



Objectives

- Chemical structure of vitamin A.
- Vitamin A sources and Types
- Absorption and transport
- Biochemical functions,
- Deficiency manifestations
- Therapeutic uses

Forms of vitamin A

- **Pro vitamin A**
- These are the substances which are converted to vitamins in the body.
- The most abundant pro vitamin A is β carotene, comes from a group of compounds called the carotenoids (give yellow and red color to foods). One need to eat six time as much β carotene to get same amount of vitamin A.
- **Active vitamin A**
- Obtained directly from foods.

sources of vitamin A

- **Animal sources**

Cod fish liver oil, butter, milk, cheese, egg yolk.

- **Plant sources**

In plants it is in the form of pro vitamin.

- **Carotene**

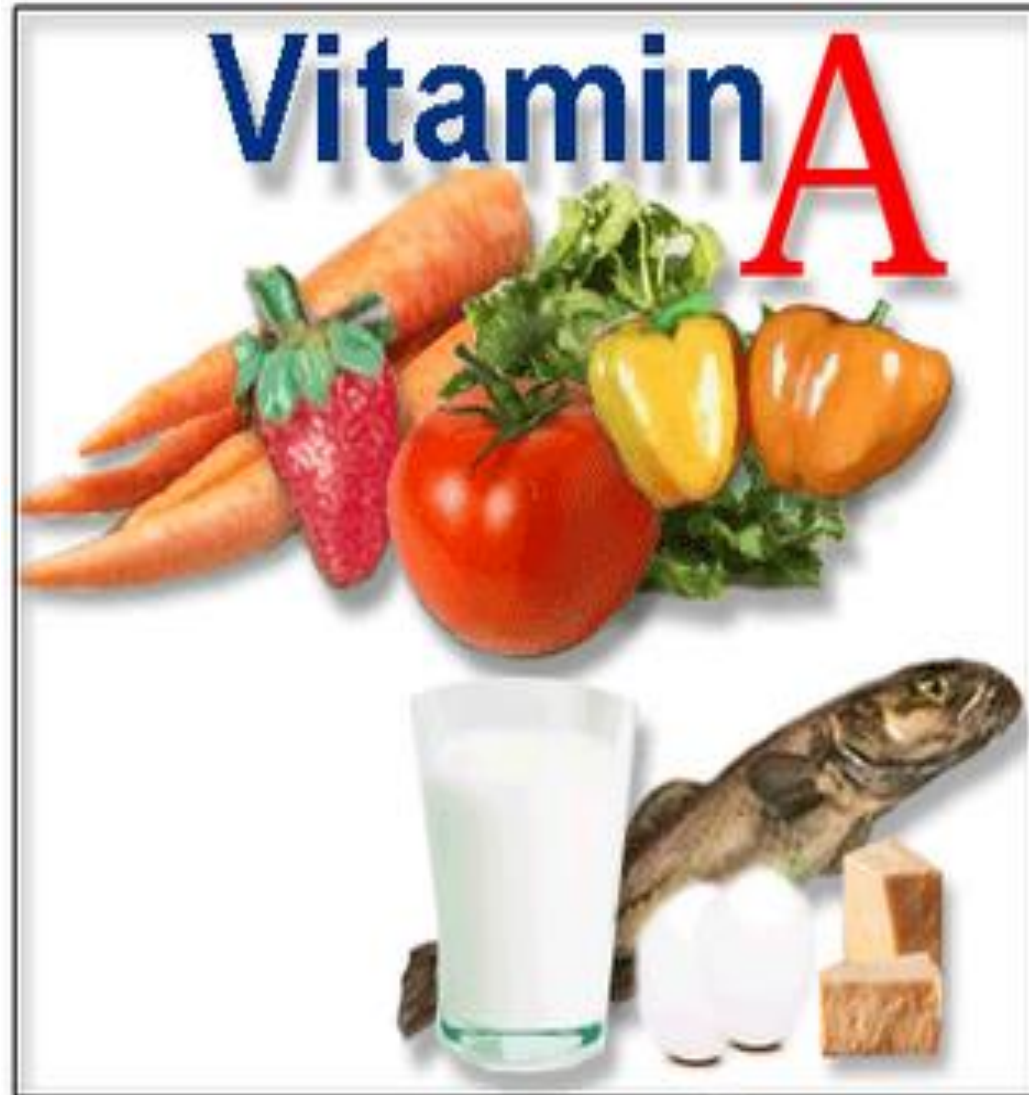
Tomatoes, carrot, green yellow vegetables, spinach and fruits such as mango, papaya and corn, sweet potatoes.



