

# LIPIDS

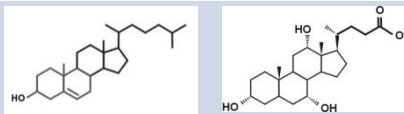
sterol lipids

*Marek Vecka*

# CLASSIFICATION OF LIPIDS

- molecular structure

Lipid class	Abbreviation	N of known structures
Fatty acyls	FA	5869
Glycerolipids	GL	7541
Glycerophospholipids	GP	8002
Sphingolipids	SP	4338
<b>Sterol lipids</b>	<b>ST</b>	<b>2715</b>
Prenol lipids	PL	1259
Other – saccharolipids, polyketides	SL, PK	1293+6742



# STEROL LIPIDS

*STEROL LIPIDS = lipid molecules with backbone derived from cyclopenta[a]phenanthrene (?)*

## Division according to biochemical function

### 1. Sterols

cholesterol, phytosterols, marine sterols...

### 2. Bile acids and derivatives

C24, C26, C27, C28 bile acids, bile alcohols

### 3. Steroids

C18 steroids, C19 steroids, C21 steroids

### 4. Secosteroids

vitamins D

### Other groups

conjugates, hopanoids, ...

# STEROL LIPIDS

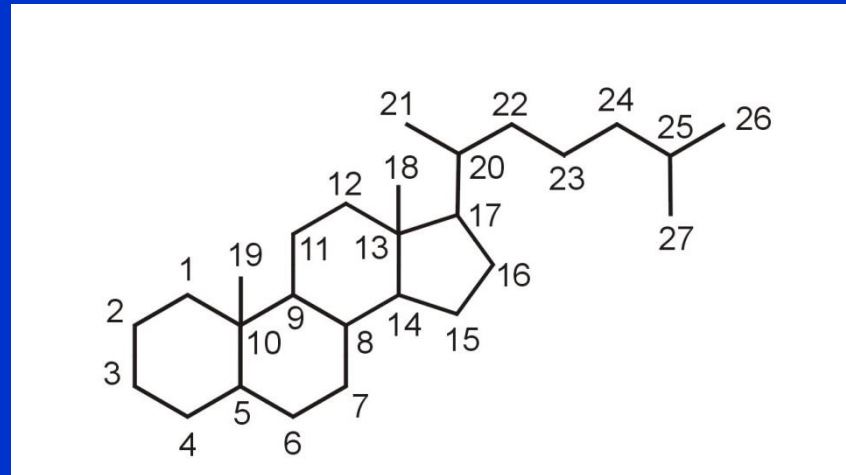
## Structures

### 1. Numbering system for C27

*four-ring system first*

*C's on attached methyls*

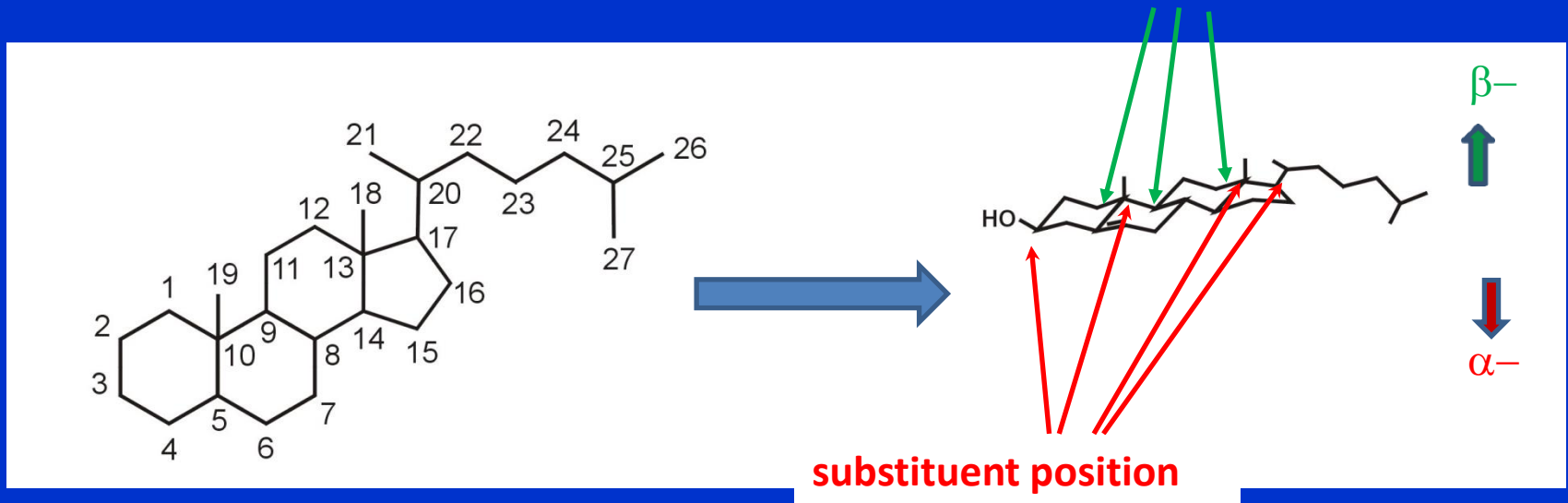
*side chain*



# STEROL LIPIDS

## Structures

### 2. Stereochemistry



#### Conventions:

1. Ring position: *cis*- (remaining 4<sup>th</sup> bonds of common C-C are *cis*-) (A-B *cis*-: bile acids)  
vs. *trans*- (remaining 4<sup>th</sup> bonds of common C-C are *trans*-) (all : cholesterol)
2. Substituents:  $\alpha^-$  (**below** cycle plane) vs.  $\beta^-$  (**above** cycle plane)

# STEROL LIPIDS

## Structures

### 3. Important hydrocarbon structures

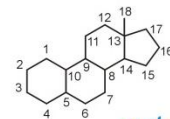
**C18 structures:** estrosteroid hormones

**C19 structures:** androsteroid hormones

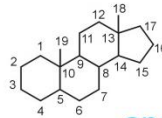
**C21 structures:** pregnasteroid hormones

**C24 structures:** cholesteroid acids/alcohols

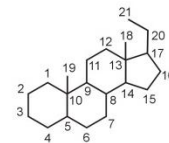
**C27 structures:** cholesterol, oxysterols



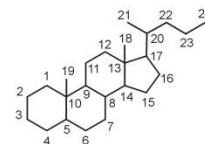
estrane



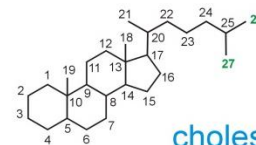
androstane



pregnane



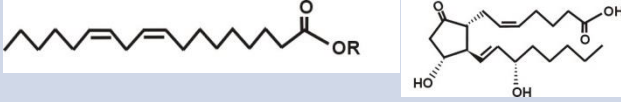
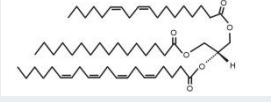
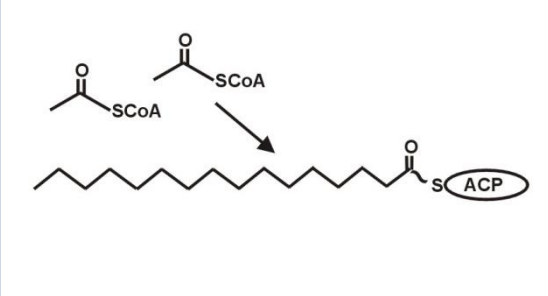
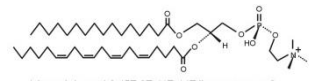
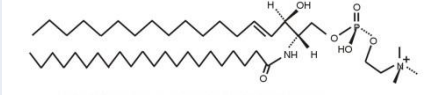
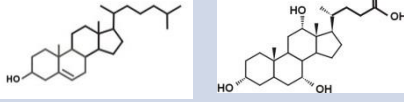
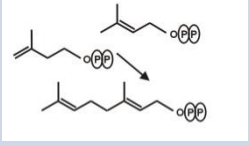

cholane



cholestane

# CLASSIFICATION OF LIPIDS

- biosynthetic route

Lipid class	Biosynthetic route
Fatty acyls 	condensation of <b>thioesters</b>
Glycerolipids 	
Glycerophospholipids 	
Sphingolipids 	
Sterol lipids 	condensation of activated <b>isoprene units</b> 
Prenol lipids 	
Other – saccharolipids, polyketides	other types

# STEROLS

## *Biosynthesis of sterols (cholesterol)*

### **1. Biosynthesis of isopentenylidiphosphate**

= activated isoprene unit

### **2. Condensation of isopentenylidiphosphate units**

6 units are needed (C30)

### **3. Cyclization of squalene to lanosterol**

oxygen needed

### **4. Further modification of lanosterol to cholesterol**

C30 → C27 (three CH<sub>3</sub> have to be removed)

