

SATURATED FATTY ACIDS : FRIENDS OR FOES ?

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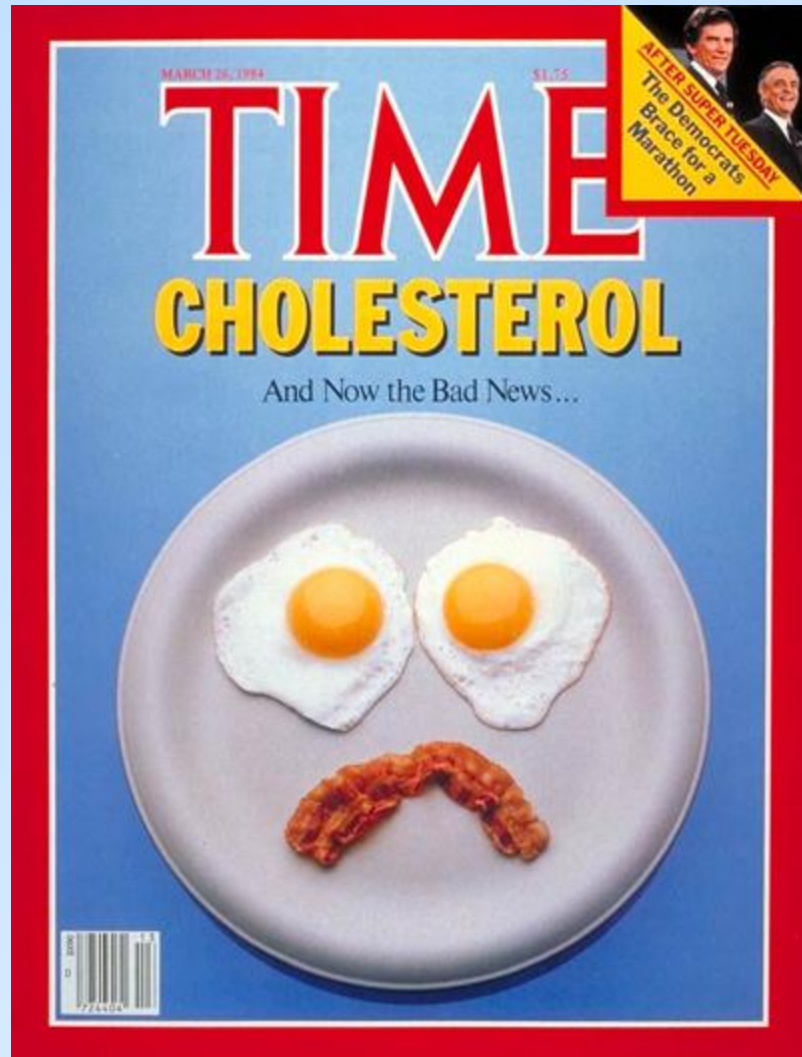
**Laboratoire de Biochimie et Nutrition Humaine
AGROCAMPUS - INRA, Rennes, FRANCE**



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**Conflict of interest
regarding this presentation:**

I have no conflict of interest to report in relation
to this presentation.



1984



Scientists labeled Saturates the enemies, Why they were wrong ?

Saturated fatty acids are nutrients, not poisons

The good question is only :

Which dose and which limit for every specific saturated FA ?

Juin 2014

SATURATED FATTY ACIDS

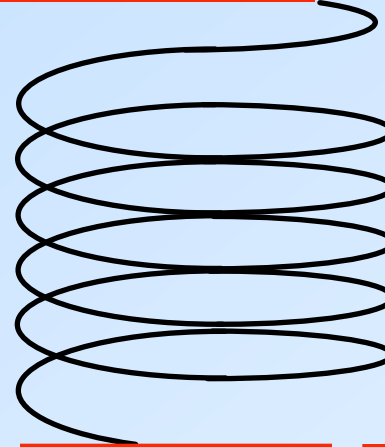
- We make them
- We eat them
- Metabolism
- Important specific functions
- Problems with CVD and MS biomarkers

Saturated fatty acids

« We do synthesize them » : (human, animals, plants...)

