



# Free-Radicals: Chemistry and Biology

Prof. Attilio Citterio

Dipartimento CMIC “Giulio Natta”

<http://iscamap.chem.polimi.it/citterio/education/free-radical-chemistry/>



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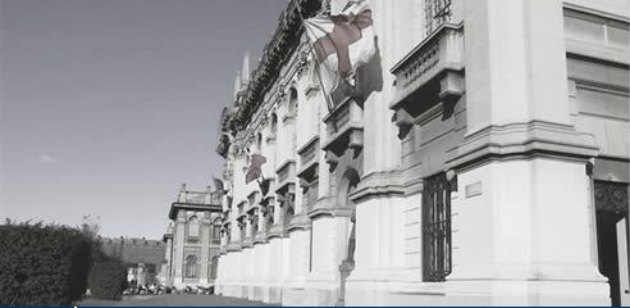
- TBARS
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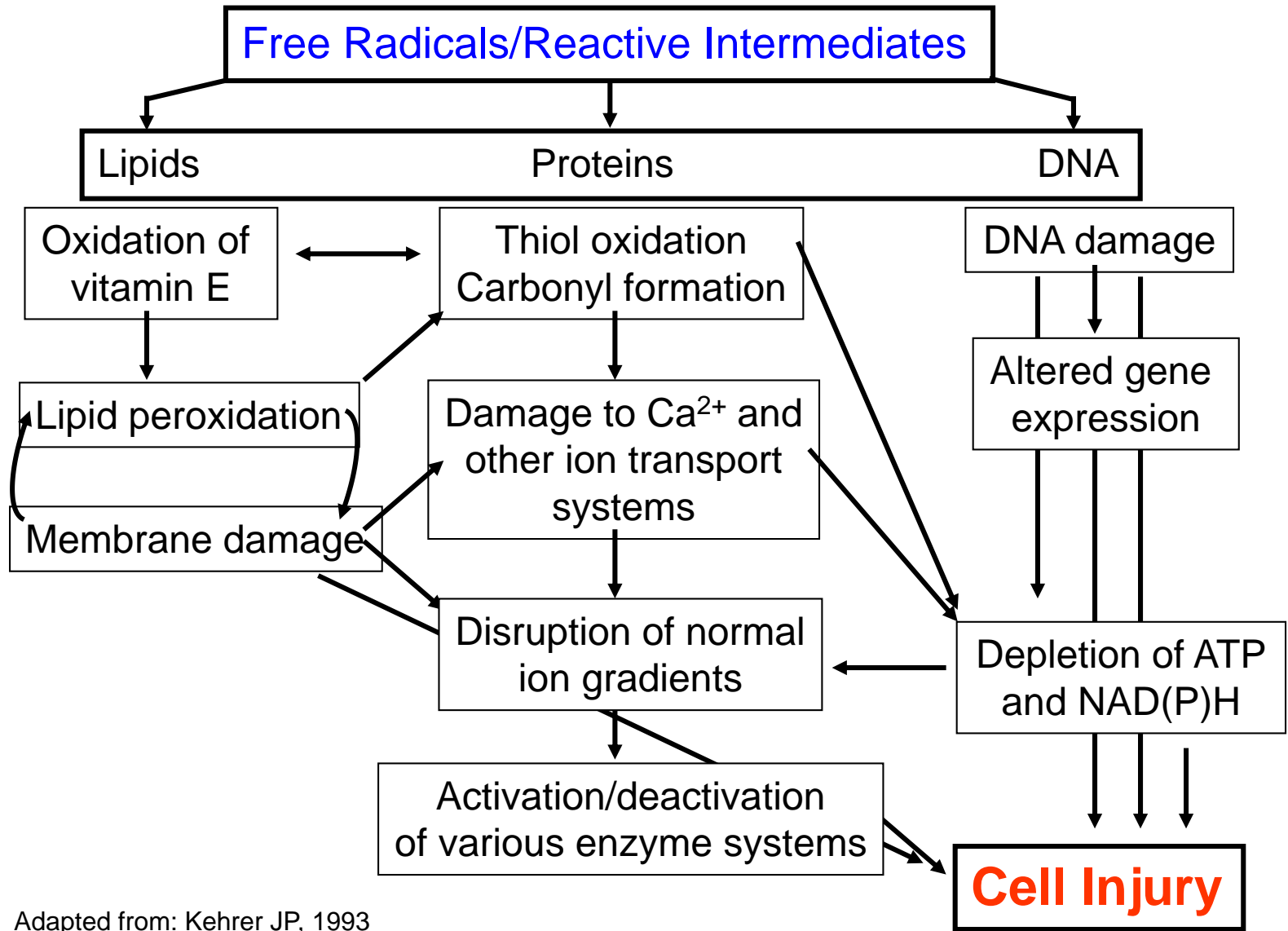
# Radicals involving DNA and Proteins

Prof. Attilio Citterio

Dipartimento CMIC “Giulio Natta”



# From Radicals to Cell Injury



Adapted from: Kehrer JP, 1993



# Why Focus on Proteins ?

## 1. Concentration of target

- Proteins are **major** components of most biological systems:
- **Organ** level (liver, per kg wet weight): 146 g protein, 2.6 g DNA, 49 g total lipid, 3.9 g cholesterol.
- **Cellular** level (per 10<sup>12</sup> leukocytes): 100 g protein, 6.9 g DNA, 8.2 g RNA, 15.6 g total lipid, 2 g cholesterol.
- **Plasma** (per dm<sup>3</sup>):  
73 g protein, 0.4 g free amino acids, 0.5 g total lipid, 1 g carbohydrates, 1.5 - 2.5 g cholesterol.
- **Low-density lipoproteins** (molecules per particle):  
1 protein (4535 amino acids), 1600 cholesterol esters, 700 phospholipids, 600 free cholesterol, 26 free fatty acids, 9 tocopherol.



# Why Focus on Proteins ?

## 2. Rate constants for reaction

Rate constants for reaction of HO<sup>•</sup> with macromolecules:

DNA	$8 \times 10^8 \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
RNA	$1 \times 10^9 \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
Hyaluronan	$7 \times 10^8 \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
Linoleic acid	$9 \times 10^9 \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
Collagen	$4 \times 10^{11} \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
Albumin	$8 \times 10^{10} \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$

Antioxidants:

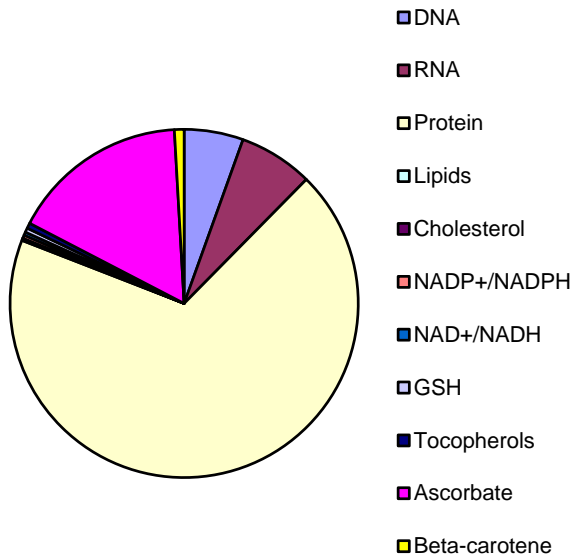
Ascorbate	$1 \times 10^{10} \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1},$
GSH	$1.4 \times 10^{10} \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1},$
Trolox C	$6.9 \times 10^9 \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$



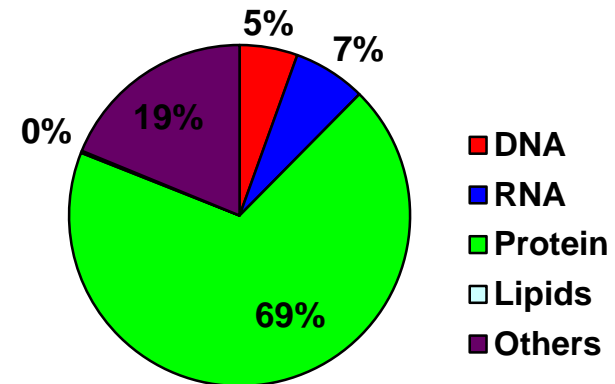
# Why Concentrate on Proteins ?

Kinetic and abundance data can be used to predict sites of damage.  
For leukocytes:

## Singlet oxygen



## HO•



Such data needs to be treated with great caution !



## Protein versus DNA versus Lipid Oxidation

- **Medline / Pubmed searches**
  - **DNA oxidation - 8894**
  - **Lipid peroxidation - 26041**
  - **Protein oxidation - 5463**
- **Oxidation of proteins studied to a much lesser extent than other targets**

**First volume of J. Biol. Chem.**

**Dakin, H.D. (1906) “The oxidation of amino-acids with the production of substances of biological importance” J. Biol. Chem., 1, 171-176.**

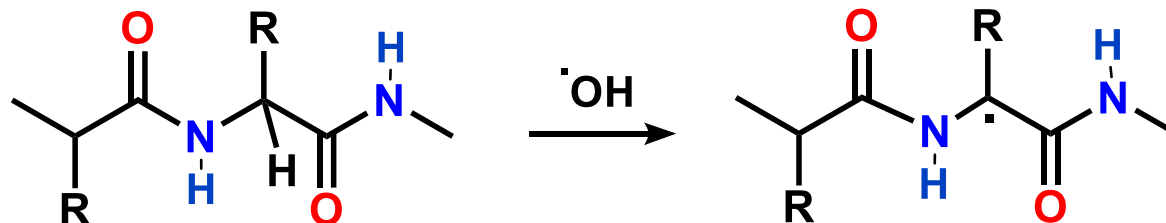
**Follow-up papers in 1908, occupied approximately half of the total page-count of J. Biol. Chem. for the entire year.**





## Sites of Oxidant Damage on Proteins

- **Backbone** - primarily hydrogen atom abstraction at alpha carbon



- can result in backbone fragmentation

- **Side-chains** - 20 different types (excluding unusual amino acids and any post-translational modifications).

- hydrogen abstraction - primarily with aliphatic
- addition - primarily with aromatic

- usually results in the formation of altered side-chains

Chem Rev, 1987, 87, 381-398; Free Rad Biol Med, 1990, 9, 315-325; J Biol Chem, 1987, 262, 9895-9920



## Selectivity of Damage by Different Oxidants

- The most reactive radicals tend to be the least selective  
e.g.  $\text{HO}^\bullet$  - difference in rate constants is relatively small.  
**Most reactive:** Trp, Tyr, His, Met, Cys, Phe, Arg:  $k \approx 10^{10} \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$   
Least reactive: Ala, Asp, Asn:  $k \approx 10^7 - 10^8 \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$   
Result - most side-chains are oxidised  
Reaction with backbone sites  $k \approx 10^9 \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$   
Significant backbone fragmentation as well as side-chain oxidation
- **Less reactive** radicals tend to be more selective  
e.g.  $\text{CCl}_3\text{OO}^\bullet$  - difference in value of rate constants between most reactive side-chain (Trp  $k \approx 9 \times 10^7 \text{ dm}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ) and least (aliphatic side-chains - no measurable reaction) very large.
- Many radicals are electron-deficient (electrophilic) and hence react most rapidly with **electron-rich side-chains** (Trp, Tyr, His, Met, Cys, Phe). Few nucleophilic oxidants ( $\text{e}^-$ ,  $\text{Ph}^\bullet$ ,  $\text{CO}_2^{\bullet-}$ ).



## Sources of Kinetic and Associated Data

### Compilations of kinetic data:

HO• and H•	J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data, 1988, <u>17</u> , 513-886
HOO• / O <sub>2</sub> •-	J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data, 1988, <u>17</u> , 1027-1284
Inorganic radicals (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> •, CO <sub>2</sub> •-, CO <sub>3</sub> •-, Br <sub>2</sub> •-, N <sub>3</sub> •)	J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data, , 1990, <u>19</u> , 1027-1284
ROO•	J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data, 1990, <u>19</u> , 413-513
<sup>1</sup> O <sub>2</sub>	J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data, 1995, <u>24</u> , 663-1021
HOCl	Chem. Res. Toxicol, 2001, <u>14</u> , 1453-1464 Chem. Res. Toxicol, 2003, <u>16</u> , 439-449

**Website:** [NDRL/NIST Solution Kinetics Database](http://www.rcdc.nd.edu/RCDC/RadChemHomePage.html) - 14,000 rate constants

<http://www.rcdc.nd.edu/RCDC/RadChemHomePage.html>

### Reduction potentials for one-electron reactions involving radicals

J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data, 1989, 18, 1637-1755.

<http://www.rcdc.nd.edu/RCDC/RadChemHomePage.html>



# General Types of Protein Oxidative Modification

- **Sulfur oxidation** (Cys disulfides, S-thiolation; Met sulfoxide)
- **Protein carbonyls** (side chain aldehydes, ketones)
- **Tyrosine crosslinks**, chlorination, nitrosation, hydroxylation
- **Tryptophanyl** modifications
- **Hydro(pero)xy** derivatives of aliphatic amino acids
- Chloramines, **deamination**
- **Amino acid interconversions** (e.g., His to Asn; Pro to OH-Pro)
- **Lipid peroxidation adducts** (MDA, HNE, acrolein)
- **Amino acid oxidation adducts** (e.g., *p*-hydroxyphenyl-acetaldehyde)
- **Glycoxidation adducts** (e.g., carboxymethyllysine)
- **Cross-links, aggregation, peptide bond cleavage**



## Amino Acids Most Susceptible to Oxidation and Their Main Reaction Products

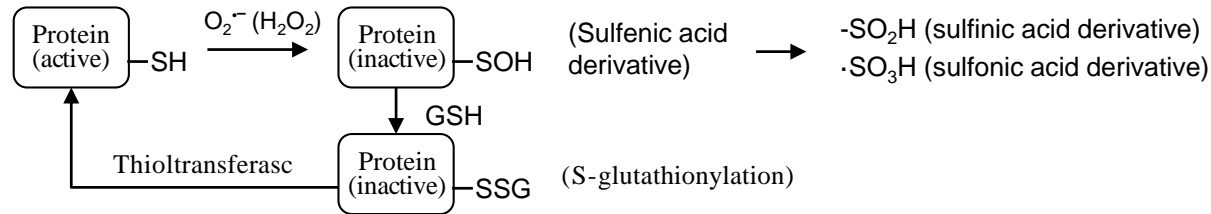
Amino Acid	Physiological oxidation products
Cysteine	Disulfides, mixed disulfides (e.g., glutathiolation), HNE-Cys
Methionine	Methionine sulfoxide
Tyrosine	Dityrosine, nitrotyrosine, chlorotyrosines, dopa
Tryptophan	Hydroxy- and nitro-tryptophans, kynurenines
Phenylalanine	Hydroxyphenylalanines
Valine, Leucine	Hydro(pero)xides
Histidine	2-Oxohistidine, asparagine, aspartate, HNE-His
Glutamyl	Oxalic acid, pyruvic acid
Proline	Hydroxyproline, pyrrolidone, glutamic semialdehyde
Threonine	2-Amino-3-ketobutyric acid
Arginine	Glutamic semialdehyde, chloramines
Lysine	$\alpha$ -Amino adipic semialdehyde, chloramines, MDA-Lys, HNE-Lys, acrolein-Lys, carboxymethyllysine, pHA-Lys

