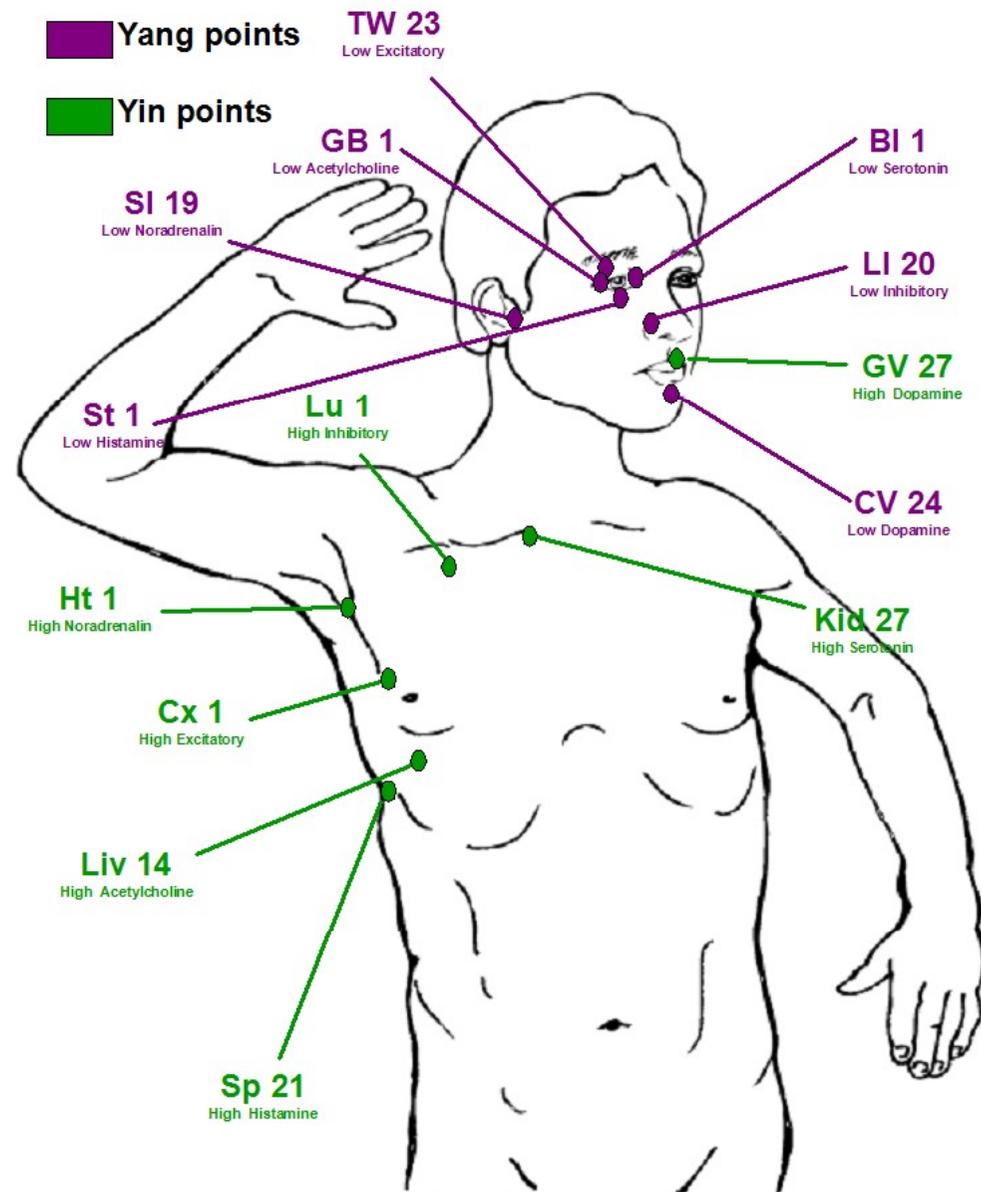


**ICAK**  
**Nutrition Course**  
**Neurotransmitters**  
**Module 9**

# **Meridians B&E Points**

**Yang points  
begin or end  
on the face.**

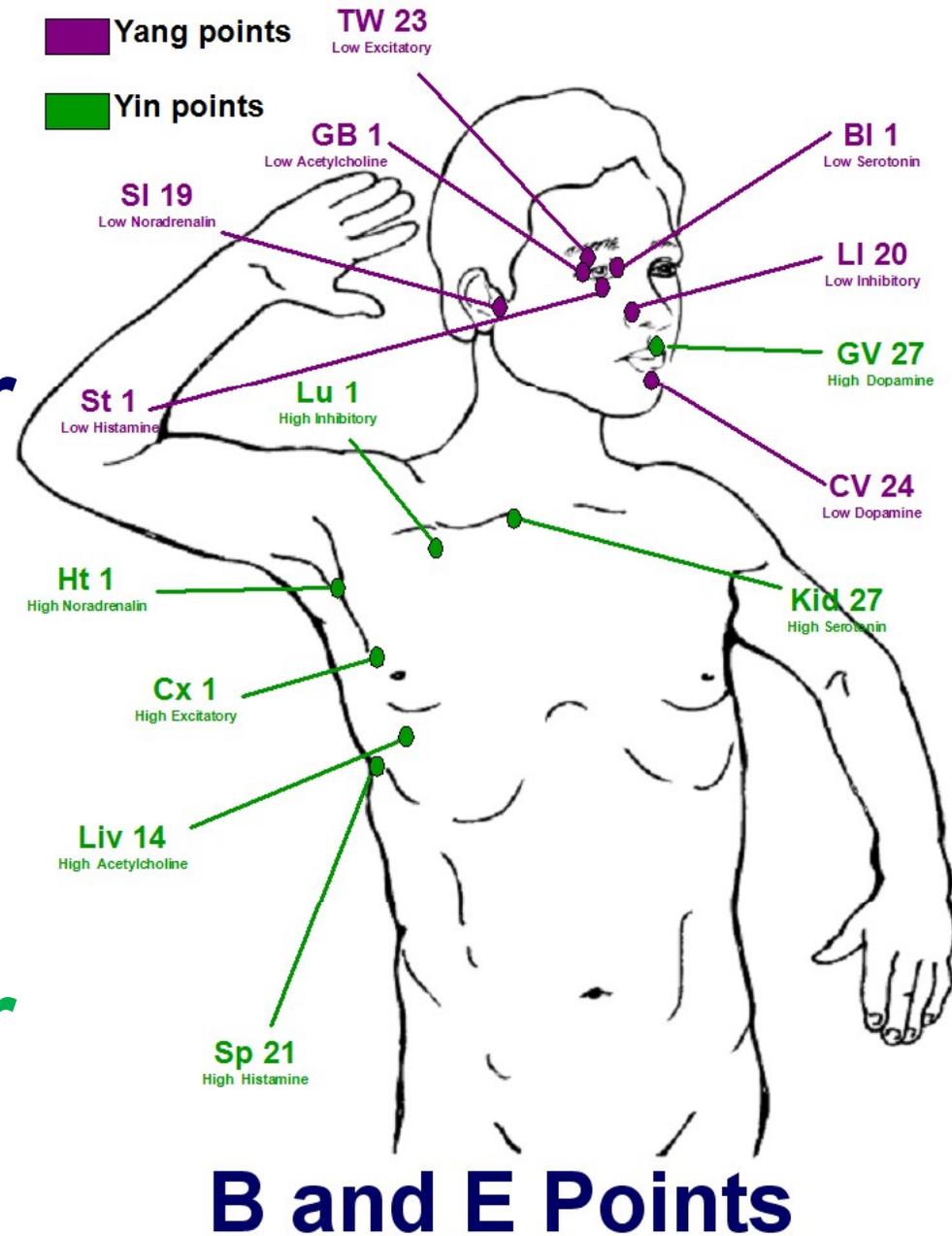
**Yin points  
begin or end  
on the trunk.**



## **B and E Points**

**Yang points  
indicate  
neurotransmitter  
deficiencies.**

**Yin points  
indicate  
neurotransmitter  
excesses**



A meridian should be thought of reflecting its **physiological function** rather than just the organ its named after.

# **How the Nervous System Communicates**

**Nerves** talk to each other by secreting specific chemicals called neurotransmitters.

The message is transmitted by electricity just like a telephone.

**Neurotransmitters** are chemicals made by neurons and used by them to transmit signals to the other neurons or non-neuronal cells

(e.g., skeletal muscle, myocardium, pineal glandular cells etc) that they innervate.

The neurotransmitters produce their effects by being released into synapses when their neuron of origin fires (**i.e., becomes depolarized**)

and then attaching to receptors in the membrane of the post-synaptic cells.

This causes changes in the fluxes of particular ions across that membrane, making cells more likely to become depolarized, if the neurotransmitter happens to be **excitatory,**  
**or stimulatory**  
or less likely if it is **inhibitory.**

Neurotransmitters can also produce their effects by modulating the production of other **signal-transducing** molecules ("second messengers" such as **cAMP, cGMP, Phosphatidylinositol**) in the post-synaptic cells.

**Ten compounds** -- belonging to three chemical families -- are generally believed to function as neurotransmitters somewhere in the central nervous system or periphery.

**Excitatory**

**Aspartic acid**

**Glutamic acid**

**Stimulatory**

**Acetylcholine**

**Noradrenalin**

**Dopamine**

**Serotonin**

**Histamine**

**Inhibitory** **GABA, Glycine, Taurine**

In addition, certain other body chemicals, for example

**adenosine,**

**enkephalins,**

**endorphins,**

**nitric oxide**

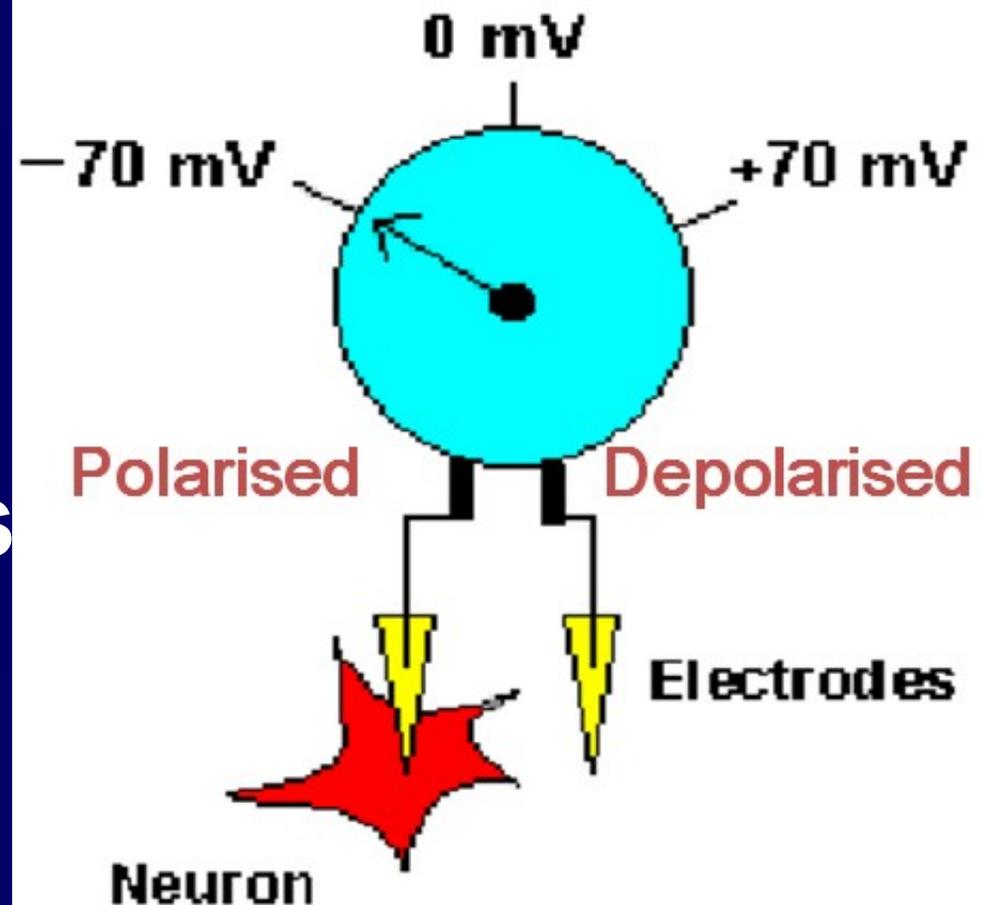
have neurotransmitter-like properties.

**Glutamic acid and GABA** are the most abundant neurotransmitters within the central nervous system, particularly in the cerebral cortex; glutamic acid tends to be excitatory and GABA inhibitory. Aspartic acid and glycine subserve these functions in the spinal cord.

Once released into the synapse,  
each neurotransmitter combines  
chemically with one or more  
highly **specific receptors**;

these are protein molecules which  
are imbedded in the post-synaptic  
membrane.

This interaction can affect the **electrical properties** of the post-synaptic cell, its chemical properties, or both.



When a **Neuron** is in its resting state, it sustains a voltage of about

**- 70 milli volts**

as the consequence of differences between the concentrations of certain ions at the internal and external sides of its bounding membrane.

## **Stimulatory neurotransmitters**

either open protein-lined channels in this membrane, allowing extracellular ions, like

**Sodium ( $\text{Na}^+$ )**

to move into the cell, or close channels for potassium.

This raises the neuron's voltage towards zero, and makes it more likely that the cell will become **depolarized**. If the postsynaptic cell happens also to be a neuron (i.e., as opposed to a muscle cell), this depolarization will cause it to release its own neurotransmitter from its terminals.

**Inhibitory neurotransmitters** like GABA , Glycine and Taurine activate receptors that cause chloride (Cl-) to pass through the membrane;

this usually hyperpolarizes the postsynaptic cell, and decreases the likelihood that it will become depolarized.

The excitatory neurotransmitter **glutamic acid**, acting via its NMDA receptor, can also open channels for calcium ions ( $\text{Ca}^{++}$ ).

Excessive activation of these receptors in neurological diseases can cause toxic quantities of calcium to enter the cells, and kill them.

Once neurotransmitters have been secreted into synapses and have acted on their receptors, they are **metabolised** from the synapse either by enzymatic breakdown - for example acetylcholine, which is converted to choline and acetate, neither of which has neurotransmitter activity.

**For neurotransmitters like**

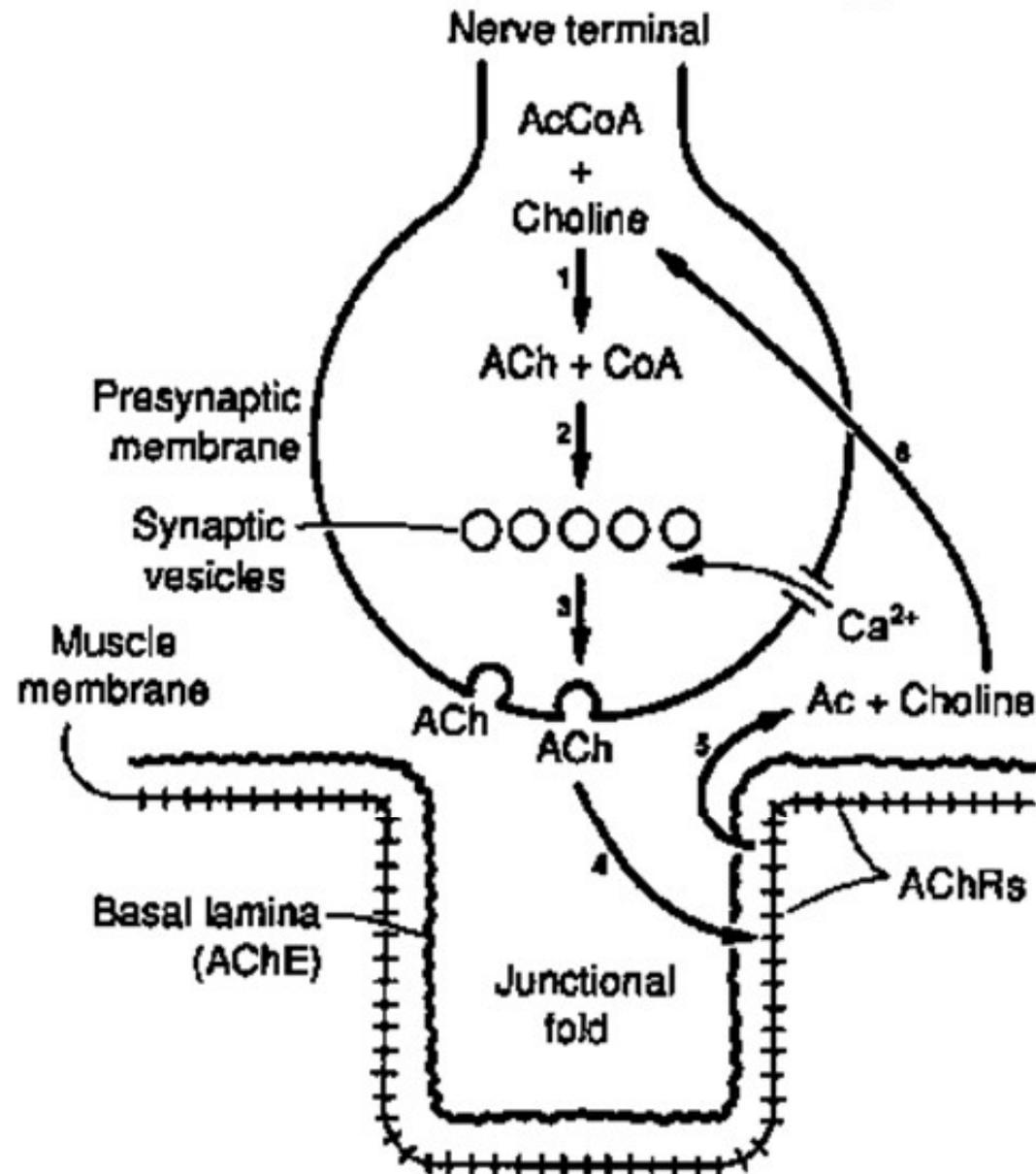
**Dopamine**

**Serotonin**

**GABA**

**a physical process called **reuptake**  
takes place.**

# Terminal end of a cholinergic neuron



# Neurotransmitter synthesis

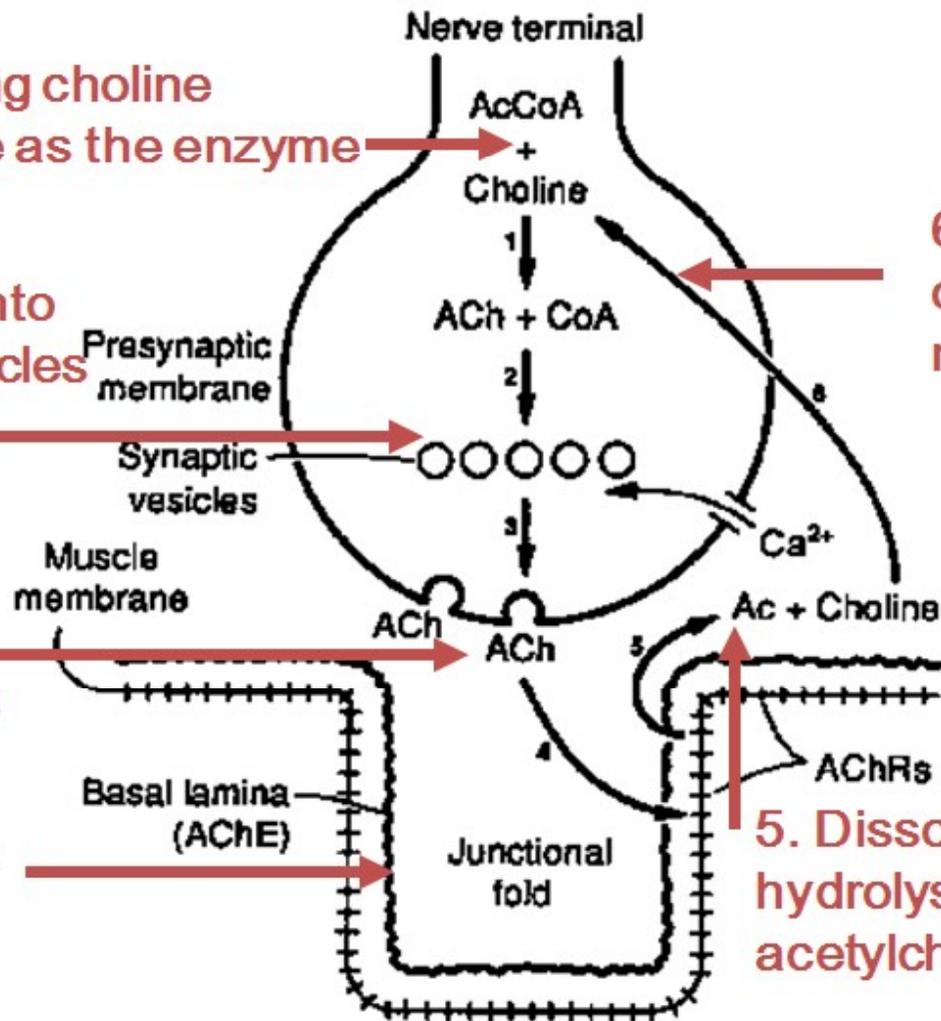
1. Synthesis using choline acetyltransferase as the enzyme

2. Incorporation into the synaptic vesicles and stored

3. Release of acetylcholine from the vesicles

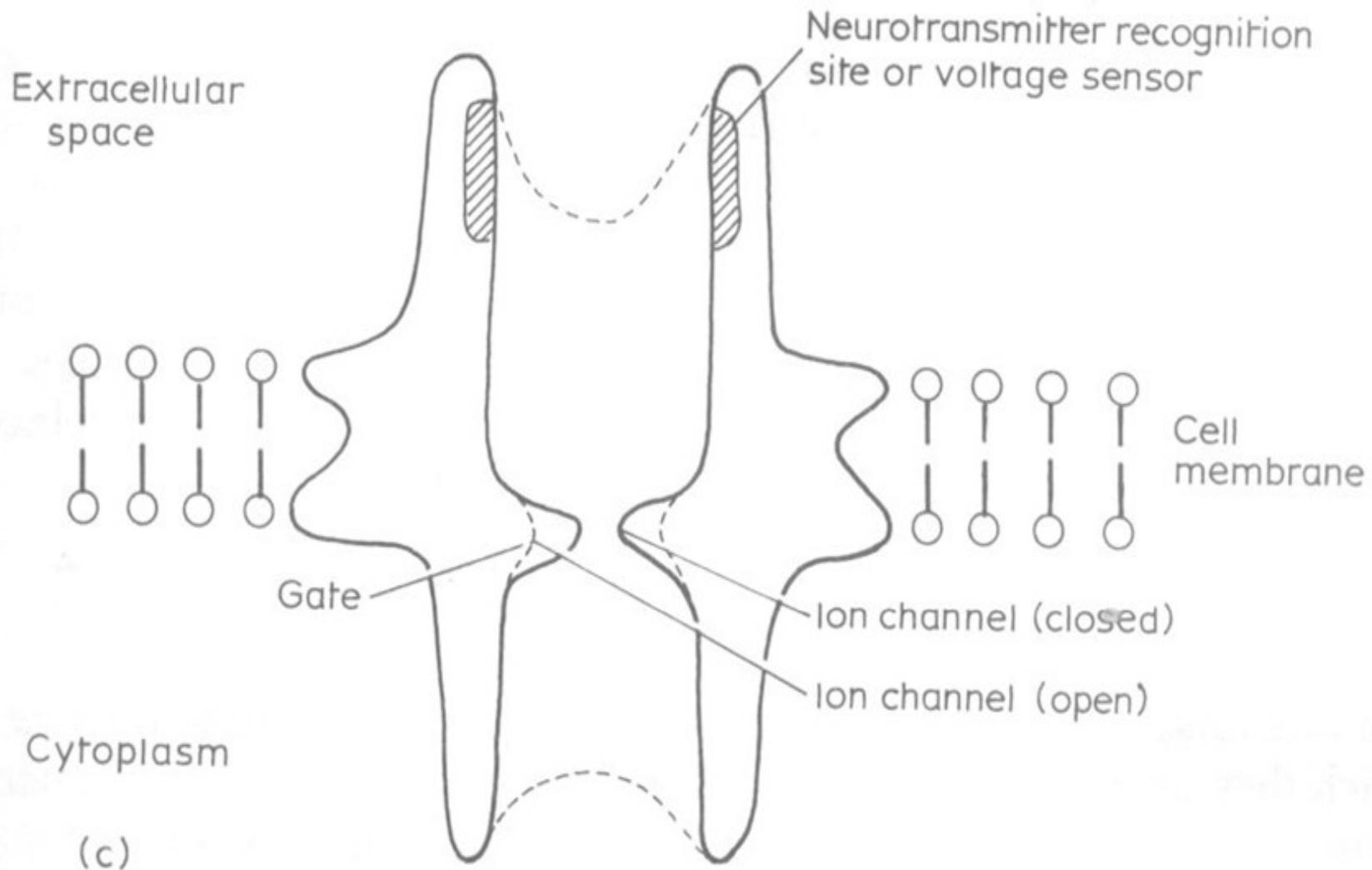
4. Diffusion to its receptors in the junctional folds

6. Recycling of choline into the nerve terminal

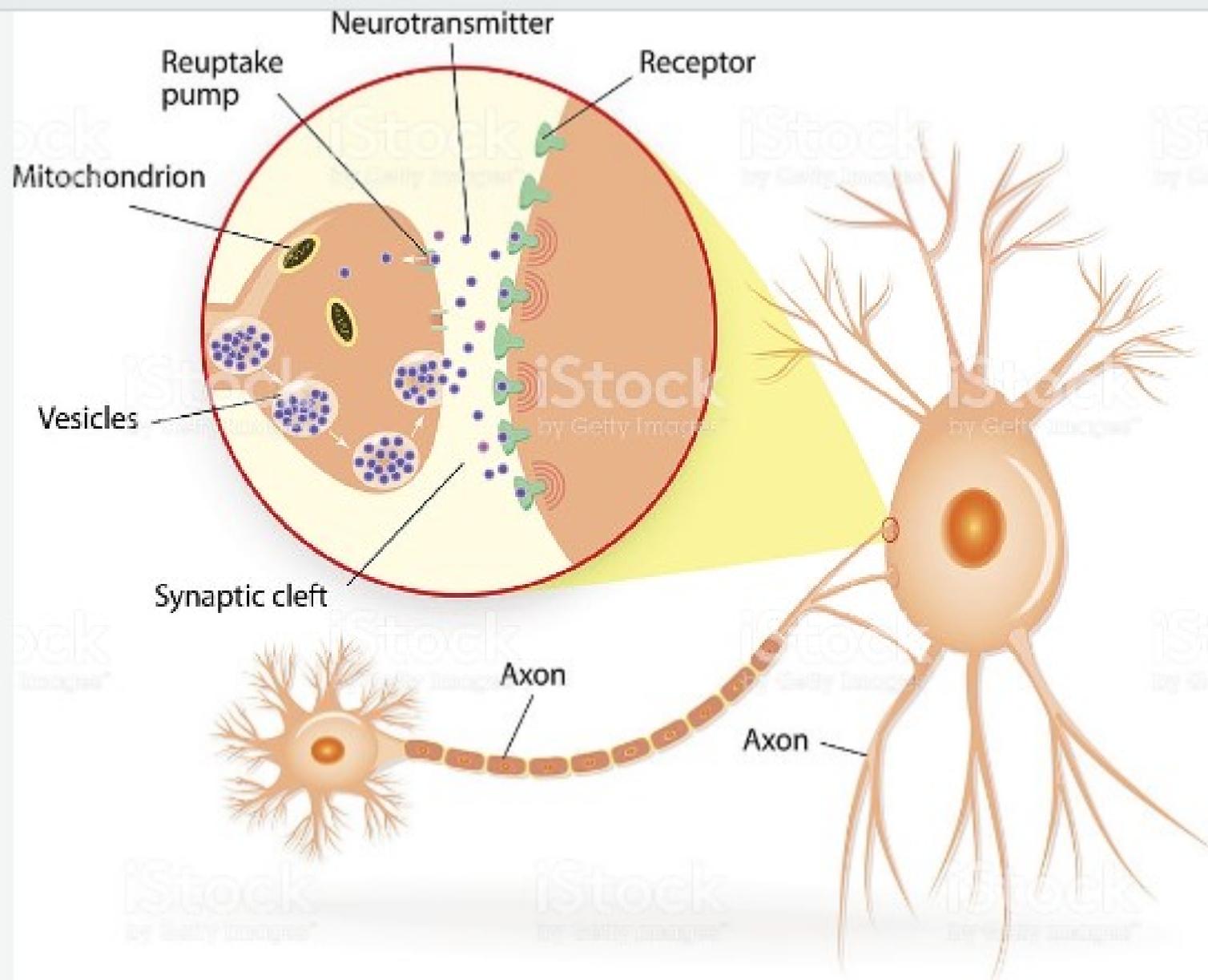


5. Dissociation and hydrolysis by acetylcholinesterase

# Receptors are like molecular ears



# Structure of a typical chemical synapse - Illustration



# Neuronal membranes

The lipid portion of cell membranes is just 3 nanometres thick.