Sugars, starch, alcohol.....

synthesis



Palmitic acid

16:0

elongation

Stearic acid

18:0

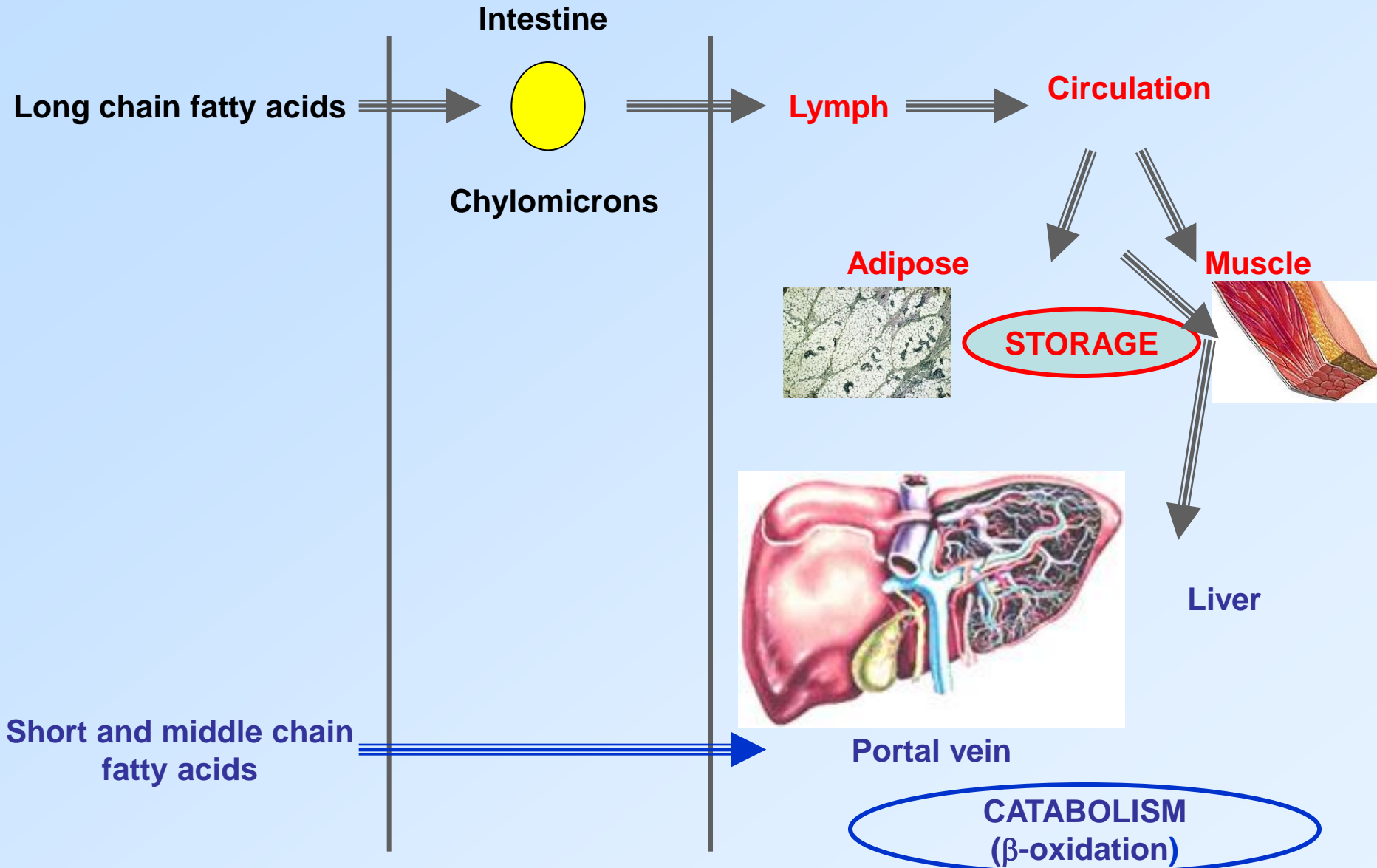
SATURATED FATTY ACIDS

- We make them
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SATURATED FATTY ACIDS

