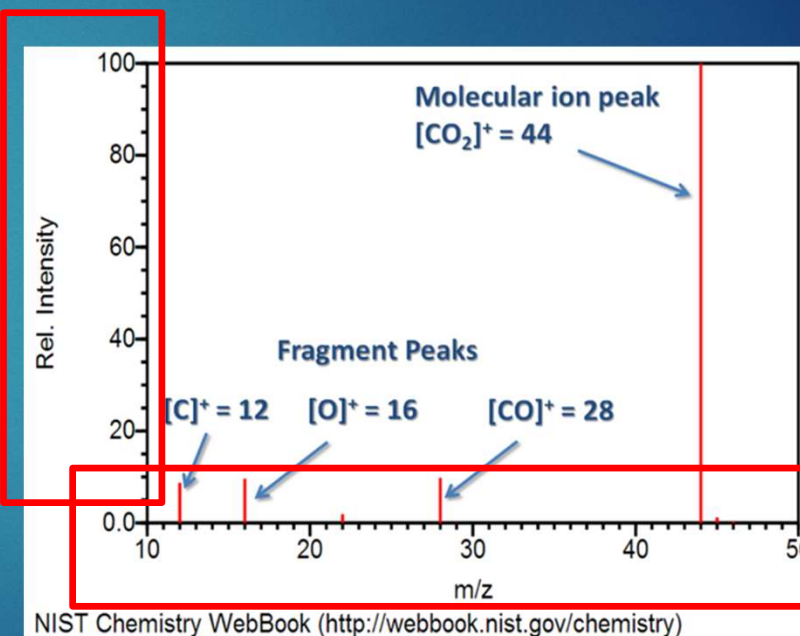
8



Different terms in mass spectrum

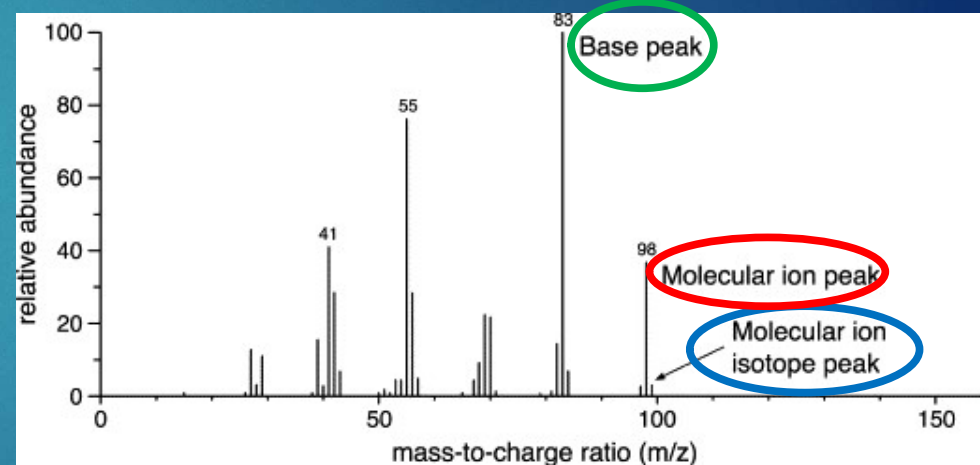
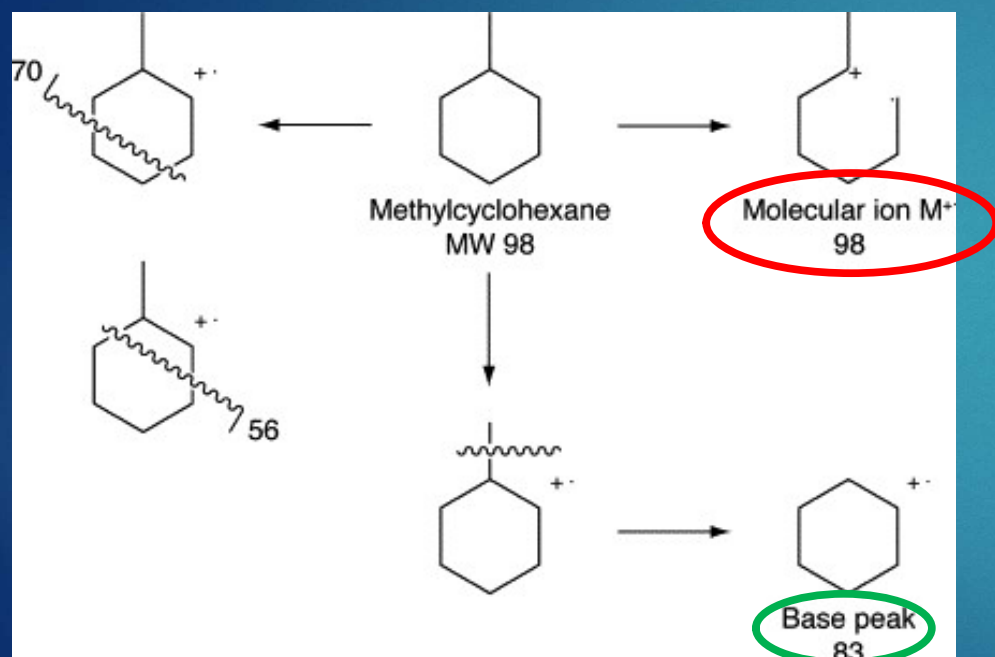
9

- ▶ **Mass spectrum** \equiv m/z vs abundance
- ▶ **Base peak:** the highest peak or more intense peak in the spectrum.
- ▶ **Molecular ion (parent ion, $M^{+\cdot}$):** a positively charged molecule with an unpaired electron.



Basic Mass Spectral Interpretation

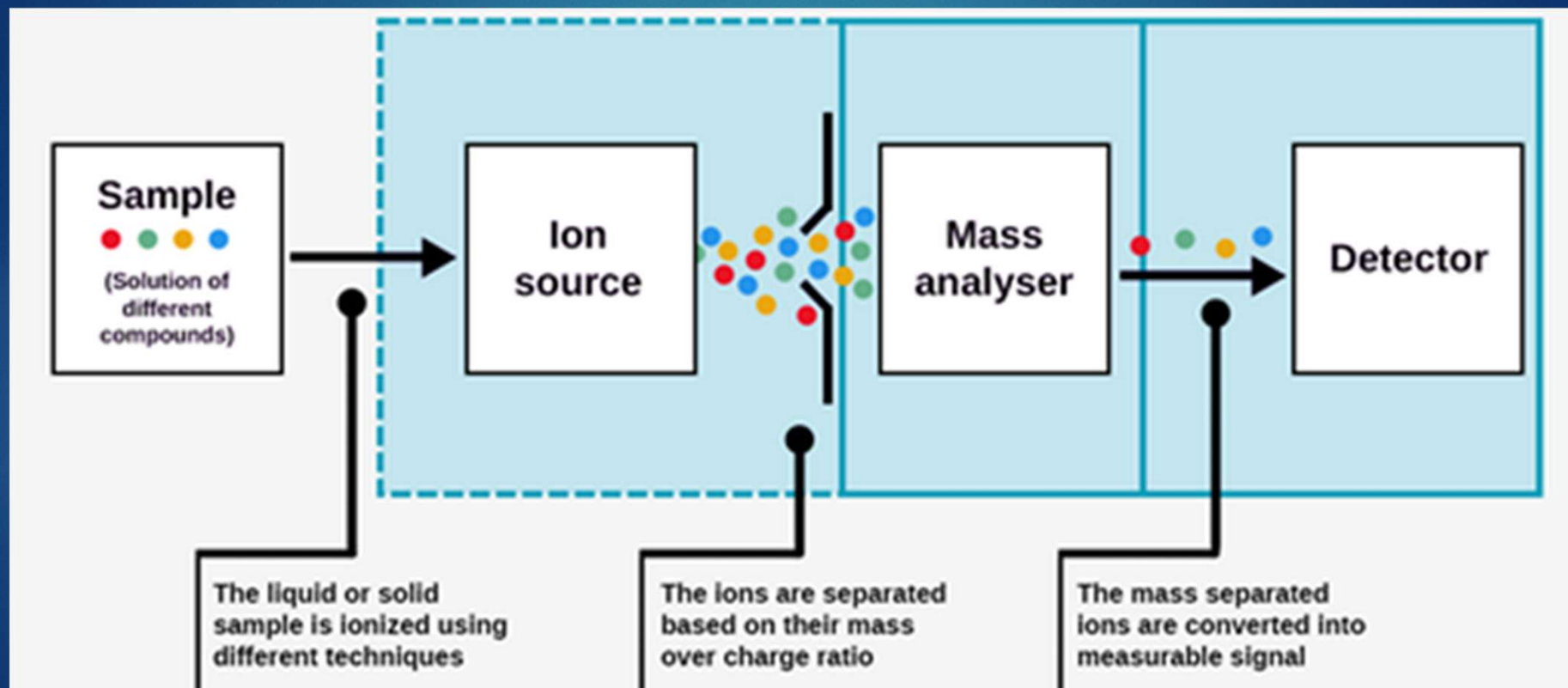
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Mass spectrum of methylcyclohexane

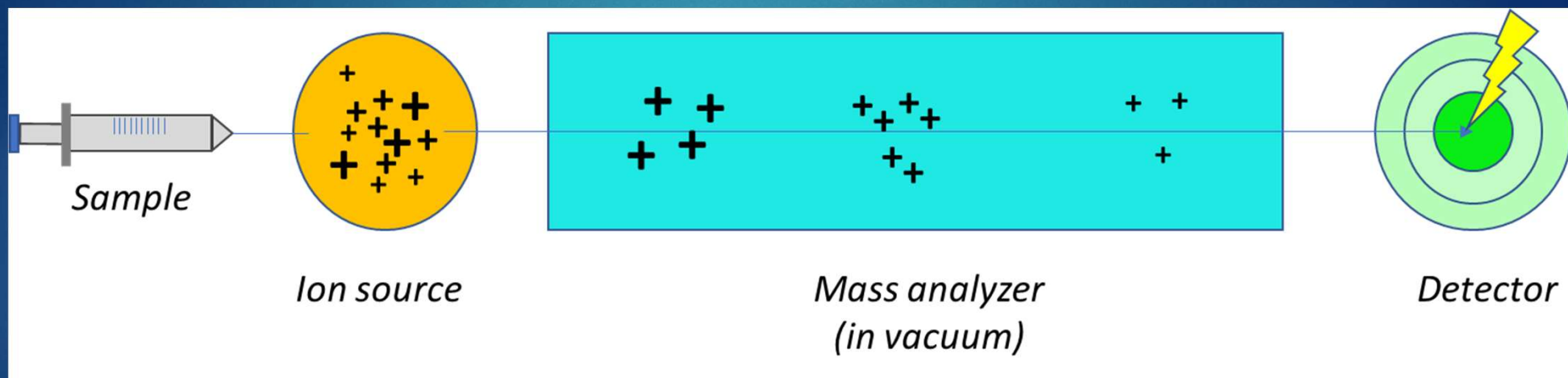
Mass Spectrometer Instrumentation

11



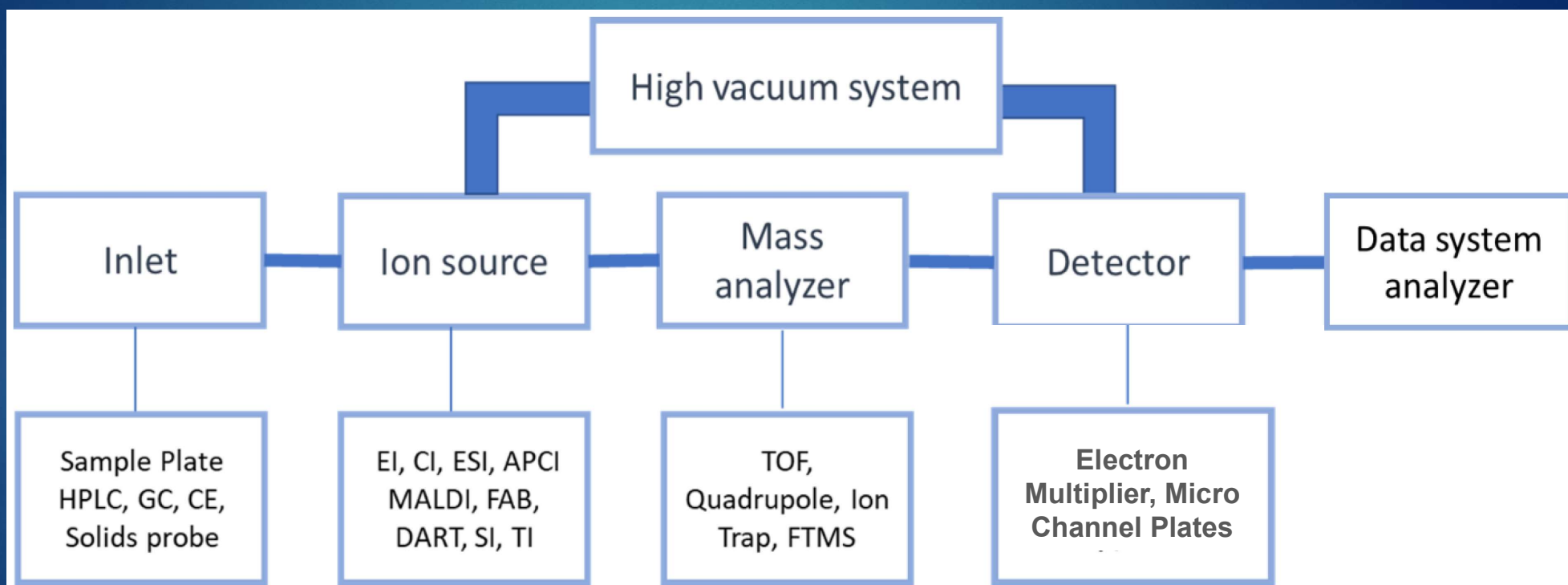
Essential parts of an MS device

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Essential parts of an MS device

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Ion source

Heart of the mass spectrometer



Ionization Technique types

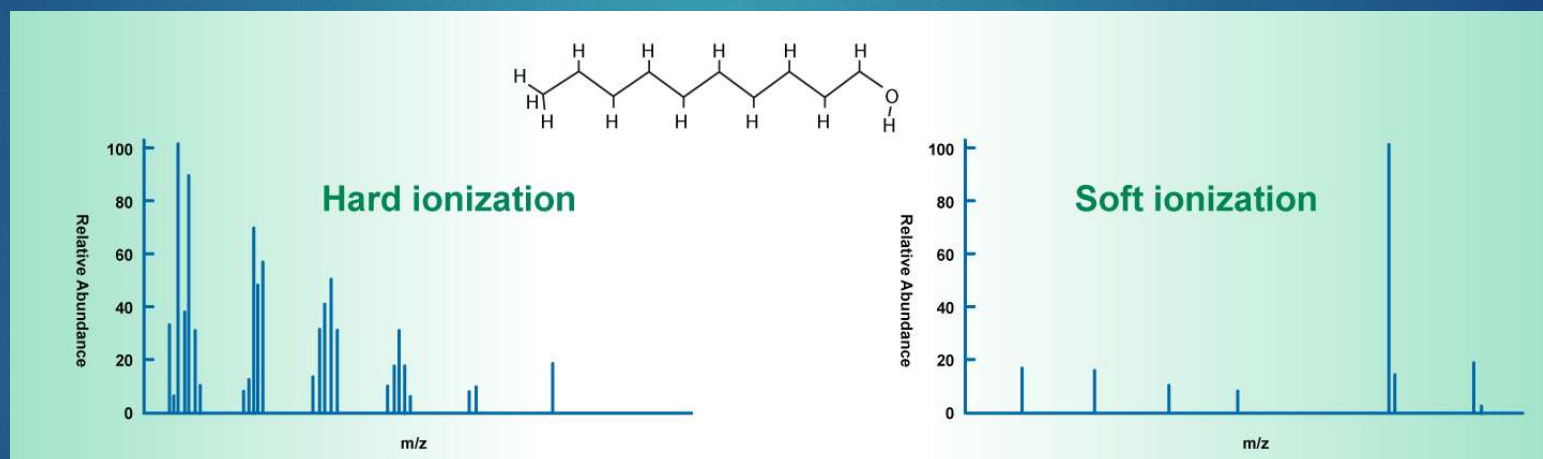
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1) Hard Ionization Techniques:-

High energy will be involved, In that *no. of fragments ion* will be Higher and *no. of Molecular ion* will be low.

2) Soft Ionization Techniques:-

Low energy, low fragmentation, high molecule ion.



Ionization techniques

Gas phase

**Electron
ionization**

**Chemical
ionization**

Desorption

Field Desorption

**Fast atom
bombardment**

MALDI

Evaporative

Thermospray

Electrospray

Atmospheric pressure
Chemical ionization

Atmospheric pressure
photo ionization

Ionization Technique types

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Ionization Method	Typical Analytes	Sample Introduction	Mass Range	Method Highlights
Electron Impact (EI)	Relatively small. Volatile.	GC or liquid or solid probe	To 1000 Daltons	Hard method. Provides structural info
Chemical Ionization (CI)	Relatively small. Volatile.	GC or liquid or solid probe	To 1000 Daltons	Soft method. Molecular ion peak $[M+H]^+$
Electrospray (ESI)	Peptides/proteins. Non-volatile.	Liquid Chromatography	To 200,000 Daltons	Soft method. Ions often multiply charged.
Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption (MALDI)	Peptides/proteins. Non-volatile.	Sample mixed in solid matrix	To 500,000 Daltons	Soft method. Very high mass range.
Fast Atom Bombardment (FAB)	Carbs/peptides. Non-volatile.	Sample mixed in viscous matrix	To 6000 Daltons	Soft method, but harder than ESI or MALDI

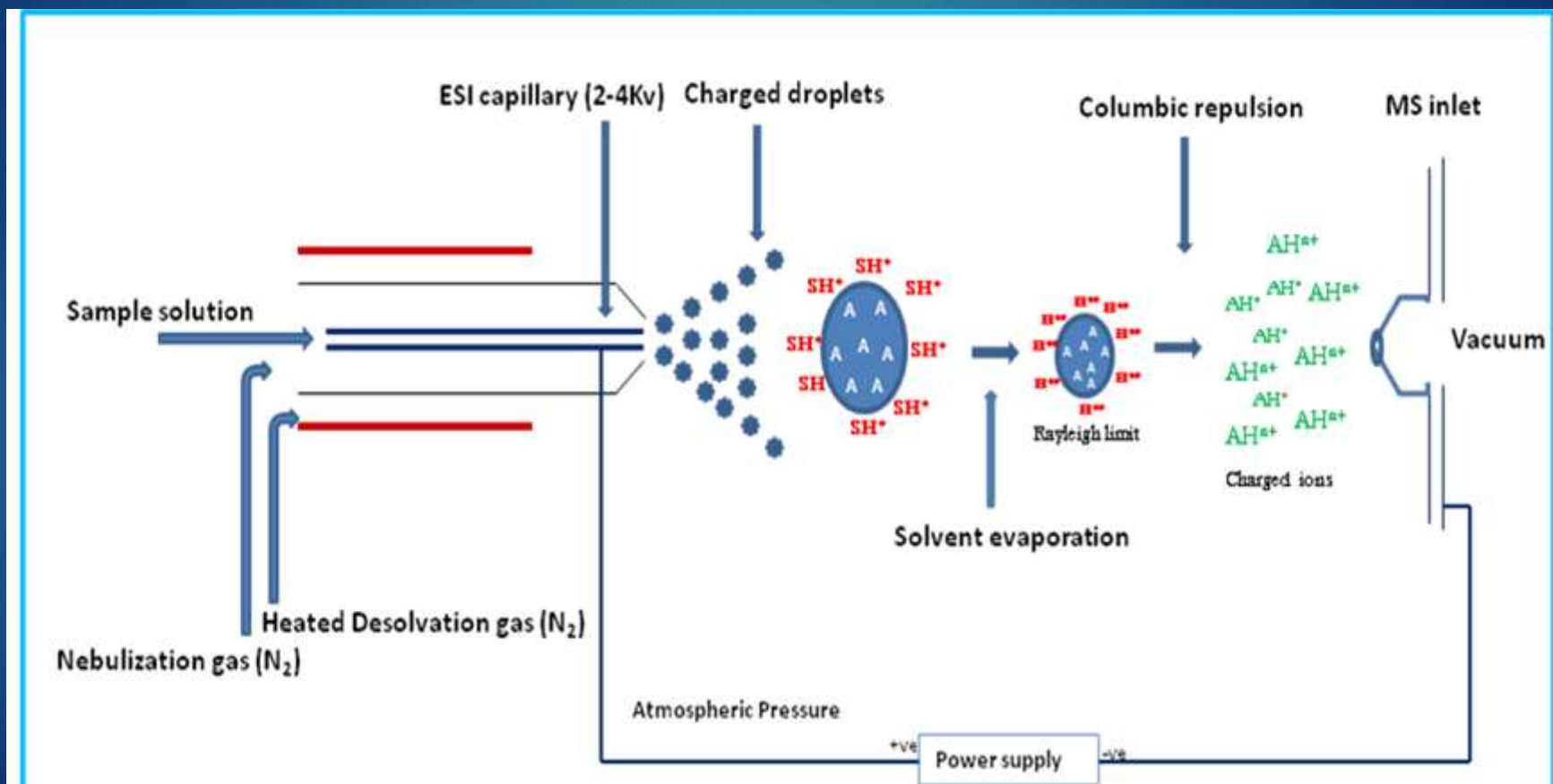
Common atmospheric pressure ion sources

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- ▶ Electrospray ionization (ESI)
- ▶ Atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI)
- ▶ Atmospheric pressure photoionization (APPI)