migration of double bond and reduction of the other



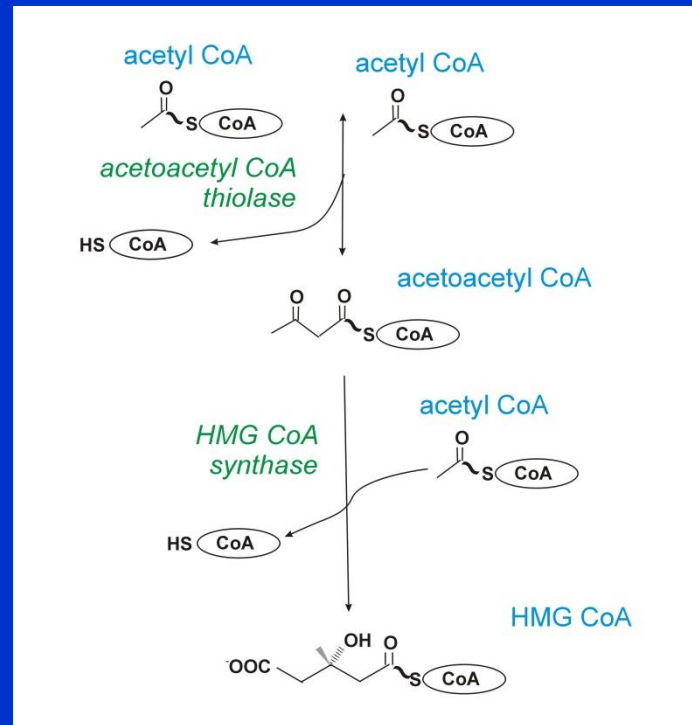
# STEROLS

## *Biosynthesis of sterols (cholesterol)*

### 1. Biosynthesis of isopentenyl diphosphate

= activated isoprene unit

biosynthesis of HMG-CoA  
(hydroxymethylglutaryl CoA)  
- takes place in cytosol



# STEROLS

## Biosynthesis of sterols (cholesterol)

### 1. Biosynthesis of isopentenyl diphosphate

= activated isoprene unit

biosynthesis of mevalonate

via **HMG-CoA reductase**

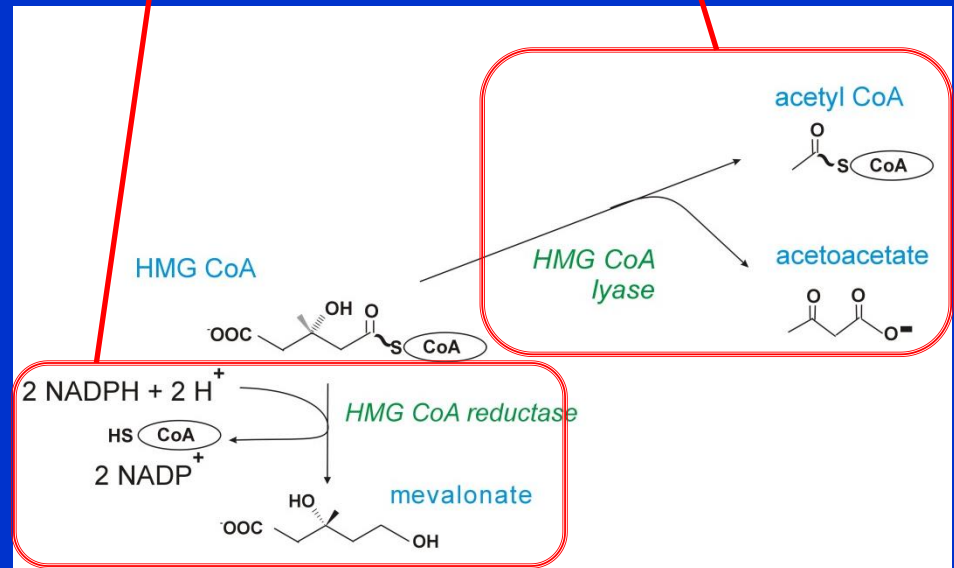
**irreversible reaction**

**rate limiting step of synthesis**

- takes place in ER

Inhibitors = **statins**

*ketogenesis in hepatocyte mitochondria*  
*cholesterol biosynthesis in hepatocyte ER*



# STEROLS

## *Biosynthesis of sterols (cholesterol)*

### Regulation of HMG-CoA reductase

#### 1. directly by phosphorylation (inactive)/dephosphorylation (active)

AMP/ATP ratio responsive AMP activated protein kinase

glucagon, noradrenaline ( $\uparrow$ cAMP)  $\rightarrow$  inhibition of CH biosynthesis

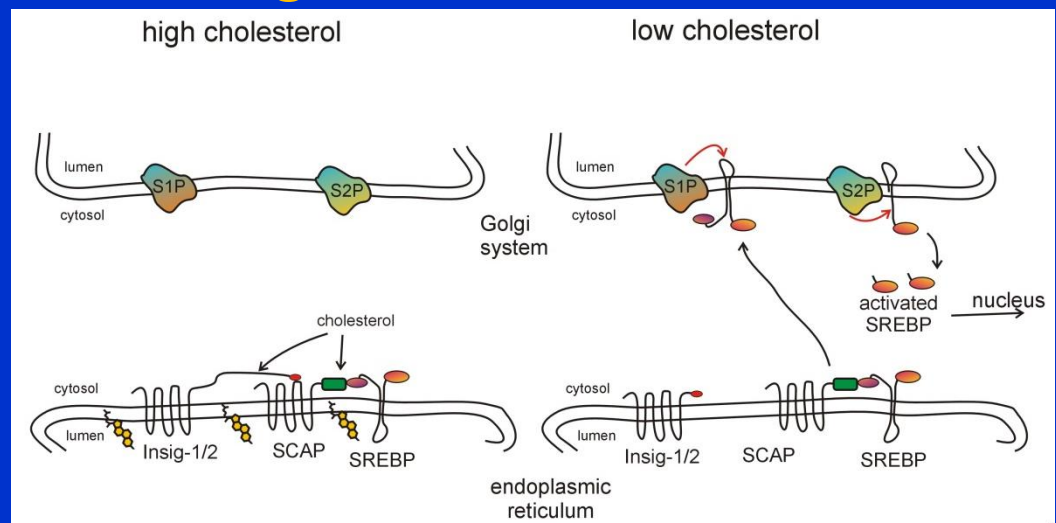
insulin ( $\downarrow$ cAMP)  $\rightarrow$  stimulation of CH biosynthesis

#### 2. transcriptionally via SREBP binding to SRE

cholesterol feedback

#### 3. enzyme degradation

INSIG dependent



# STEROLS

## *Biosynthesis of sterols (cholesterol)*

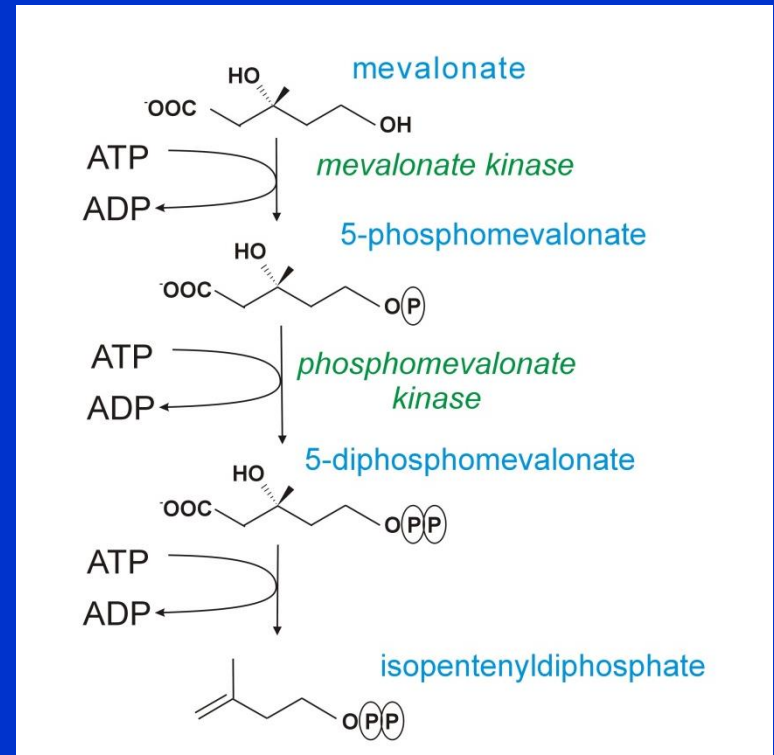
### 1. Biosynthesis of isopentenylidiphosphate

= activated isoprene unit

activation of C6

decarboxylation ( $\rightarrow$ C5 unit)

takes place in cytosol



# STEROLS

## Biosynthesis of sterols (cholesterol)

### 2. Condensation of isopentenylidiphosphate units

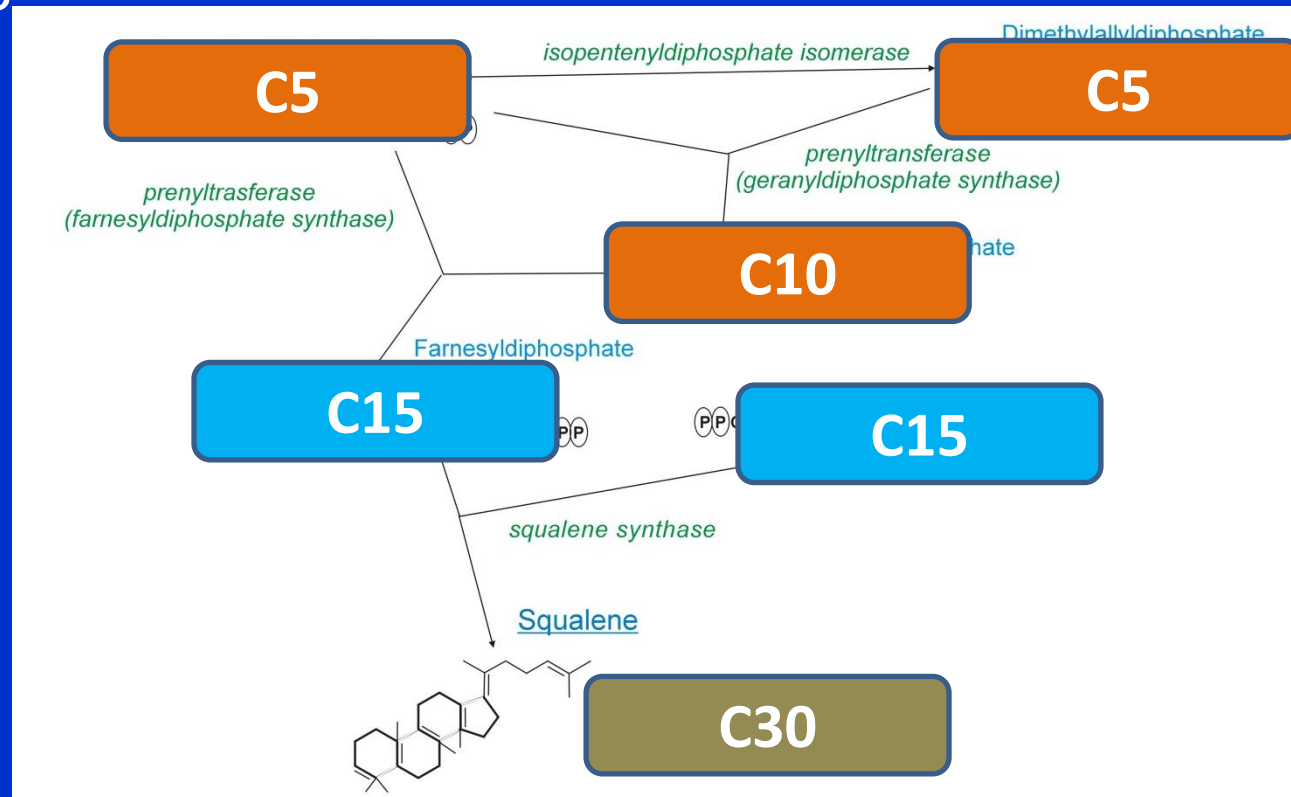
C5 units can isomerize (IPP  $\leftrightarrow$  DMAP)

a) IPP + DMAP = GPP

b) GPP + IPP = FPP

c) 2 FPP = SQ

takes place in ER  
peroxisomes



# STEROLS

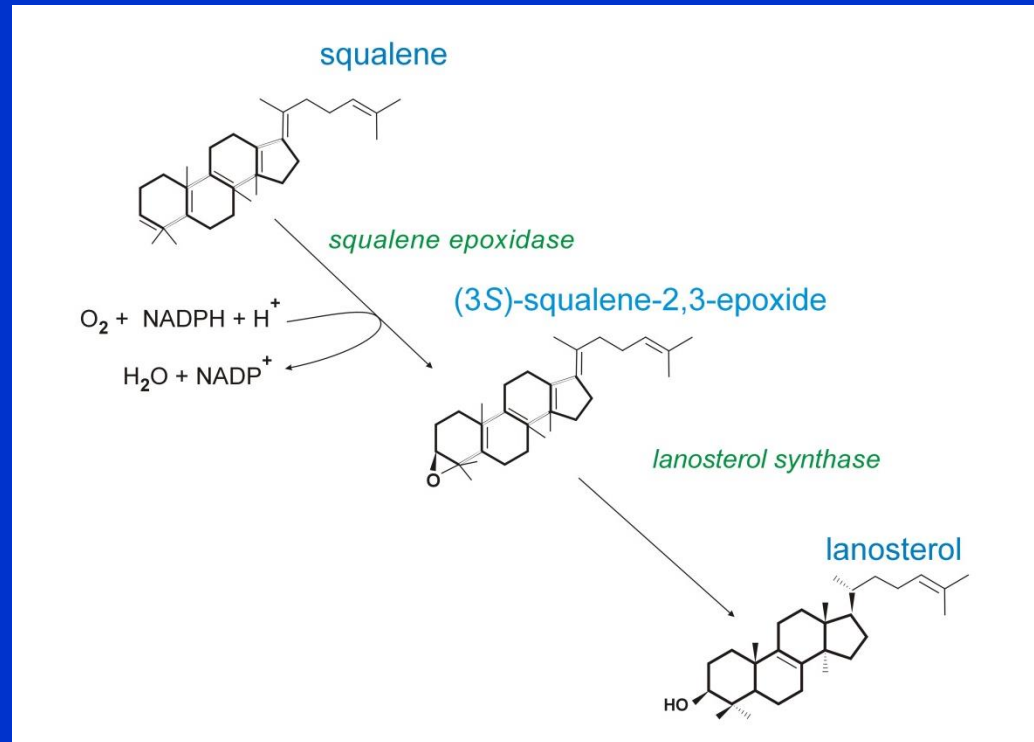
## *Biosynthesis of sterols (cholesterol)*