- **We make them**
- **We eat them**
- **Metabolism : differences between SFAs**
- **Important specific functions**
- **Problems with CVD and MS biomarkers**

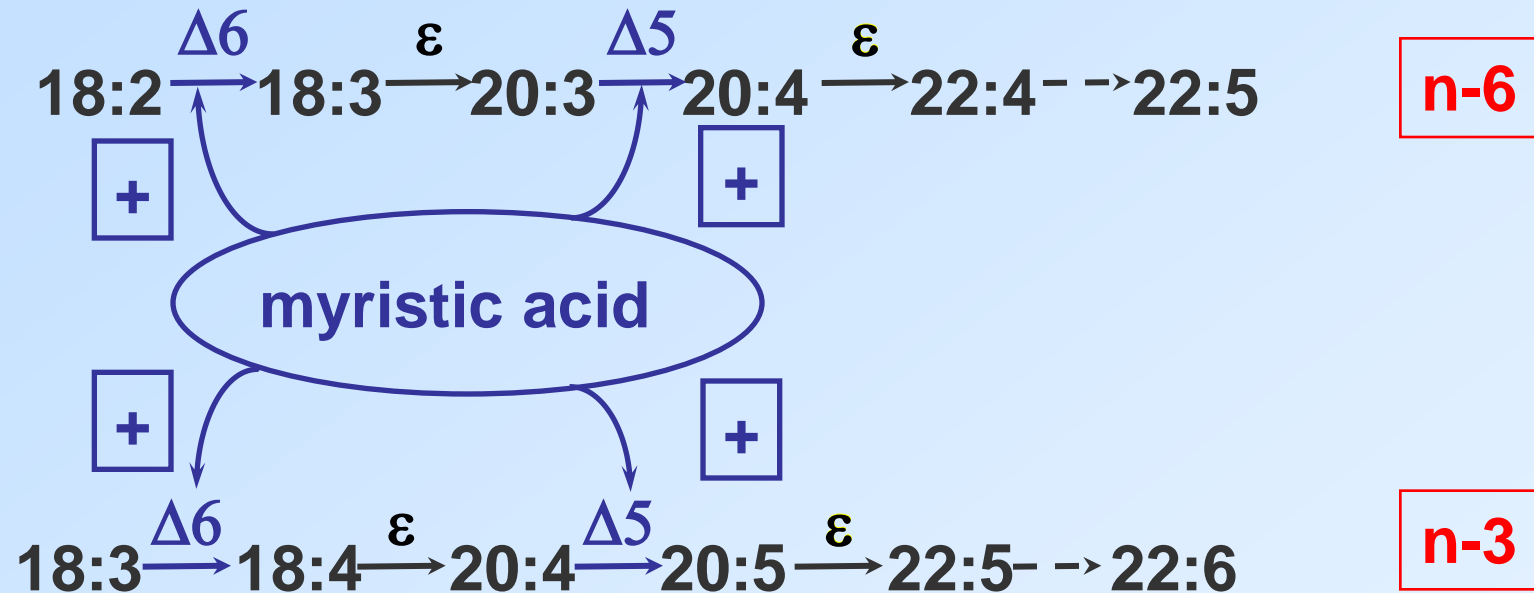
Comparative absorption of saturated fatty acids