Electrospray ionization (ESI)

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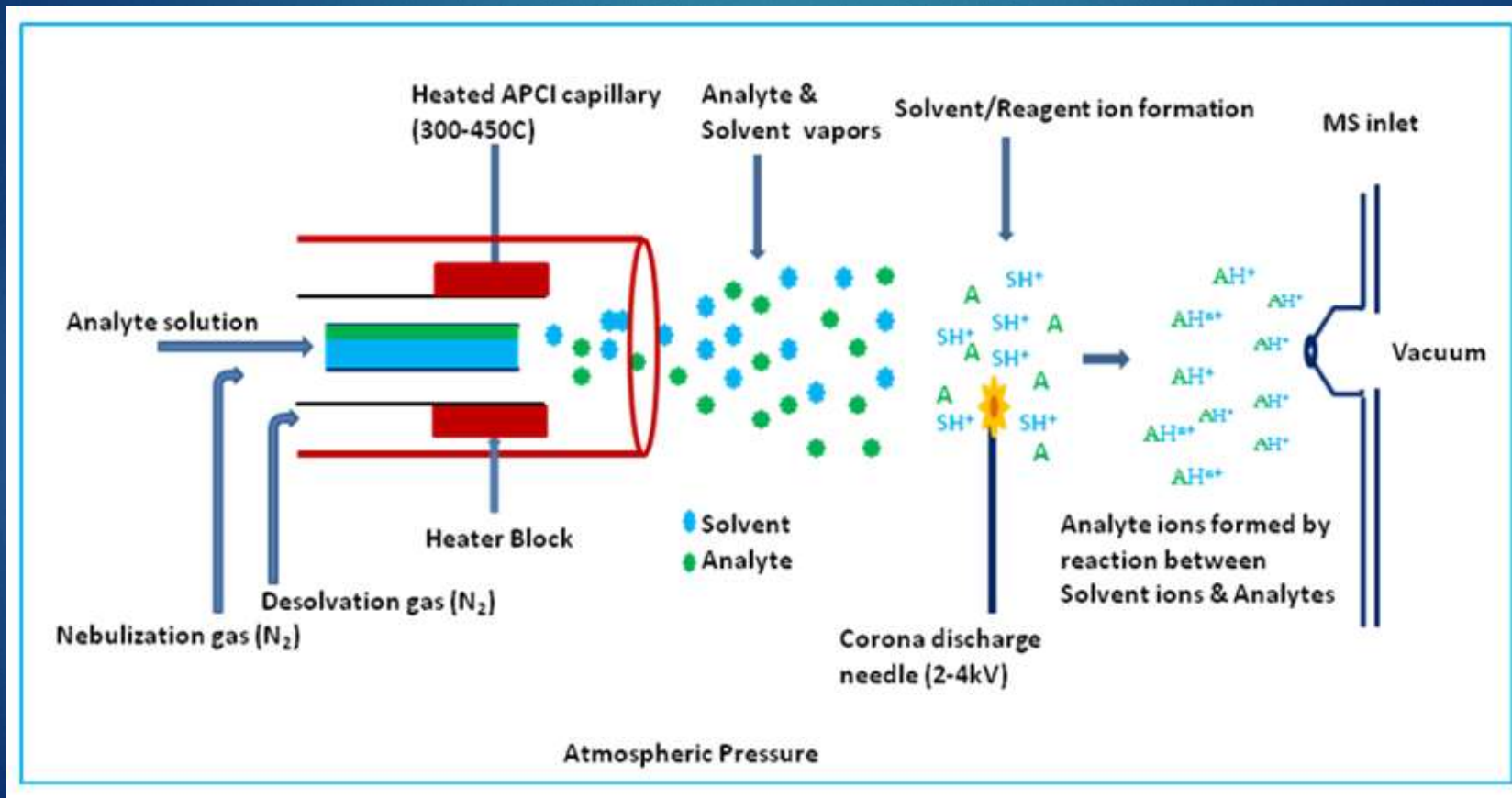


ESI characteristics

- ▶ Softest ionization method.
- ▶ Use: highly polar, least volatile, or thermally unstable compounds, such as natural substances, biological macromolecules, and pharmaceuticals.
 - ▶ Biochemical compounds including: peptides and proteins, lipids, oligosaccharides, oligonucleotide, bio-organic compounds, synthetic polymers, and intact non-covalent complexes.
- ▶ ESI is an atmospheric pressure process. This makes it easy to use and easy to interface with HPLC and CE separation techniques.
- ▶ Is subject to matrix effects, particularly ion suppression.

Atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI)

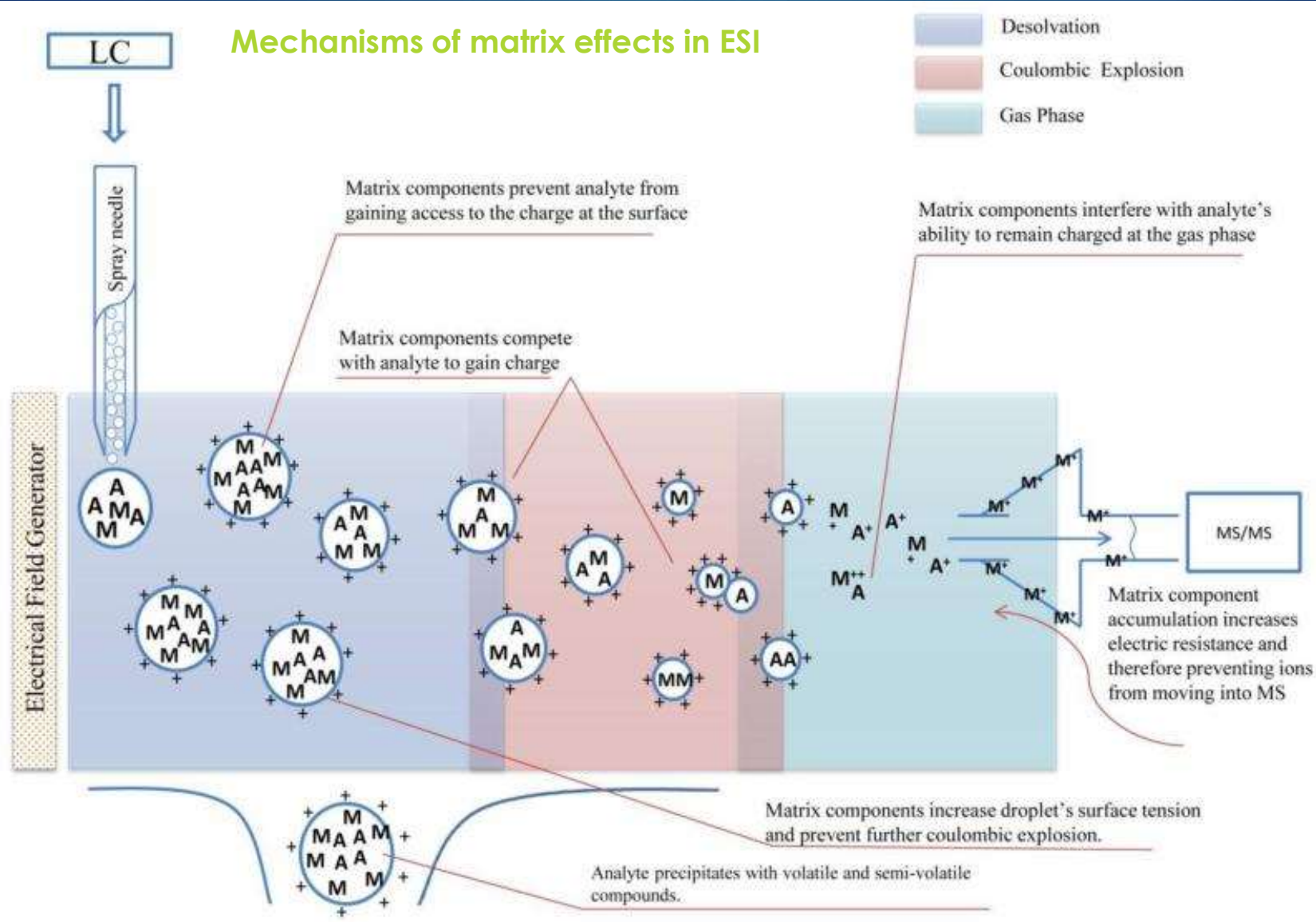
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APCI characteristics

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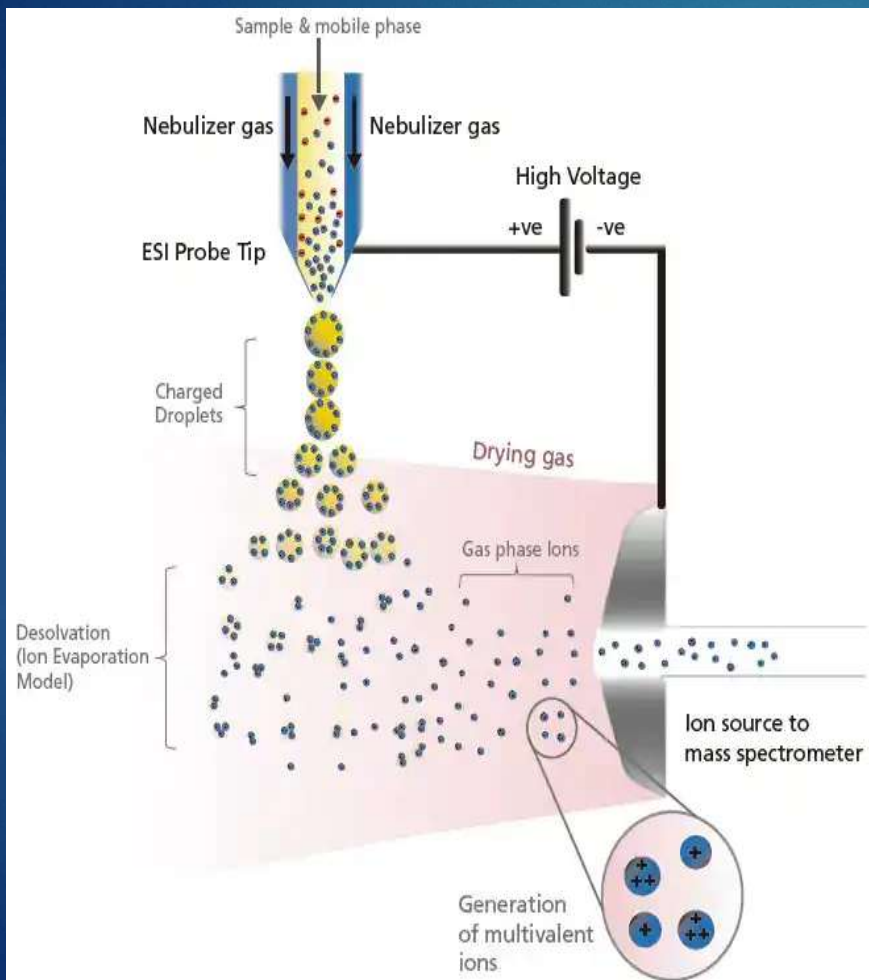
- ▶ For analysis using APCI, the analytes of interest should be **heat stable** and **volatile** for best results.
- ▶ Use: **highly fat-soluble compounds** or compounds that **do not ionize in solution** and **nonpolar** analytes.
- ▶ APCI is often less susceptible to matrix effects (including ion suppression)



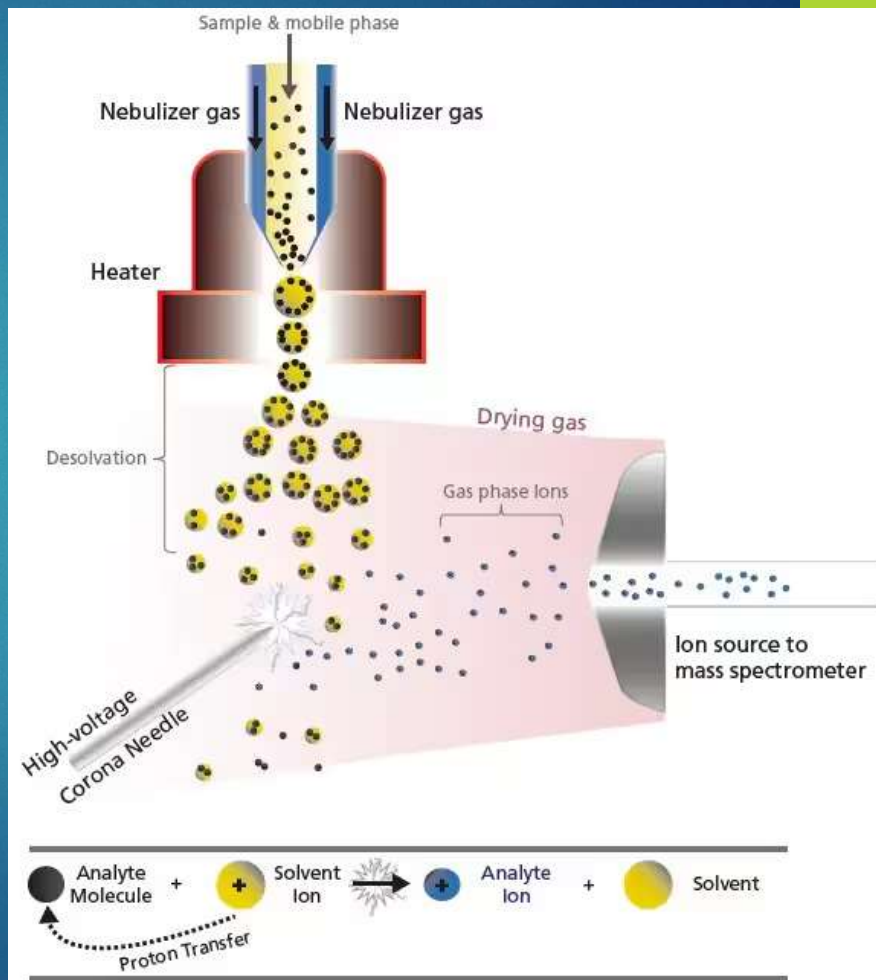
Components	Matrices		
	Plasma/Serum	Urine	Breast Milk
Cell			Epithelial, Leukocytes, Lymphocytes, Macrophages, Neutrophils
Ions	Na ⁺ , K ⁺ , Ca ²⁺ , Cl ⁻ , Mg ²⁺ , HCO ₃ ⁻ , HPO ₄ ²⁻ , HSO ₄ ⁻	Na ⁺ , K ⁺ , Ca ²⁺ , Cl ⁻ , Mg ²⁺ , NH ₄ ⁺ , Sulfates, Phosphates	Bicarbonate, Calcium Chloride, Citrate, Magnesium, Phosphate, Potassium, Sodium, Sulfate, Trace minerals, Chromium, Cobalt, Copper, Fluoride, Iodine, Iron, Manganese, Molybdenum, Nickel, Selenium, Zinc
Organic molecules	Urea, Creatinine, Uric Acid, Amino Acids, Glucose, Bilirubin, Insulin	Urea, Creatinine, Uric Acid, Citrate, DNA, Amino Acids	Lactose, Glucose, Nucleotide Sugars, Creatinine, Glucosamine, Urea, Uric Acid, Carotenoids
Protein	Albumins, Globulins, Fibrinogen, Clotting factors	Immunoglobulins, Albumin	Albumins, Immunoglobulins, Lysozymes, Caseins, Thyroxine, Amylase, Lipase, Glycoproteins
Lipid	Phospholipids, Cholesterol, Triglycerides		Triglycerides, Essential Fatty Acids, Glycolipids, Phospholipids
Others		Water-soluble vitamins	Fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E, K); Water-soluble vitamins, Biotin, Choline, Folate, Inositol, Niacin, Pantothenic acid, Riboflavin, Thiamin

General composition of selected biological matrices

ESI

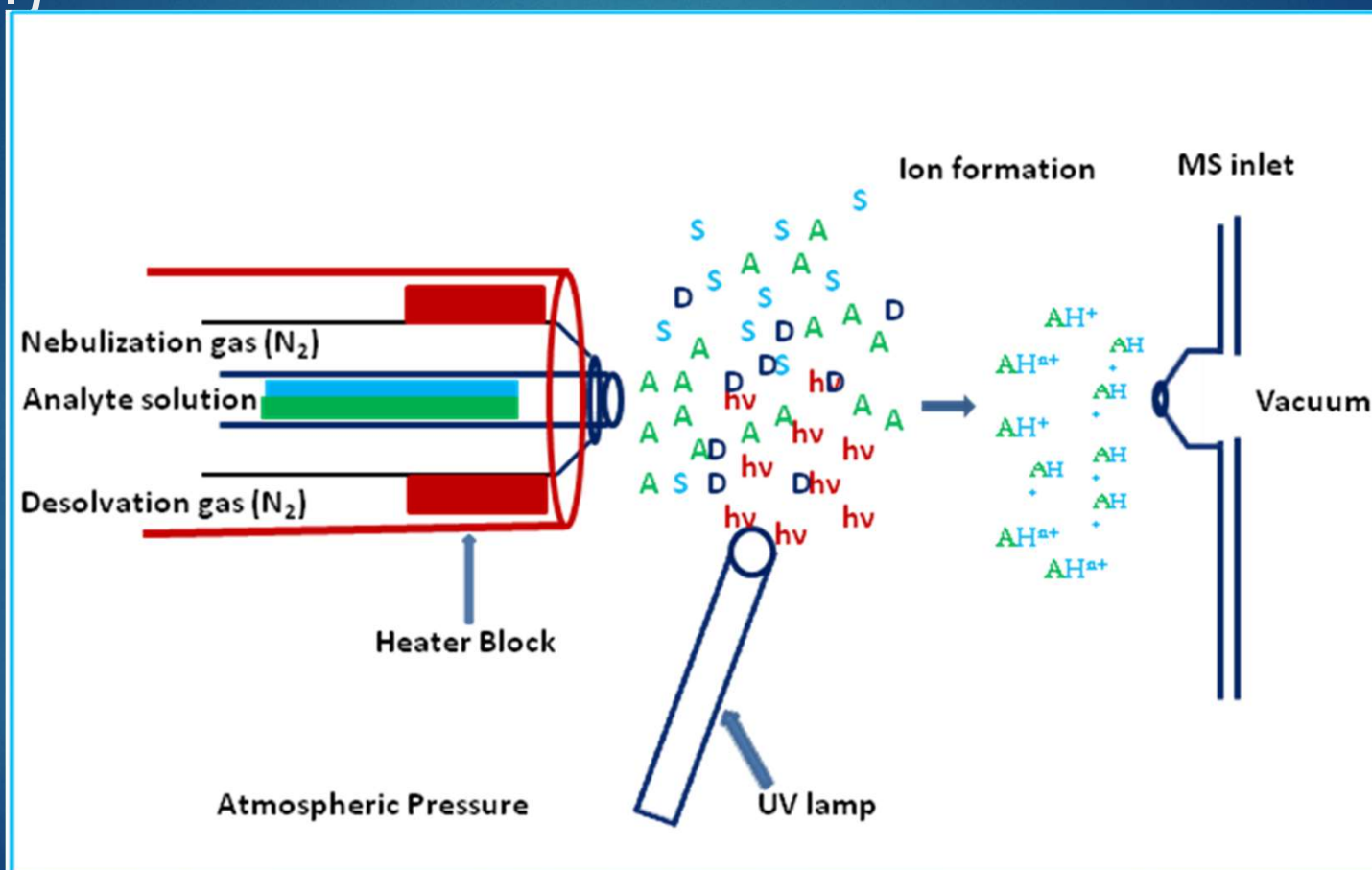


APCI



Atmospheric Pressure Photoionization (APPI)

