
Fat

- Fats are **important source of energy** as (1 gm of fat gives 9 kcal energy).
- **Mainly as triacylglycerols (triglycerides) in adipose cells**
- **Constitute 84% of stored energy**
 - **Protein - 15%**
 - **Carbohydrate (glucose or glycogen) - <1%**

β -oxidation of fatty acid

- **β -oxidation of fatty acid-** The break down of a fatty acid to acetyl-CoA.
- Occurs in the **mitochondria**
- Process is strictly **aerobic**
- After production **Acetyl-CoA is fed directly into the Krebs cycle**

- The beta oxidation of fatty acids involve **three stages:**

1. Activation of fatty acids in the cytosol
2. Transport of activated fatty acids into mitochondria (**carnitine shuttle**)
3. Beta oxidation proper in the mitochondrial matrix

1) Activation of FA:

This proceeds by FA thiokinase (acyl CoA synthetase) present in cytosol

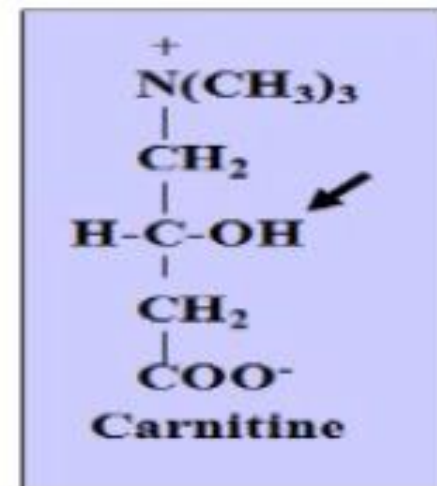
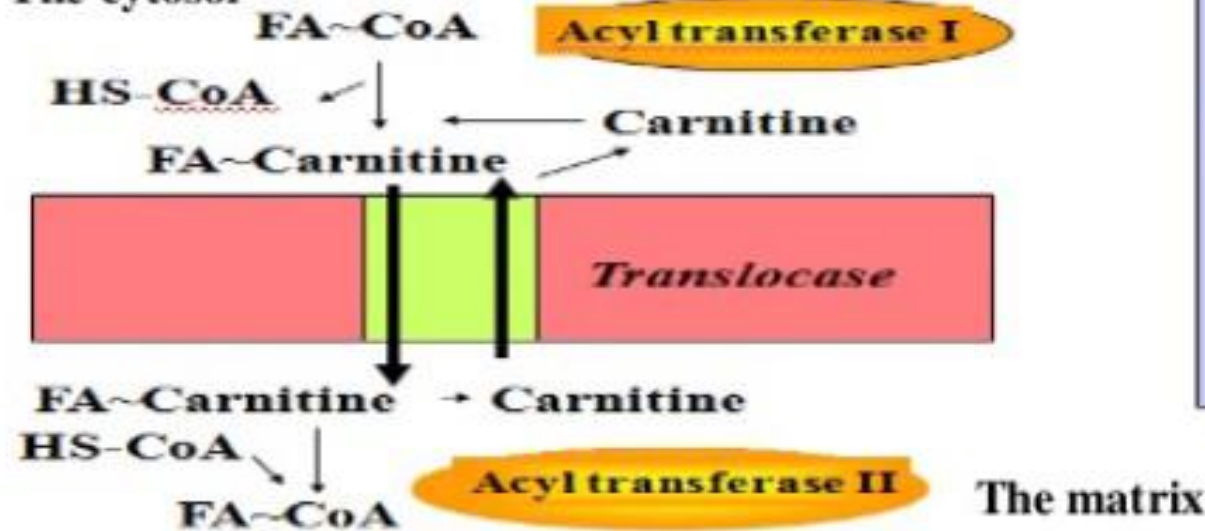
Thiokinase requires ATP, CoA SH, Mg^{++} . The product of this reaction is FA acyl CoA and water.



2- Transport of fatty acyl CoA from cytosol into mitochondria:

- **Long chain acyl CoA** traverses the inner mitochondria membrane with a **special transport mechanism** called **Carnitine shuttle**.

The cytosol



The matrix

2-Transport of acyl CoA into the mitochondria (rate-limiting step)

1. Acyl groups from **acyl CoA** is transferred to carnitine to form acyl carnitine catalyzed by **carnitine acyltransferase I**, in the outer mitochondrial membrane.
2. **Acylcarnitine** is then shuttled across the inner mitochondrial membrane by a **translocase** enzyme.
3. The **acyl group** is transferred back to **CoA** in matrix by **carnitine acyl transferase II**.
4. Finally, carnitine is returned to the cytosolic side by translocase, in exchange for an incoming acyl carnitine.