SATURATED FATTY ACIDS

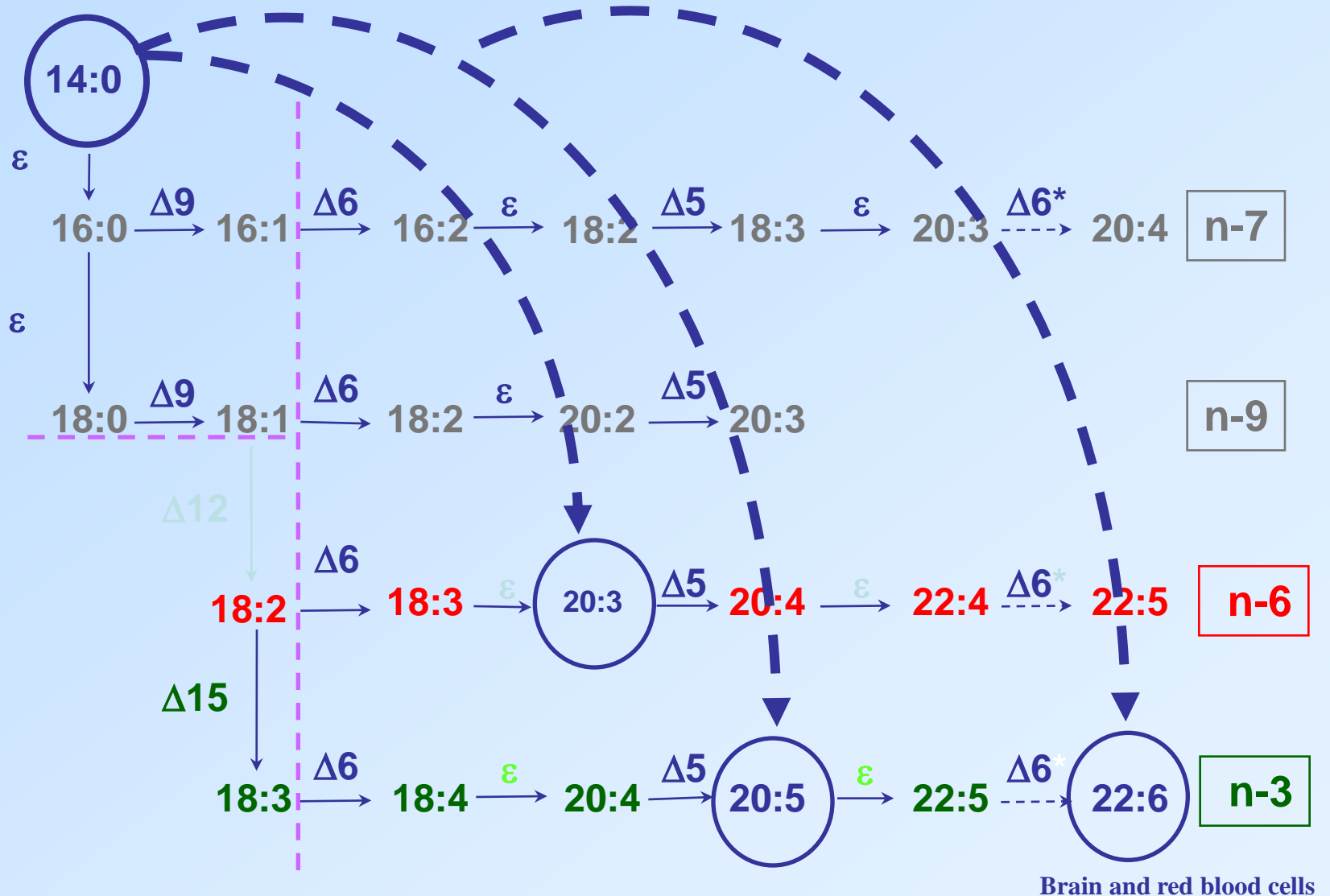
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Role of myristic acid on PUFA metabolism (in vitro)



NADH-cyt b5 reductase, component of desaturase complex is myristoylated

Effect of myristic acid on PUFAs composition in the rat *in vivo* and in human



Saturated fatty acids functions at a glance

(in addition to energetical function)