If you were to stack sheets of them one upon the other – it would take **10,000 membranes** to make up the thickness of a piece of paper.

# Neurotransmitters

All enzyme Co-enzymes, Co-factors, Inhibitors and Activators  
verified in BRENDA Enzyme database

**Acetylcholine**

# CHOLINE

# Pyruvate

*pyruvate dehydrogenase*

3p 374nm

4q 376nm

23X 400nm

*Vit B1*

*Vit B2*

*Vit B3*

*Vit B5*

*α-Lipoic acid*

# Acetyl CoA

*choline acetyltransferase* 10q 383nm

*K, Br, Cl, I, NaSO4*

Inhibited by  
*atropine, ethanol,*  
*Cd, Hg,*

# CoA

# ACETYLCHOLINE

Metabolic Pathways - <http://smpdb.ca/search>  
BRENDA enzyme database -  
<http://www.brenda-enzymes.org/enzyme>

# ACETYLCHOLINE

## Inhibited by

Chemicals – pesticides  
solanine, sodium fluoride  
thyme, galantamine,  
huperzine  
aspartame, aspartate,  
phenylalanine lovastatin  
melatonin , methotrexate,  
phos serine, diazepam,  
eugenol, insulin, limonene  
Toxic metals Cd, Cu, Hg,  
Sn, Radiation

Metabolic Pathways -  
<http://smpdb.ca/search>  
BRENDA enzyme database -  
<http://www.brenda-enzymes.org/enzyme>



H<sub>2</sub>O

*acetylcholinesterase*

7q 380nm

**B2**

**B3**

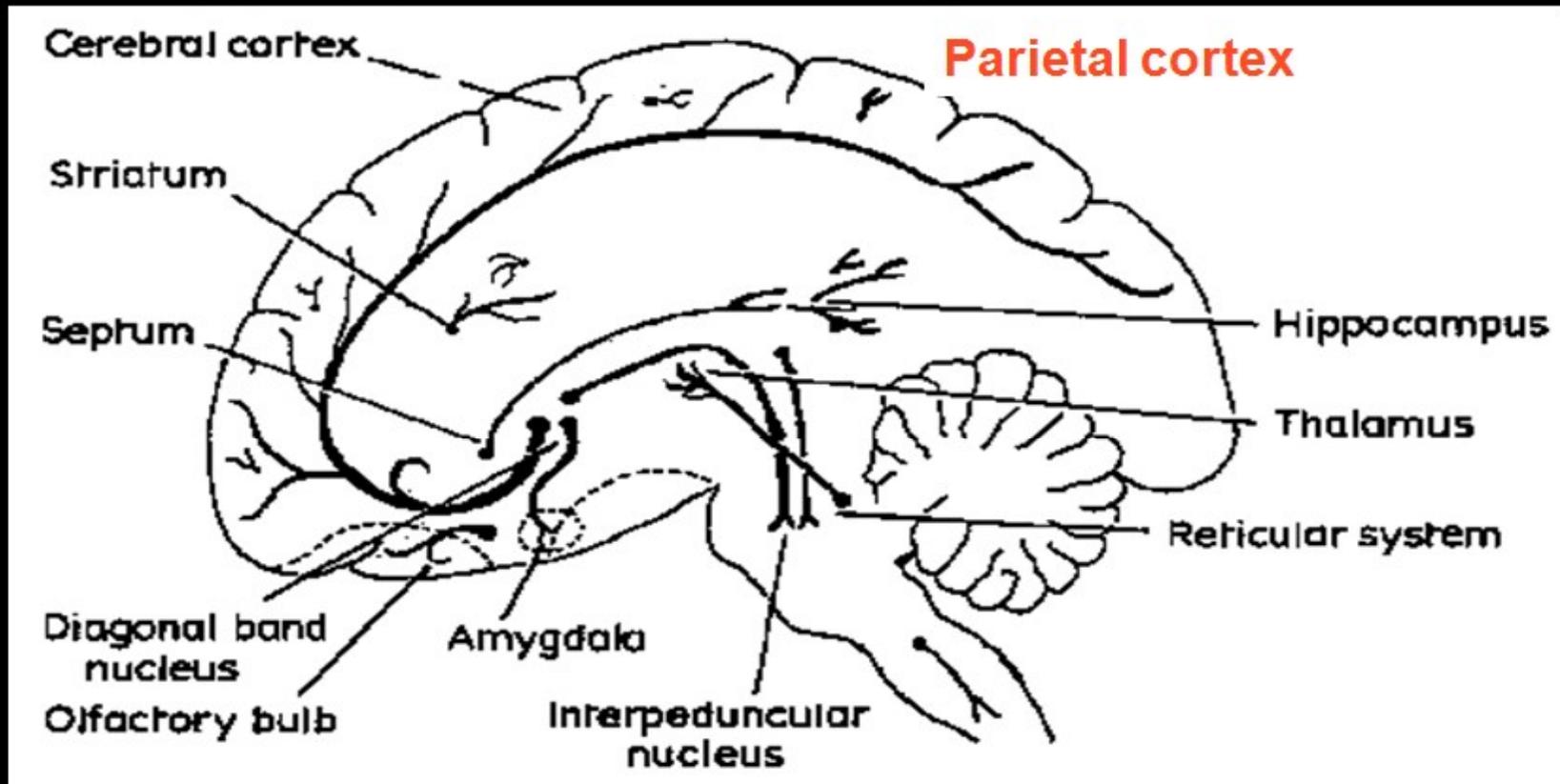
**Mn<sup>++</sup>**

**Zn<sup>++</sup> Cysteine Recycled**

**Acetate + Choline**

# Acetylcholine is the transmitter at

1. All preganglionic nerve terminals (both parasympathetic and sympathetic) of the autonomic nervous system
2. All postganglionic parasympathetic nerve terminals
3. The neuromuscular junction of voluntary muscles
4. The adrenal medulla
5. Parts of the central nervous system especially the hippocampus
6. Postganglionic sympathetic nerve terminals at sweat glands.



# **Acetylcholine Receptors**

**1. Muscarine** from the fungus *Amanita muscaria*. The effect of muscarine is tearing eyes, pupillary constriction, profuse sweating, drooling saliva, faecal dribbling or explosion from the anus. Painful peristalsis, low blood pressure and bradycardia. Antagonised by atropine.

# Acetylcholine Receptors

**1. Muscarine receptor** stimulation occurs physiologically when the parasympathetic nervous system is active during rest and sleep.

i) Slows the heart rate

ii) Stimulates the release of NO in blood vessels and so vasodilates

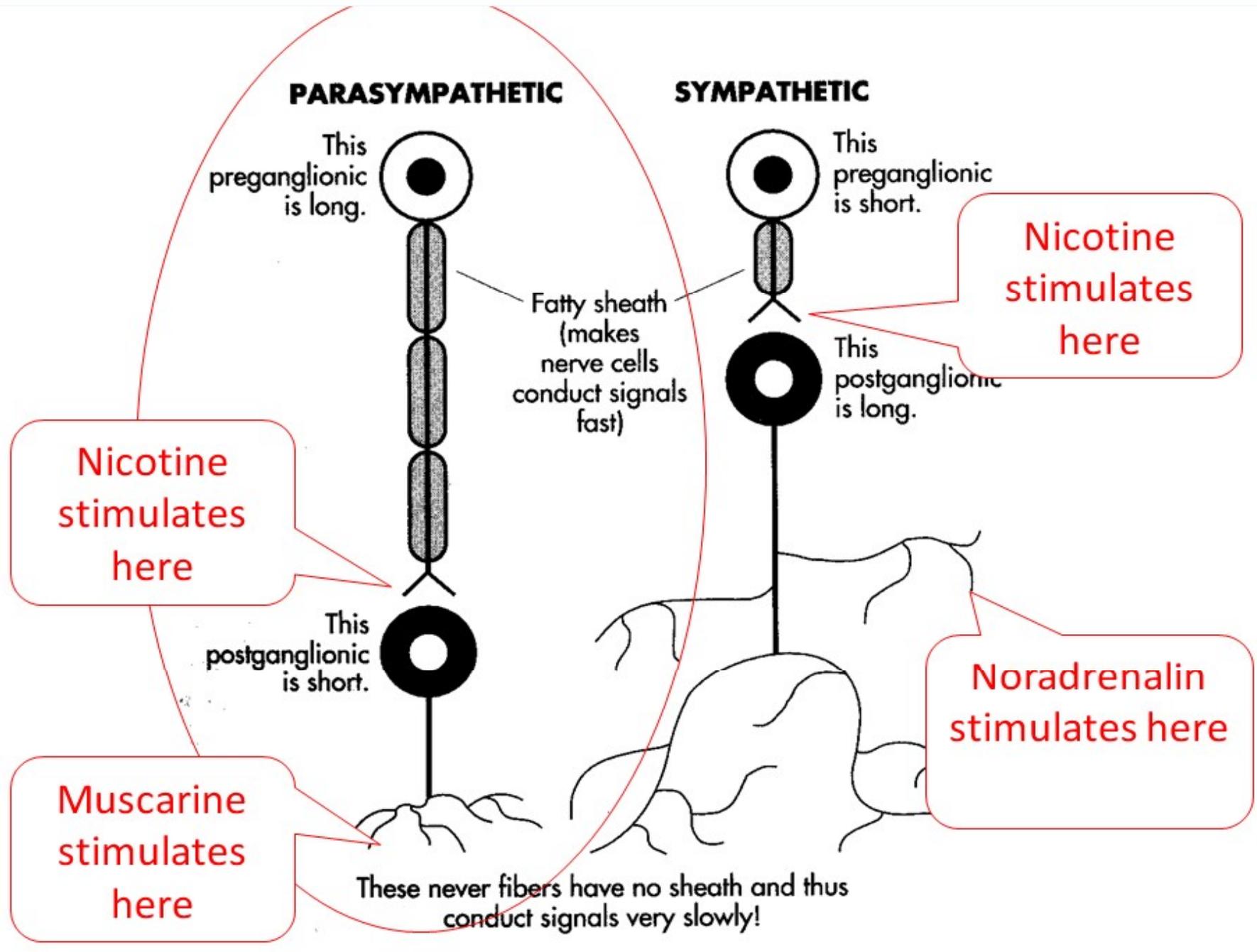
iii) Stimulates the secretion of saliva, mucous, HCl, digestive enzymes and skin sweat glands.

iv) Stimulates intestinal tone and peristalsis.

v) Stimulates ureter and bladder contraction.

vi) Stimulates ciliary muscle contraction in the eye causing relaxation of the lens, which is then focused for near vision.

Stimulates contraction of the iris circular muscles causing constriction of the pupil. Stimulates reduction of the intra ocular pressure by better drainage through the canal of Schlemm.



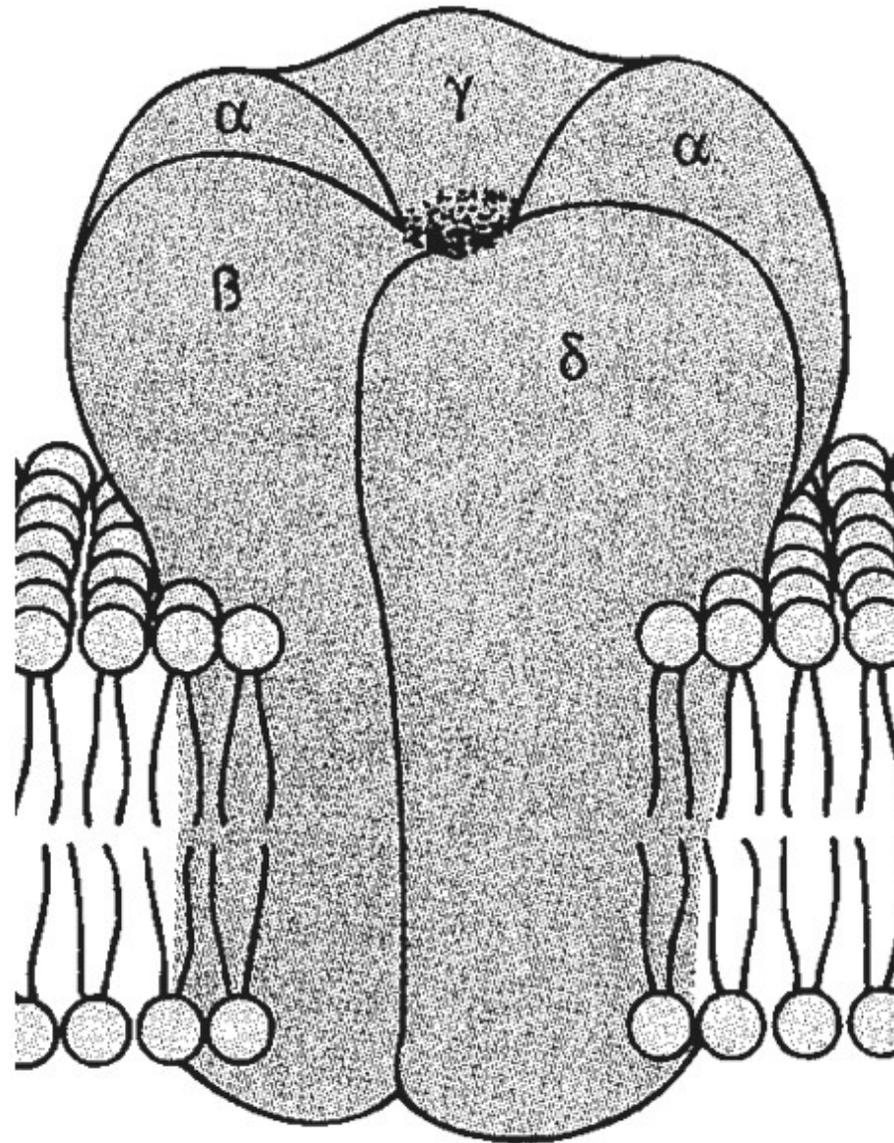
## **2. Nicotinic (antagonised by curare) receptors occur at**

**i) CNS especially in the hippocampus.**

**ii) The neuromuscular junctions**

**Acetylcholine** is possibly the most widely used neurotransmitter in the body, and all axons that leave the central nervous system (for example, those running to skeletal muscle, or to sympathetic or parasympathetic ganglia) use acetylcholine as their neurotransmitter.

# Acetylcholine Receptors



**1. Muscarine receptors** occur in the parasympathetic nervous system

**2. Nicotinic receptors** occur at

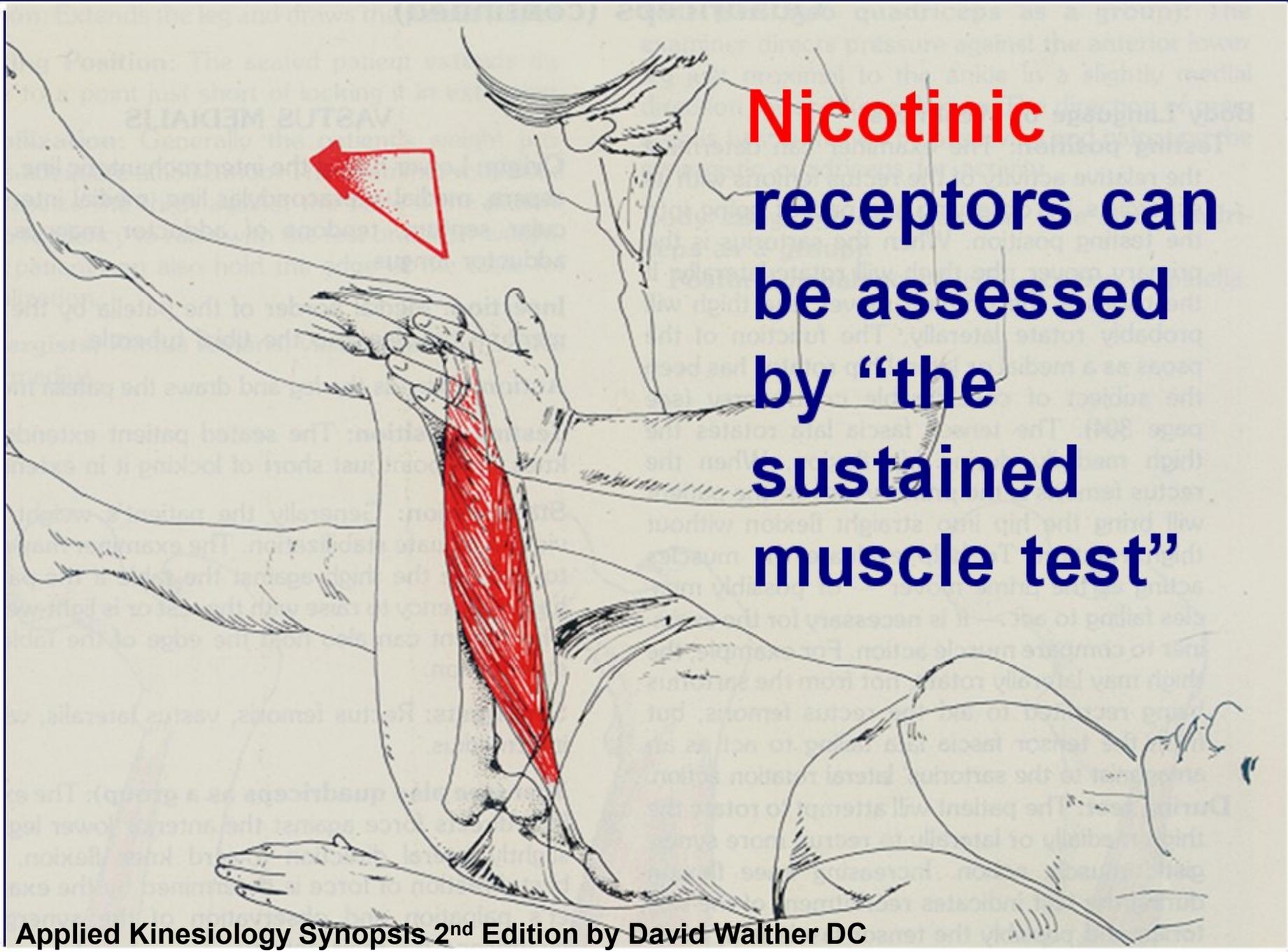
i) CNS especially in the hippocampus.

ii) The neuromuscular junctions

**Muscarinic receptors** can be assessed by “the looking into a bright light” test.



**Nicotinic**  
receptors can  
be assessed  
by “the  
sustained  
muscle test”



# **Anticholinergics**

**Solanacea family**

**Tomatoes**

**Potato**

**Tobacco**

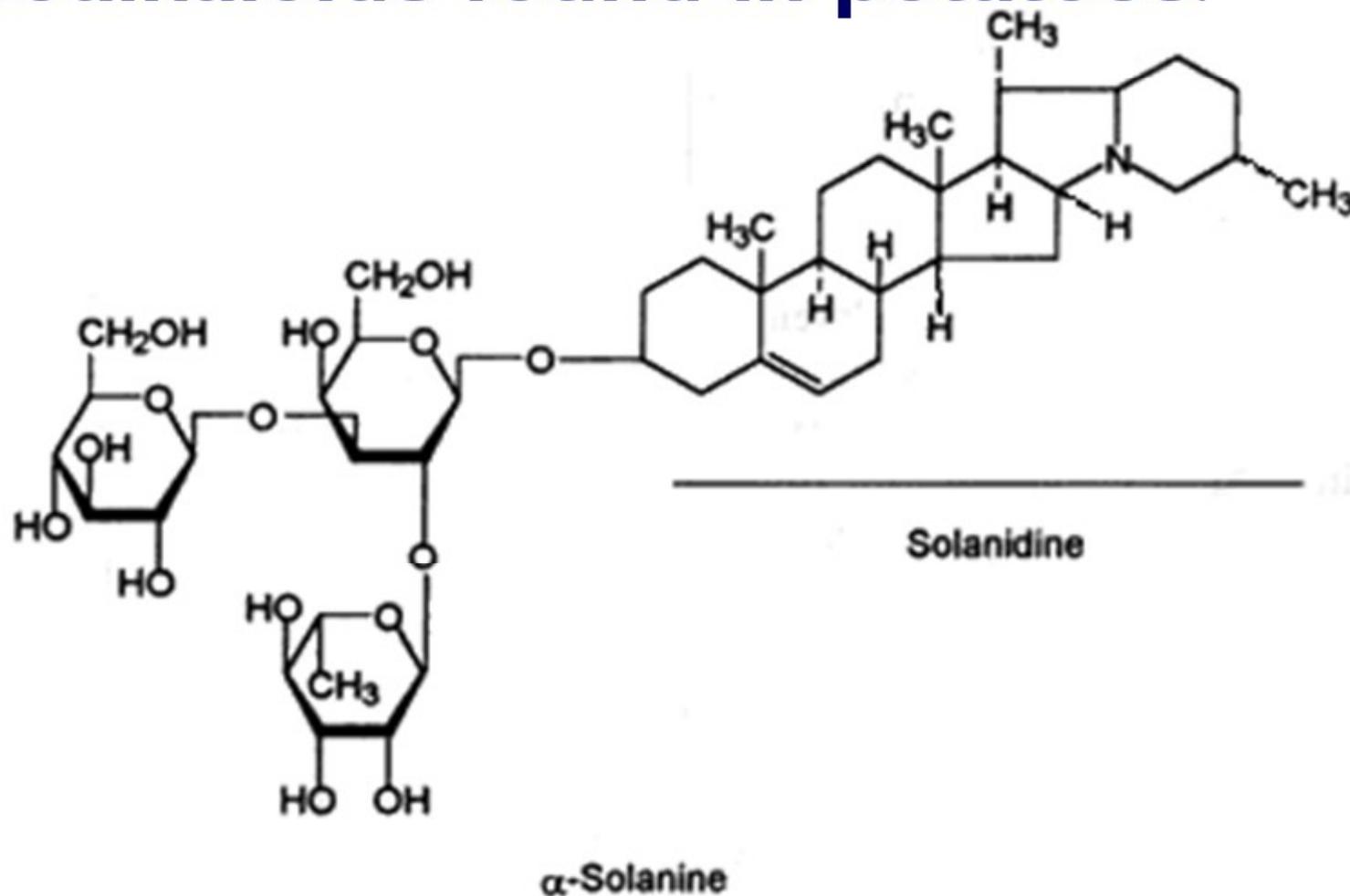
**Green peppers**

**Chilli**



# Alpha-Solanine

Solanine is one of the main glycoalkaloids found in potatoes.



# **Natural Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitors**

**Galantathine  
(Galanthamine)**

**Snowdrops  
Daffodils  
Lemon balm**

**Lemon balm**



**Melissa officinalis**

In a study done in 2003 at Nottingham University researchers investigating the use of **Lemon balm** for both mood elevation and cognitive performance in healthy volunteers aged 18-22 years, found that a low dose of 500mg a day was much more effective than taking either 800mg and suggested best taking the dose twice a day.

## **Lemon balm**

**Tincture low dose      ↑ Calmness**

**Tincture high dose    ↑ Memory**

**Powder low dose        ↑ Memory**

**Powder high dose      ↑ Calmness**

**High dose Powder also increased  
secondary memory.**

# **Limonene – a powerful ACh-E inhibitor**

**Rosemary**

**Black walnut**

**Fennel**

Sun, J. (2007). "D-Limonene: safety and clinical applications" (PDF). *Alternative Medicine Review*. 12 (3): 259–264.

