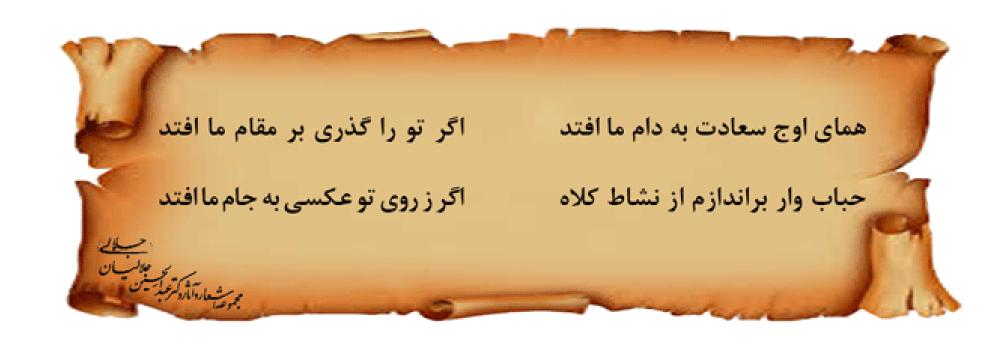


# Metabolic Response to Stress, Critical illness and Starvation



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Autumn 1403

Pediatric Intensine Care Event , SHIRAZ , Autumn 1403



# **Body Composition**

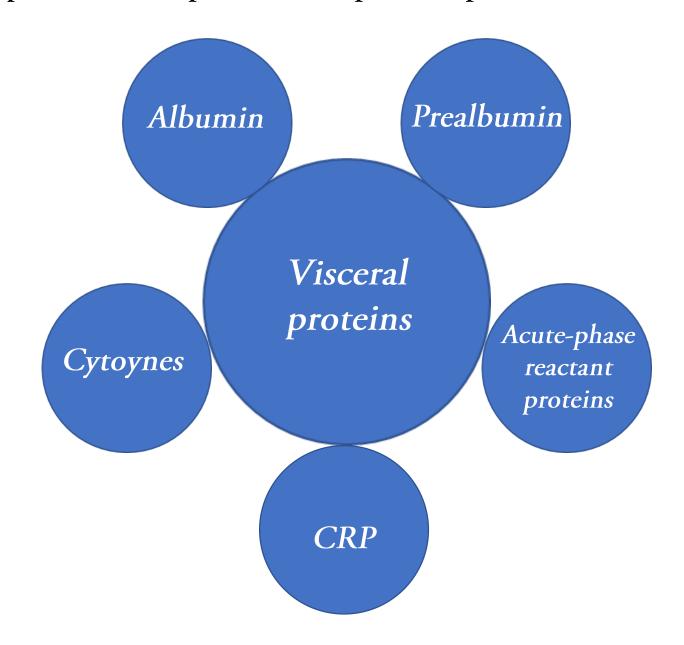
• The characteristic protein catabolism seen in the metabolic stress response may cause significant alterations in body composition.

Malnutrition
inflammatory states
impaired hepatic synthetic function



Low circulating levels of visceral protein

Visceral proteins are rapid turnover proteins produced in the liver.



## serum albumin

- reliability as a marker of visceral protein status is questionable.
- A large pool
- half-life of 14 to 20 days
- it is not an indicator of the concurrent nutritional status.
- Serum albumin, independent of nutritional status, may be affected by:

changes in fluid status

albumin infusion

sepsis

trauma

liver disease

## prealbumin

- a circulating glycoprotein synthesized in the liver
- a good marker for the visceral protein pool.
- a half-life of 24 to 48 hours
- reflects more acute nutritional change.
- Prealbumin concentration is diminished in liver disease.

