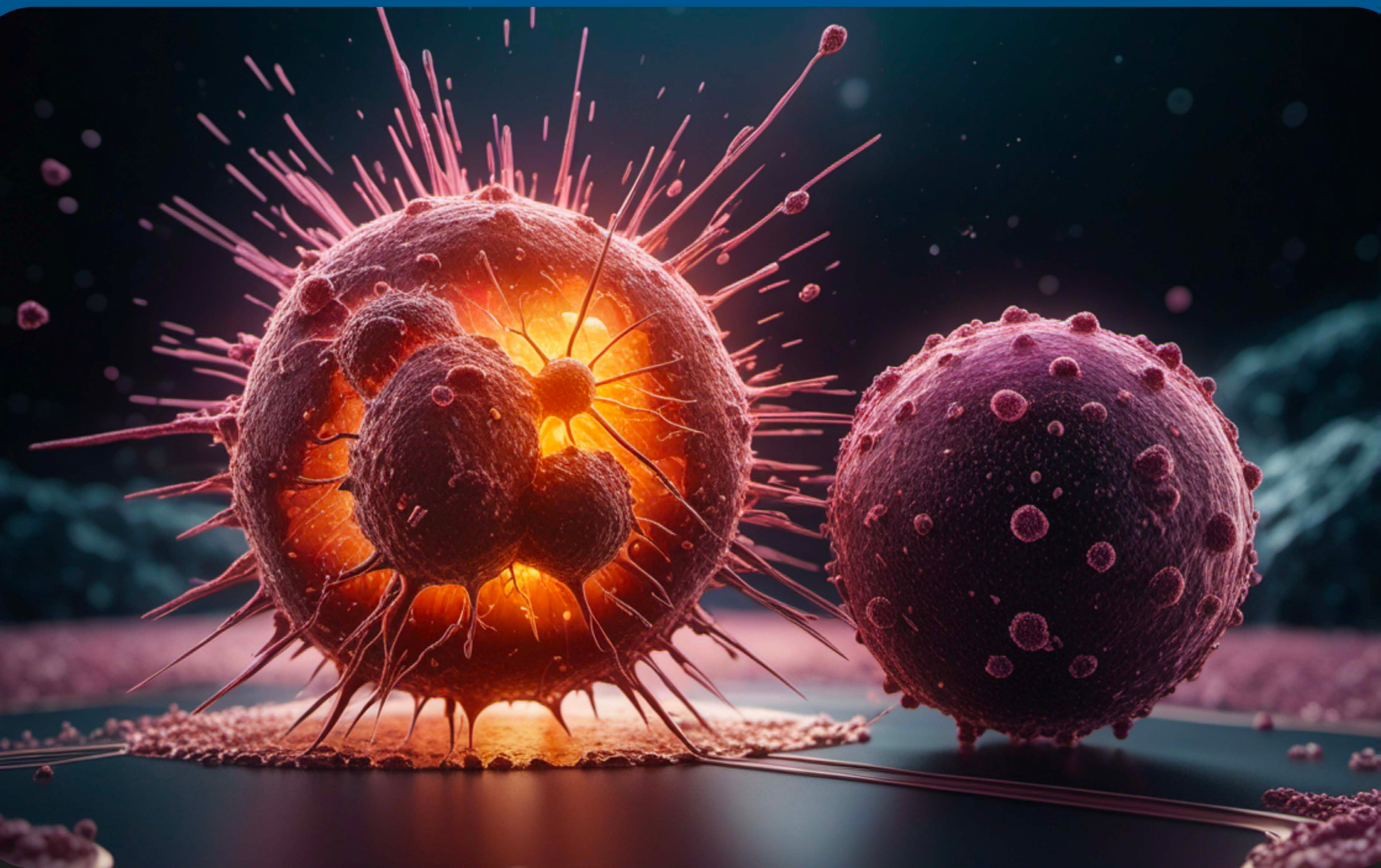


CELL BIOLOGY & BIOCHEMISTRY

TAILORED FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS, USMLE, PLAB, PA & NURSING



4th EDITION



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150 PAGES

MEMBRANE POTENTIAL & EXCITABLE TISSUES

MEMBRANE POTENTIAL & EXCITABLE TISSUES

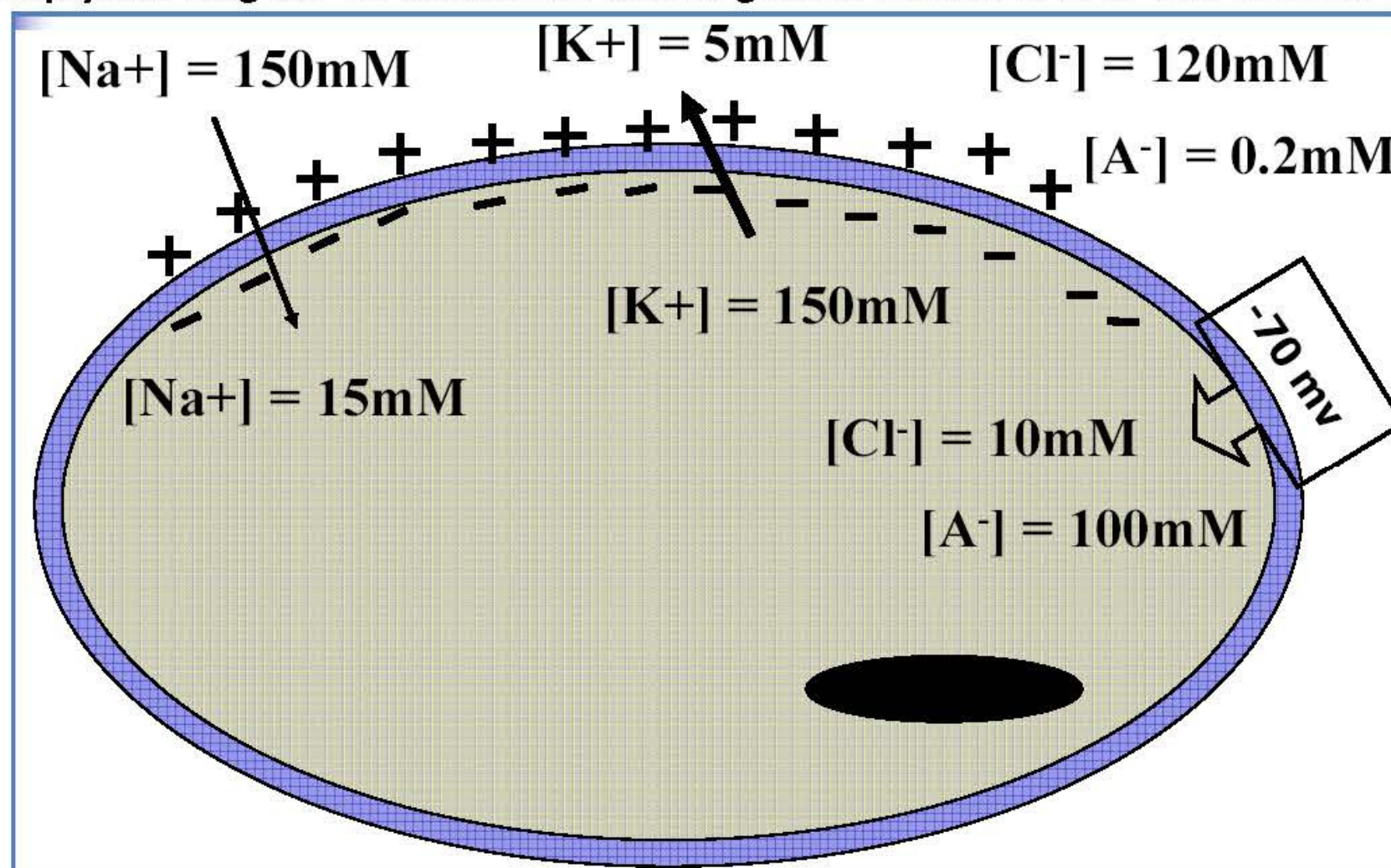
Membrane Potential:

- = Voltage across membrane
- Cause: unequal distribution of ions (K^+ & Na^+)
- Result of selective/differential permeability of specific plasma membrane proteins (mainly ion channels)
- Evident in all living cells (ranges between -20 & -200mV)
- In excitable tissues – stimulation causes change in Membrane Potential
 - Results in activation of the cell
 - Nervous & Muscle Tissues = Excitable Tissues
- Membrane Potential Depends on:
 - Relative permeability of PM to ions
 - Each ion's concentration gradient
 - Electrochemical gradient
- Resting Membrane Potential:
 - Stable membrane potential of cells when unstimulated
 - For Nerve Cells – approx -70mV

Ion Distribution Across Plasma Membrane

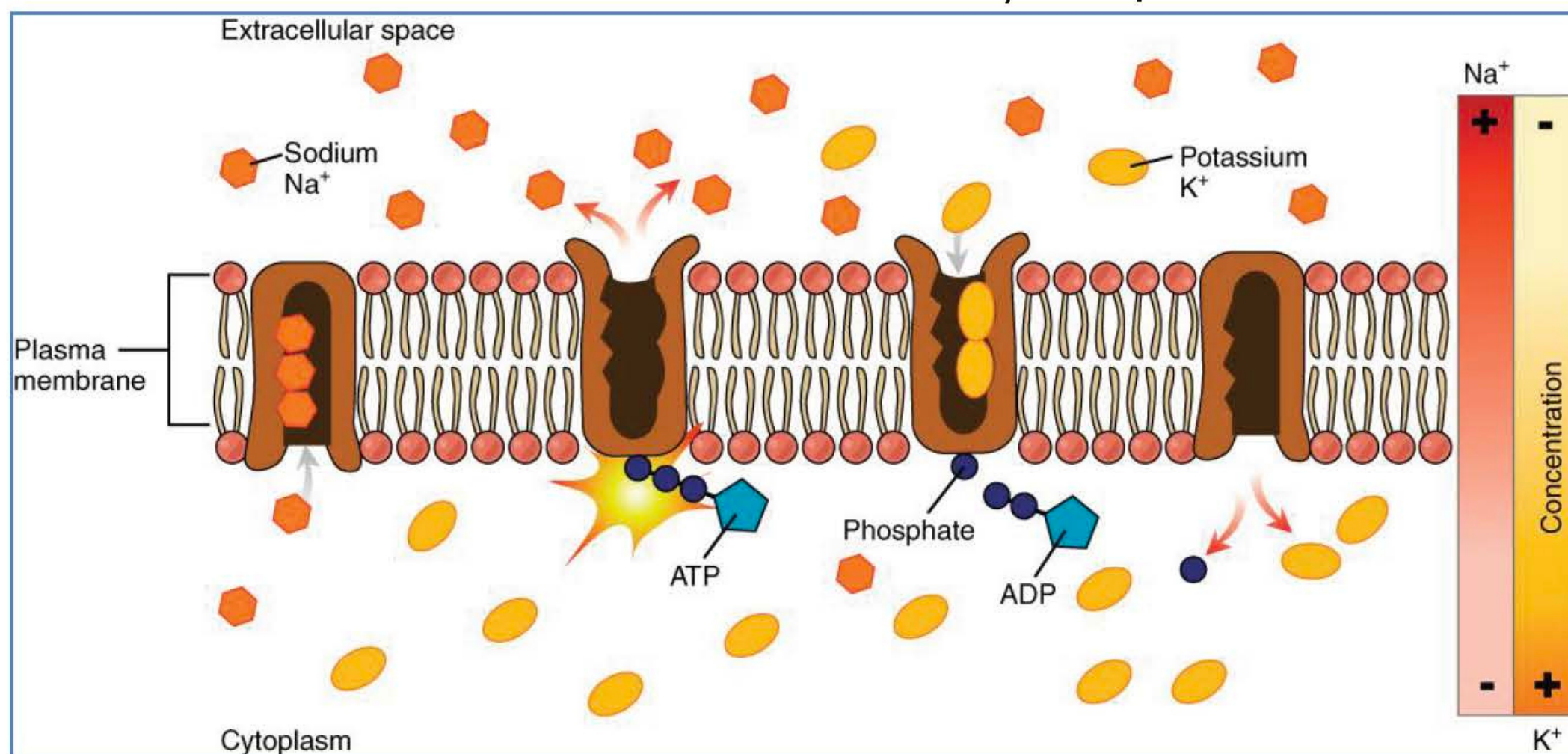
- K^+ : [greater inside cell]
 - At rest, membrane is **much** more permeable to K^+ than to Na^+
 - I.e: K^+ diffuses out of the cell through **leakage channels** down its concentration gradient
 - Therefore, loss of positive charge from cell makes:
 - Inside the cell negative
 - Outside the cell positive
 - Eventually the negativity of the inner membrane face attracts K^+ back into the cell
 - Therefore, concentration gradient drives K^+ out and is equally opposed by electrical gradient (**equilibrium potential has been reached**)
- Na^+ : [greater outside cell]
 - Membrane has much lower permeability to Na^+
 - Negative inner membrane-face attracts Na^+ into cell, but is opposed by low permeability
 - Therefore low diffusion of Na^+ into cell