3. Proper of β – oxidation in the mitochondrial matrix

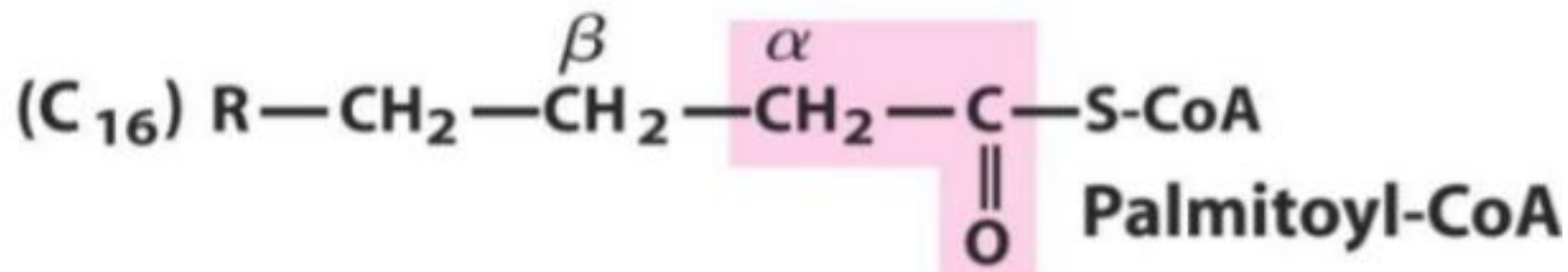
There are 4 steps in β – oxidation

Step I – Oxidation by **FAD linked dehydrogenase**

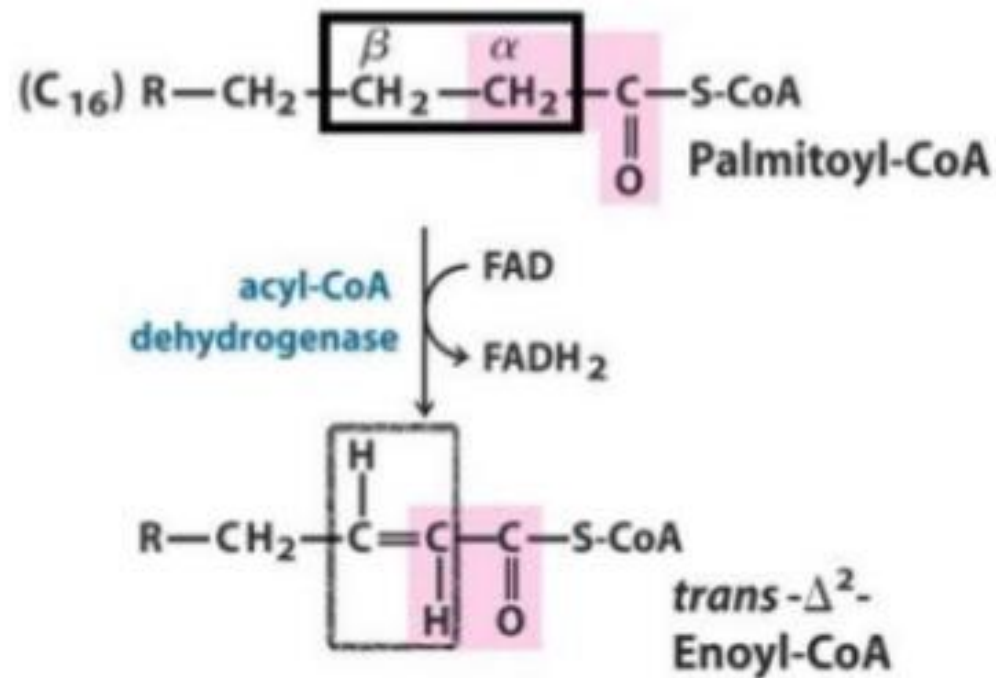
Step II – Hydration by **Hydratase**

Step III – Oxidation by **NAD linked dehydrogenase**