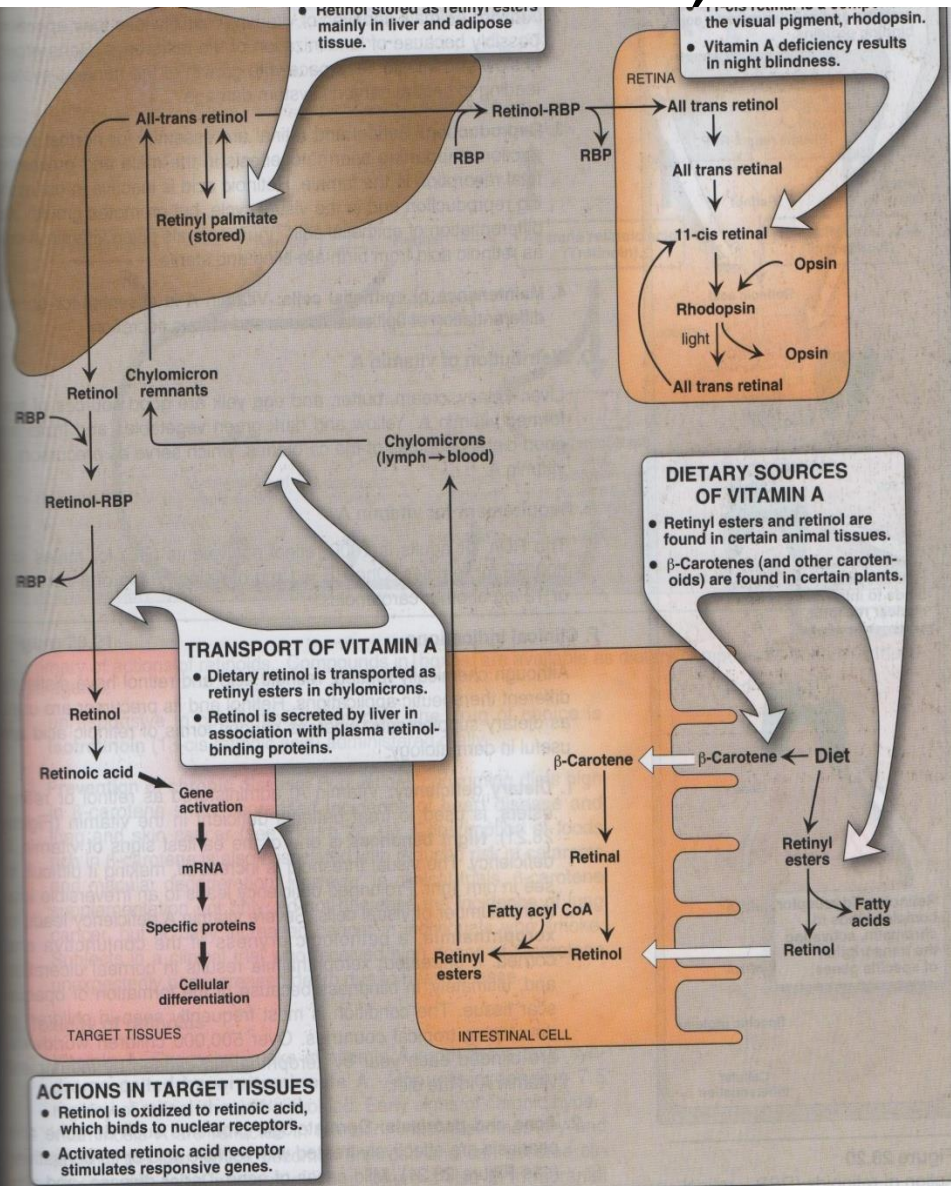
DAILY REQUIREMENT

Daily requirement.