C4 butyric

C6 caproic

C8 caprylic

C10 capric

C12 lauric

C14 myristic

C16 palmitic

C18 stearic

C20 arachidic

C22 behenic

C24 lignoceric

- Inhibition of tumor proliferation *in vivo* and *in vitro*
- Induction of apoptosis
- Less fat deposition
- Colon and smooth muscle cells
- C8 ↓ VLDL secretion (inhibition of apo B synthesis)
- Hypocholesterolemic effect (C8, C10)
- Antiviral role
- ghrelin acylation (C8)

- Specific acylation of proteins

- Activation of conversion from C18:3 n-3 towards EPA + DHA

- Activation of sphingolipids synthesis

Saturated fatty acids functions at a glance

(in addition to energetical function)

C4 butyric

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C20 arachidic

C22 behenic

C24 lignoceric

- Component of sphingolipids

- ↑ non-specific acylation of some proteins

- ↑ or phospholipid fatty acids. structural role

- Active desaturation to oleic acid

- Nervous structure (myelinisation)

Saturated fatty acids functions at a glance

(in addition to energetical function)

C4 butyric

C6 caproic

C8 caprylic

C10 capric

C12 lauric

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C16 palmitic

C18 stearic

C20 arachidic

C22 behenic

C24 lignoceric

SO WHAT ?

**Non essential nutrients
with important functions**

SATURATED FATTY ACIDS

- We make them
- We eat them
- Metabolism
- Important specific functions
- Problems with CVD and MS biomarkers ?

Then

Epidemiological studies (cohorts)

Association between SFA and CVD risk :



Garcia 1980
Mc Gee 1984
Esrey 1996
Boniface 2002
Jakobsen 2004
Xu 2006



Gillman 1997
He 2003
Mozzafarian 2004
Jakobsen 2009
Yamagashi 2009
Jakobsen 2010 (MI)



Shekelle 1981
Kushi 1985
Posner 1991
Ascherio 1996
Pietinen 1997
Tucke 2005
Leosdottir 2007

- Meta-analysis (Siri-Tarino 2010) : 21 cohorts

”Overall, despite the conventional wisdom that reduced dietary saturated fat intake is beneficial for CVD health, there is **no significant evidence for concluding that dietary saturated fat is associated with an increased risk of CHD or CVD**”

- Other meta-analysis: O’Sullivan, 2013; Chowdhury, 2014; Harcomb, 2015, De Souza 2015



same results

- In CAD patients: Puaschitz et al., 2015 No association either

Saturated fatty acids functions

Problems ?

C4 butyric

C6 caproic

C8 caprylic

C10 capric

- No problem with the CVD risk !

C12 lauric

C14 myristic

C16 palmitic

Problem with the CVD risk :

Deleterious effects in case of excess

Accumulation of palmitic acid : endogenous + exogenous origins

C18 stearic

C20 arachidic

C22 behenic

C24 lignoceric

- No problem with the CVD risk !

CONCLUSION – SUMMARY

- No reason for considering SFA “en bloc” anymore, in term of structure and metabolism, in term of functions and in term of deleterious effect as well.
- **Absence of evidence for deleterious effects, need of more precise epidemiological studies (different saturated fatty acids, dose-effects approach, controls...) for the deleterious effects in case of excess**



Which saturated FA to limit ? And at which level ?

ANC : NON ESSENTIAL FA : SATURATED FA

For an adult at 2000-2200 kcal/day
Values expressed in % total energy.

	Minimal physiological requirement	RISK PREVENTION					ANC 2010
		Metabolic syndrome, diabetes, obesity	Cardio-vascular diseases	Cancers : breast, colon	Neuro-psychiatric pathologies	Other pathologies : Macular degeneration	
NON ESSENTIAL FA	Lauric acid (C12:0) + myristic acid (C14:0) + palmitic acid (C16:0)	-	≤ 8	-	-	-	≤ 8
	Total Saturated FA	-	≤ 12	≤ 12	-	-	≤ 12
	Oleic acid C18:1 n-9	-	≤ 20	-	-	-	15 - 20
	Others non essential FA	-	-	-	-	-	-

Lack of coherent data

Value obtained from epidemiological association studies, in the absence of intervention studies.

Data obtained from breast cancer only