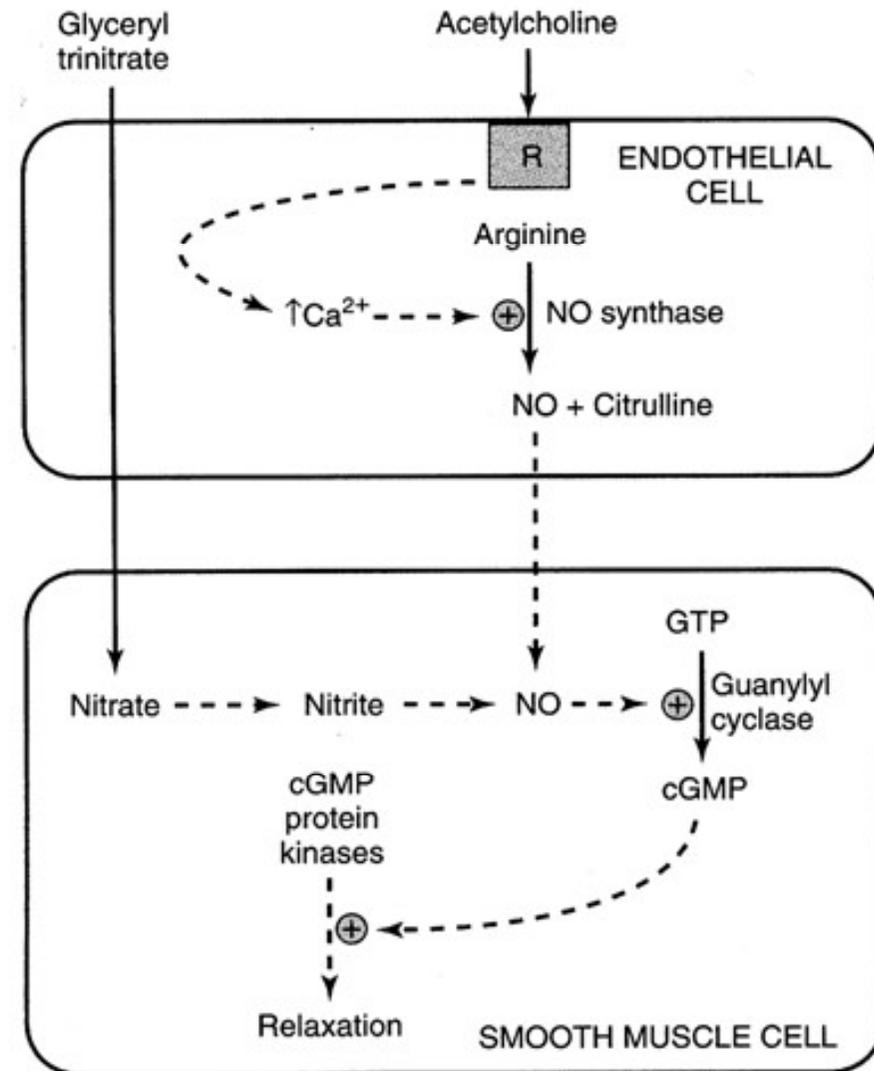
Recent research has shown that **Sage (Salvia)** oil (50-150mg) can inhibit acetylcholinesterase improving memory recall by 8%. (Probably due to a high limonene concentration).

Many of the current drugs that inhibit acetylcholinesterase such as **“Donepezil”** have unpleasant side effects.

No side effects were noted in the sage trial, details of which are published in the journal **“Pharmacology and Biochemistry”**.

Lopresti AL (2017). "Salvia (Sage): A Review of its Potential Cognitive-Enhancing and Protective Effects". *Drugs in R&D*. 17(1): 53–64.

Possible mechanism by which **lemon balm and sage** may improve memory by increasing cerebral circulation.



Harper's Illustrated Biochemistry 29<sup>th</sup> Edition Pub Lange. Page 622



# SYMPTOMS



## DEFICIENCY

*Guilt and Blame*

↓ NK cell activity

Tachycardia, Hypertension

Dry mouth, Poor digestion

Constipation, Urinary retention

Long sight (hypermetropia)

Glaucoma, Myasthenia gravis

Hypercholesterolemia

Inhibition of short term  
memory.

Confusion. Delirium

Hallucinations

Alzheimer's

## EXCESS

*Pride and Scorn*

↑ NK cell activity

Aggressive behaviour

Panic attacks (fear paralysis)

Bradycardia

Hypotension leading to vertigo

Excess salivation

Fast transit time, nausea,  
vomiting, diarrhoea

Involuntary micturition

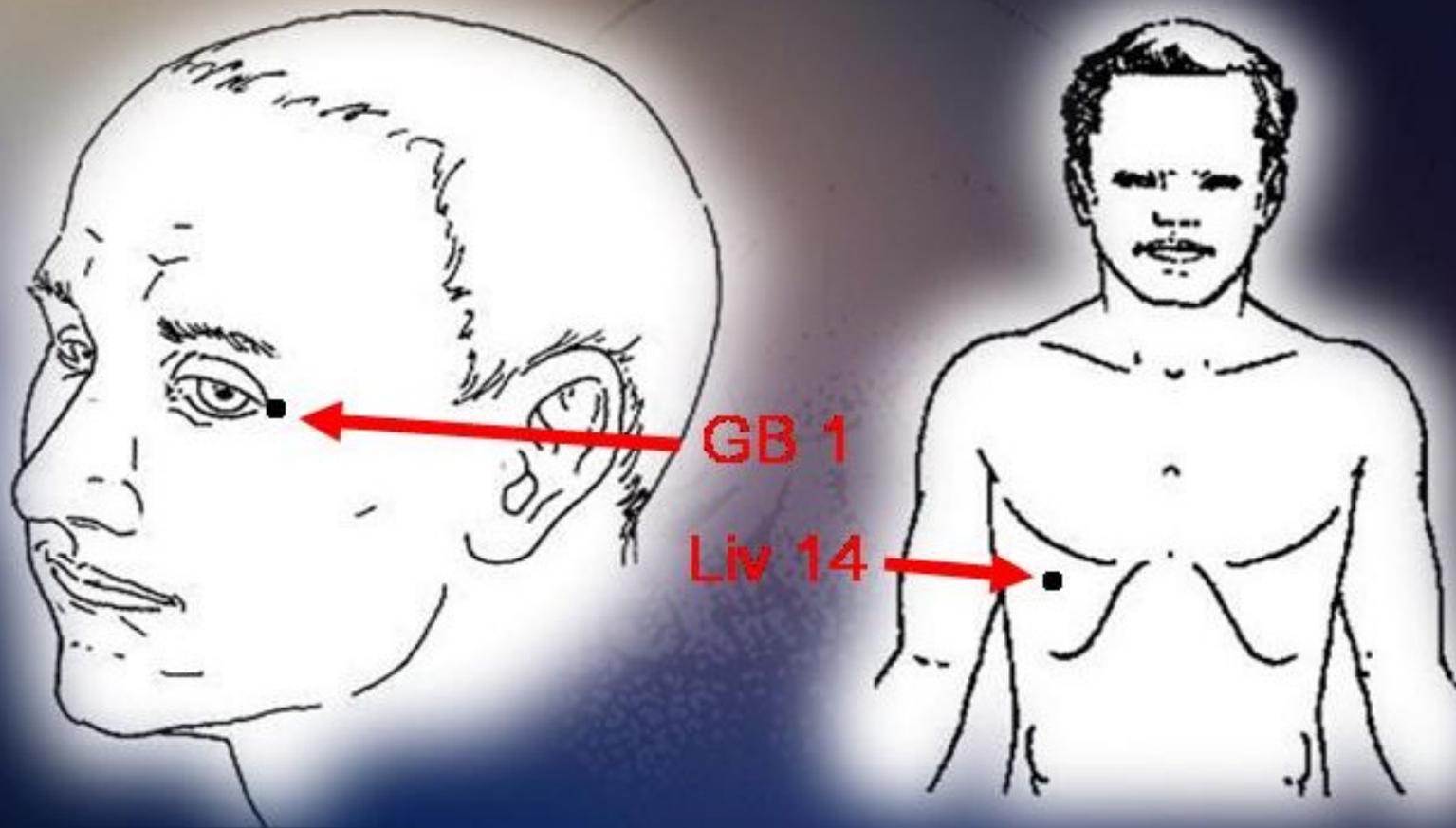
Asthma from excess mucous

Resting tremor and rigidity

Liver toxicity

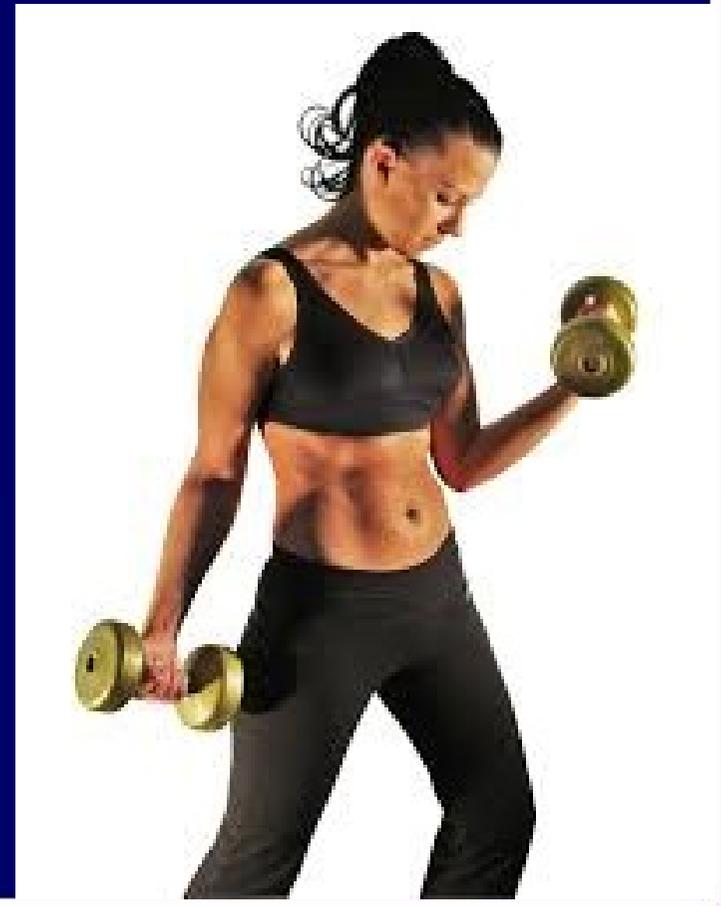
# ACETYLCHOLINE MERIDIAN DIAGNOSTIC POINTS

YANG POINTS (DEFICIENCY)    YIN POINTS (EXCESS)



# Exercises to stimulate Acetylcholine

## Resistance / Weight training



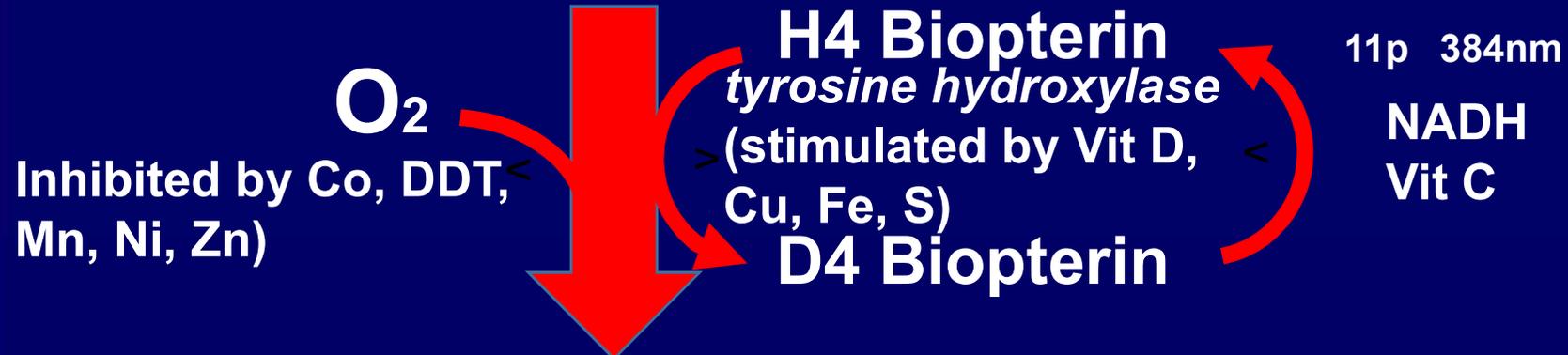
# Exercises to inhibit Acetylcholine

Yoga, stretching tight muscles to loosen up.



# **Noradrenalin (Norepinephrine)**

# TYROSINE



# L.DOPA



# DOPAMINE



# NORADRENALIN

*monoamine oxidase* 14 387nm  
23x 400nm

Cu+ FAD

Inhibited by benzoic acid,  
caffeine, anthrocyandins,  
eugenol, naringen, raison

O<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O

H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

Dihydroxymandelic  
acid + NH<sub>2</sub>

*catechol-O-methyltransferase*

Mg<sup>++</sup>, Fe, Mn, Cysteine 22 399nm

Inhibited by epicatechin, 2OH and  
CH<sub>3</sub> Estrogens, Vit C, Ca, quercetin,  
SAH, SAM,

Vanillylmandelic acid

Fe<sup>++</sup>

Fe<sup>+++</sup>

·OH + OH<sup>+</sup>

SAM

# Vanillylmandelic acid

*Glutathione (Cysteine,  
Glycine, Glutamic acid)*

NAC, Zn<sup>++</sup>, P5P, Sel

a-Lipoic or

*Sulfation (PAPs)* S, MSM

Taurine or

*Glucuronidation (UDP*

*Gucuronic acid)* Glucuronate,

Vit C, or

*Acetylation (Acetyl CoA)* B5,

Acetyl CoA

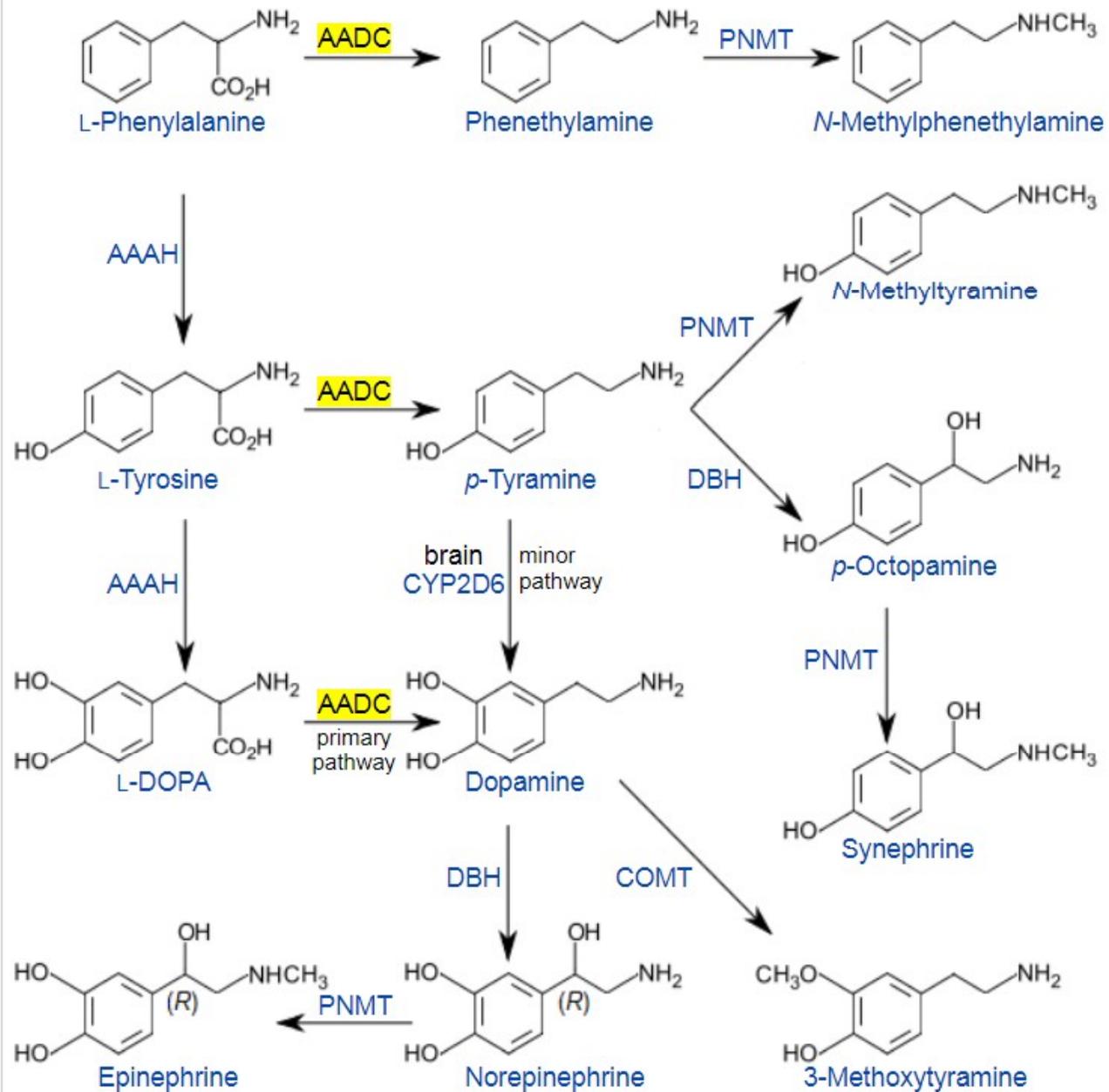
Conjugates excreted through  
the bile or urine

**PNMT = Phenylethanolamine N methyltransferase**

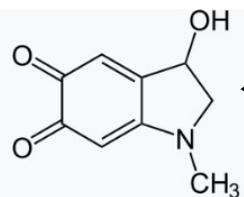
**AADC = Aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase**

**DBH = Dopamine beta-hydroxylase**

**COMT = Catechol -O-methyl transferase**

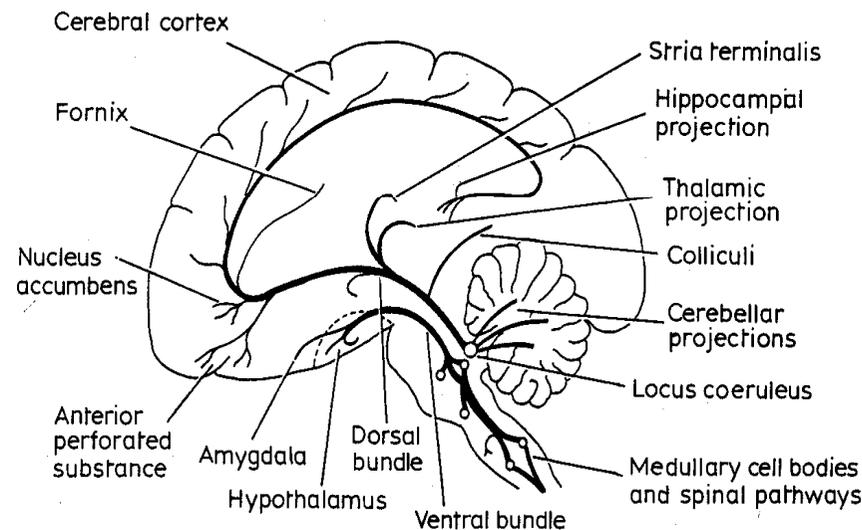


**Adrenochrome**



# Noradrenalin is a neurotransmitter at

1. Postganglionic sympathetic nerves
2. The Brain stem
3. Some spinal pathways
4. The Pontine – thalamic, hypothalamic, limbic, hippocampus and neocortex tracts.



Neurotransmitters and Drugs by Z. Kruk and C. Pycock. pg

# Adrenoreceptors

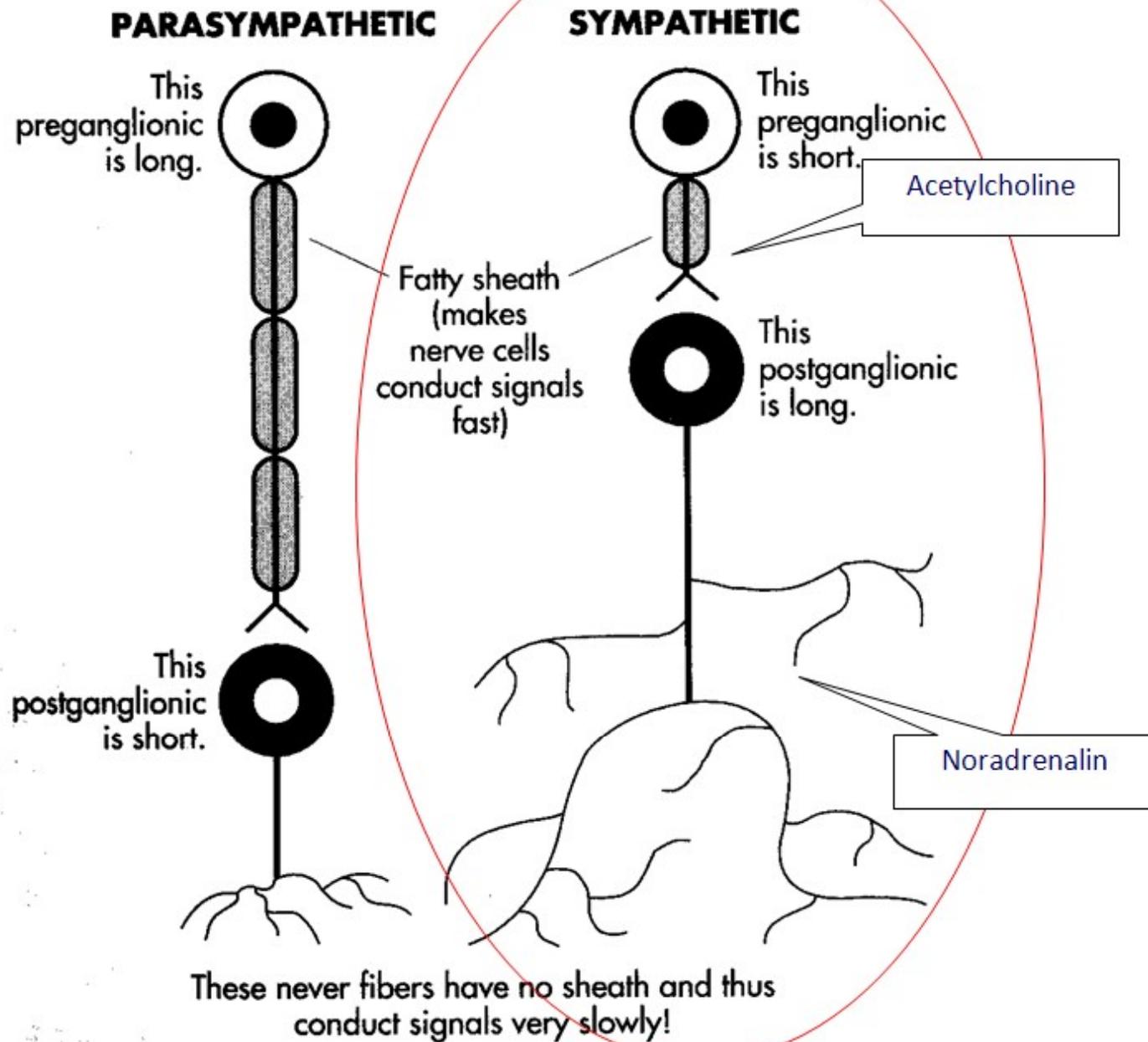
Two sub-types designated alpha and beta.

**Alpha 1 receptors** are found postsynaptically.

**Alpha 2 receptors** are found in presynaptic autoreceptors, postsynaptically and in the CNS.

Post synaptic effects

- i) Contraction of the radial muscles of the iris leading to papillary dilation. Also keeps the eyelid open.
- ii) Vasoconstriction.
- iii) GI smooth muscle relaxation but sphincter contraction.
- iv) Seminal vesicle and vas deferens contraction.
- v) Constriction of trigone and bladder sphincter



**Beta 1 receptors** are found in the heart and increases force and contraction.

**Beta 2 receptors** cause

- i) Skeletal muscle and liver vasodilation
- ii) Brochodilation.
- iii) GI smooth muscle relaxation.
- iv) Relaxation of the uterus in pregnancy.
- v) Relaxation of the bladder detrusor muscles.
- vi) Release of renin causing hypertension
- vii) Stimulates glycogenolysis, lipolysis and hypoinsulinism.

**Noradrenalin** enhances

**Alertness,**

**Arousal**

**and Mood**



**Noradrenaline (NA)** is secreted by many neurones in the brain stem and hypothalamus. Neurones in the locus ceruleus in the pons send fibres to many areas of the brain and help to regulate the overall activity and mood of the *mind*.

NA has both stimulatory and inhibitory actions.