****Simply: Resting MP is established due to greater diffusion of K^+ out than Na^+ in****



The Na/K ATPase: Maintaining the Resting Membrane Potential

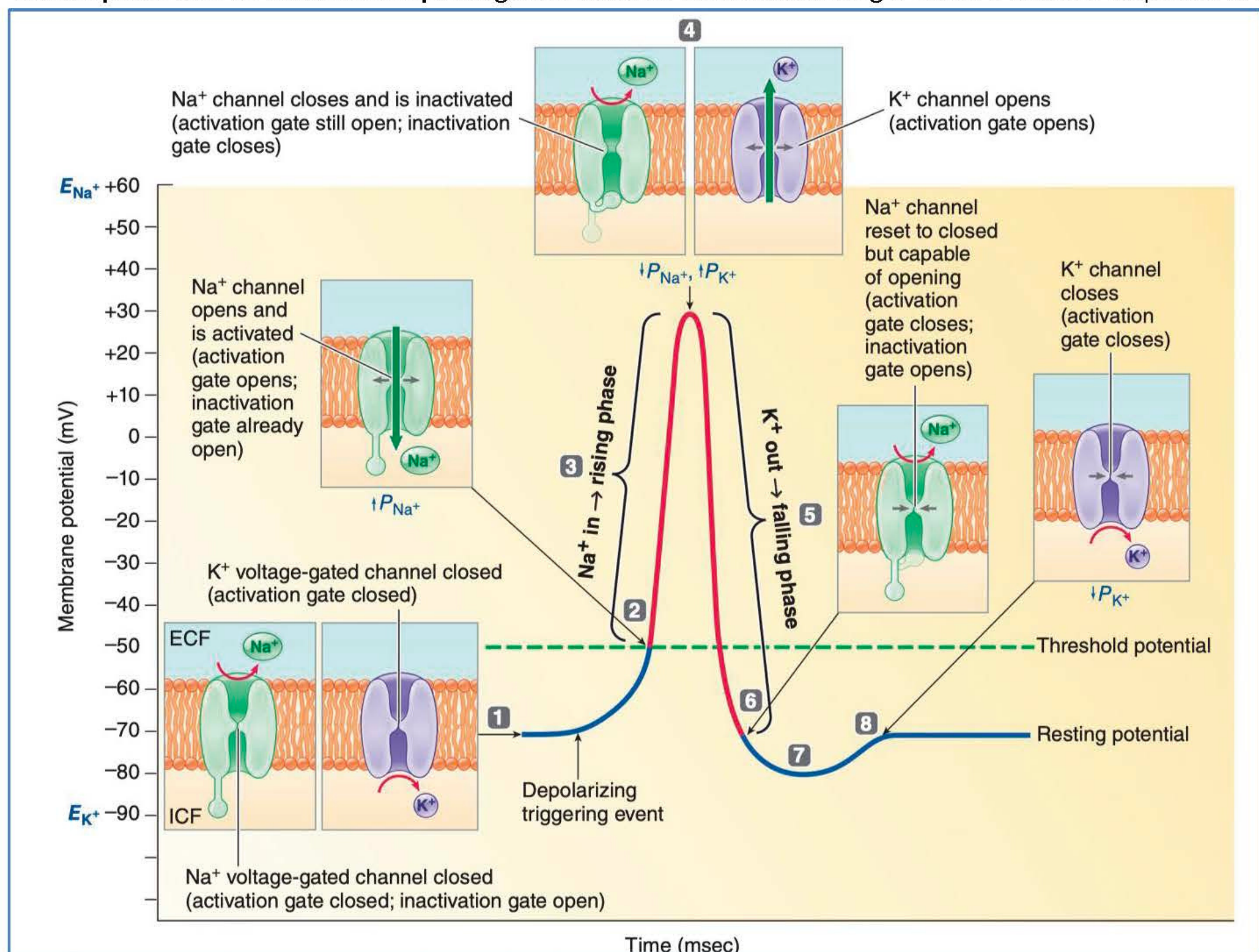
- Na passively diffuses into cell and K passively diffuses out
- So Why doesn't the chemical & electrochemical gradients dissipate?
- The **Concentration Gradients** for both Na & K are **maintained** by the **Na/K ATPase**



CNX OpenStax, CC BY 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Excitable Tissues (Nerves/Muscle)

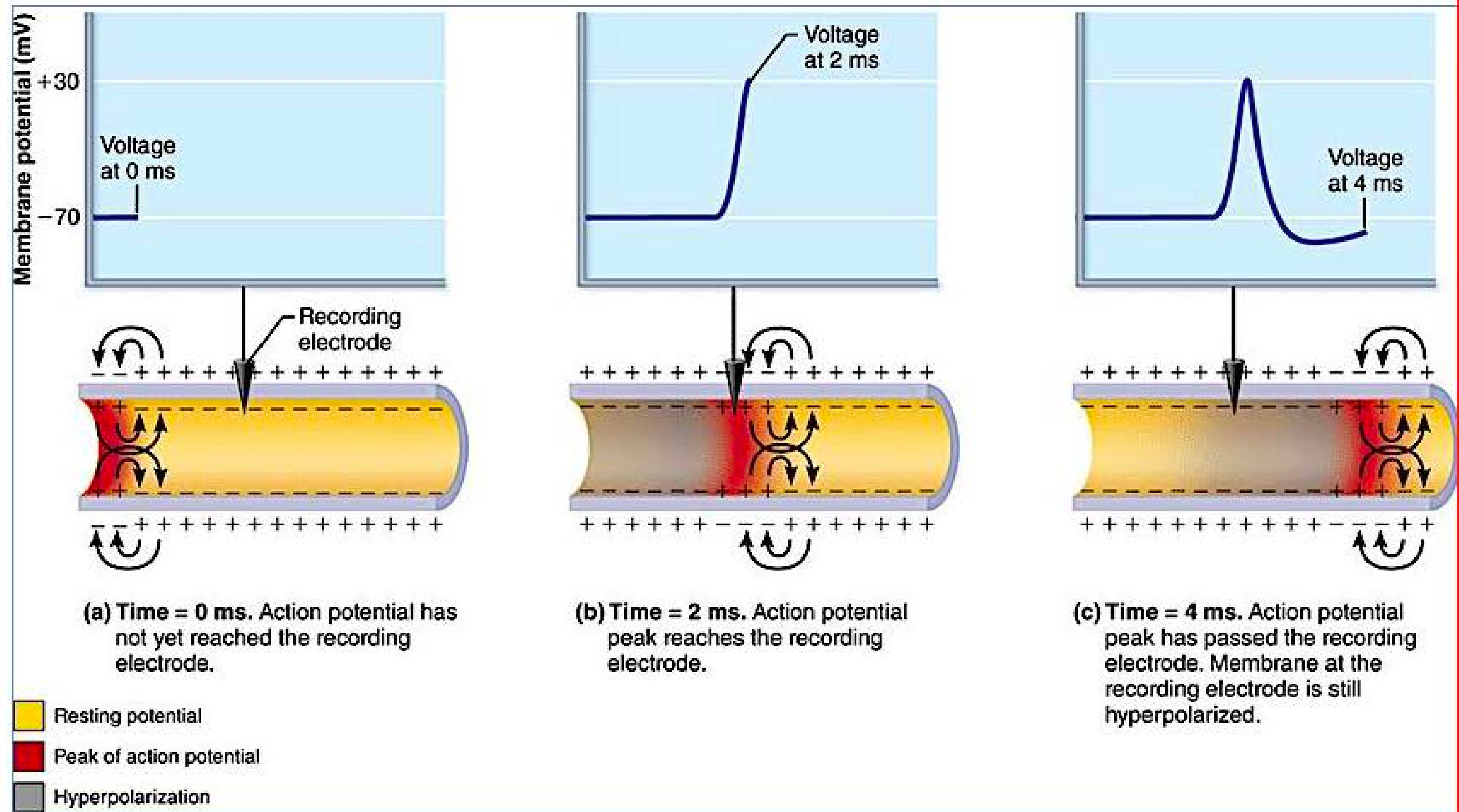
- In excitable cells, **stimuli** can **alter the permeability** of the membrane to K^+ and/or Na^+
 - Via opening/closing **gated ion channels** (ligand/chemically gated, voltage gated, mechanically gated, vibration gated, temperature gated)
- This changes the membrane potential
- If the membrane potential is sufficiently altered, an action potential is initiated
- **Action potential:** an **electrical impulse** generated and conducted along a **nerve's** axon in response to stimuli



Güler and Linaro et al Model in an Investigation of the Neuronal Dynamics using noise Comparative Study - Scientific Figure on ResearchGate. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Phases-of-action-potential-12_fig2_334605708 [accessed 17 Jan, 2022]

Impulses: are conducted along the length of the axon

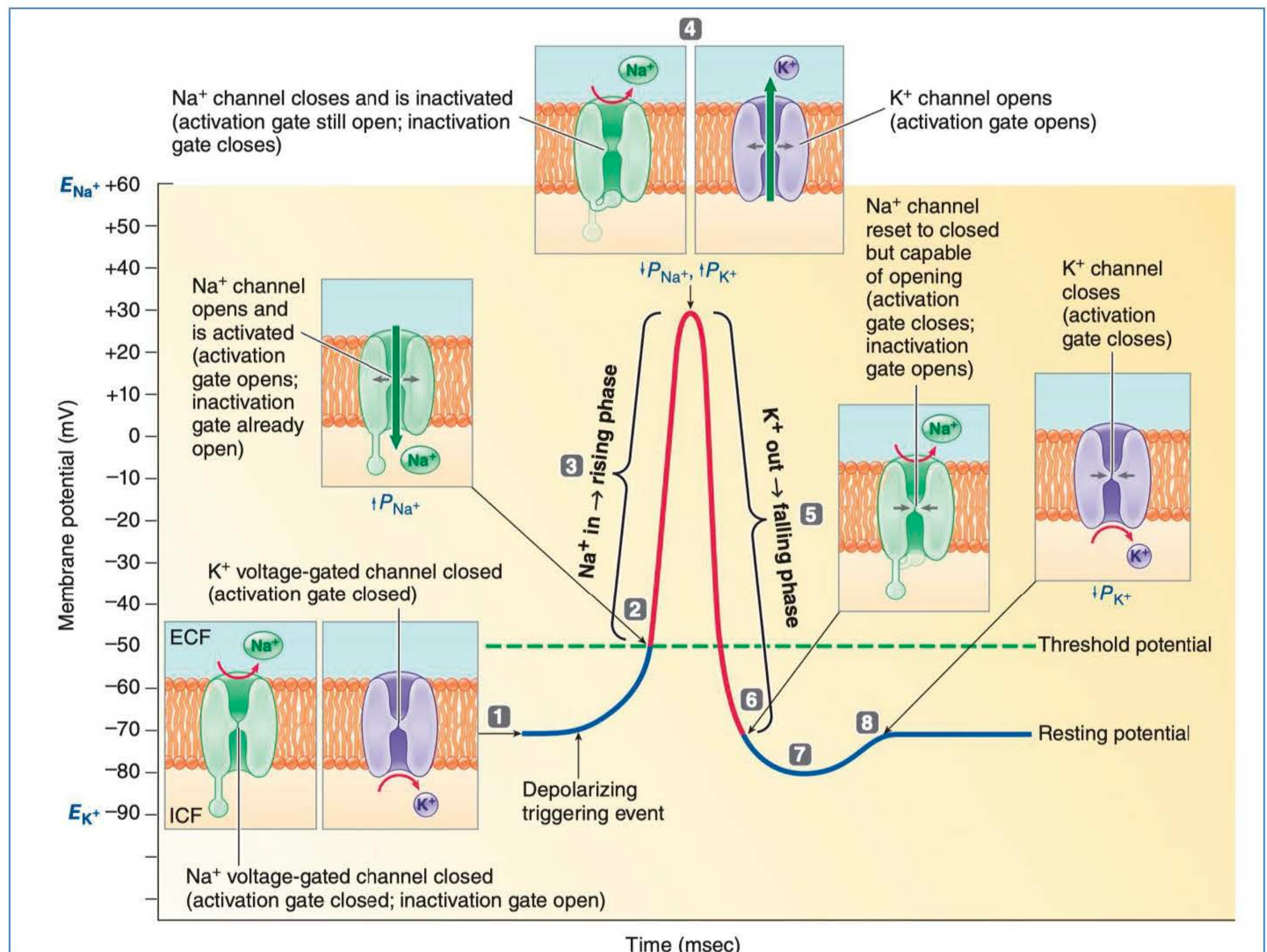
- A wave of action potentials – opening and closing of voltage gated ion channels
- **Action potential:** an impulse frozen in time
- Depolarisation, repolarisation and hyperpolarisation of membrane



Scientific Figure on ResearchGate. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Action-potential-propagation-along-an-axon-12_fig5_308369018 [accessed 21 Feb, 2022]

Neuronal Action Potentials:

