"Glycosaminoglycans, Proteoglycans, and Glycoproteins"

## I. Glycosaminoglycan (GAG) Overview

- · Definition and Structure
  - Glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) are large complexes of negatively charged heteropolysaccharide chains.
- · Association with Proteins
  - They are generally associated with a small amount of protein, forming structures known as proteoglycans.
  - Proteoglycans typically consist of up to 95% carbohydrate.
- Function in Ground Substance
  - GAGs have the special ability to bind large amounts of water, producing the gel-like matrix that forms the basis of the body's ground substance.

- · Contribution to Extracellular Matrix (ECM)
  - o Ground substance, along with:
    - Fibrous structural proteins such as:
      - · Collagen
      - · Elastin
      - · Fibrillin-1
    - Adhesive proteins such as:
      - · Fibronectin
  - Together make up the extracellular matrix (ECM).
- Roles of Hydrated GAGs
  - · Serve as a flexible support for the ECM.
  - · Interact with:
    - Structural proteins
    - Adhesive proteins
  - Act as a molecular sieve, influencing movement of materials through the ECM.
- · Role in Mucous Secretions
  - The viscous, lubricating properties of mucous secretions also result from the presence of GAGs.
  - This function led to the original naming of these compounds as mucopolysaccharides.

# II. Structure of Glycosaminoglycans (GAGs)

## A. Basic Composition

- GAGs are long, unbranched heteropolysaccharides.
- Composed of repeating disaccharide chains:
  - One sugar is an N-acetylated amino sugar, either:
    - N-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc)
    - N-acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc)
  - · The other sugar is an acidic sugar.

## • Exception:

 Keratan sulfate contains galactose instead of an acidic sugar.

# B. Amino Sugar Component

- · Amino sugar is either:
  - · D-glucosamine
  - D-galactosamine

## · Characteristics:

- The amino group is usually acetylated, eliminating its positive charge.
- The amino sugar may also be sulfated:
  - On carbon 4 or 6
  - Or on a nonacetylated nitrogen

# C. Acidic Sugar Component

- · Acidic sugar is either:
  - · D-glucuronic acid
  - · Or its C-S epimer, L-iduronic acid
- These uronic sugars contain carboxyl groups:
  - Carboxyl groups are negatively charged at physiologic pH.
  - $\circ$  Along with sulfate groups (-50<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>), they give GAGs their strongly negative nature.

## A. Structure-Function Relationship

- High concentration of negative charges:
  - Repeating disaccharide chains tend to be extended in solution.
  - · Chains repel each other.
  - · Surrounded by a shell of water molecules.

## · Physical behavior:

- When brought together, GAG chains slide past each other, similar to two magnets with the same polarity.
- This results in the slippery consistency of:
  - Mucous secretions
  - Synovial fluid

## Compression behavior:

- When a solution containing GAGs is compressed, water is squeezed out.
- o GAGs are forced to occupy a smaller volume.
- · Upon release of compression:
  - GAGs spring back to original hydrated volume.
  - Due to repulsion of their negative charges.

- This property contributes to the resilience of:
  - o Cartilage
  - · Synovial fluid
  - · Vitreous humor of the eye

## B. Classification

- The six major types of GAGs are divided according to:
  - · Monomeric composition
  - · Type of glycosidic linkages
  - · Degree and location of sulfate units
- · All GAGs, except for hyaluronic acid:
  - · Are sulfated
  - Are found covalently attached to protein, forming proteoglycan monomers

## C. Proteoglycans

## 1. Location

- Proteoglycans are found in:
  - o The extracellular matrix (ECM)
  - · The outer surface of cells

#### 2. Monomer Structure

- · A proteoglycan monomer found in cartilage consists of:
  - A core protein to which up to 100 linear chains of GAGs are covalently attached
- · Each GAG chain:
  - · May be composed of up to 200 disaccharide units
  - · Extends out from the core protein
  - Remains separated from each other due to charge repulsion
- The overall structure resembles a bottle brush
- In cartilage proteoglycans, the main types of GAGs are:
  - · Chondroitin sulfate
  - Keratan sulfate
- · Proteoglycans are grouped into gene families:
  - These families encode core proteins with common structural features

## Example: The aggrecan family, which includes:

- Aggrecan
- Versican
- · Neurocan
- · Brevican
- This family is abundant in cartilage