**Noradrenalin** is the neurotransmitter released by sympathetic nerves

(e.g., those innervating the heart and blood vessels)

and, within the brain, those of the locus ceruleus, a nucleus activated in the process of **focusing attention.**



# SYMPTOMS



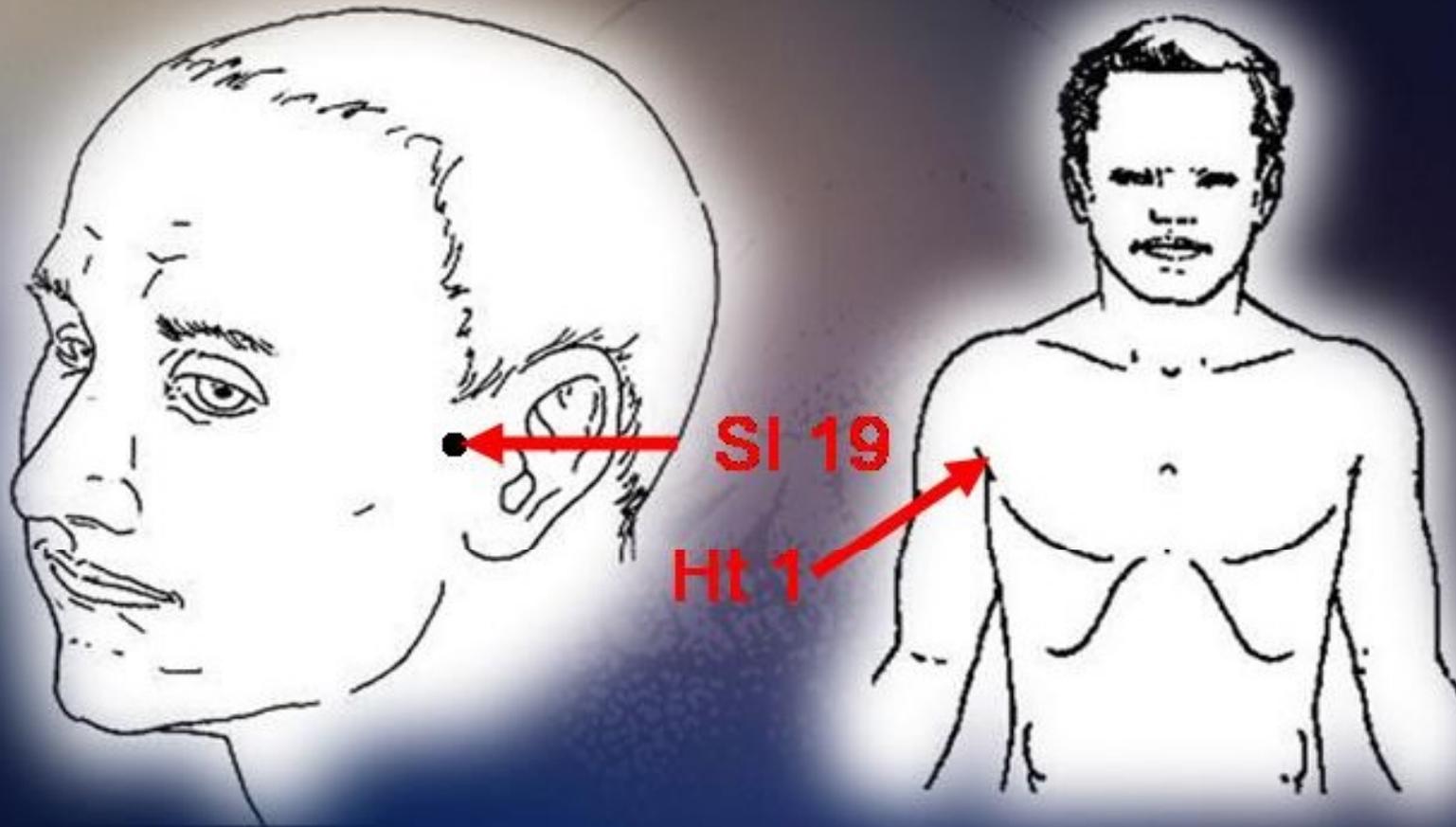
## DEFICIENCY

Depression, Apathy (Sloth)  
Lack of “get up and go”  
↓ Superoxide production  
Memory impairment  
Dementia, Delusions  
Delirium  
Hypotension  
Short sighted (Myopia)  
Bronchoconstriction-Asthma  
Small intestine problems –  
food allergy / intolerance

## EXCESS

Anxiety, tremor  
↑ Superoxide production  
Aggressive, violent, and  
impulsive behaviours  
Irritability (nothing right)  
Hypertension  
Constipation  
Underweight  
  
Palpitations and Tachycardia  
Heart Arrhythmias

NORADRENALIN MERIDIAN DIAGNOSTIC POINTS  
YANG POINTS (DEFICIENCY)      YIN POINTS (EXCESS)



**Exercises to stimulate  
Noradrenalin – Aerobics class –  
build heart rate up.**

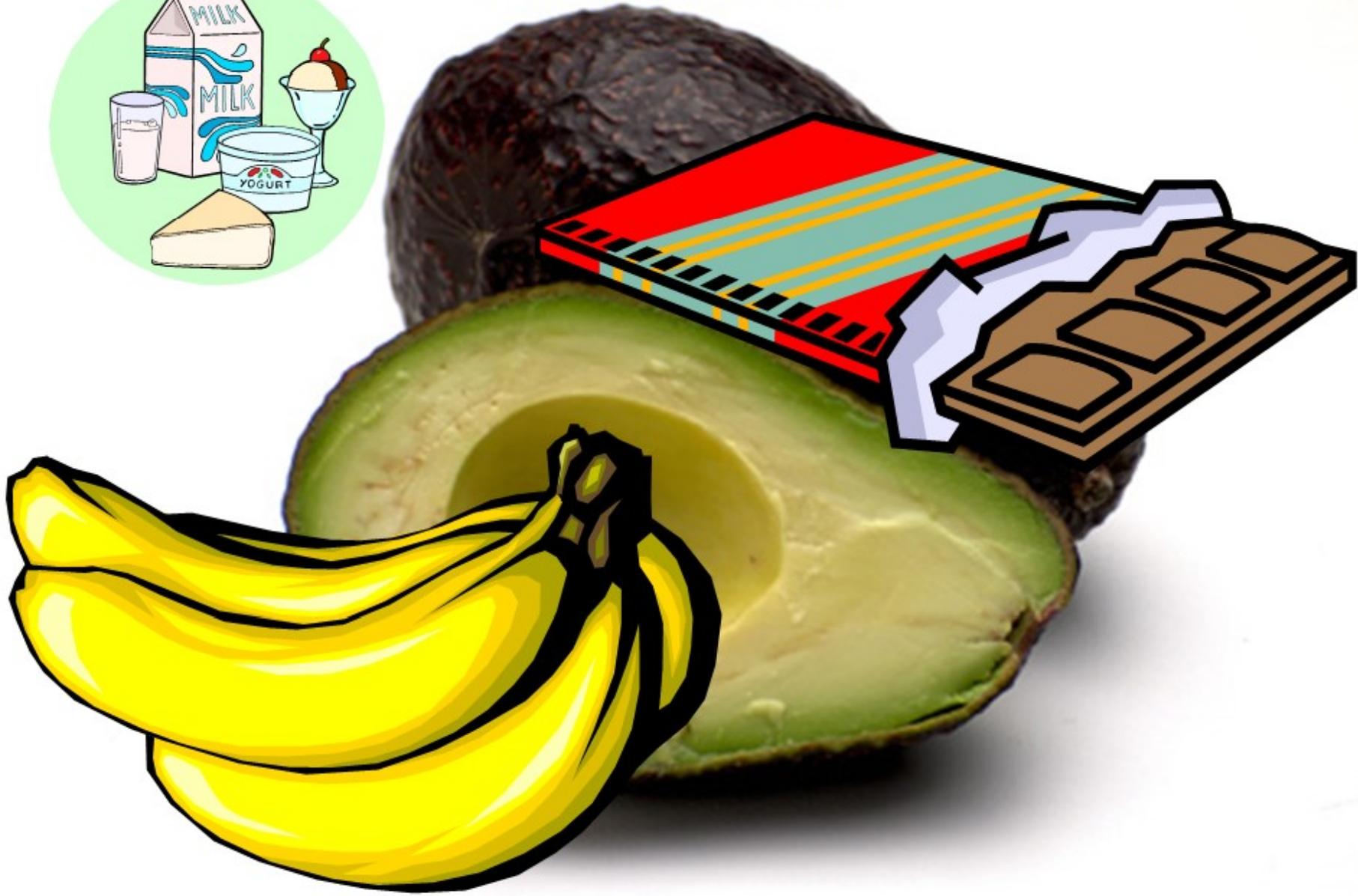


# Exercises to inhibit Noradrenalin

Sprinting anaerobically to burn up noradrenalin.



# TYRAMINE



**Tyramine** is an indirect acting  
catcholaminergic amine found in  
Bananas and Avocados, Barley  
grass, Mandarin, Tangerine, Orange,  
Lemon, Grapefruit, Tomato, Pea,  
Plum, Aubergine, Cacao, Potato  
Cheese, Sour cream, Pizzas,  
Chocolate.

*Pickled Herrings, Caviar, Liver,  
Salamis, Broad Beans pods.*

***Fermented dairy products such as Yoghurt, Sauerkraut***

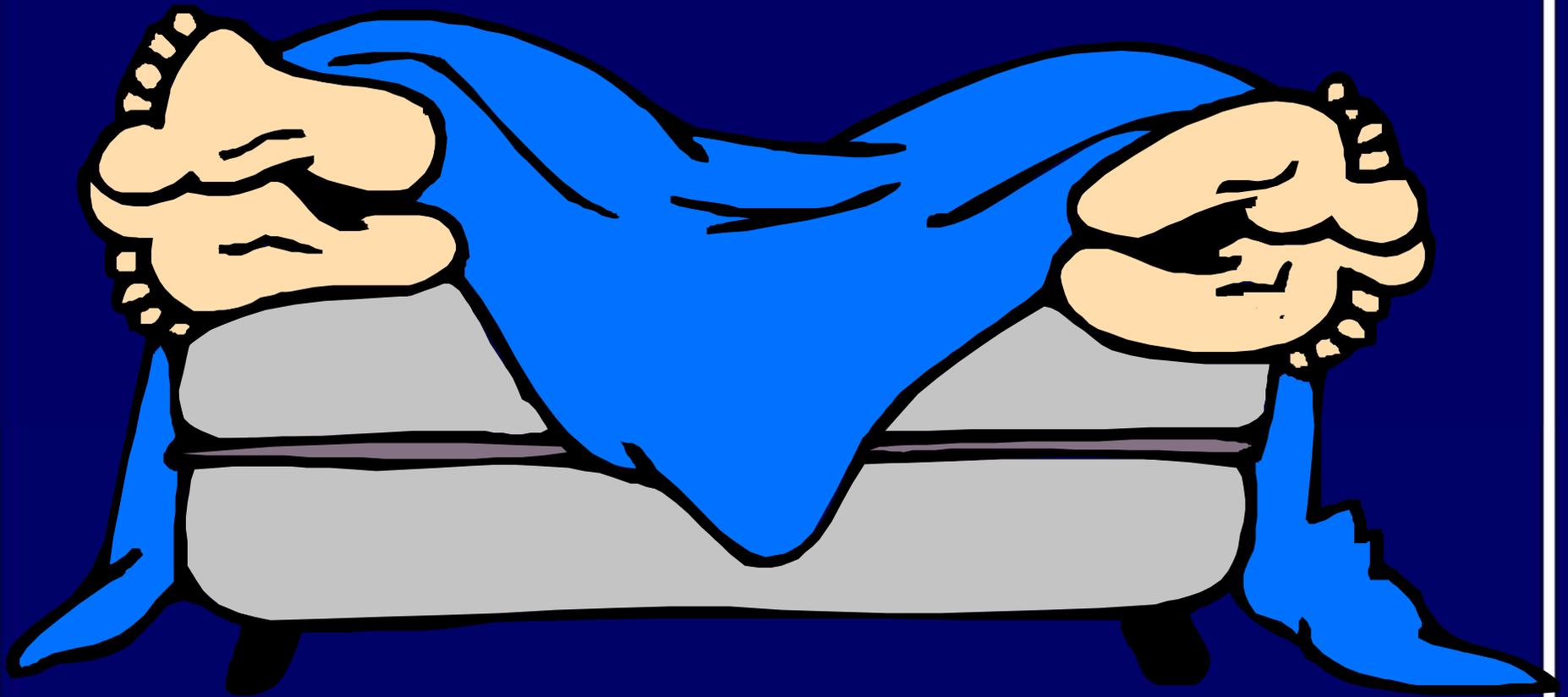
***Yeast extracts including Beer and Wine, Bovril, Oxo, Marmite, MSG and all fermented Soya Bean products.***

**Normally tyramine is completely inactivated by MAO when taken in the diet. Thus inhibition of MAO enzymes will lead to excess sympathetic activity. When these foods are eaten in the evening they often cause disrupted sleep and nightmares if high dopamine.**

**We know these foods because they are not permitted to be ingested when patients are taking monoamine oxidase inhibitor drugs such as**

**“Marplan”,  
“Nardil”,  
“Parnate”.**

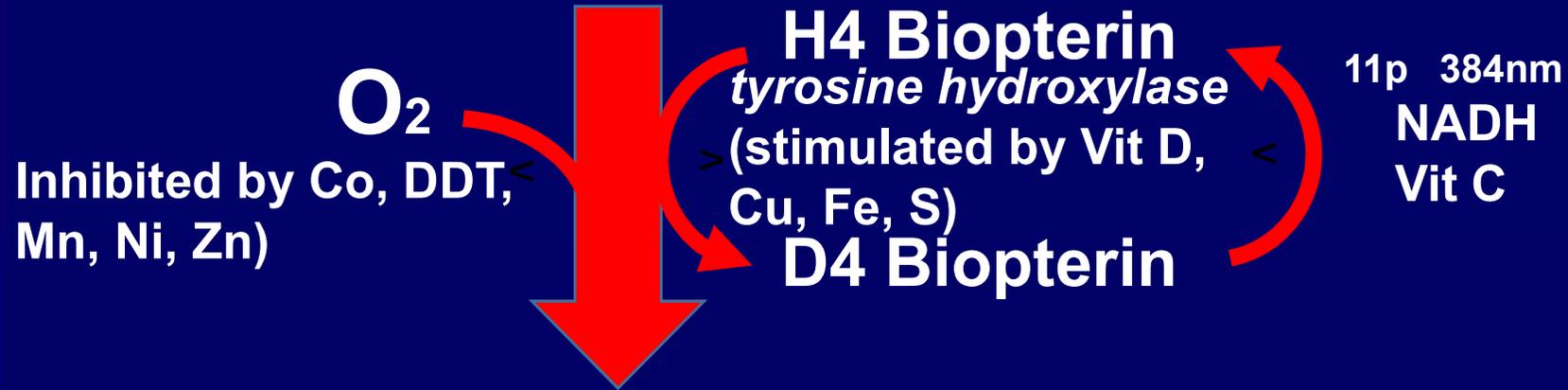
# SLEEP DISTURBANCES



- 1. Difficulty in going to sleep. Check for high Noradrenalin and Tyramine excess.**
- 2. Nightmares. Check for high Dopamine and Tyramine.**
- 3. Awakes in the middle of the night. Usually a liver problem. Check for high Acetylcholine and detoxification defects.**
- 4. General sleep disturbances maybe due to low serotonin leading also to low melatonin. Check especially for magnesium.**

**Dopamine**

# TYROSINE



# L.DOPA



# DOPAMINE

# DOPAMINE

*monoamine oxidase* 14 387nm  
23x 400nm

Cu<sup>+</sup> FAD

Inhibited by benzoic acid,  
caffeine, anthrocyandins,  
eugenol, naringen, raison

O<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O

H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

Fe<sup>++</sup>

Fe<sup>+++</sup>

·OH + OH<sup>+</sup>

Dihydroxyphenyl  
acetic acid + NH<sub>2</sub>

*catechol-O-methyltransferase*

22 399nm

Mg<sup>++</sup>, Fe, Mn, Cysteine

Inhibited by epicatechin, 2OH and  
CH<sub>3</sub> Estrogens, Vit C, Ca, quercetin,  
SAH, SAM,

Homovanillic acid

# Homovanillic acid

*Glutathione (Cysteine,  
Glycine, Glutamic acid)*

NAC, Zn<sup>++</sup>, P5P, Sel  
a-Lipoic or

*Sulfation (PAPs)* S, MSM

Taurine or

*Glucuronidation (UDP*

*Gucuronic acid)* Glucuronate,

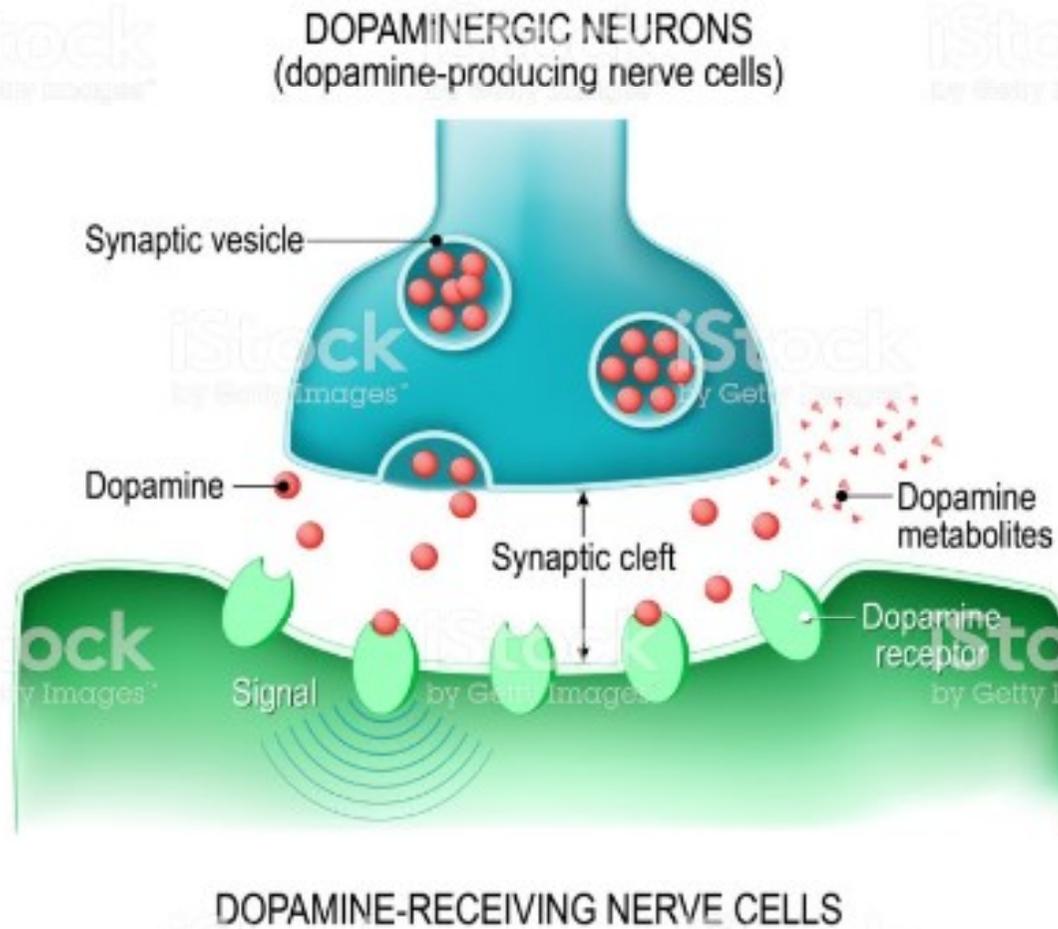
Vit C, or

*Acetylation (Acetyl CoA)* B5,

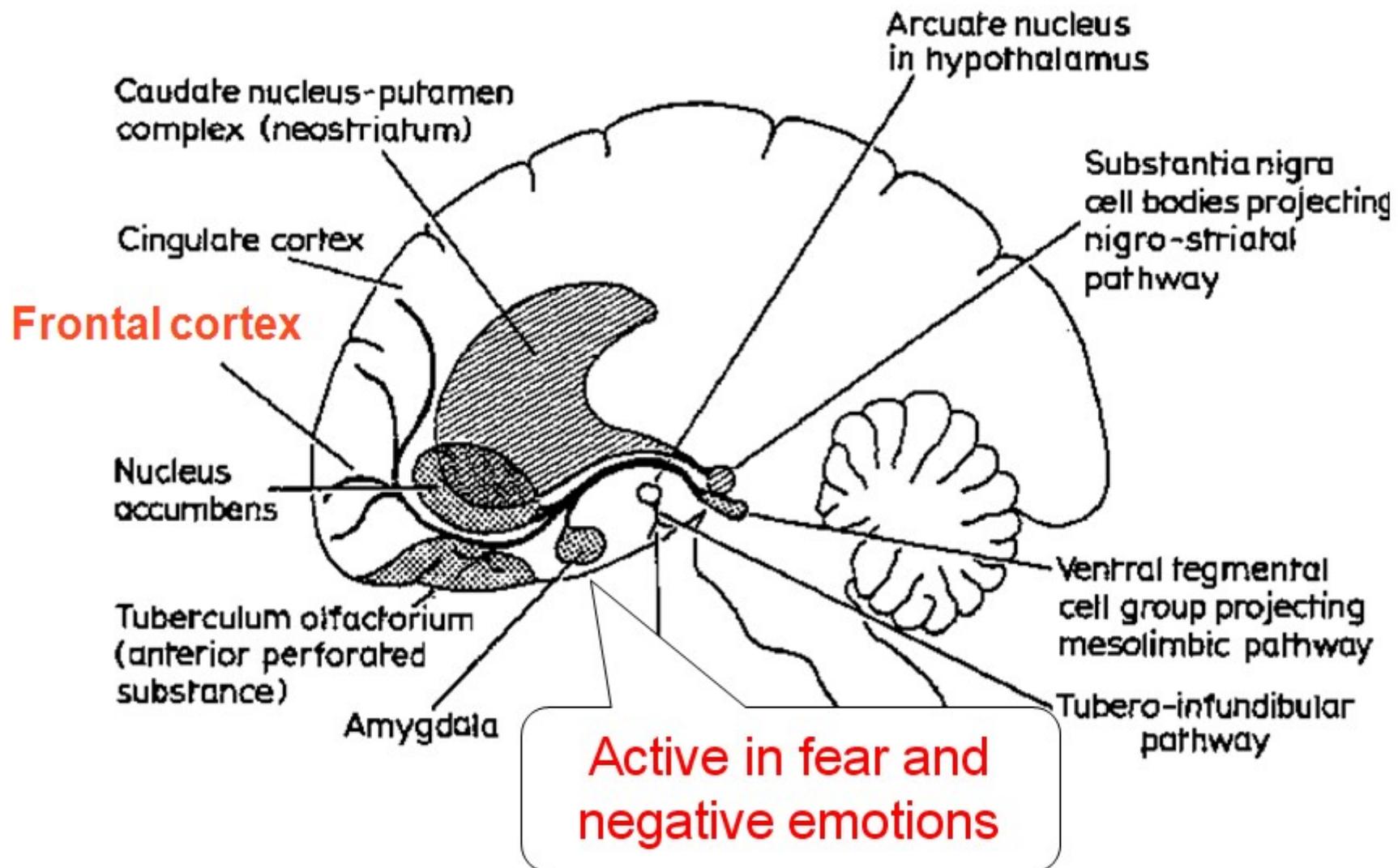
Acetyl CoA

Conjugates excreted through  
the bile or urine

# Dopamine



# Dopamine circuits



## **Dopamine is a neurotransmitter at**

- 1. some sympathetic ganglion.**
- 2. some exocrine glands.**
- 3. the gastrointestinal tract.**
- 4. mesenteric and renal arteries causing vasodilation.**
- 5. carotid body controlling respiratory reflexes. Hypoxia decreases dopamine release in the carotid body and reflexly stimulates respiration.**

**6. the dopaminergic nigro-neostriatal (extrapyramidal) pathway.**

**7. dopaminergic midbrain mesolimbic forebrain system associated with cognitive, reward and emotional behaviour.**

**8. dopaminergic tubero-infundibular system associated with neuronal control of the hypothalamic-pituitary endocrines.**

**9. retina and is associated with photophobia and illumination.**

# **Dopamine Receptors**

**Mainly are located in the CNS but many peripheral tissues such as the gut, blood vessels and the heart respond to exogenously applied dopamine indicating their sensitivity.**

**Receptors are sub-typed as**

**D1 located in post synaptic structures.**

**D2 located pre and post synaptically.**

**D3 located mainly in the mesolimbic pathways.**

Some dopaminergic (i.e., dopamine-releasing) neurons run from the **substantia nigra** to the corpus striatum; their loss gives rise to the clinical manifestations of Parkinson's Disease; others, involved in the rewarding effects of drugs and natural stimuli, run from the mesencephalon to the nucleus accumbens.

**Dopaminergic neurons involved in the actions of most antipsychotic drugs** (which antagonize the effects of dopamine on its receptors) run from the brain stem to limbic cortical structures in the frontal region, while the dopamine released from hypothalamic cells travels via a private blood supply

**the pituitary portal vascular system, to the anterior pituitary gland, where it tonically suppresses release of the hormone prolactin.**

**(Drugs that interfere with the release or actions of this dopamine can cause lactation as a side-effect, even in men.)**

# Dopamine enhances

Sex drive

Mood

Alertness

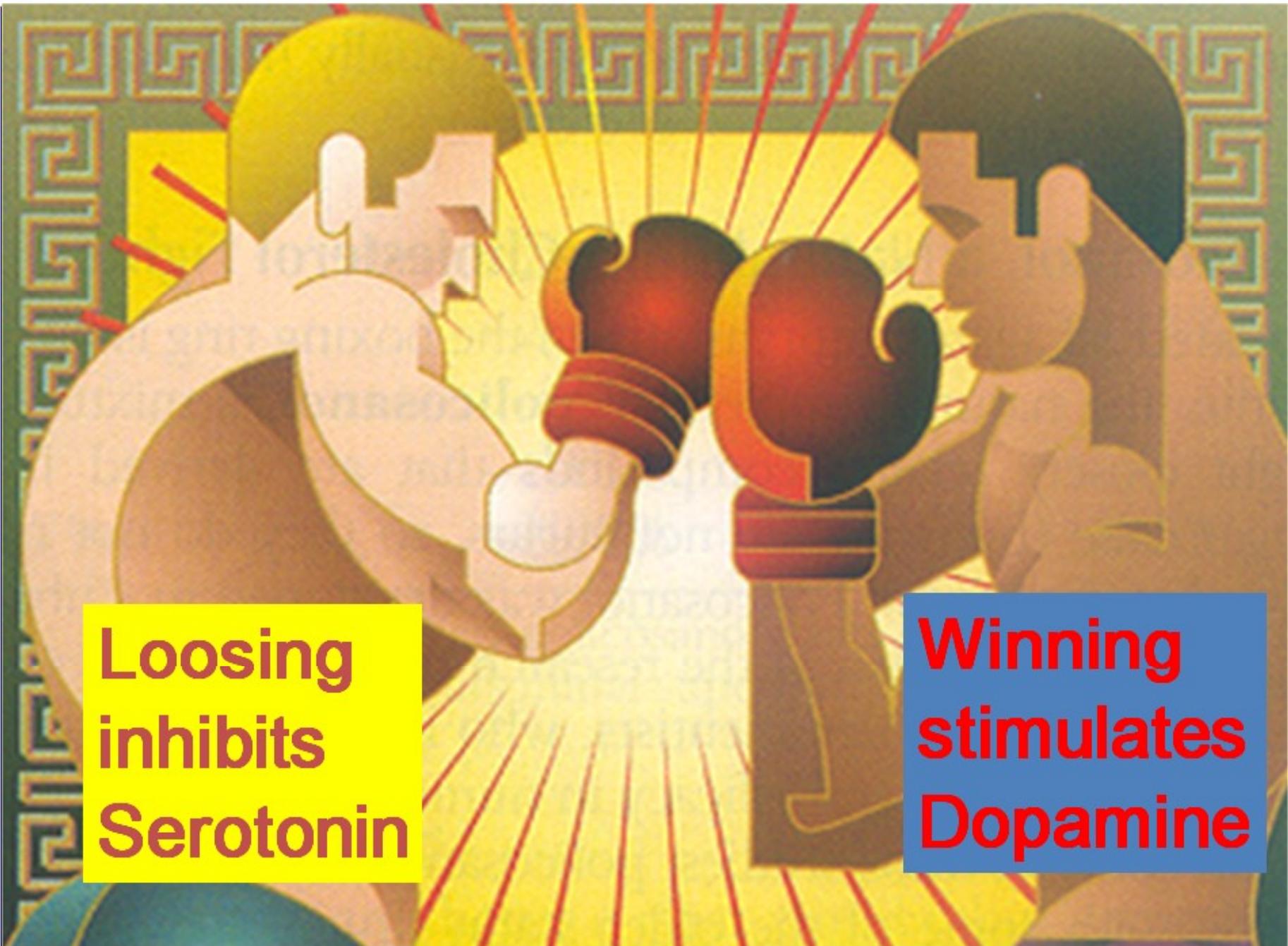
Movement

Berridge, K. C; Robinson, T. E; Aldridge, J. W (2009). "Dissecting components of reward: 'liking', 'wanting', and learning". *Current Opinion in Pharmacology*. 9 (1): 65–73.