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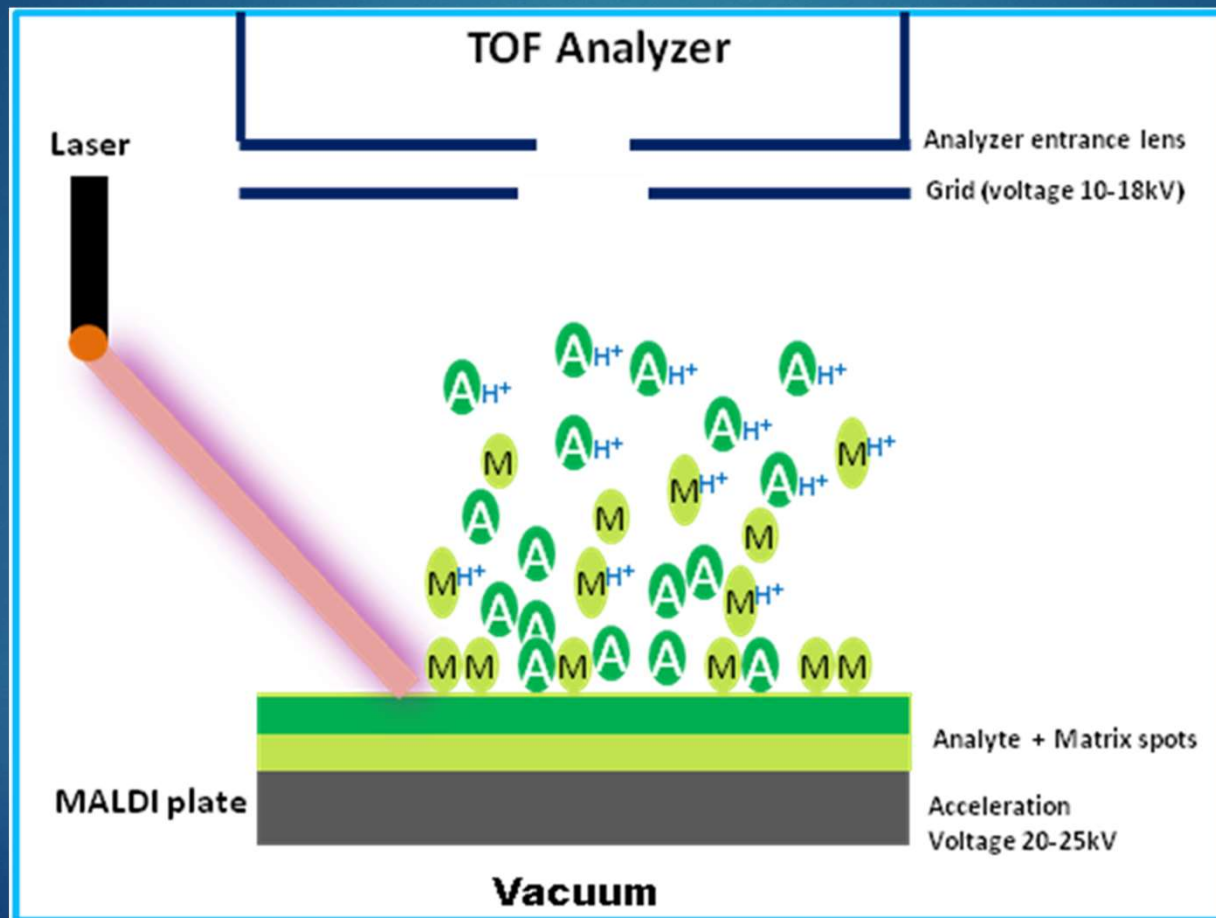


Atmospheric Pressure Photoionization (APPI) 27

- ▶ The application area of APPI is the analysis of **drugs, nonpolar lipids, natural compounds, pesticides** and various organic compounds.
- ▶ Limited use in the analysis of biopolymers, organometallics, ionic compounds and other labile analytes.

Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization (MALDI)

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Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization (MALDI)

- ▶ Use: high molecular weight compounds such as organic macro molecules and labile biomolecules.

Three Ionization Techniques Used in Clinical Mass Spectrometry

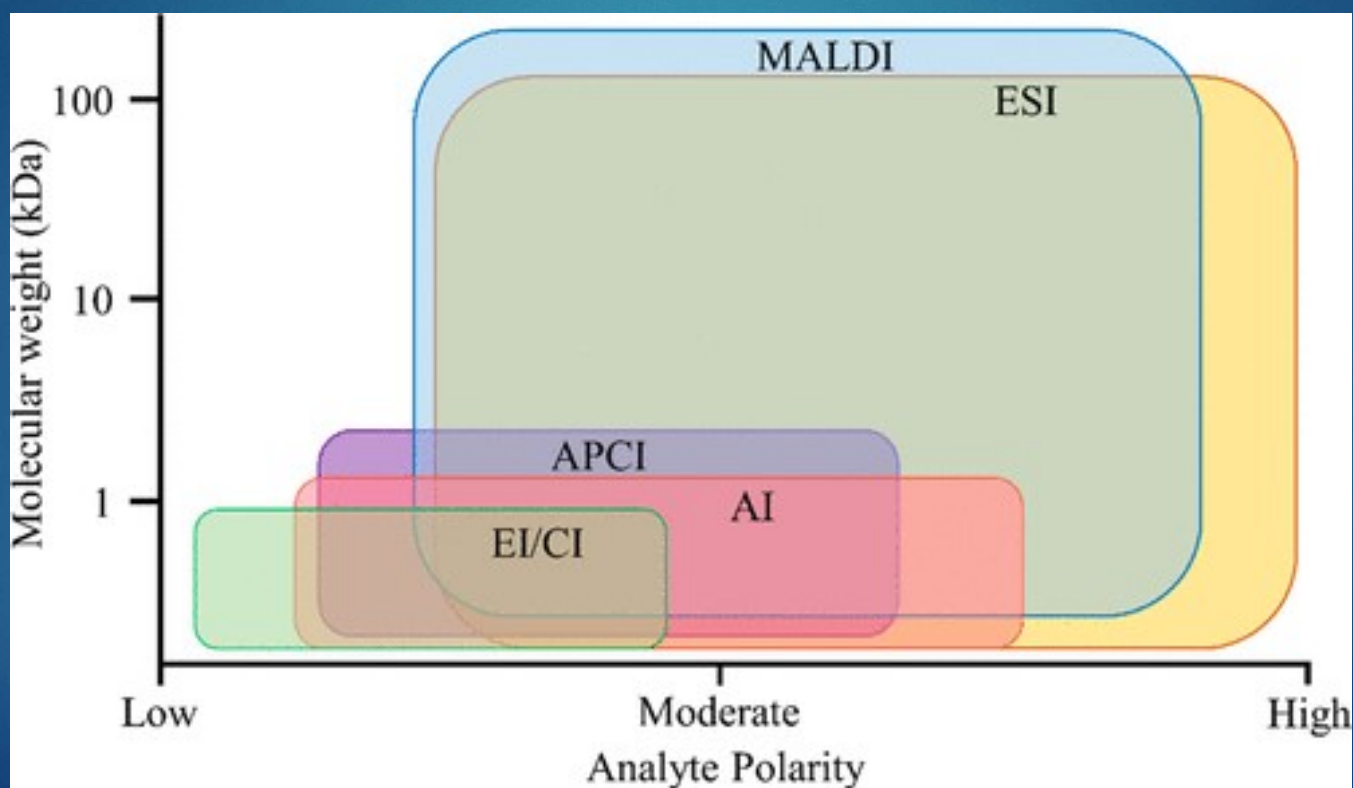
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Ionization Technique	Advantages	Limitations
ESI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensitive ionization technique for polar analytes or ions generated in solution• Has broad applicability for relevant analytes in clinical MS• May yield multiply charged ions, which allows for analysis of larger molecules (i.e., > 1000 Da)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May be more sensitive to matrix effects compared to APCI
APCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Typically less sensitive to matrix effects than ESI• May provide better sensitivity for less polar analytes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Typically only singly charged ions are formed, limiting the effective mass range,• May be unsuitable for thermally labile analytes• May yield less absolute signal relative to ESI
APPI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works well with nonpolar analytes• In some cases will ionize analytes that do not ionize by either ESI or APCI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates limited applicability in clinical MS to date.

APCI, Atmospheric pressure chemical ionization; APPI, atmospheric pressure photoionization; ESI, electrospray ionization.

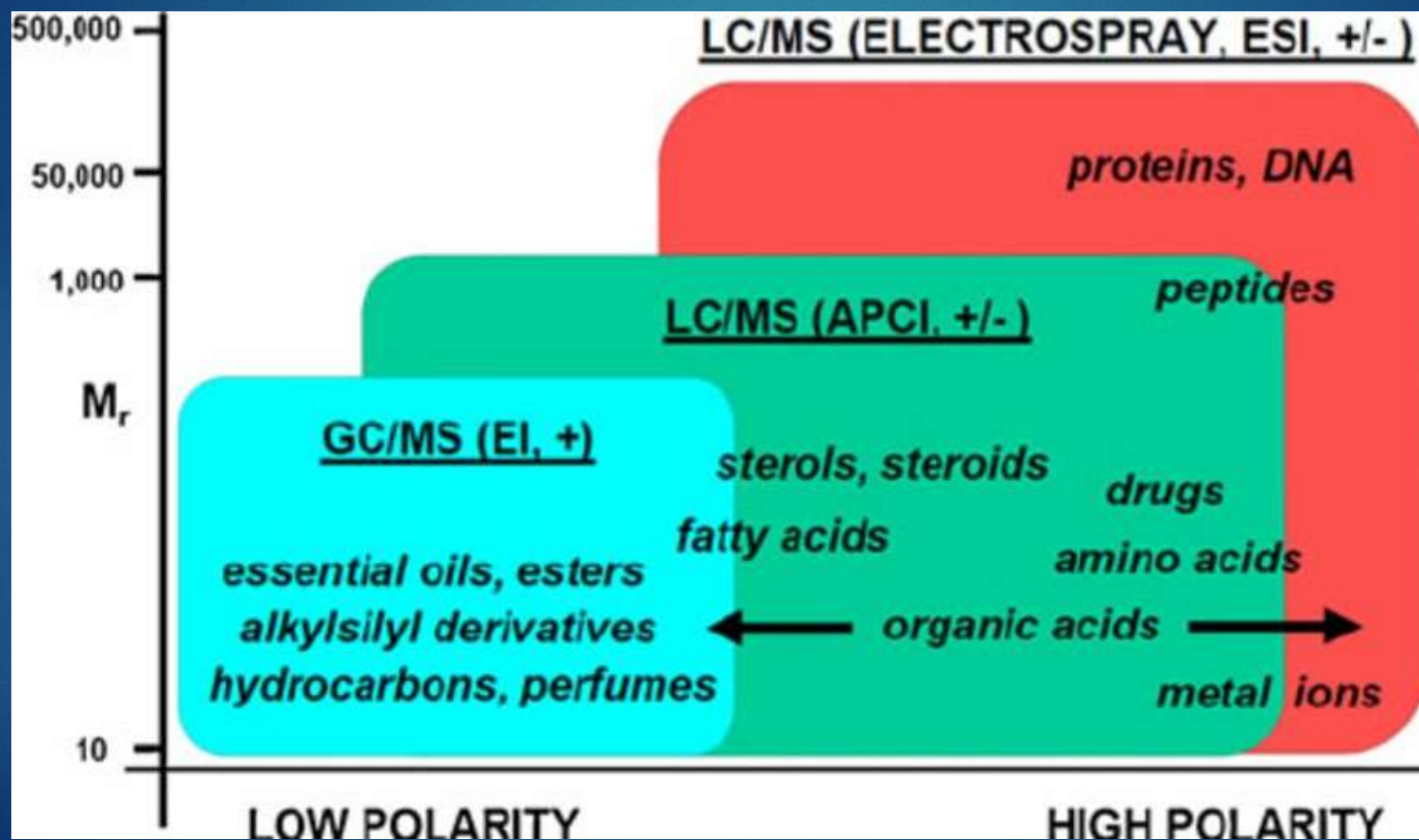
Relationship between ionization method and applicable analytes

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Relationship between ionization method and applicable analytes

32



Mass analyzers

Takes ionized masses

Separates them

Outputs them to the detector



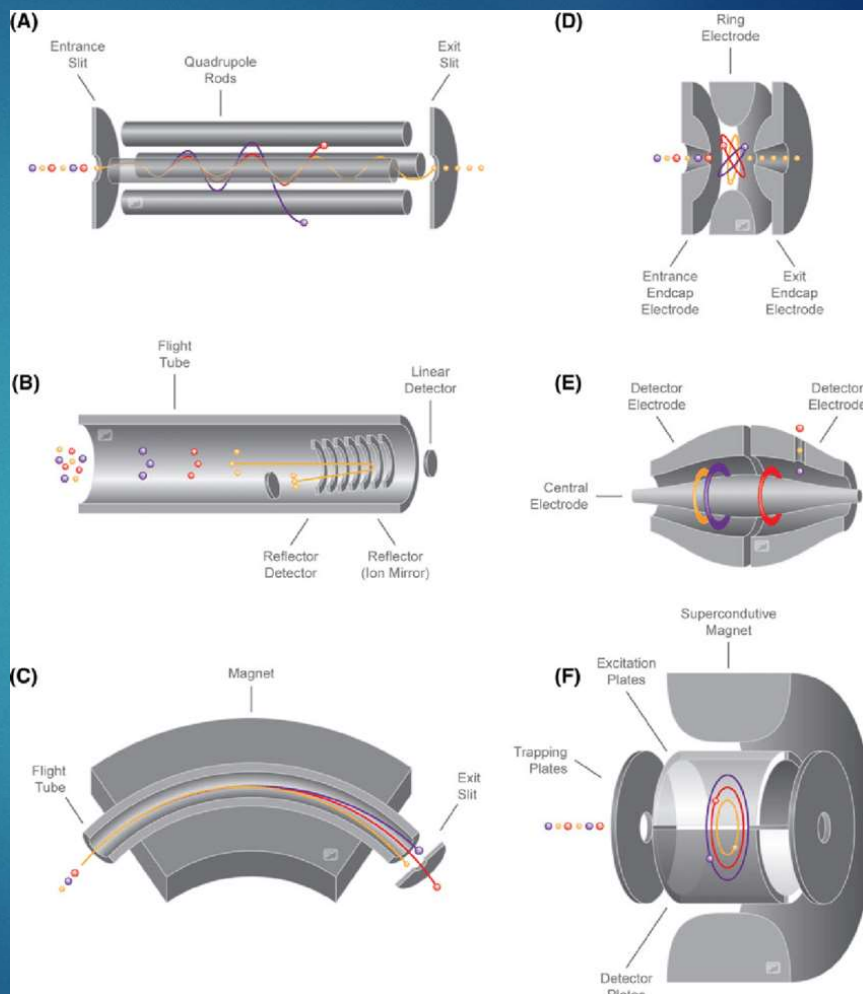
Mass analyzers

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- ▶ There are a variety of mass analyzers and they can be classified by how the ions are being introduced:
 - ▶ **Continuous MS:** allows an uninterrupted supply of ions to enter the mass analyzer.
 - ▶ **Pulsed MS:** requires the ions to be introduced only at a specific time point.

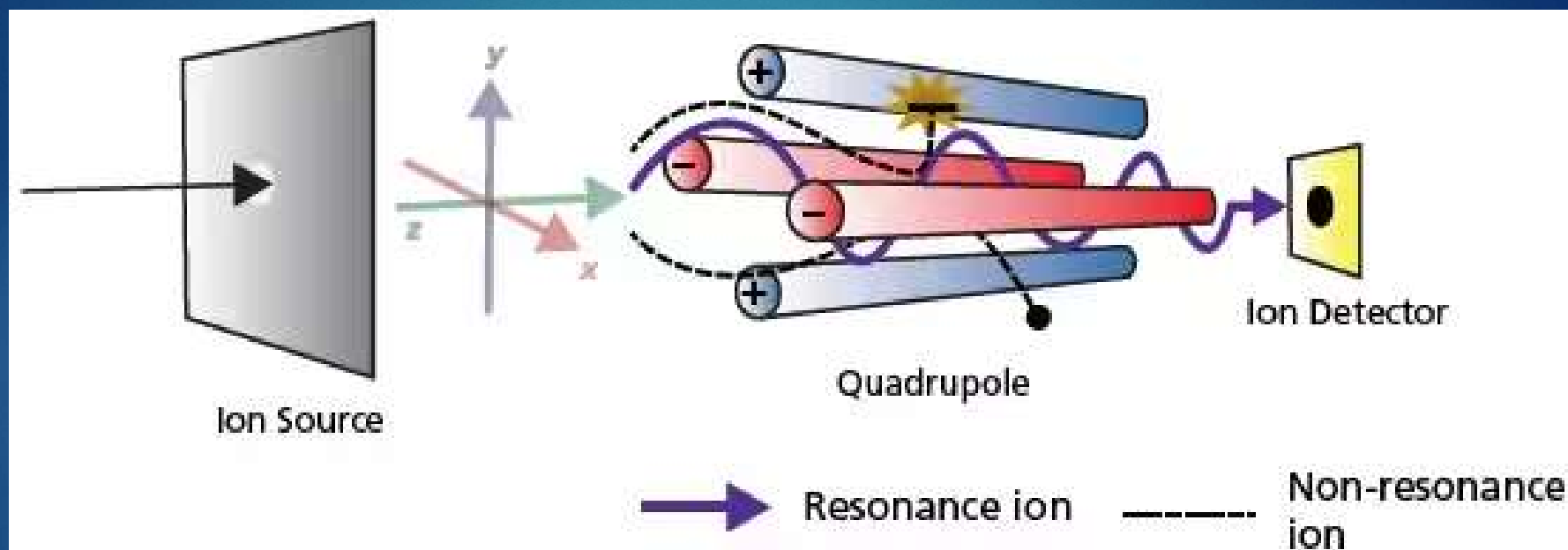
Six mass analyzers

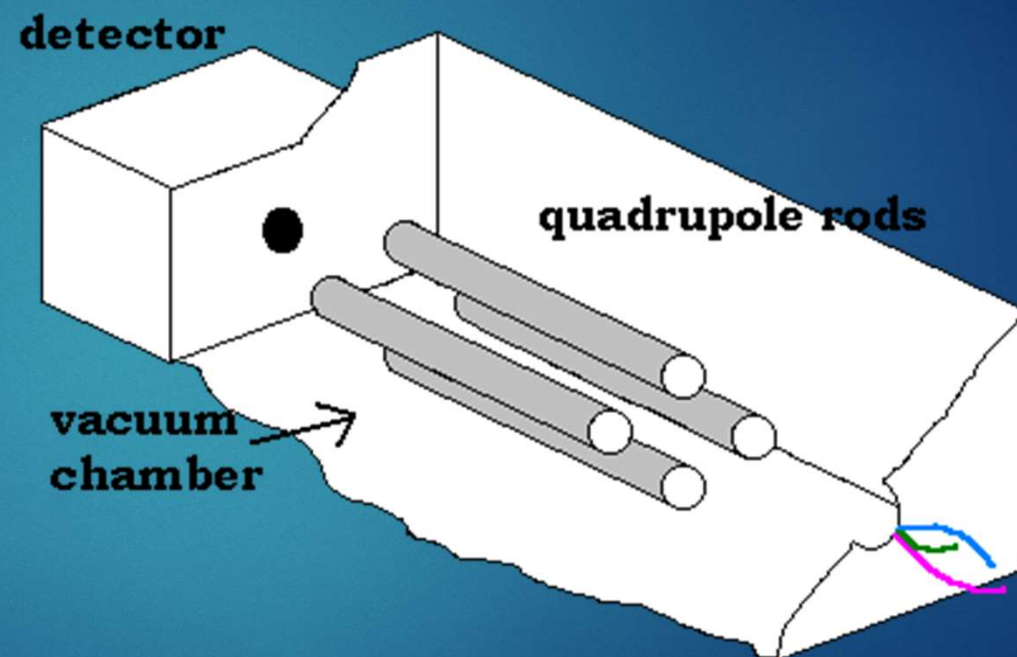
- A) Quadrupole (Q)
- B) Time-of-flight (TOF)
- C) Magnetic Sector (MS)
- D) Ion Trap (IT)
- E) Orbitrap (OT)
- F) Ion Cyclotron Resonance (ICR)