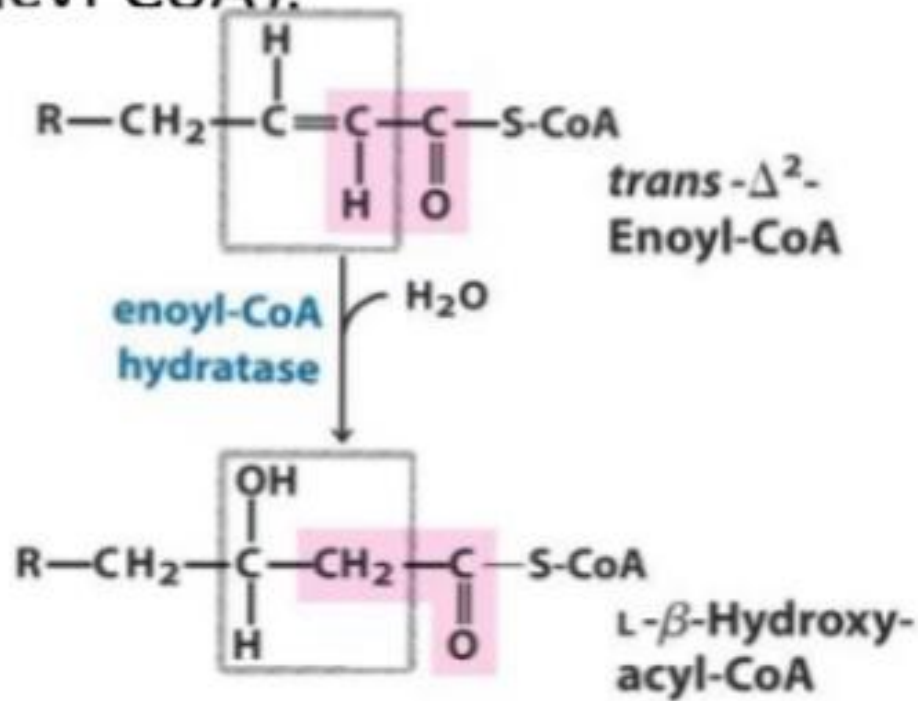
Step IV – Thiolytic cleavage **Thiolase**



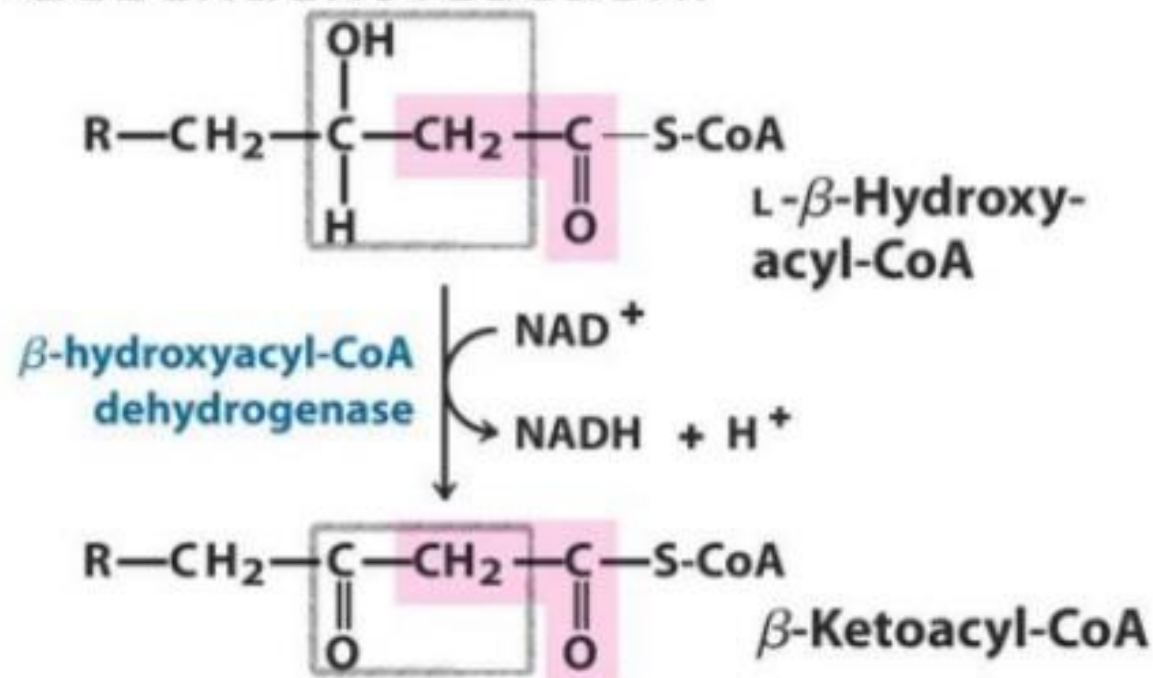
The first reaction is the oxidation of acyl CoA by an acyl CoA dehydrogenase to give α - β unsaturated acyl CoA (enoyl CoA).
FAD is the hydrogen acceptor.