**Dopamine facilitates critical brain functions when present in normal amounts. It is associated with the feeling of **pleasure and pain**, and helps to mediate the reinforcing effects of natural rewards such as **food, water, and sex**. It is associated with emotional responses and subconscious skeletal muscle movements.**

Dopamine is used to communicate between the **hypothalamus and the pituitary gland**, in the control of movement, and in the communication between the **limbic system and frontal cortex**.

Ben-Jonathan N, Hnasko R (December 2001). "Dopamine as a prolactin (PRL) inhibitor". *Endocrine Reviews*. 22(6): 724–63.



**Loosing  
inhibits  
Serotonin**

**Winning  
stimulates  
Dopamine**



# SYMPTOMS

## Bipolar manic depression



### DEFICIENCY

*Grief and Regret*

↓ TH2 production

Indecision

Poor concentration

Irrational behaviour

A world without pleasure.

Clumsiness, Photophobia

Dendritic growth inhibition

Depression / Manic depression

Loss of smell, Tremor

Rigidity , Pains

### EXCESS

*Craving and Desire*

↑ TH2 production

Anxiety

Aggression

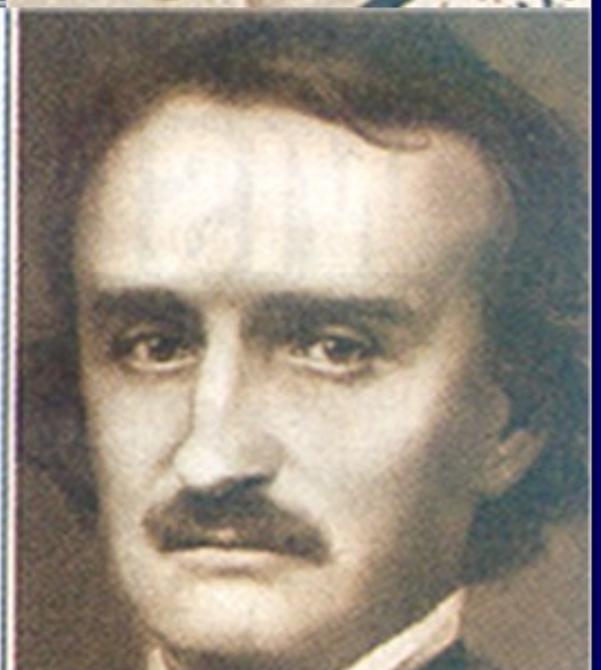
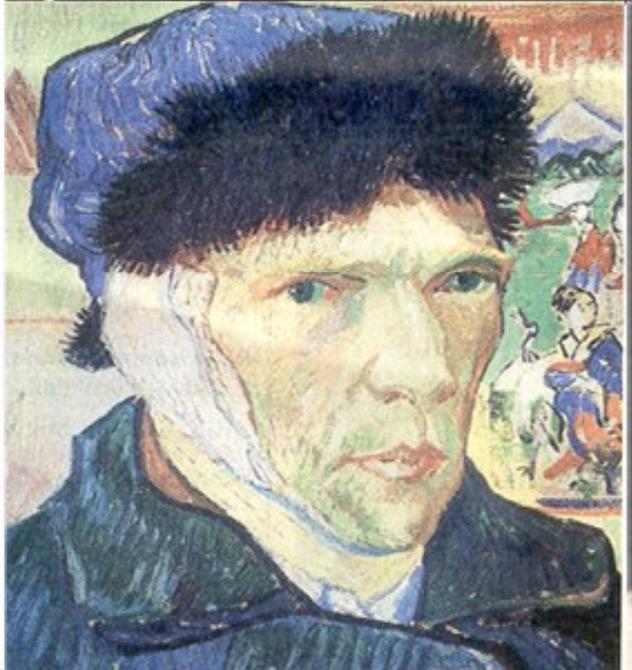
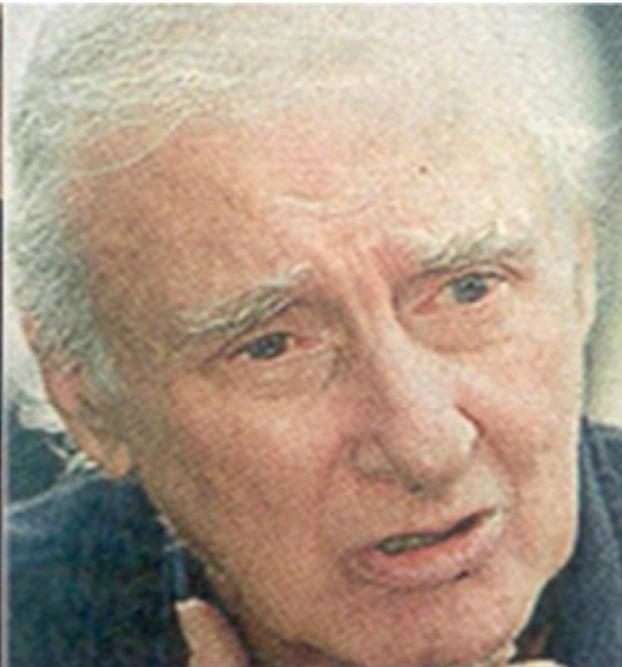
Confusion

Nightmares

Psychoses

Schizophrenia

# **Famous Manic Depressives**



Winston  
Churchill

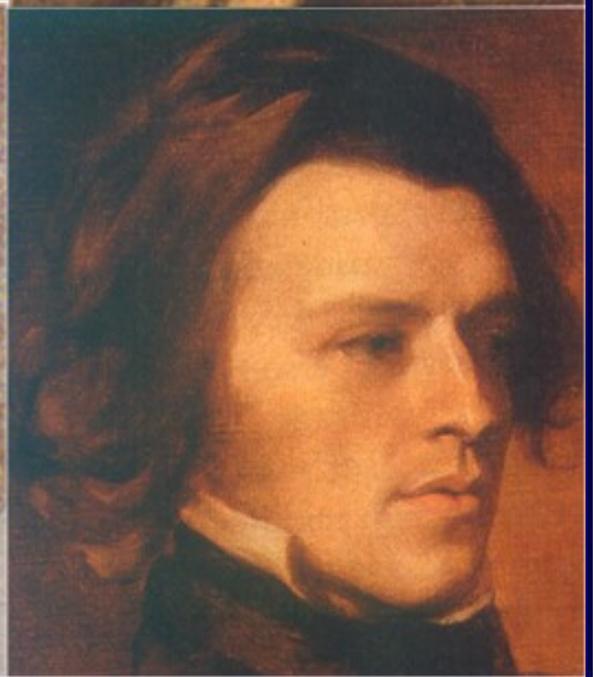
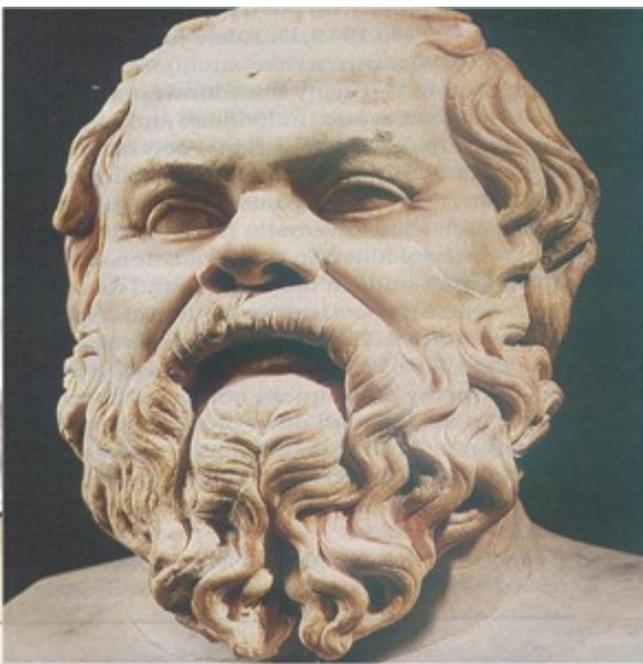
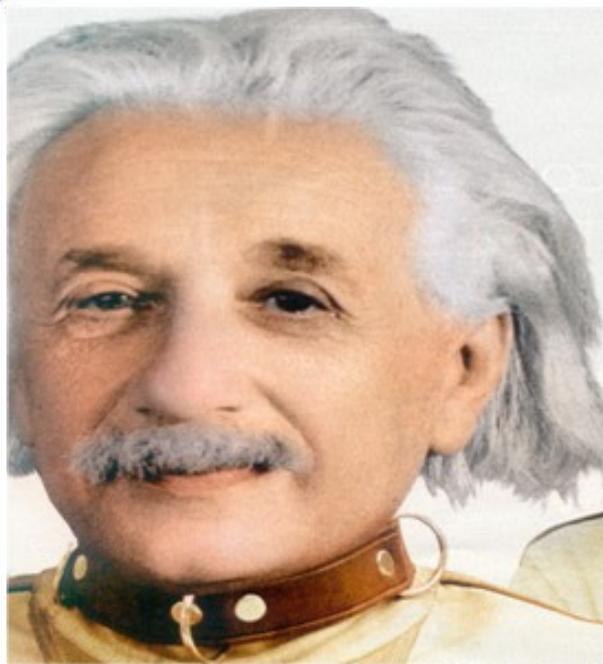
Spike  
Milligan

Florence  
Nightingale

Vincent  
Van  
Gough

Lord  
Byron

Edgar  
Allen  
Poe



Albert  
Einstein

Socrates

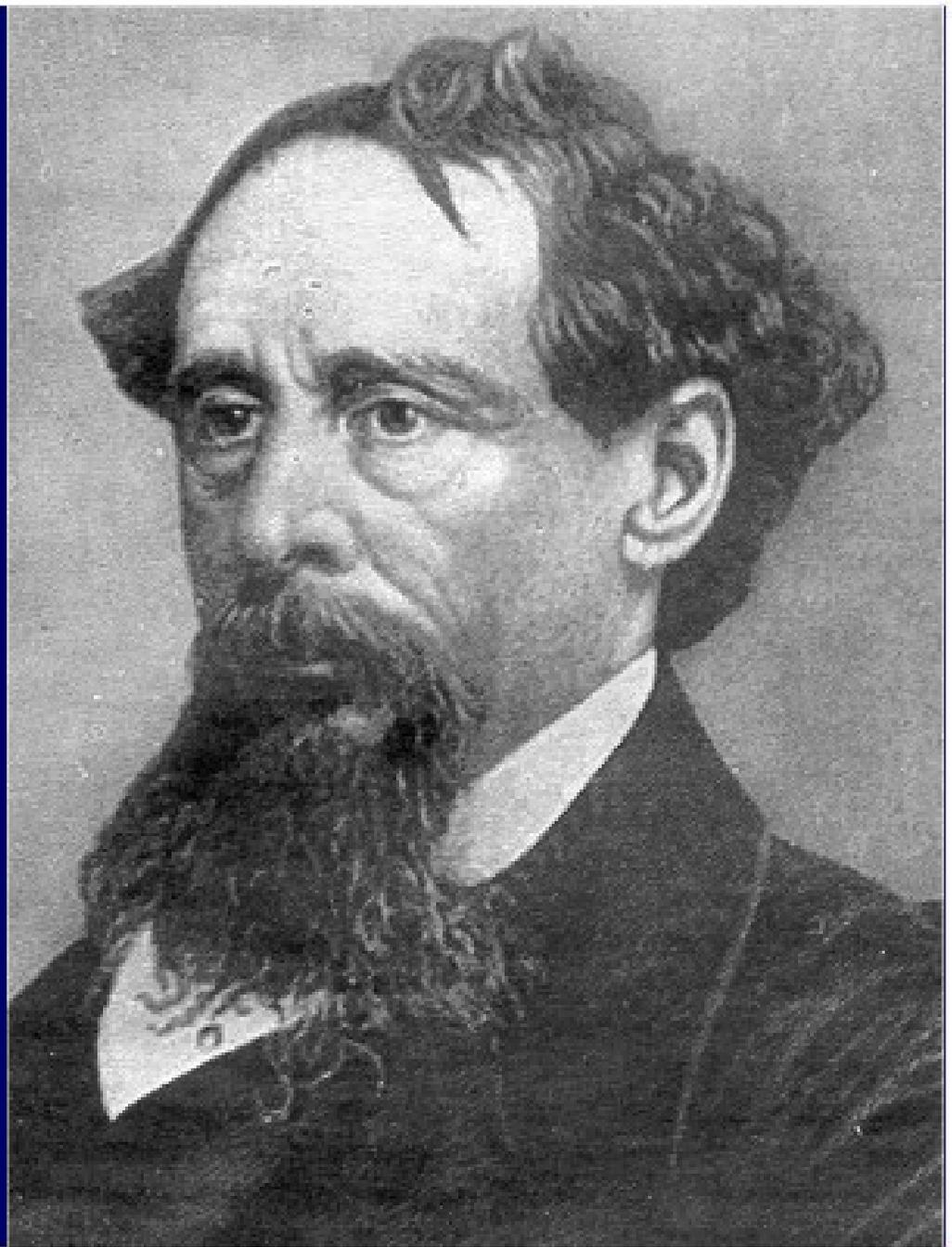
Isaac  
Newton

Peter  
Tchaikovsky

Robert  
Burns

Lord  
Tennyson

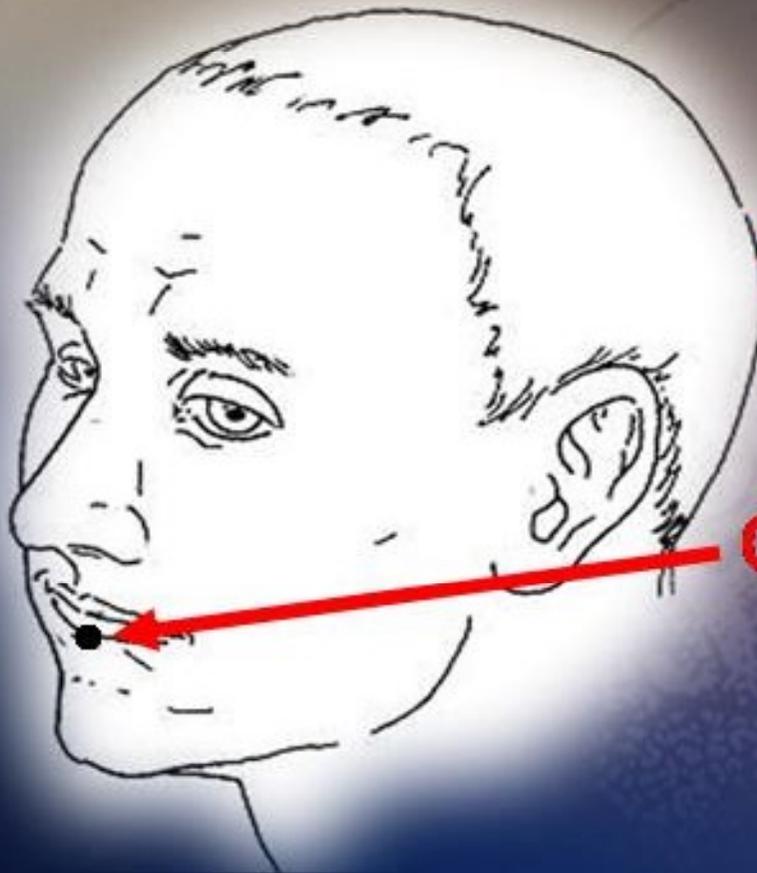
**Charles Dickens,**  
manic  
energy fed  
his  
creativity  
but also led  
to insomnia  
and  
depression.



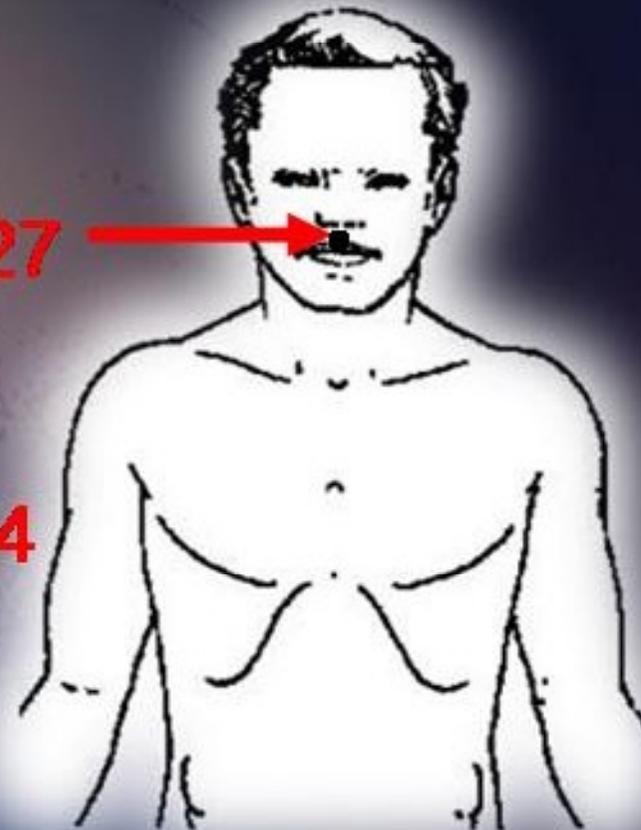
# DOPAMINE MERIDIAN DIAGNOSTIC POINTS

YANG POINTS (DEFICIENCY)

YIN POINTS (EXCESS)



GV27



CV24

# Exercises to stimulate Dopamine

## Running - aerobically



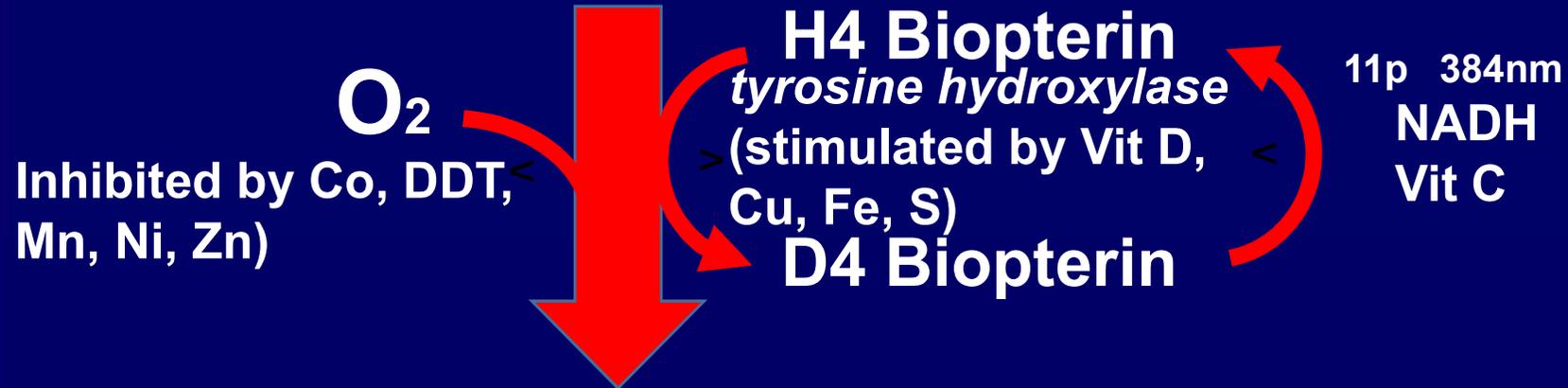
# Exercises to inhibit Dopamine

Sailing or any sport that they can achieve in



# Serotonin

# TRYPTOPHAN



# 5-Hydroxytryptophan

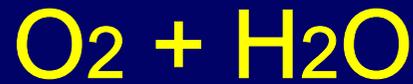


# SEROTONIN

# SEROTONIN

*monoamine oxidase* 14 387nm  
23x 400nm  
Cu<sup>+</sup> FAD

Inhibited by benzoic acid,  
caffeine, anthrocyandins,  
eugenol, naringen, raison



Hydroxyindole  
acetate + NH<sub>4</sub>

*catechol-O-methyltransferase*  
22 399nm

Mg<sup>++</sup>, Fe, Mn, Cysteine

Inhibited by epicatechin, 2OH and  
CH<sub>3</sub> Estrogens, Vit C, Ca, quercetin,  
SAH, SAM,



Methoxyindole acetate



# Methoxyindole acetate



*Glutathione (Cysteine,  
Glycine, Glutamic acid)*

NAC, Zn<sup>++</sup>, P5P, Sel  
a-Lipoic or

*Sulfation (PAPs)* S, MSM

Taurine or

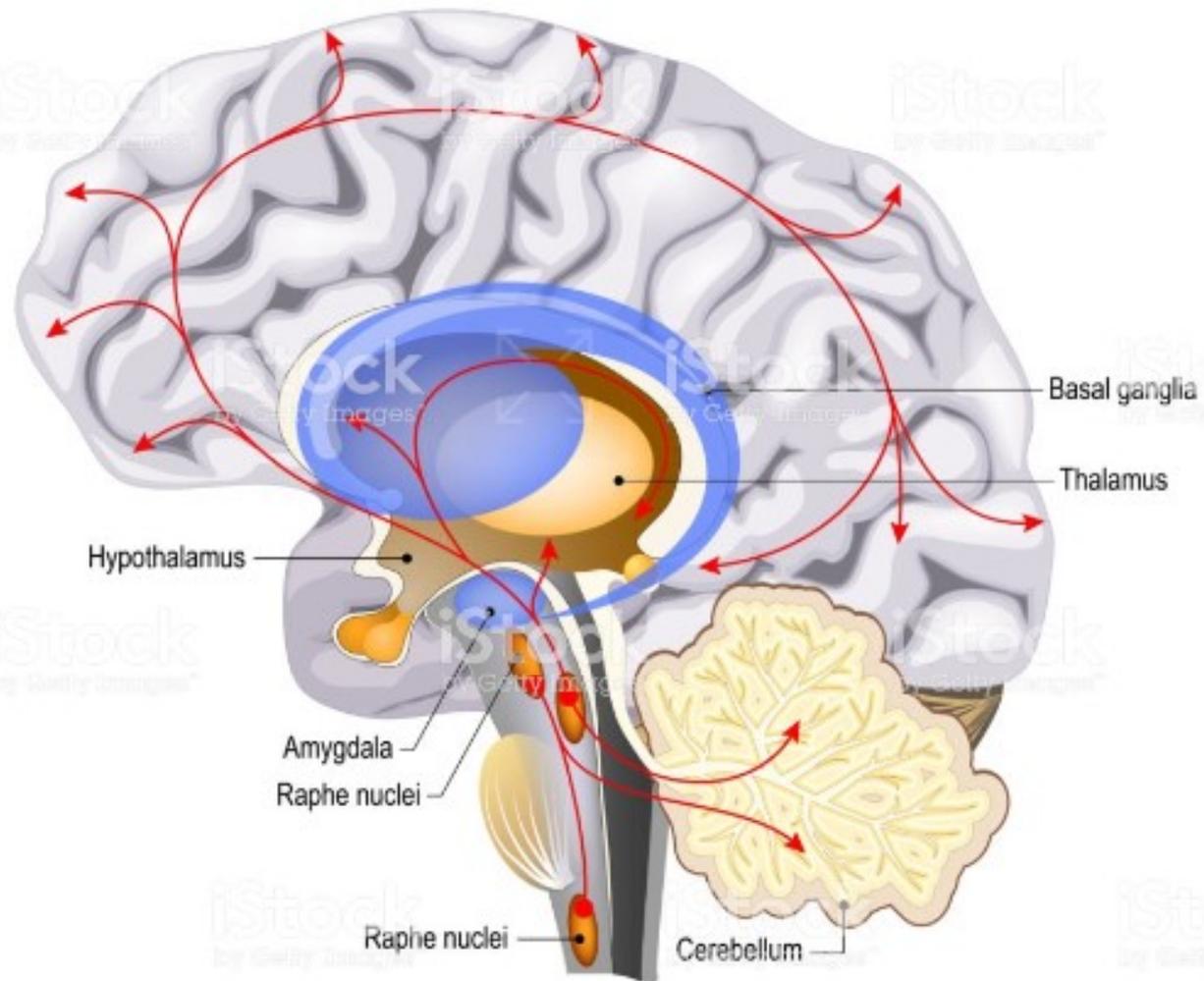
*Glucuronidation (UDP*

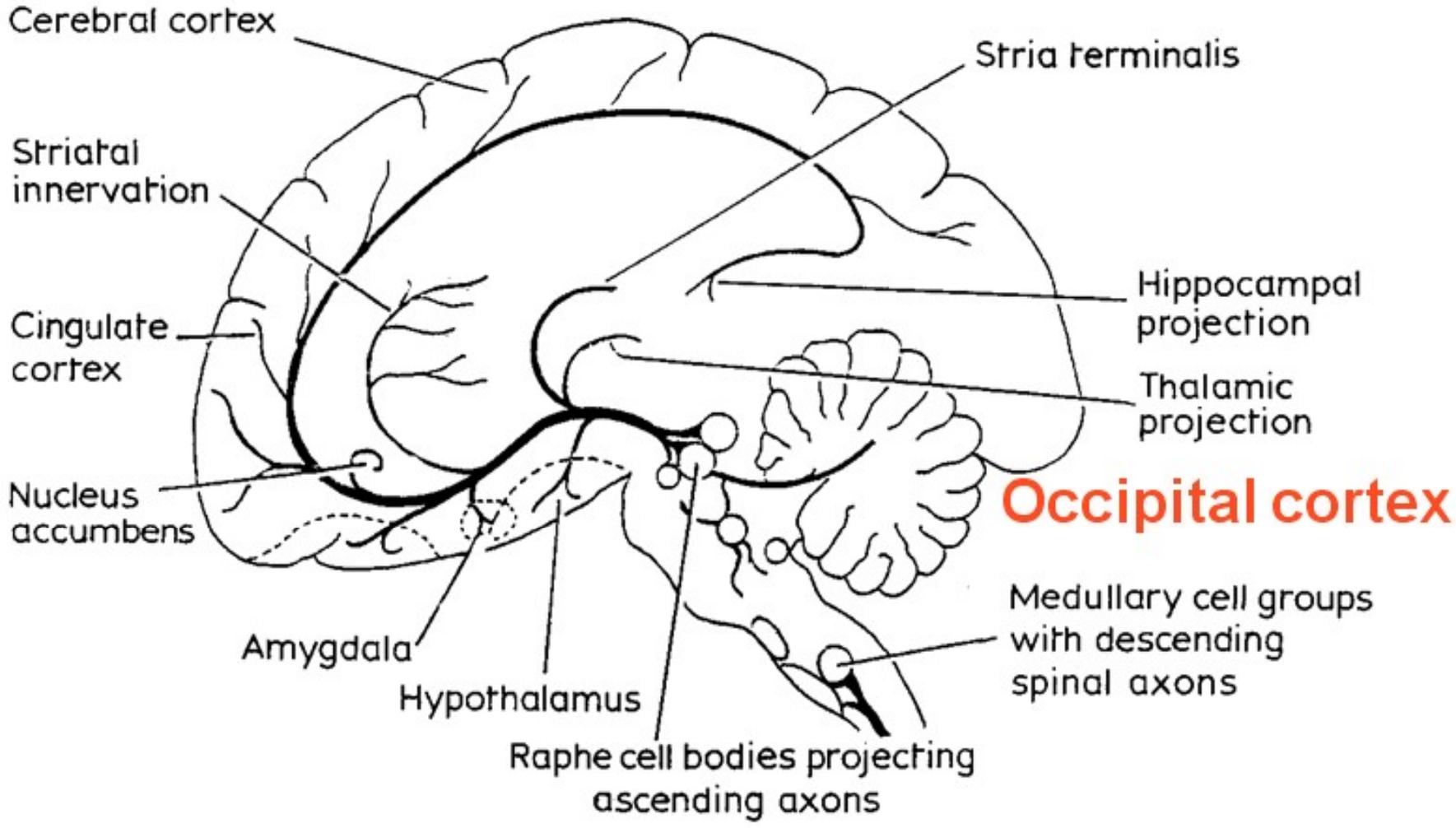
*Gucuronic acid)* Glucuronate,  
Vit C, or