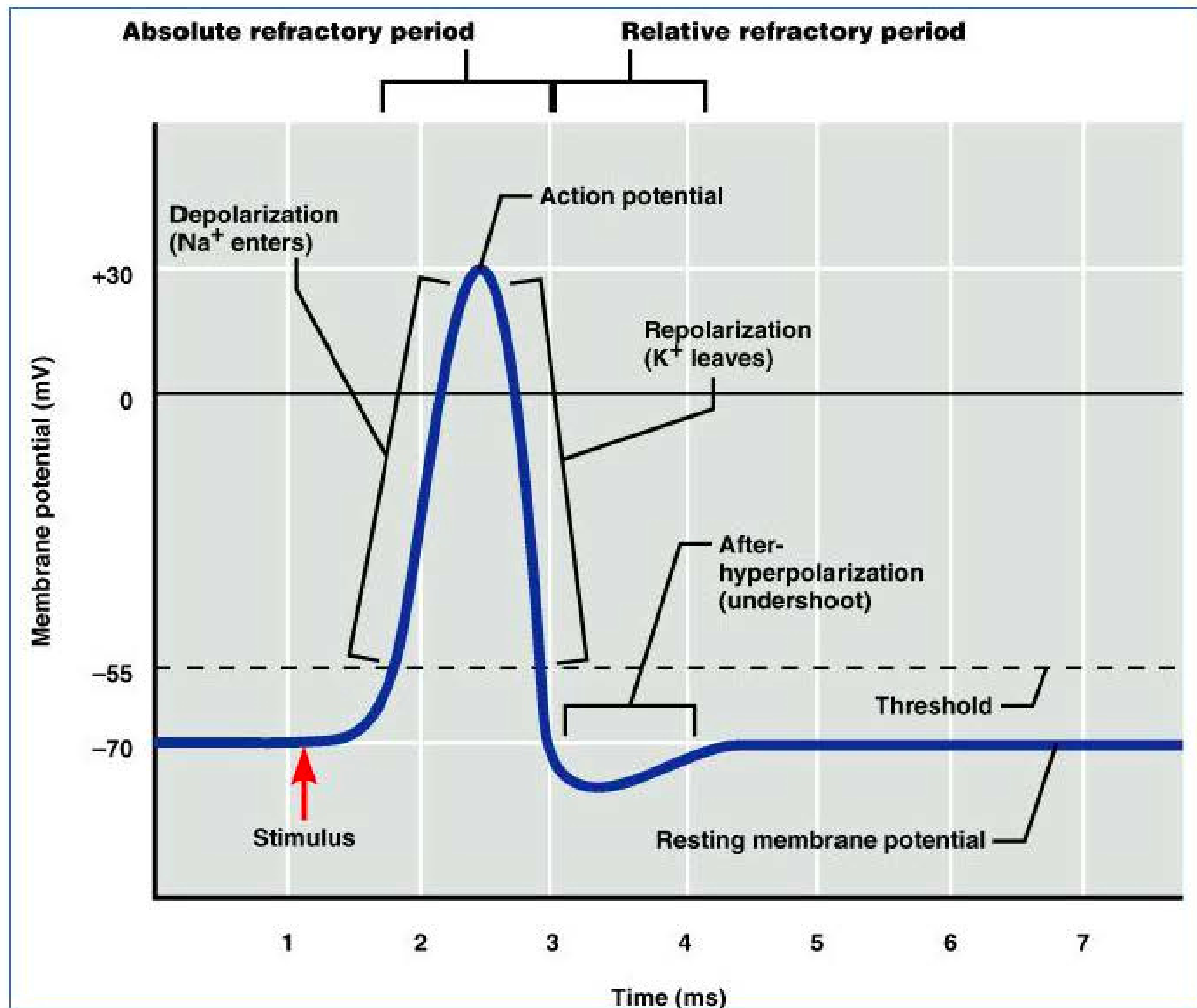
- **Phase 1 – Resting Phase:**
 - Membrane is **much** more permeable to K^+ than to Na^+
 - Greater diffusion of K out than Na in
 - Therefore inside is negative/Outside is positive
 - **Both Na & K voltage gated channels are CLOSED**
- **Phase 2 – Depolarisation Phase:**
 - Mechanical/chemical/vibratory/other stimulus opens some Na^+ channels
 - → Na^+ flows into the cell
 - Therefore membrane potential becomes less negative (ie: It depolarises)
 - If the MP reaches approximately **-55mV (threshold)**, the **voltage gated Na^+ channels open**
 - → Na^+ influx increases dramatically – until MP reaches approximately **+30mV** where the voltage-gated Na^+ channels close
- **Phase 3 – Repolarisation Phase:**
 - @ approximately +30mV K^+ voltage gated channels open (permeability of K increases & Na decreases)
 - Large outflow of K^+ → membrane potential becomes more negative (repolarises) and returns to -70mV
- **Phase 4 – Hyperpolarisation (undershoot) Phase:**
 - K^+ channels remain open past -70mV and MP becomes more negative than at rest
 - K^+ channels close and Na/K ATPase returns the MP to normal (-70mV)



Güler and Linaro et al Model in an Investigation of the Neuronal Dynamics using noise Comparative Study - Scientific Figure on ResearchGate. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Phases-of-action-potential-12_fig2_334605708 [accessed 17 Jan, 2022]

Refractory Periods During the Action Potential:

- Basically the total time between a stimulus creating an action potential and the MP returning to rest
 - Usually 3-4ms
 - Determines how soon a neuron can respond to another stimulus
- Divided into 2 sub-periods:
 - **Absolute Refractory Period** – no additional stimulus (no matter how large) can initiate a further action potential
 - Stimulus → Depolarisation
 - Repolarisation
 - **Relative Refractory Period** – If an additional stimulus is to initiate another action potential during this time, it must be larger in order to reach threshold
 - Hyperpolarisation → Rest



Unattributable

TISSUE INJURY & CELLULAR ADAPTATIONS

TISSUE INJURY & CELLULAR ADAPTATIONS

Cellular Responses to Stress & Noxious Stimuli:

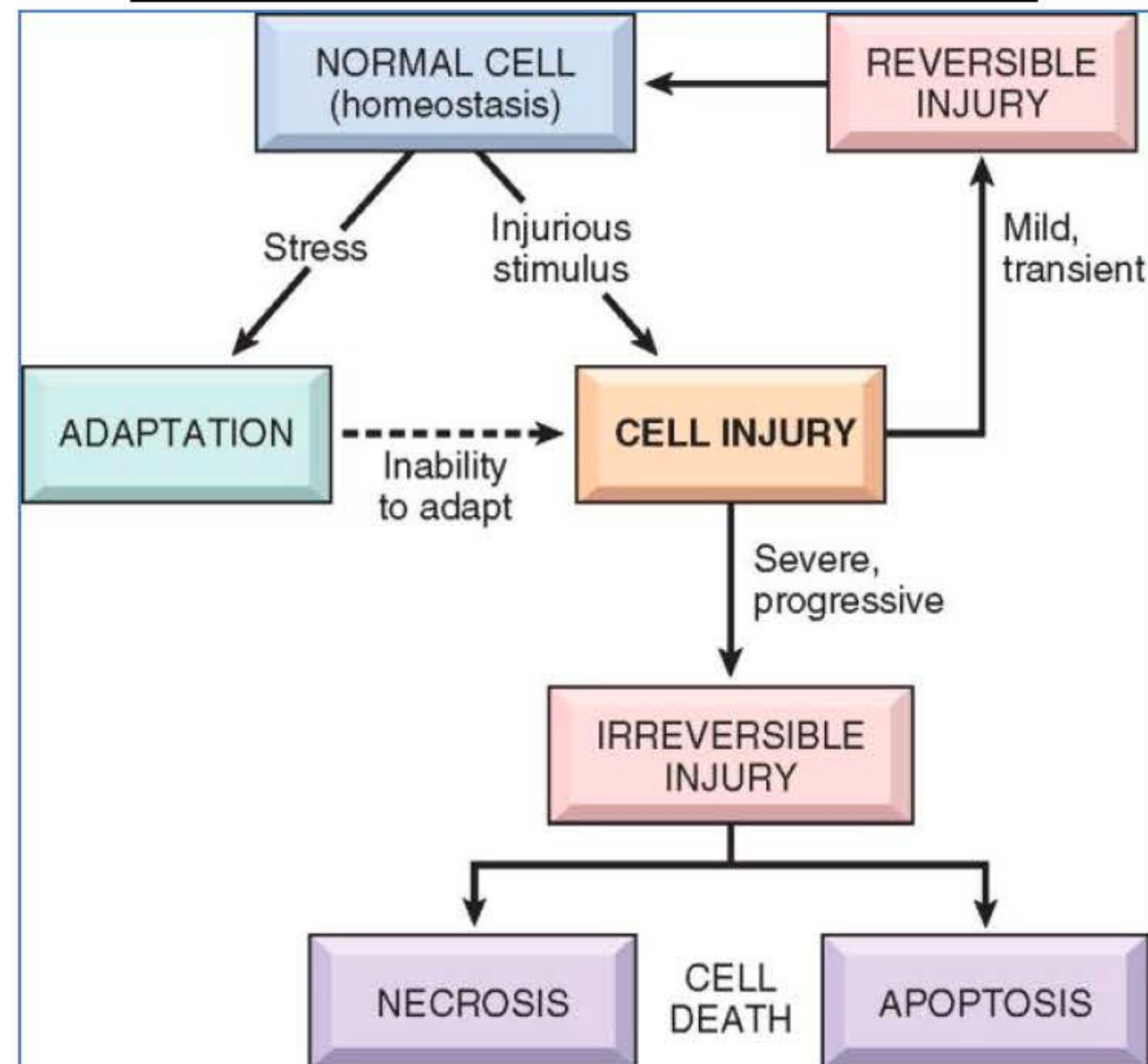


TABLE 1-1 Cellular Responses to Injury

Nature of Injurious Stimulus	Cellular Response
ALTERED PHYSIOLOGICAL STIMULI; SOME NONLETHAL INJURIOUS STIMULI - Increased demand, increased stimulation (e.g., by growth factors, hormones) - Decreased nutrients, decreased stimulation - Chronic irritation (physical or chemical)	CELLULAR ADAPTATIONS - Hyperplasia, hypertrophy - Atrophy - Metaplasia
REDUCED OXYGEN SUPPLY; CHEMICAL INJURY; MICROBIAL INFECTION - Acute and transient - Progressive and severe (including DNA damage)	CELL INJURY - Acute reversible injury Cellular swelling fatty change - Irreversible injury → cell death Necrosis Apoptosis
METABOLIC ALTERATIONS, GENETIC OR ACQUIRED; CHRONIC INJURY	INTRACELLULAR ACCUMULATIONS; CALCIFICATION
CUMULATIVE SUBLETHAL INJURY OVER LONG LIFE SPAN	CELLULAR AGING

1 Cellular Responses to Stress and Toxic Insults: Adaptation , Injury , and Death.

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/1-Cellular-Responses-to-Stress-and-Toxic-Insults-%3A/fbffc46199b0539126b45c3f23933708f7dc3948>

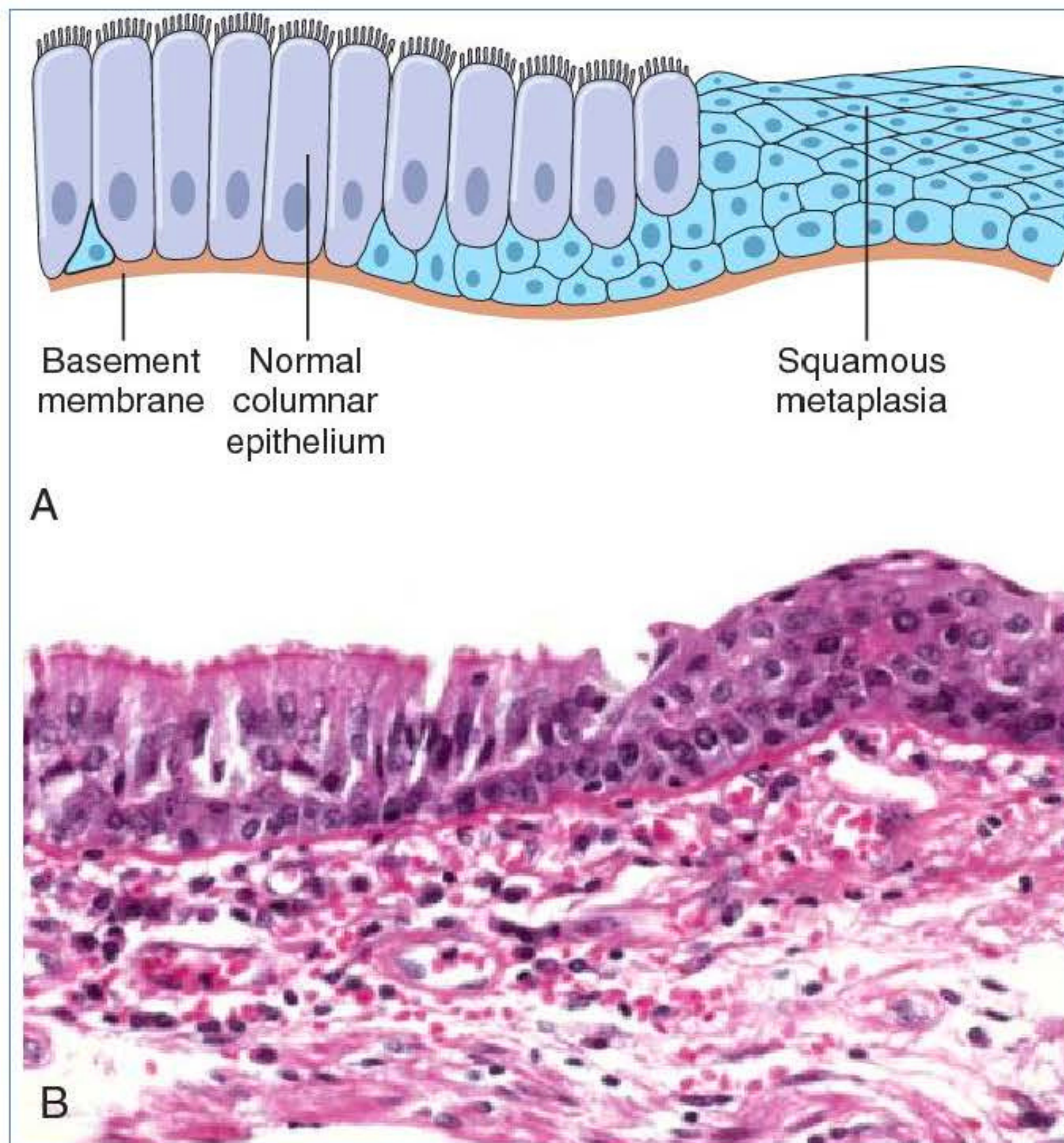
Cellular Adaptations - in Response to Stress:

- (Cells may *Adapt & Change Their Size/Number/Structure/Function* in response to Changing Demands/↑Physiological Stress/Pathological Stimuli)
- **Hypertrophy:** (↑Size of Cells)
 - Hypertrophied organs have *NO New Cells*, just *Larger Cells*
 - Often a response in cells that are unable to divide – Eg: Muscles Cells
 - The Most Common Stimulus = ↑Workload
 - **Physiological Hypertrophy:**
 - Eg: Growth of Myometrium (Uterine Muscle) during Pregnancy
 - Eg: ↑Muscle Mass following Exercise (Both Cardiac & Skeletal)
 - **Pathological Hypertrophy:**
 - Eg: Cardiac Hypertrophy as a compensatory mechanism for Heart Failure
 - **Mechanisms of Hypertrophy:**
 - ↑ Workload → Triggers Mechanical Sensors/Growth Factors/Vasoactive Agents → ↑Synthesis of Cellular Proteins
 - Hypertrophy is the result of **Increased Production of Cellular Proteins**