### 3. Cyclization of squalene to lanosterol

oxygen is needed



procaryota do not  
synthesize sterols



# STEROLS

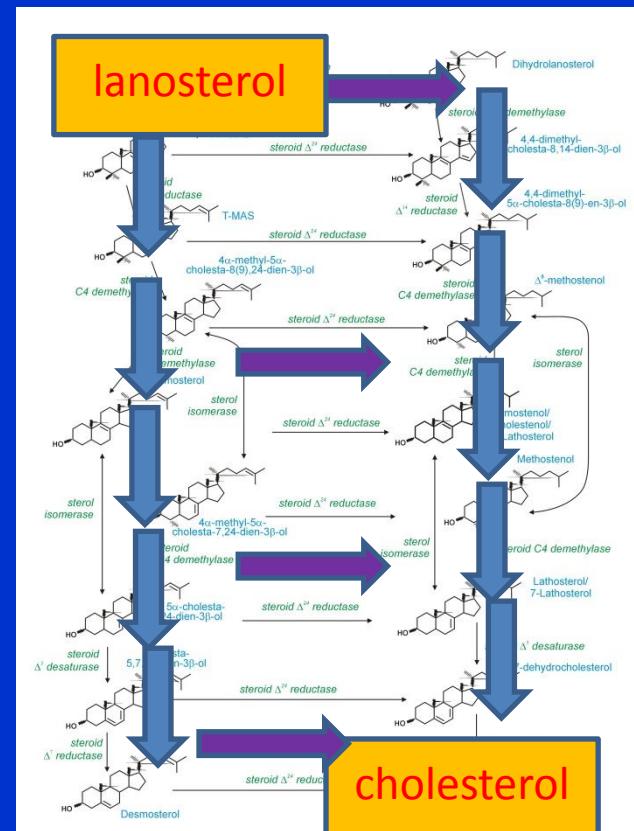
## Biosynthesis of sterols (cholesterol)

### 4. Further modification of lanosterol to cholesterol

C30 → C27 (three CH<sub>3</sub> have to be removed)

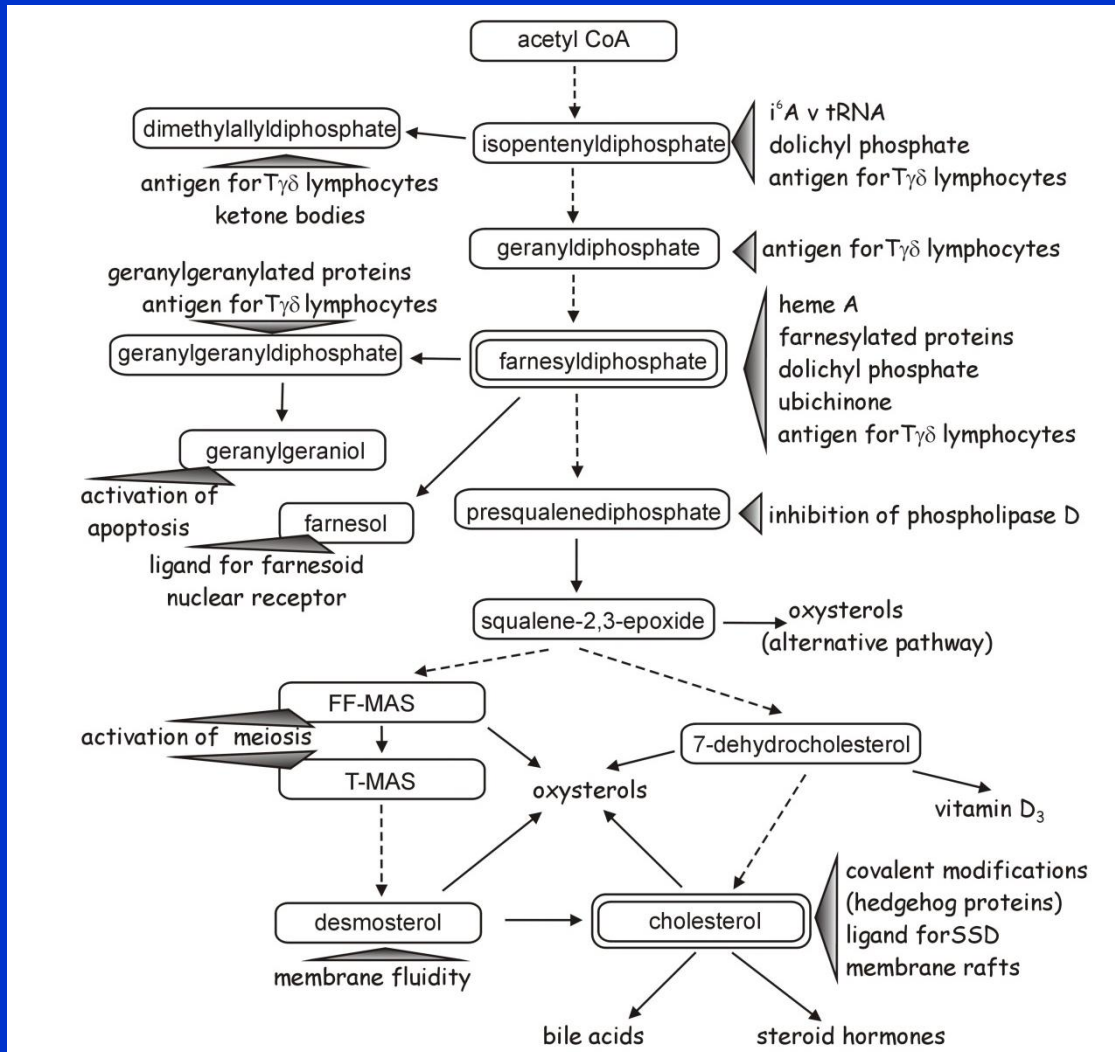
migration of double bond

reduction of double bond at C24



# STEROLS

## Function of cholesterol biosynthetic pathway





# STEROLS

## Inborn errors of biosynthesis of cholesterol

### 1. SLOS syndrome

= 3rd most common (US)  
(after CF and PKU)

deficiency of d7-DHC dehydrogenase

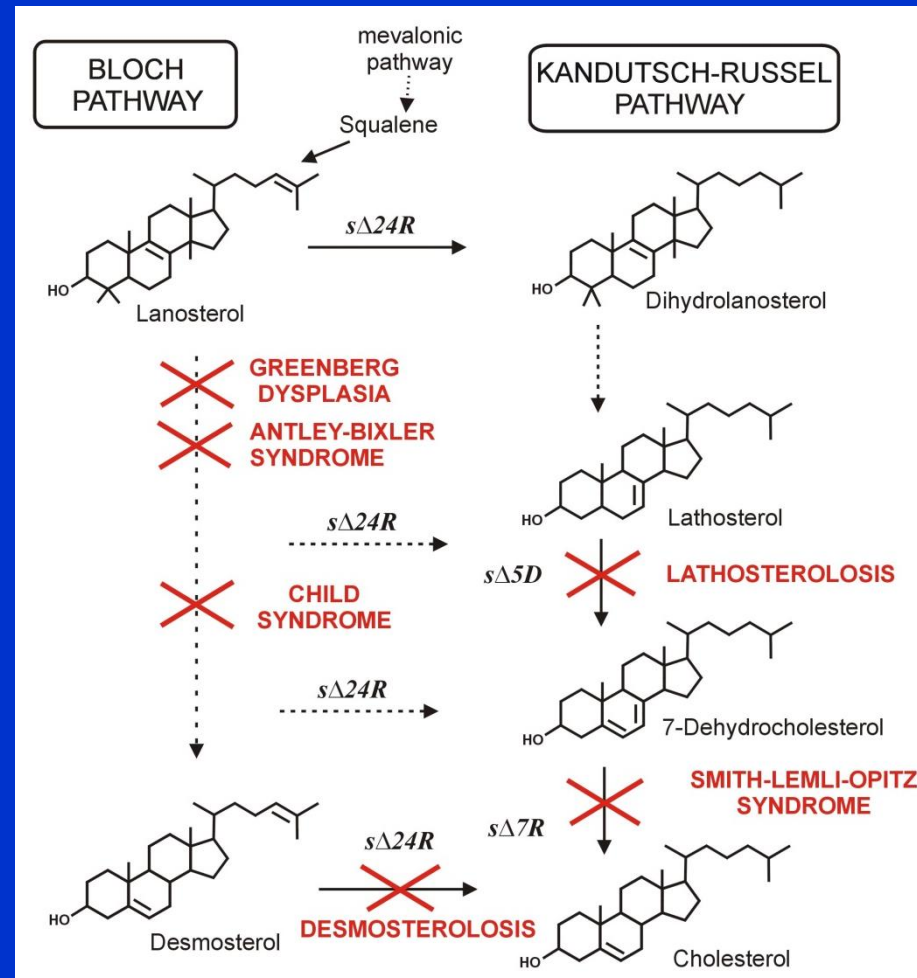
prevalence 1:20-60 000

multiple congenital anomalies

mental retardation

syndactyly

growth retardation



# STEROLS

## *Fates of cholesterol*

### 1. Membrane component

free (unesterified cholesterol) **fluidity modulation**

### 2. Substrate for further metabolization

→ bile acids (liver/skin/brain/peripheral nervous tissues)

