The Virtual Free Radical School

Regulation of Vitamin E, a Nutritional Antioxidant

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RRR-α-Tocopherol



Vitamin E

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Naturally Occurring Tocopherols





Vitamin E Functions

- Specific role in a required metabolic function has not been found
- Major function appears to be as a fatsoluble, "chain-breaking" antioxidant
 - Peroxyl radical scavenger
 - Protects polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) within membranes and lipoproteins



Polyunsaturated fat

Burton & Traber. Annu. Rev. Nutr. 10: 357-382; 1990

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Potential Cellular/Molecular Mechanisms of Vitamin E

- Endothelial cells
 - Adhesion, NO production, superoxide production
- Smooth muscle cells
 - Proliferation
- Macrophages
 - Adhesion, invasion, signaling recruitment, ROS production
- Platelets
 - Adhesion, aggregation, clotting

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Vitamin E Biologic Activity in Humans

- Absorption & Chylomicron Catabolism
 - All forms absorbed and transported to liver
- Lipoprotein Transport
 - All lipoproteins transport vitamin E
- Liver Trafficking
 - $\rightarrow \alpha$ -Tocopherol specifically secreted into plasma
- Metabolism
 - Vitamin E metabolites are NOT oxidation products

Brigelius-Flohe, R. and M.G. Traber. Faseb J. 13: 1145-1155, 1999.

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Traber, M.G. 1999. Vitamin E. In *Modern Nutrition in Health and Disease*. M. E. Shils, J. A. Olson, M. Shike, and A. C. Ross, eds. Williams & Wilkins. Baltimore. 347-362.

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Preferential Secretion of α–Tocopherol in VLDL and Its Delivery to Tissues



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Regulation of Liver Vitamin E



Kayden, H.J. and M.G. Traber. J. Lipid Res. 34: 343-358, 1993.

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Vitamin E Deficiency in Humans

- Malabsorption Syndromes
 - Abetalipoproteinemia
 - Cholestatic Liver Disease
 - Cystic Fibrosis
 - Short Bowel Syndrome
 - Total Parenteral Nutrition
- Genetic Abnormalities in α-Tocopherol Transfer Protein
 - Familial Isolated Vitamin E Deficiency (FIVE)

Friedreich's Ataxia Variants (AVED)

Traber, M.G. 1999. Vitamin E. In *Modern Nutrition in Health and Disease*. M. E. Shils, J. A. Olson, M. Shike, and A. C. Ross, eds. Williams & Wilkins. Baltimore. p347-362. Vitamin E Oxygen Society Education Program Traber 14 Clinical Features and Associated Neuromuscular Lesions in Human Vitamin E Deficiency

Loss of Position and Vibratory Sensation

- Peripheral Nerve
- Posterior Columns
- Ataxia
 - → Cerebellum
 - Spinocerebellar tracts
- Weakness
 - Skeletal Muscle

Traber, M.G. 1999. Vitamin E. In *Modern Nutrition in Health and Disease*. M. E. Shils, J. A. Olson, M. Shike, and A. C. Ross, eds. Williams & Wilkins. Baltimore. p347-362.

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Plasma deuterated α-tocopherol concentrations in controls and subject with ataxia with vitamin E deficiency (AVED)



Traber, M.G. et al. J Clin Invest. 85: 397-407, 1990.

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Vitamin E Definition

- Recommended intakes limited to the 2*R*stereoisomer forms of α-tocopherol
 - \rightarrow *RRR*- α -tocopherol
 - \rightarrow Half of the stereoisomers in *all rac*- α -tocopherol
 - No other forms such as γ–tocopherol or tocotrienols meet vitamin E requirement
- All forms of supplemental α-tocopherol used to establish the UL(upper limit)

Food and Nutrition Board and Institute of Medicine. 2000. *Dietary Reference Intakes for Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Selenium, and Carotenoids*. National Academy Press. Washington, DC.

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Estimated Average Requirement (EAR) and Recommended Daily Allowance (RDAs) for

<u>α-Tocopherol (mg/day)</u>

Life Stage	EAR	RDA
19+ yrs, M	12	15
19+ yrs, F	12	15
Pregnancy	12	15
Lactation	16	19

Food and Nutrition Board and Institute of Medicine. 2000. *Dietary Reference Intakes for Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Selenium, and Carotenoids*. National Academy Press. Washington, DC.

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Plasma α-Tocopherol in Response to Vitamin E Supplements



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Vitamin E Metabolites



2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2(2'-carboxy-ethyl)-6-hydroxychroman



2,7,8-trimethyl-2(2'-carboxy-ethyl)-6-hydroxychroman

Schultz, M. *et al. Am J. Clin. Nutr.* 62: 1527S-1534S, 1995. Wechter, W.J. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*. 93: 6002-6007, 1996.



- Vitamin E requirement in humans limited to α-tocopherol
- Liver controls plasma vitamin E concentrations
 α-TTP facilitates α-tocopherol secretion into plasma
- Vitamin E deficiency results from genetic defects in α–TTP
- Vitamin E metabolism may be important in regulating liver vitamin E