- **Hyperplasia:** (↑Number of Cells)
 - Same stimulus as Hypertrophy (↑Workload), however cells are capable of dividing → ↑in Number
 - **Physiologic Hyperplasia:**
 - **'Hormonal':**
 - Increases the Functional Capacity of a Tissue *When Needed*
 - Eg: Mammary Gland Hyperplasia during Pregnancy
 - **'Compensatory':**
 - Increases Tissue Mass after Damage or Partial Resection
 - Eg: Hyperplasia after removing part of the Liver
 - **Pathologic Hyperplasia:**
 - Mostly caused by *Excesses of Hormones/Growth-Factors* acting on target cells
 - Distinct from 'Cancer' in 2 ways:
 - **1)** There are NO MUTATIONS in genes regulating cell division, &
 - **2)** The Hyperplasia regresses if the Hormonal Stimuli is removed
 - Eg: 'Endometrial Hyperplasia' – an example of *Abnormal* hormone-induced hyperplasia
 - Eg: 'Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia' – induced by Androgens
 - Eg: Skin warts due to Papillomavirus
 - **Mechanisms of Hyperplasia:**
 - Hyperplasia is the result of *Growth-Factor-Driven Proliferation* of Mature Cells & sometimes Stem Cells
- **Atrophy:** (↓Size & ↓Cell Number)
 - Can be Due to:
 - ↓Workload
 - Loss of Innervation
 - Diminished Blood Supply
 - Loss of Endocrine Stimulation (Eg: Ovaries during menopause)
 - Inadequate Nutrition
 - **Physiologic Atrophy:**
 - Eg: Common during normal foetal development
 - Eg: Atrophy of Uterus following Parturition
 - **Pathologic Atrophy:**
 - Depends on the underlying cause; Can be general or localized:
 - Disuse Atrophy – (↓Workload)
 - Denervation Atrophy – (Loss of innervations)
 - Diminished Blood Supply – (Ischaemic)
 - Inadequate Nutrition
 - Loss of Endocrine Stimulation:
 - Tissue Compression
 - **Mechanisms of Atrophy:**
 - Initial Response – Cell decreases in size & organelles → ↓Metabolic Demands
 - This results from ↓Protein Synthesis & ↑Protein Degradation in cells
 - Cells may also resort to **Autophagy** ("Self-Eating"), eating its own components for nutrients

Metaplasia: (Reversible Change in Phenotype of Cells)

- A reversible change in which one differentiated cell type is replaced by another cell type
- It is an adaptive substitution of vulnerable cells for cell types better able to withstand the adverse environment
- **Pathologic Metaplasia:**
 - Eg: Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Disease → Oesophagus changes from *Squamous* to *Columnar* Epithelium in lower Oesophagus (Gives better protection against acid)
 - Eg: Chronically Irritated Mucous Membranes of Respiratory Tract change from *Columnar* to *Squamous* from Smoking (This affects the Mucociliary Escalator since there are no cilia)
 - Eg: Connective Tissue Metaplasia – The formation of cartilage/bone/adipose tissue in tissues that normally don't contain these elements (Eg: Bone formation in muscle)
- **Mechanisms of Metaplasia:**
 - It is the result of a *Reprogramming of Stem Cells* beneath the stressed cells, which change their potential phenotype
 - This is due to Cytokines/Growth Factors/Extracellular Matrix-interactions with environment

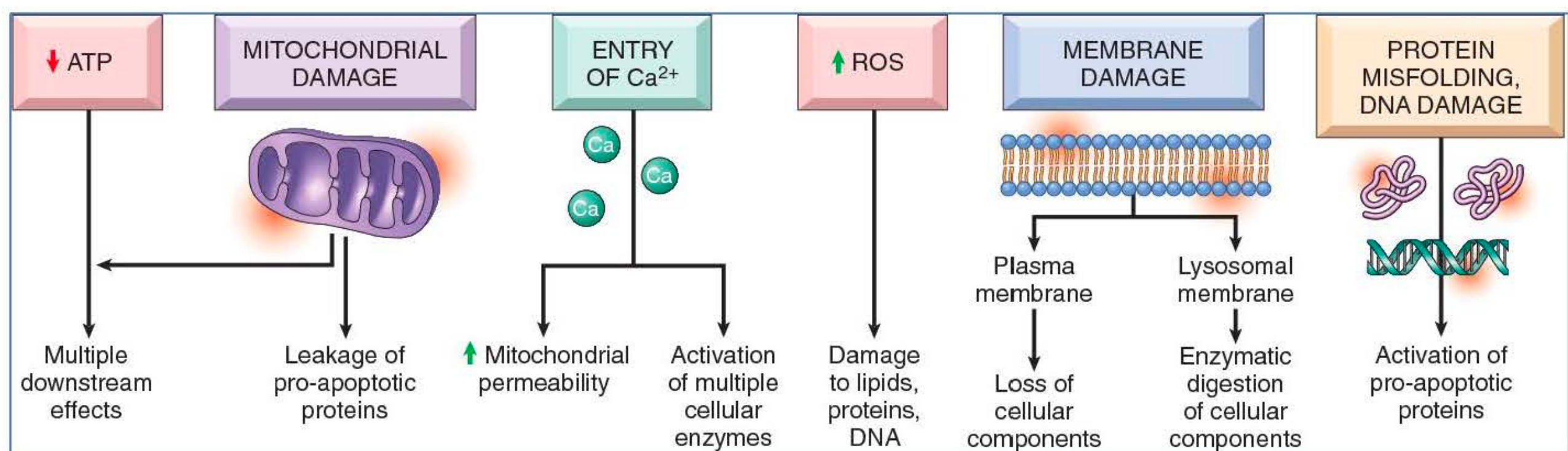


1 Cellular Responses to Stress and Toxic Insults: Adaptation , Injury , and Death.

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/1-Cellular-Responses-to-Stress-and-Toxic-Insults-%3A/fbffc46199b0539126b45c3f23933708f7dc3948>

Cell Injury & Cell Death – in Response to Noxious Stimuli:

- When cells are stressed so severely that they can no longer adapt
- Injury may progress through a reversible stage and may culminate in cell death
- **Note:** Cell injury is Reversible up to a point, but if the stimulus persists, or is severe enough, it becomes irreversible → Cell Death
- **Causes of Cell Injury:**
 - **#1 Oxygen Deprivation → Ischaemic/Hypoxic Injury:**
 - Deficiency of oxygen (Hypoxia) → ↓ Aerobic Oxidative Respiration
 - The most common form of injury in clinical practice
 - **Causes include:**
 - Reduced Blood Flow (Ischaemia)
 - Inadequate oxygenation of the blood (Systemic Hypoxia)
 - Decreased O₂ carrying capacity of blood (eg: Anaemia/CO-Poisoning)
 - **Physical Agents:**
 - Eg: Mechanical Trauma
 - Eg: Extreme Temperatures (Hot & Cold)
 - Eg: Sudden changes in pressure
 - Eg: Radiation
 - Eg: Electric Shock
 - **Chemicals & Drugs (Acid/Basic/Toxic/etc)**
 - **Infectious Agents (Directly or by Toxins)**
 - **Immunological Reactions:**
 - Eg: Immune reactions to self-antigens → Autoimmune Diseases
 - **Genetic Derangements (Mutations affect essential cellular constituents)**
 - **Nutritional Imbalances:**
 - Eg: Vitamin Deficiencies
 - Eg: Excess cholesterol → Atherosclerosis



1 Cellular Responses to Stress and Toxic Insults: Adaptation , Injury , and Death.

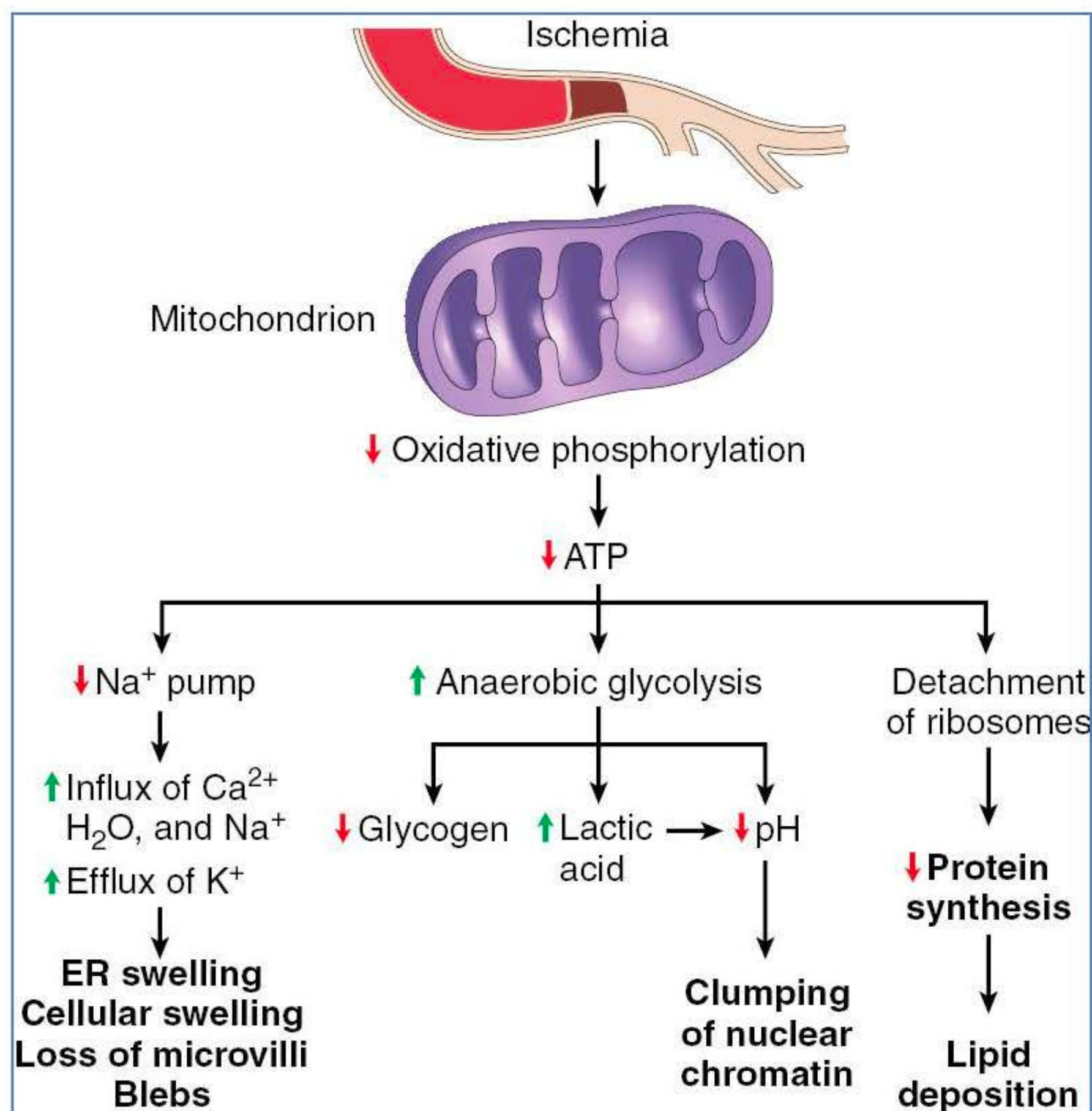
<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/1-Cellular-Responses-to-Stress-and-Toxic-Insults-%3A/fbffc46199b0539126b45c3f23933708f7dc3948>

- **Q – Why do the Centro-Lobular Hepatocytes always seem to be worse off during Toxic/Ischaemic Injury?**
 - **A – 2 Reasons:**
 - Centro-lobular areas receive second-hand blood from the outer-lobular areas, which is:
 - a) Low in Oxygen,
 - b) Low in Nutrients
 - & c) Full of cell-waste
 - Blood tends to pool in the centro-lobular region due to the slow-draining single central vein → The cells are exposed to the toxins for slightly longer

Biochemical Mechanisms of Cell Injury:

Depletion of ATP:

- Major Causes:
 - **Ischaemia** → ↓ O₂ & ↓ Nutrients
 - Hypoxia → ↓ Oxidative Phosphorylation
 - Nutrient Depletion → ↓ Metabolism (including Glycolytic pathway)
 - Note: Tissues with greater glycolytic capacity (eg: Liver) last longer than those without (eg: Brain)
 - **Certain Toxins** – Affecting Electron Transport Chain - (Eg: Cyanide, Oligomycin, Rotenone, Antimycin, Carbon-Monoxide) → Prevents Oxidative Phosphorylation
 - **Mitochondrial Damage** → Leakage of Pro-Apoptotic Proteins (Eg: Cytochrome-C)
- Major Metabolic Pathways that are Vulnerable:
 - *Glycolytic Pathway (Some anaerobic capacity)
 - *Oxidative Phosphorylation of ADP→ATP (Electron Transport Chain - Mitochondria)
- Consequences → ATP is required for all processes within the cell. Hence, deficiency →
 - ↑ Anaerobic Glycolysis:
 - → Glycogen Depletion
 - → Lactic Acid Buildup → ↓ pH → ↓ Activity of essential Enzymes
 - ↓ Active Membrane Transport:
 - Failure of Na/K-ATPase → Intracellular Na⁺ Accumulation → Cell Swelling
 - Failure of Ca pump → Ca Influx → widespread damage (see diagram)
 - ↓ Protein Synthesis
 - ↓ Lipogenesis
 - Ultimately leads to Irreversible Mitochondrial/Lysosomal Membrane Damage → Cell Death.