JBC(1997) 272; 19095-19102

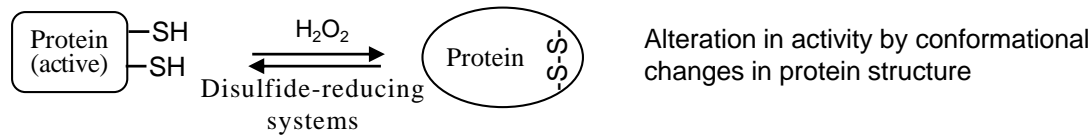


# Oxidation of Proteins

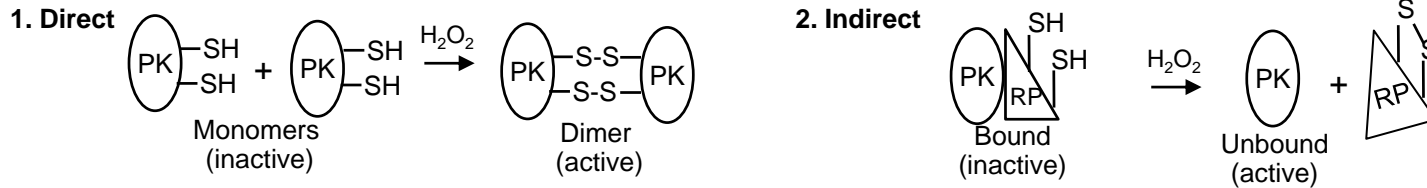
## A MODIFICATION OF PROTEINS BY OXIDATION OF CYSTEINE RESIDUES



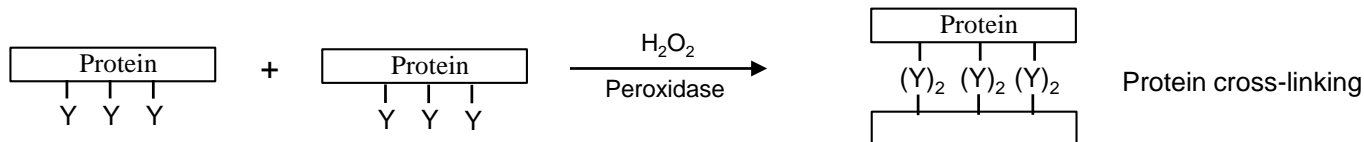
## B FORMATION OF INTRA-MOLECULAR DISULFIDE LINKAGES



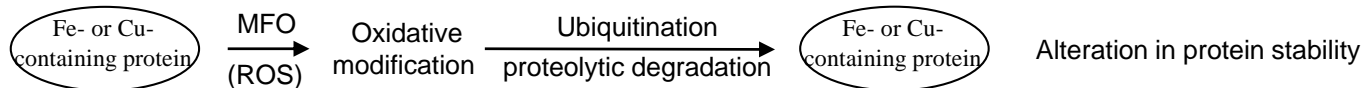
## C PROTEIN DIMERIZATION BY INTER-MOLECULAR DISULFIDE LINKAGES



## D DITYROSINE FORMATION BY H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> PEROXIDASE-DEPENDENT REACTIONS



## E METAL-CATALYZED OXIDATION OF PROTEINS BY "FENTON-LIKE" CHEMISTRY





## Selectivity of Damage Between Different Sites by a Single Oxidant

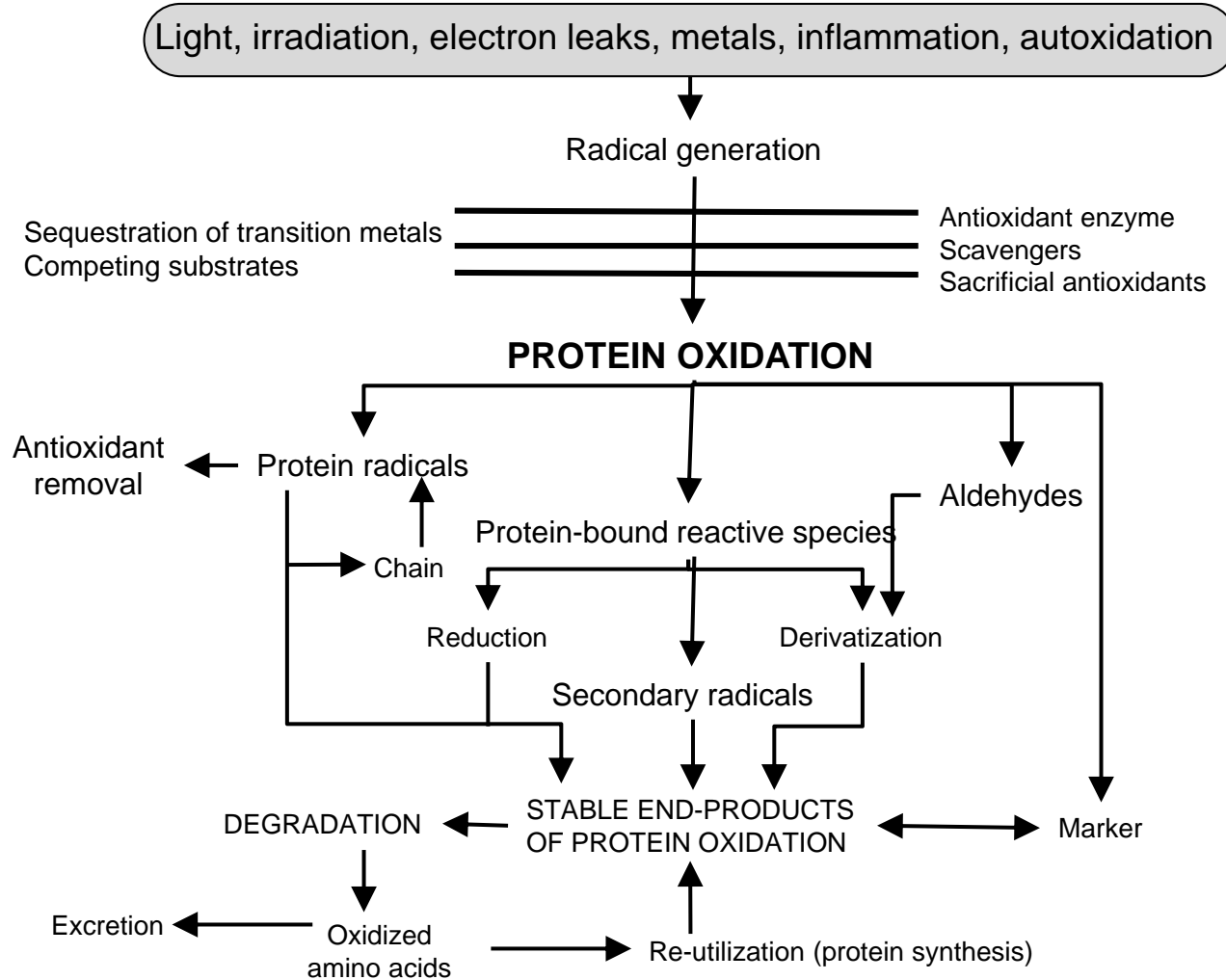
Kinetic data does not usually yield information on selectivity of damage at different sites, unless specific absorptions are monitored - usually only possible for aromatic and sulfur-containing residues.

**Number of factors influence which sites are most favored**

- **Stability of incipient radical**
  - tertiary > secondary > primary; delocalisation on to other atoms
- **Statistics**
  - number of available C-H bonds / sites of addition
- **Accessibility**
  - buried versus exposed; steric and charge interactions



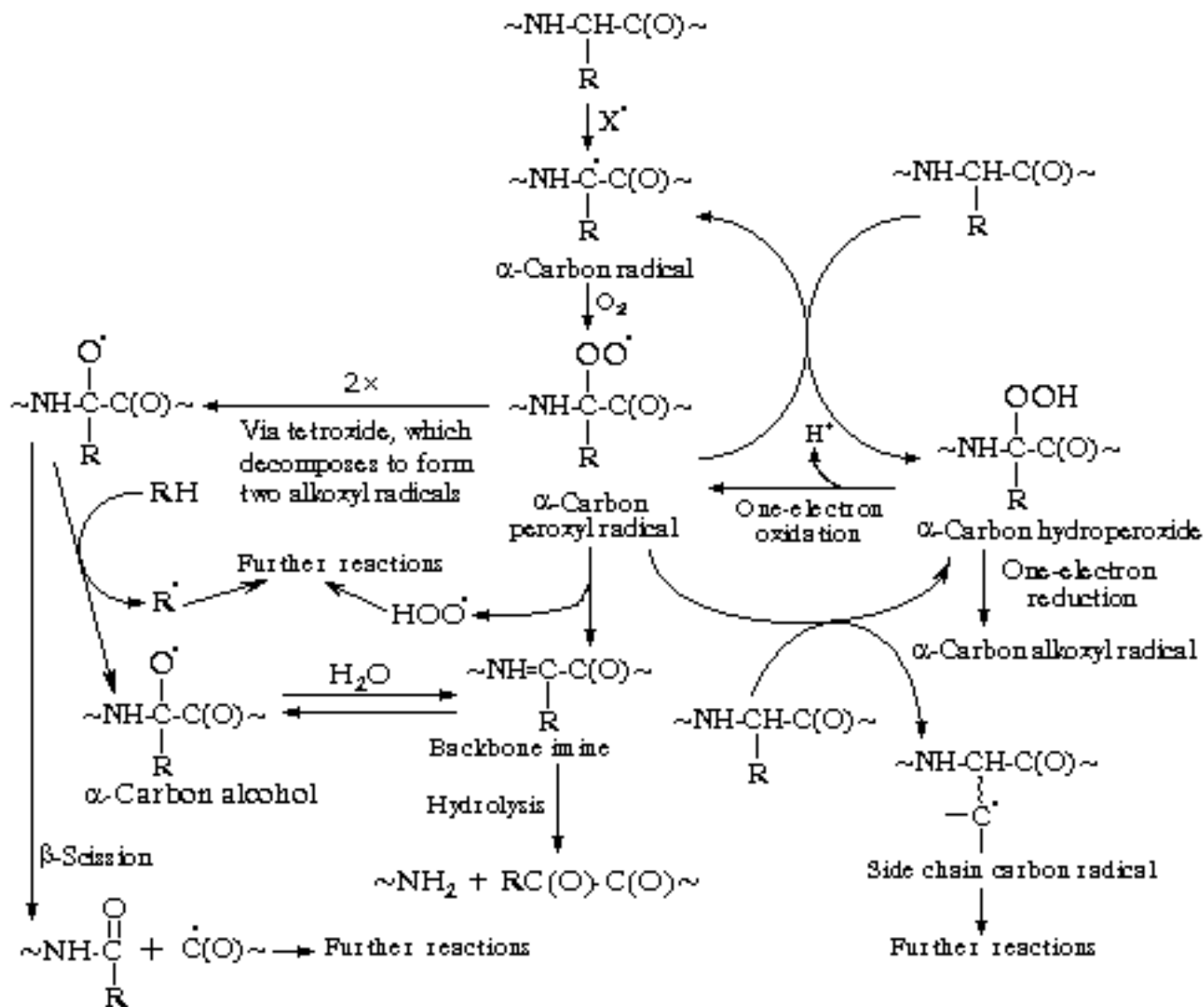
# Protein Oxidation *in vivo* (Summary)



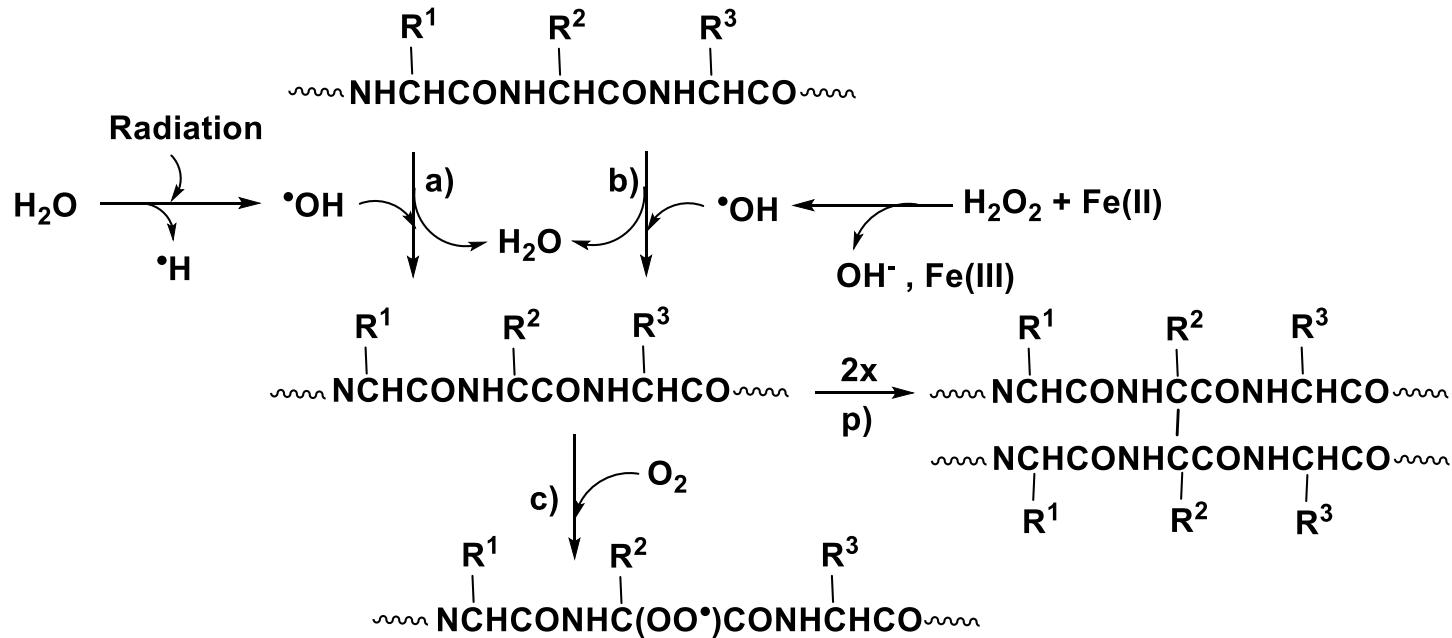




# Major Reactions of Backbone Radicals formed during Oxidation in the Presence of Oxygen



# Peptide Bond Cleavage Due to Reaction with Hydroxyl Radical



## Peptide Bond Cleavage.

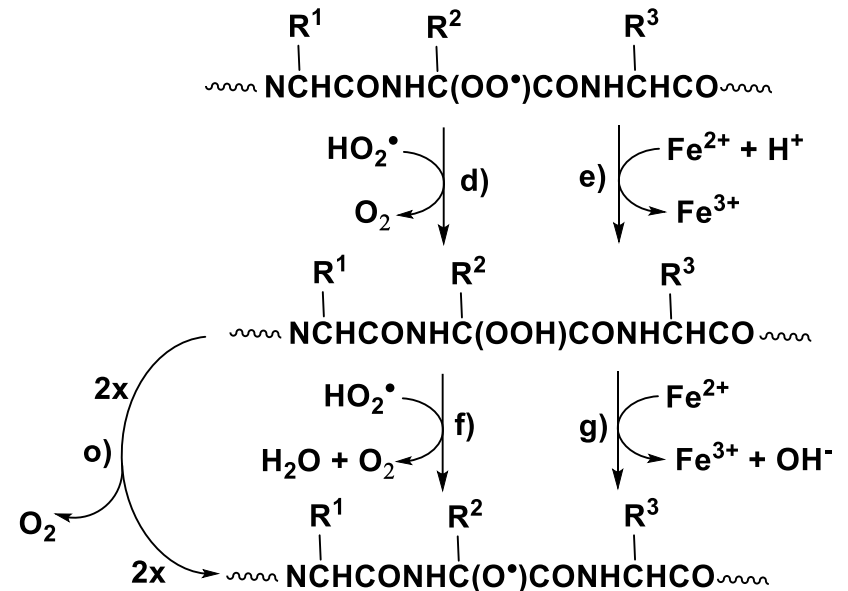
OH, generated by either radiolysis of water or the metal-catalyzed cleavage of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  can abstract hydrogen atoms from the  $-\text{CH}(\text{R})-$  group of the polypeptide backbone (reactions a, b).

The alkyl radical thus formed may react with oxygen to form the alkylperoxy radical (reaction c) or with another alkyl radical to form inter- or intraprotein cross-linkages (reaction p).



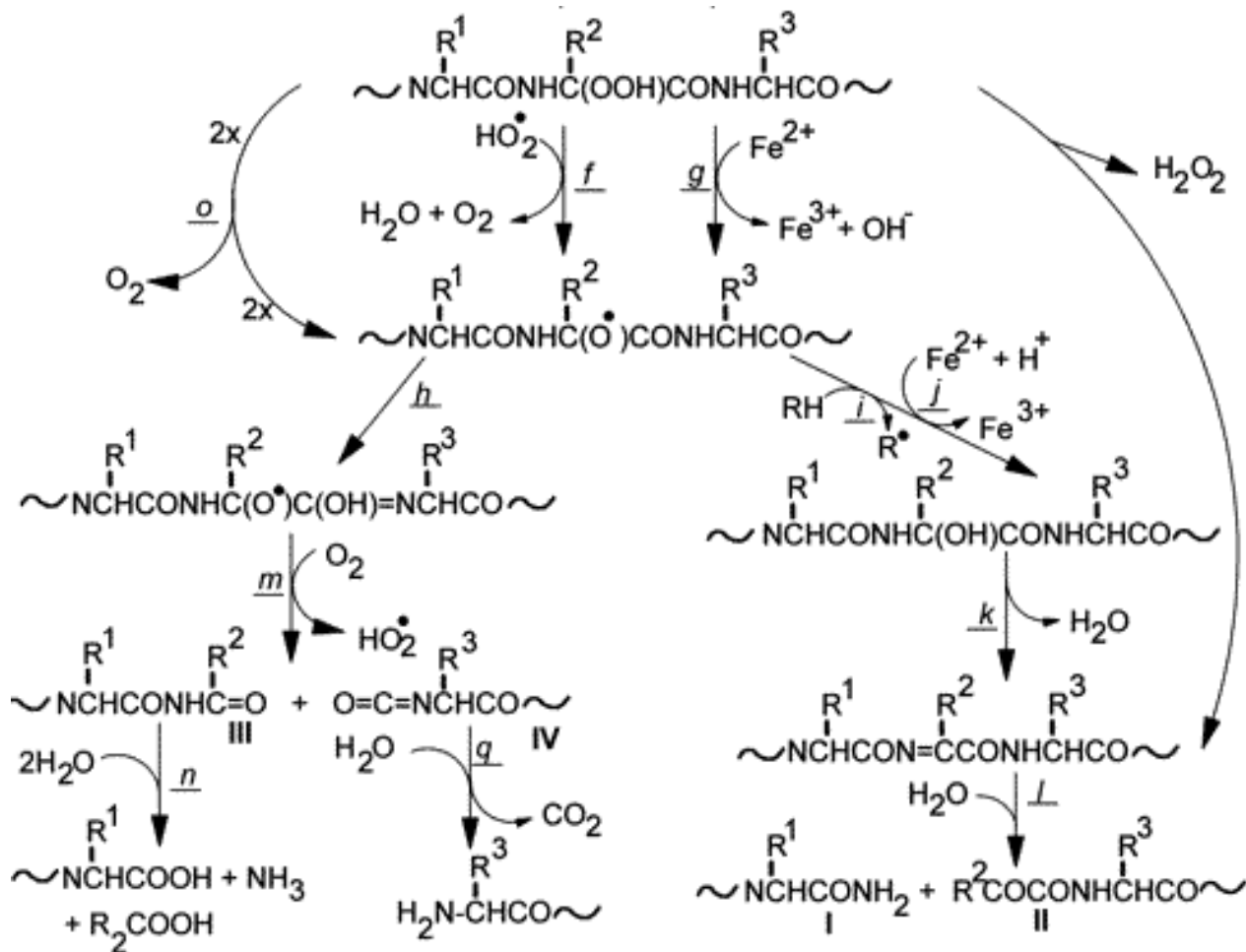
# Peptide Hydroperoxides

- The protein peroxy radical can be converted to the alkyl peroxide by either reaction with:
  - free peroxy radical or SAD (reaction *d*),
  - reaction with  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  (reaction *e*),
  - abstraction of a hydrogen from another source (not shown).
- Irrespective of how it is formed, the protein alkyl peroxide can be converted to the alkoxy protein derivative by either dismutation (reaction *o*),
  - reaction with free peroxy radical (reaction *f*), or
  - reaction with  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  (reaction *g*).