## Acute phase reactant proteins

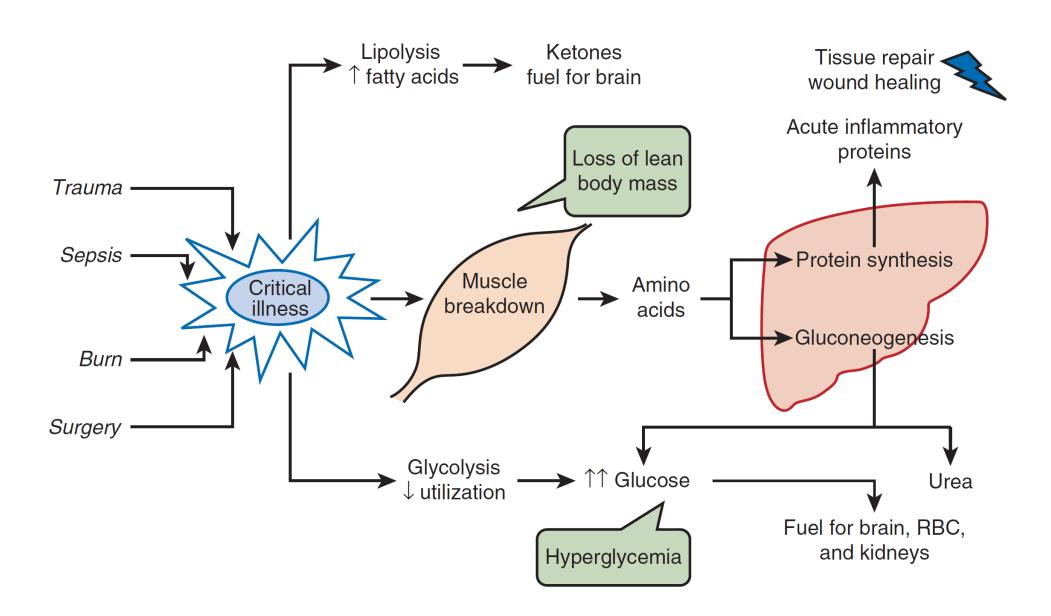
- elevated proportional to the severity of injury
- elevated in response to cytokines released during stress response
- have been used to monitor the inflammatory response.

• *prealbumin* and *CRP* are inversely related.



• In infants after surgery, decreases in serum CRP values to less than 2 mg/dL have been associated increases in serum prealbumin levels.

# Metabolic Consequences of Critical Illness



Any critical illness (sepsis trauma, burns, septic shock, etc)



**Hypercatabolic state** 



increase in circulating catabolic hormones increase in inflammatory cytokines

insulin resistance (reduced glucose oxidation, hyperglycemia, storage as hepatic glycogen)

severe infection, trauma, major surgery



hormonal and metabolic changes, systemic inflammatory response



activation of sympathetic nervous system hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis



**Nutritional disturbance** 



changes in glucose and lipid metabolism, increased protein turnover and breakdown



increased energy expenditure (EE), negative nitrogen balance, muscle protein loss

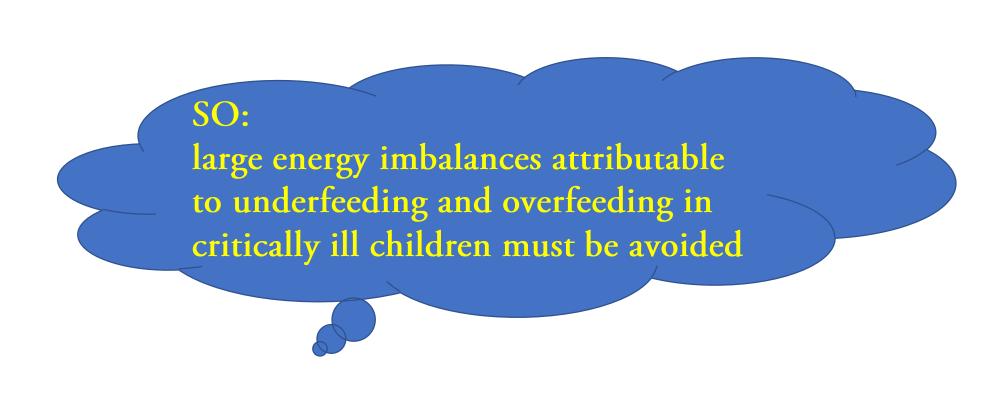
Respiratory compromise

(due to loss of respiratory muscle mass)

cardiac dysfunction and arrhythmias (due to loss of myocardial muscle tissue)

morbidity and mortality of critical illness

intestinal dysfunction
(due to loss of the gut barrier)



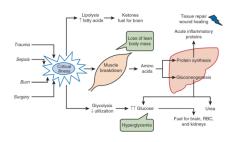
### Critical Illness:

Insulin
Glucagon
Cortisol
Catecholamines
GH
Aldosteron
ADH
Proinflammatory cytokines.