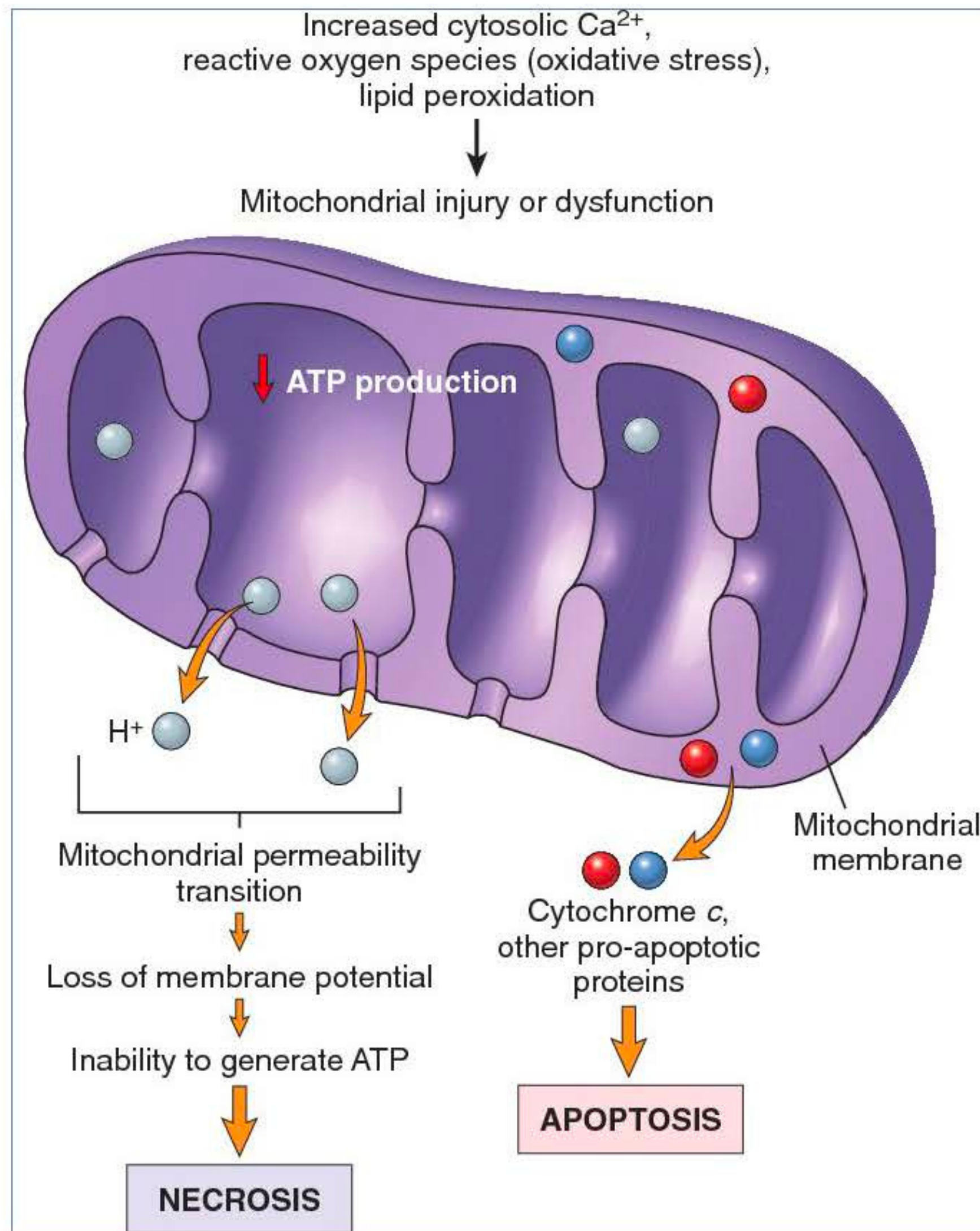


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- **Mitochondrial Damage:**

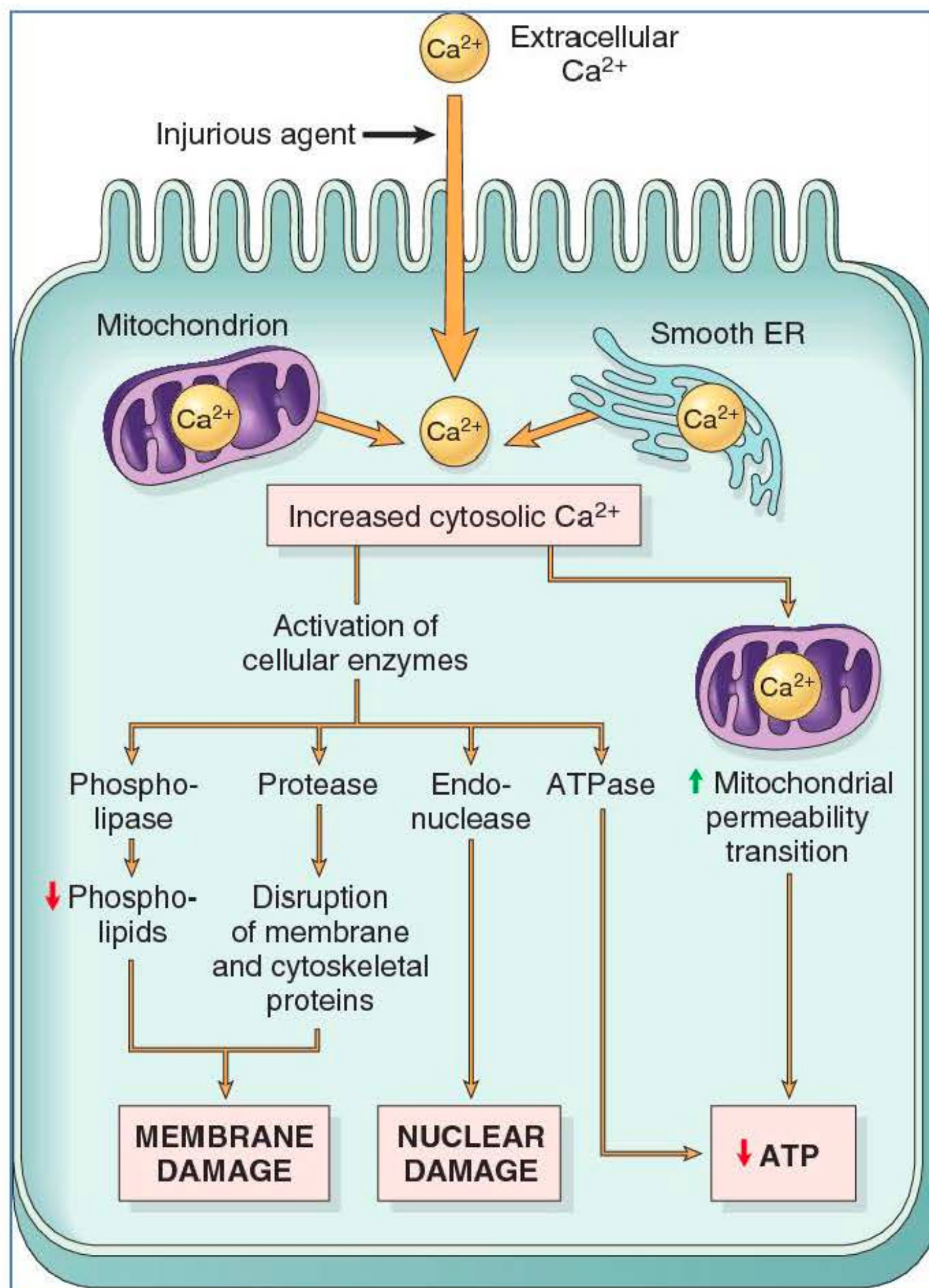
- **Note:** Irreparable mitochondrial damage *kills cells* – due to reliance on oxidative metabolism
 - **Major Causes:**
 - Hypoxia
 - Free Radicals
 - High Cytosolic Ca^{2+}
- } → ↑ Mitochondrial Permeability
- **Consequences →**
 - High-Conductance channels, called **Mitochondrial Permeability Transition Pores**, form in mitochondrial membrane → Loss of Mitochondrial Membrane Potential → Failure to Oxidative Phosphorylation → ATP Depletion → Necrosis of cell
 - Leakage of Inter-mitochondrial-membrane substances (Eg: Cytochrome-C) can activate Apoptotic Pathways (Ie: The Caspase Cascade)



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Loss of Calcium Homeostasis & Ca⁺ Influx:

- Ca⁺ is normally maintained at very low concentrations in the Cytosol by *Energy-Dependent Systems*
- **Major Causes:**
 - **Toxins** → Causing Ca⁺ release from intracellular stores (Mitochondria & Endoplasmic Reticulum)
 - **Hypoxia** → ATP Depletion → Can't feed Active Ca⁺ Export Systems → Net Ca⁺ influx across the Plasma Membrane
- **Consequences** →
 - ↑Ca⁺ → Opens *Mitochondrial Permeability Transition Pores* in mitochondrial membrane → Loss of Mitochondrial Membrane Potential → Failure to Oxidative Phosphorylation → ATP Depletion → Necrosis of Cell
 - ↑Ca⁺ → Activates destructive enzymes (ATPases, Phospholipases, Proteases & Endonucleases) – See Diagram
 - ↑Ca⁺ → Direct Activation of Caspases & Leakage of Cytochrome-C → Induces Apoptosis by Direct Activation of Caspases & release of pro-apoptotic substances (Including Cytochrome-C)

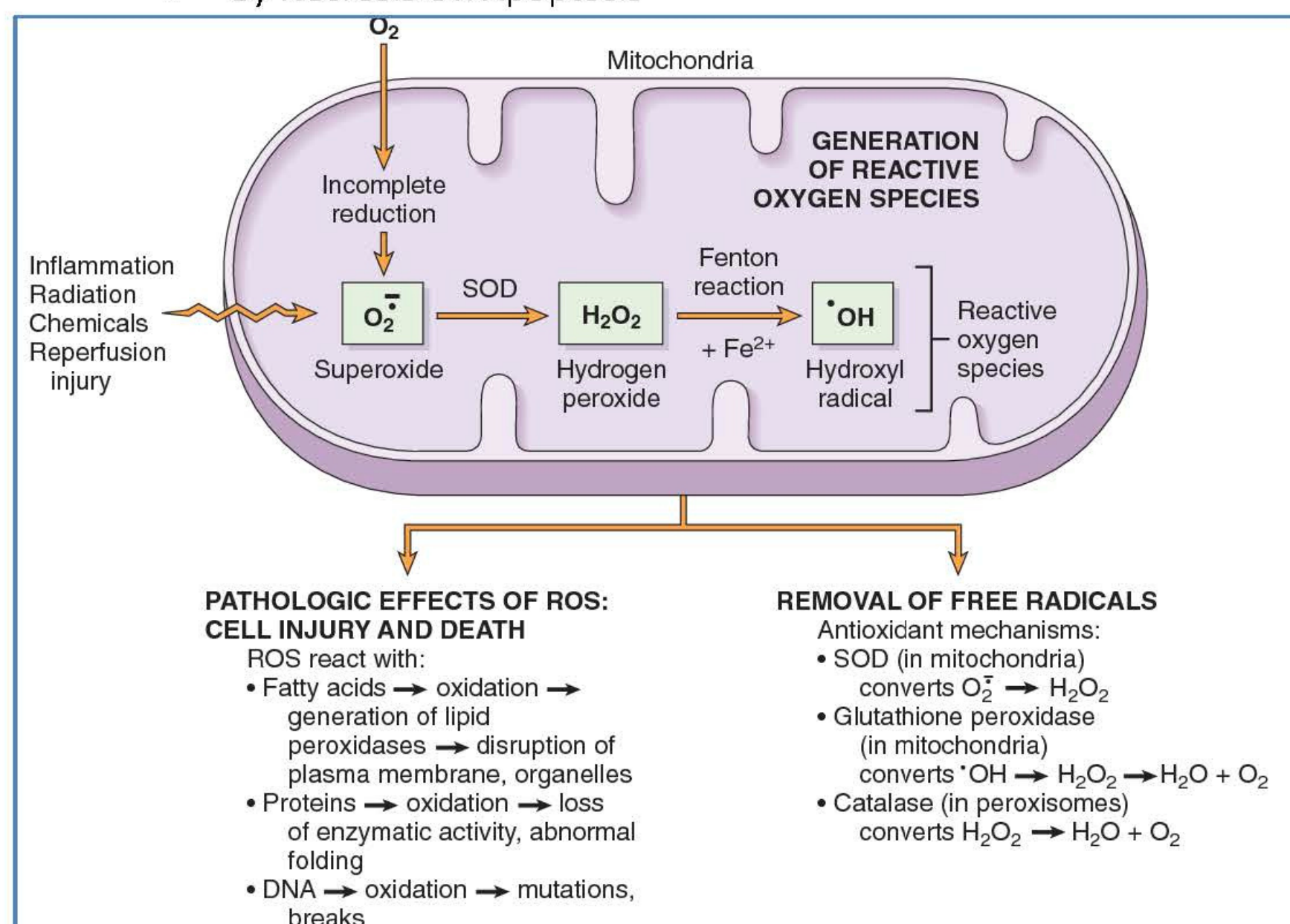


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- **Oxygen-Derived Free-Radicals (Oxidative Stress):**