## Further Evolution



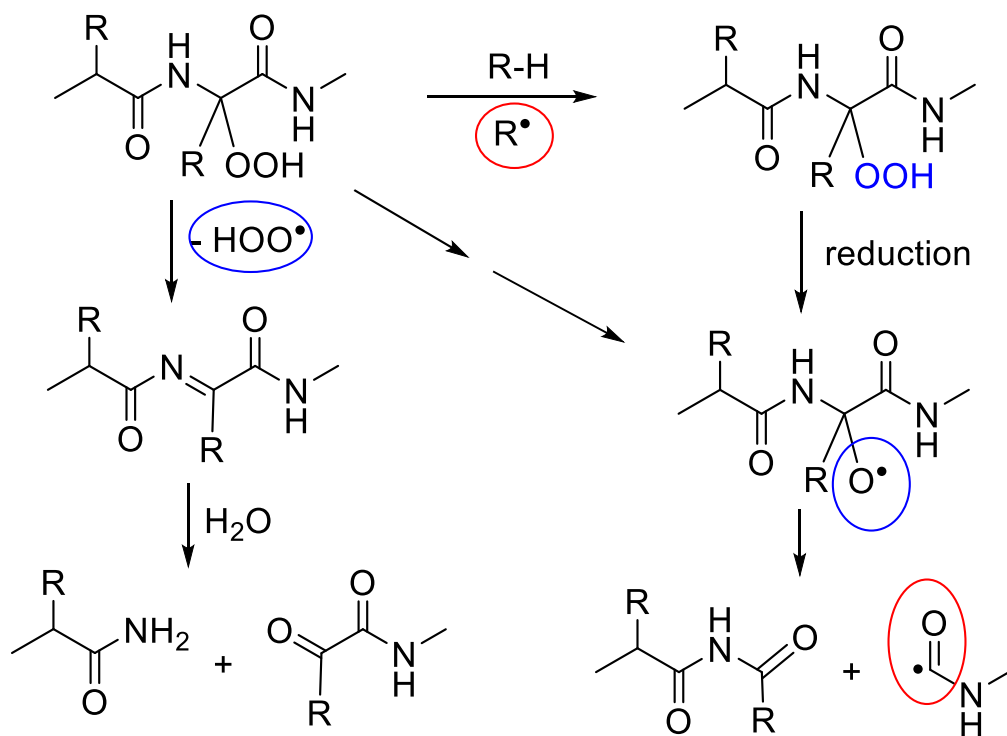
Finally, the alkoxy radical may undergo conversion to the hydroxy derivative (reactions i, j), which will undergo peptide bond scission by the so-called  $\alpha$ -amidation pathway (reactions k, l). Alternatively, the alkoxy radical may undergo peptide bond cleavage by the so-called diamide pathway (reaction m).



# Backbone Fragmentation Induced by Radicals

Common intermediate implicated in majority of mechanisms

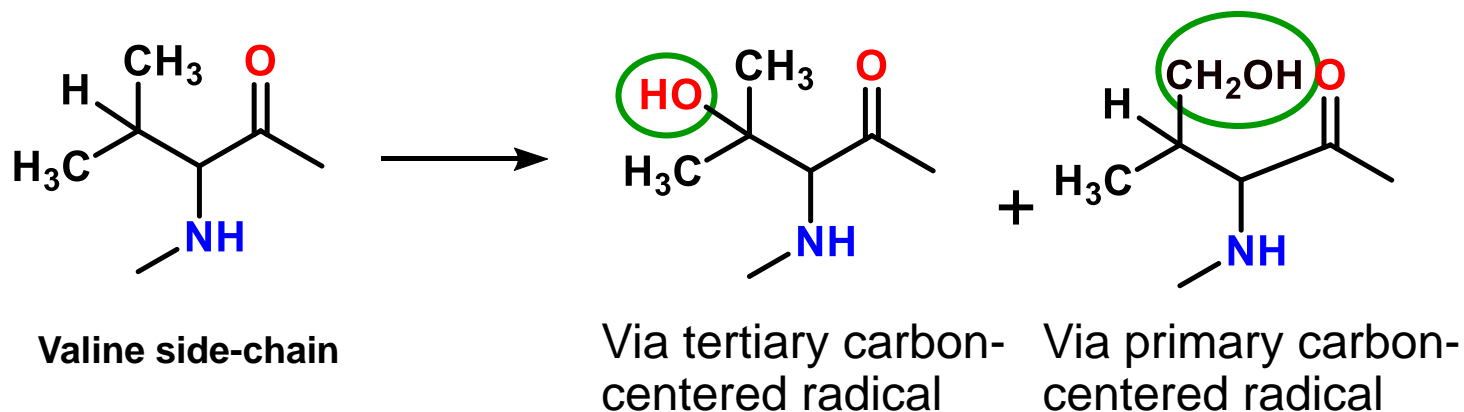
- Formation of  $\alpha$ -carbon radical via direct, or indirect reaction - detection by EPR spin trapping (e.g. Chem. Res. Toxicol., 2000, 13, 1087-1095).
- Subsequent formation of peroxy radical in presence of  $O_2$ .
- Little backbone fragmentation in absence of  $O_2$ .



# Mechanisms of Side-chain Oxidation by Radicals: Aliphatic Residues

Hydrogen atom abstraction gives common intermediates  
but

**ratio** of intermediates formed at different C-H positions varies with attacking radical.



Direct, rapid-flow, EPR spectroscopy studies can give information on selectivity of initial radical attack for amino acids and peptides.

J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 2, 1998, 2617-2622; Biochim. Biophys. Acta, 2001, 1504, 196-219

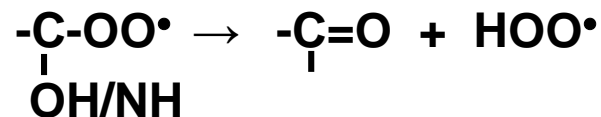
# Mechanisms of Side-chain Oxidation by Radicals: Aliphatic Residues

Initial carbon-centred radicals undergo rapid reaction with O<sub>2</sub> to give peroxy radicals. Dimers formed in absence of O<sub>2</sub>.



Fate of peroxy radicals:

- Reaction with another peroxy radical to give ROO-OOX (X = R, H).
- Hydrogen atom abstraction - gives hydroperoxide:  
 $ROO^\bullet + XH \rightarrow X^\bullet + ROOH \rightarrow ROH + \text{carbonyls}$
- Elimination reactions - special case for Ser, Thr and few other residues



***Major products from aliphatic side-chains: peroxides, alcohols and carbonyls.***



# Specific Aliphatic Side-chain Oxidation Products

**Glutamic acid** hydroperoxides

**Leucine** hydroperoxides alcohols  
 $\alpha$ -ketoisocaproic acid  
isovaleric acid  
isovaleraldehyde  
isovaleraldehyde oxime  
carbonyl compounds

**Glycine** Aminomalonic acid

**Valine** hydroperoxides alcohols  
carbonyl compounds

**Lysine** hydroperoxides alcohols  
carbonyl compounds

**Proline** hydroperoxides alcohols  
5-hydroxy-2-aminovaleric acid  
carbonyl compounds

**Arginine** hydroperoxides  
5-hydroxy-2-aminovaleric acid

**Isoleucine** hydroperoxides, alcohols,  
carbonyl compounds

**Methionine** Methionine sulphoxide

**Cysteine** Cystine,  
Oxy acids

Free Radic. Biol. Med., 1999, 27, 1151-1163





## Peroxides are Major Initial Products of HO<sup>•</sup> Attack on Proteins in the Presence of O<sub>2</sub>

Substrate	% yield of hydroperoxide groups formed from initial HO <sup>•</sup>
N-Ac-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>	26
Gly-Lys-Gly	34
Poly-lysine	64
Melittin	16
Protamine	33
Insulin	12
RNase A	53
BSA	36



## Formation of Peroxides on Proteins

**Does it matter what the attacking radical is ? - NO**

High energy radiation ( $\gamma$ - or X-rays, UV, visible light with sensitizer)

Metal ions / ascorbate

Metal ions / peroxide systems ( $\text{HO}\cdot$ ,  $\text{RO}\cdot$  )

Thermo-labile azo compounds +  $\text{O}_2$  ( $\text{ROO}\cdot$  )

Peroxynitrite

Activated white cells

Hemoprotein / peroxide systems

**Does it matter what the amino acid / peptide / protein is ? - NO**

Formed on most amino acids, and all peptides and proteins tested

Detected on both isolated proteins and proteins in cells

**Yield and exact structure of peroxides formed is dependent on target, the attacking radical,  $\text{O}_2$  concentration, presence of reductants / antioxidants / metal ions (*etc.* ... )**

Biochim Biophys Acta, 2001, 1504, 196-219



## Fate of Protein Peroxides



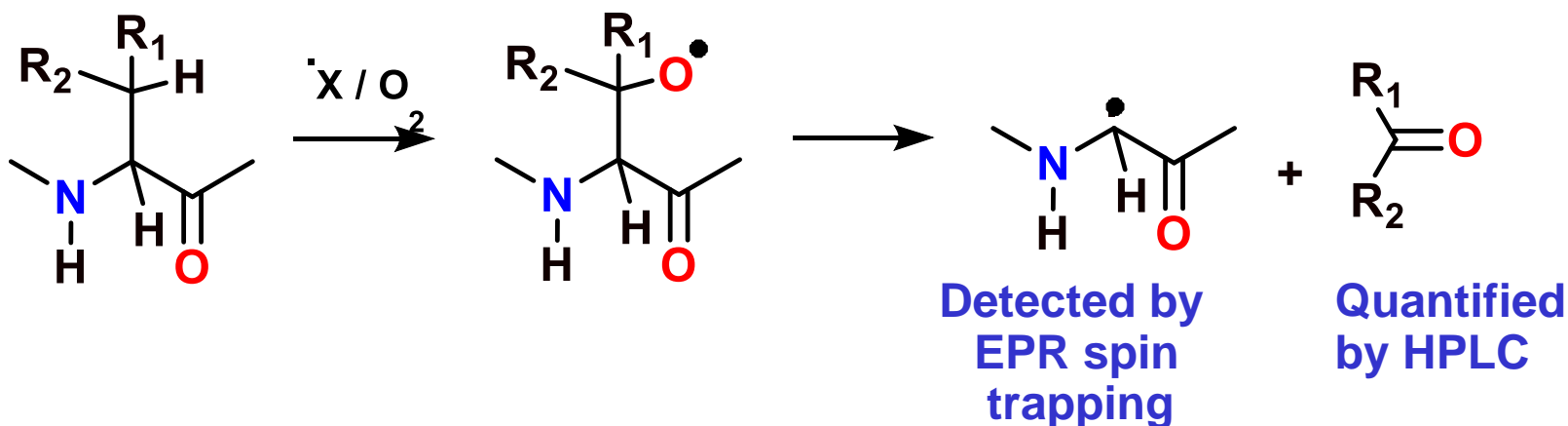
Biochem. J., 1995, 305, 643-649; Arch. Biochem. Biophys., 1996, 336, 163-172; Chem. Res. Toxicol, 2000, 13, 1087-1095; Free Radic. Biol. Med., 2002, 32, 1171-1184.



## Transfer of Damage within Proteins

Evidence for radical transfer from side-chains sites to backbone via mediation of alkoxy radicals

- Favourable process due
  - to stability of  $\alpha$ -carbon radical
  - relief of steric crowding
  - stability of carbonyl product



Results in loss of side-chain group as reactive aldehyde / ketone and formation of backbone radical  $\Rightarrow$  backbone cleavage

Similar reactions with thiyl radical from cysteine ?

Chem Res Toxicol, 2000, 13, 1087; Free Radic Biol Med, 2002, 32, 1171, J Am Chem Soc, 2003, 125, 2042



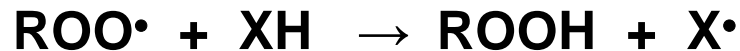
## Occurrence of Chain Reactions

**Number of reactions of protein radicals that give rise to other radicals:**

- 1) Decomposition of dimers formed between two peroxy radicals



- 2) Hydrogen atom abstraction by an initial peroxy radical



- 3) Fragmentation reactions of  $\alpha$ -hydroxyperoxy radicals on Ser and Thr
- 4) Decomposition of hydroperoxides to alkoxy radicals

**All of these reactions give rise to further radicals and hence either**

- chain reactions on proteins, or
- damage to other biomolecules



## Oxidation of Cys, Cystine and Met Residues

**Important targets: rapid reaction with range of oxidants (both radical and non-radical) and easily oxidised.**

- **Met converted to sulfoxide:  $-S- \rightarrow -S(=O)- \rightarrow -S(O_2)-$**

- **Cys oxidised via two major pathways:**

**$RSH \rightarrow RSSR$  (cystine) via thiyl radical**

**$RSH \rightarrow RS-X \rightarrow \rightarrow RSO_2H + RSO_3H$  (X=OH, Cl, etc.)**

**$\downarrow$   
RSSR**

- **Cystine can be oxidised to  $RSS(=O)R$**

- **Both Met sulfoxide and cystine can be repaired**

- **Only major examples of repair of oxidised amino acid residues on proteins**

Free Radic Biol Med, 1995, 18, 93; PNAS, 2001, 98, 12920, Free Radic Biol Med, 1995, 31, 1432;  
Int J Radiat Biol, 1989, 55, 539; von Sonntag - The Chemical Basis of Radiation Biology



## Consequences of Protein Thiol Oxidation

- **Oxidation of catalytic sites on proteins**
  - loss of function/abnormal function
  - **BUT(!): sometimes it is gain in function!**
- **Formation of mixed sulfide bonds**
  - Protein-protein linkages (RS-SR)
  - Protein-GSH linkages (RS-SG)
  - Alteration in 2o and 3o structure
- **Increased susceptibility to proteolysis**



## Mechanisms of Side-chain Oxidation by Radicals: Aromatic Residues

- 1. Major reaction is addition, though electron abstraction can also occur.**
- 2. Electron abstraction reactions usually yield hydroxylated products.**
- 3. Addition reactions tend to yield a greater diversity of products as this depends on the added species.**
- 4. Similar products tend to be formed in presence and absence of  $O_2$ .**