Quadrupole MS

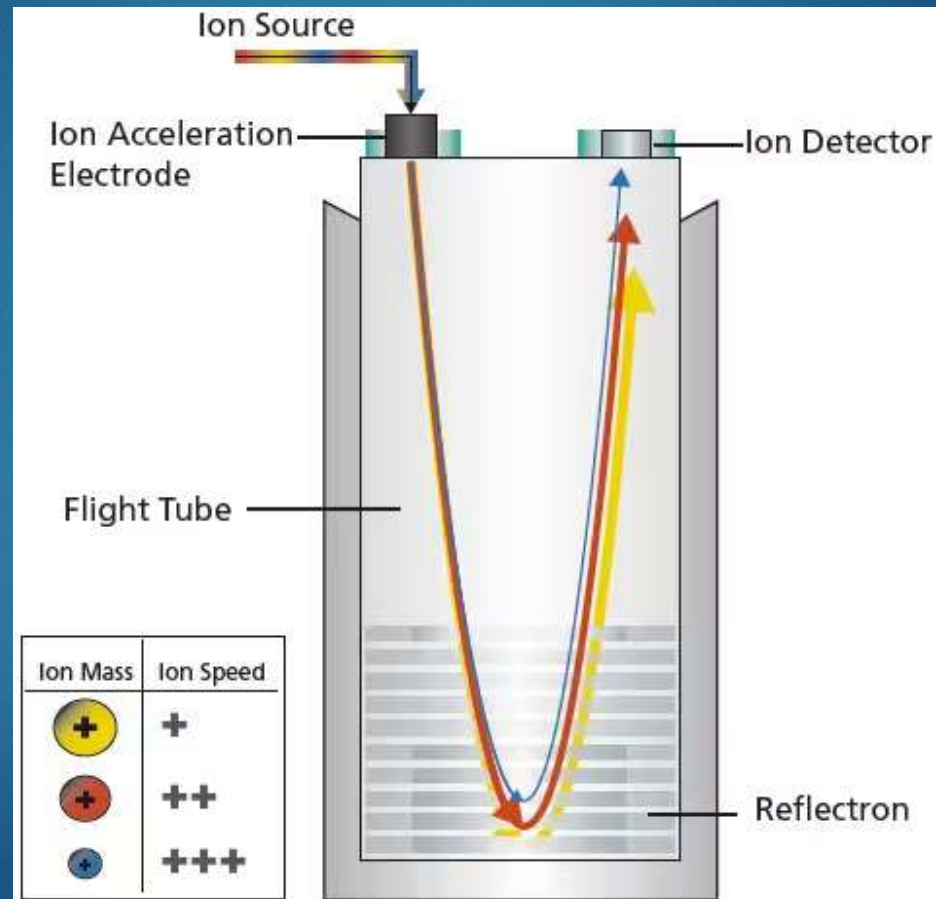
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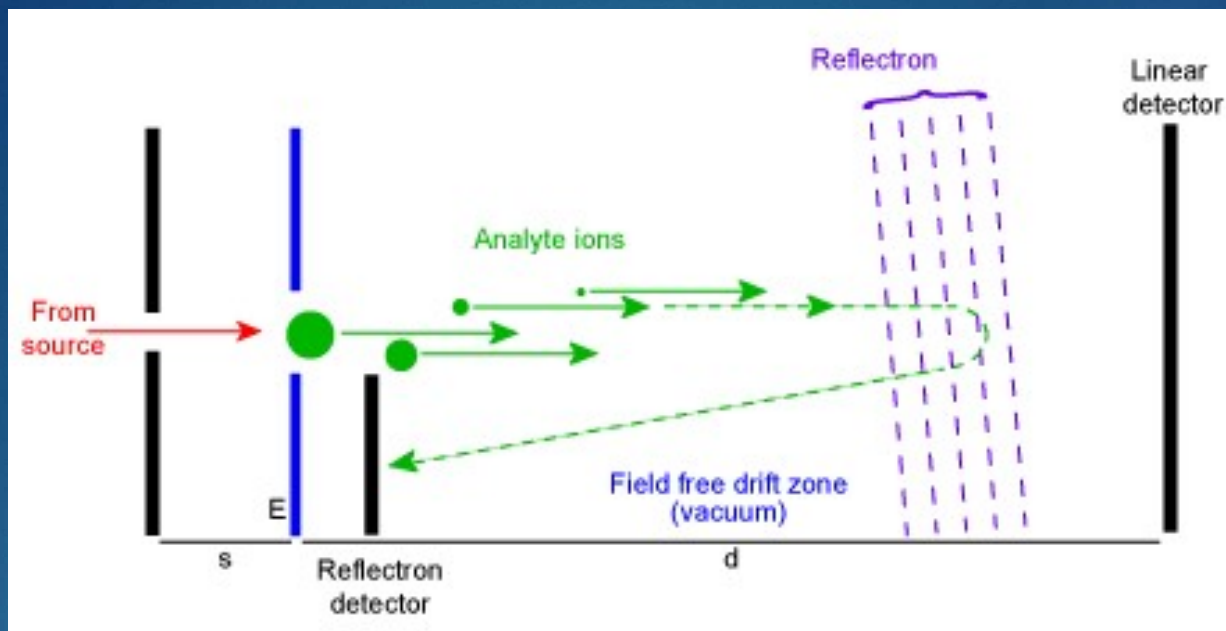




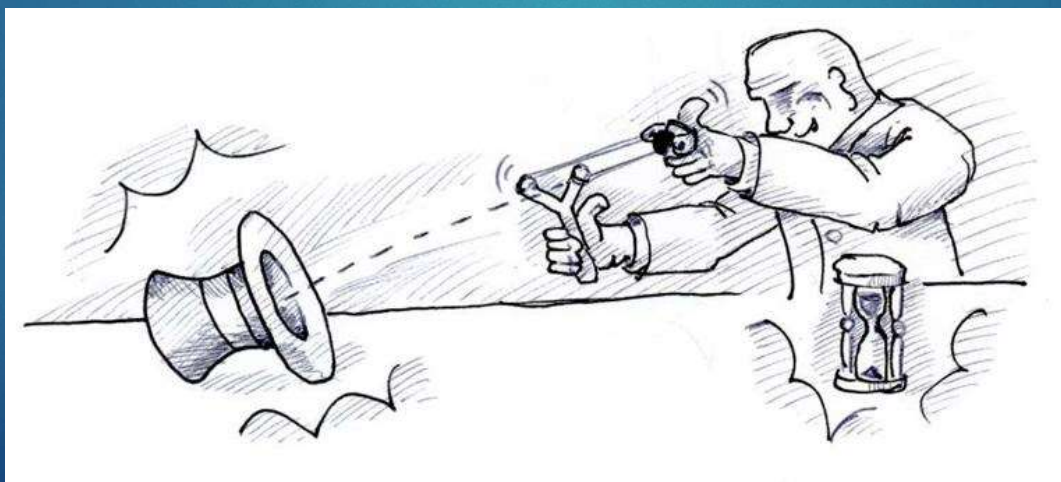
Time-of-Flight (TOF) MS

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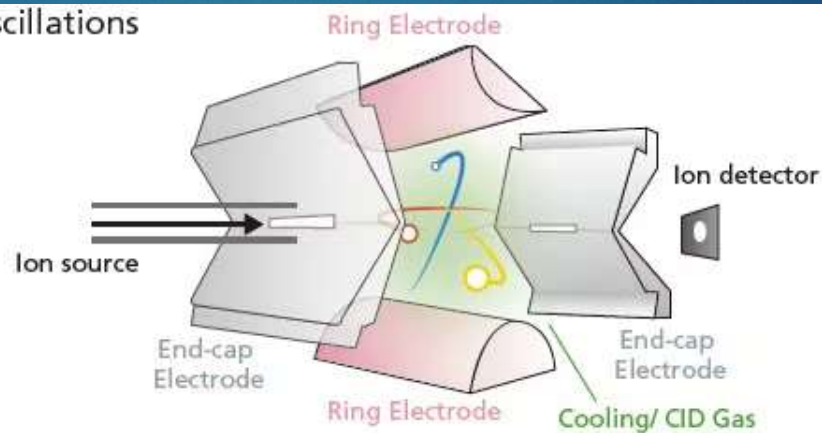
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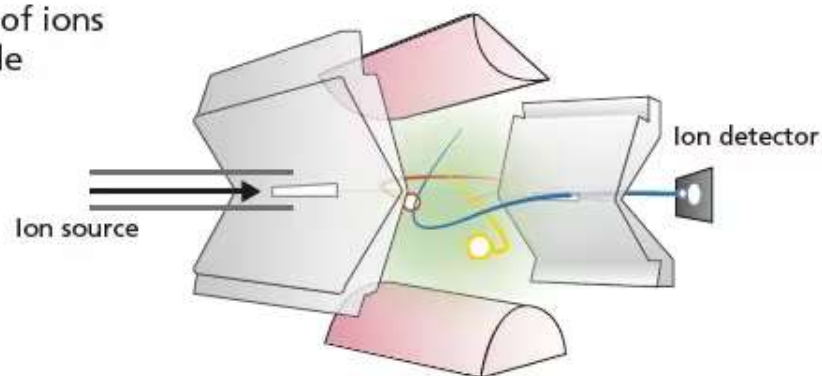
Ion Trap (IT) MS

40

(A) Stable ion oscillations

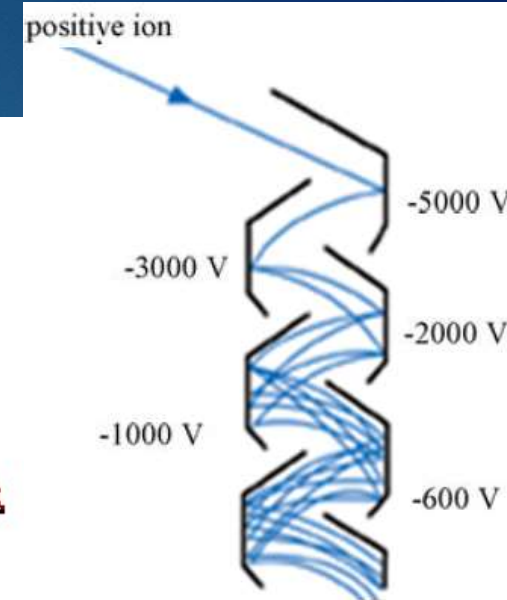
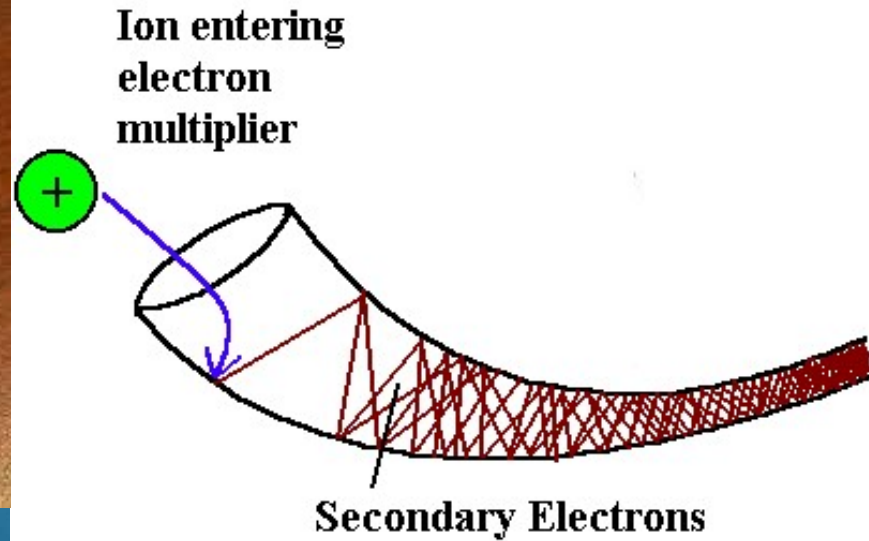


(B) Discharging of ions with unstable oscillations



Detectors: Electron Multiplier

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MS APPLICATIONS IN CLINICAL LAB



Nobel Prizes during MS development process

- ▶ Mass spectrometry techniques have been awarded **5 Nobel Prizes** during their development process.



Nobel Prize winners



Joseph
John
Thompson

Nobel Prize in Physics in 1909, one of the first users of mass spectrometry

Francis
William
Aston

Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1922 for discovering stable isotopes

Wolfgang
Paul

Nobel Prize in Physics 1989I, for discovering the ion trapping technique

John
Bennett
Fenn

Koichi
Tanaka

Nobel Prize in Physics in 2002 for introduction the MALDI technique, and discovering the soft electron spray ionization (ESI) technique

The clinical laboratory journey of the MS method

45

- ▶ The MS technique was firstly used in sterol metabolism in the 1930s with the discovery of deuterium.

1965

Use of first commercially available GC-MS device

1966

Publication of first study on multiplex urine steroid analysis

1971

First commercially available GC-MS device was put in

1974

Use of quadrupoles

The clinical laboratory journey of the MS method

46

- ▶ Between **1980** and **1990**:
 - ▶ Production of **silica columns** in chromatography technique
 - ▶ Development of **solid-phase extraction method**
 - ▶ Development of **thermospray ionization technique**
 - ▶ Introduction of **triple quadrupole devices**

The clinical laboratory journey of the MS method

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- ▶ On May 26, 1981 → accident on the aircraft carrier Nimitz.

Killing 14 and injuring 45



CLINICAL MASS SPECTROMETRY MILESTONES

48

Francis Aston develops the first mass spectrograph that is able to accurately determine the masses of individual atoms. The measurements supported the existence of isotopes in nonradioactive elements and led the pathway toward modern-day mass spectrometry techniques.



The Nimitz accident, a military jet crash, kills 14 service members. Immunoassays revealed the presence of marijuana in members of the crew. At a time when immunoassays had a high rate of false positives, this high-profile case sparked the need for mandatory confirmatory studies in clinical toxicology laboratories.



Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) becomes the gold standard for confirming drug screens across federal and state agencies, workplaces, and other institutions. The large number of inaccuracies and insensitivity associated with immunoassay and thin-layer chromatography led these tests to be considered preliminary until confirmed by GC-MS.

Millington et al.¹ propose tandem MS of dried blood spots for newborn screening. The method enabled screening for multiple organic acid and fatty acid oxidation disorders within a single test. Combining this technology with electrospray ionization (ESI) allowed for the detection of even more disorders with a single test.

Introduction of a multiplex electrospray source that interfaces with MS leads to higher sample throughput and cost savings. Used in conjunction with ultra-high flow rate liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS), the technology made rapid and parallel determination of pharmaceuticals present in plasma achievable, with throughputs reaching 120 samples per hour.



A nonprofit organization committed to the advancement of MS in the clinical laboratory called Mass Spectrometry: Applications to the Clinical Laboratory is incorporated. The organization began holding an annual conference to provide education and training on MS in the laboratory setting to leaders and practitioners in the field.

The Nobel Prize in chemistry goes to John B. Fenn and Koichi Tanaka for the development of ESI and "soft" ionization techniques (shared with Kurt Wüthrich for development of NMR). The research (conducted in the 1980s) allowed liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) to simplify MS techniques by eliminating the need for volatile analytes and preliminary sample preparation and shifted clinical applications away from GC-MS.



MS is increasingly used in metabolomics—the analysis of cellular metabolites during gene alterations or physiological stimuli. Its use enabled the capture of either a subset of targeted biological molecules or thousands of molecules via an untargeted approach. MS also started to gain traction in lipidomic, proteomic, and other -omics clinical applications.

The intelligent knife (iKnife) is used in cancer surgery. Rapid evaporative ionization mass spectrometry (REIMS) combined with electrosurgery-enabled real-time evaluation of surgical tissue using lipidomic profiles that highly correlate with histopathological analysis.



Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization-time of flight (MALDI-ToF) MS is successfully cleared by the FDA for microorganism identification. MALDI-ToF revolutionized the field by providing rapid and robust results. It displaced more time-intensive and expensive methods such as standard culture techniques and susceptibility testing.

1920 1940 1960 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2003 2006 2009 2012 2015

¹ Millington DS, Kado N, Newwood DL, Roe C. Tandem mass spectrometry: a new method for acylcarnitine profiling with potential for neonatal screening for inborn errors of metabolism. *Journal of Inherited Metabolic Disease* 13(1990): 321-324.

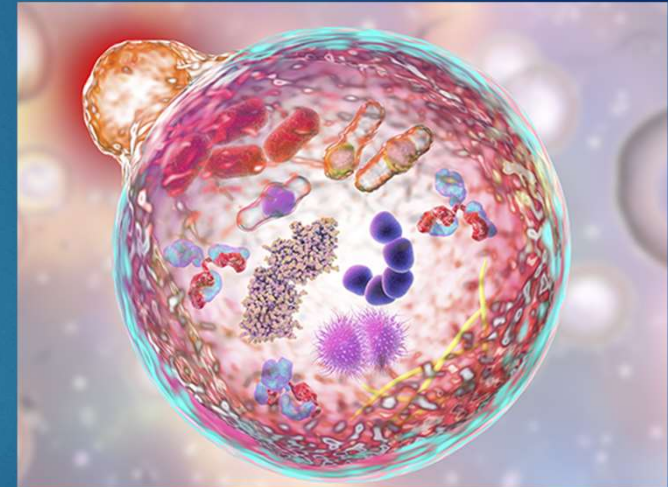
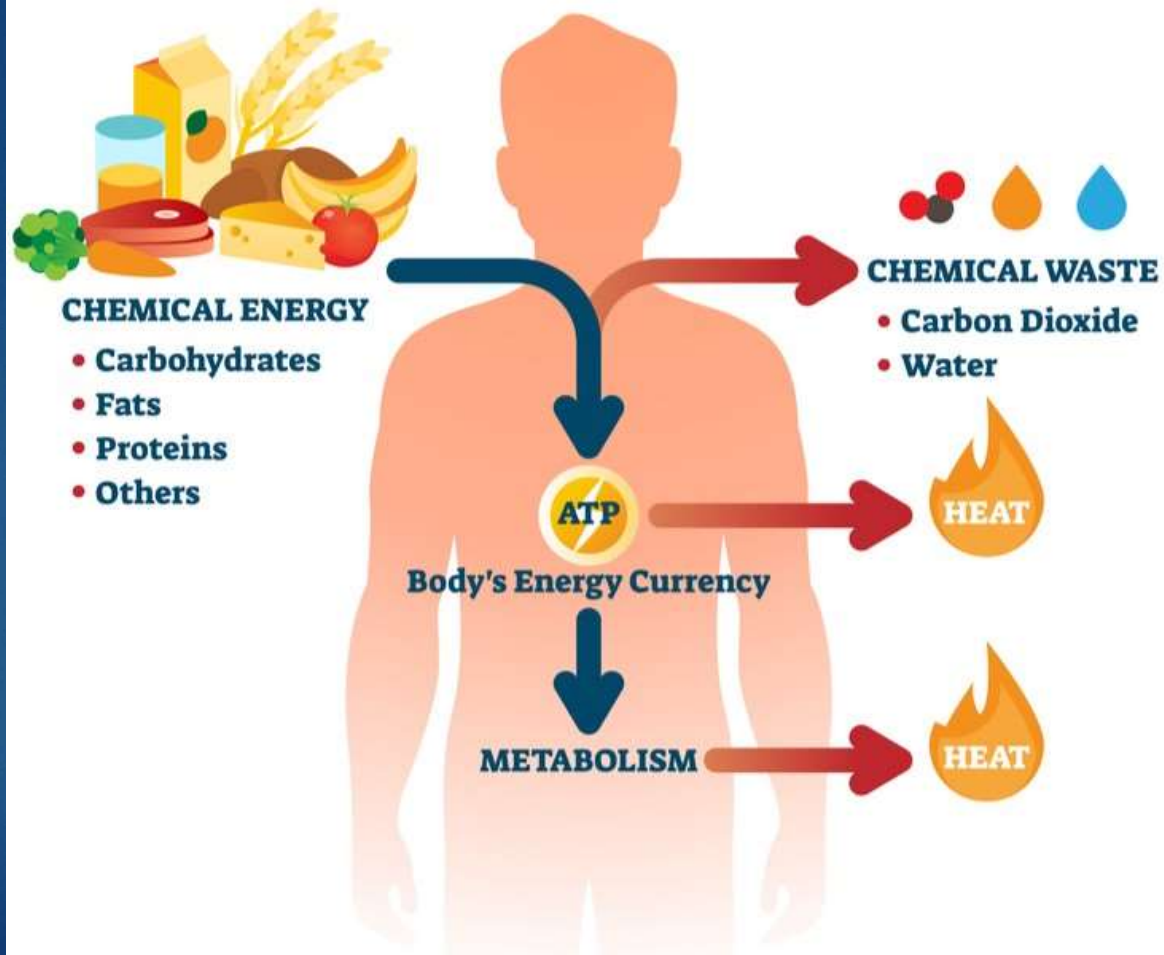
Applications in Clinical Laboratories