## 3. GAGs-Protein Linkage

- GAGs are attached to the core protein via covalent linkage:
  - Most commonly through a trihexoside consisting of:
    - Galactose-Galactose-Xylose
  - · Linked to a serine residue in the protein
- · An O-glycosidic bond is formed:
  - Between the xylose and the hydroxyl group of the serine

# Clinical Application: Proteoglycans, Cartilage, and Osteoarthritis

- · Osteoarthritis affects millions of individuals worldwide
- In osteoarthritis:
  - Joint cartilage is degraded
  - Proteoglycans, which normally help cushion the joint, are lost
- · Without cartilage resilience, the joint suffers:
  - o Pain
  - · Stiffness
  - Swelling
  - With progressive worsening of signs and symptoms
- · Glucosamine and chondroitin:
  - · Reported to:
    - Relieve pain
    - Stop progression of osteoarthritis
  - Available as over—the—counter dietary supplements in the United States

- · Based on several well-controlled clinical studies:
  - Glucosamine sulfate (not glucosamine hydrochloride) and chondroitin sulfate:
    - May have a small to moderate effect in relieving symptoms of osteoarthritis

# 3. Aggregate Formation

- Many proteoglycan monomers can associate with one molecule of hyaluronic acid to form proteoglycan aggregates.
- This association:
  - Is not covalent
  - Occurs primarily through ionic interactions between:
    - The core protein
    - The hyaluronic acid
- The association is stabilized by additional small proteins called link proteins

## III. Synthesis of GAGs

- Heteropolysaccharide chains are elongated by:
  - The sequential addition of alternating acidic and amino sugars
  - These sugars are donated primarily by their uridine diphosphate (UDP) derivatives
- The reactions are catalyzed by:
  - · A family of specific glycosyltransferases
- Since GAGs are produced for export from the cell:
  - · Their synthesis occurs primarily in the Golgi

## A. Amino Sugar Synthesis

- Amino sugars are essential components of:
  - Glycoconjugates such as:
    - Proteoglycans
    - Glycoproteins
    - Glycolipids

- The synthetic pathway of amino sugars (hexosamines)
  is:
  - · Very active in connective tissues
  - As much as 20% of glucose flows through this pathway
- 1. N-Acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc) and N-Acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc)
  - The monosaccharide fructose 6-phosphate is the precursor of:
    - · GlcNAc (N-acetylglucosamine)
    - GalNAc (N-acetylgalactosamine)
  - Reaction sequence:
    - A hydroxyl group on fructose is replaced by the amide nitrogen of a glutamine
    - The resulting glucosamine 6-phosphate is then:
      - Acetylated
      - Isomerized
      - Activated, producing the nucleotide sugar UDP-GlcNAc

- UDP-GalNAc is generated by:
  - · The epimerization of UDP-GlcNAc
- These nucleotide sugar forms of the amino sugars are used to:
  - Elongate the carbohydrate chains
- 2. N-Acetylneuraminic Acid (NANA)
  - · NANA is:
    - · A nine-carbon, acidic monosaccharide
    - · A member of the family of sialic acids
    - · Each sialic acid is acylated at a different site
  - NANA and other sialic acids are usually found as:
    - · Terminal carbohydrate residues of:
      - Oligosaccharide side chains of glycoproteins
      - Glycolipids
      - Less frequently, of GAGs

- Immediate sources of carbons and nitrogens for NANA synthesis:
  - N-Acetylmannosamine 6-phosphate (derived from fructose 6-phosphate)
  - Phosphoenolpyruvate (an intermediate in glycolysis)
- Before NANA can be added to a growing oligosaccharide:
  - It must be activated to CMP-NANA (cytidine monophosphate-NANA) by:
    - Reacting with cytidine triphosphate (CTP)
    - Catalyzed by CMP-NANA synthetase
- CMP-NANA is the only nucleotide sugar in human metabolism in which:
  - The carrier nucleotide is a monophosphate, not a diphosphate

# B. Acidic Sugar Synthesis

- D-Glucuronic acid:
  - Has the structure of glucose with an oxidized carbon 6:
    - $(-CH<sub>2</sub>OH \rightarrow -COOH)$
  - Along with its C-5 epimer L-iduronic acid, is an essential component of GAGs
- Glucuronic acid is also required for the detoxification of lipophilic compounds, such as:
  - · Bilirubin
  - · Steroids
  - Many drugs, including statins
- Detoxification occurs through conjugation with glucuronate:
  - Known as glucuronidation
  - Increases water solubility