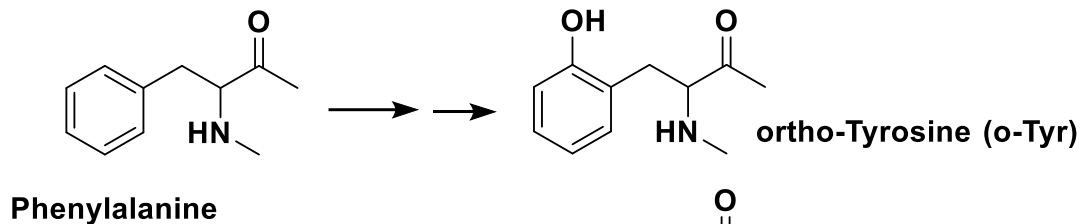




# Specific Aromatic Side-chain Oxidation Products

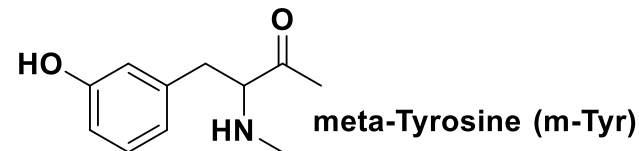
## Phenylalanine

o-, m-tyrosine  
dimers



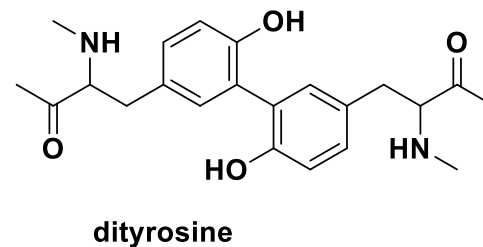
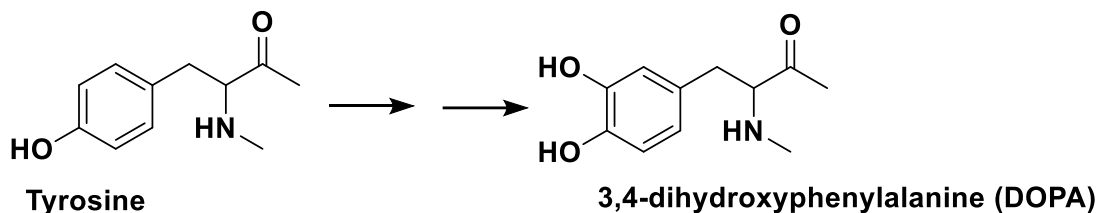
## Tyrosine

DOPA  
di-tyrosine



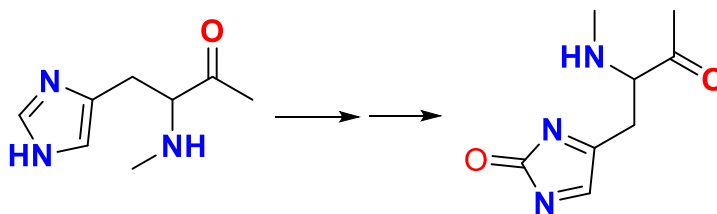
## Tryptophan

N-formylkynurenine,  
kynurenine,  
5-hydroxytryptophan,  
7-hydroxytryptophan



## Histidine

2-oxo-histidine



Free Radic. Biol. Med.,  
1999, 27, 1151-1163

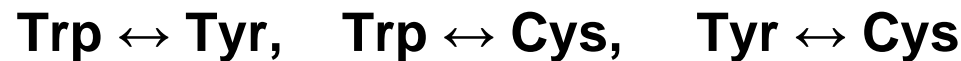


## Transfer of Damage within Proteins

### Evidence for long range transfer of radical sites within proteins:

- transfer from initial site to a readily oxidised residue (Trp, Tyr, Met, Cys) to give more stable radical - can be equilibria.
- can occur over very large distances, but depends on protein structure
- occurs in competition with reaction of initial radical with O<sub>2</sub>
- most common when initial radical is poorly, or unreactive, with O<sub>2</sub>

Examples:



**Oxidised porphyrin ring from Trp, Tyr, Cys**

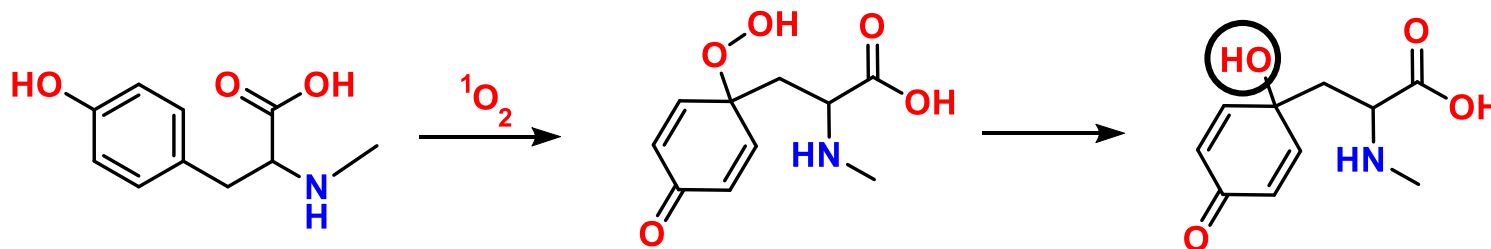
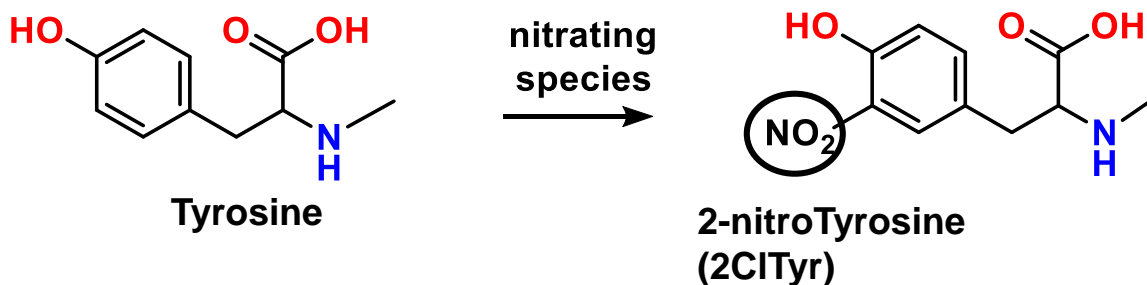
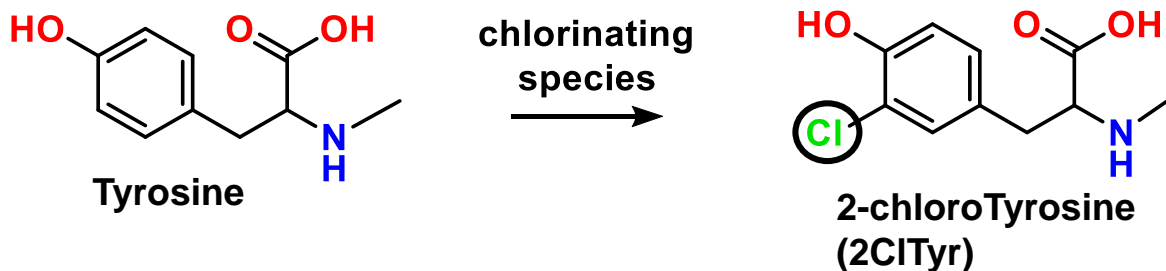
J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1989, 111, 5141-5145; J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1994, 116, 12010-12015;  
Int. J. Radiat. Biol., 1989, 55, 539-556; J. Biol. Chem., 1997, 272, 2359-2362



## Mechanisms of Protein Oxidation by Non-Radical Oxidants

- Species such as  $^1\text{O}_2$ , HOCl, HOBr, peroxynitrite,  $\text{O}_3$ , UV light
  - Reactions can be very selective and generally on side-chains
- Little fragmentation, but considerable aggregation**
- $^1\text{O}_2$  - damage to Cys, Met, Trp, Tyr and His.
  - HOCl / HOBr - primarily damage to Cys, Met, His, Lys, Trp,  $\alpha$ -amino group.
  - Peroxynitrite - damage to Cys, Tyr, Trp.
  - UV light - damage to cystine, Trp, Tyr and His.
- Some products well-defined - e.g. 3-chloroTyr, 3-nitroTyr, methionine sulfoxide, disulphides.
  - Some poorly defined  $\Rightarrow$  peroxides generated by  $^1\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{O}_3$ .

# Aromatic Side-chain Oxidation Products Generated by Non-Radical Oxidants



Free Radic. Biol. Med., 1999, 27, 1151-1163; Photochem. Photobiol, 2002, 76, 35-46



# Oxidation of Other Residues by Non-Radical Reactions

- Evidence for oxidation of cysteine residues by peroxides:
  - Protein thiols, peroxides and enzyme activity lost concurrently
  - Cysteine oxidised to disulphide and oxy acids
  
- Evidence for oxidation of methionine residues by peroxides:
  - Evidence for the generation of methionine sulfoxide
  - Inactivation of methionine-dependent enzymes

Eur. J. Biochem., 2002, 269, 1916-1925; FEBS Lett., 2002, 527, 289-292; Redox Rep., 2003, 8, 81-86



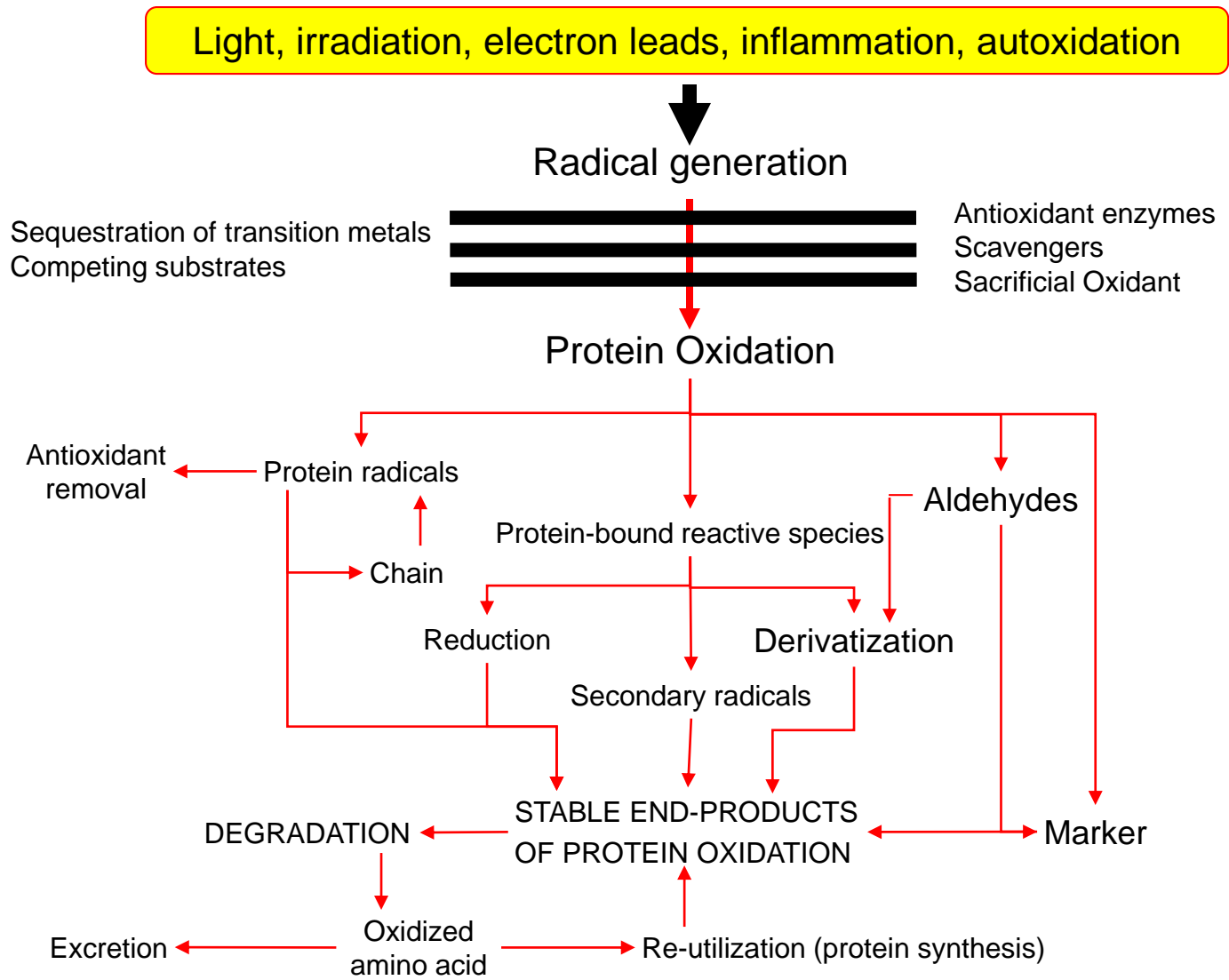
## Damage to other targets induced by reactive intermediates of protein oxidation

- **Protein peroxides can induce damage to other proteins by:**
  - Non-radical reactions (oxidation of susceptible thiols)
  - Radical-mediated reactions
- **Protein peroxides and DOPA can induce damage to DNA via radical-mediated reactions**
  - Oxidation of bases (e.g. 8-oxodG)
  - Induction of strand breaks
  - Formation of protein-DNA cross-links
- **Protein peroxides can induce lipid oxidation via radical-mediated reactions**

Biochem. J., 1999, 338, 629-636; Biochem. J., 1999, 344, 125-134; Chem. Res. Toxicol., 2000, 13, 665-672; Biogerontology, 2002, 3, 95-102; Eur. J. Biochem., 2002, 269, 1916-1925; FEBS Lett., 2002, 527, 289-292.