*Acetylation (Acetyl CoA)* B5,  
Acetyl CoA

Conjugates excreted through  
the bile or urine

# Serotonin pathway





# **Serotonin is a neurotransmitter at**

- 1. the midline raphe nuclei of the rostral pons**
- 2. basal ganglion**
- 3. hypothalamus**
- 4. thalamus**
- 5. hippocampus**
- 6. limbic forebrain**
- 7. areas of the cortex**
- 8. brain stem to the medulla and spinal cord**

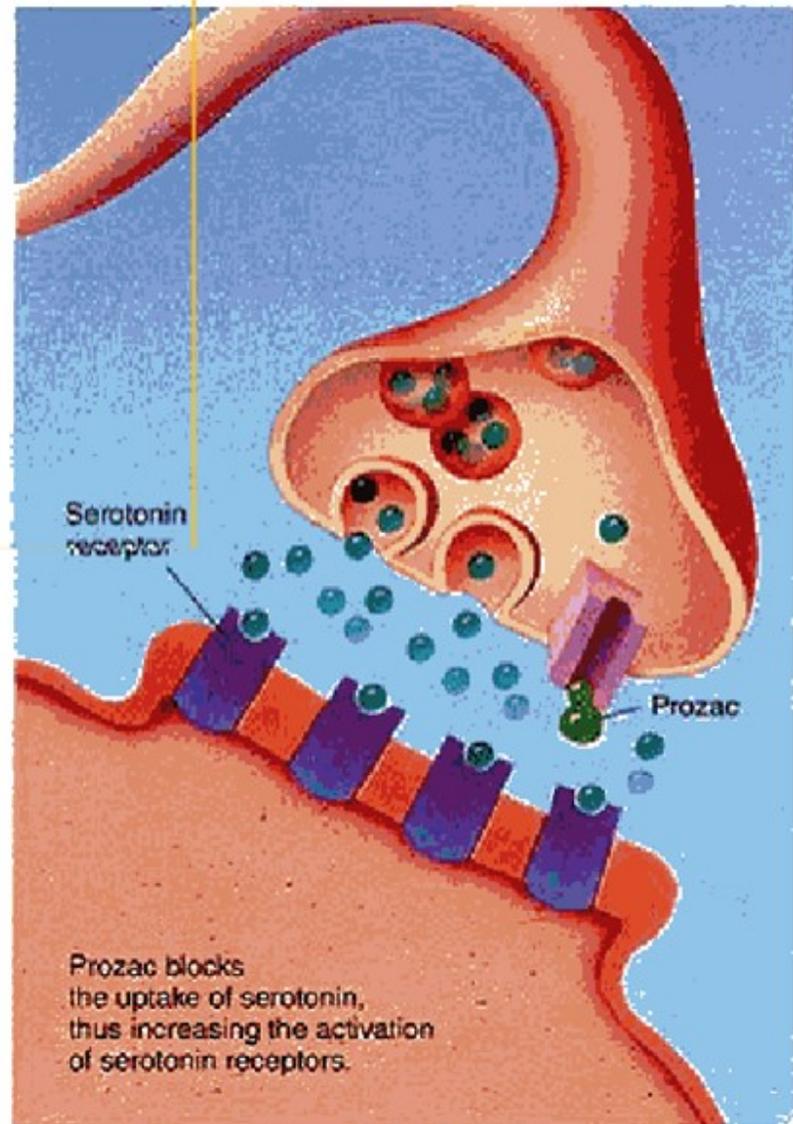
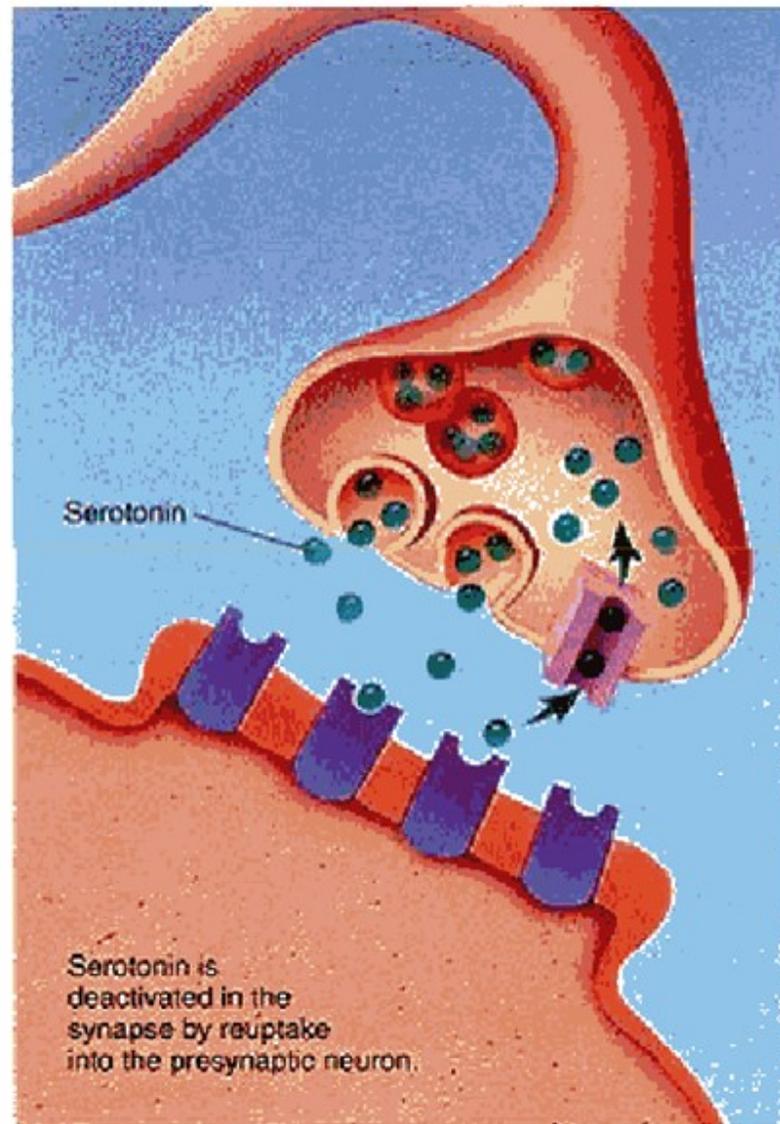
The cell bodies, of serotonergic neurons reside in the brain stem; their axons can descend in the spinal cord (where they **"gate" incoming sensory inputs** and also decrease sympathetic nervous outflow, thus lowering blood pressure) or ascend to other parts of the brain.

**Brains of women** produce only about two-thirds as much serotonin as those of men; this may explain their greater vulnerability to serotonin-related diseases like depression and obesity.

Within the pineal gland serotonin is also the precursor for the sleep-inducing hormone **melatonin**.

**Serotonergic** nerve terminals are found in virtually all regions, enabling this transmitter to modulate mood; sleep; total food intake and macronutrient (carbohydrate vs. protein) selection; aggressive behaviours; and PAIN sensitivity.

# Blockage of reuptake by Prozac

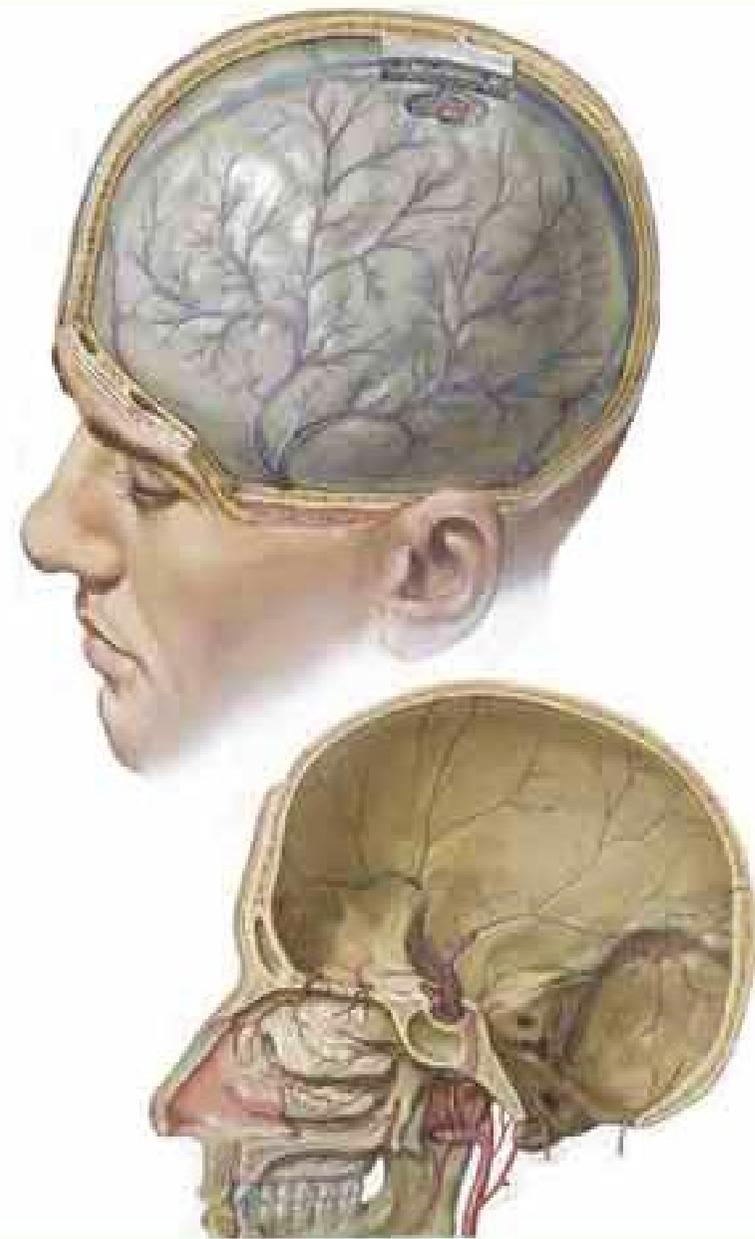


**Experiments using Prozac showed initially an increase in transit time in the gut motility. As the dose increased the motility slowed until it stopped. This indicated a loss of receptor activity due to over saturation. This may occur in the brain and it may predispose to an acute depressive crisis leading in severe cases to suicide.**

# Migraines and Serotonin



**Serotonin is systemically a vasoconstrictor, but a vasodilator of the mid meningeal artery.**



# **SEROTONERGIC RECEPTORS**

**5-HT release either from nerves or from platelets causes vasoconstriction of all large blood vessels.**

**Currently there are fifteen different receptor subtypes.**

## DEFICIENCY



*Shame and Humiliation*

↓ B cell production

Depression (the blues)

Suicide, Sleep disorders

Compulsive disorders

Obsessive behaviour

such as Anorexia nervosa,  
Bulimia, weight gain

Decreased libido

Impulsive aggression

Alcoholism, Sexual deviance

Explosive rage

Low blood pressure

Low body temperature

Bladder problems-Toxic metal

## EXCESS



*Anxiety and Fear*

↑ B cell production

Migraine

Depression

Pains

Anorexia

Masked aggression

Obsessive compulsion

Shyness

Lack of self confidence

Low sex drive

Hypertension

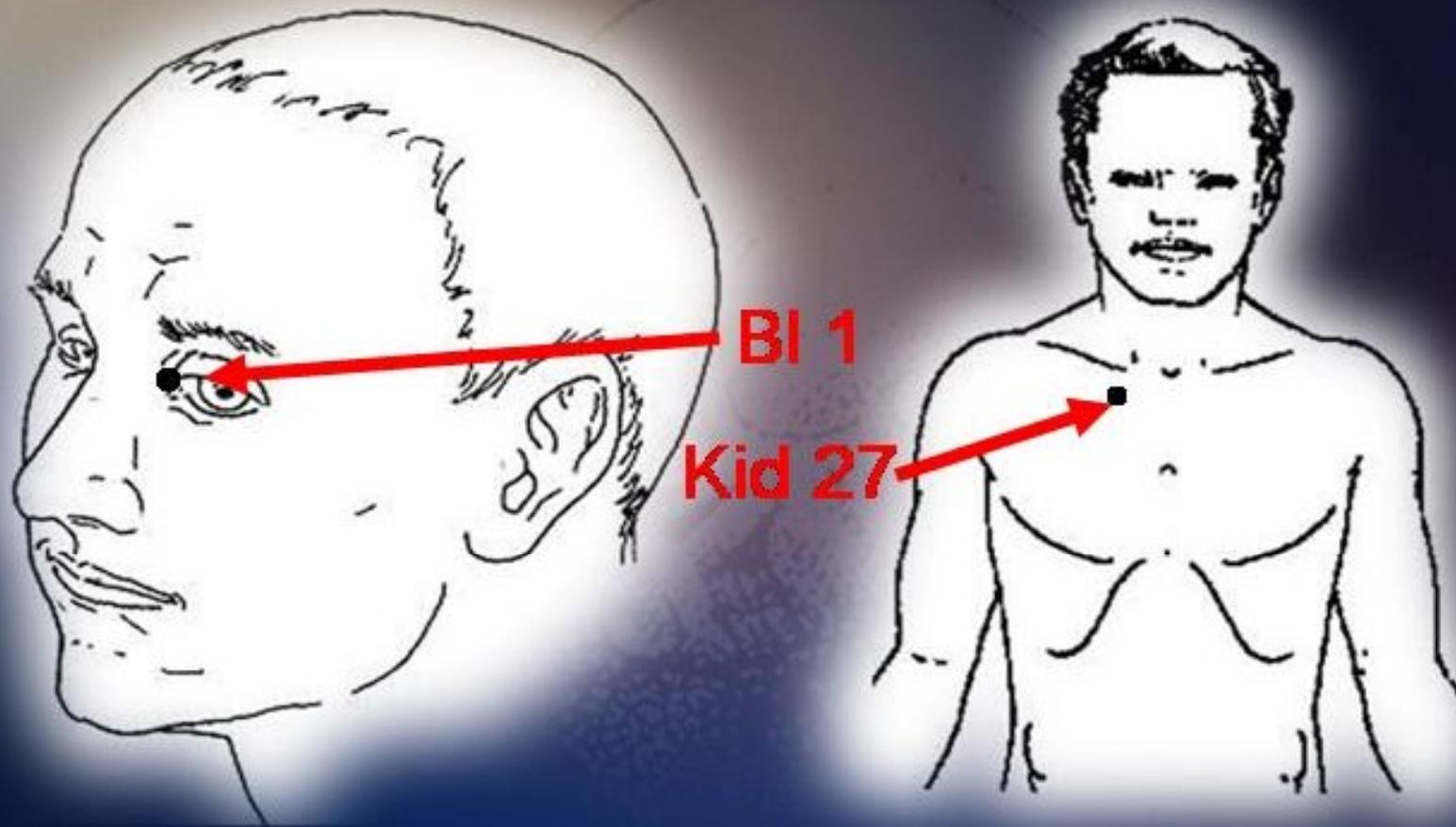
High body temperature

Kidney problems-Toxic metal

Need for more water

# SEROTONIN MERIDIAN DIAGNOSTIC POINTS

YANG POINTS (DEFICIENCY)      YIN POINTS (EXCESS)



# Exercises to stimulate Serotonin

Walking outside in daylight,  
Gardening



**Any activity in a garden such as weeding, pruning, cultivating and harvesting has been shown to increase low levels of serotonin.**

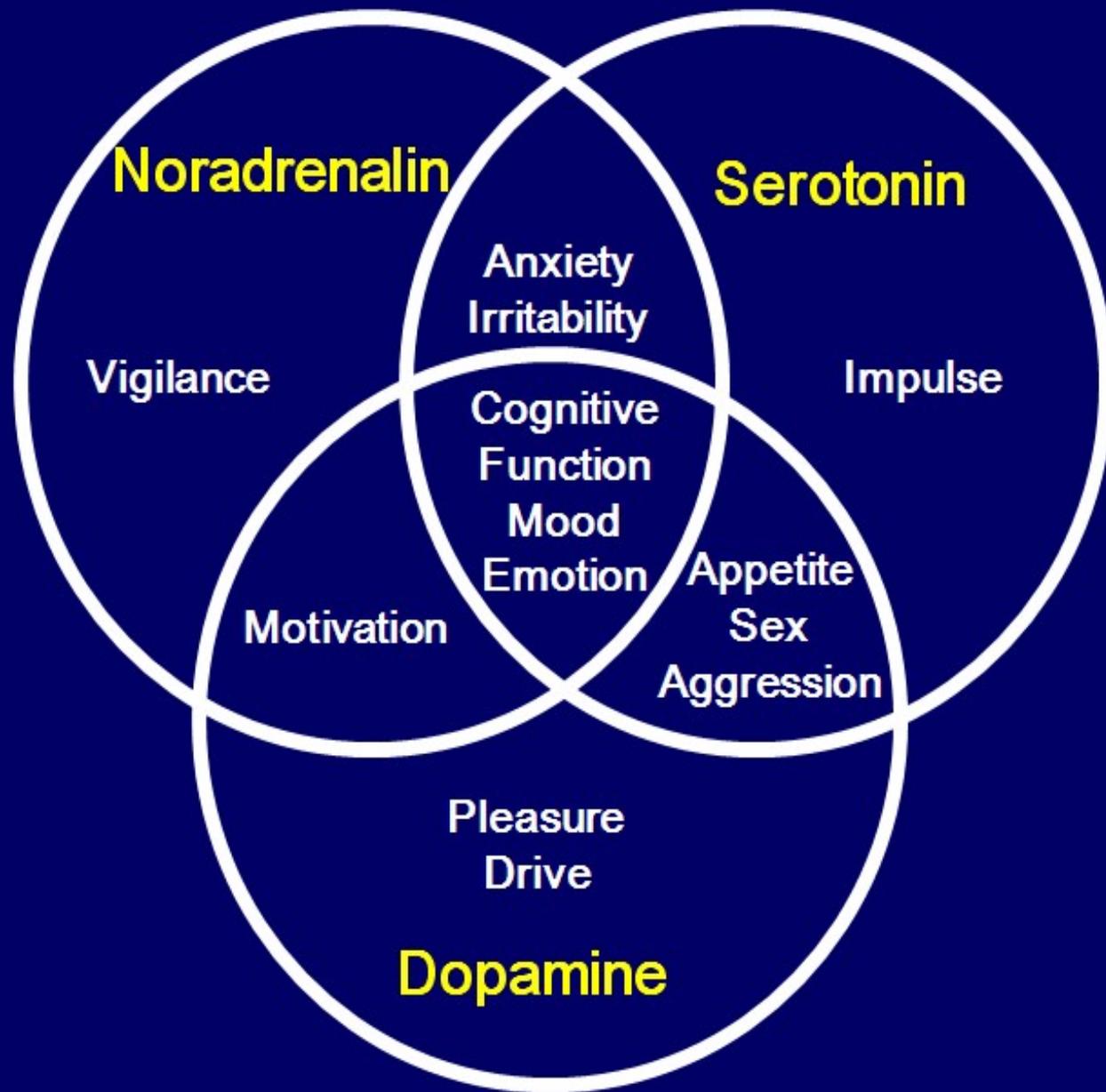
**Dr Roger Ulrich Texas A&M University  
August 2003**



# Exercises to inhibit Serotonin

## Tai Chi (calm and relaxing)





The neurotransmitters **serotonin, noradrenaline and dopamine** are involved in the control of many of our mental states, sometimes acting on their own and other times acting together. These, and other neurotransmitters, are likely to play a pivotal role in the pathological basis of mental illness and brain disease.

**Understanding the numerous neurotransmitters, their receptors, their location, and their interactions with one another has been central to the design of medicines for mental illness and has led to the development of successful products for many brain disorders.**

**Depression** is a state of low mood and aversion to activity that can affect a person's thoughts, behaviour, feelings and sense of well-being.

**Anxiety** is a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain cause or outcome.

**Manic depression** or Bipolar disorder, is a mental disorder characterized by periods of elevated mood and periods of depression.

**Psychosis** is a severe mental disorder in which thought and emotions are so impaired that contact is lost with external reality.

**Schizophrenia** is a mental disorder often characterized by abnormal social behaviour and failure to recognize what is real.

**Paranoid schizophrenia** is the most common subtype of schizophrenia in which the patient has delusions that a person or some individuals are plotting against them or members of their family.

# Review explores mounting science linking B vitamins and depression



By Adi Menayang 

08-Aug-2017

Last updated on 09-Aug-2017 :

Source: Maturitas

Published online ahead of print, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.maturitas.2016.11.012>

The effects of vitamin B on the immune/cytokine network and their involvement in depression

Authors: Kathleen Mikkelsen, et al



**Supplementation of B vitamins may improve symptoms of depression, according to researchers from the College of Health and Biomedicine at Victoria University, Australia.**

*“Vitamin B deficiency (B1, B2, B6, B12) is used by clinicians to recognize and treat psychiatric disorders,” they wrote in their review, **published** in the journal Maturitas. “It is clear that deficiency in B vitamins results in symptoms of depression, thus affecting health and well-being of individuals.”*

# Histamine

**Histamine** is most often thought of as a bad guy, associated with irritation.

In fact it is associated with arousal.