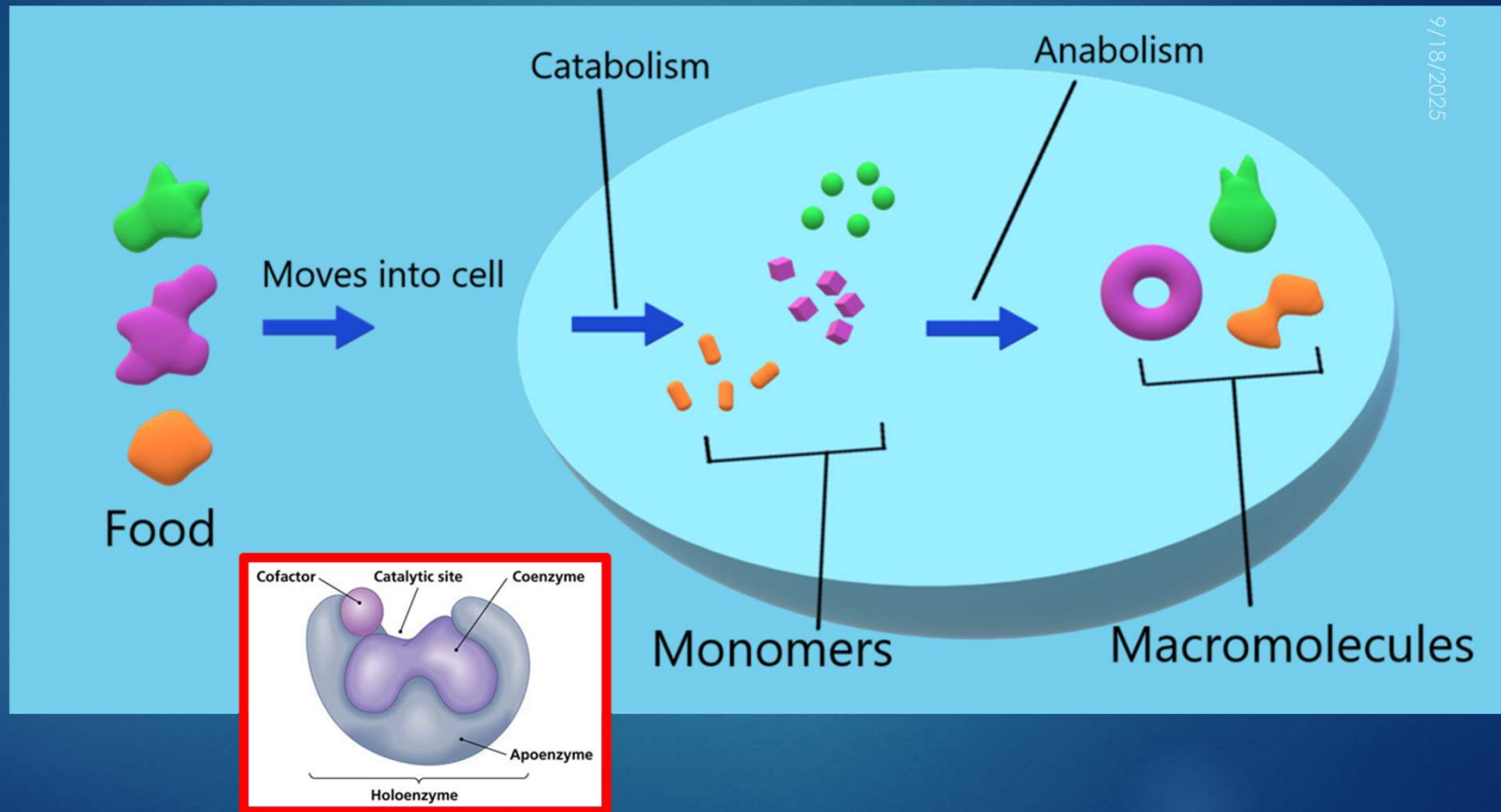
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- ▶ **Endocrinology**
 - steroid hormones
 - amino acid derivative hormones
 - biological amines
- ▶ **Toxicology**
 - clinical (especially therapeutic drug monitoring)
 - forensic toxicology
- ▶ **Microbiology**
 - classification and identification of bacteria and other microorganisms
- ▶ **Metabolism**
 - hereditary metabolism disorders

Inborn Errors Of Metabolism

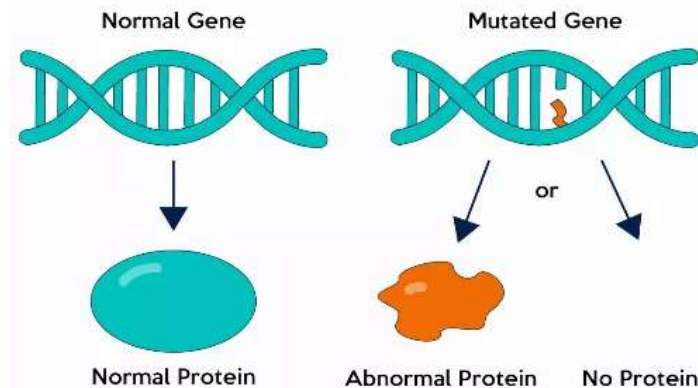
METABOLISM





Inherited metabolic diseases (Inborn Errors Of Metabolism)

- Inherited conditions that develop as a result of mutations affecting the function of proteins.
- The majority of IMDs are monogenic conditions and the mutant proteins are enzymes, but others involve structural proteins, receptors, hormones or transport proteins.



Single-gene defects

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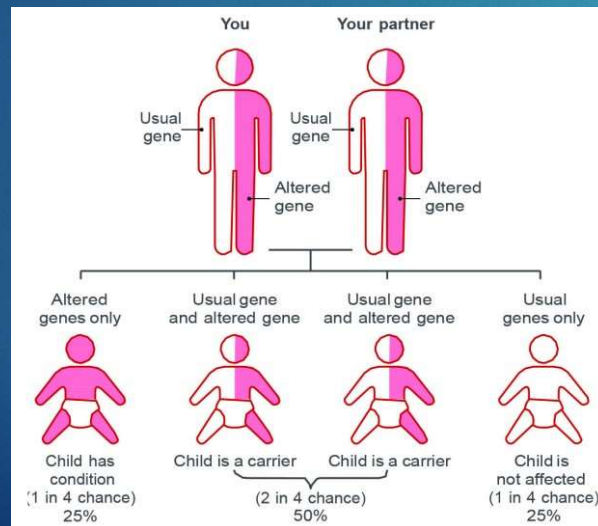
- ▶ Most congenital metabolic disorders known as inborn errors of metabolism result from single-gene defects.
- ▶ A **single-gene disorder** (or **monogenic disorder**) is the result of a single mutated gene. Single-gene disorders can be passed on to subsequent generations in several ways:
 - **Autosomal dominant**
 - **Autosomal recessive**
 - **X-linked dominant**
 - **X-linked recessive**
 - **Y-linked**
 - **Mitochondrial**
- ▶ Genomic imprinting and uniparental disomy, however, may affect inheritance patterns.

Inherited metabolic diseases (IMDs)

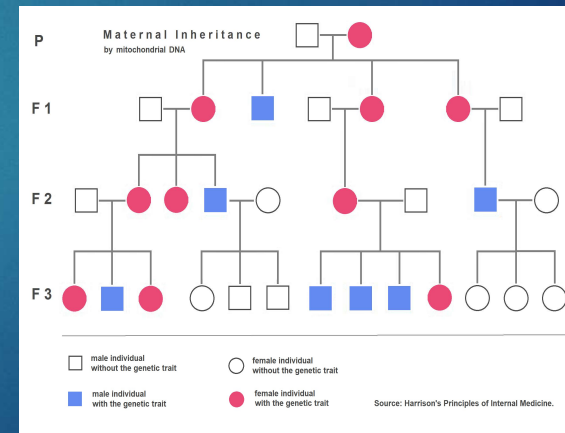
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► OMIM



► Controllable



How are genetic disorders identified?

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- ▶ If there's a family history, DNA testing for genetic disorders can be an important part of starting a family. Options include:
 - **Carrier testing:** This **blood** test shows whether you or your partner carry a mutation linked to genetic disorders. This is recommended for everyone considering pregnancy, even if there is no family history.
 - **Prenatal screening:** This testing usually involves **blood** testing from a pregnant woman that tells a person how likely it is that an unborn child could have a common chromosome condition.
 - **Prenatal diagnostic testing:** You can find out whether your unborn child faces a higher risk for certain genetic disorders. Prenatal testing uses a sample of fluid from the womb (**amniocentesis**).
 - **Newborn screening:** This test uses a sample of your newborn **baby's blood**. Detecting genetic disorders early in life can help your child receive timely care if needed.

Carrier testing

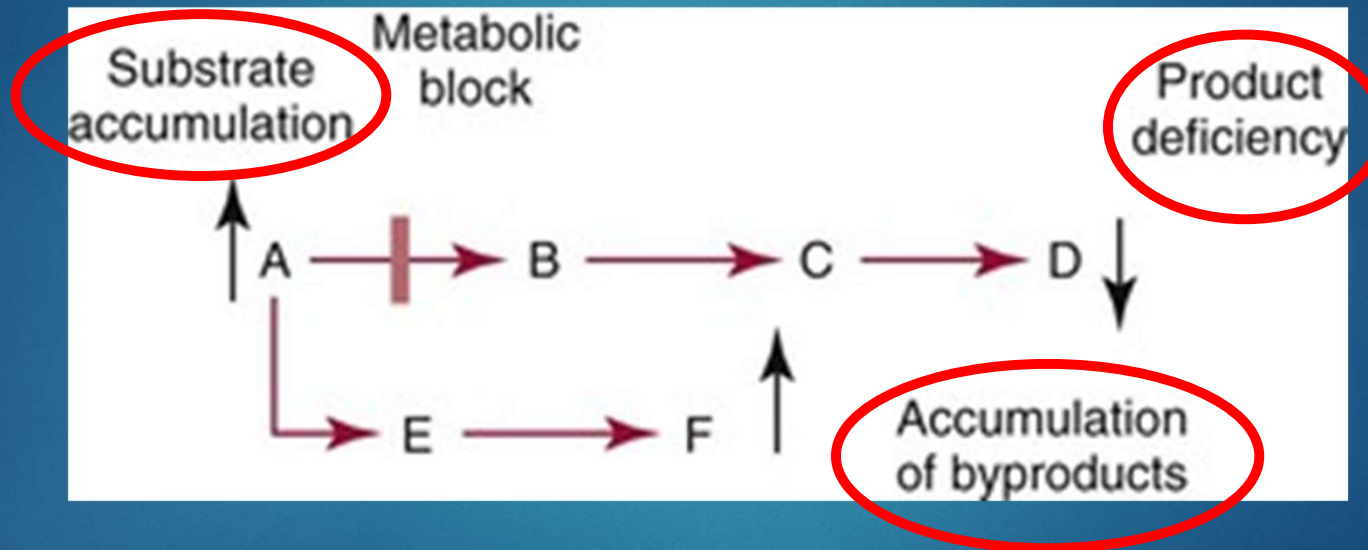
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- The first opportunity to address IEM occurs with testing of **asymptomatic future parents**. Certain populations have increased carrier rates for IEM, and preconception screening has been shown to decrease disease prevalence.
- first began in the Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jewish population in the early 1970s with preconception screening for carriers of **Tay-Sachs disease**.
- With the advent of carrier screening, the incidence of Tay-Sachs disease decreased by **90%** between **1970** and **1993** in the Jewish populations of North America.

Metabolic pathway blockage

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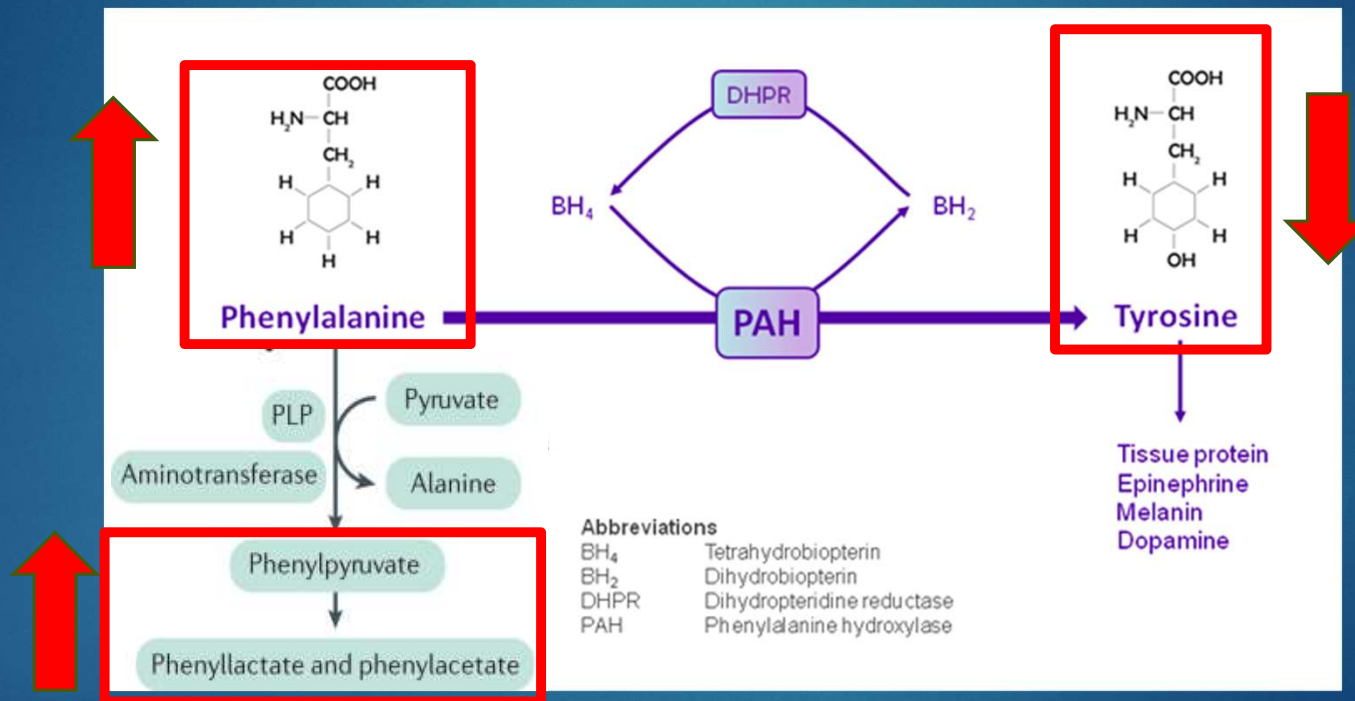
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PKU

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Newborn Screening for Metabolic Disorders With Mass Spectrometry

Screening History

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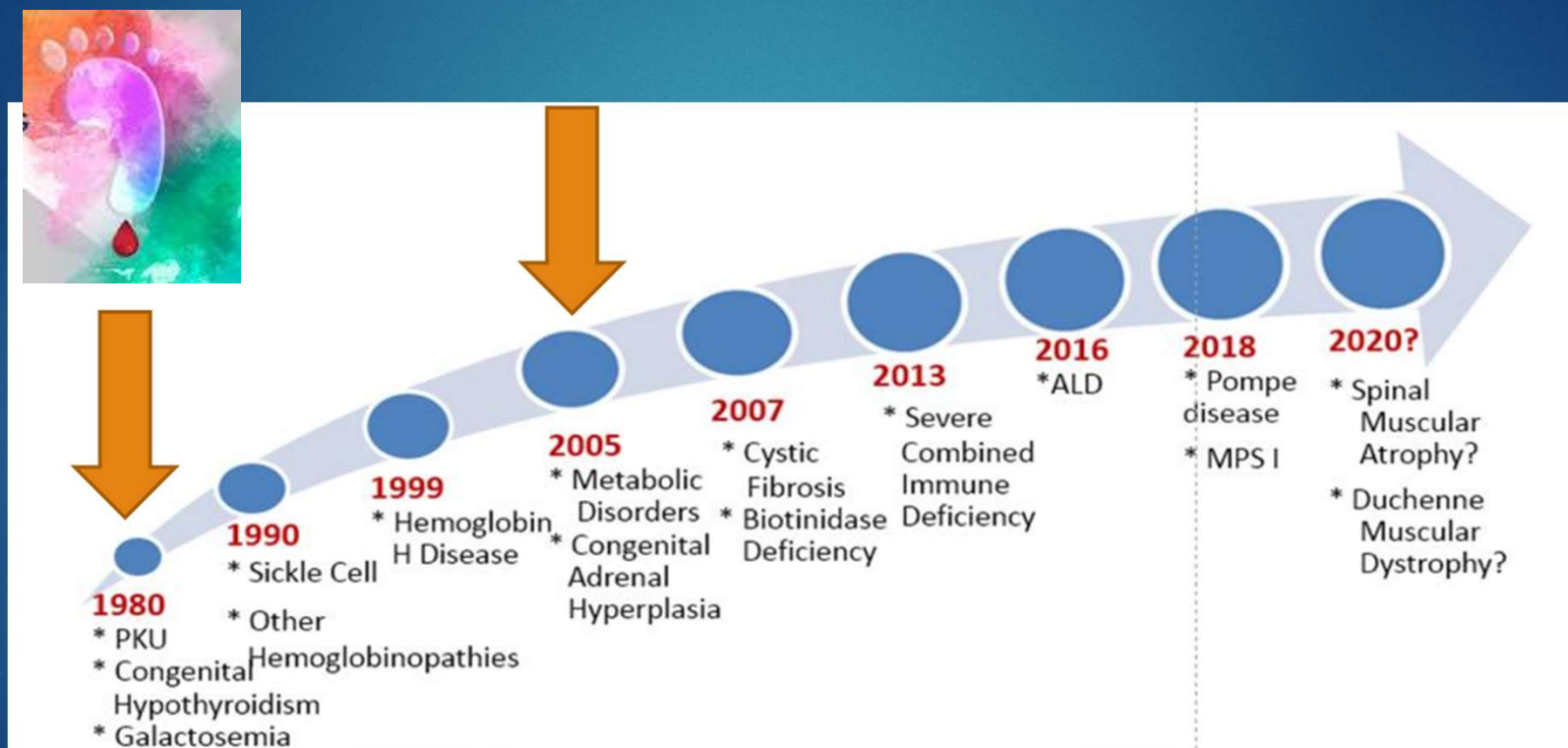
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- ▶ Mass newborn screening began in the 1960s when Guthrie and Susi developed a method for estimation of phenylalanine in blood samples collected on a filter paper for the detection of phenylketonuria (PKU) using a bacterial inhibition assay.
- ▶ Until the early 1990s, few other diseases, “though one at a time,” were added to the newborn screening programs
- ▶ In the 1990s, with the introduction of tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) into the metabolic screening laboratories, the paradigm of analyzing one analyte per disorder changed. With a single and “2–3min” long analysis of a small blood spot, MS/MS allows the determination of multiple analytes characteristic of several (>40) metabolic disorders.

Newborn screening timeline

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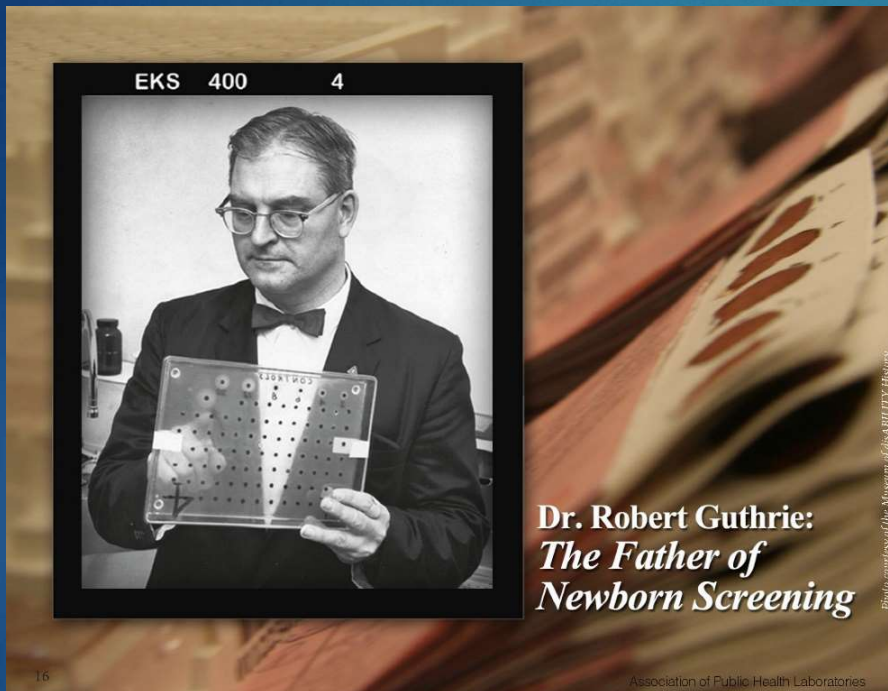
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Screening History

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"It began with our second child, John," wrote Robert Guthrie, in a medical journal article about the breakthrough he developed that has saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

"He is mentally retarded. John stimulated me to go into research aimed at preventing mental retardation and developmental disabilities."