**CH elimination/lipid absorption/ signalling**

→ steroid hormones (steroidogenic tissues) **hormones**

→ oxysterols (various tissues) **signalling / CH elimination**

### 3. Storing in droplets

as cholesteryl esters (CE) **CH storage**

### 4. Releasing into the circulation

→ via HDL (peripheral tissues/intestine) **excess CH**

→ via VLDL (liver) **CH source**

# STEROLS

## Phytosterols

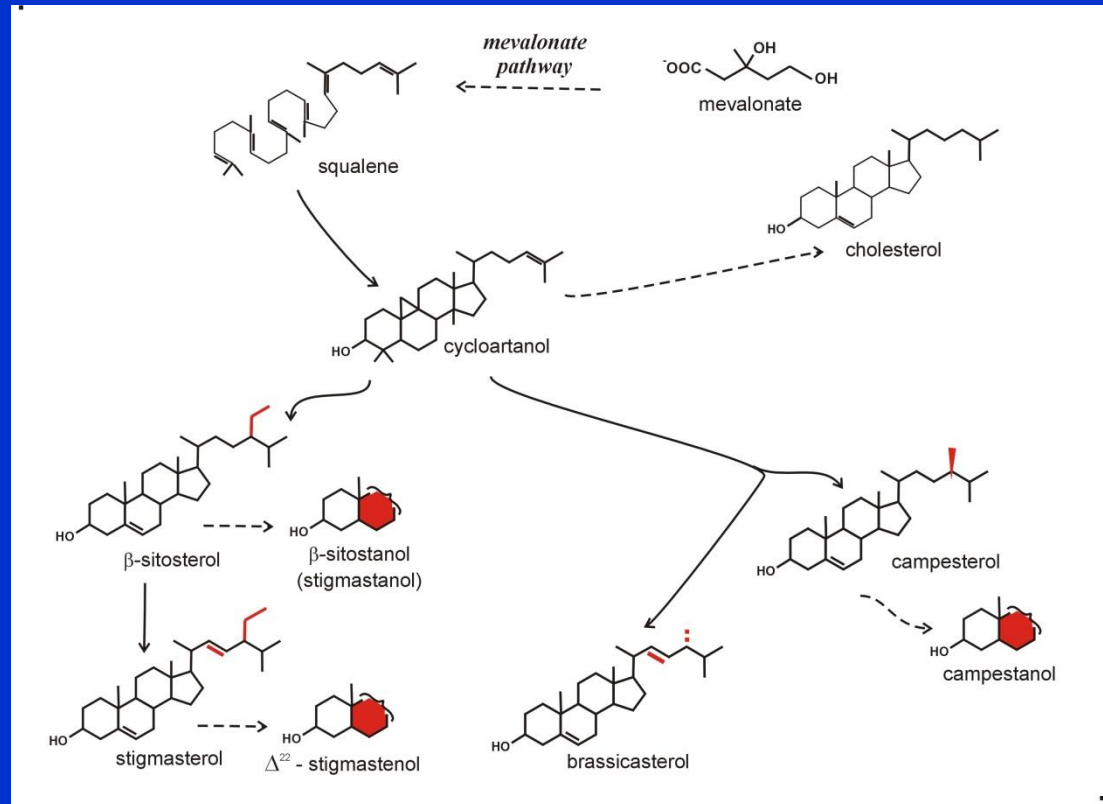
### Phytoanalogs of cholesterol

membrane structure  
phytohormones

### Dietary content

100 – 400 mg/day

decreased CH absorption



# STEROLS

## Oxysterols

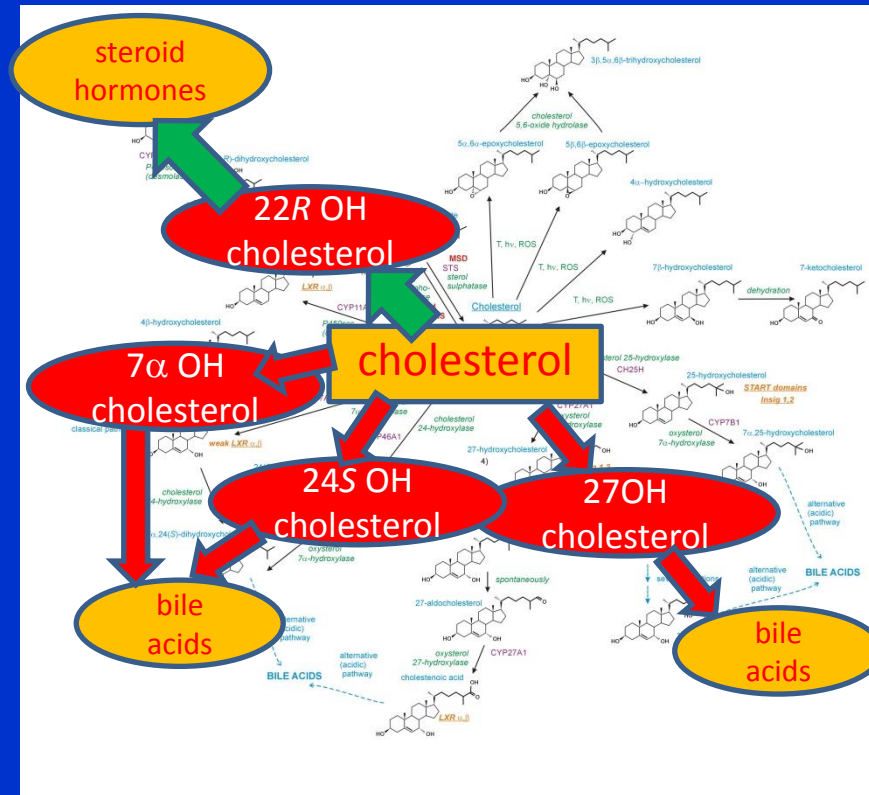
### Oxygenated derivatives of cholesterol

#### Formation

1. enzymatically  
hydroxylases, monooxygenases
2. nonenzymatically  
ROS attack on sterol molecule

#### Effects of oxysterols

- intermediates in biosynthesis (steroids/bile acids)
- ligands for nuclear receptors (regulation of CH biosynthesis)
- transport of CH (from brain)



# BILE ACIDS

*Major excretion form of CH in humans*

## Biosynthesis of bile acids

in liver, 17 enzymes in total

1. hydroxylation

CYP450/mixed function  
oxidase system (microsomal)

2. side chain cleavage

mitochondria/cytosol/px

3. conjugation

with glycine, taurine

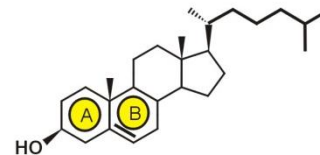
- lowering toxicity and more amphipatic (easily secreted in bile)

## Secondary modifications

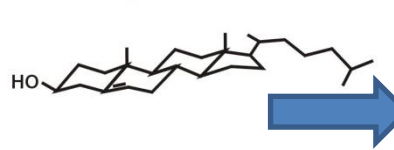
bacterial conversion

Change in the cycle orientation in bile acid molecules

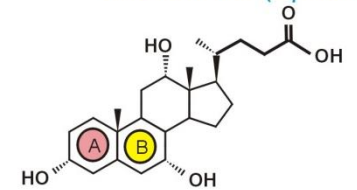
cholesterol ( $5\alpha$ -cholest-)



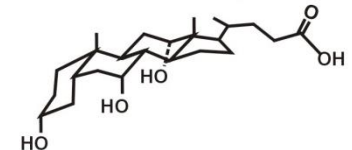
A-B rings: *trans* configuration



cholic acid ( $5\beta$ -cholest-)



A-B rings: *cis* configuration



# BILE ACIDS

Rate-limiting step

## Biosynthesis of bile acids

two pathways

### 1. classical pathway

choly/chenodeoxycholy CoA

are produced

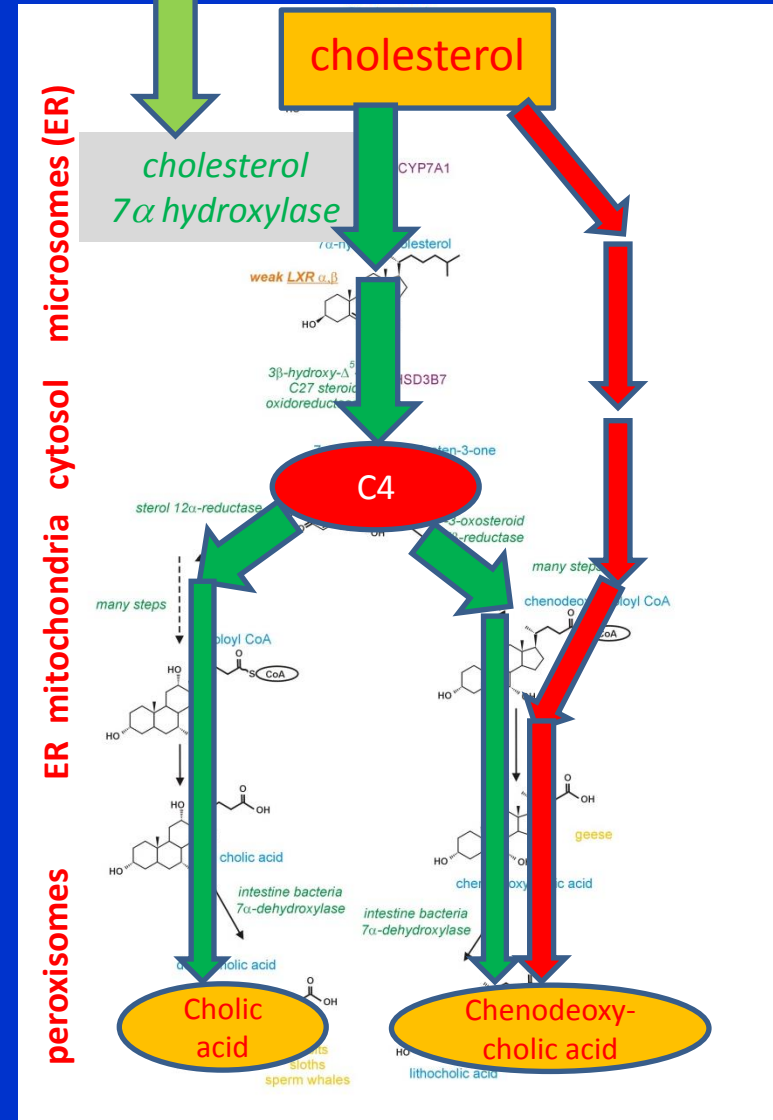
choly CoA:

major BA in bile (up to 30% of BAs)

### 2. acidic pathway

chenodeoxycholy CoA is produced

major BA in bile (up to 50% of BAs)



