# LIPIDS/FATS





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#### **Learning Objectives**

- Classify fats according to their chemical composition and distinguish between saturated and unsaturated, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated, cis and trans, and omega-3, -6, and -9 fatty acids
- Describe the digestion, absorption, transportation, and storage of fat
- Explain the metabolism of fat, including mobilization, transportation, uptake, activation, translocation, and oxidation as well as ketosis and the effect it may have on training

#### **Learning Objectives**

- Describe how the body uses fat to fuel exercise
- State fat recommendations for athletes and calculate the amount of fat needed daily
- Identify sources of dietary fat and assess an athlete's dietary fat intake
- Evaluate dietary supplements related to fat metabolism

## Introduction

#### • Fat

- Dietary intake
  - There are health risks associated with too much and too little

#### - Member of lipids class of compounds

- Triglycerides (fats and oils)
- Phospholipids
- Sterols



## **Roles of Body Fat**

- Lipids: provide energy
- Adipose tissue
  - Fat-storing cells; also secretes hormones
  - Fat stored in fat cells
    - Supplies 60 percent of the body's ongoing energy needs during rest
  - Fat embedded in muscle
    - Along with glycogen, provides energy to muscle

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#### TABLE 4-1The Functions of Fats in the Body

- Energy stores. Fats are the body's chief form of stored energy.
- Muscle fuel. Fats provide much of the energy to fuel muscular work.
- Padding. Fat pads inside the body cavity protect the internal organs from shock.
- *Insulation*. Fats insulate against temperature extremes by forming a fat layer under the skin.
- Cell membranes. Fats form the major material of cell membranes.
- *Raw materials*. Fats are converted to other compounds, such as hormones, bile, and vitamin D, as needed.

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#### TABLE 4-2The Lipid Family

#### Triglycerides (fats and oils)

- Glycerol (1 per triglyceride)
- Fatty acids (3 per triglyceride) Saturated Monounsaturated Polyunsaturated Omega-6

Omega-3

Phospholipids (such as the lecithins)

Sterols (such as cholesterol)

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### **The Chemist's View of Lipids**

#### • Triglycerides

- Predominant form of lipids
- Three fatty acids attached to a glycerol "backbone"
- Fatty acids
  - Differ in chain length and degree of saturation
  - What is the difference between a saturated fatty acid and an unsaturated fatty acid?







\*BHA is butylated hydroxyanisole; BHT is butylated hydroxytolvene.

### **The Chemist's View of Lipids**

CAN YOU TELL BY LOOKING?

- Comparison of three fats
  - Lard (from pork): most saturated > hardest
  - Chicken fat: less saturated > somewhat soft
  - Safflower oil: most unsaturated ► liquid
- Stability
  - Why are polyunsaturated fatty acids most susceptible to becoming rancid?

#### • Stability

- Methods manufacturers protect fat-containing products from rancidity
  - 1. Seal products airtight and refrigerate
  - 2. Add antioxidants, e.g., BHA and BHT
  - 3. Hydrogenate products

- Hydrogenation
  - Advantages: protects against oxidation and alters texture
  - What are the disadvantages?
- Essential fatty acids
  - Linoleic acid: omega-6 fatty acid
  - Linolenic acid: omega-3 fatty acid

- Phospholipids: class of lipids
  - Food sources: eggs, soybeans, peanuts, etc.
  - Lecithin and other phospholipids
    - Constituents of cell membranes
    - Emulsifiers in the body
    - Some generate signals in cells

#### Sterols

- Large, complex molecules
  - Interconnected rings of carbon
  - Cholesterol, vitamin D, and sex hormones
- Cholesterol
  - Obtained in foods as well as made by the liver



- Cholesterol
  - Leaves liver by two routes:
    - 1. Incorporated into bile, stored in the gallbladder, and delivered to the intestine
    - 2. Via the bloodstream to all the body's cells



#### Health Effects and Recommended Intakes of Fats

- Diet high in saturated fats or trans fats
  - Increased risk of cardiovascular disease
  - Greater-than-average chances of some cancers
  - An increasing waistline often increases blood triglycerides

#### Health Effects and Recommended Intakes of Fats (cont'd.)

- Fats and heart health
  - High LDL: increased likelihood of fatal heart attack or stroke
    - Promotes cholesterol uptake in the blood vessel walls
  - High HDL: lower disease risk
  - Trans fats: raise LDL and lower HDL

#### Health Effects and Recommended Intakes of Fats (cont'd.)

- Dietary Guidelines for dietary cholesterol
  - Healthy people: less than 300/day
  - People with or at high risk of heart disease: less than 200 mg/day
- Monosaturated fat (olive oil)
  - May prevent heart disease
- Omega-6 and omega-3 fats
  - Lower total cholesterol and LDL

#### **Fat Oxidation During Exercise**



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#### 6.6 Fat Recommendations for Athletes

- Total energy (kcal) need
  - Macronutrient balance
    - Higher CHO/protein intake typically means lower fat intake
    - Severe restriction of fat intake not recommended
  - Often expressed as a % of total energy intake
    - 20 to 35% total caloric intake
  - May be expressed on g/kg body weight basis
    - ~1.0 g/kg daily
    - May need to be as high as 3.0 g/kg (ultraendurance athletes)

#### **Fat Recommendations for Athletes**

- Adjusting fat intake to achieve energy deficits
  - Reducing body fat may result in improved performance
  - Fat intake is typically reduced since reductions to CHO or protein intakes may be detrimental to performance
  - Athletes may consume a short-term, low fat diet to achieve body composition goals
  - The fat intake of a bodybuilder will vary depending on the training cycle

#### Inadequate Fat Intake Can Negatively Affect Training, Performance, and Health

- Effects of an inadequate fat intake on training, performance, and health
  - Inadequate replenishment of intramuscular fat stores
  - Inability to manufacture sex-related hormones
  - Decline in high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C)
  - Inadequate fat-soluble vitamin intakes

#### Translating Fat Recommendations to Food Choices

- Many athletes fail to consume an appropriate amount of fat
- Certain unsaturated fatty acids may help to reduce heart disease risk
- Excess saturated fat intake should be avoided

#### Summary

- Fat is the most energy-dense nutrient found in food
- The predominant fat in food and in the body is the triglyceride
- Fat absorption, digestion, transportation, and metabolism are slow and complicated
- The main sites of fat storage are adipocytes, liver, and muscle cells
- Fat is the primary energy source at rest and during low-intensity activity



- Athletes find that their diets tend to be relatively lower in fat than the typical American diet
- Caution should be used when restricting fat because athletes can reduce the fat in their diets too much