- In plants and mammals (other than guinea pigs and primates, including humans):
  - Glucuronic acid is a precursor of ascorbic acid
    (vitamin C)
- · The uronic acid pathway also:
  - Provides a mechanism by which dietary D-xylulose can enter central metabolic pathways

## 1. Glucuronic Acid

- · Glucuronic acid can be obtained:
  - o In small amounts from the diet
  - From the lysosomal degradation of GAGs
- It can also be synthesized by the uronic acid pathway:
  - Glucose I-phosphate reacts with uridine triphosphate (UTP)
  - · Converted to UDP-glucose

- Oxidation of UDP-glucose produces UDP-glucuronic acid
  - This is the form that supplies glucuronic acid for:
    - GAG synthesis
    - · Glucuronidation
- End product of glucuronic acid metabolism in humans:
  - D-xylulose S-phosphate
    - Can enter the pentose phosphate pathway
    - Produces glycolytic intermediates:
      - Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate
      - Fructose 6-phosphate

## 2. L-Iduronic Acid

- Synthesis of L-iduronic acid occurs:
  - After D-glucuronic acid has been incorporated into the carbohydrate chain
- Uronosyl S-epimerase causes:
  - Epimerization of the D-sugar to the L-sugar

## C. Core Protein Synthesis

- The core protein is:
  - Made by ribosomes on the rough endoplasmic reticulum (RER)
  - · Enters the RER lumen
  - · Moves to the Golgi, where it is glycosylated by:
    - Membrane-bound glycosyltransferases

## D. Carbohydrate Chain Synthesis

- Carbohydrate chain formation is initiated by:
  - Synthesis of a short linker on the core protein
    - This is where carbohydrate chain synthesis will occur
- · Most common linker:
  - · A trihexoside, formed by:
    - Transfer of a xylose from UDP-xylose to the hydroxyl group of a serine (or threonine)
    - Catalyzed by xylosyltransferase

- Next steps:
  - Two galactose molecules are added
    - Completing the trihexoside
  - · Followed by:
    - Sequential addition of alternating acidic and amino sugars
    - Epimerization of some D-glucuronyl to Liduronyl residues

## E. Sulfate Group Addition

- · Sulfation of a GAG occurs:
  - After the monosaccharide to be sulfated has been incorporated into the growing carbohydrate chain
- · Source of the sulfate:
  - 3'-Phosphoadenosyl-5'-phosphosulfate (PAPS):
    - A molecule of adenosine monophosphate with a sulfate group attached to the 5'-phosphate
- Sulfation reaction is catalyzed by:
  - · Sulfotransferases

#### · Note:

 PAPS is also the sulfur donor in glycosphingolipid synthesis

# IV. Degradation

- GAGs are degraded in lysosomes, which contain:
  - Hydrolytic enzymes most active at a pH of ~5
  - As a group, these enzymes are called acid hydrolases
- · Low pH optimum within lysosomes:
  - · Serves as a protective mechanism
  - Prevents enzymes from destroying the cell if leakage into the cytosol occurs, where the pH is neutral
- · Half-lives of GAGs:
  - · Vary from minutes to months
  - Influenced by:
    - Type of GAG
    - Location in the body

# A. GAGs and Phagocytosis

- Because GAGs are extracellular or cell-surface compounds, they must first be:
  - Engulfed by invagination of the cell membrane (phagocytosis)
  - This forms a vesicle containing the GAGs to be degraded
- The vesicle fuses with a lysosome:
  - o Forms a single digestive vesicle
  - · Within this, GAGs are efficiently degraded

# B. Lysosomal Degradation

- Lysosomal degradation of GAGs:
  - Requires a large number of acid hydrolases for complete digestion

Steps of degradation:

## 1st Step:

- Polysaccharide chains are cleaved by endoglycosidases
  - Produces oligosaccharides

## 2nd Step:

- Further degradation occurs sequentially from the nonreducing end of each chain
  - The last group added during synthesis is the first group removed
  - Removal is by action of sulfatases or exoglycosidases
- Examples of enzymes and the bonds they hydrolyze:
- · Note:
  - Endoglycosidases and exoglycosidases are also involved in lysosomal degradation of glycoproteins and glycolipids
  - Deficiencies in these enzymes lead to:
    - Accumulation of partially degraded carbohydrates
    - Resulting in tissue damage