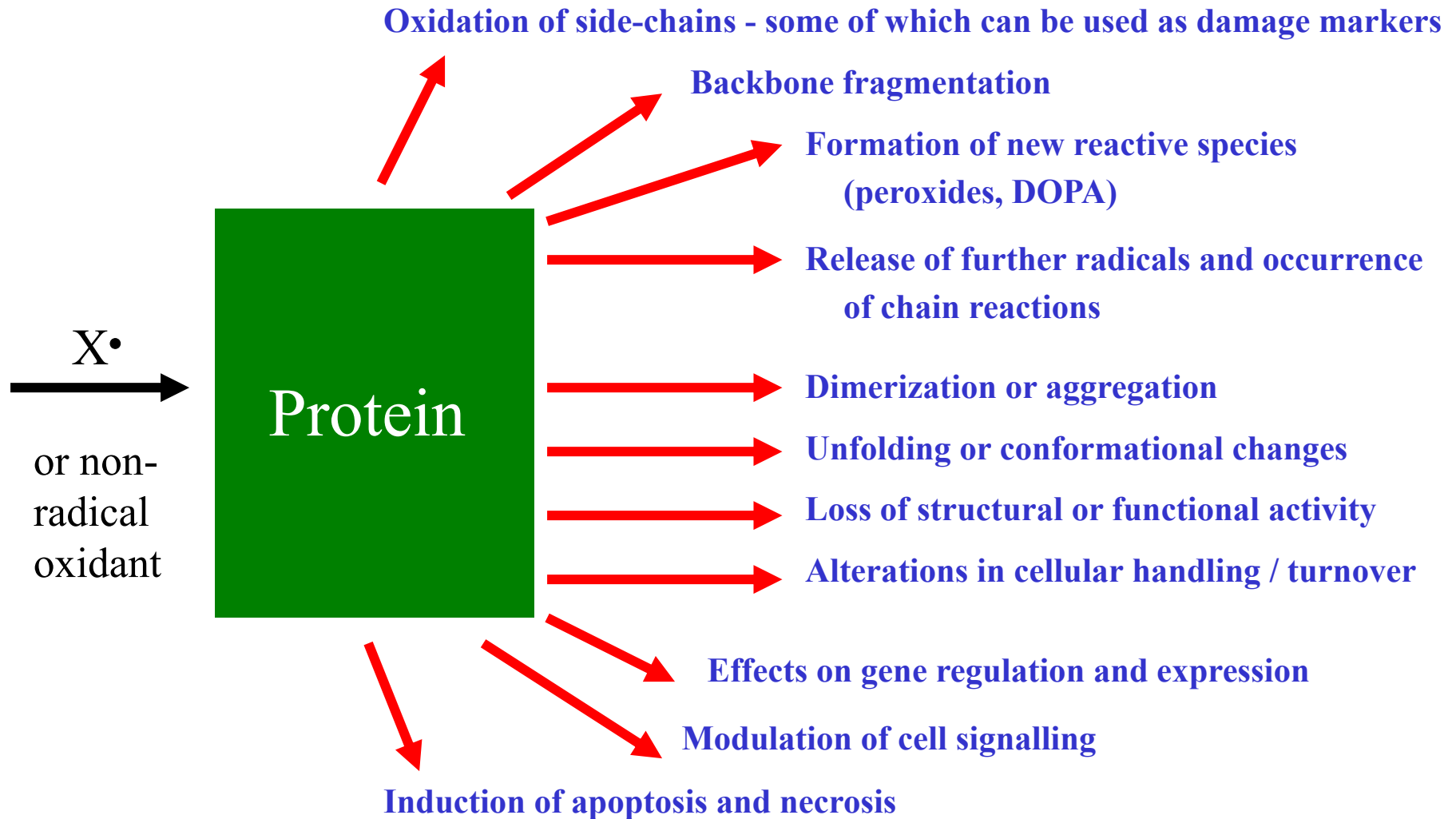


# Summarized Scheme of Protein Oxidation in vivo





# Consequences of Oxidation of Proteins

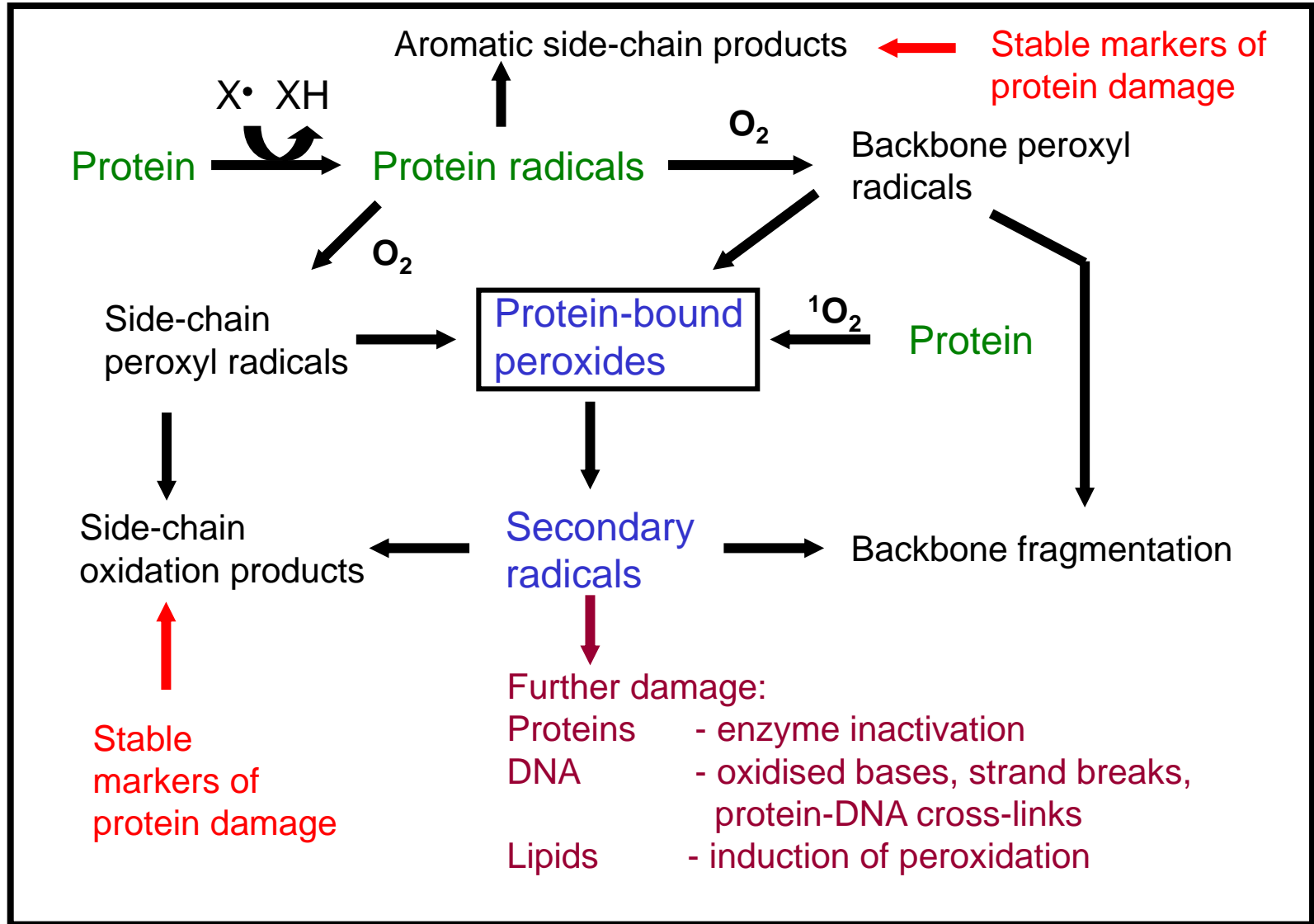


Biochim. Biophys. Acta, 2001, 1504, 196-219; J. Photochem. Photobiol. B, 2001, 63, 114-125.



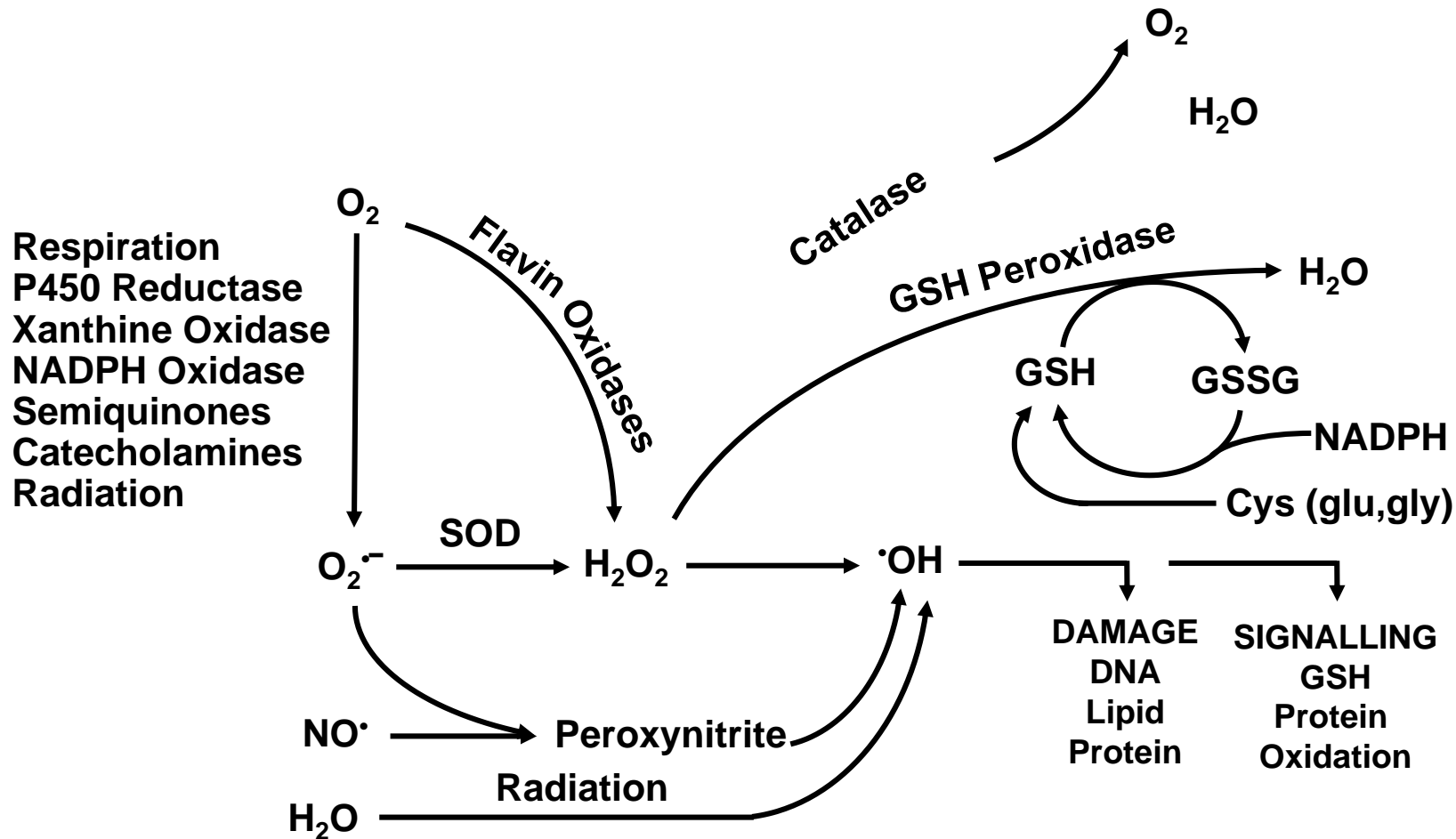


# Summary of Homolytic Reactions of Protein





# ROS Radicals Damage and Signaling



Cell Mol.Life Sci(2000) 57;1287-1305



# Double Helical Structure of DNA

- Forms a right-handed helix.
- The strands run antiparallel.
- There are about 10 base pairs per turn of the helix.
- One turn of the helix is 34 Å.
- The base pairs are 3.4 Å apart.
- Sugar phosphates on outside, base pairs on inside.

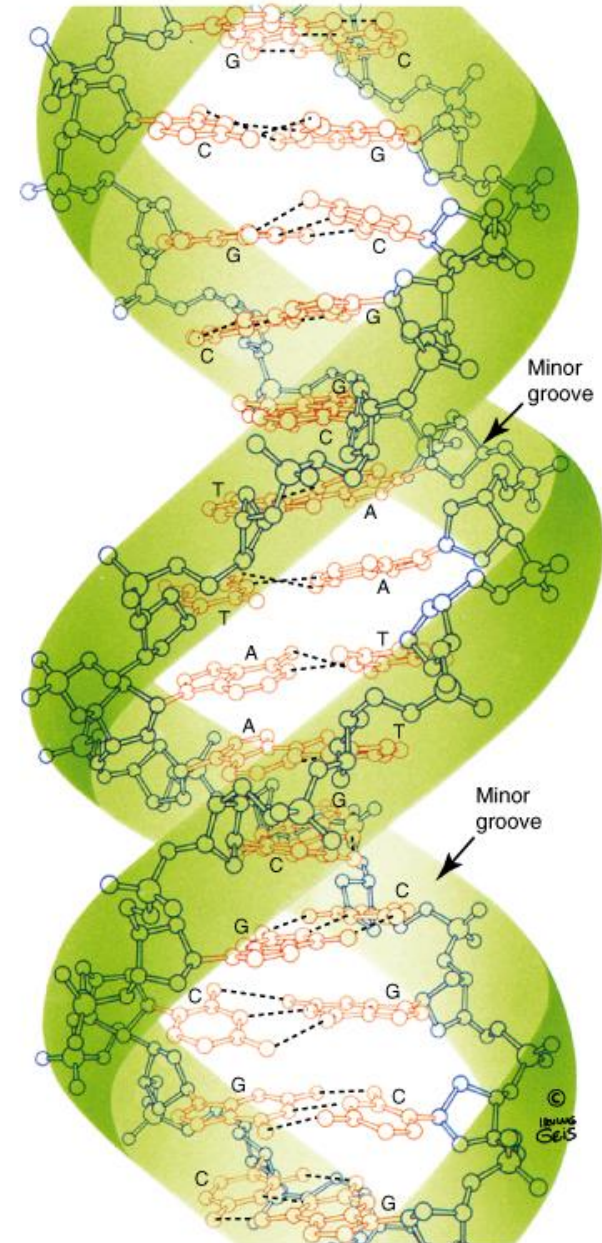


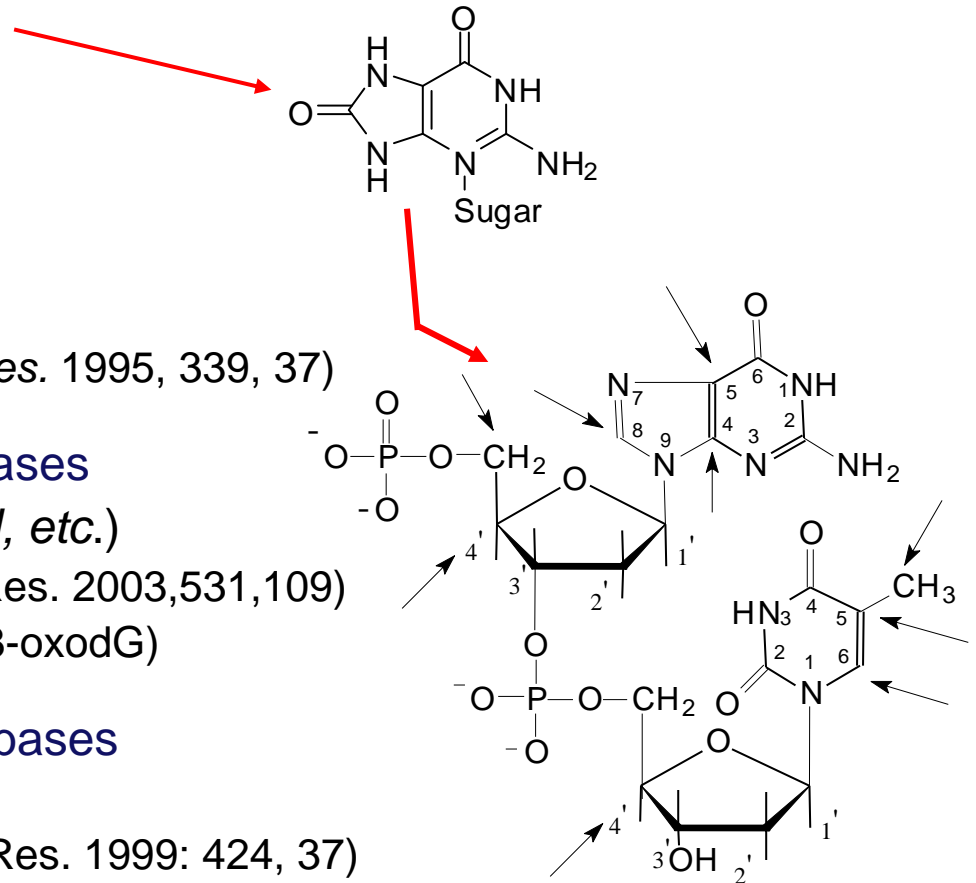
Figure copyrighted by Irving Geis.  
Copyright 1999 John Wiley and Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.



# DNA Oxidation

## Over 100 different types of oxidative damage to DNA:

- 8-Oxo-deoxyguanosine
  - 8-Oxo-deoxyadenosine
  - 5-Hydroxy-2-deoxycytidine
  - Thymidine glycol
- Single and double strand breaks  
Comet assay (Fairbairn *Mutat. Res.* 1995, 339, 37)
  - Oxidative modification of DNA-bases  
(e.g. 8-OH-guanine, 5-OH-uracil, etc.)  
GS/MS based methods (Mutat. Res. 2003,531,109)  
Immunochemical methods (e.g. 8-oxodG)
  - Nitrosative deamination of DNA bases  
Guanine - xanthine  
Cytosine - uracil (Burney *Mutat. Res.* 1999: 424, 37)
  - Formation of DNA adducts with oxidized lipids/proteins (e.g. dG-MDA, dT-Tyr).





## Oxidative Damage of DNA

### Damage done to DNA by Reactive Oxygen species.

- $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ . Not as reactive, but the most significant in terms of diffusion.
- $\cdot\text{OH}$ . It reacts with DNA directly.
- $\text{O}_2\cdot^-$ .

### Sources of radicals:

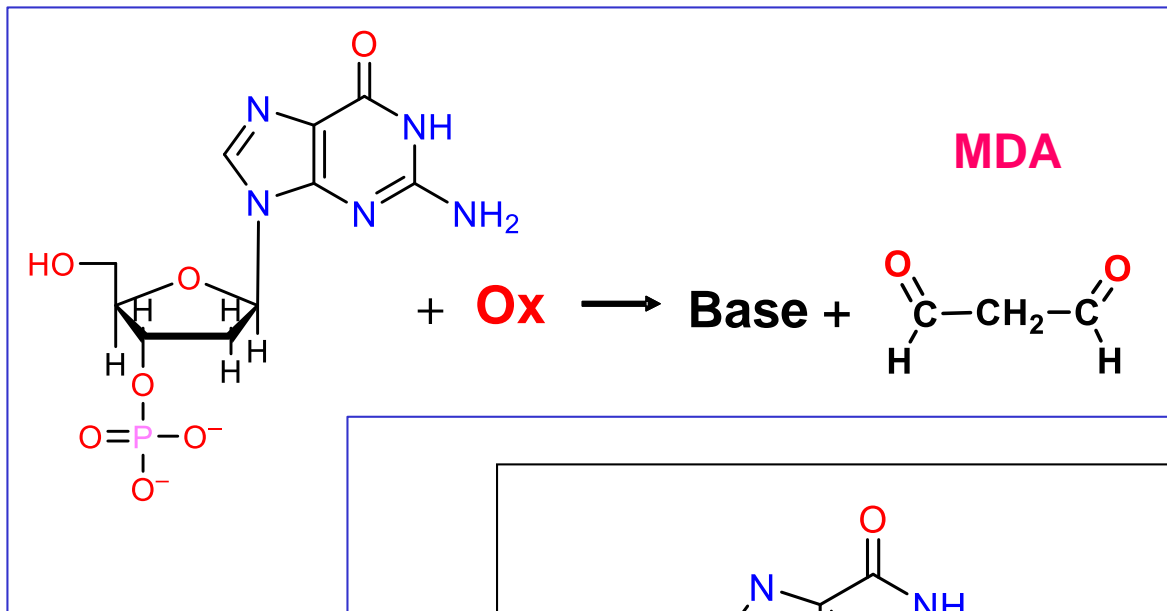
- Intracellular:
  - Respiration.
  - Peroxisomal metabolism.
- Extracellular:
  - Ionizing radiation.
  - UV.
  - Heat.
  - Some drugs.