- **What are Free Radicals?**
 - AKA: Reactive Oxygen Species
 - Are normal by-products of mitochondrial respiration
 - Are chemicals with a **Single Un-Paired Valent Electron** → Oxidising Potential
- **Major Causes: (Generation of ROS):**
 - **Normal Metabolism** - Normal Redox reactions during normal metabolic processes
 - **Radiation** - Absorption of radiant energy (Eg: UV/Xray/Microwave)
 - **Inflammation** - Produced by Phagocytes during Inflammation
 - **Chemicals** - Metabolism of some exogenous Chemicals (eg: some Drugs)
 - **Re-Perfusion Injury** – Exacerbation of Injury due to Restoration of blood flow to Ischaemic Tissues
- **Removal of ROS:**
 - **Spontaneous Decay** - in the presence of H_2O
 - **Radical-Scavenging Systems** - Enzymatic mechanisms that remove Free Radicals
 - **Antioxidants** - (eg: Vits A/E/C) Remove/Mop Up/Prevent/Inactivate Free Radicals
 - **Proteins** - Reactive metals are bound to storage/transport proteins in blood
- **What is “Oxidative Stress”?:**
 - Imbalance occurs between Free-Radical production & Radical-Scavenging-Systems
 - Ie: ↑↑Free-Radicals
- **Consequences of ↑ROS→**
 - **Membrane-Lipid Peroxidation:**
 - Oxidative damage of Lipids within Plasma/organelle Membranes
 - → Damages membranes
 - **Oxidative Modification of Proteins:**
 - → Damage Active Sites on Enzymes
 - → Disrupt Conformation of Structural Proteins
 - Enhance action of Proteases → Continued Protein Degradation
 - **DNA Damage:**
 - Oxidative damage → breaks in the DNA strands/Mutations/Cross-Linking/etc – Ie: Stuff that isn’t supposed to happen
 - → Cellular Ageing
 - → Cancer
 - **Cell Death:**
 - By Necrosis OR Apoptosis



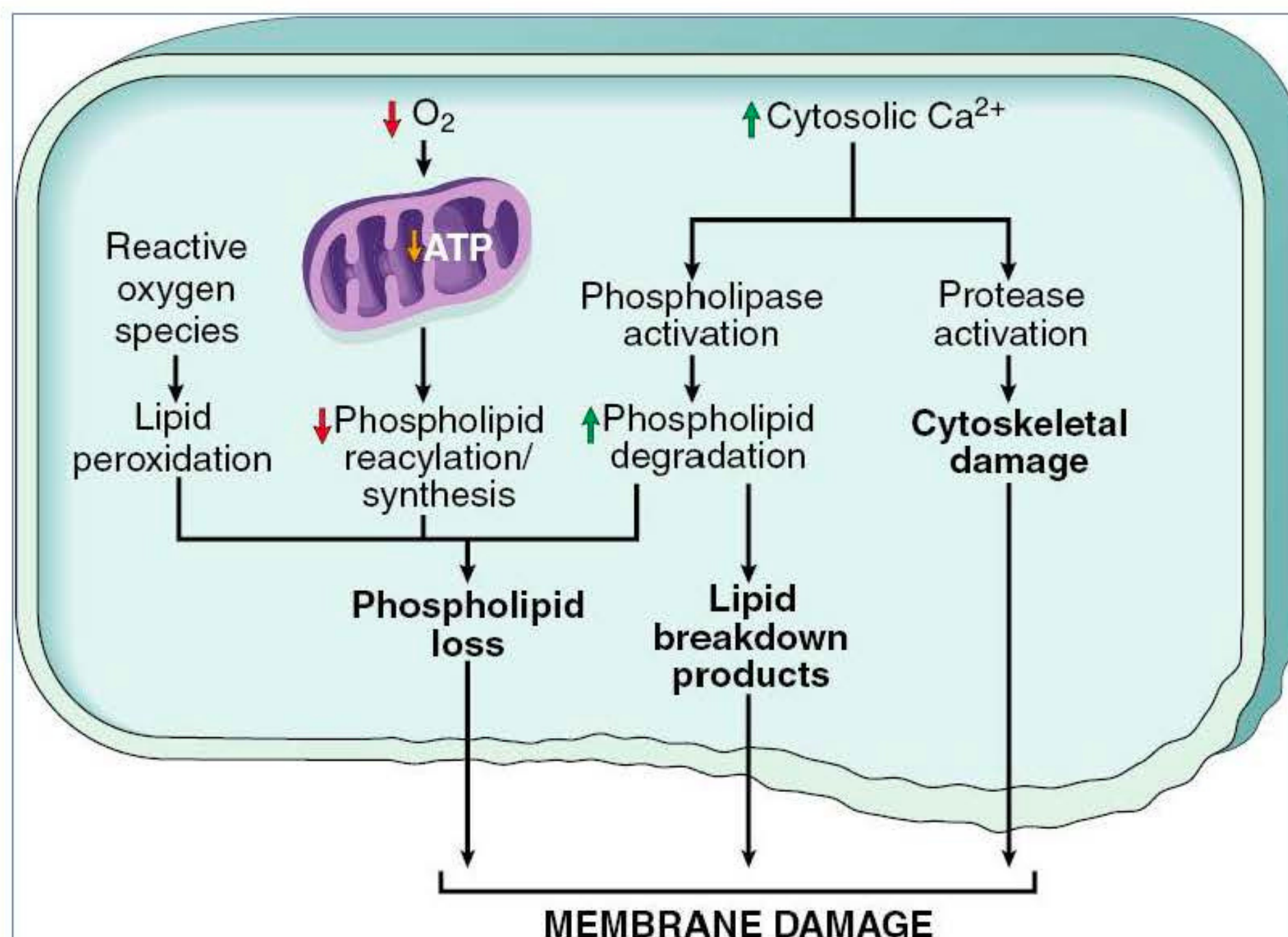
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Defects in Membrane Permeability:

- **Causes: Occurs in all forms of Cell Injury – (EXCEPT Apoptosis):**
 - **Eg: Ischaemia →**
 - ATP Depletion → ↓Phospholipid Synthesis
 - **Eg: Free-Radicals →**
 - Membrane-Lipid Peroxidation
 - Oxidative Modification of Proteins (structural/enzymes/Cytoskeleton)
 - **Eg: Ca^{2+} - Mediated activation of Phospholipases →**
 - ↑Phospholipid Degradation
 - **Eg: Bacterial Toxins (Endotoxins)**
 - **Eg: Viral Proteins**
 - **Eg: Lytic Complement Components (Eg: The “Membrane Attack Complex”)**
 - **Eg: Perforins – from cytolytic lymphocytes (Cytotoxic-T & NK cells)**
 - **Eg: Physical Trauma**
 - **Eg: Chemical Agents**
- **Consequences →**
 - **Mitochondrial Membrane Damage (↑Permeability) →**
 - ↓ATP Production &
 - Release of Pro-Apoptotic proteins (Cytochrome-C)
 - **Plasma Membrane Damage →**
 - Loss of Osmotic balance
 - Influx of Ions
 - Influx of fluids
 - Loss of Cellular Contents & Essential Metabolic Substrates
 - **Lysosomal Membrane Damage →**
 - Leakage of Destructive Enzymes into Cytoplasm:
 - RNases
 - DNases
 - Proteases
 - Phosphatases
 - Glucosidases
 - Cathepsins

→ Cells Die by Necrosis

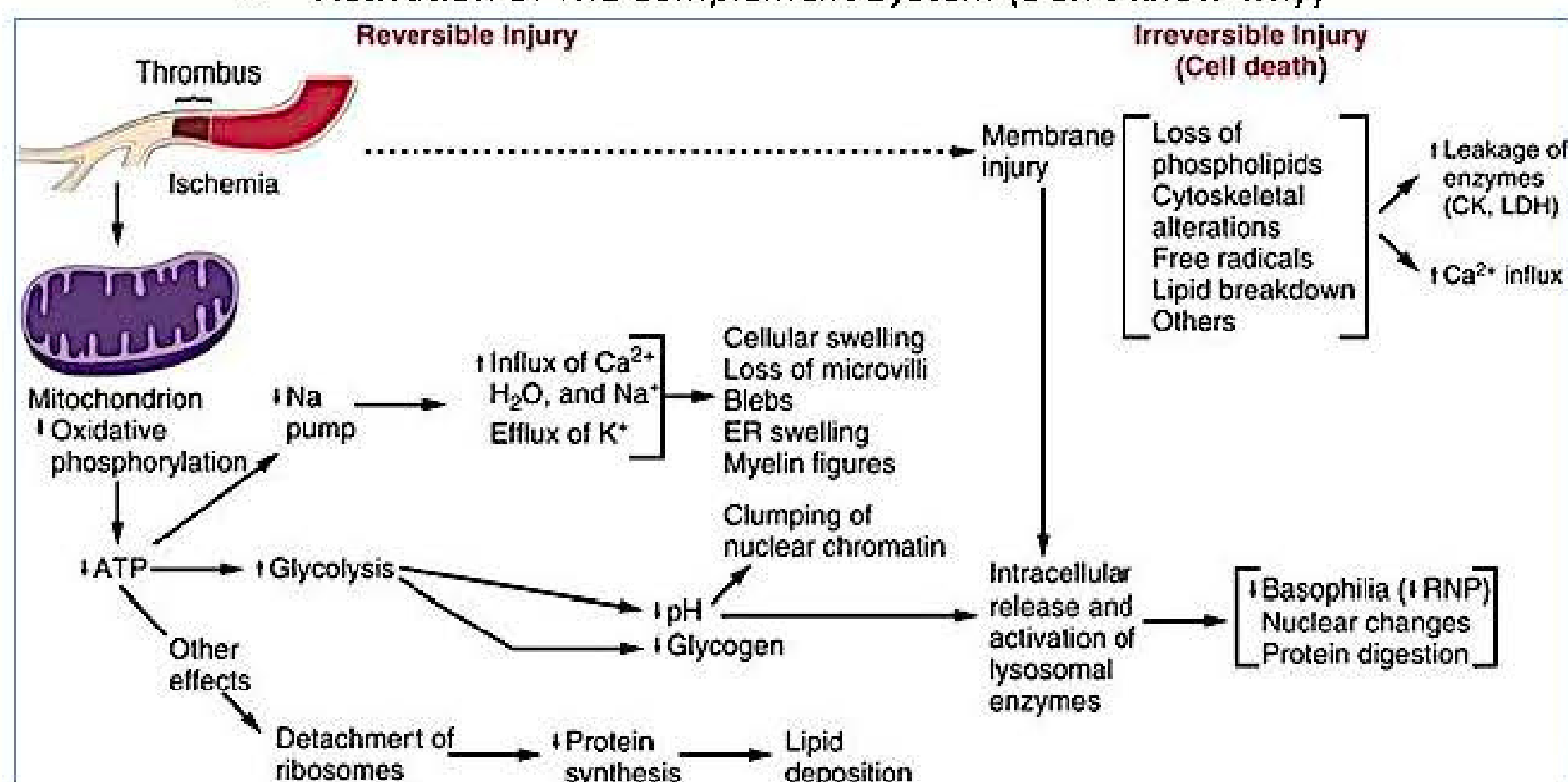


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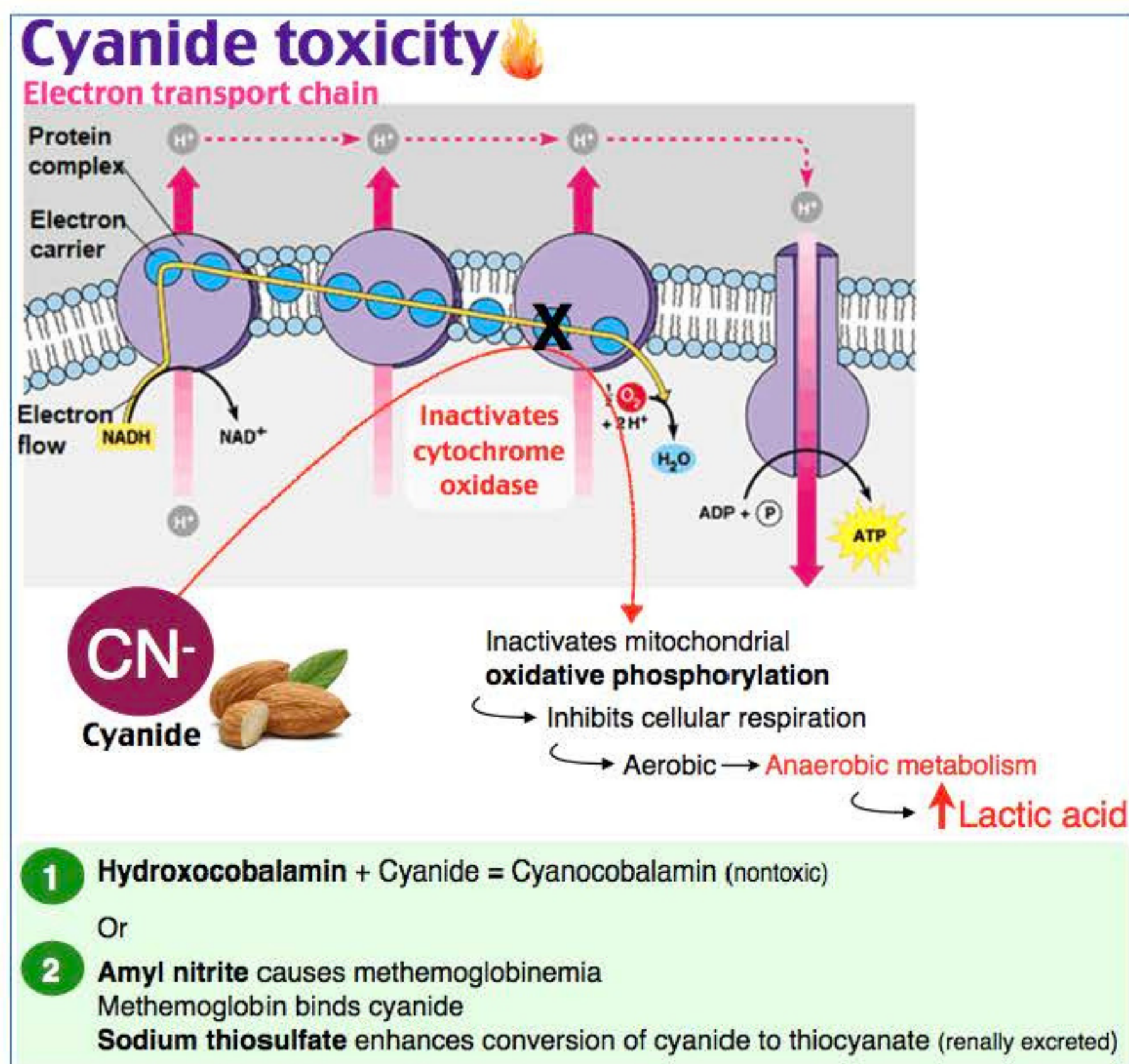
- Ischaemic & Hypoxic Injury:

- Most common type of cell injury
- **Ischaemia Vs Hypoxia:**
 - **Ischaemia** = ↓ Supply of O₂ & Nutrients due to ↓ Blood Flow
 - Note: Anaerobic Glycolysis stops after glycolytic substrates are exhausted
 - **Hypoxia** = ↓ Supply of O₂
 - Note: Anaerobic Glycolysis can still continue
- **Consequences →**
 - **Reversible Consequences:**
 - ↓ Oxidative Phosphorylation → ↓ ATP
 - Failure of Na/K-ATPase → Na Influx → Fluid Influx → Cell Swelling
 - Anaerobic Metabolism → ↓ Glycogen, ↑ Lactic Acid, ↓ pH
 - ↓ Protein Synthesis
 - Ca²⁺ Influx
 - Cytoskeleton Disperses → Loss of Ultrastructural Features → Formation of “Blebs” on cell surface
 - Membrane Damage
 - Mitochondrial Damage
 - **Note: If O₂ is restored, all of the above are reversible**
 - **Irreversible Consequences:**
 - MASSIVE Ca²⁺ Influx (Particularly if the ischaemic zone is re-perfused)
 - → Leakage & Activation of Self-Digestive Enzymes
 - Severe Swelling of Mitochondria
 - Extensive Plasma-Membrane Damage:
 - → Continued Loss of: Proteins/Enzymes/Coenzymes/RNA
 - Swelling of Lysosomes
 - **Note: Even If O₂ is restored, the above are Irreversible**
 - **Death by Necrosis →**
 - Cell Components degraded
 - Leakage of cellular enzymes (Eg: Troponin I & Creatinine Kinase)
 - Entry of Extracellular molecules into dying cell
 - Dead cells become ‘Myelin Figures’ (composed of phospholipids) →
 - → Phagocytosed
 - → Degraded further to FFA’s
 - → Calcified
- **What is Ischaemia-Reperfusion Injury?:**
 - Phenomenon where Restoration of blood flow to **Irreversibly-Injured** Ischaemic Tissues → Exacerbation & Acceleration of Injury AS WELL AS Further Injury
 - **Theories as to Why:**
 - Re-oxygenation → ↑ Generation of Free Radicals
 - Activation of The Complement-System (Don’t know why)



- **Chemical Injury:**

- **Major Causes:**
 - Direct damage
- → **Direct injury by combining with critical molecular components:**
 - Eg: Mercury - binds to cell-membrane proteins → ↑ Permeability & ↓ Ion Transport
 - Eg: Cyanide – binds with Cytochrome-Oxidase → Inhibits Oxidative Phosphorylation



<https://richkosh.blogspot.com/2019/05/zyklon-b-hydrogen-cyanide.html?m=1>

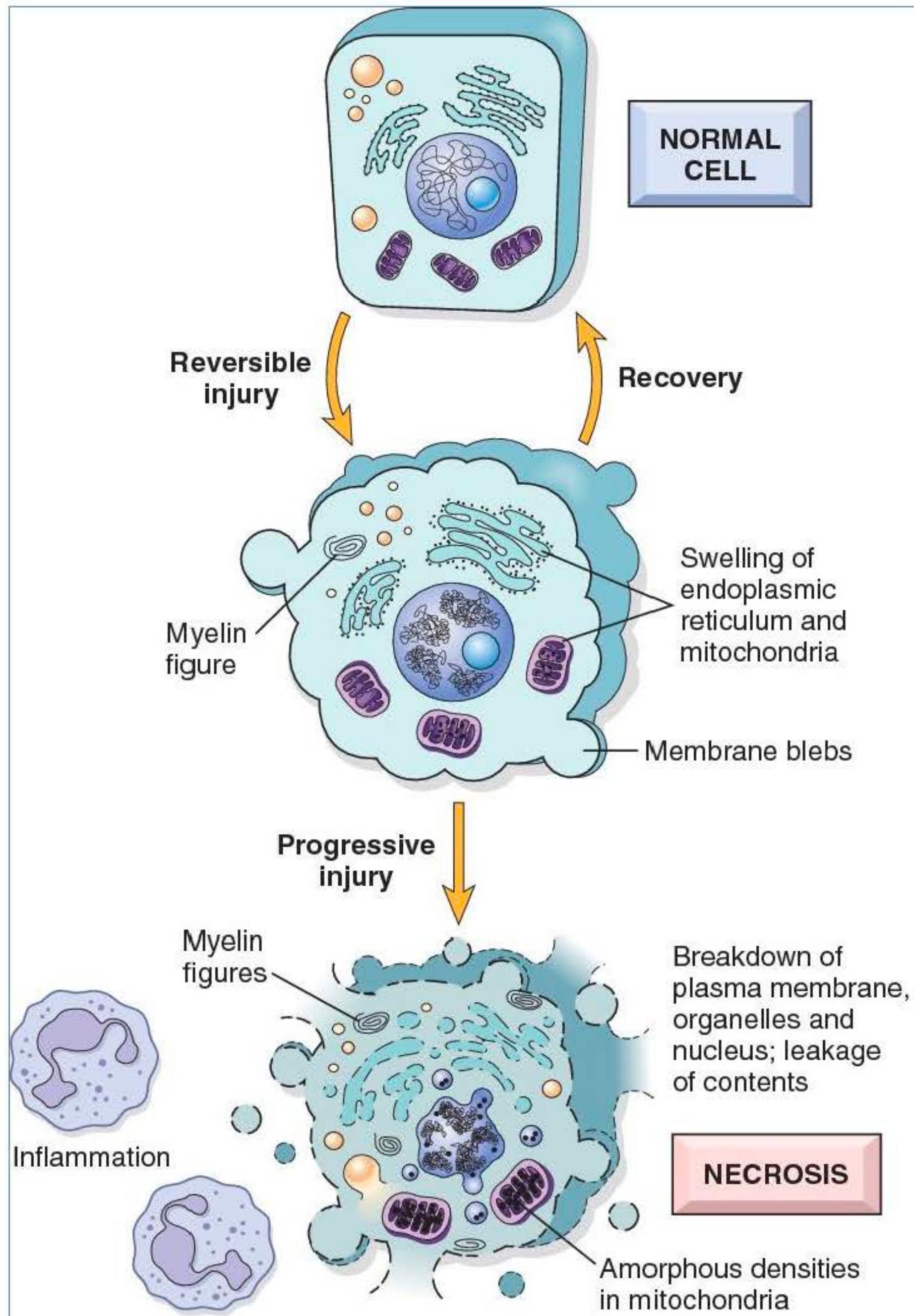
Morphological Alterations in Cell Injury:

- **Reversible:**

- Early stages where the functional/morphological changes are reversible if damaging stimulus is removed
- **2 Common Histological Features:**
 - **1: Cellular Swelling (Hydropic Change)**
 - **Mechanism:**
 - Failure of energy-dependent ion pumps in the PM → Cells are incapable of maintaining Ionic & Fluid Homeostasis
 - **2: Fatty Change**
 - Frequently seen in injured Hepatocytes (Toxic injury) & Myocardial Cells (Hypoxic Injury)
 - Typically seen in Toxic or Hypoxic Injury
 - **Mechanism:**
 - Interferes with the enzymes that package fat into Lipoproteins & allow fat export from the liver. Decreased function of these enzymes leads to lipid accumulation in Hepatocytes
- **Other Features:**
 - **Blebbing of the Plasma Membrane**
 - **Detachment of Ribosomes from the ER**
 - **Clumping of Nuclear Chromatin**

- **Irreversible → Necrosis:**

- Result of Denaturation of Intracellular Proteins & Enzymatic Self-Digestion
- Cells Lose Membrane-Integrity → Spill their contents → Local Inflammation
- **Morphological Features of Nuclear Degeneration:**
 - **Pyknosis** – Nuclear Shrinkage, chromatin condenses into a solid, shrunken basophilic mass → ↑Basophilia (Staining with basic dyes)
 - **Karyorrhexis** – The Pyknotic Nucleus fragments → within 1-2 days, the Nucleus totally disappears
 - **Karyolysis** – Basophilia of the chromatin fades due to loss of DNA through enzymatic degradation



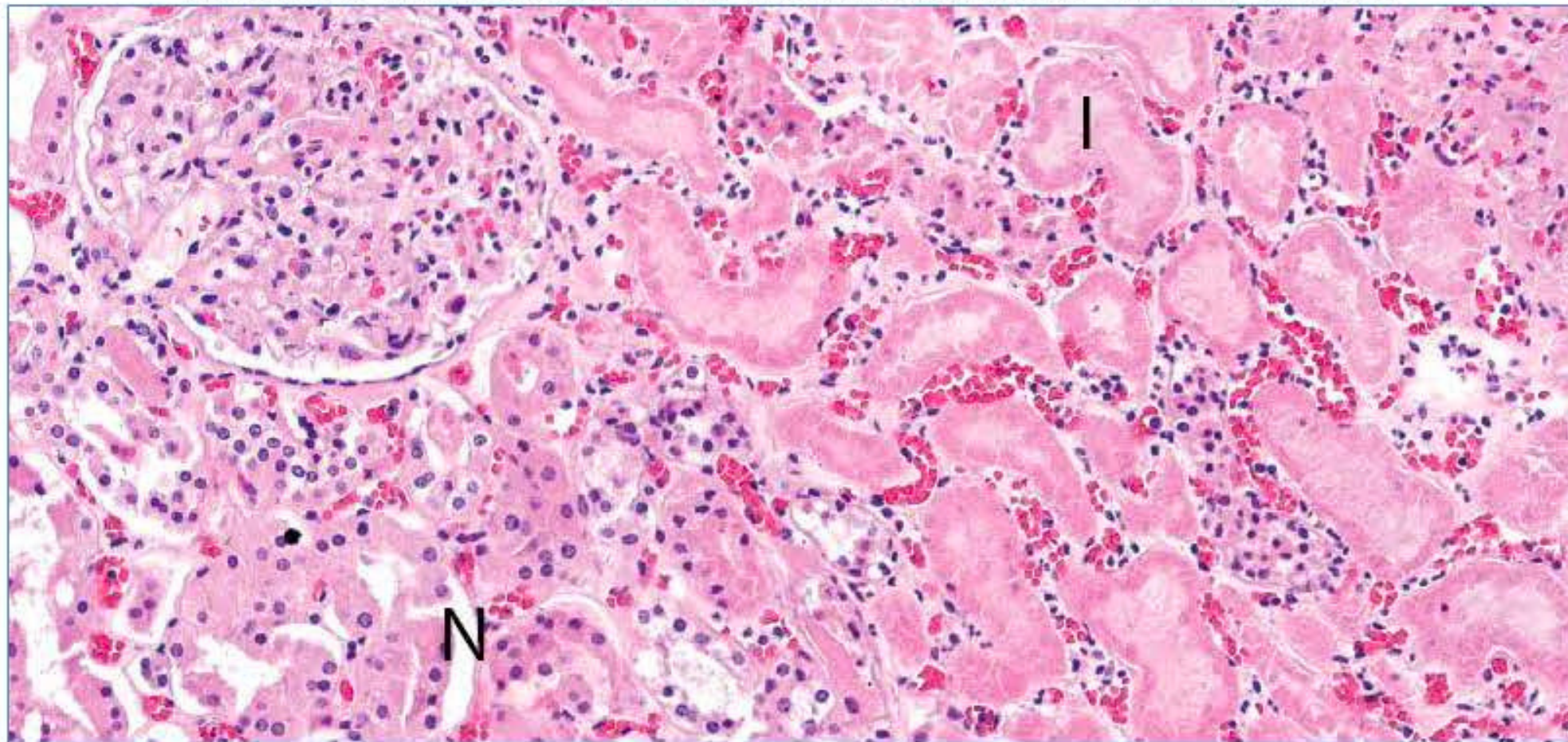
1 Cellular Responses to Stress and Toxic Insults: Adaptation, Injury, and Death.