# BILE ACIDS

*Major excretion form of CH in humans*

## Primary bile acids

formed in liver

$pK_a \approx 6$

→ at pH = 7.4 not fully ionized

## Conjugation (bile “salts”)

from the CoA derivatives

in peroxisomes

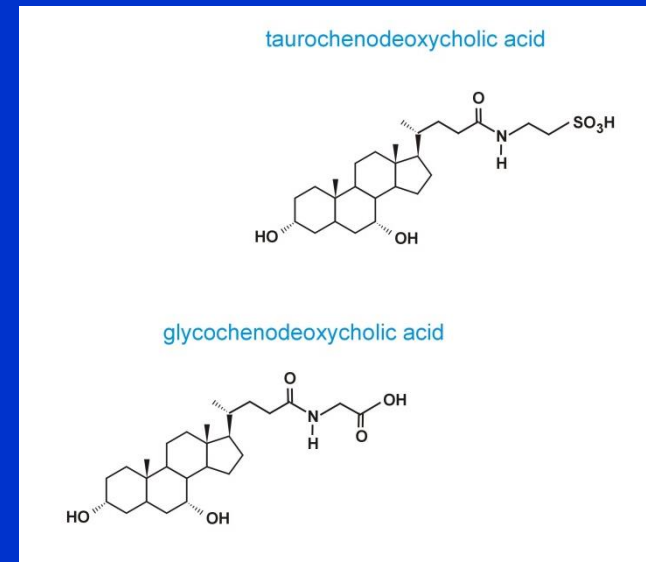
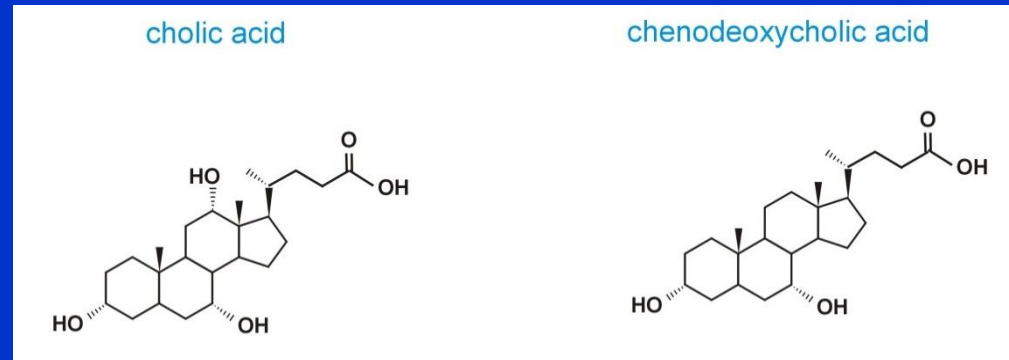
needed for secretion into bile

*BA/AA N-acyl transferases*

$pK_a \ll 6$

→ at pH = 7.4 fully ionized

→ more amphipatic



# BILE ACIDS

*Major excretion form of CH in humans*

## Secondary bile acids

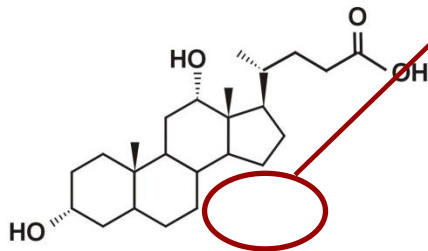
in intestine – microbiome

deconjugation  
dehydroxylation

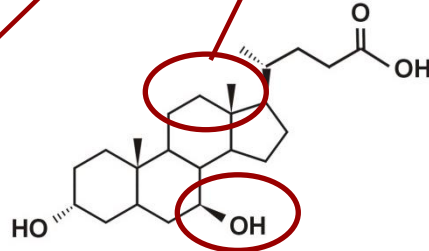
from cholate

from chenodeoxycholate

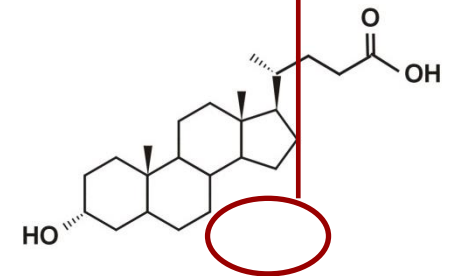
deoxycholic acid



ursodeoxycholic acid



lithocholic acid





# BILE ACIDS

*Major excretion form of CH in humans*

## Functions of bile acids

### lipid digestion – emulsifiers

emulsification of FC, CE, TAG,  
fat soluble vitamins

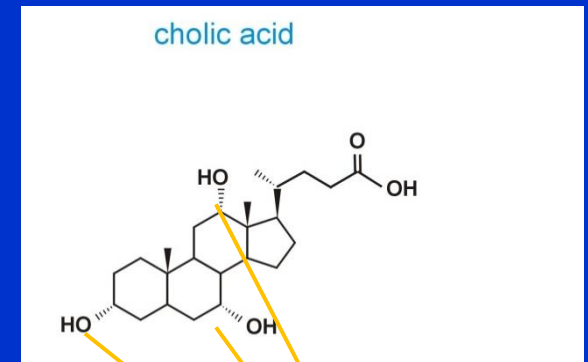
→ more accessible to pancreatic lipase  
prevent CH precipitation in bile

### excretion of cholesterol

(humans are not able to degrade CH)

### ligands for nuclear receptors

control of BA metabolism  
control of Glc and lipid homeostasis, liver regeneration  
increase intestinal motility



hydroxyls → polar

# BILE ACIDS

*Major excretion form of CH in humans*

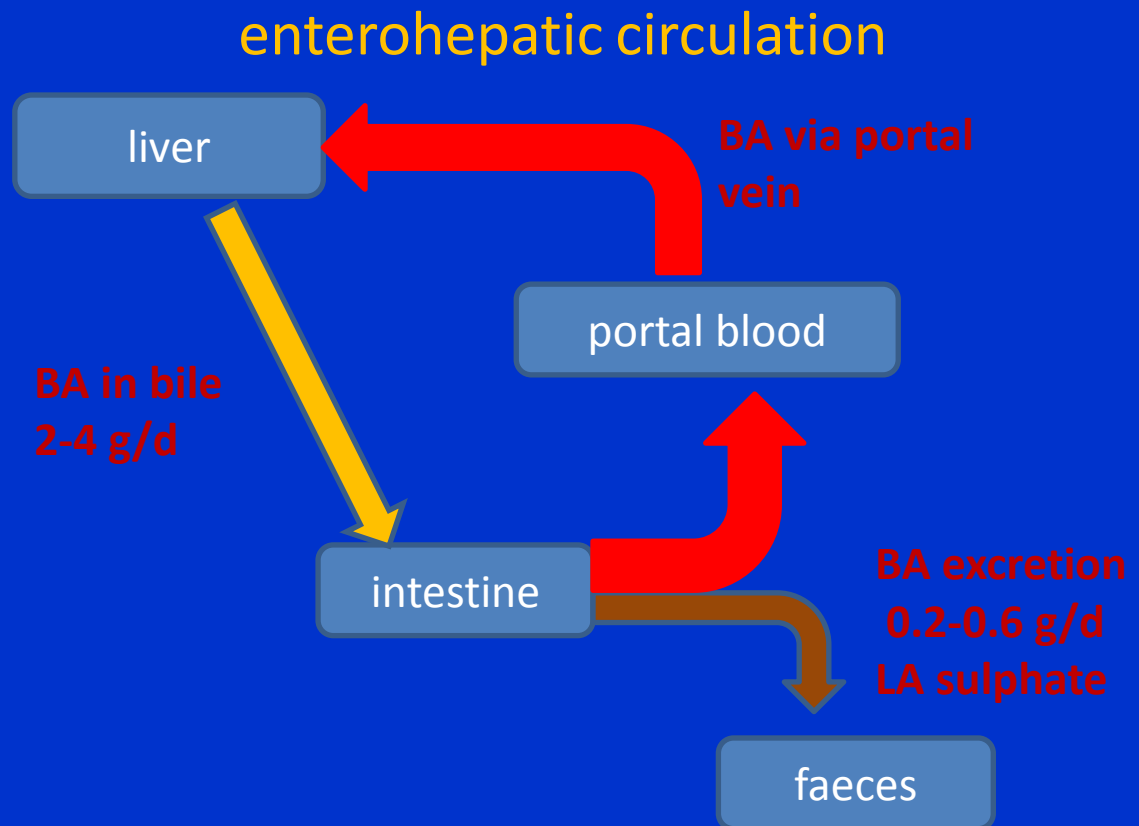
## Recycling of bile acids

up to 95% BA is recycled

Reabsorption  
in ileum



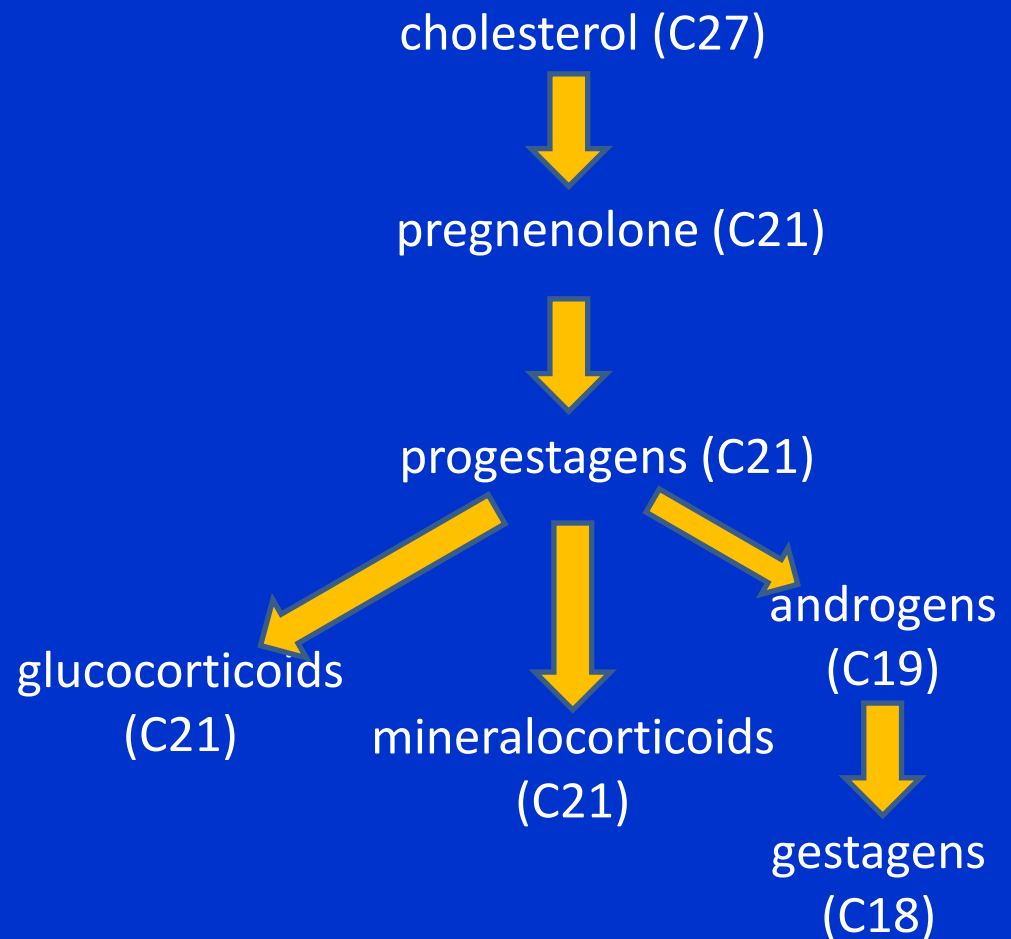
Recycling  
2-10 times/day



# STEROID HORMONES

*CHOLESTEROL - precursor of steroid hormones*

1. Progestagens
2. Glucocorticoids
3. Mineralocorticoids
4. Androgens/gestagens



# STEROID HORMONES

## *Mode of action of steroid hormones*

### Endocrine action

Unbound form of hormone in the circulation → diffusion to the target cell → passing through membrane → binding with receptor → interaction with hormone responsive DNA sequence → → protein production