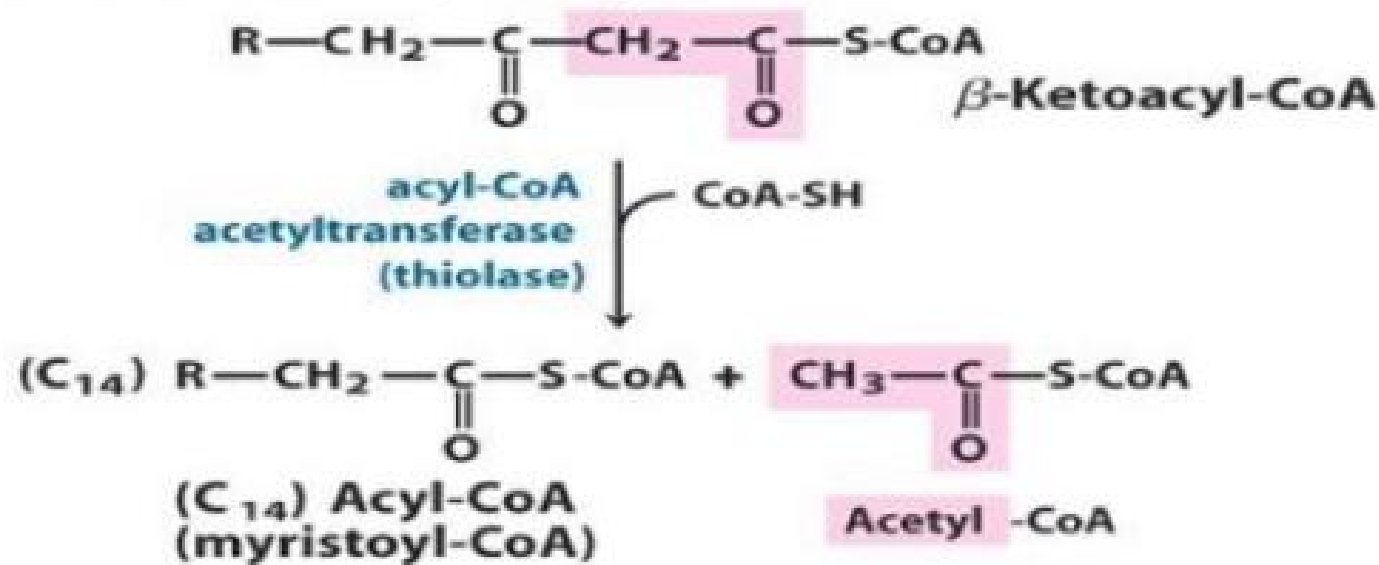
The second reaction is the hydration of the double bond to β -hydroxyacyl CoA (p-hydroxyacyl CoA).

