

## Brain Energy Metabolism I



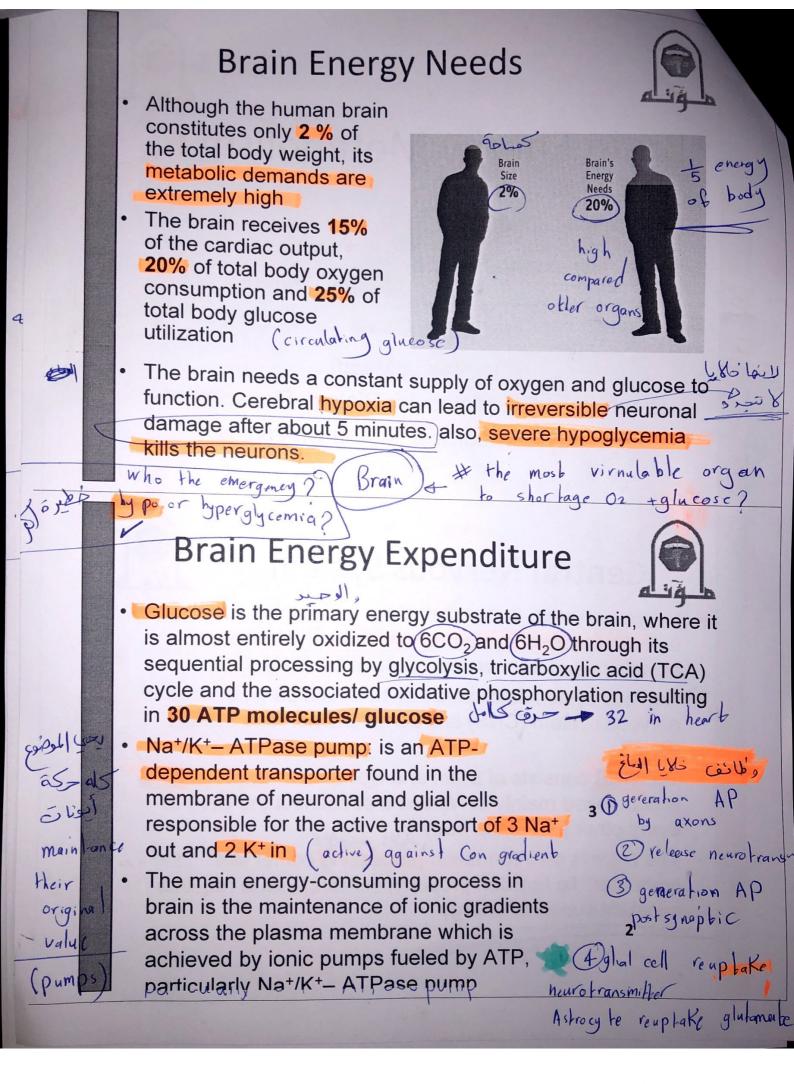
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### Central Nervous System