# Clinical Insight: Multiple Sulfatase Deficiency (Austin Disease)

- Multiple sulfatase deficiency is a rare lysosomal storage disease
- In this disorder:
  - · All sulfatases are nonfunctional
  - Caused by a defect in the formation of formylglycine
    - Formylglycine is an amino acid derivative required at the active site for enzymatic activity

## V. Mucopolysaccharidoses

- Mucopolysaccharidoses (MPS):
  - · Hereditary diseases
  - · Occurrence: ~1:25,000 live births
  - Caused by deficiency of any one of the lysosomal hydrolases
    - These enzymes normally degrade:
      - Heparan sulfate
      - · Dermatan sulfate
      - Keratan sulfate

## • Disorder characteristics:

- · Progressive disorders
- Characterized by lysosomal accumulation of GAGs in various tissues
- · Symptoms include:
  - Skeletal deformities
  - Extracellular matrix (ECM) deformities
  - Intellectual disability

## • Inheritance:

- · All are autosomal-recessive disorders
- Exception: Hunter syndrome has X-linked inheritance

#### · Clinical course:

- Children homozygous for the disease appear normal at birth
- · Gradual deterioration over time
- · In severe deficiencies, death occurs in childhood
- · Currently no cure

- Diagnosis:
  - Incomplete lysosomal degradation leads to oligosaccharides in urine
  - O Diagnosis based on:
    - Identifying the structure at the nonreducing end of the oligosaccharide
      - This residue would be the substrate for the missing enzyme
    - Confirmation by measuring the patient's cellular level of lysosomal hydrolases
- Treatment approaches:
  - Bone marrow and cord blood transplants:
    - Transplanted macrophages produce the enzymes that degrade GAGs
    - Used for Hurler and Hunter syndromes
    - Limited success
  - · Enzyme replacement therapy:
    - Available for Hurler and Hunter syndromes
    - Does not prevent neurologic damage

## VI. Glycoprotein Overview

## · Definition:

- Glycoproteins are proteins to which oligosaccharides (glycans) are covalently attached
- Glycosylation = Most common posttranslational modification of proteins
- Glycation = Nonenzymatic addition of carbohydrate to proteins

## • Carbohydrate content:

- Glycoproteins have highly variable amounts of carbohydrate
- Typically much less carbohydrate than proteoglycans
  - Example:
    - Immunoglobulin G (IgG): contains < 4% carbohydrate by mass</li>
    - Aggrecan (a proteoglycan): contains >80% carbohydrate by mass

- · Glycan structure in glycoproteins:
  - Glycans are usually:
    - Short: 2 to 10 sugar residues
    - Often branched, not linear
    - May or may not be negatively charged
- Functions of membrane-bound glycoproteins:
  - · Participate in broad range of cellular phenomena:
    - Cell-surface recognition by other cells, hormones, and viruses
    - Cell-surface antigenicity (e.g., blood group antigens)
    - Components of the extracellular matrix (ECM)
    - Components of mucins of the gastrointestinal and urogenital tracts
      - Act as protective biologic lubricants
- Plasma glycoproteins:
  - Almost all globular proteins in human plasma are glycoproteins
  - Albumin is an exception (not a glycoprotein)

## VII. Oligosaccharide Structure

- Glycan components of glycoproteins:
  - · Generally branched heteropolymers
  - · Composed primarily of D-hexoses
  - · May also include:
    - Neuraminic acid (a nonose)
    - L-fucose (a 6-deoxyhexose)

# A. Carbohydrate-Protein Linkage

- The glycan may be attached to the protein through an N- or an O-glycosidic link.
  - N-glycosidic link: sugar chain is attached to the amide group of an asparagine side chain
  - O-glycosidic link: sugar chain is attached to the hydroxyl group of either a serine or threonine side chain
  - In collagen, there is an O-glycosidic linkage between galactose or glucose and the hydroxyl group of hydroxylysine

## B. N- and O-Linked Oligosaccharides

- A glycoprotein may contain:
  - Only one type of glycosidic linkage (N or O linked),
    or
  - · Both types within the same molecule

## 1. O-linked:

- O-linked glycans may have:
  - · One or more of a wide variety of sugars
  - · Sugars arranged in linear or branched patterns
- · Common locations:
  - · Found in extracellular glycoproteins
  - · Found as membrane glycoprotein components

## • Example:

- O-linked oligosaccharides on the surface of red blood cells help provide the ABO blood group determinants
  - GalNAc as terminal sugar  $\rightarrow$  blood group A
  - Galactose as terminal sugar → blood group B
  - Neither GalNAc nor galactose present → blood group 0