The most damaging reaction:  $\text{RH}_2 + \cdot\text{OH} \rightarrow \cdot\text{RH} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$

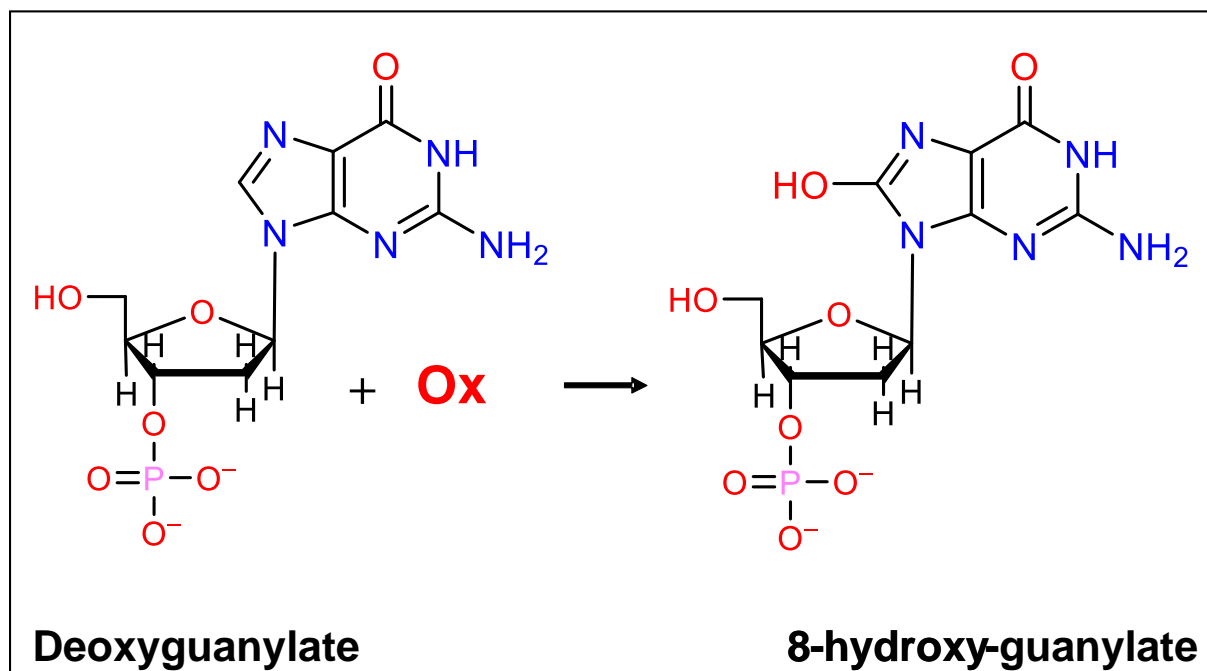


# Oxidative Damage to DNA: Sugars and Bases

Sugar  
degradation



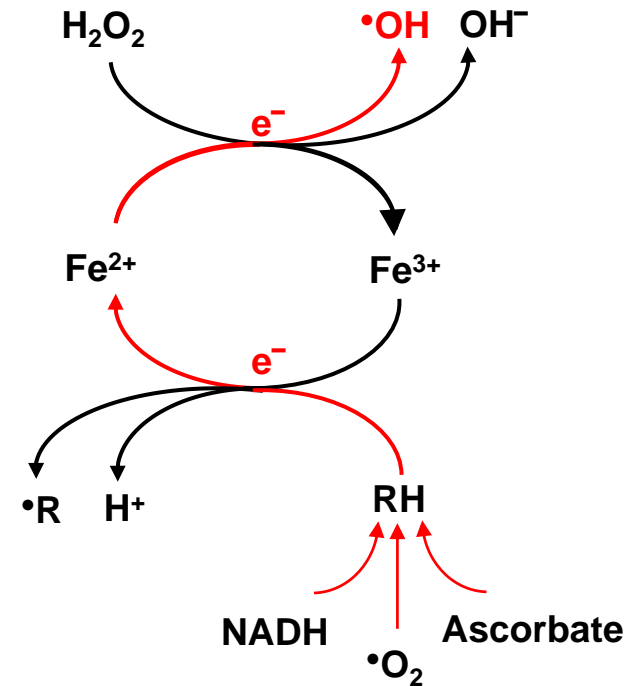
Aromatic  
Hydroxylation





## Fenton Reaction

Gives rise to highly reactive  $\cdot\text{OH}$ .  
Caused by problematic transition metals functioning in a redox cycle



## Defenses:

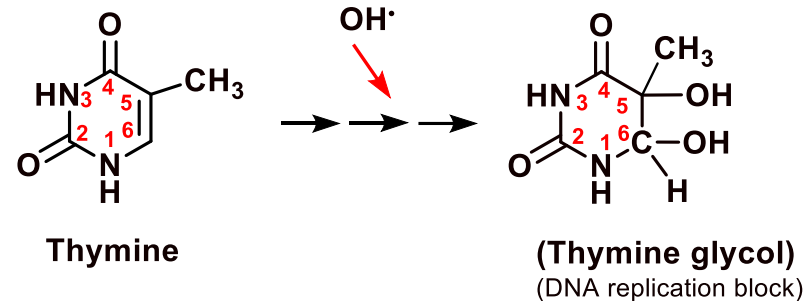
- Sequestration of transition metals: eg.  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  as ferritin
- Catalase:  $2 \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2 \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}_2$
- Superoxide dismutase (SOD):  $2 \text{O}_2^{\cdot-} + 2 \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}_2$
- Glutathione:  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2 + 2 \text{GSH} \rightarrow 2 \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{GS-GS}$
- Other Radical Scavengers: Vit. C and Vit. E.



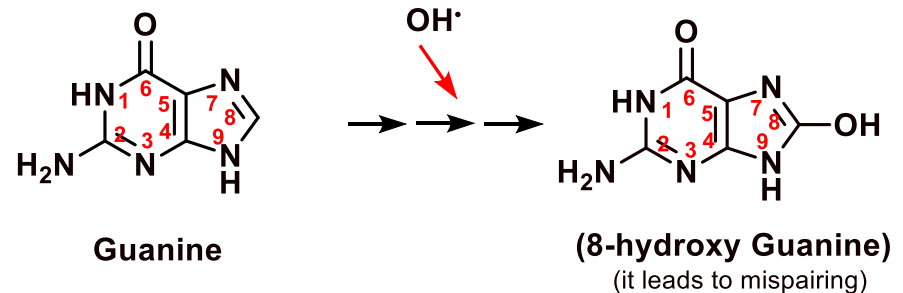
# Oxidative Damage of DNA

- OH attack on the sugars leads to base loss and breaks.
- OH attack on the bases:

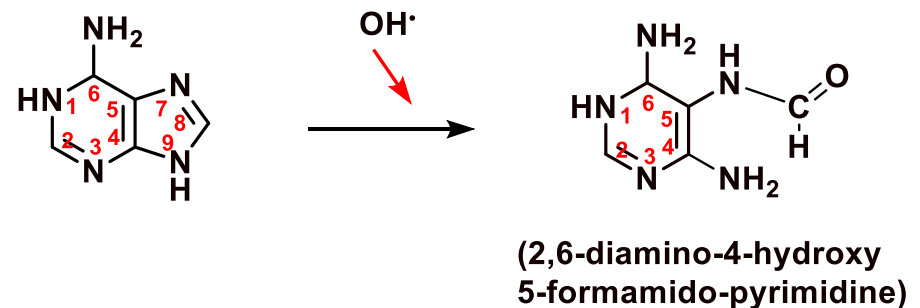
- Glycol formation



- Hydroxylation



- Ring opening



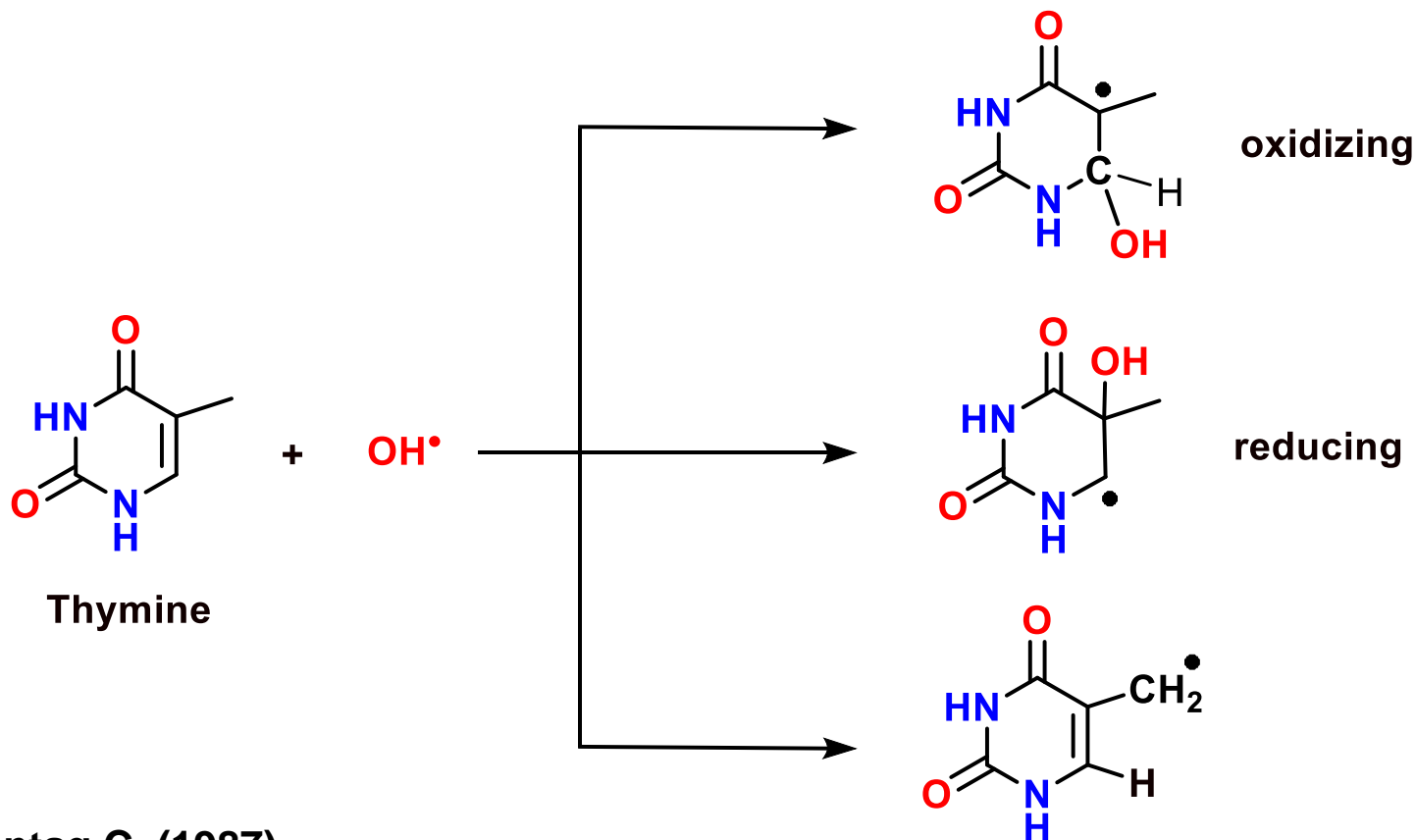
Defenses: **SoxRS** and **oxyR**, which turn on SOD, and Catalase, respectively.





## Oxidative Damage to the Bases

- HO• attack on pyrimidines

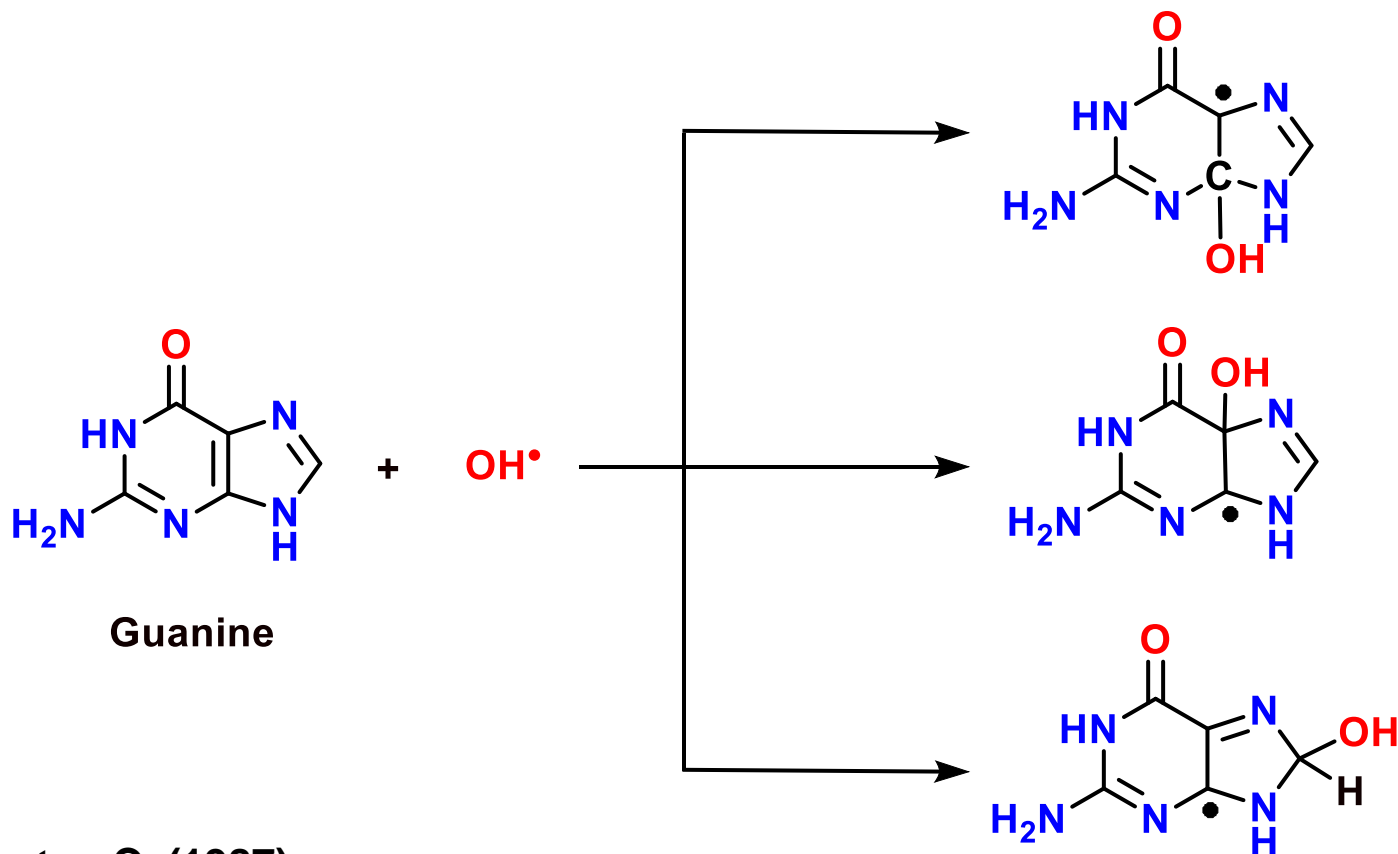


von Sonntag C. (1987)  
*The Chemical Basis of Radiation Biology.*  
Taylor & Francis London, NY.



## Oxidative Damage to the Bases

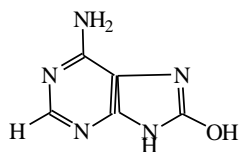
- HO• attack on purines



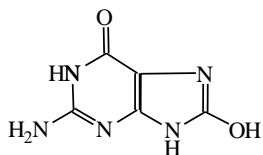
von Sonntag C. (1987)  
*The Chemical Basis of Radiation Biology.*  
Taylor & Francis London, NY.