**INTERNATIONAL
NEONATAL
SCREENING DAY**

JUNE 28

Early heroes of PKU

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9/18/2025



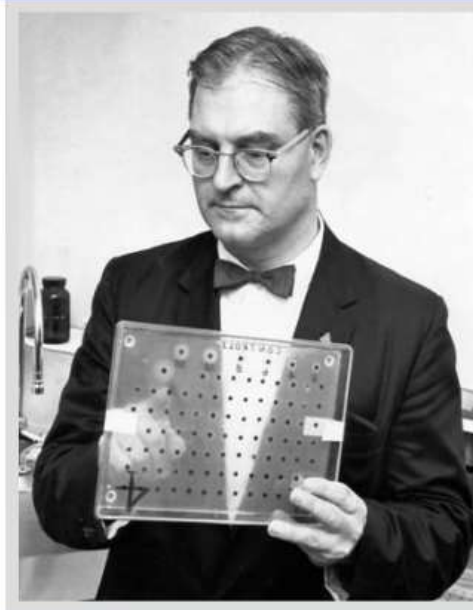
Dr. Asbjörn Fölling

Diagnosis



Dr. Horst Bickel

Treatment

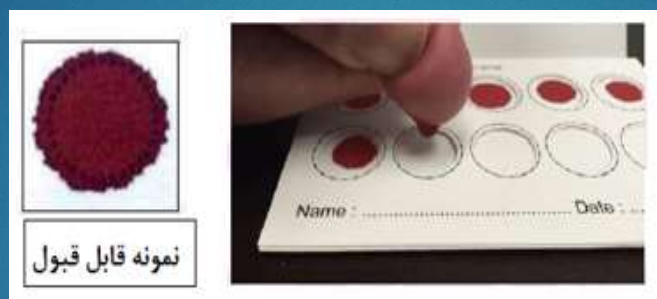


Dr. Robert Guthrie

Prevention

- ▶ Since LC-MS/MS is based on a separation technique, the molecule to be analyzed must be separated from its matrix by **pre-treatment**.
- ▶ Blood, serum or plasma, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) have different matrices, and the desired molecule must be separated from these matrices.
- ▶ For the separation process, techniques such as **extraction**, **derivatization** and often **liquid or gas chromatography** are used as pre-treatment steps.

Sample preparation



NEWBORN SCREENING TIMELINE



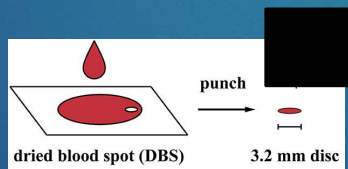
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Newborn screening with MS/MS

Simultaneous Analysis of Acylcarnitines and Amino Acids in Dried Spot Blood (DBS) with MS/MS



Amino acids	Acylcarnitines	Additional acylcarnitines	
Alanine	Carnitine	C3DC-Carnitine	C16:1-Carnitine
Arginine	C2-Carnitine	C4OH-Carnitine	C16:1OH-Carnitine
Aspartic acid	C3-Carnitine	C4DC-Carnitine	C16OH-Carnitine
Citrulline	C4-Carnitine	C5:1-Carnitine	C18:2-Carnitine
Glutamic acid	C5-Carnitine	C5OH-Carnitine	C18:1-Carnitine
Glycine	C5DC-Carnitine	C6DC-Carnitine	C18:2OH-Carnitine
Leucine	C6-Carnitine	C8:1-Carnitine	C18:1OH-Carnitine
Methionine	C8-Carnitine	C10:2-Carnitine	C18OH-Carnitine
Ornithine	C10-Carnitine	C10:1-Carnitine	
Phenylalanine	C12-Carnitine	C12:1-Carnitine	
Proline	C14-Carnitine	C14:2-Carnitine	
Tyrosine	C16-Carnitine	C14:1-Carnitine	
Valine	C18-Carnitine	C14OH-Carnitine	

Internal Standard IS

► Amino Acids and Acylcarnitines

Analytes:

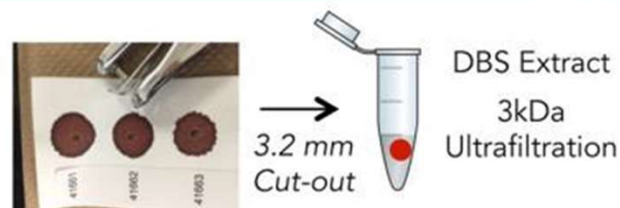
Amino Acids

$^{13}\text{C}_3$ ^{15}N -Alanine, $^{13}\text{C}_6$ -Arginine, $^{13}\text{C}_4$ -Aspartic Acid,
 $^2\text{H}_7$ -Citrulline, $^{13}\text{C}_5$ -Glutamic Acid,
 $2\text{-}^{13}\text{C}^{15}\text{N}$ -Glycine, $^2\text{H}_3$ -Leucine, $^2\text{H}_3$ -Methionine,
 $^2\text{H}_6$ -Ornithine, $^{13}\text{C}_6$ -Phenylalanine, $^{13}\text{C}_5$ -Proline,
 $^{13}\text{C}_6$ -Tyrosine, $^2\text{H}_5$ -Valine

Acylcarnitines

$^2\text{H}_5$ -Carnitine ($^2\text{H}_5$ -C0), $^2\text{H}_3$ -Acetylcarnitine
($^2\text{H}_3$ -C2), $^2\text{H}_3$ -Propionylcarnitine ($^2\text{H}_3$ -C3),
 $^2\text{H}_3$ -Butyrylcarnitine ($^2\text{H}_3$ -C4),
 $^2\text{H}_3$ -Isovalerylcarnitine ($^2\text{H}_3$ -C5),
 $^2\text{H}_3$ -Glutaryl carnitine ($^2\text{H}_3$ -C5DC),
 $^2\text{H}_3$ -Hexanoylcarnitine ($^2\text{H}_3$ -C6),
 $^2\text{H}_3$ -Octanoylcarnitine ($^2\text{H}_3$ -C8),
 $^2\text{H}_3$ -Decanoylcarnitine ($^2\text{H}_3$ -C10),
 $^2\text{H}_3$ -Dodecanoylcarnitine ($^2\text{H}_3$ -C12),
 $^2\text{H}_3$ -Tetradecanoylcarnitine ($^2\text{H}_3$ -C14),
 $^2\text{H}_3$ -Hexadecanoylcarnitine ($^2\text{H}_3$ -C16),
 $^2\text{H}_3$ -Octadecanoylcarnitine ($^2\text{H}_3$ -C18)

Sample Preparation



Extraction:

well-plate 1: 3.2 mm disc

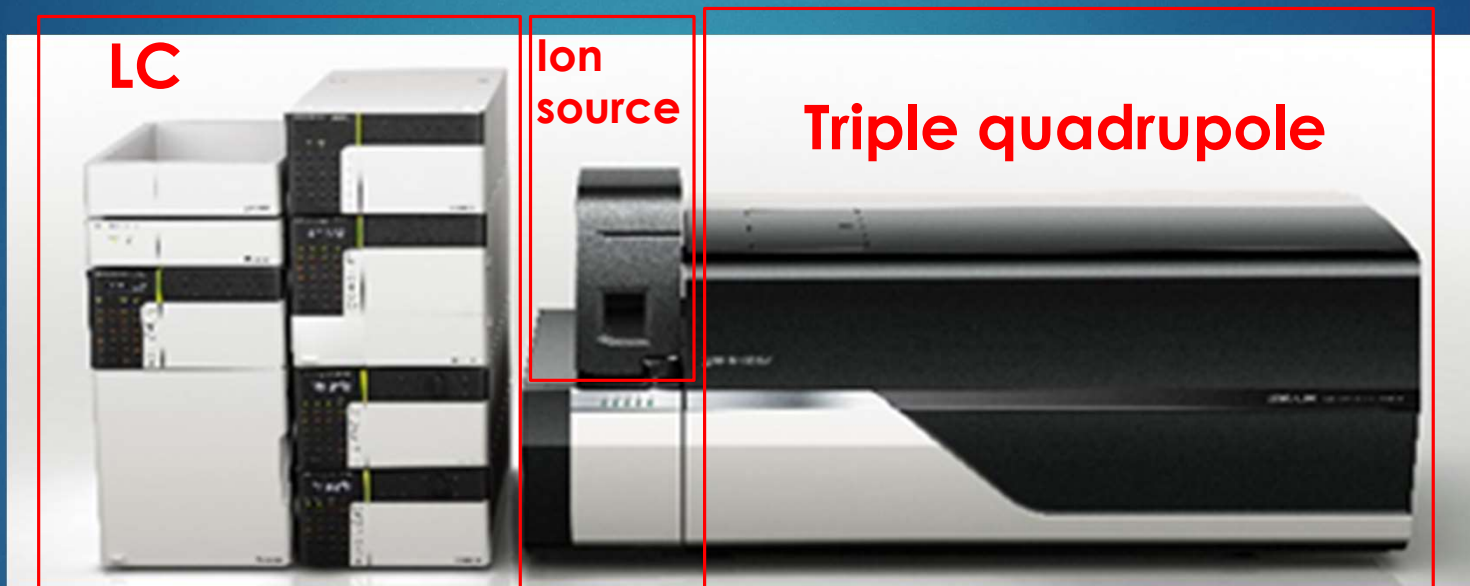
100 μl Internal Standard IS

extract

LC-MS/MS Analysis:

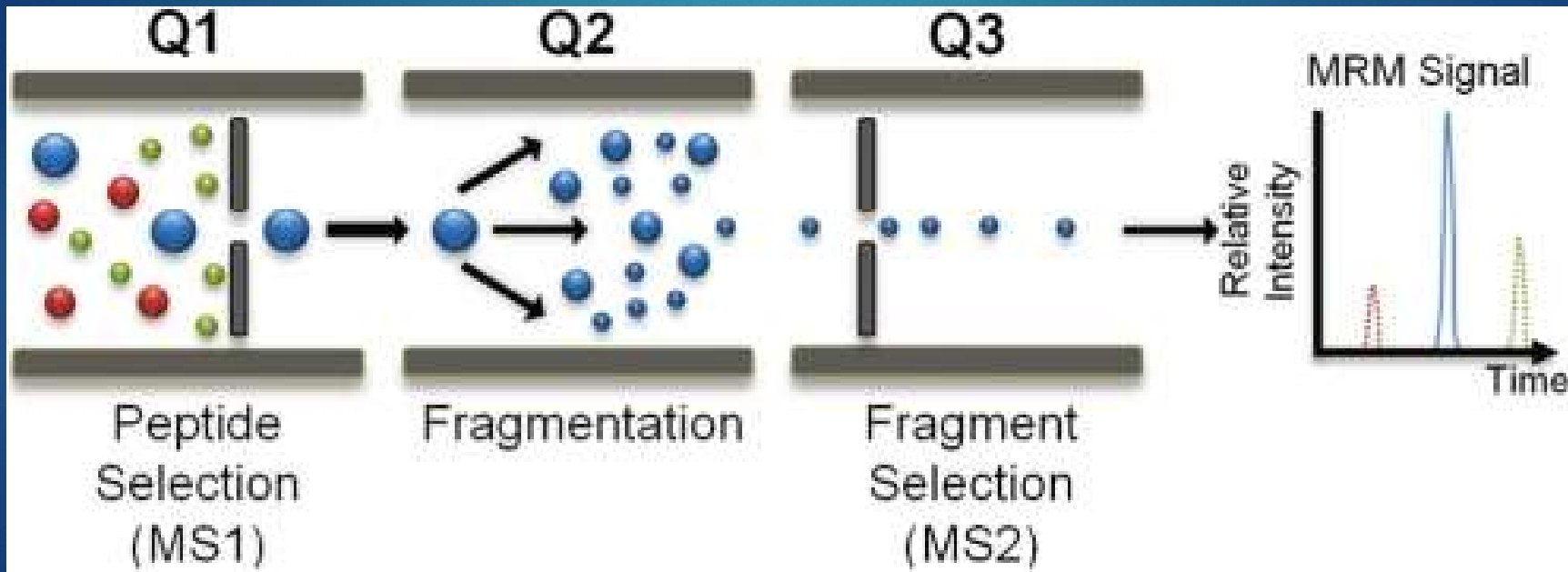
Inject 5 - 10 μl

Tandem Mass Spectrometer (MS/MS)



Tandem Mass Spectrometry (MS/MS)

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	FATTY ACID OXIDATION DISORDERS	ORGANIC ACIDEMIAS	AMINOACIDOPATHIES	UREA CYCLE DISORDERS
Metabolism	Fat Defect in β -oxidation of fatty acids.	Protein Defect in amino acid breakdown leads to accumulation of organic acid byproducts	Protein Defect in amino acid breakdown leads to accumulation of certain intact amino acids	Protein Defect in making urea (blood urea nitrogen) from ammonia that results from amino acid breakdown
Disorders	Medium-chain acyl CoA dehydrogenase Long-chain 3-hydroxy acyl CoA dehydrogenase Very long-chain acyl CoA dehydrogenase	Propionic Methylmalonic Isovaleric	Maple syrup urine Phenylketonuria Homocystinuria tyrosinemia	Ornithine transcarbamylase (X-linked) Citrullinemia Arginosuccinic aciduria
Presentation	Hypoketotic Hypoglycemia Lethargy, vomiting Sudden infant death syndrome, Reye syndrome Long-chain disorders have cardiomyopathy and rhabdomyolysis	Metabolic Acidosis With Anion Gap Neonatal lethargy, vomiting, coma, strokes, death	No Acidosis or Hyperammonemia Elevations in specific amino acids See text for clinical features	Hyperammonemia Without Acidosis Neonatal lethargy, vomiting, coma, death
Laboratory Tests	Newborn Screen Plasma acylcarnitines Hypoglycemia No or inappropriately low ketones	Newborn Screen Urine organic acids Plasma acylcarnitines	Newborn Screen Plasma amino acids	Newborn Screen (not for ornithine transcarbamylase) Hyperammonemia Plasma amino acids Urine orotic acid

The Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP) is a national guideline for newborn screening (NBS).

✓ **Core conditions:** The HHS Secretary recommends including these in every NBS program. Newborn screening is specifically designed to assess whether your baby might have these conditions.

✓ **Secondary conditions:** These may be found while screening for a core condition. Although NBS is not specifically designed to assess whether your baby might have these conditions, it sometimes finds babies likely to have them.

29 core conditions

MS/MS-detectable organic acid disorders

Isovaleric acidemia
Glutaric acidemia type I
3-hydroxy 3-methyl glutaric aciduria
Methylmalonic acidemia (mutase deficiency)
3-methylcrotonyl-CoA carboxylase deficiency
Methylmalonic acidemia (Cbl A, B)
Multiple carboxylase deficiency (holocarboxylase synthetase deficiency)
Propionic acidemia
β-ketothiolase deficiency

MS/MS-detectable fatty acid oxidation disorders

Medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
Very long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
Long-chain L-3-hydroxy acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
Trifunctional protein deficiency
Carnitine uptake defect

MS/MS-detectable amino acid disorders

Phenylketonuria
Maple syrup urine disease
Homocystinuria
Citrullinemia type I
Argininosuccinic aciduria
Tyrosinemia type I

Hemoglobinopathies

Sickle cell anemia (SS-disease)
Sickle-C disease
S-β thalassemia

Other

Transferase-deficient galactosemia (classical)
Primary congenital hypothyroidism
21-hydroxylase-deficient congenital adrenal hyperplasia
Biotinidase deficiency
Hearing screening
Cystic fibrosis

*MS/MS: Tandem mass spectrometry.
Data taken from [35,36].*

25 secondary targets

Methylmalonic acidemia (Cbl C, D)
Malonic acidemia
Isobutyryl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
2-methyl 3-hydroxy butyric aciduria
2-methylbutyryl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
3-methylglutaconic aciduria

Short-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
Medium/short-chain L-3-hydroxy acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
Medium-chain ketoacyl-CoA thiolase deficiency
Carnitine palmitoyltransferase II deficiency
Carnitine acylcarnitine translocase deficiency
Carnitine palmitoyltransferase I deficiency (liver)
Glutaric acidemia type II (multiple acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency)
2, 4-dienoyl-CoA reductase deficiency

Benign hyperphenylalaninemia
Tyrosinemia type II
Tyrosinemia type III
Defects of bipterin cofactor biosynthesis
Defects of bipterin cofactor regeneration
Argininemia
Hypermethioninemia
Citrullinemia type II

Variant hemoglobinopathies

Galactokinase deficiency
Galactosepimerase deficiency

Fatty acid oxidation disorders (FAODs)