### Main sites of production

**Progestagens (progesterone)** corpus luteum, mammary gland

**Androgens (testosterone)** testes

**Estrogens (estrone)** ovary

**Glucocorticoids (cortisol)** *zona fasciculata* (adrenal cortex)

**Mineralocorticoids (aldosterone)** *zona glomerulosa* (adrenal cortex)

# STEROID HORMONES

## *Functions of steroid hormones*

### **Progestagens (progesterone)**

- release of oocyte, facilitation of implantation

### **Androgens (testosterone)**

- development of secondary sexual characteristics in men

### **Estrogens (estrone)**

- development of secondary sexual characteristics in women, ovarian cycle

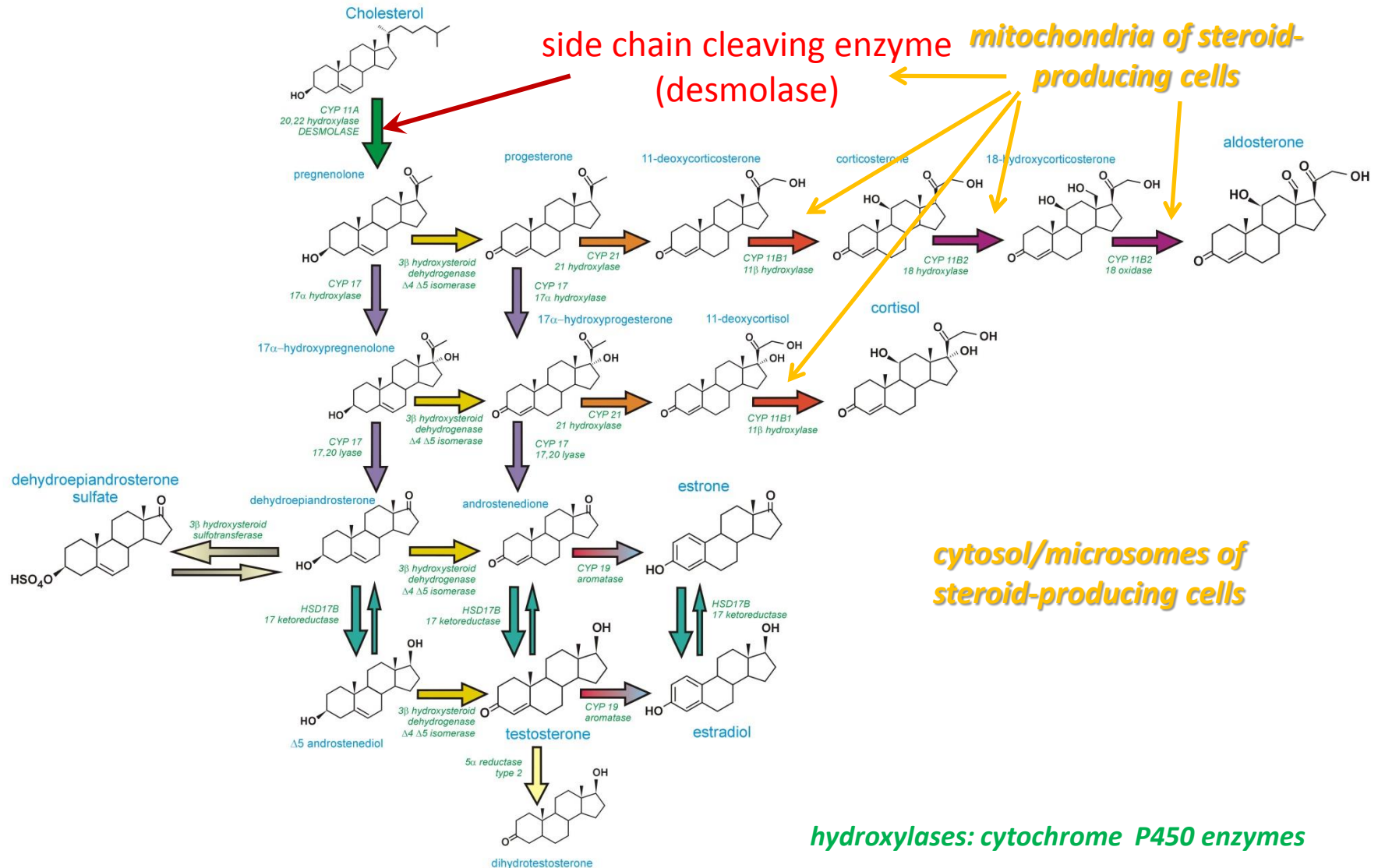
### **Glucocorticoids (cortisol)**

- propagation of gluconeogenesis (synthesis of glycogen), inhibition of inflammation, stress adaptation, immune system

### **Mineralocorticoids (aldosterone)**

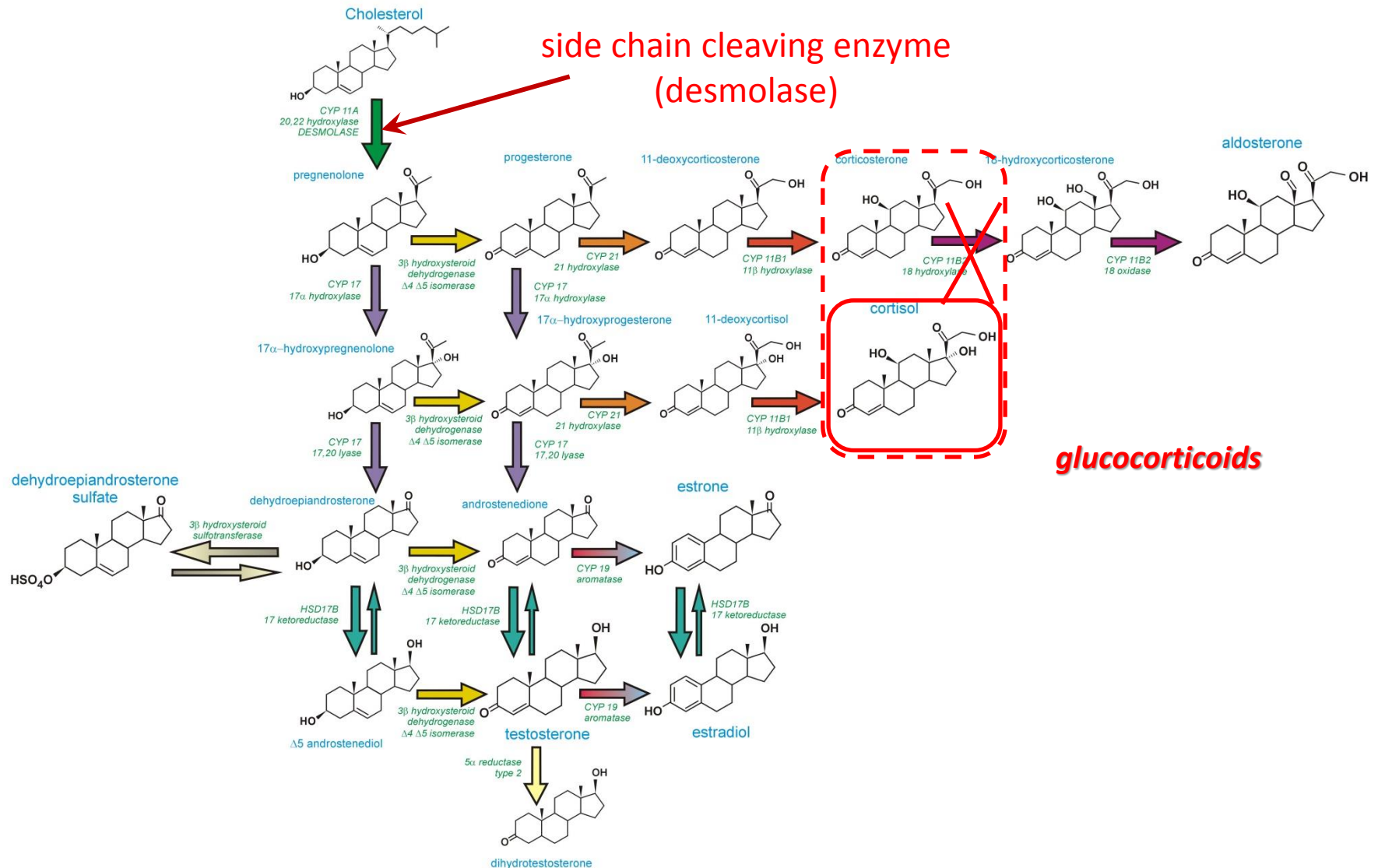
- increased reabsorption of  $\text{Na}^+$  and excretion of  $\text{K}^+$  /  $\text{H}^+$ 
  - increase in V and blood pressure