## 2. N-linked:

- N-linked glycans fall into two broad classes:
  - Complex oligosaccharides
  - High-mannose oligosaccharides
- · Both classes contain the same pentasaccharide core
- · Differences:
  - Complex oligosaccharides:
    - Contain a diverse group of additional sugars
    - Examples: GlcNAc, GalNAc, L-fucose, NANA
  - High-mannose oligosaccharides:
    - Contain primarily mannose

## VIII. Glycoprotein Synthesis

- Proteins destined to function in the cytoplasm are synthesized on free cytosolic ribosomes.
- · Proteins, including glycoproteins, destined for:
  - · Cellular membranes
  - Lysosomes
  - o Or to be exported from the cell
  - Are synthesized on ribosomes attached to the endoplasmic reticulum (ER)
- These proteins contain specific signal sequences that act as molecular addresses, targeting them to proper destinations.
- An N-terminal hydrophobic sequence:
  - o Initially directs these proteins to the ER
  - Allows the growing polypeptide to be extruded into the lumen
- The proteins are then:
  - Transported via secretory vesicles to the Golgi,
    which acts as a sorting center

# • In the Golgi:

- · Glycoproteins destined to be:
  - Secreted from the cell, or
  - Targeted for lysosomes
  - Are packaged into vesicles that:
    - Fuse with the plasma or lysosomal membrane
    - Release their contents
- Glycoproteins destined to become components of the cell membrane:
  - Are integrated into the Golgi membrane
  - Golgi membrane buds off, forming vesicles
  - Vesicles add their membrane-bound
    glycoproteins to the cell membrane
  - Glycoproteins are oriented with the carbohydrate portion facing the outside of the cell

# A. Carbohydrate Components

- Precursors of the carbohydrate components of glycoproteins are nucleotide sugars, including:
  - UDP-glucose
  - UDP-galactose

- · UDP-GICNAC
- · UDP-GalNAc
- · GDP-mannose
- GDP-L-fucose (synthesized from GDP-mannose)
- · CMP-NANA
- When acidic NANA is present, the oligosaccharide has a negative charge at physiologic pH
- Oligosaccharides are covalently attached to the side chains of specific amino acids in the protein
- The three-dimensional structure of the protein determines whether or not a specific amino acid is glycosylated

## B. O-Linked Glycoprotein Synthesis

 Synthesis of O-linked glycoproteins is very similar to that of the GAGs.

## • Steps:

- First, the protein to which sugars are to be attached is:
  - Synthesized on the RER
  - Extruded into its lumen
- Glycosylation begins with the transfer of GalNAc (from UDP-GalNAc) to the hydroxyl group of a specific serine or threonine residue.
- The glycosyltransferases responsible for the stepwise synthesis (from individual sugars) of the oligosaccharides:
  - Are bound to the membranes of the Golgi
  - Act in a specific order
  - Do not use a template, unlike DNA, RNA, and protein synthesis
  - Instead, they recognize the actual structure of the growing oligosaccharide as the appropriate substrate

## C. N-Linked Glycoprotein Synthesis

 Synthesis of N-linked glycoproteins occurs in the lumen of the RER

- Requires the participation of:
  - The phosphorylated form of dolichol (dolichol pyrophosphate), a lipid of the RER membrane
- · The initial product is:
  - · Processed in the RER
  - · And in the Golgi
- 1. Dolichol-Linked Oligosaccharide Synthesis
  - As with O-linked glycoproteins:
    - o The protein is synthesized on the RER
    - · It enters the RER lumen
  - Difference:
    - The protein does not become glycosylated with individual sugars
    - Instead, a lipid-linked oligosaccharide is first constructed

- This lipid-linked oligosaccharide consists of:
  - · Dolichol:
    - An RER membrane lipid
    - Made from an intermediate of cholesterol synthesis
  - Attached through a pyrophosphate linkage to an oligosaccharide containing:
    - GICNAC
    - Mannose
    - Glucose
- Sugars are added sequentially to dolichol by membrane-bound glycosyltransferases:
  - · First GlcNAc
  - Followed by mannose
  - · Then glucose
- The entire 14-sugar oligosaccharide is then:
  - Transferred from dolichol to the amide nitrogen of an asparagine residue in the protein
  - This is catalyzed by protein-oligosaccharide transferase present in RER
  - (Note: The antibiotic Tunicamycin inhibits N-linked glycosylation.)