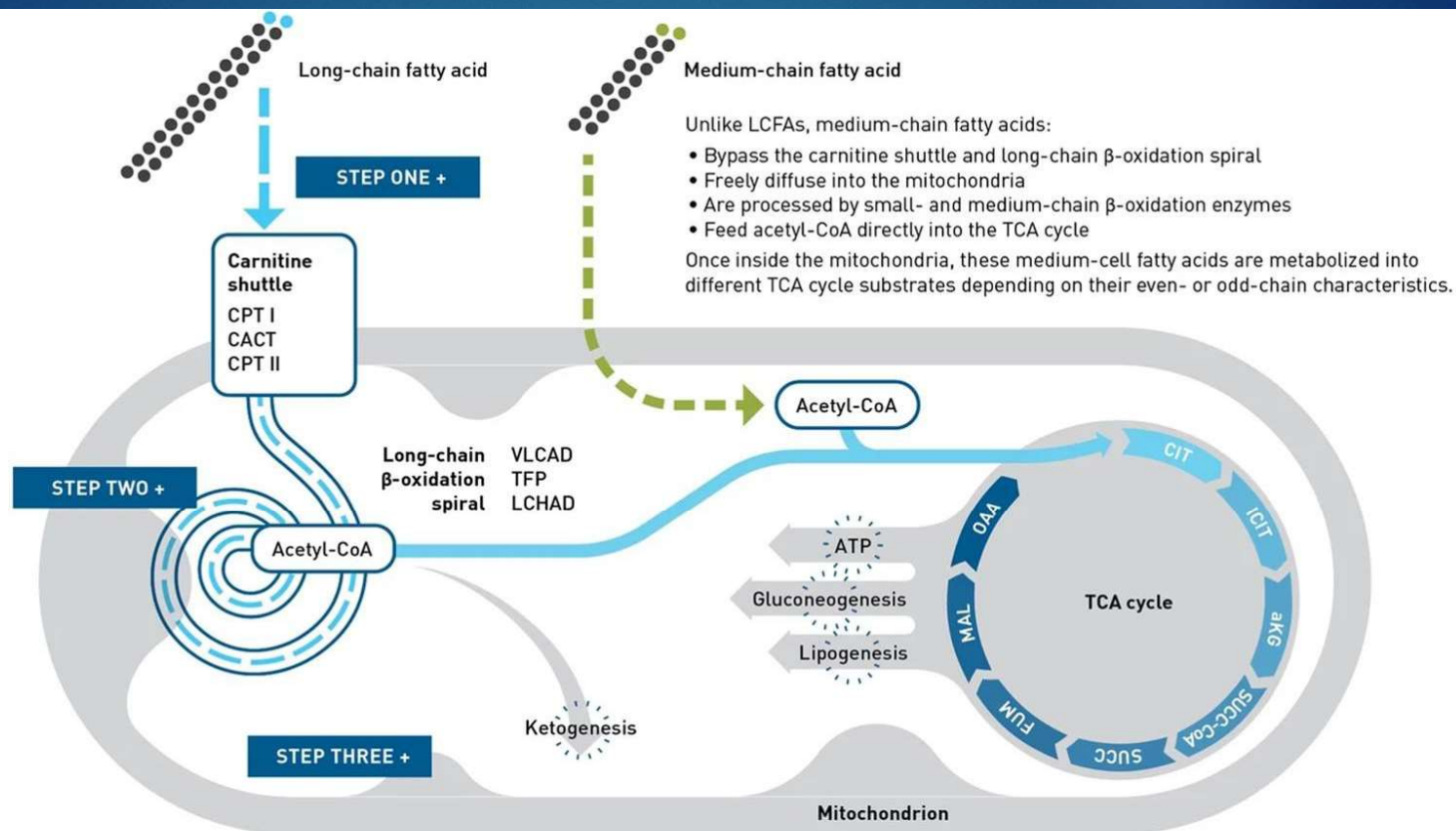


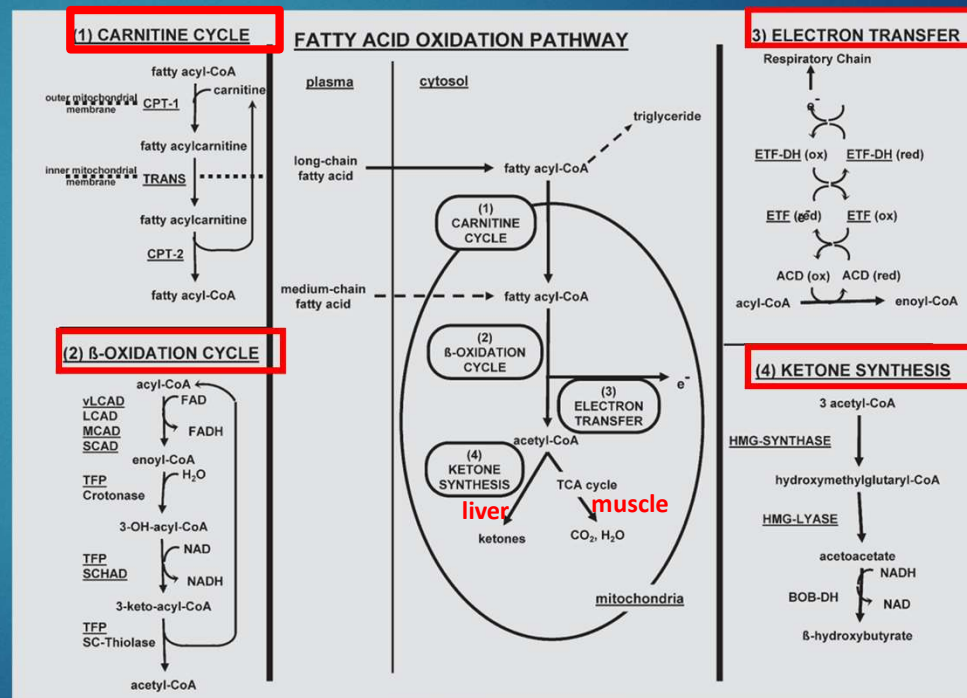
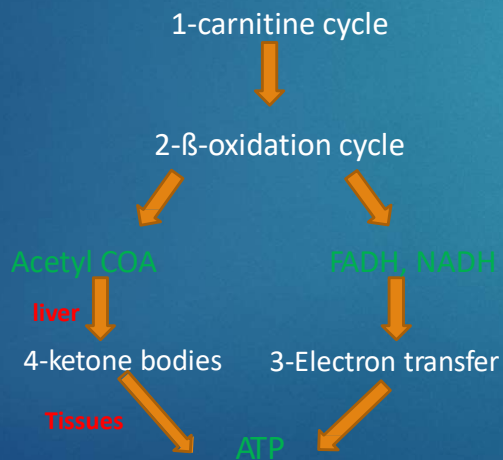
Image obtained from FAOD in Focus website. <https://www.faodinfofocus.com/hcp/mechanism-of-disease/>
 Acetyl-CoA, acetyl coenzyme A; ATP, adenosine triphosphate; CACT, carnitine-acylcarnitine translocase deficiency; CPT 1, carnitine palmitoyltransferase I; CPT II, carnitine palmitoyltransferase II; LCFA, long-chain fatty acid; LCHAD, long-chain L-3 hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency; TCA, tricarboxylic acid; TFP, trifunctional protein deficiency; VLCAD, very-long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency.

Fatty acid oxidation disorders

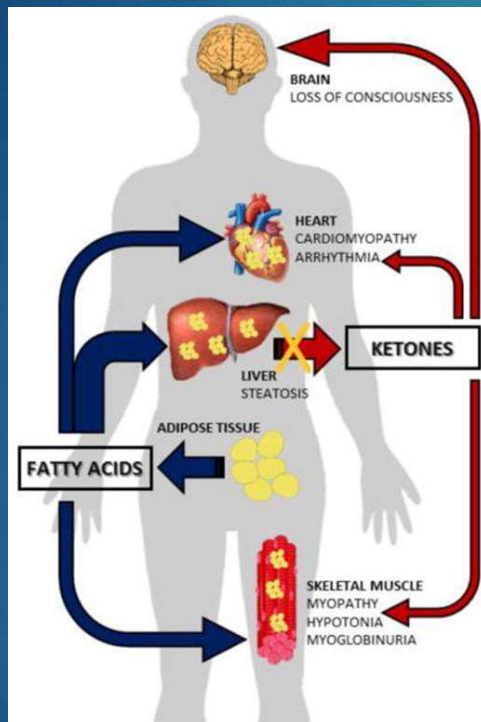
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Fatty acid oxidation comprises four components:

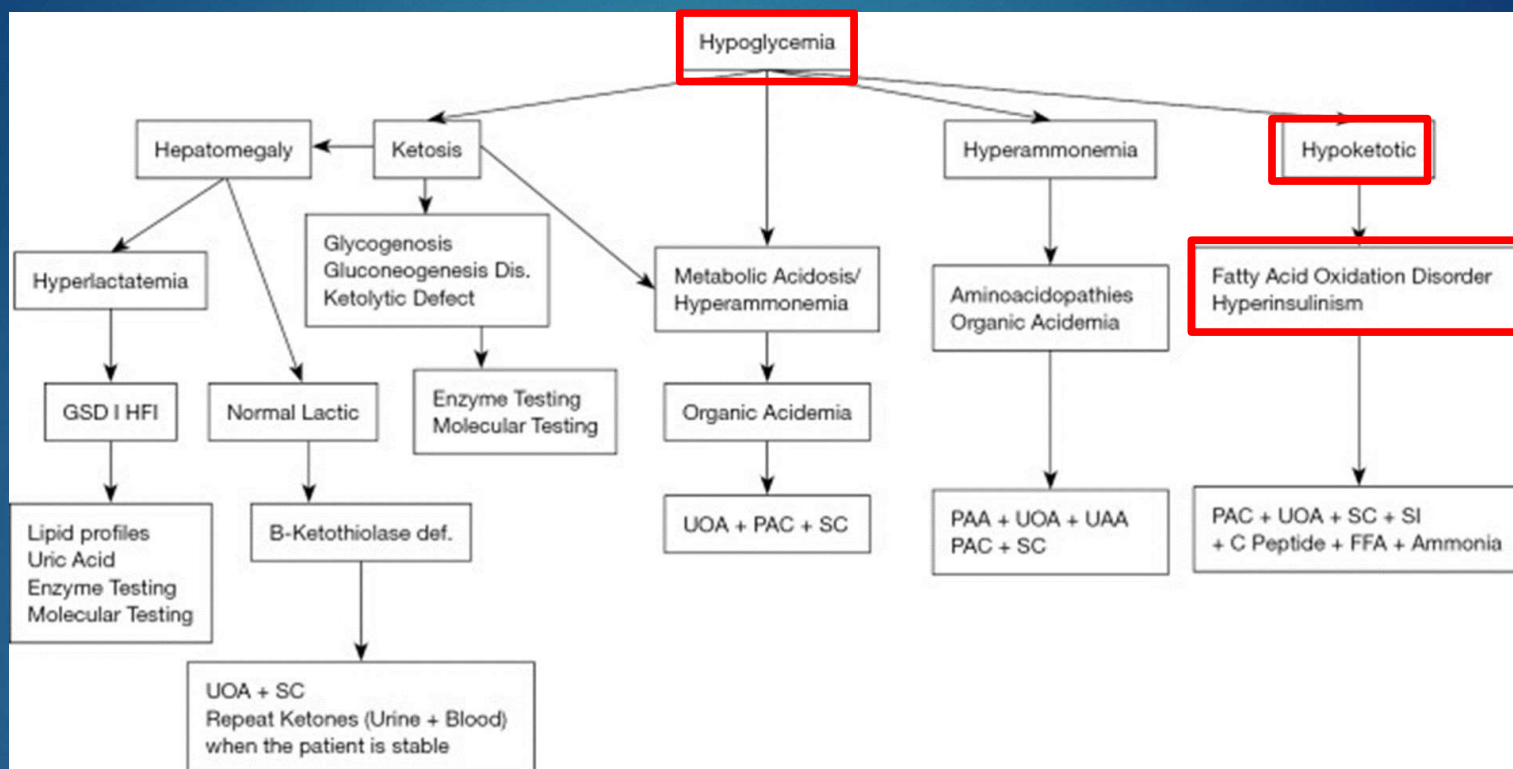
1. carnitine cycle
2. β -oxidation cycle
3. electron-transfer path
4. synthesis of ketone bodies



Fatty acid oxidation disorders



Defect	Clinical manifestations of defect			
	Hepatic	Cardiac	Skeletal muscle	
			Acute	Chronic
Carnitine cycle				
CTD	+	+		(+)
CPT-1	+			
Trans	+	+		+
CPT-2	+	+	(+)	+
β-Oxidation cycle				
Acyl-CoA dehydrogenases				
VLCAD	+	+	+	+
MCAD	+			
SCAD				+
3-Hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenases				
LCHAD	+	+	+	
SCHAD			+	+
MCKT			+	+
DER				+
Electron transfer				
ETF	+	+	(+)	+
ETF-DH	+	+	(+)	+
Ketone synthesis				
HMG-CoA synthase	+			
HMG-CoA lyase	+			



Fatty acid oxidation defects

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Disorders	Primary metabolite in MS/MS	Confirmatory tests / follow-up	Findings in confirmatory tests
Carnitine acylcarnitine translocase (CACT) deficiency	↑ C16–C18 acylcarnitines, ↓ Free carnitine	PACP, CK, glucose, NH3	↑ C16–C18 acylcarnitines on PACP; ↓ free carnitine, ↑ CK, ↓ glucose, ↑ NH3 on plasma
Carnitine palmitoyl transferase type 1 (CPT-1) deficiency	↓ C16–C18 acylcarnitines, ↓–↑ free carnitine	PACP, CK, glucose, NH3	↓ C16–C18 acylcarnitines on PACP; ↓–↑ free carnitine, ↑ CK, ↓ glucose, ↑ NH3 on plasma
Carnitine palmitoyl transferase type 2 (CPT-2) deficiency	↑ C16–C18 acylcarnitines, ↓ free carnitine	PACP, CK, glucose, NH3	↑ C16–C18 acylcarnitines on PACP; ↓ free carnitine, ↑ CK, ↓ glucose, ↑ NH3 on plasma
Carnitine uptake/ transporter defect	↓ C16–C18 acylcarnitines, ↓ free carnitine	PACP, urine carnitine, CK, glucose, NH3	↓ C16–C18 acylcarnitines on PACP; ↑ urine carnitine; ↓ free carnitine, ↑ CK, ↓ glucose, ↑ NH3 on plasma
3-Hydroxy long chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (LCHAD/MTP)	↑ Long chain 3-hydroxy acylcarnitines	PACP, UOA, CK, glucose, NH3	↑ Long chain 3-hydroxy acylcarnitines on PACP; ↑ 3-OH dicarboxylic acids on UOA; ↑ CK, ↓ Glucose, ↑ NH3 on plasma
Medium chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (MCAD) deficiency	↑ C8–C10 acylcarnitines	PACP, UOA, CK, glucose, NH3	↑ C8–C10 acylcarnitines on PACP; ↑ dicarboxylic acids, hexanoylglycine, phenylpropionylglycine and suberylglycine on UOA; ↑ CK, ↓ glucose, ↑ NH3 on plasma
Multiple acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (MADD) or glutaric acidemia-type 2	↑ Multiple acylcarnitines	PACP, UOA, CK, glucose, NH3	↑ Multiple acylcarnitines on PACP; ↑ glutaric, ethylmalonic, dicarboxylic acids, hexanoylglycine, phenylpropionylglycine and suberylglycine on UOA; ↑ CK, ↓ glucose, ↑ NH3 on plasma
Short chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (SCAD)	↑ Butyrylcarnitine (C4)	PACP, UOA	↑ Butyrylcarnitine on PACP; ↑ ethylmalonic, methylsuccinic, butyrylglycine on UOA
Very long chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (VLCAD)	↑ C14, C14:1, C14:2 acylcarnitines, ↓ Free carnitine	PACP, CK, glucose, NH3	↑ Long chain acylcarnitines on PACP; ↑ CK, ↓ glucose, ↑ NH3 on plasma

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Amino acid disorders

Amino acid disorders

Collectively affect approximately 1 in 8000 newborns.

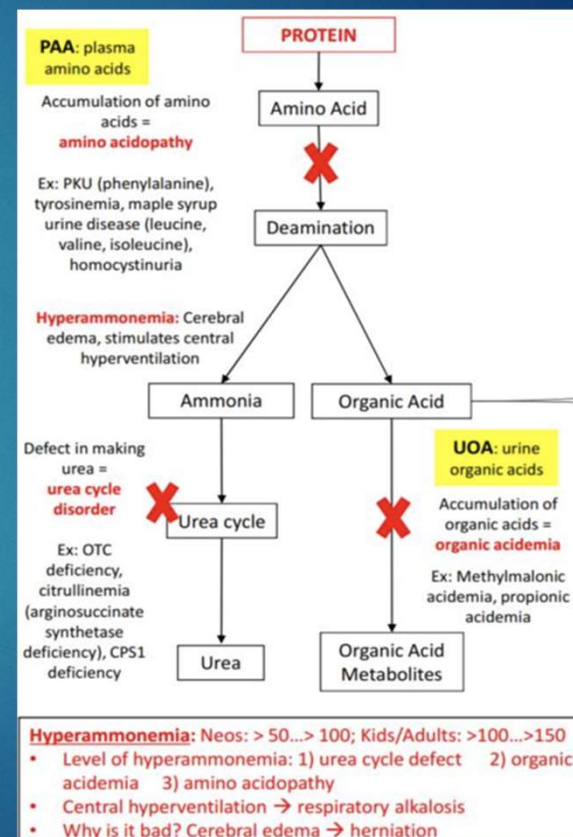
Almost all are transmitted as autosomal recessive traits.

Result from a lack of a specific enzyme in the metabolic pathway of an amino acid.

This leads either to the accumulation of (1) the parent amino acid, (2) its by-products or (3) the catabolic products (organic acids).

Disorders of amino acid metabolism are divided into two groups:

- (1) **Aminoacidopathies**, in which the parent amino acid accumulates in excess in blood and spills over into urine.
- (2) **Organic acidemias**, in which products in the catabolic pathway of certain amino acids accumulate.



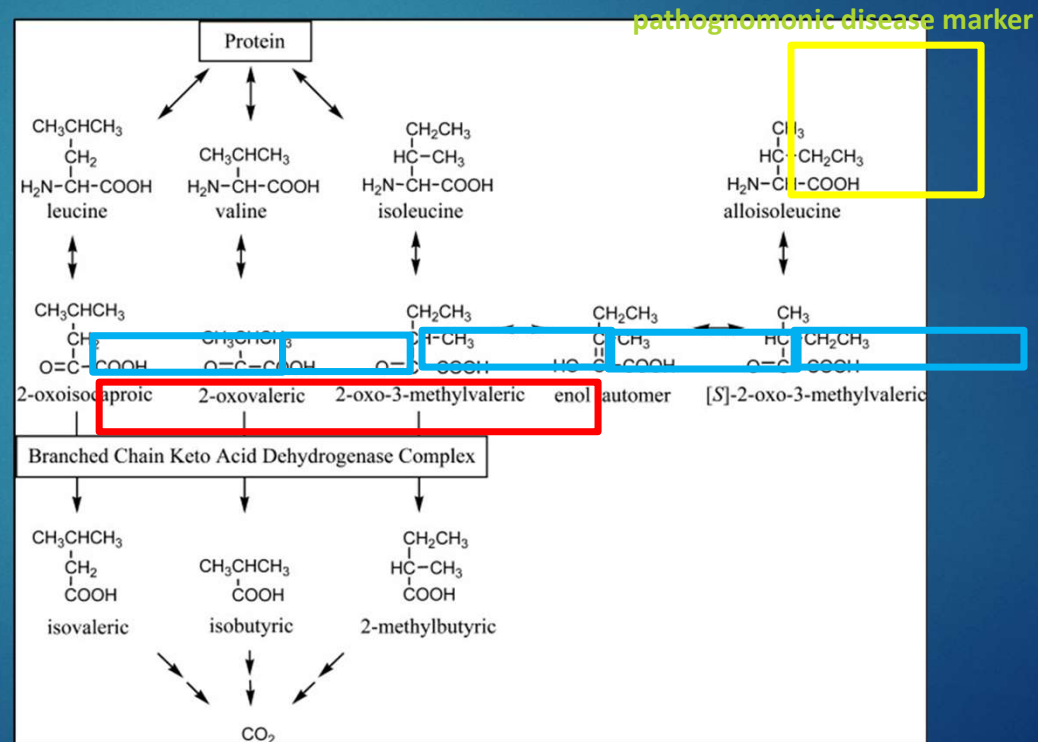
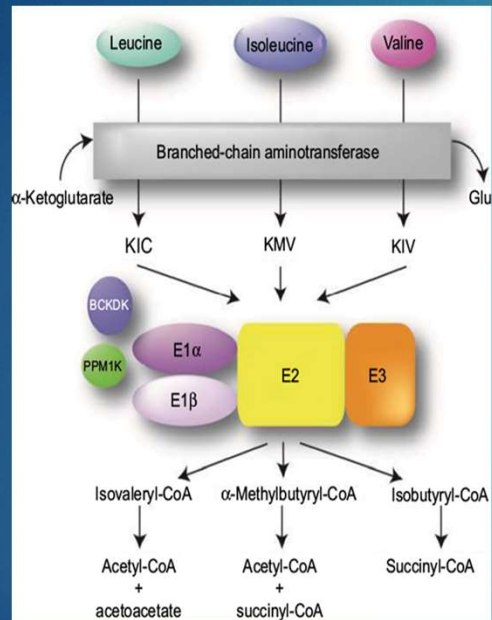
Aminoacidopathies