# STEROID HORMONES



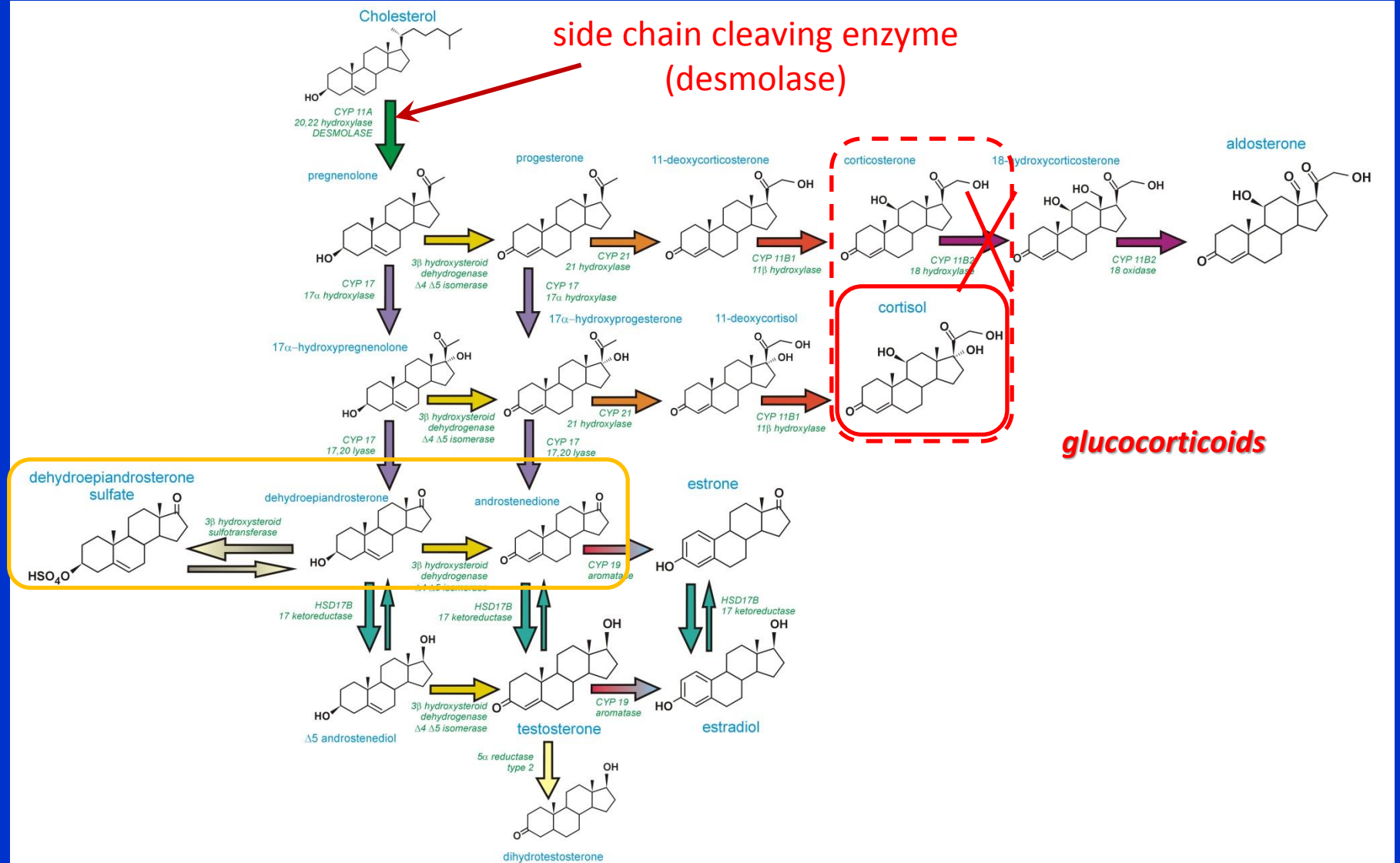
# Adrenal steroid hormones

## *zona fasciculata*



# Adrenal steroid hormones

## *zona reticularis*



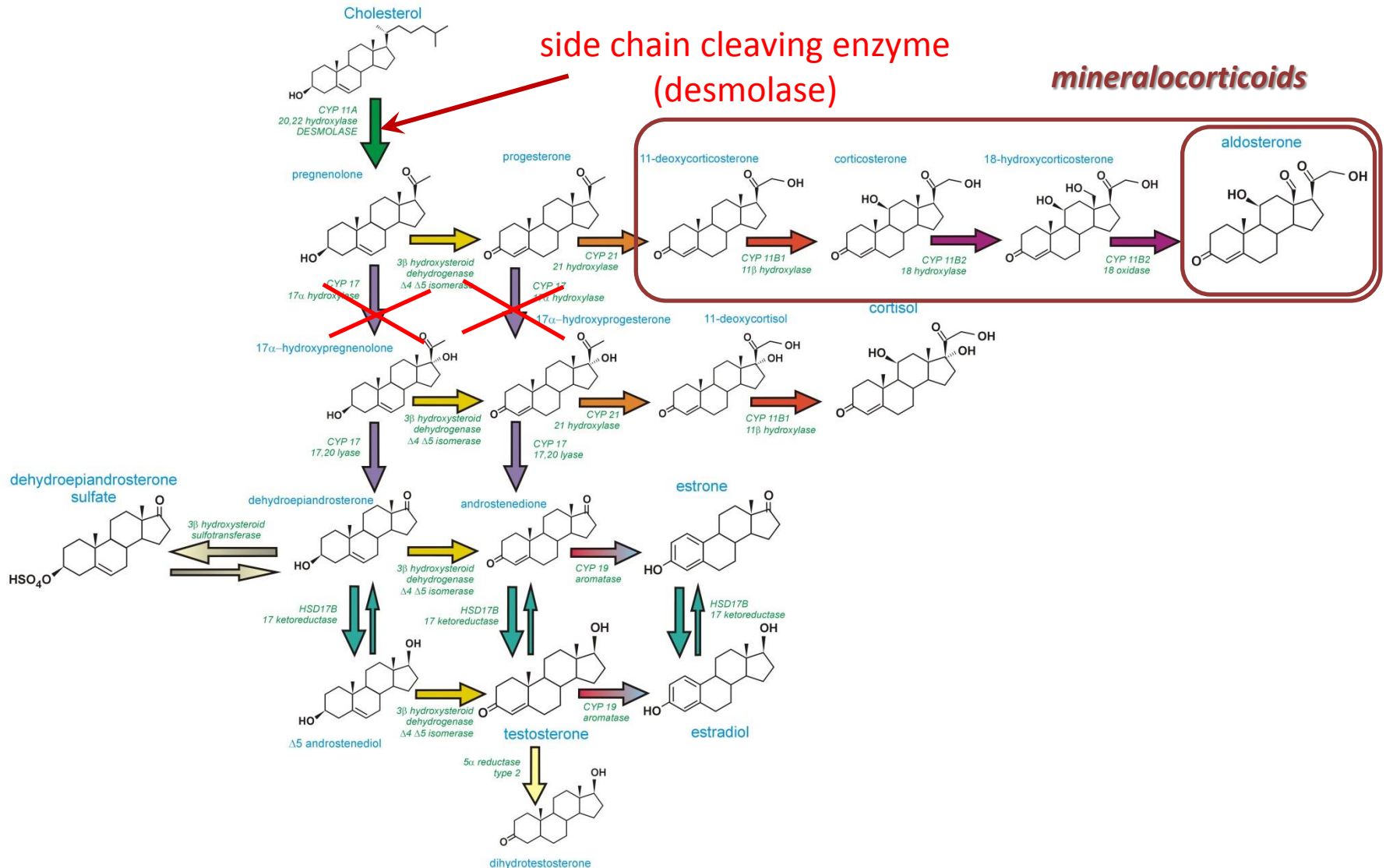


# Adrenal steroid hormones

## *zona glomerulosa*

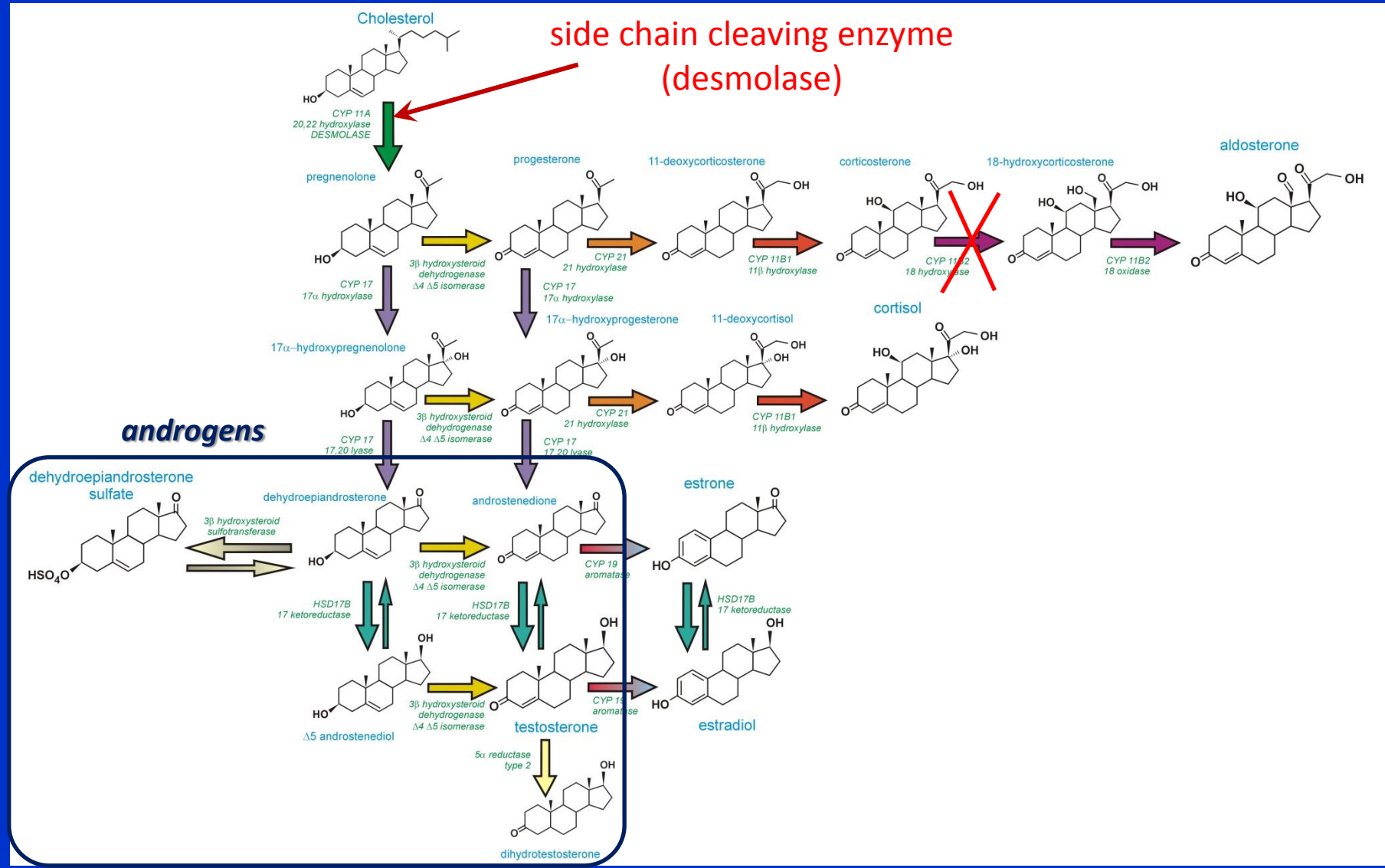
side chain cleaving enzyme  
(desmolase)