## Critical Illness:

By interaction between the nervous, endocrine, and immunologic systems:

- Peripheral resistance to growth hormone action
- reduction in insulin-like growth factor (IGF)-1 secretion
- Increased counter-regulating hormone
- insulin- and growth hormone–resistant states (a characteristic sign of stress)
- protein catabolism and the utilization of carbohydrate and fat stores
- increased basal metabolic rate.



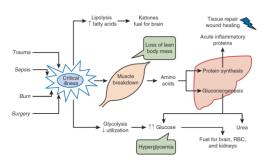
### Increased serum counterregulatory hormone concentrations



induce insulin and growth hormone resistance



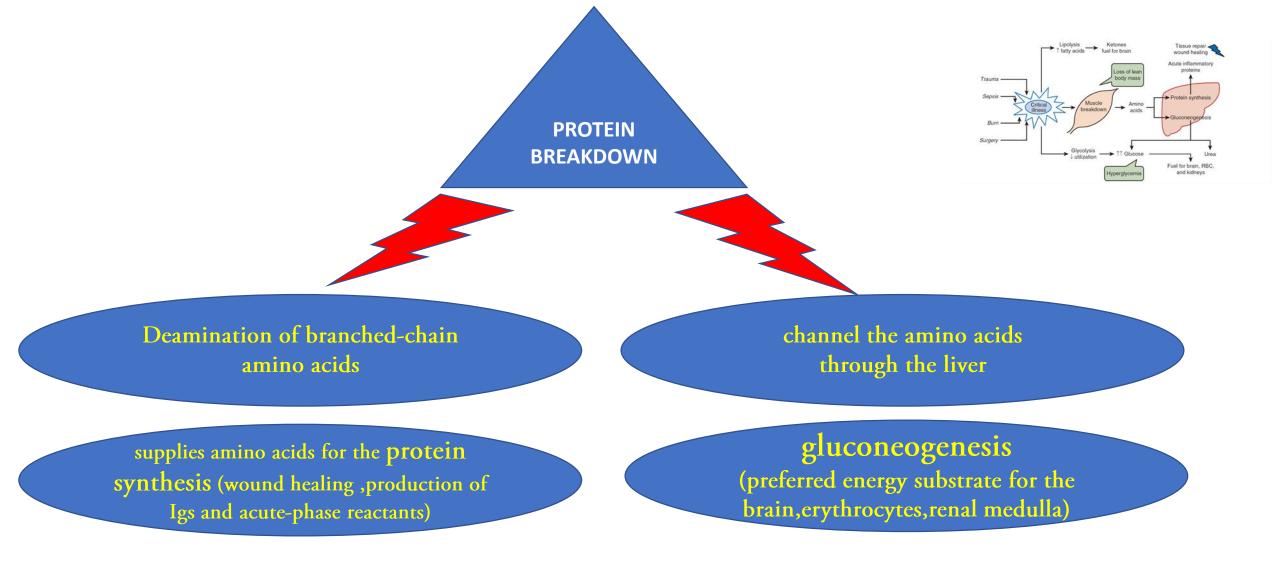
catabolism of endogenous stores of protein, carbohydrate, and fat



# increase in muscle protein degradation (characteristic of the metabolic stress response)

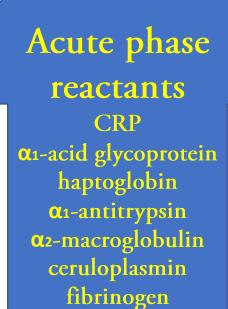


high concentration of free amino acids in the circulation.