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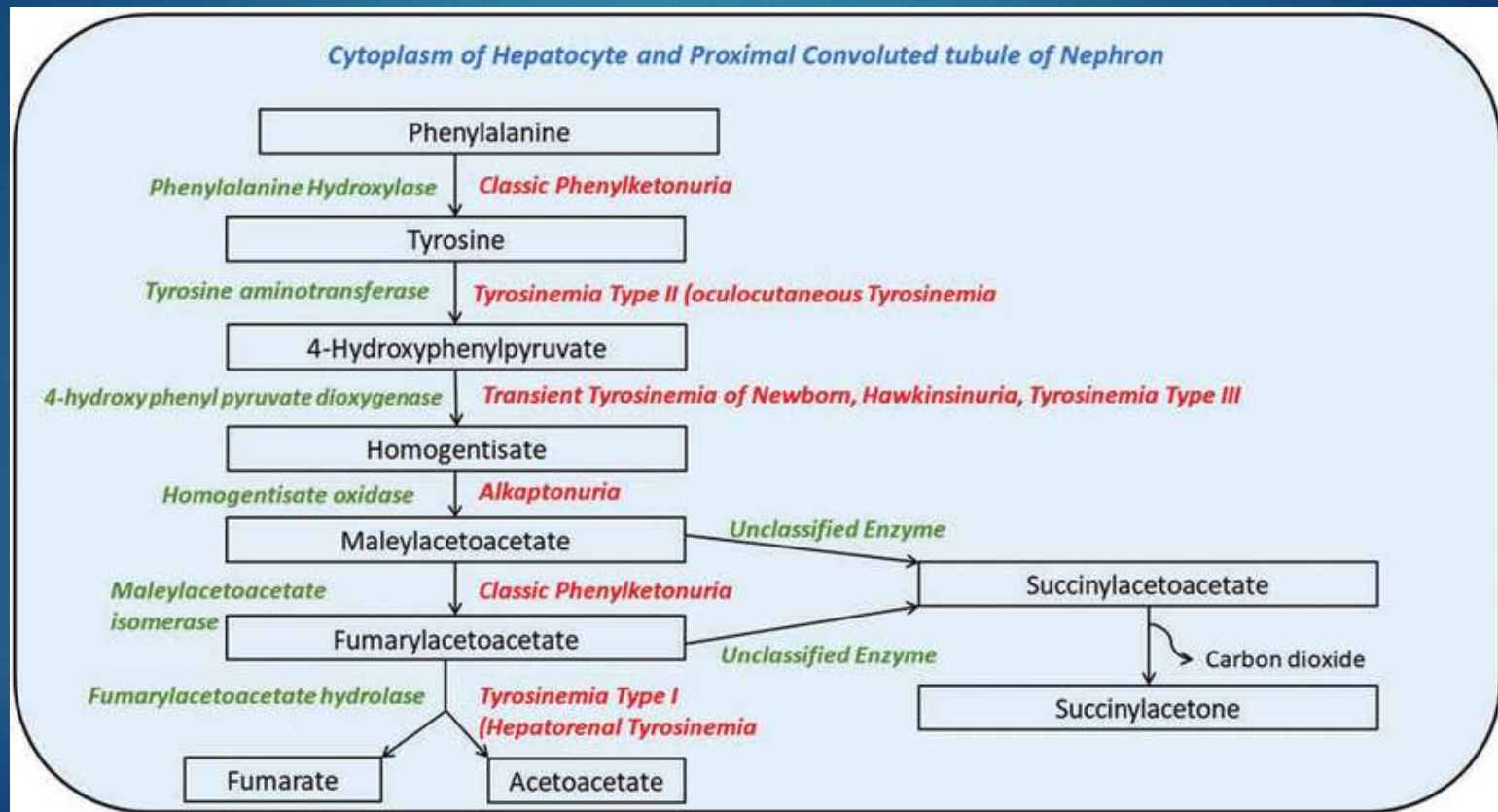
Disorders	Primary metabolite in MS/MS	Confirmatory tests / follow-up	Findings in confirmatory tests
Argininemia	↑ Arginine	Plasma NH ₃ , PAA, enzyme assay	↑ NH ₃ , ↑ arginine on PAA, ↓ hepatic arginase activity
Argininosuccinic aciduria (ASA)	↑ Citrulline	Plasma NH ₃ , UAA, PAA, enzyme assay	↑ NH ₃ , ↑ argininosuccinic acid on UAA and PAA, ↓ fibroblast/liver ASS activity
Citrullinemia Type 1 "Neonatal" citrullinemia	↑ Citrulline	Plasma NH ₃ , PAA	↑ NH ₃ , ↑ citrulline on PAA, ↓ fibroblast/liver ASS activity
Homocystinuria	↑ Methionine	PAA, Hcy in P, UAA, UOA	↑ Blood and urine homocyst(e)ine on PAA and UAA; ↑ urine methylmalonic acid on UOA in cobalamin C, D, F synthesis defects
Maple syrup urine disease (MSUD)	↑ total "Leucine, isoleucine, alloisoleucine ↑ Valine	PAA, Urine DNPH, UOA	↑ Leucine, isoleucine, alloisoleucine and valine on PAA; positive DNPH; ↑ branched chain α-keto and hydroxyl acids on UOA
Phenylketonuria	↑ Phenylalanine ↑ phenylalanine tyrosine ratio	PAA, urine and/or blood or CSF neopterin and biopterin studies	↑ Phenylalanine on PAA, ↑ phenylalanine/tyrosine ratio; abnormal urinary and/or blood or CSF pterins in BH ₄ synthesis defects
Tyrosinemia type 1	↑ Tyrosine	PAA, UOA	↑ Tyrosine and methionine on PAA; ↑ succinylacetone and tyrosine metabolites on UOA
Tyrosinemia type 2 Oculocutaneous tyrosinemia	↑ Tyrosine	PAA, UOA	↑ Tyrosine on PAA; ↑ tyrosine metabolites without increased succinylacetone on UOA

MSUD

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Tyrosine Metabolism Disorders



Alkaptonuria

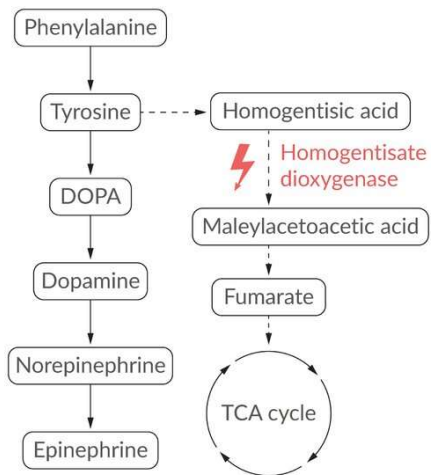
Etiology

Autosomal recessive inheritance
Mutation in the *HGD* gene
Impaired homogentisate dioxygenase

Treatment

Diet low in tyrosine and phenylalanine

Biochemical pathway



Tissue discoloration (ochronosis)

Organ damage

Mitral valve stenosis
Coronary artery disease
Nephrolithiasis
Degenerative changes in the vertebral column

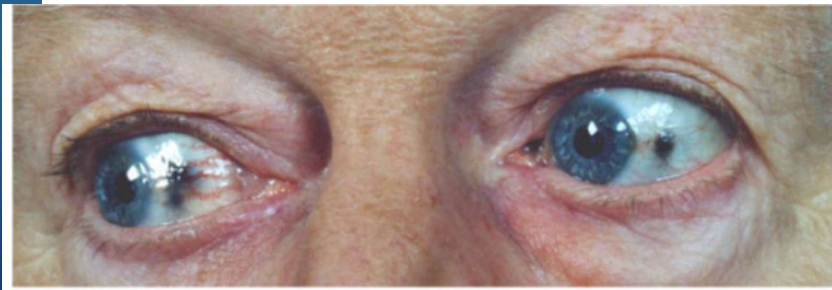
Arthritis

Eyes

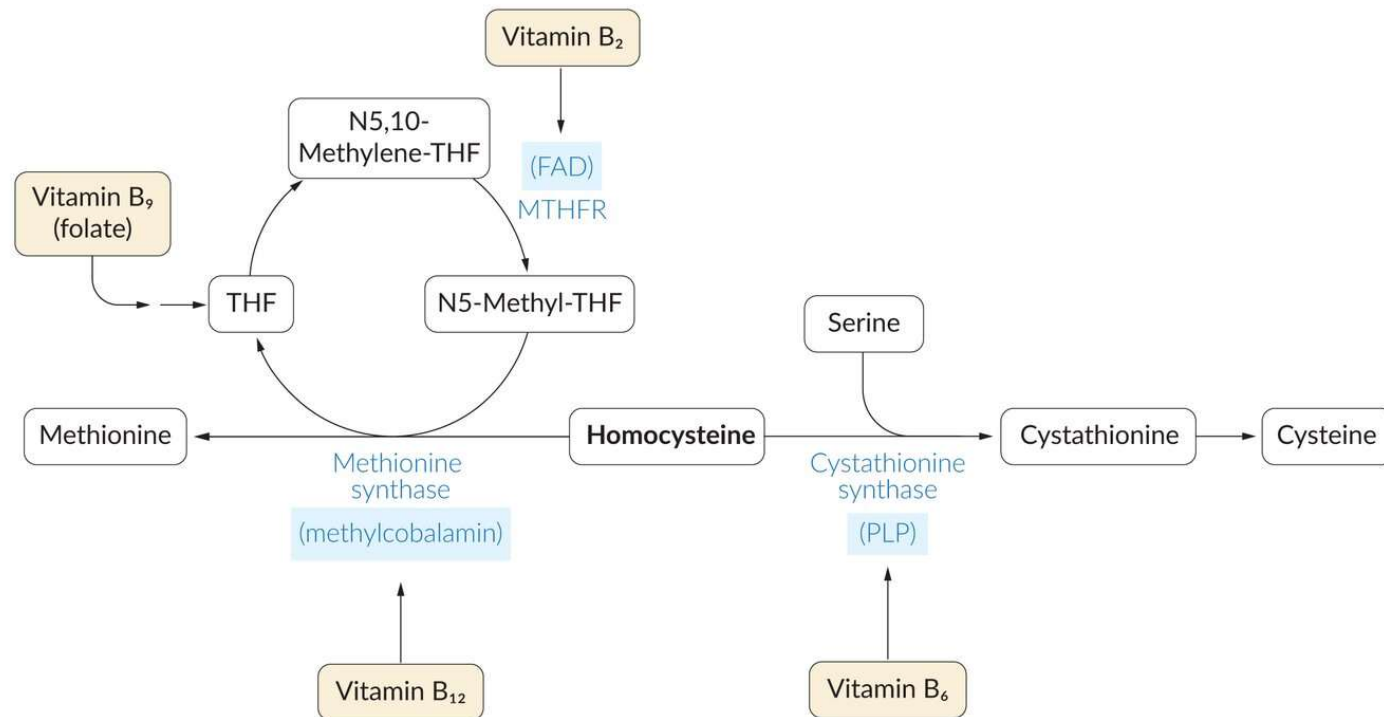
Skin

↑ Homogentisic acid
Normal tyrosine

Urine turns black when exposed to air



Homocystinuria



Homocystinuria

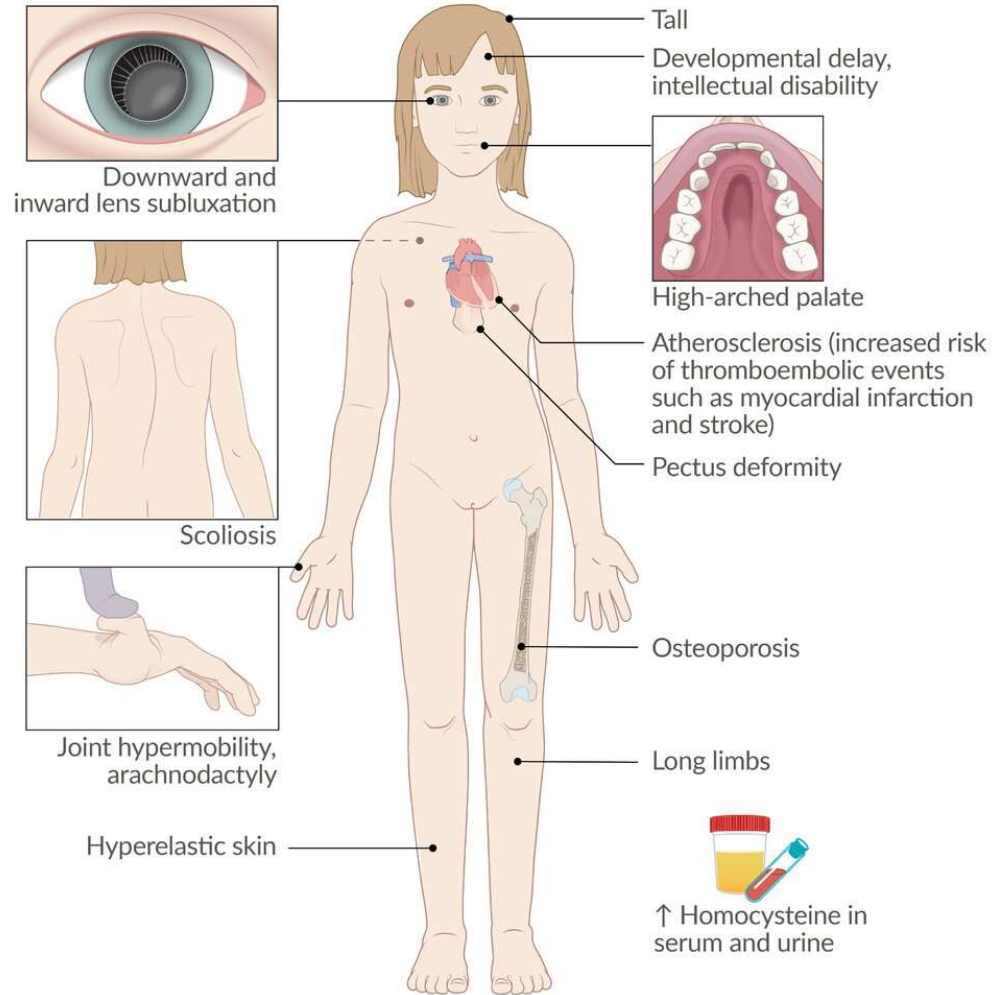
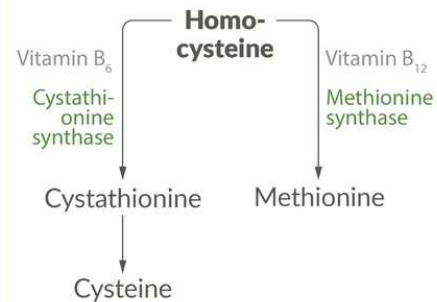
Etiology

- Most commonly, deficiency of:
 - Methionine synthase
 - Cystathionine synthase
- Autosomal recessive inheritance

Treatment

- Pyridoxine (vitamin B₆)
- Specific diet (e.g., high-methionine diet)

Biochemical pathway

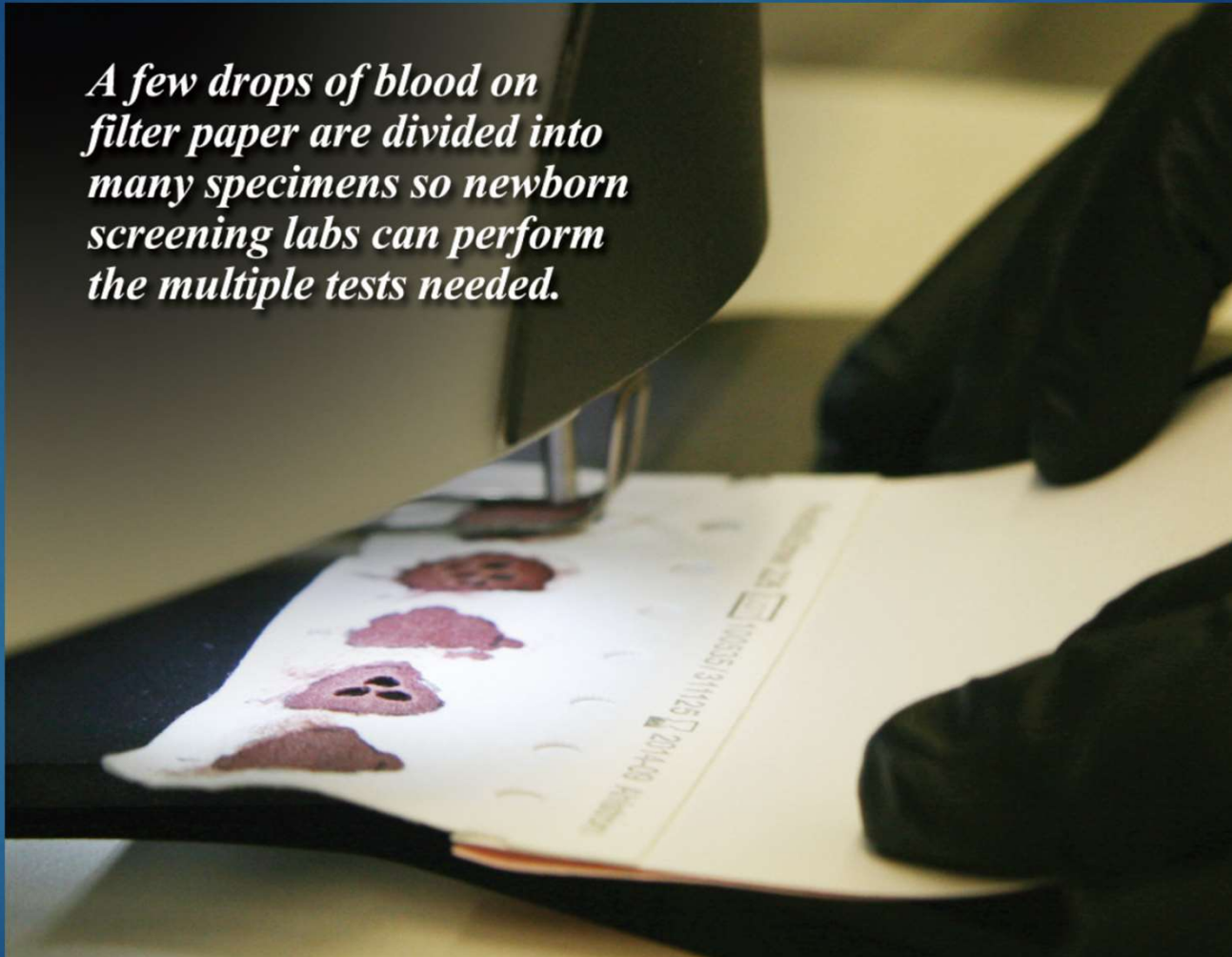


Organic acidemias

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Disorders	Primary metabolite in MS/MS	Confirmatory tests / follow-up	Findings in confirmatory tests
Glutaric aciduria 1 (GA I)	↑ Glutaryl carnitine (C5-dicarboxylic)	UOA, PACP	↑ Glutaric acid, 3-hydroxyglutaric acid, glutaconic acid on UOA; ↑ Glutaryl carnitine (C5-dicarboxylic) on PACP
HMG- CoA lyase deficiency	↑ 3- Hydroxyisovaleryl carnitine (C5-OH)	UOA, PACP	↑ 3-Hydroxyisovaleric, 3-methylglutaconic, 3-methylglutaric, 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaric acids on UOA; ↑ C5- Hydroxyisovaleryl carnitine (C5-OH), 3 methylglutaryl carnitine (C6DC) on PACP
Isovaleric acidemia	↑ Isovaleryl carnitine (C5)	UOA, PACP	↑ Isovalerylglycine, 3-hydroxyisovaleric acid on UOA; ↑ isovaleryl carnitine (C5) on PACP
3-Keto(oxo) thiolase deficiency	↑ Tiglyl carnitine (C5:1), ↑ 3-hydroxy-2-methylbutyryl carnitine (C5-OH)	UOA, PACP	↑ 2-Methyl-3- hydroxybutyrate, 2 methylacetoacetic, tiglylglycine on UOA; ↑ tiglyl carnitine (C5:1), ↑ 3-hydroxy-2-methylbutyryl carnitine (C5-OH) on PACP
3-MCC deficiency	↑ 3- Hydroxyisovaleryl carnitine (C5-OH)	UOA, PACP	↑ 3-Hydroxyisovaleric, 3-methylcrotonylglycine on UOA; ↑ 3- hydroxyisovaleryl carnitine (C5-OH) on PACP
2-Methylbutyryl CoA dehydrogenase	↑ 2-Methylbutyryl carnitine (C5)	UOA	↑ 2-Methylbutyrylglycine on PACP
3-Methylglutanoyl CoA hydratase deficiency	↑ 3 Hydroxyisovaleryl carnitine (C5-OH)	UOA, PACP	↑ 3-Hydroxyisovaleric, 3-methylglutaconic, 3-methylglutaric on UOA; ↑ 3 hydroxyisovaleryl carnitine (C5-OH) on PACP
Methylmalonic acidemia	↑ Propionyl carnitine (C3)	UOA, PACP	Methylmalonic, 3-hydroxypropionate, methylcitrate, propionylglycine on UOA; ↑ propionyl carnitine (C3) on PACP
Multiple CoA carboxylase deficiency	↑ Propionyl carnitine (C3), ↑ 3-hydroxyisovaleryl carnitine (C5-OH)	UOA, PACP	↑ 3-OH-isovaleric, 3-methylcrotonylglycine, methylcitrate, 3-OH-propionic, lactate, pyruvate, acetoacetate, 3-OH-butyrate on UOA; ↑ propionyl carnitine (C3), ↑ 3 hydroxyisovaleryl carnitine (C5-OH) on PACP
Propionic acidemia	↑ Propionyl carnitine (C3)	UOA, PACP	↑ 3-Hydroxypropionate, methylcitrate, propionylglycine; ↑ propionyl carnitine (C3) on PACP

A few drops of blood on filter paper are divided into many specimens so newborn screening labs can perform the multiple tests needed.



Each year, **12,500**
babies with
serious but
treatable
conditions grow
up healthy.

Thanks to newborn screening.



Thanks



References

- ▶ <https://www.chem.pitt.edu/facilities/mass-spectrometry/mass-spectrometry-introduction0>
- ▶ <https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/76164>
- ▶ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7896279/>
- ▶ <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsomega.9b03764>
- ▶ https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~traceslab/PDFs/MassSpec_QuadsInfo.pdf
- ▶ <https://www.technologynetworks.com/analysis/articles/how-a-mass-spectrometer-works-types-of-instrumentation-and-interpreting-mass-spectral-data-347878>
- ▶ Fire Debris Analysis, Book (2008), CHAPTER 8 - Gas Chromatography and Gas Chromatography—Mass Spectrometry, Eric Stauffer, Julia A. Dolan, Reta Newman.