*mineralocorticoids*



# Gonadal steroid hormones

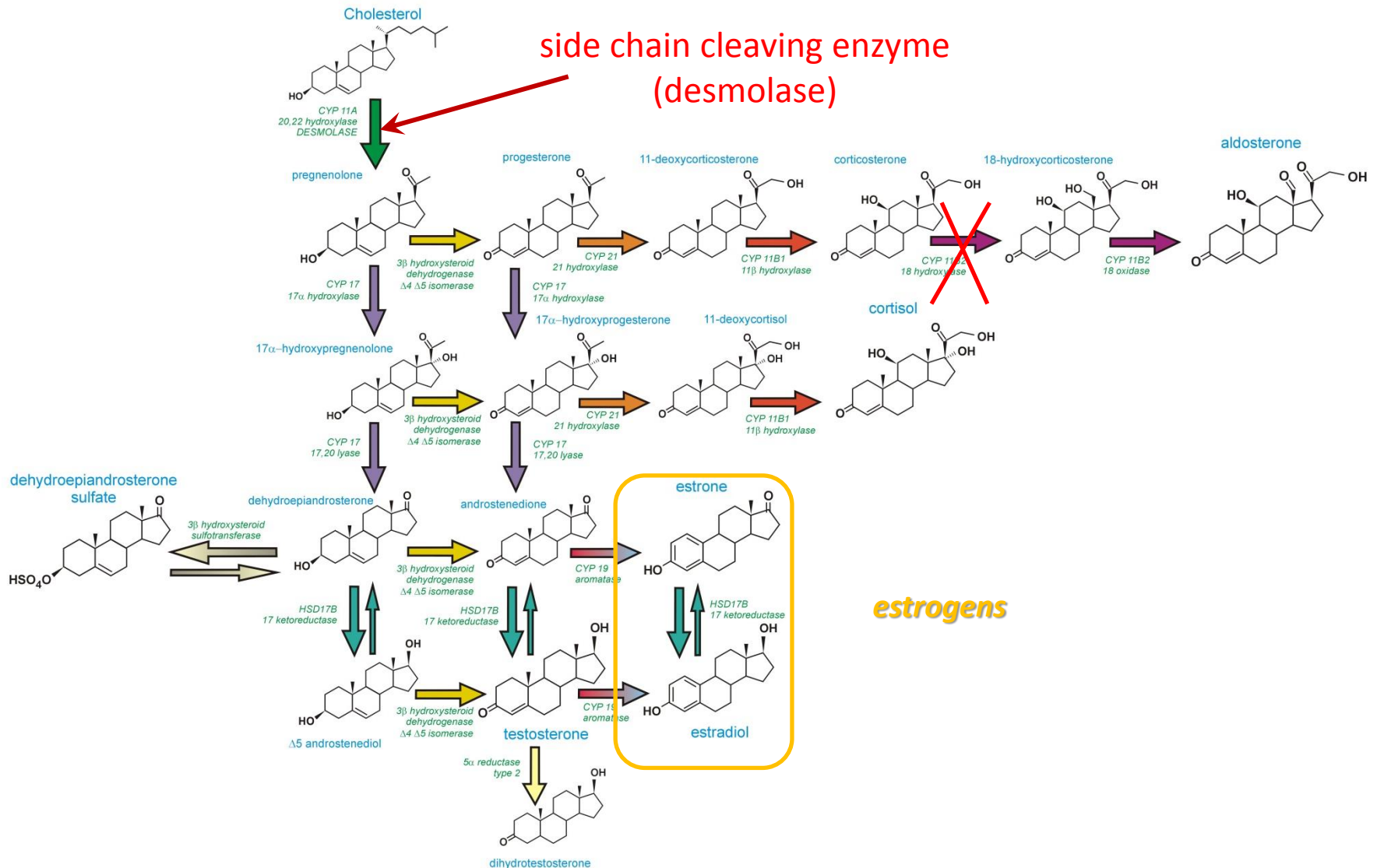
## testes



# Gonadal steroid hormones

## ovary

side chain cleaving enzyme  
(desmolase)



# VITAMINS D

*Secosteroids = one/more cycles are broken*

**Vitamin D<sub>3</sub> (cholecalciferol)**

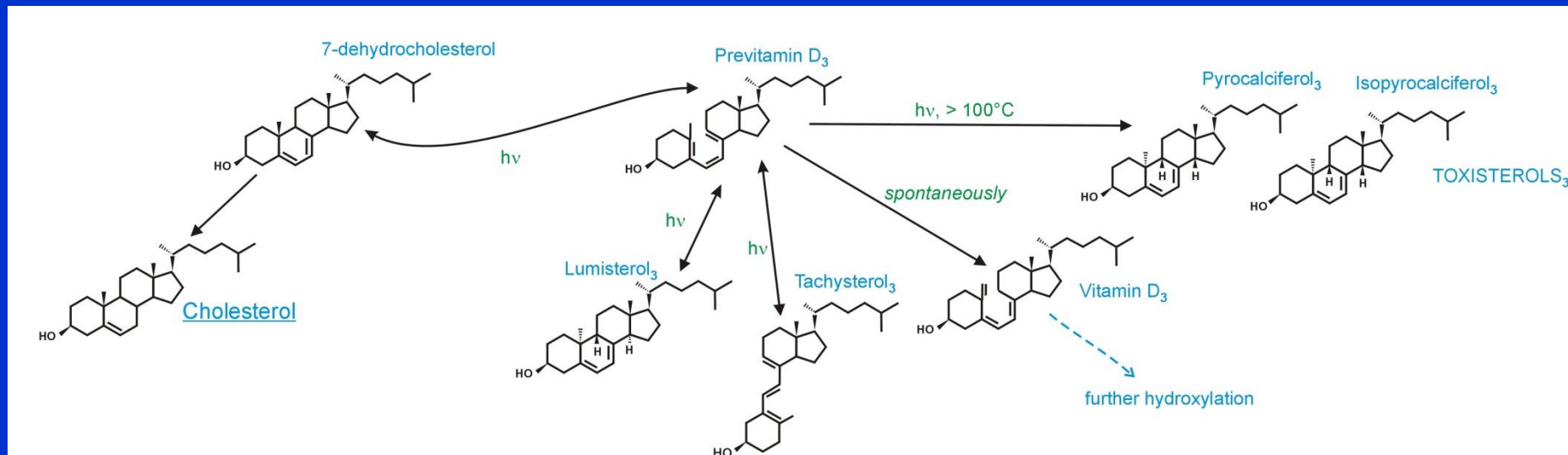
control of Ca<sup>2+</sup> and phosphate metabolism

effects on immune system

biosynthesis from 7-dehydrocholesterol (skin)

**inactive prohormone** → further hydroxylations

25-OH vitD<sub>3</sub> in liver; 25,1α-(OH)<sub>2</sub> vitD<sub>3</sub> (**active**) in kidney

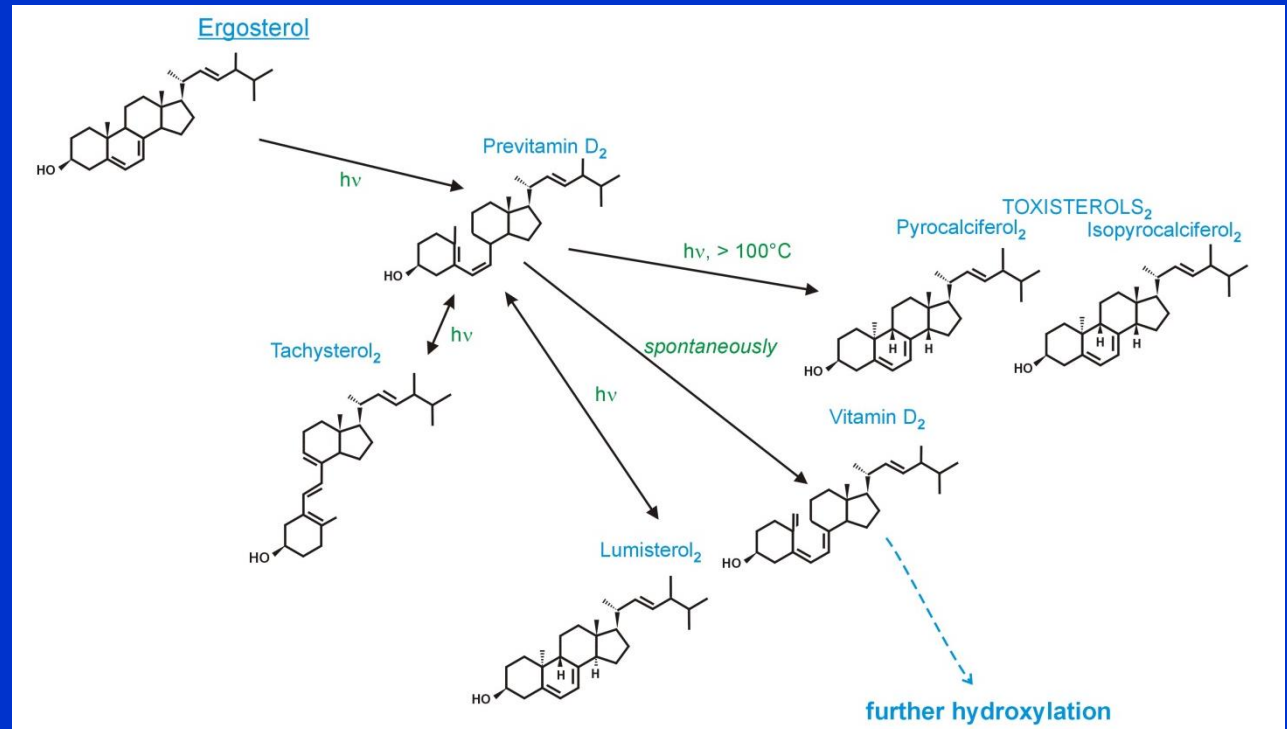


# VITAMINS D

*Secosteroids = one/more cycles are broken*

## Vitamin D<sub>2</sub> (ergocalciferol)

commercial analogue of vit D<sub>3</sub> (irradiation of ergosterol)  
effects and metabolization similar to vit D<sub>3</sub>



## Further reading

### **Textbooks, monographs**

*Biochemistry of Lipids, Lipoproteins and Membranes (5<sup>th</sup> Ed)*; Vance DE, Vance JE (Eds.), Elsevier, Amsterdam (The Netherlands) 2008

*Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry (6<sup>th</sup> Ed)*; Nelson DL, Cox MM (Eds.), Susan Winslow, New York (U.S.A.) 2013

*Harper's Illustrated Biochemistry (28<sup>th</sup> Ed)*; Murray RK, Bender DA, Botham KM, Kennely PJ, Rodwell VW, Weil PA (Eds.), McGraw-Hill, New York (U.S.A.) 2009

*Noncholesterol sterols*; Vecka M, Žák A, Tvrzická E, Karolinum Press, Prague (Czech Republic) 2008

### **Articles**

Vance DE, Van den Bosch H: Cholesterol in the year 2000. *Bioch Biophys Acta* 2000; **1529**: 1-8.

Brown AJ, Jessup W: Oxysterols: Sources, cellular storage and metabolism, and new insights into their roles in cholesterol homeostasis. *Mol Aspects Med* 2009; **30**: 111–122.

Monte MJ, Marin JJG, Antelo A, Vazquez-Tato J: Bile acids: Chemistry, physiology, and pathophysiology. *World J Gastroenterol* 2009; **15**: 804-816.

Payne AH, Hales DB: Overview of Steroidogenic Enzymes in the Pathway from Cholesterol to Active Steroid Hormones. *Endocr Rev* 2004; **25**: 947–970.

DeLuca HF: Overview of general physiologic features and functions of vitamin D. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2004; **80(suppl)**: 1689S–96S.

### **Web sources**

<http://www.cyberlipid.org>

<http://lipidlibrary.aocs.org>

<http://www.lipidmaps.org>

<http://www.chem.qmul.ac.uk/iupac> - IUPAC Nomenclature page

<http://themedicalbiochemistrypage.org> - the Medical Biochemistry Page