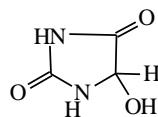
# Examples of Oxidized DNA Bases



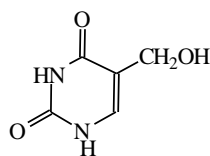
8-hydroxyadenine



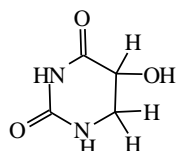
8-hydroxyguanine



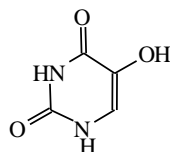
5-hydroxy  
hydantoin



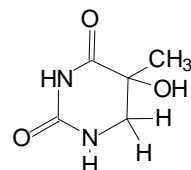
5-hydroxymethyluracil



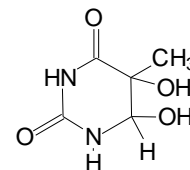
5-hydroxy-6-hydrouracil



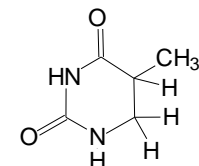
5-hydroxyuracil



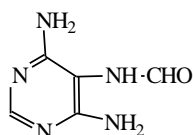
5-hydroxy-6-  
hydrothyminine



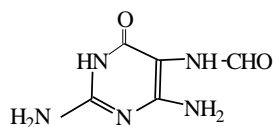
Thymine glycol  
(cis and trans)



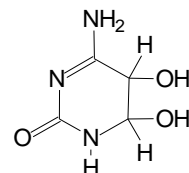
5,6-dihydrothymine



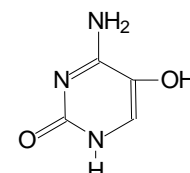
4,6-Diamino-5-  
formamidopyrimidine



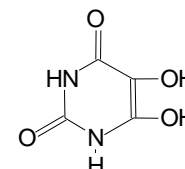
2,6-Diamino-4-hydroxy-  
formamidopyrimidine



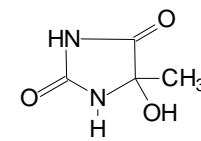
Cytosine glycol



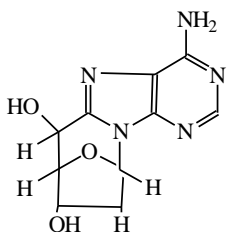
5-hydroxycytosine



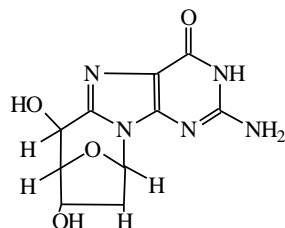
5,6-dihydroxy  
uracil



5-hydroxy-5-  
methylhydantoin



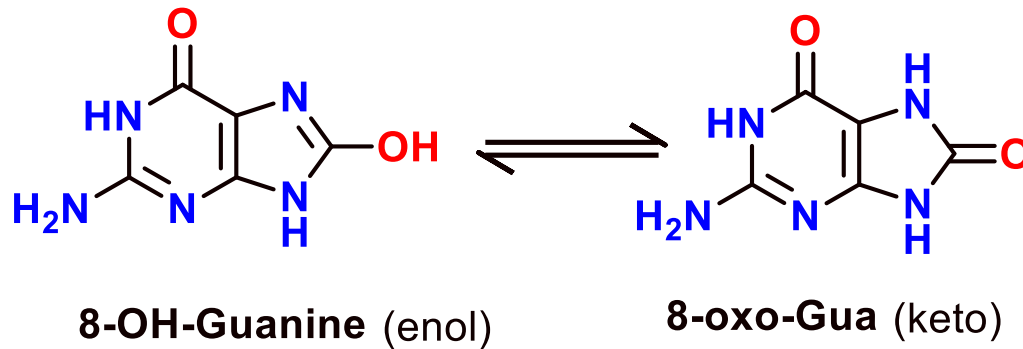
8,5'-cyclo-2'-deoxyadenosine



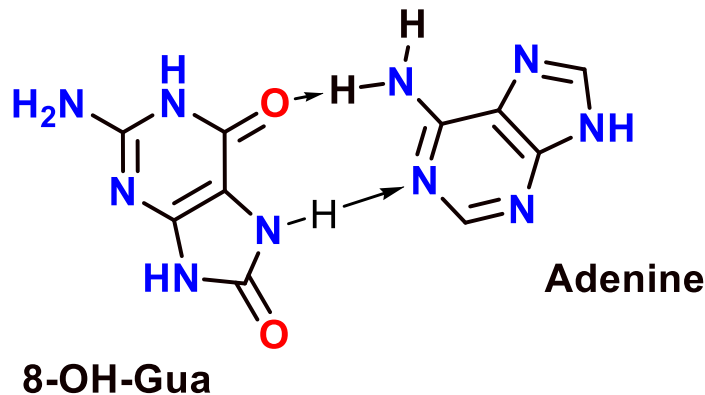
8,5'-cyclo-2'-deoxyguanosine

Adapted from: Dizdaroglu M. (1992)  
*Free Radic Biol Med.* 10:225-242.  
Dizdaroglu M. (2002)  
*Free Radic Biol Med.* 32:1102-1115.

# Oxidation of DNA can lead to Mutations

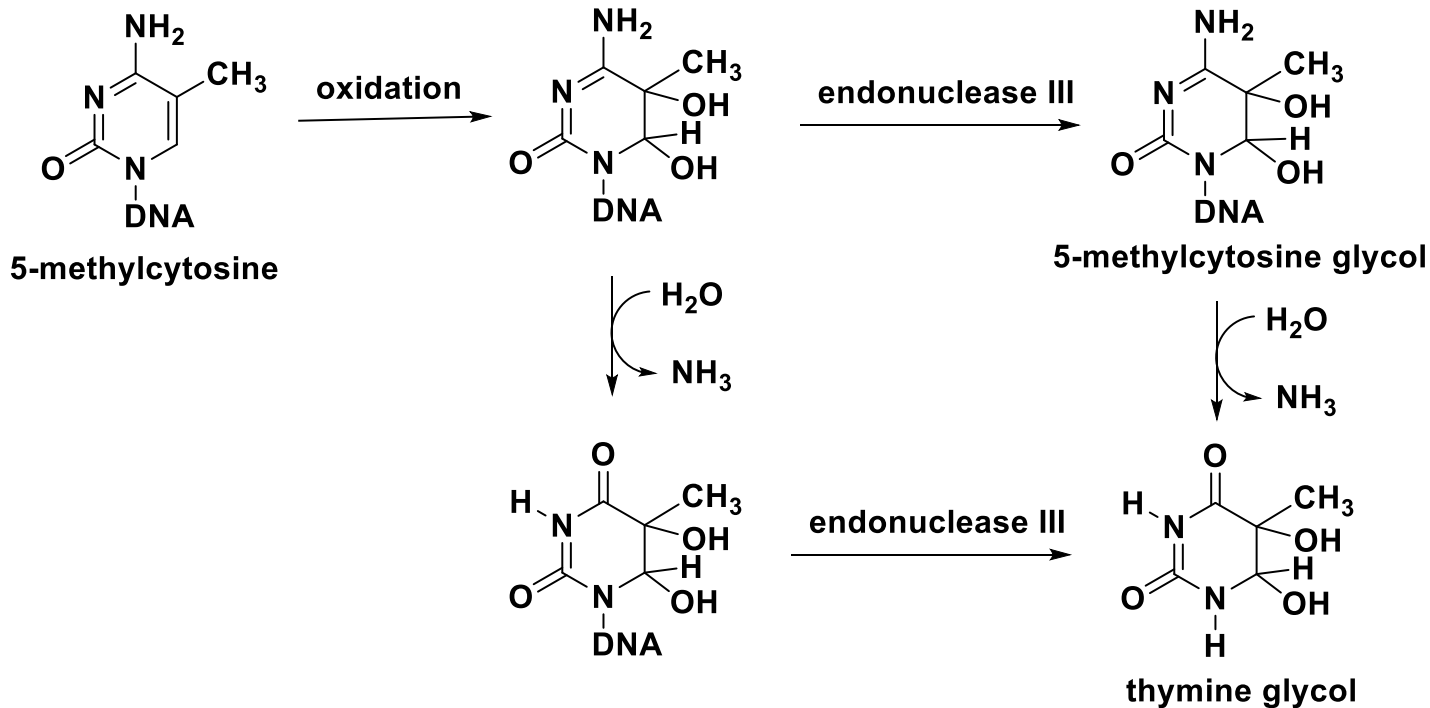


Base pairs  
A-T  
G-C  
**8 OH dG-A**



**Misreading of 8-OHdGua can lead mutation (GC→AT transversion).**

# Oxidation of 5-methylcytosine leads to Rapid Deamination



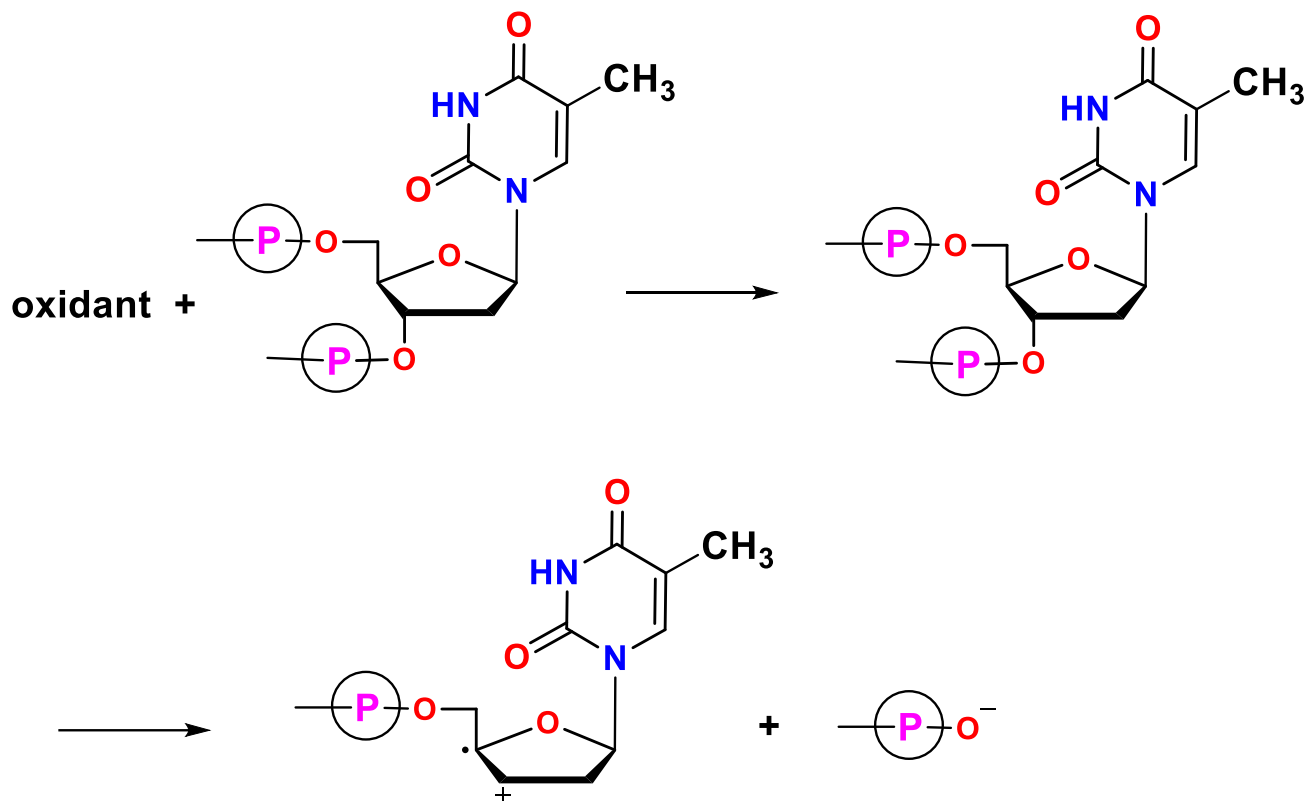
**Deamination can result in:**  
**a) loss of methylation,**  
**b) mutation (GC→AT transition).**

Adapted from: Zuo S, Boorstein RJ, Teebor GW. (1995) Oxidative damage to 5-methylcytosine in DNA. *Nucl Acids Res.* **23**:3239-3243.



# Oxidant Attack on Sugar

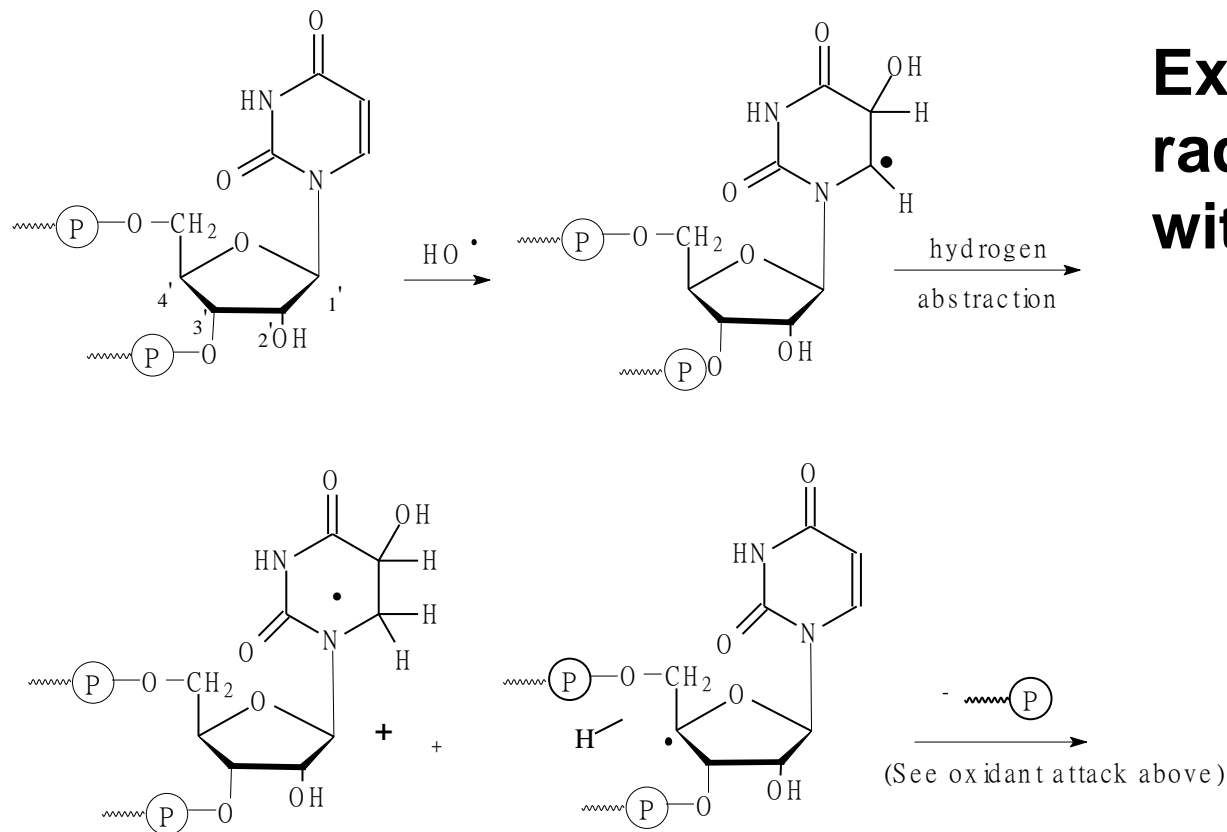
(The 4'-hydrogen is the weak point)



Adapted from: C. von Sonntag (1987) *The Chemical Basis of Radiation Biology*.  
Taylor & Francis London, NY.



# Transfer of Damage from a Base to a Sugar

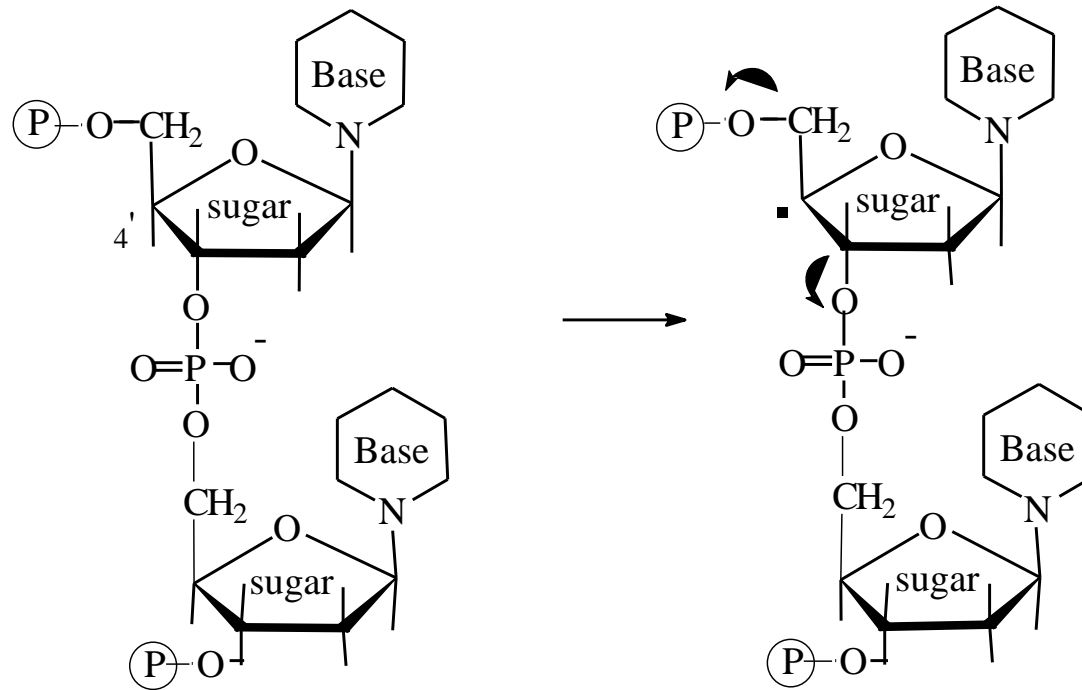


**Example: Uracil radical reacting with ribose**

Adapted from: C. von Sonntag (1987) *The Chemical Basis of Radiation Biology*. Taylor & Francis London, NY.