Overall: net negative protein balance.

# In summary, the metabolic response to critical illness results in glucose and lipid intolerance and increased protein breakdown



Reprioritization of protein during metabolic stress, injury or sepsis

transferrin and albumin

# **Starvation Vs Stress**

#### TABLE 99.2

#### **Metabolic Stress Versus Starvation**

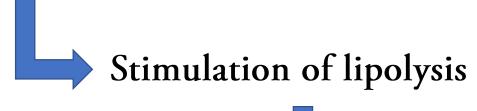
Metabolic Stress	Starvation
$\uparrow \uparrow$	$\leftrightarrow \downarrow$
$\uparrow \uparrow$	$\downarrow$
$\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$	$\leftrightarrow$
$\uparrow \uparrow$	$\leftrightarrow$
Rapid	Slow
Early	Late
Protein catabolism continues	Protein catabo- lism halted
$\uparrow \uparrow$	<b>\</b>
$\uparrow \uparrow$	$\leftrightarrow$
$\uparrow$	<b>\</b>
	↑↑  ↑↑  ↑↑  Rapid  Early  Protein catabolism continues  ↑↑

#### SIMPLE VERSUS STRESS STARVATION

	<ul><li>SIMPLE STARVATION (&gt;72 H)</li></ul>	<ul><li>STRESS STARVATION</li></ul>
Metabolic rate	$\downarrow$	1
Protein catabolism (relatively)	↓	<b>↑</b>
Protein synthesis (relatively)	↓	<b>↑</b>
Protein turnover	$\downarrow$	<b>↑</b>
Nitrogen balance	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow\downarrow$
Gluconeogenesis	$\downarrow$	1
Ketosis	$\uparrow \uparrow$	None
Glucose turnover	$\downarrow$	<b>↑</b>
Blood glucose	$\downarrow$	<b>↑</b>
Salt and water retention	?	$\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$
Plasma albumin	None	$\downarrow \downarrow$

## Response of adipose tissue to critical illness

### Stress response

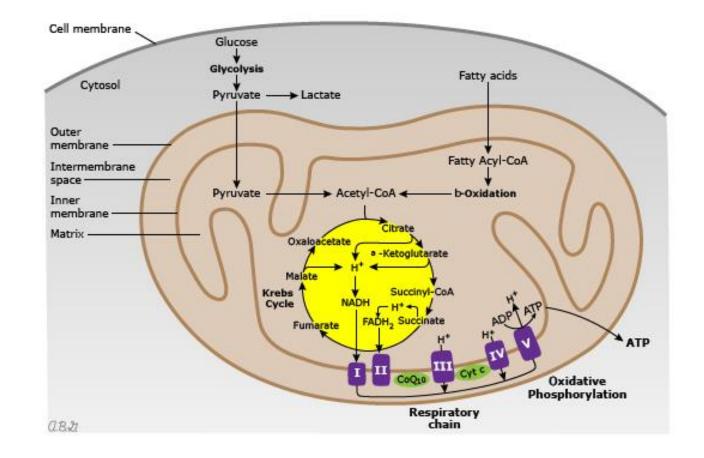


hormone-sensitive lipase

Triglycerides \_\_\_\_\_ fatty acids and glycerol

gluconeogenesis

- Fatty acids are oxidized by β-oxidation in the liver generating acetylcoenzyme A for energy production in the tricarboxylic acid cycle and mitochondrial electron transport chain.
- the provision of dietary glucose does not decrease fatty acid turnover in times of illness.



- The increased demand for lipid use in the setting of limited lipid stores puts the metabolically stressed neonate or previously malnourished child at high risk for the development of essential fatty acid deficiency.
- Preterm infants are most at risk for developing essential fatty acid deficiency after a short period of a fat-free nutritional regimen.
- Nutritional therapy should support the metabolic changes occurring during the acute catabolic stage.

## And after resolution ...

resolution of a hypermetabolic stress response



anabolic phase



increased release of growth hormone and IGF-1

Supply of adequate nutrition is essential for this recovery phase