- 1. Congenital Disorders of Glycosylation (CDG)
  - CDG are syndromes caused primarily by defects in Nlinked glycosylation of proteins.
  - · Two types:
    - o Type I: Defects in oligosaccharide assembly
    - o Type II: Defects in oligosaccharide processing

# 2. N-Linked Oligosaccharide Processing

- After addition of the N-linked oligosaccharide to the protein:
  - It is processed by removal of specific mannosyl and glucosyl residues
  - This occurs as the glycoprotein moves through the RER

- · Final processing in the Golgi:
  - Oligosaccharide chains are completed by the addition of various sugars, such as:
    - GlcNAc
    - GalNAc
    - Additional mannoses
    - Fucose or NANA as terminal groups
  - This produces a complex glycoprotein
- · Alternative outcome:
  - · Some oligosaccharides are not further processed
  - · Resulting in branched, mannose-containing chains
  - These form a high-mannose glycoprotein
- Ultimate fate of N-linked glycoproteins is the same as O-linked glycoproteins:
  - Can be released by the cell
  - Can become part of a cell membrane
- · Additional role:
  - N-linked glycoproteins can be targeted to lysosomes

## 3. Lysosomal Enzymes

- N-linked glycoproteins being processed in the Golgi can be phosphorylated on:
  - · Carbon 6 of one or more mannosyl residues
- · Phosphate donor:
  - · UDP-GICNAC
- Catalyzing enzyme:
  - · Phosphotransferase
- Mannose 6-phosphate (M6P) pathway:
  - Receptors in the Golgi membrane bind the M6P residues
  - These tagged proteins are:
    - Packaged into vesicles
    - Sent to the lysosomes

## Clinical Application: I-Cell Disease

## Definition and Naming

- I-Cell disease is a rare lysosomal storage disease
- Named for the large inclusion bodies seen in the cells of affected patients

## Molecular Defect

- Deficient enzyme: GlcNAc phosphotransferase
- Resulting effect: Mannose 6-phosphate (M6P) is not generated on proteins destined for lysosomes

## Misrouting of Acid Hydrolases

- · Lack of MBP on amino acid residues causes:
  - Precursor acid hydrolases to be misdirected
  - They are sent to the plasma membrane and secreted constitutively
  - o Instead of being trafficked to lysosomes

# Pathophysiology

- Consequences:
  - · Acid hydrolases are absent in lysosomes
  - Macromolecule substrates accumulate in lysosomes
  - This accumulation generates the inclusion bodies characteristic of the disorder
- · Biochemical findings:
  - High concentrations of lysosomal enzymes are found in:
    - Plasma
    - Urine
  - Indicates defective lysosomal targeting

## Clinical Features

- Skeletal abnormalities
- · Restricted joint movement
- Coarse (dysmorphic) facial features
- · Severe psychomotor impairment

## Classification

- Shares features with:
  - · Mucopolysaccharidoses
  - · Sphingolipidoses
- Therefore, also termed a mucolipidosis (ML II)

## Prognosis

- · No current cure
- Death typically occurs in early childhood due to cardiopulmonary complications

## Milder Form

- · Pseudo-Hurler polydystrophy (ML III):
  - · A less severe form of I-cell disease
  - Caused by residual activity of the phosphotransferase
  - Clinically resembles a mild form of Hurler syndrome

## IX. Lysosomal Glycoprotein Degradation

## Degradation Mechanism

- Degradation of glycoproteins is similar to that of GAGs
- · Lysosomal acid hydrolases involved are:
  - Specific for the removal of one component of the glycoprotein
  - · Primarily expenzymes
  - Function: Remove their respective groups in reverse order of incorporation (i.e., last on, first off)

## Enzyme Dependency

- If any degradative enzyme is missing:
  - Degradation by other excenzymes cannot proceed
  - Leads to accumulation of partially degraded structures in lysosomes

# Glycoprotein Storage Diseases (Oligosaccharidoses)

- · Group of very rare, autosomal-recessive diseases
- Caused by deficiency of any one of the degradative enzymes
- Result in lysosomal accumulation of partially degraded glycoprotein fragments

Example: a-Mannosidosis Type 3

- Caused by deficiency of α-mannosidase
- · Severe, progressive, and fatal
- Clinical presentation:
  - · Similar to Hurler syndrome
  - · Also includes immune deficiency
- Urine contains mannose-rich oligosaccharide fragments
- Diagnosis is made by enzyme activity assay