## DNA Strand Breaks



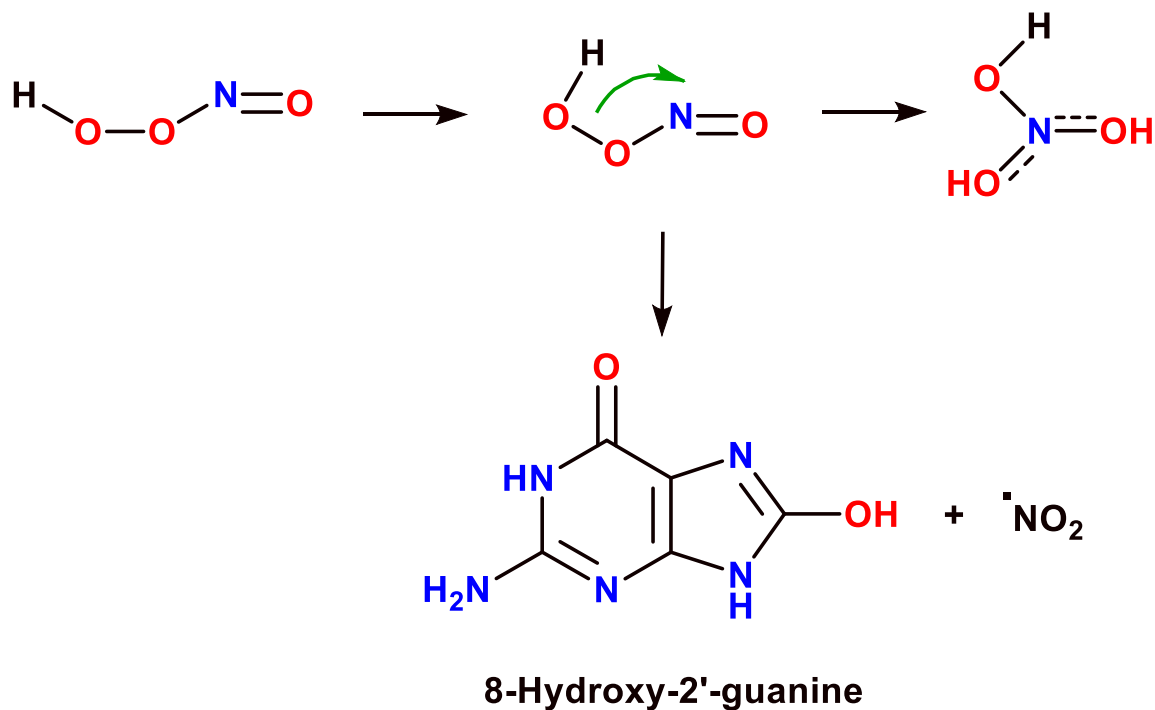
**DNA single strand breaks result because of the collapse of the sugar. They are the most common damage inflicted by ROS.**





## Damage by RNS

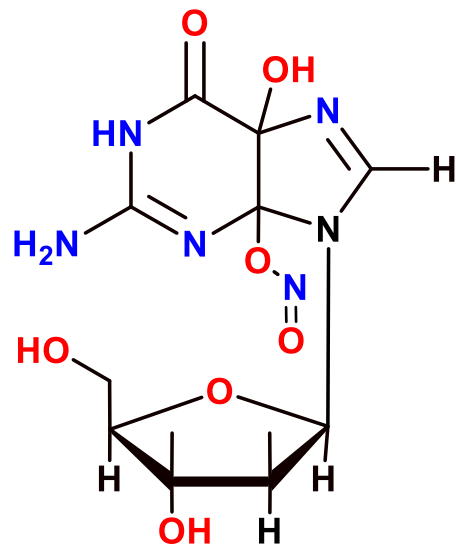
Peroxynitrite is a strong oxidant formed by reaction of nitric oxide with superoxide:



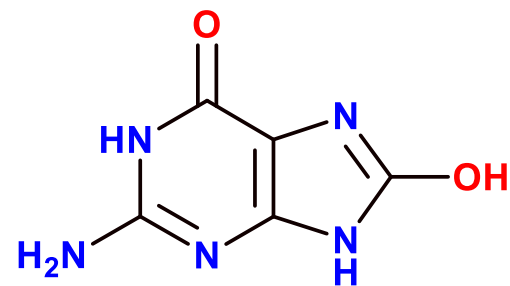
Spencer PE. *et al.* (1996) *Chem Res Toxicol.* **9**:1152-1158.



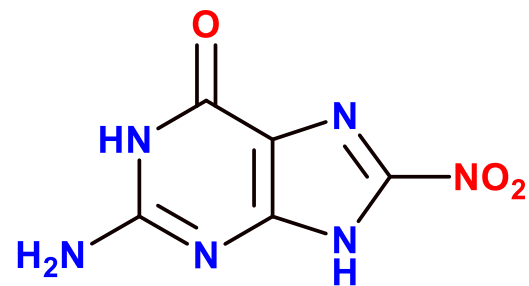
# Reaction of Peroxynitrite with 2'-Deoxyguanosine Continued



4,5-dihydro-5-hydroxy-4-(nitrosooxy)-2'-deoxyguanosine



8-Hydroxyguanine

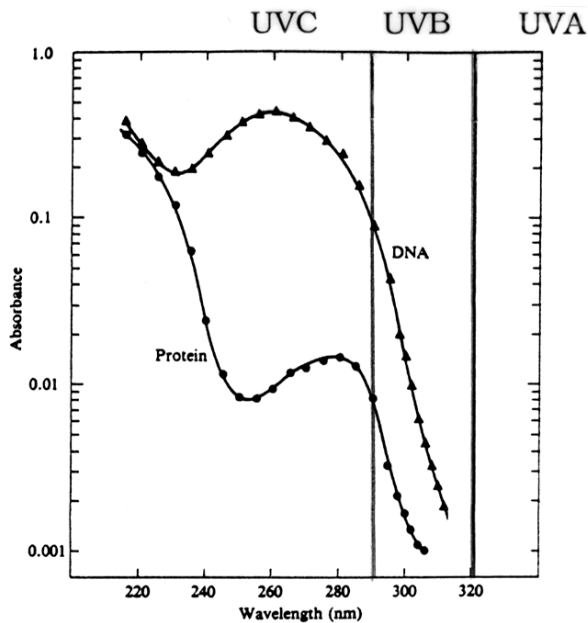


8-Nitroguanine

Adapted from Douki T. *et al.* (1996) *Chem Res Toxicol.* **9**:3-7.



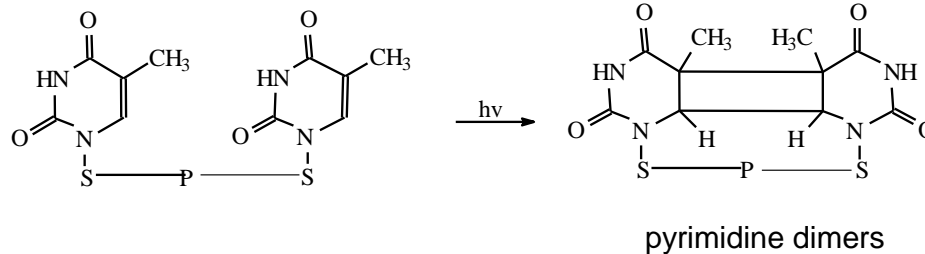
# DNA Damage by UV light



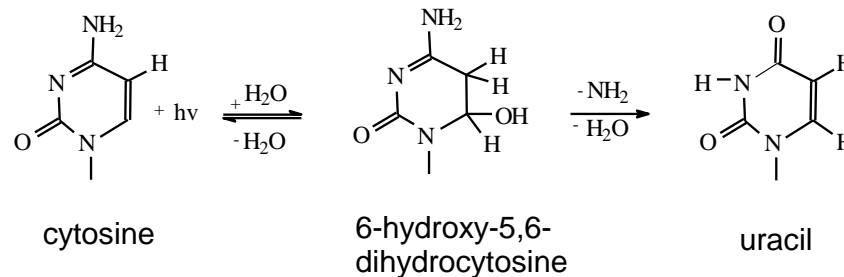
**Absorption spectra of DNA (calf thymus) and a protein (BSA) at equal conc. ( $\approx 20 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ).**

Adapted from: Harm W. (1980)  
*Biological Effects of Ultraviolet Radiation.*  
Cambridge University Press.

dimers:



hydrates:



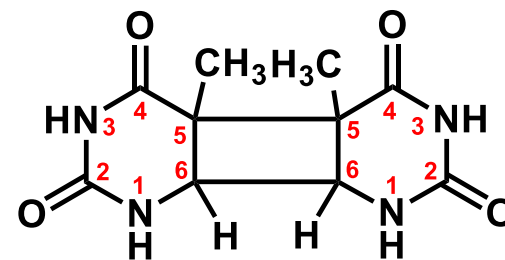
**Adapted from: Halliwell B, Gutteridge JM. (1989)  
*Free Radicals in Biology and Medicine*  
Clarendon Press Oxford 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.**



## Oxidative Damage of DNA by Ultraviolet Light

The main **photoproduct** formed by irradiation of DNA is **pyrimidine dimers**.

(Adjacent pyrimidines)



(Thymine dimer)

(Saturation of the C5=C6 double bond)

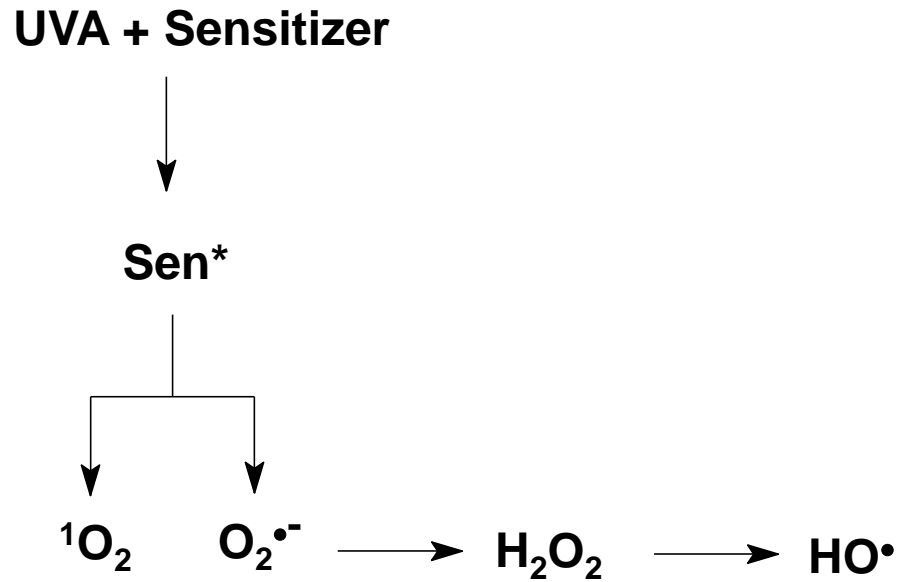
Adjacent pyrimidines in DNA become covalently linked by the formation of a 4-member ring. The consequences are **helix distortion**, but correct H-bonding can still occur.

- Reversible process: **Pyr + Pyr  $\rightleftharpoons$  Pyr-Pyr**

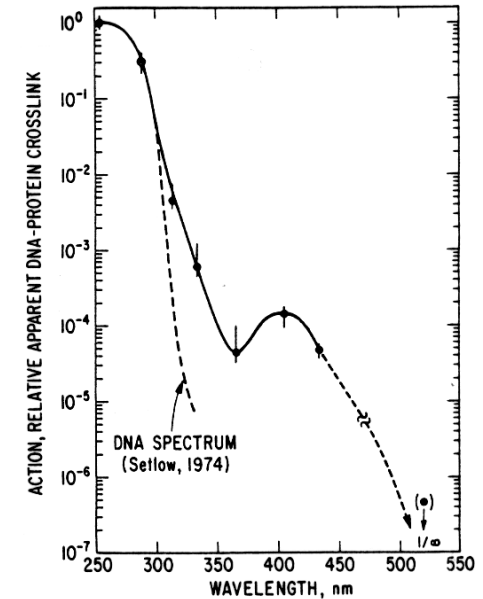
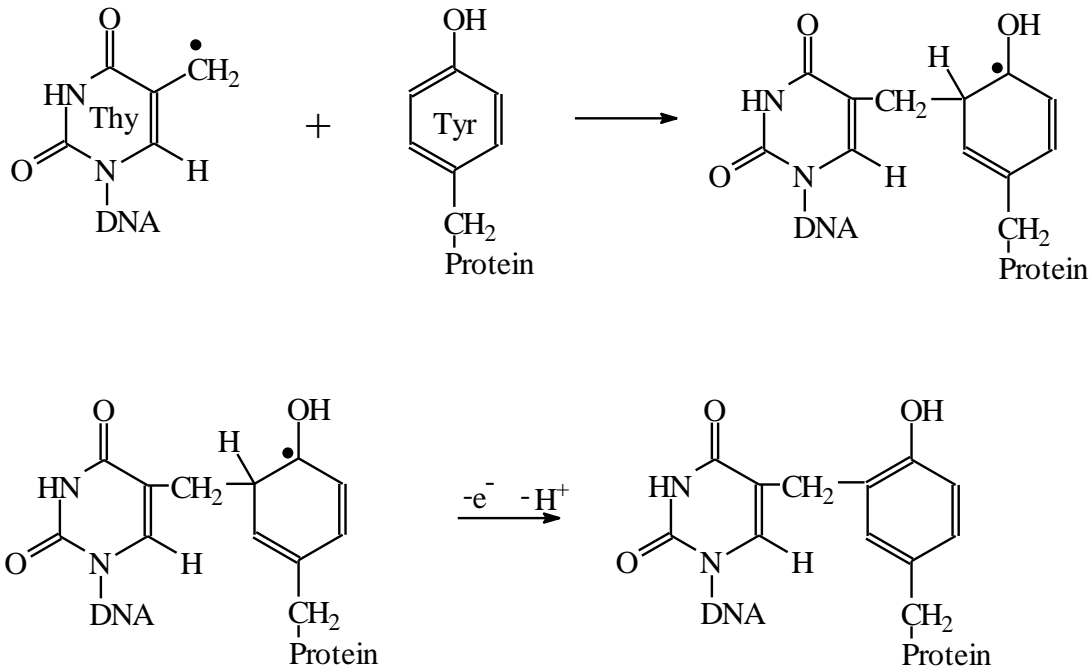
UV can also form:

- Protein-DNA cross-links
- DNA-DNA cross-links.

# Photosensitization can Produce Singlet Oxygen or Hydroxyl Radical



# DNA-Protein-Crosslinking (DPC): Produced by UV Light or HO<sup>•</sup> Attack

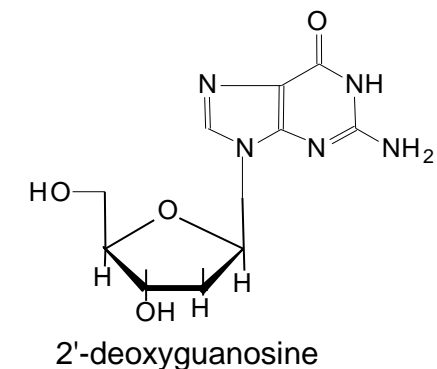


**Action spectrum for the relative induction of DNA-protein crosslinks by UV and visible radiations**

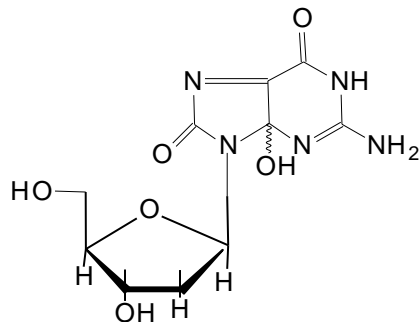
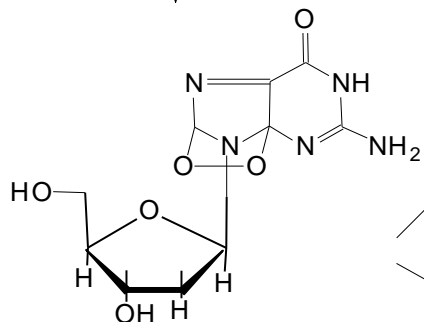
Peak GJ, Peak M J, Sikorski RS, Jones CA. (1985) *Photochem Photobiol.* **41**:295-302.



# $^1\text{O}_2$ can React with DNA Bases

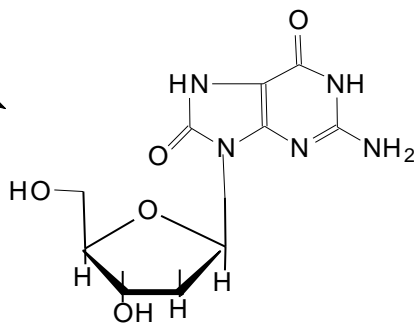


$^1\text{O}_2$



7,8-dihydro-4-hydroxy-8-oxo-2-deoxyguanosine (4R\* and 4S\*)

$^1\text{O}_2$



$^1\text{O}_2$  reacts with dG to form 8 OHdG

Adapted from: Devasagayam TPA, Steenken S, Obendorf MSW, Schulz WA, Sies H. (1991) *Biochemistry*. **30**:6283-6289.



## Consequences of DNA Oxidation

- **DNA adducts/AP sites/Strand breaks**
  - Mutations
  - initiation of cancer
- **Stimulation of DNA repair**
  - can deplete energy reserves (PARP)
  - imbalanced induction of DNA repair enzymes
  - induction of error prone polymerases
  - activation of other signaling pathways

### Summary

- **Oxidants can react with the DNA bases or sugars**
- **Guanine is the most sensitive base towards oxidative attack.**
- **More than 20 different oxidized base products are known; some can be mutagenic.**
- **Damage to the sugar can result in strand breaks.**
- **Electron rich moieties are the preferred sites of attack.**