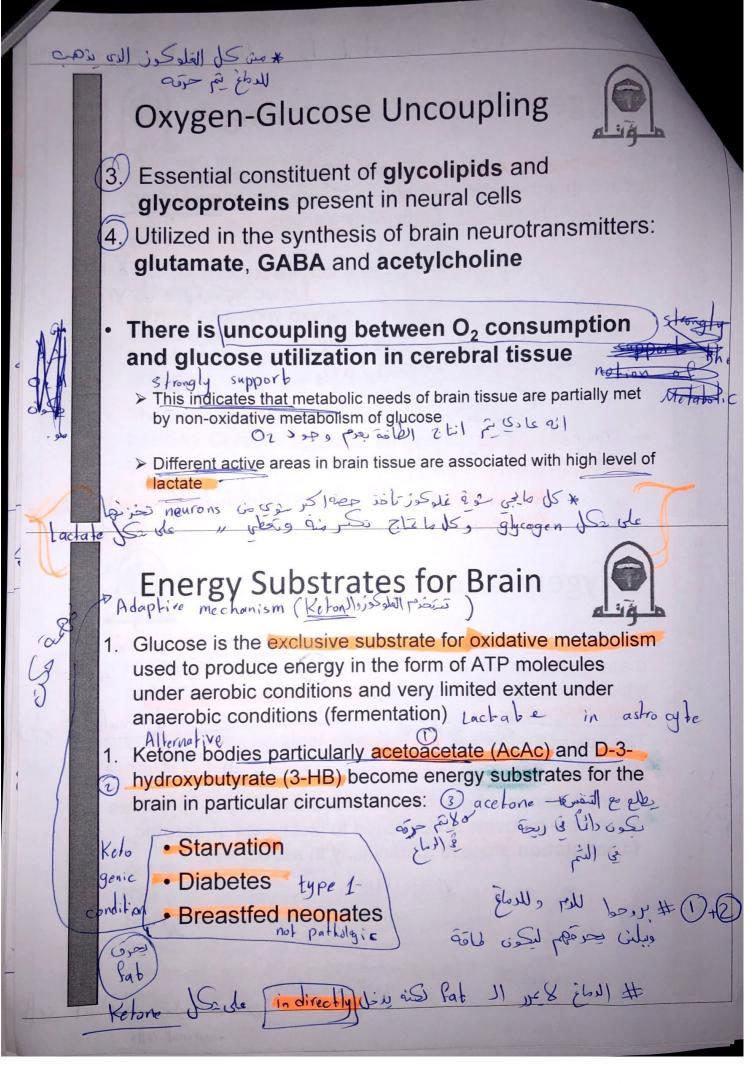


- Nervous system is that part of our body which coordinates all voluntary and involuntary missions and transmits signals to and from various parts of the body
- Nervous system is divided into two main parts: central nervous system (CNS) and peripheral nervous system (PNS)
- The <u>CNS</u> consists of *Brain* and *Spinal cord* whereas <u>PNS</u> is composed mainly of *Nerves* that connect the CNS to every other part of the body
- The brain is an information processing center like computer. To function properly, cerebral tissue requires constant supply of energy





+neuronal cells



### **Energy Substrates for Brain**



- 3. Other substrates like mannose, pyruvate and lactate have been tested as alternative substrates to glucose for brain energy metabolism:
- Mannose: it can cross BBB readily but is not normally present in the blood so it has no physiological significance

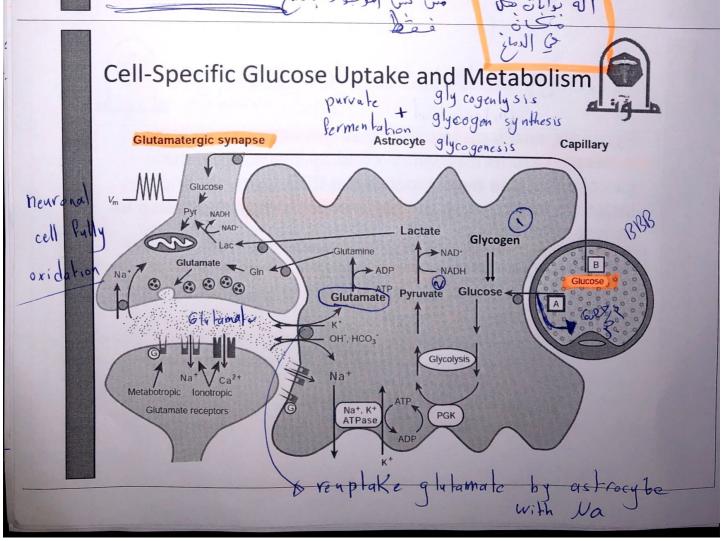
# Energy Substrates for Brain



Pyruvate and lactate: when these monocarboxylate
 molecules are formed within cerebral tissues from the
 glucose that has been crossed the BBB, pyruvate and
 lactate in fact become the preferential energy substrates for
 activated neurons.

### **Energy Substrates for Brain**

- Until recently, circulating pyruvate and lactate
  was thought that they have limited permeability
  across BBB thus circulating pyruvate and
  lactate can't serve as substrates for brain
  energy metabolism (several contradictory
  studies ???)
- For example, vigorous exercise resulting in increased blood lactate level which is then taken up by the brain and fully oxidized by the brain cells (Dalsgaard, 2006). So, the circulating lactate can be utilized as energy substrate for human brain



# Glycolysis is mediated by Glutamate Reuptake

- The basal rate of glucose utilization is high in astrocytes than in neurons
- In astrocytes, glucose utilization is mediated by glutamate reuptake via specific transporters
- Glutamate is co-transported with Na<sup>+</sup> ions which increases intracellular Na<sup>+</sup> concentration
- This activates Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup> ATPase pump and consequently induces glycolysis
- Hence, neuronal activity is coupled with glucose utilization in brain
- Indeed, during activation there is an increase in lactate release by astrocytes to be utilized by neurons

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