**HISTIDINE**

**CO<sub>2</sub>**



**Vit B6 (or Vit B1)**

**Mg, Zn**

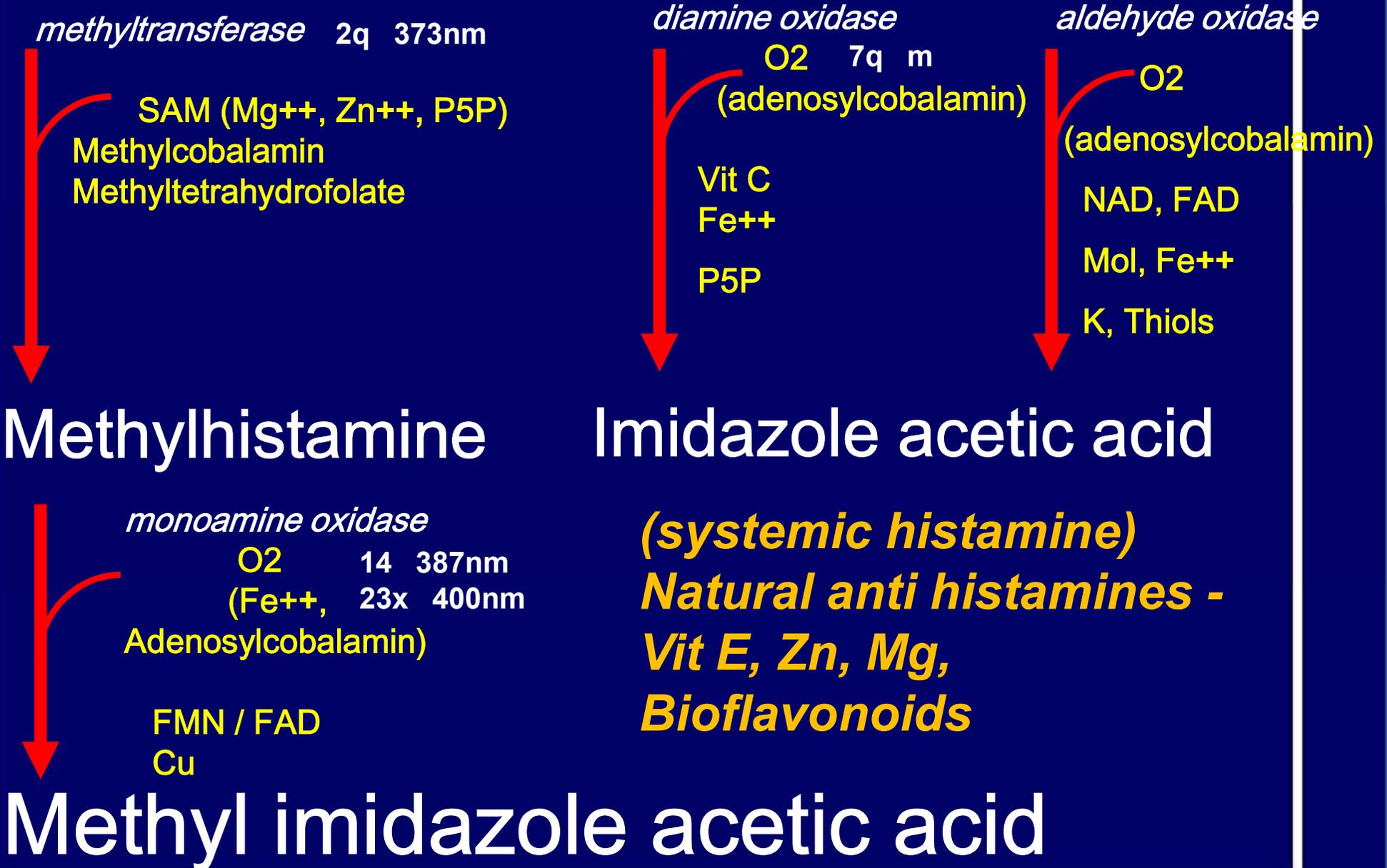
*decarboxylase* 15q 388nm

*(inhibited by high levels of CO<sub>2</sub>)*

**HISTAMINE**

# HISTAMINE

2q 373nm  
18 393nm



**Low stomach acid  
(hypochlorrhydria)  
causes the morning  
nausea and  
sickness often  
associated with  
pregnancy**



## **Histamine activates cAMP.**

**cAMP stimulates a Protein kinase which phosphorylates carbonic anhydrase.**

**Carbonic anhydrase forms HCl in the stomach and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> in the pancreas.**

**Low stomach HCl leads to nausea.**

**Histamine stimulates**

**Hydrochloric acid**

**Pepsinogen**

**Secretin**

**Nitric Oxide (from iNOS)**

**So stimulating**

**Alertness**

**Sexuality**

**Motor activity**

**Histamine is a neurotransmitter  
at CNS pathways involved in**

- 1. Arousal**
- 2. Nausea and vomiting**
- 3. Control of blood pressure**
- 4. Control of water metabolism**

## **Histamine foods**

**Bananas, Prickly pear, Stinging nettle, Cabbage, Milk thistle, Shepherds purse, Celendine, Melon, Sunflower, Strawberries, Sauerkraut, Salami, Bacon, Bass, Beer, Chicken, Cocoa, Chocolate, Cod, Crab, Haddock, Ham, Lobster, Mackerel, Milk (cow and goat), Mutton, Oyster, Salmon, Scallop, Shrimp, Trout, Tuna, Turkey, Yeast, Yoghurt, Avocados.**

## **Histamine receptors in the CNS**

**Ligand binding studies have shown H1, H2, H3 receptors in the CNS of uneven distribution.**

# Histamine receptors outside the CNS

**H1 receptors** stimulation induces

Brochoconstriction.

Constriction of intestinal smooth muscle.

Constriction of large arteries and veins.

Relaxation of arterioles, small veins and capillaries especially in the brain.

Increased capillary permeability

**H2 receptor** stimulation induces gastric acid secretion.



# SYMPTOMS



## DEFICIENCY

### *Lethagy*

↓ Hypochlorite production

Loss of libido

Oedema

Low immune function

Stomach problems -  
hypochlorhydria

## EXCESS

### *Aggitation*

↑ Hypochlorite production

Allergy

Asthma

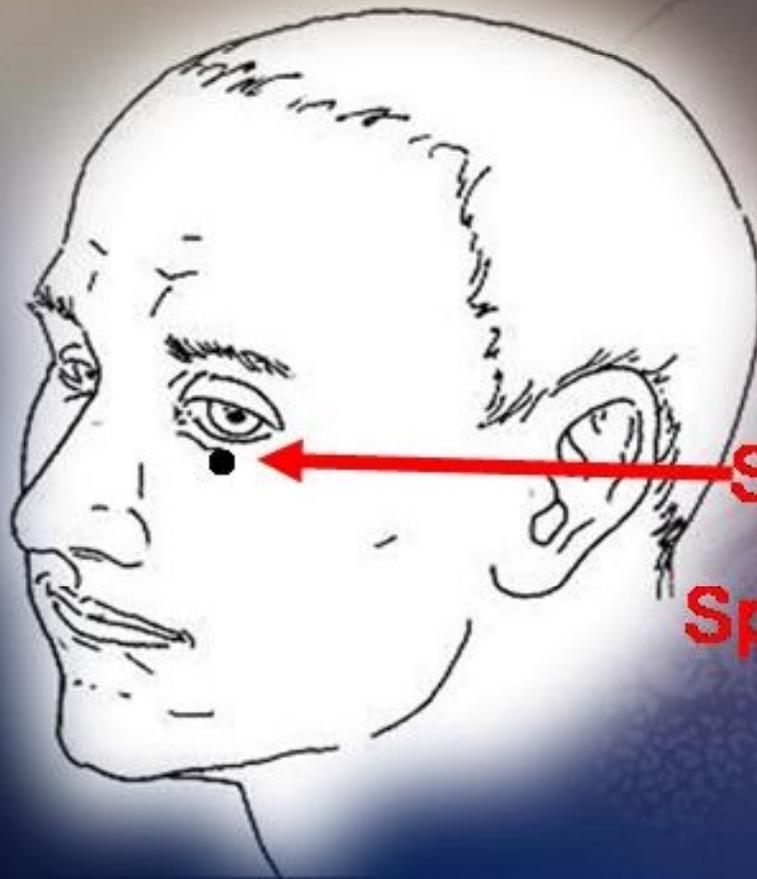
Pain, redness, itching and  
Oedema

Spleen - Overactive immune  
responses

# HISTAMINE MERIDIAN DIAGNOSTIC POINTS

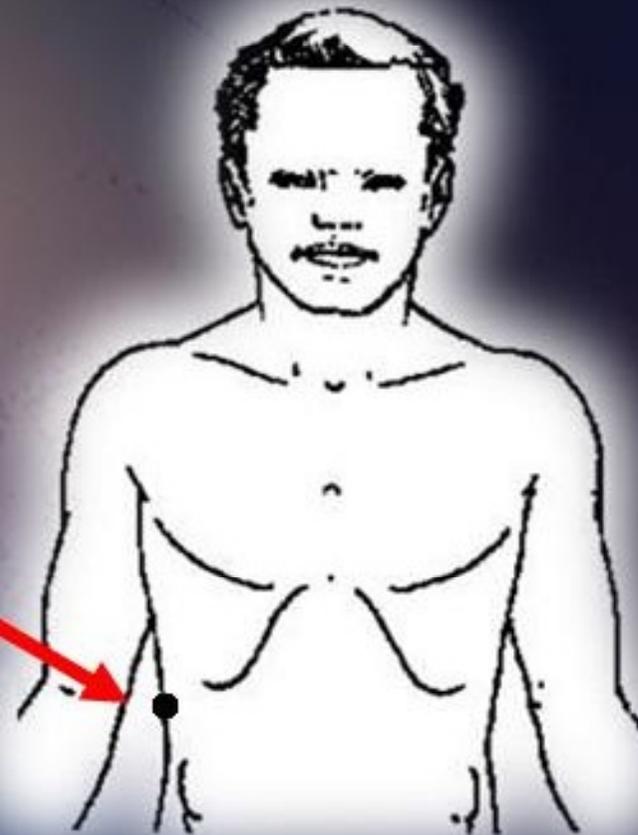
YANG POINTS (DEFICIENCY)

YIN POINTS (EXCESS)



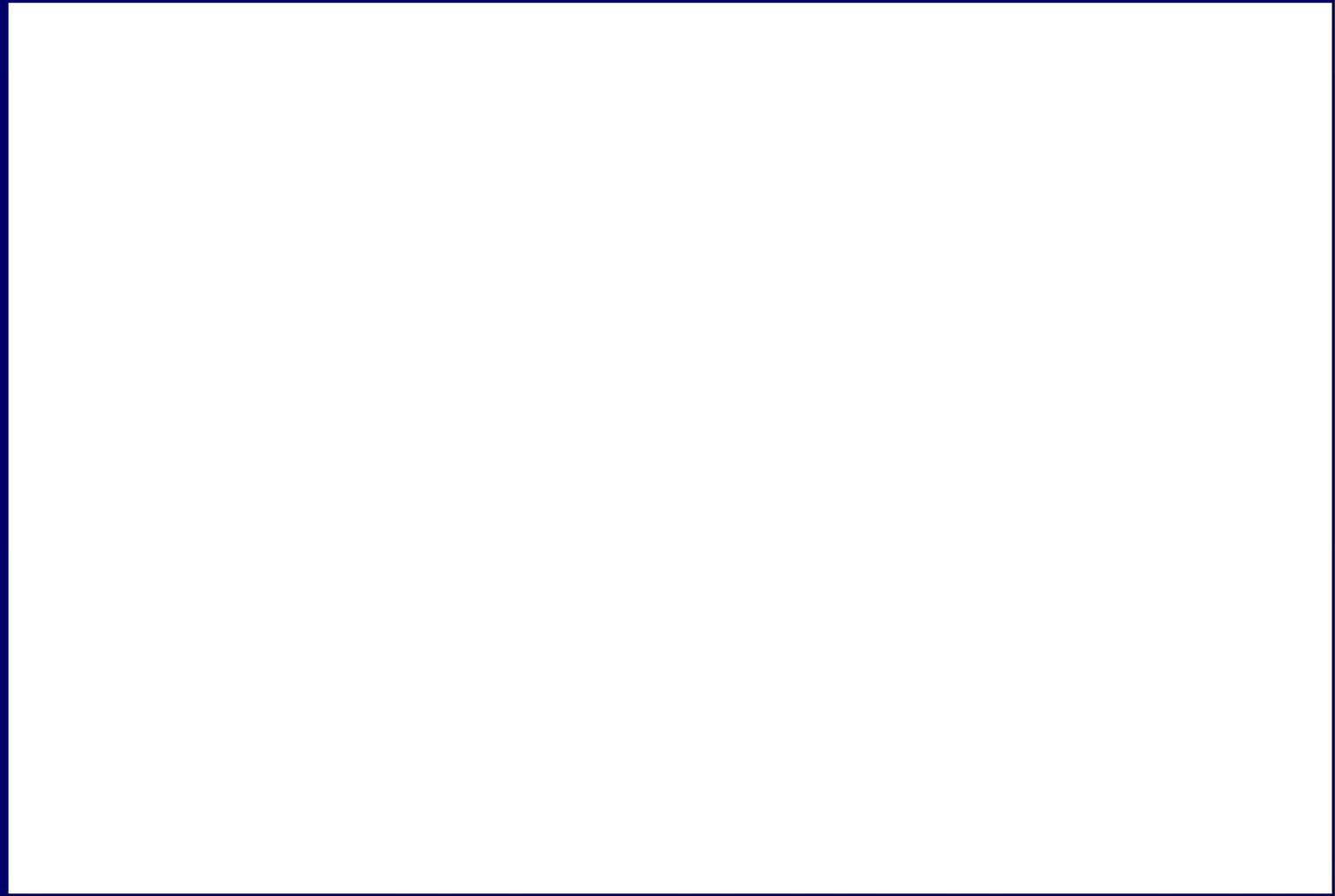
St 1

Sp 21



# Exercises to stimulate Histamine

## Dancing



## **Exercises to inhibit Histamine**

**Stretching, Mobility exercises,  
Flexibility, Oxygenation.**



**GABA**

# GLUTAMATE

Inhibited by  
Cysteine, NO, O<sub>2</sub>

*glutamate decarboxylase*

P5P (Thiamine pyro) 2q 373nm  
10p 383nm

Mg

Zn

CO<sub>2</sub>

# GABA

2-oxoglutarate

*GABA transaminase* 16p 389nm

P5P

Glutamate

# Succinic semialdehyde

# **GABA is an inhibitory neurotransmitter in parts of**

- 1. The brain especially the cortex, hypothalamus, basal ganglia, cerebellum and hippocampus**
- 2. Substantia gelatinosa of the dorsal horn of the spinal cord**
- 3. Retina- It is not present in peripheral nerves**

## **GABA receptors**

**GABA A receptor** stimulation leads to an increase in chloride ion permeability.

They are present mainly in the cerebral cortex and the hippocampus.

**GABA B** receptor stimulation leads to changes in potassium conduction. They are present mainly in the cerebellum and spinal cord.

**GABA c receptor** for *benzodiazepine and ?Barbiturate*

# Symptoms

## DEFICIENCY

*Apathy and Despair*

↓ TH1 production

Symptoms of Glutamate excess

Convulsions such as epilepsy.

Tetany and spastic disorders such as torticollis.

Decreased cerebellar reflexes.

Extrapyramidal disorders such as dyskinesia.

Lateral inhibition of the retina.

Thalamic sensory disorders.

Large intestine problems such as parasites / fungi

## EXCESS

*Anger and Hate*

↑ TH1 production

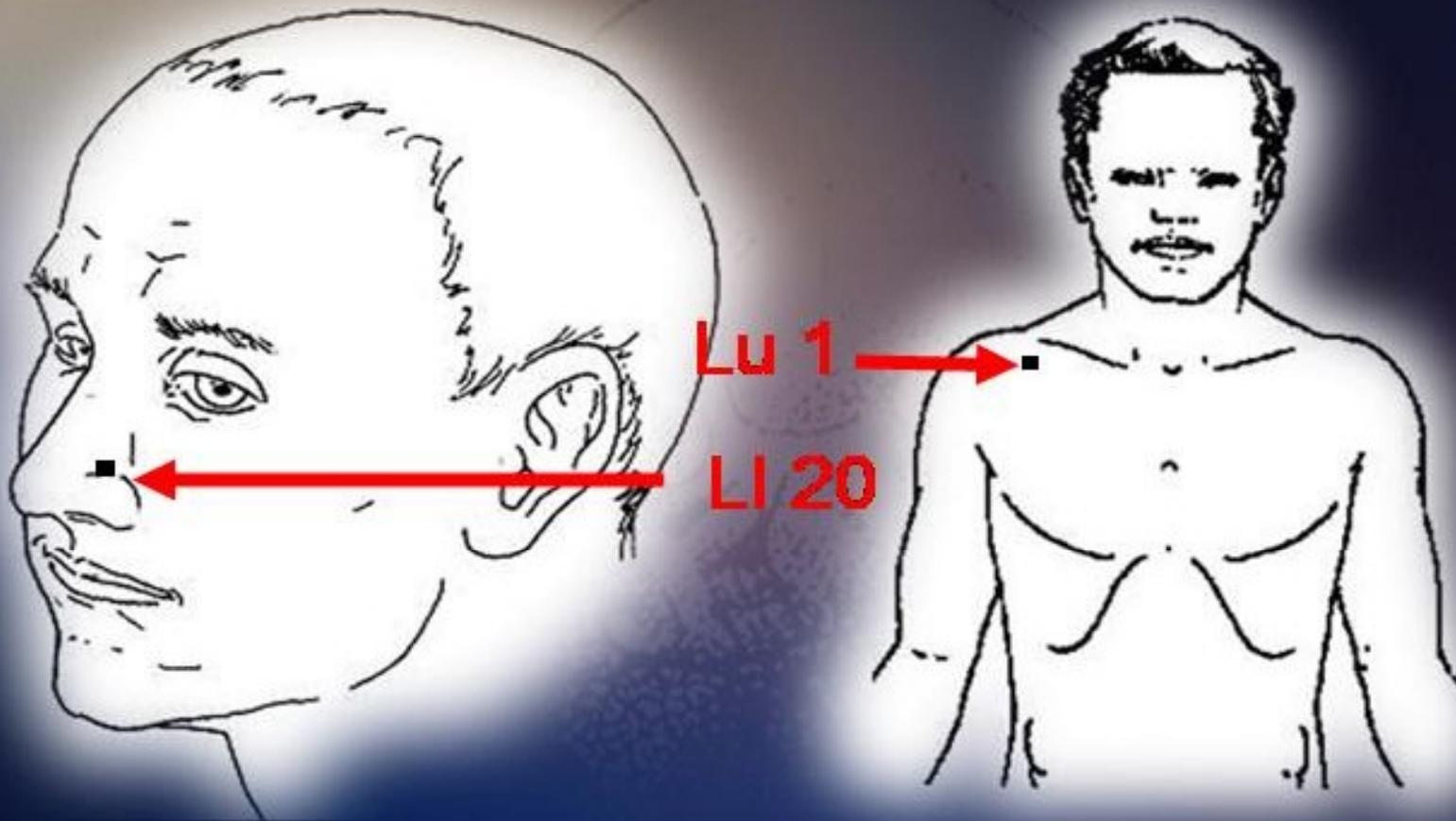
Muscle relaxation.

Stuttering (Phos serine)

Lung problems

# GABA MERIDIAN DIAGNOSTIC POINTS

YANG POINTS (DEFICIENCY)    YIN POINTS (EXCESS)



# Exercises to stimulate GABA

## Golf



# Exercises to inhibit GABA

Skipping, opens up, improves oxygenation, coordination.

National  
Skipping Day is  
on 13th March  
this year,



**Glycine**

Glutamate

*transaminase*

P5P

Mg, Zn

NH<sub>3</sub>

Choline

FAD

Betaine

NAD

DMG

P5P

FAD

**GLYCINE**

Sarcosine

*hydroxymethyltransferase*

*glycine synthase*

Methylene H4 folate

17p 391nm

12q 485nm

Tetrahydrofolate

P5P

Tetrahydrofolate

P5P

Methylene H4 folate

Serine

CO<sub>2</sub>+NH<sub>4</sub>+NADH+H

T

**Glycine is an inhibitory neurotransmitter at some pathways in the**

**1. spinal cord**

**2. retina**

**3. brainstem and forebrain**

**Glycine** is a free form amino acid found in protein foods and can be synthesised from glutamate, alanine, serine, choline via DMG and from carbohydrates.

**Glycine receptors** are blocked by strychnine.



# SYMPTOMS



## DEFICIENCY

Apathy and despair.

Anxiety (loss of inhibition)

Symptoms of glutamate excess.

Motor neurone spasticity

Large intestine problems such as parasites / fungi

## EXCESS

Anger and hate

Stuttering  
(Phosphatidyl serine)

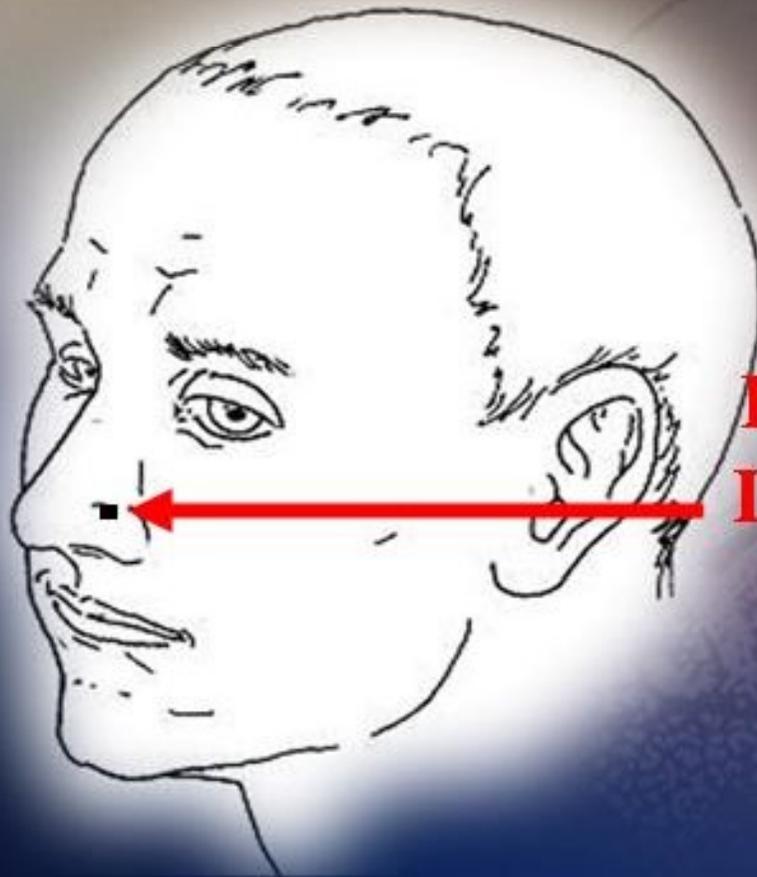
Snoring

Lung problems

# GLYCINE MERIDIAN DIAGNOSTIC POINTS

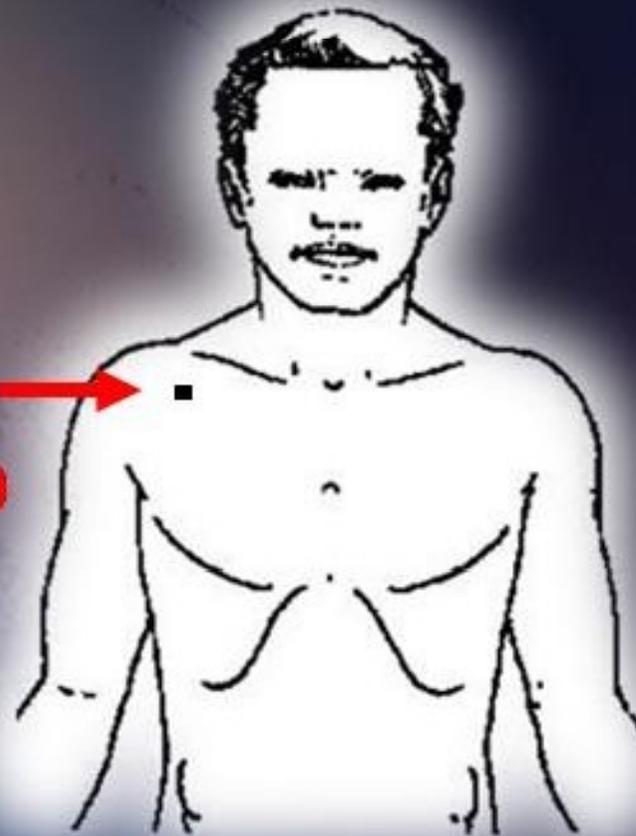
YANG POINTS (DEFICIENCY)

YIN POINTS (EXCESS)



Lu 1

LI 20



# Exercises to stimulate Glycine

Golf



# Exercises to inhibit Glycine

Skipping, opens up, improves oxygenation, coordination.



**Taurine**

# Cysteine

O<sub>2</sub>, NADPH, Fe



*cysteine dioxygenase*  
5q 377nm

# Cysteine sulfinic acid

P-5-P

*cysteine sulfinic acid decarboxylase*

CO<sub>2</sub>

12p 385nm

# Hypotaurine

NAD, Fe, Mol



*hypotaurine dehydrogenase*

NADH+H

5q 377nm  
12p 385nm

# Taurine

Metabolic Pathways -  
<http://smpdb.ca/search>

# (CNS) TAURINE (LIVER)

*taurine reductase*

NADH  
FADH<sub>2</sub>



Isethionic acid

*taurine conjugase*

Cholyl CoA from  
Cholesterol

Vitamin C  
Cu



Rate modulated by  
Phosphatidyl choline

Taurocholic acid

**Taurine** is the most abundant amino acid in the body and acts as an inhibitory or neuro-modulatory neurotransmitter at some pathways in the

1. Brainstem

2. Retina at the inner plexiform layer

3. Striated muscles

**Taurine receptors are blocked by  
strychnine.**



# Symptoms



## DEFICIENCY

Apathy and despair.

