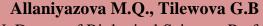
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BIOGENIC ELEMENTS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN THE HUMAN BODY



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Abstract : Biogenic elements are fundamental chemical elements that sustain life by participating in essential biological processes. In the human body, these elements are classified into major (macronutrients) and trace (micronutrients) based on their required quantities. Major biogenic elements such as carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen form the structural framework of biomolecules like proteins, nucleic acids, and carbohydrates. Others like calcium, potassium, and sodium are vital for physiological functions including bone health, muscle contraction, and nerve signaling. Trace elements, though needed in smaller amounts, play crucial roles in enzymatic activity, hormone production, and metabolic regulation. Deficiencies or imbalances in these elements can lead to a variety of health issues. Understanding the roles and significance of biogenic elements is essential for comprehending human physiology and maintaining overall health.

Key words: Biogenic elements, macronutrients, micronutrients, human body, essential elements, trace elements, metabolism, enzymes, homeostasis, physiology, minerals, health.

Biogenic elements are the chemical building blocks of life. These essential elements are required for the growth, development, and maintenance of living organisms, including the human body. They participate in a wide range of biological processes, from forming the structural components of cells and tissues to supporting vital physiological functions such as respiration, digestion, and nerve transmission. In humans, biogenic elements are broadly classified into macronutrients and micronutrients. Macronutrients, such as carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen, are needed in large quantities and form the basis of organic molecules like proteins, lipids, carbohydrates, and nucleic acids. Micronutrients, including iron, iodine, zinc, and selenium, are required in smaller amounts but are no less important.[1,22]

They often act as cofactors for enzymes and are critical for metabolic and hormonal functions. The balance and availability of these elements are crucial for maintaining homeostasis and overall health. Any deficiency or excess can lead to physiological disorders or diseases. Therefore, understanding the roles and importance of biogenic elements provides a foundation for studying human biology, nutrition, and medicine.

Biogenic elements are the fundamental chemical components required by living organisms to carry out the essential processes that sustain life. In the human body, these elements not only provide structural support but also participate in countless biochemical reactions that control growth, metabolism, energy production, immunity, and overall health. These elements are vital for maintaining homeostasis, and their deficiency or excess can lead to serious physiological disorders or chronic health conditions. The human body consists of both organic and inorganic components, and biogenic elements are



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involved in both. These elements are classified primarily into two groups: **macronutrients** and **micronutrients** (trace elements),[3.12] depending on the quantities required by the body. Despite their classification, both categories are equally important in ensuring the body's optimal functioning.

Macronutrients are elements that are required by the human body in large amounts. They form about 99% of the total mass of the human body. These elements are primarily involved in forming the basic structural and functional units of cells and tissues. The major macronutrients include carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, calcium, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, sodium, chlorine, and magnesium.

Carbon (**C**) is the central element in all organic molecules. It forms the backbone of proteins, lipids, carbohydrates, and nucleic acids. Carbon's ability to form four covalent bonds allows it to create complex molecular structures, making it indispensable for life.

Hydrogen (**H**) is another major component of organic molecules. It plays a crucial role in acid-base balance and is a component of water, which makes up a large percentage of body mass. Hydrogen ions (protons) are central to energy production through cellular respiration.

Oxygen (O) is vital for aerobic respiration, where it acts as the final electron acceptor in the electron transport chain within mitochondria, enabling the production of ATP (adenosine triphosphate), the cell's energy currency. It is also a major part of water and most biological molecules.

Nitrogen (N) is a key component of amino acids, which are the building blocks of proteins, and nucleotides, which make up DNA and RNA. Without nitrogen, genetic material cannot be synthesized, and protein production would be impossible.

Phosphorus (**P**) plays a central role in energy storage and transfer through molecules such as ATP and GTP. It is also a critical structural component of nucleic acids and cell membranes, particularly phospholipids. Additionally, phosphorus is essential for strong bones and teeth.

Calcium (**Ca**) is crucial for the development and maintenance of bones and teeth. It is also involved in blood clotting, muscle contraction, nerve impulse transmission, and enzyme activation.

Potassium (**K**) is essential for maintaining intracellular fluid balance, generating electrical impulses in neurons and muscle cells, and regulating heart function. It plays a significant role in the body's electrolyte balance.

Sodium (Na) helps maintain extracellular fluid balance, aids in nerve impulse transmission, and is vital for muscle function. It works closely with potassium to regulate blood pressure and fluid volume.[4,54]

Though required in significantly smaller amounts than macronutrients, trace elements are vital for numerous physiological functions. Even a minor deficiency in one of these elements can lead to major health issues, highlighting their critical importance. **Iron** (**Fe**) is a key component of hemoglobin in red blood cells, which is responsible for transporting oxygen throughout the body. Iron is also a component of various enzymes and plays a role in energy metabolism and immune system function. **Zinc** (**Zn**) is involved in



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over 300 enzymatic reactions, including those related to DNA synthesis, cell division, wound healing, immune function, and antioxidant activity.[6] It is essential for growth and development. **Copper (Cu)** works with iron to form red blood cells and is involved in the formation of collagen, a key component of connective tissue. It also contributes to nerve function and immune system health.

Biogenic elements are indispensable for life, playing critical roles in maintaining the structure and function of the human body. From forming the building blocks of essential biomolecules like proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, and nucleic acids to supporting vital physiological processes such as respiration, metabolism, nerve signaling, and immune defense, these elements are the foundation of biological activity. Both macronutrients and micronutrients are necessary in varying but balanced amounts to ensure proper growth, development, and overall health. A deficiency or excess of even a single element can lead to serious health consequences, underlining the importance of maintaining adequate intake through a balanced diet. Understanding the functions and significance of biogenic elements not only enhances our knowledge of human biology but also promotes better nutritional and health choices.

In conclusion, the harmony of biogenic elements within the human body is a key pillar of life itself, and maintaining this balance is essential for sustaining health and preventing disease.

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