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/1-Cellular-Responses-to-Stress-and-Toxic-Insults-%3A/fbffc46199b0539126b45c3f23933708f7dc3948>

Patterns of Tissue Necrosis:

- #1 - Coagulative Necrosis:

- **Caused by Hypoxia/Ischaemia/Infarction** → Denaturation of cell Proteins (similar to cooking an egg); also blocks the proteolysis of the dead cells → Cell outline remains for days/weeks
 - **Eg:** Myocardial Infarction
 - **Eg:** Gangrene – Usually Appendages that have lost blood-supply
- **The basic cell-outline remains** for several days. This is because the Lysosomal Enzymes usually responsible for structural breakdown are denatured. Hence, affected tissues have a firm texture
- **Mechanism of Cell Death:**
 - **Ischaemia** (except in the brain) leads to Coagulative Necrosis (Infarct)

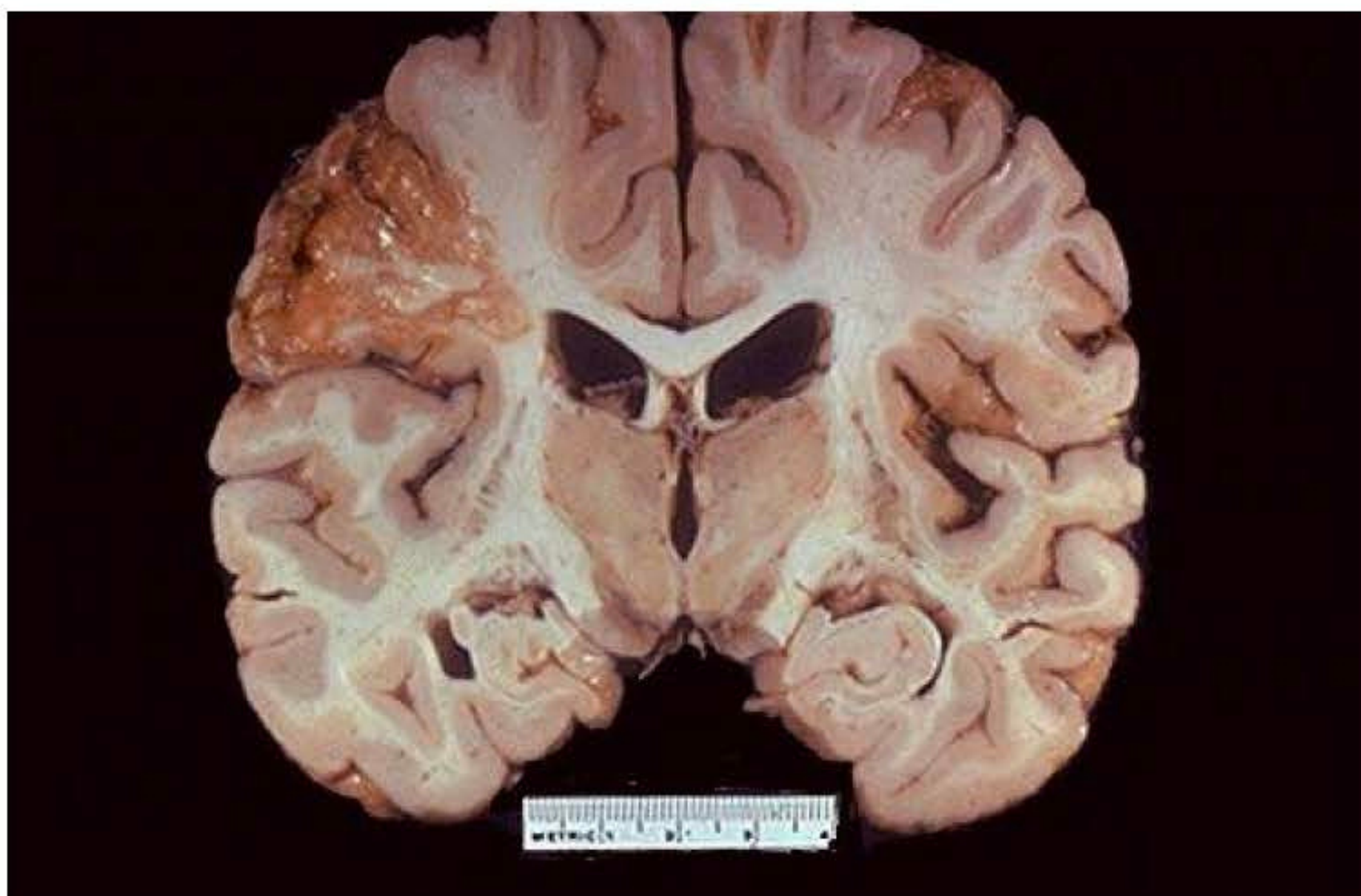


Above: Kidney Infarct (Macro & Micro) "N" = Normal Tissue; "I" = Infarct

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- Liquefactive Necrosis:

- **Caused by Bacterial (sometimes fungal) Infections & Subsequent Inflammation** → Dead bacteria & dead Neutrophils form **Pus**, the liquid viscous mass → Abscess
 - **Note: Exception** – *Hypoxic Death* of CNS Neurons leads to Liquefactive Necrosis
- **Eg:** Abscess in Lymph Node



<https://webpath.med.utah.edu/CINJHTML/CINJ024.html>

- **Caseous ("Cheese-Like") Necrosis:**

- **Caused by Tuberculosis, Syphilis & Certain Fungi;** It can be considered a combination of Coagulative & Liquefactive Necrosis
- **Microscopically – A "*Granuloma*"** - The necrotic area is a collection of lysed cells & amorphous granular debris, enclosed within a distinctive Inflammatory Border

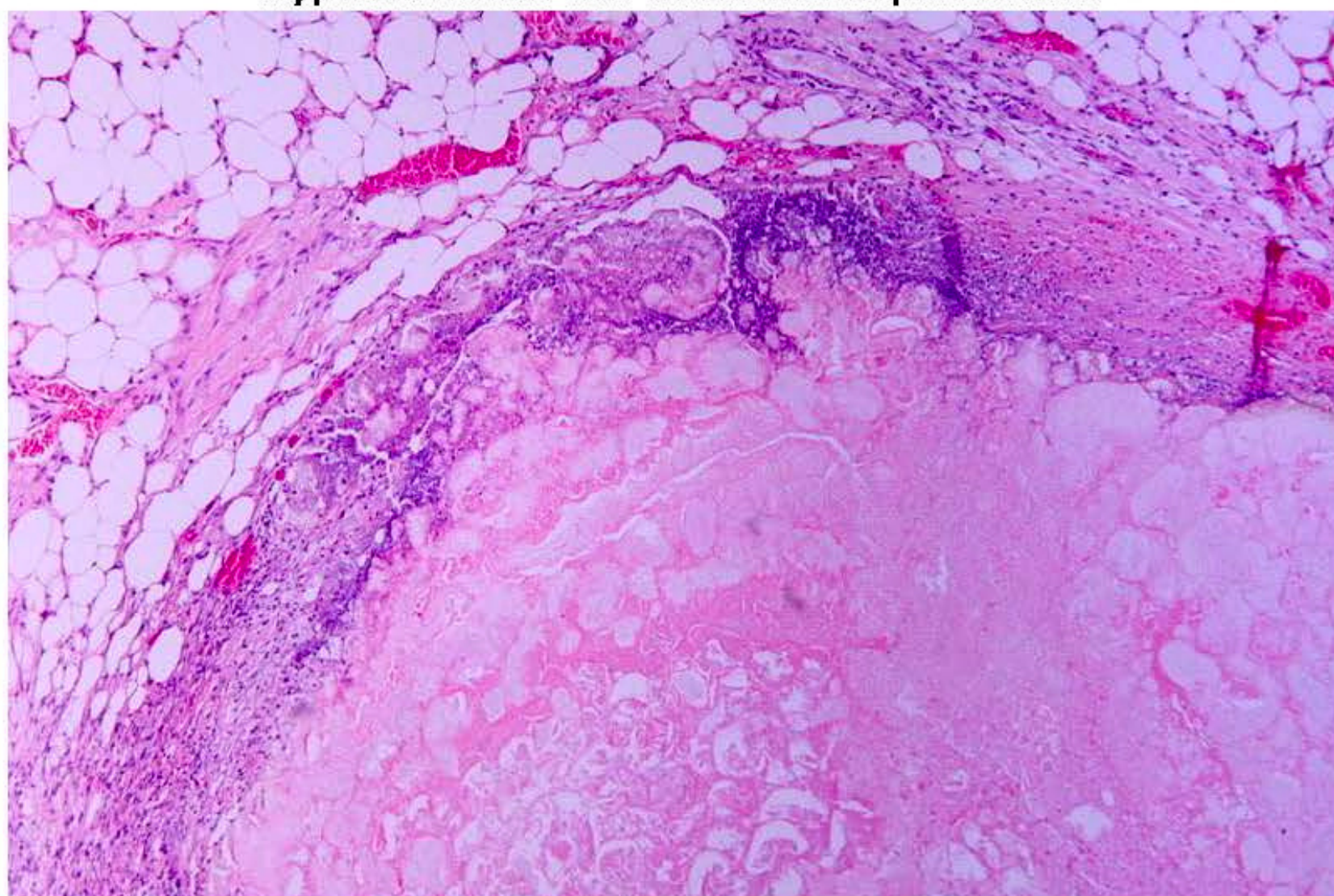


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- **Fat Necrosis:**

- **Local areas of Fat Destruction, Typically Caused by release of Activated Pancreatic Lipases on Adipose Tissues** → (Acute Pancreatitis)
 - **Eg: Acute Pancreatitis** → Release of activated pancreatic lipases from damaged pancreas into peritoneal cavity → acts on fat on mesenteries
 - **Eg: Breast-Tissue Necrosis**
- Looks like – Chalky-white areas surrounded by an Inflammatory Reaction

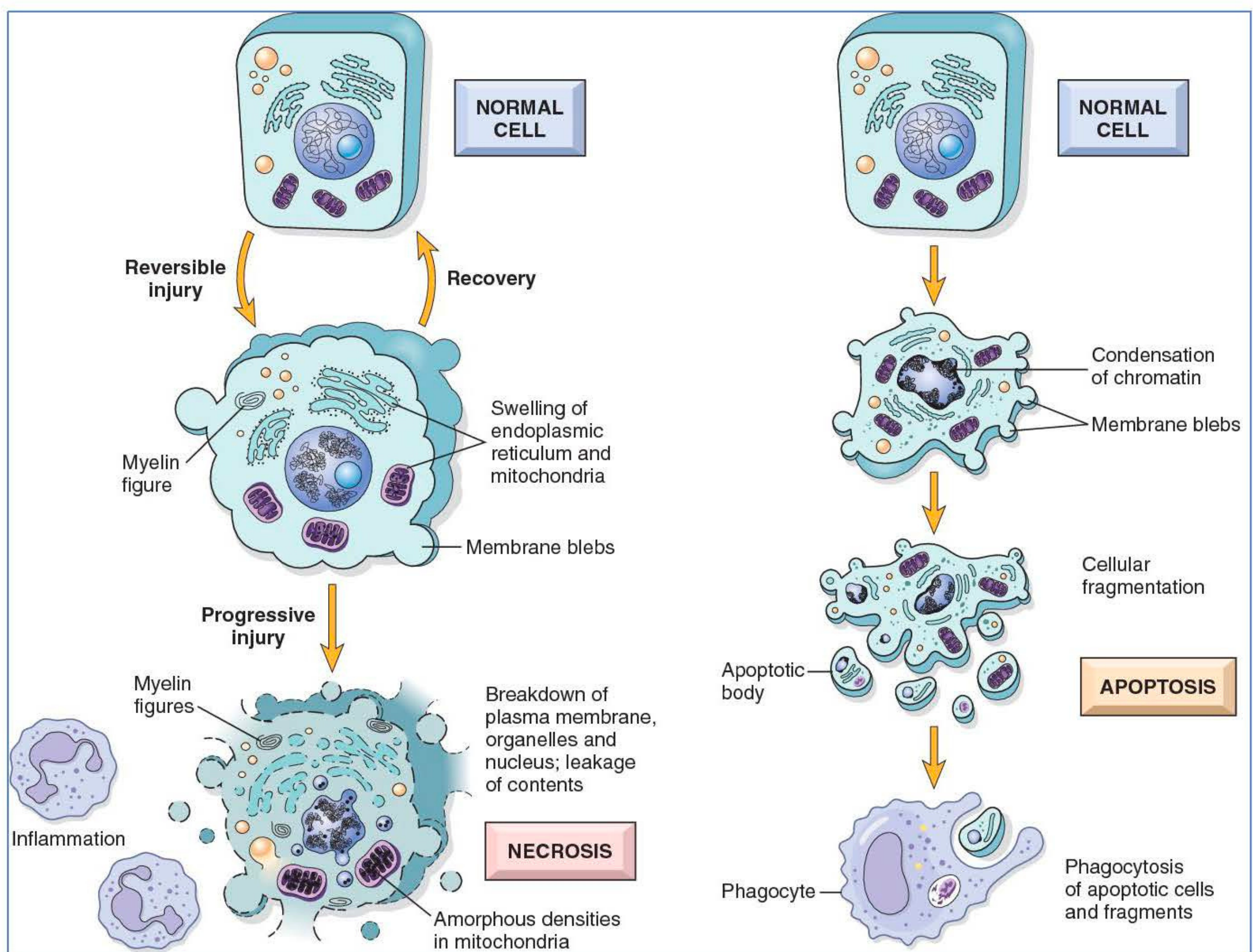
Tryptic fat tissue necrosis in severe pancreatitis



Patho, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Apoptosis (NOT Necrosis):

- **What is it?**
 - A pathway of cell death induced by tightly-regulated 'Suicide' program → Activate enzymes that degrade the cell's own Nuclear DNA & Cytoplasmic Proteins
 - The Cell then breaks up into fragments (**Apoptotic Bodies**), which are phagocytosed
 - By not spilling cell contents, Apoptosis doesn't elicit inflammation (Unlike Necrosis)
- **Causes of Apoptosis:**
 - **Apoptosis in Physiologic Situations:**
 - **Elimination of Unwanted/Aged/Harmful cells**
 - **Eg:** Embryogenesis
 - **Eg:** B/T-Cell Negative-Selection
 - **Eg:** Endometrial Breakdown during menstrual cycle
 - **Apoptosis in Pathologic Conditions:**
 - **Elimination of Cells that are Irreversibly Injured, without Collateral Damage**
 - **Eg:** DNA damage (Radiation/Chemotherapy/Hypoxia)
 - **Eg:** Accumulation of Misfolded Proteins → Endoplasmic-Reticular Stress (or ER-Stress)
 - **Eg:** T-Cell Mediated Apoptosis of Virally-Infected Cell



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