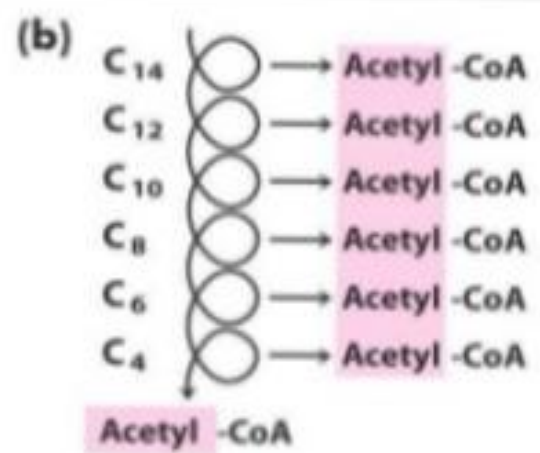
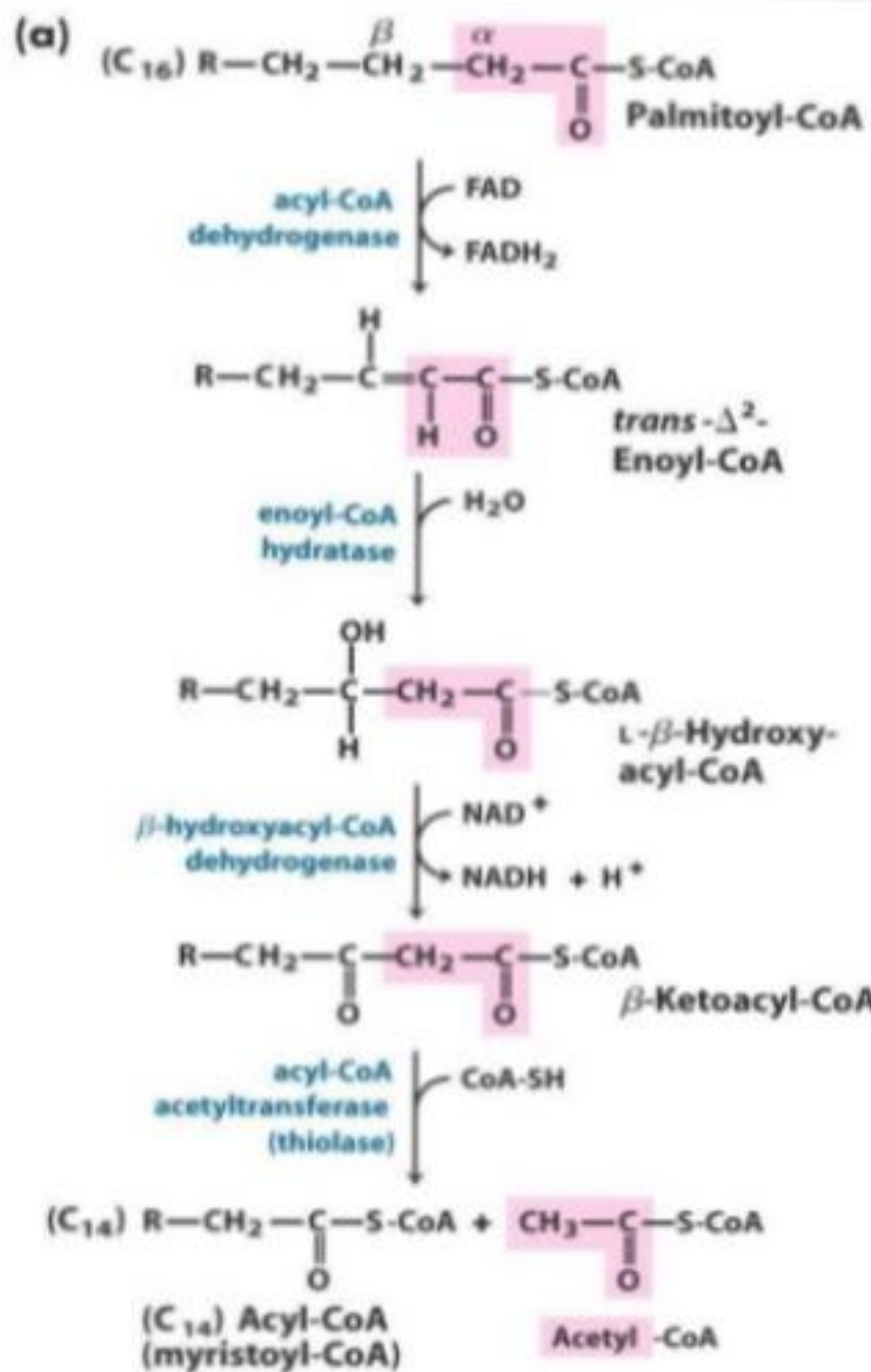


- **The third reaction** is the **oxidation** of β -hydroxyacyl CoA to produce β -Ketoacyl CoA a NAD-dependent reaction.



- The fourth reaction is cleavage of the two carbon fragment by splitting the bond between α and β carbons
- By thiolase enzyme.





- The release of **acetyl CoA** leaves an **acyl CoA** molecule **shortened** by 2 carbons.
- This acyl CoA molecule is the substrate for the next round of oxidation **starting with acyl CoA dehydrogenase**.
- **Repetition** continues **until** all the carbons of the **original fatty acyl CoA** are converted to **acetyl CoA**.
- In the **last round** a four carbon acyl CoA (butyryl CoA) is cleaved to 2 acetyl CoA.