Anxiety

Hypercholesterolemia

Muscular dystrophies

Photoreceptor  
degeneration

Retinitis pigmentosa

Toxicity

Large intestine problems

## EXCESS

Anger and hate

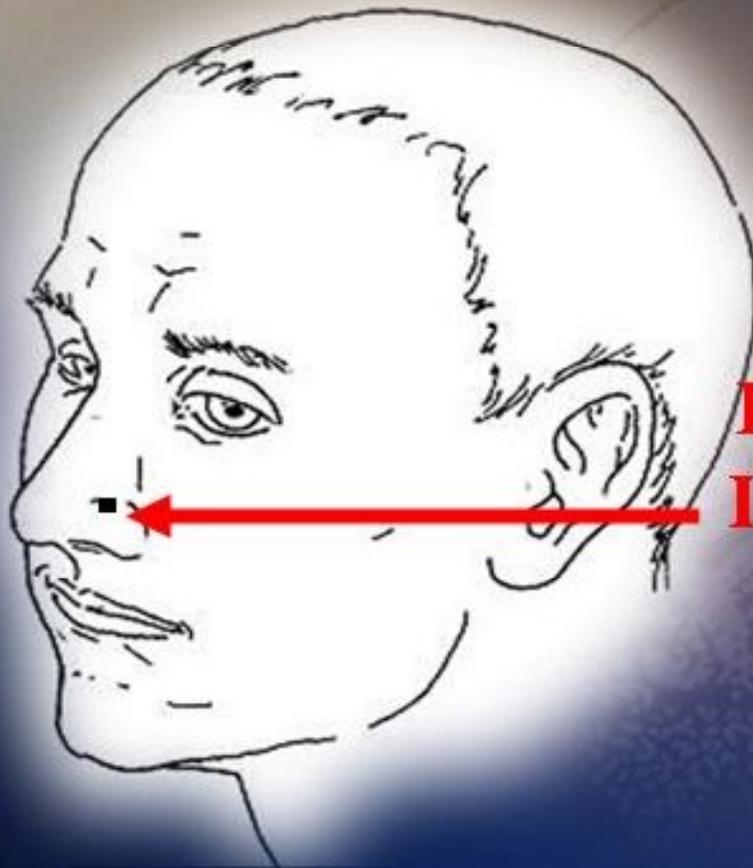
Stuttering

Lung problems

# TAURINE MERIDIAN DIAGNOSTIC POINTS

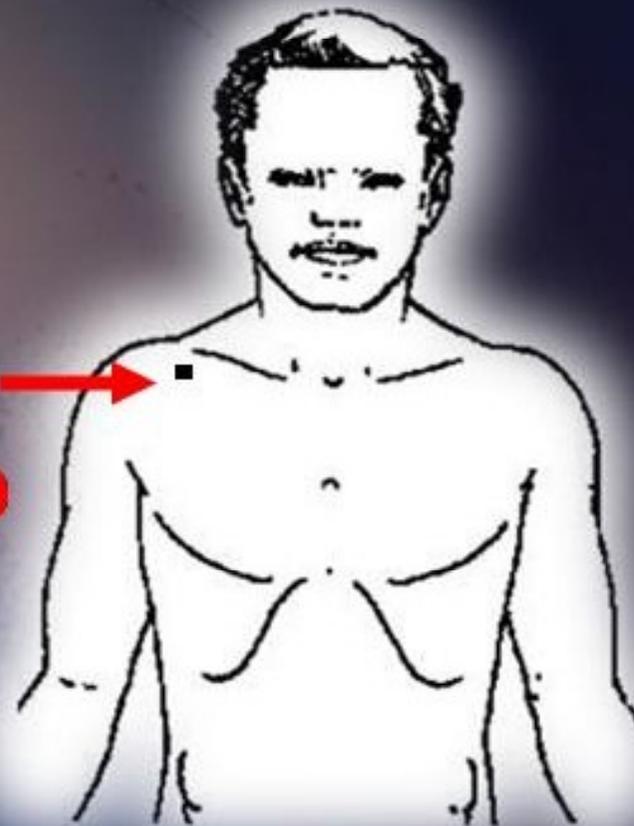
YANG POINTS (DEFICIENCY)

YIN POINTS (EXCESS)



Lu 1

LI 20



## **Exercises to inhibit Taurine**

**Skipping, opens up, improves oxygenation, coordination.**



# **EXCITATORY NEUROTRANSMITTERS**

**(open Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> and / or Ca<sup>++</sup>  
channels causing multiple  
depolarisation or stimulation**

# **Aspartic acid (Aspartate)**

# Asparagine

*asparaginase*

*asparagine synthetase*

7q 380nm

H<sub>2</sub>O

Glutamine

Mg-ATP

# ASPARTATE

*transaminase*

*amino acid oxidase*

Pyruvate

P5P

Vit C

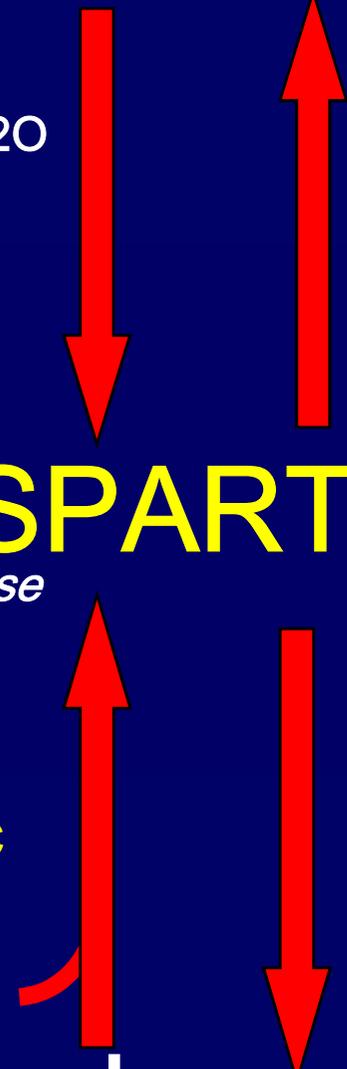
FAD

Fe

O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>

Alanine

# Oxaloacetate



# **RECEPTORS**

**Aspartate and Glutamate  
receptors occur throughout the  
CNS.**

# **ASPARTATE RECEPTORS**

**Aspartate receptors are located in the dorsal and ventral grey matter where they cause excitation of spinal excitatory interneurons where it may regulate motor and spinal reflexes and in the retina of the eye.**

# SYMPTOMS



## DEFICIENCY

**Aimless**

**↓NO production**

**Learning disorders**

**Weight gain**

**Loss of libido due to low NO**

**Memory loss**

**Hypothyroidism**



## EXCESS

**Manic**

**↑NO production**

**High libido due to high NO**

**Hyperactivity**

**ADDH / Dyslexia / Amnesia**

**Muscle spasm, Restless legs**

**Nystagmus and Tinnitus**

**Irritable Bowel Syndrome**

**Chronic Fatigue Syndrome**

**Fibromyalgia**

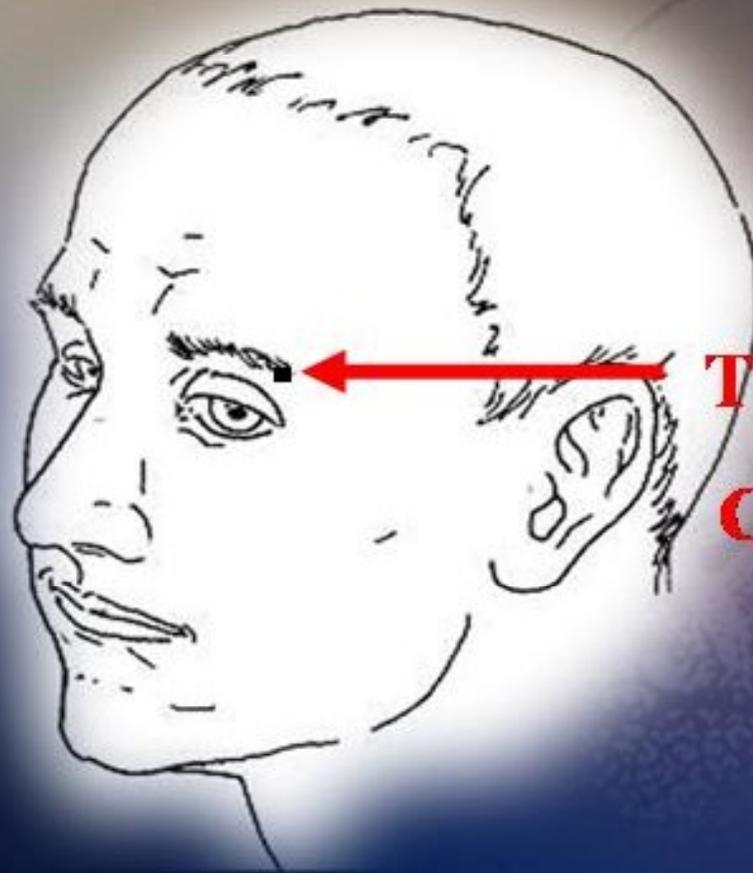
**Convulsions / Epilepsy**

**Hyperthyroidism**

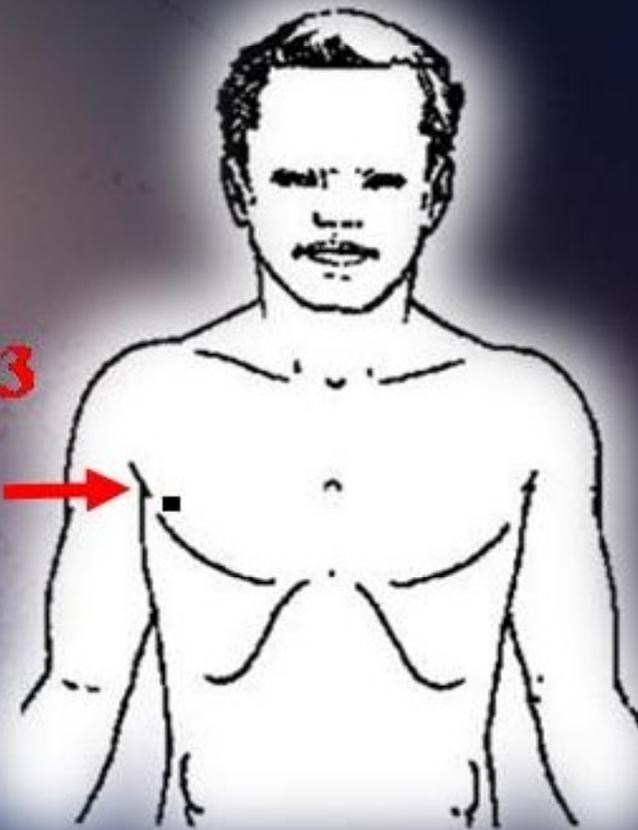
# EXCITATORY MERIDIAN DIAGNOSTIC POINTS

YANG POINTS (DEFICIENCY)

YIN POINTS (EXCESS)



**TW 23**



**Cx 1**

# Exercises to stimulate Excitatory Skating – ice skating, roller blading, scooting.



# Exercises to inhibit Excitatory

## Interval training (fast / slow to break up hyper states.)



3 minutes

1 minute

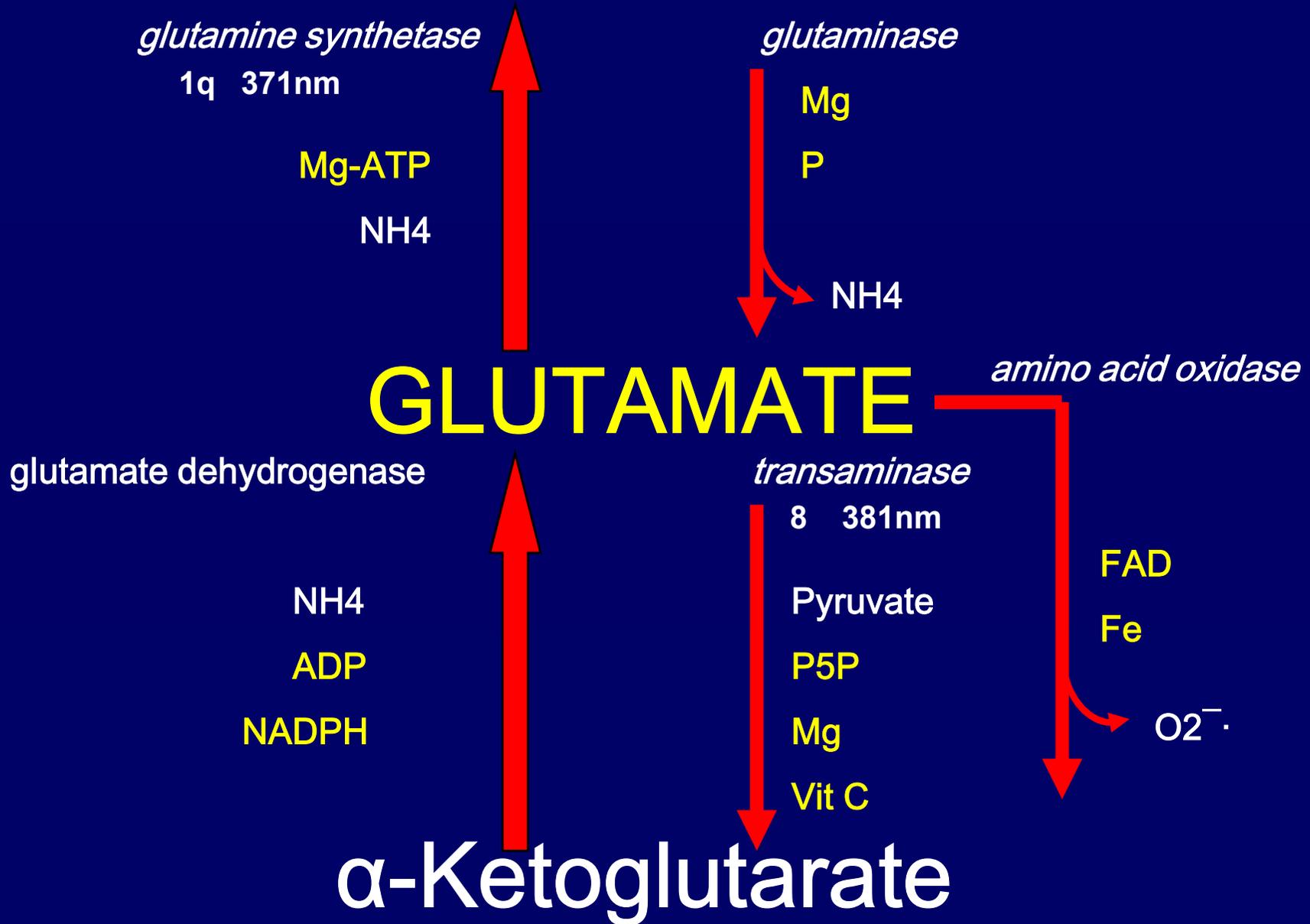
3 minutes

1 minute

3 minutes

# **Glutamic acid (Glutamate)**

# Glutamine



Glutamic acid / NMDA binding site

Glycine binding site

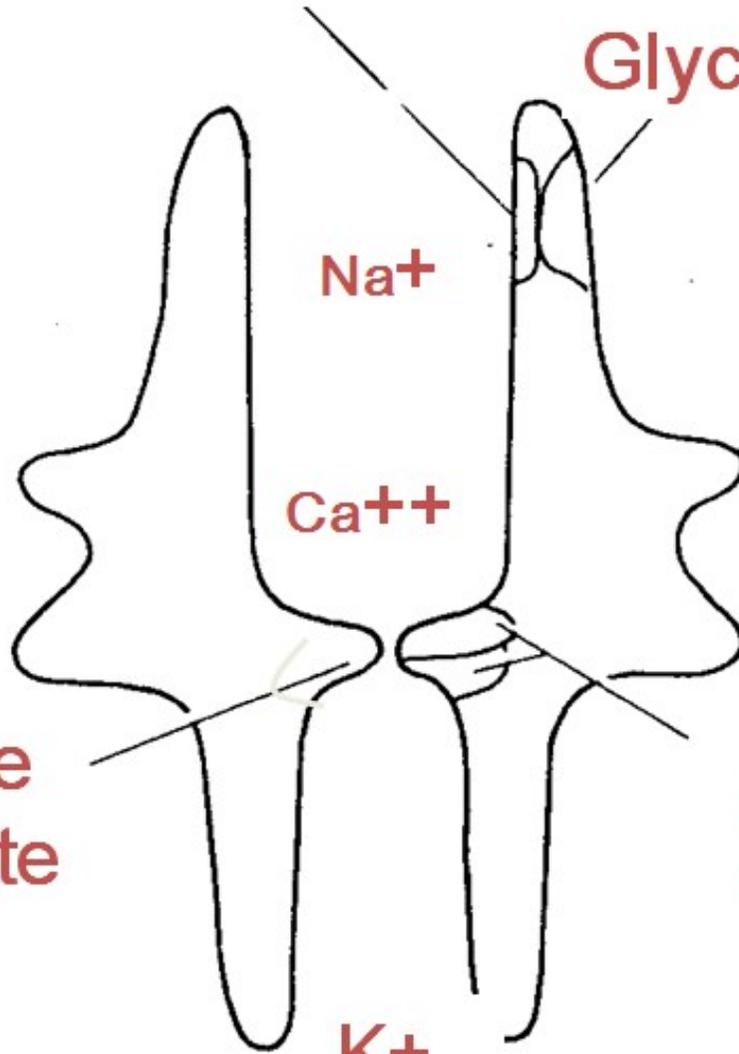
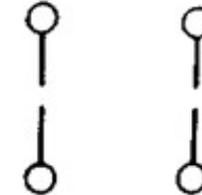
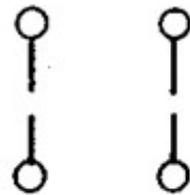
Na<sup>+</sup>

Ca<sup>++</sup>

Zinc voltage sensitive gate

Magnesium binding site

K<sup>+</sup>



# **RECEPTORS**

**Aspartate and Glutamate  
receptors occur throughout the  
CNS.**

## **Glutamate receptors**

**In the spinal cord glutamate receptors are most concentrated at the primary afferent fibres in the dorsal roots and may serve to relay sensory information and to regulate motor activity and spinal reflexes.**

In the brain **glutamate receptors** are found in high concentration in the cortex, hippocampus, neostriatum and cerebellum with lower levels in the hypothalamus. They are also present in the retina of the eye.

# SYMPTOMS



## DEFICIENCY

**Aimless**

**↓NO production**

**Learning disorders**

**Weight gain**

**Loss of libido due to low NO**

**Memory loss**

**Hypothyroidism**

## EXCESS

**Manic**

**↑NO production**

**High libido due to high NO**

**Hyperactivity**

**ADDH / Dyslexia / Amnesia**

**Muscle spasm, Restless legs**

**Nystagmus and Tinnitus**

**Irritable Bowel Syndrome**

**Chronic Fatigue Syndrome**

**Fibromyalgia**

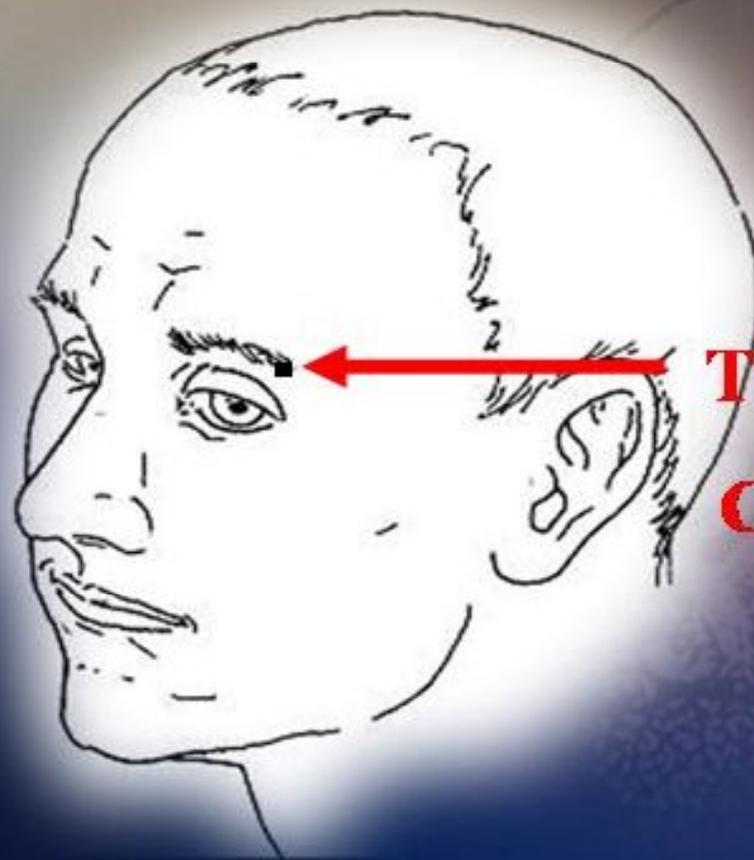
**Convulsions / Epilepsy**

**Hyperthyroidism**

# EXCITATORY MERIDIAN DIAGNOSTIC POINTS

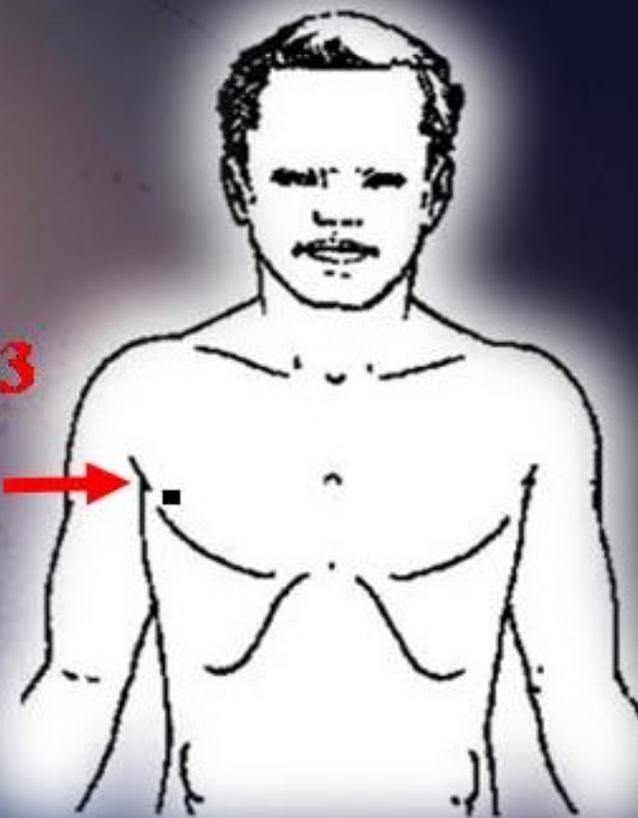
YANG POINTS (DEFICIENCY)

YIN POINTS (EXCESS)



**TW 23**

**Cx 1**



# Exercises to stimulate Excitatory Skating – ice skating, roller blading, scooting.



# Exercises to inhibit Excitatory

## Interval training (fast / slow to break up hyper states.)



3 minutes

1 minute

3 minutes

1 minute

3 minutes

# ASPARTAME and DEPRESSION

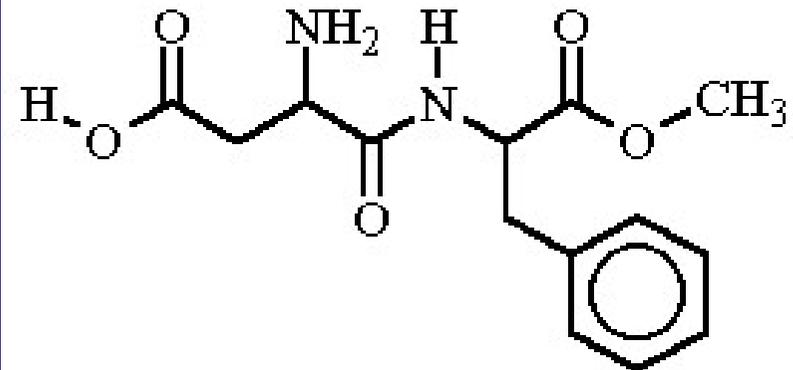


**Aspartame** decreases the availability of Tryptophan to the brain.

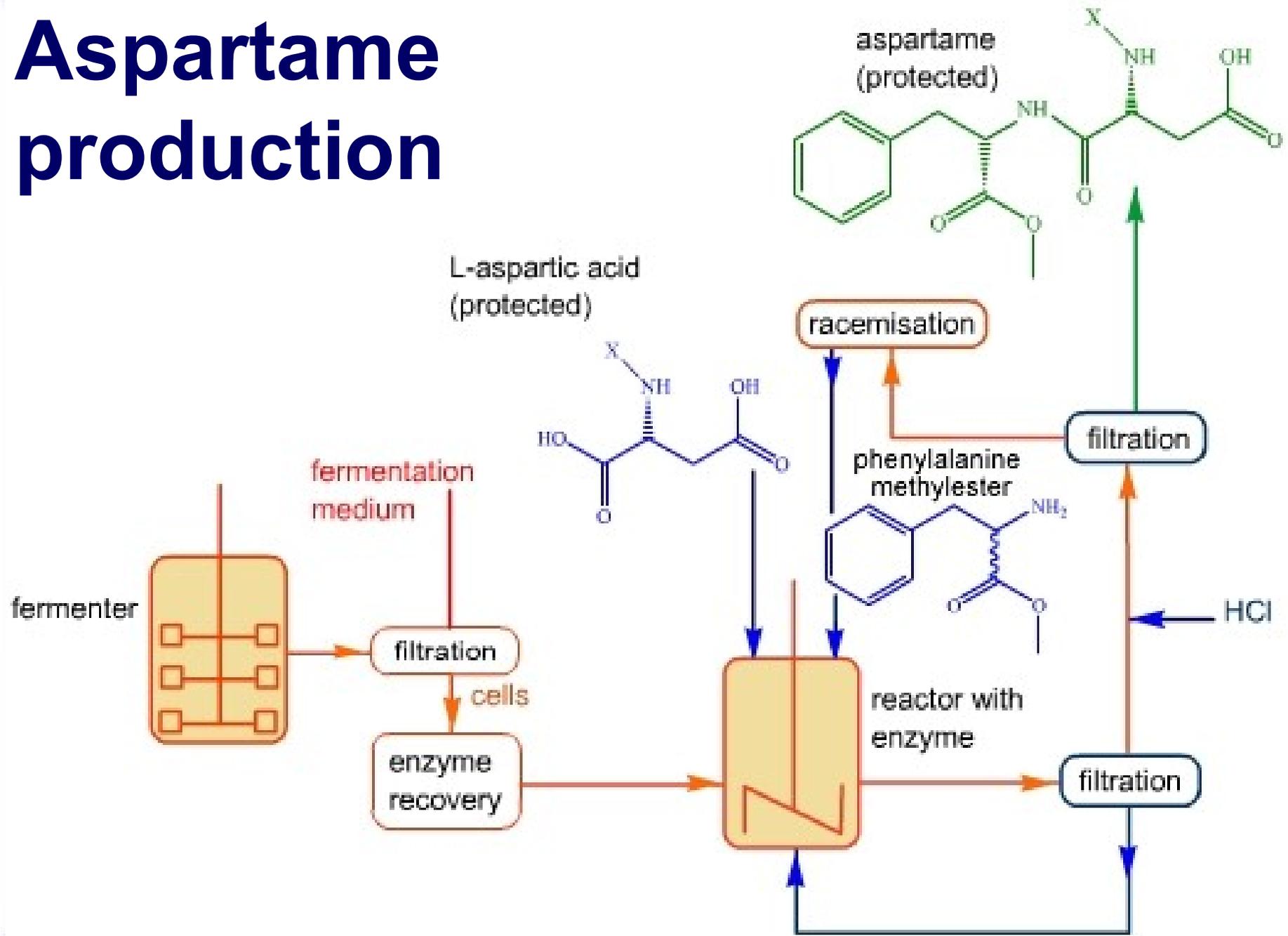
**Tryptophan** is the essential amino acid building block to serotonin, which when present in the brain in low amounts leads to depression and compulsive disorders.

# ASPARTAME DEGRADATION

**ASPARTAME**  
**is**  
**ASPARTIC ACID**  
**+**  
**PHENYLALANINE**



# Aspartame production



**Ingested and warmed to body temperature  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  it is activated upon by**

**Chymotrypsin**

**With the creation of methanol in the ileum.**

Lin SY, Cheng YD (October 2000). "Simultaneous formation and detection of the reaction product of solid-state aspartame sweetener by FT-IR/DSC microscopic system". *Food Additives and Contaminants*. 17 (10): 821–7

**Methanol** is oxidised to  
formaldehyde and formic acid

Trocho C, Pardo R, Rafecas I, Virgili J, Remesar X, Fernández-López JA, Alemany M (1998). "Formaldehyde derived from dietary aspartame binds to tissue components in vivo". *Life Sciences*. 63(5): 337–49