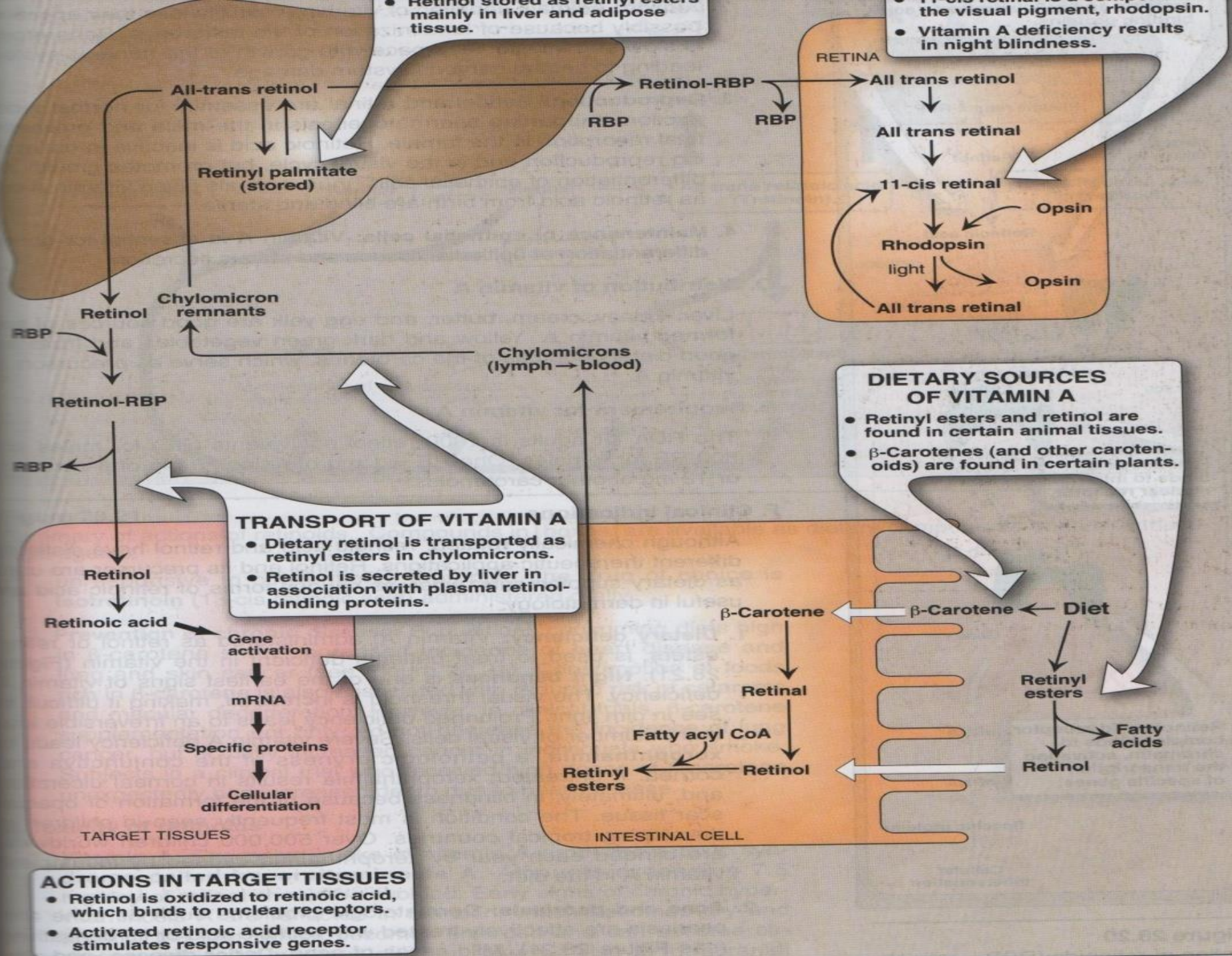
- Infants_ 400-600 IU /day.
- Children_ 400-900 IU/day.
- Male_ 900-3000 IU /day.
- Female_ 700-2500 IU /day.
- RDA..... 5000 IU/ day



ABSORPTION, STORAGE AND TRANSPORT



- Absorbed in small intestine. Dietary vitamin A is in ester form.
- Hydrolyzed by cholesterol esterase.
- β -carotene di-oxygenase cleave β -carotene to two molecules of retinaldehyde .
- Stored in body as retinyl palmitate in liver (10-20mg/100 gm of liver).
- Transported in blood by retinol binding proteins.



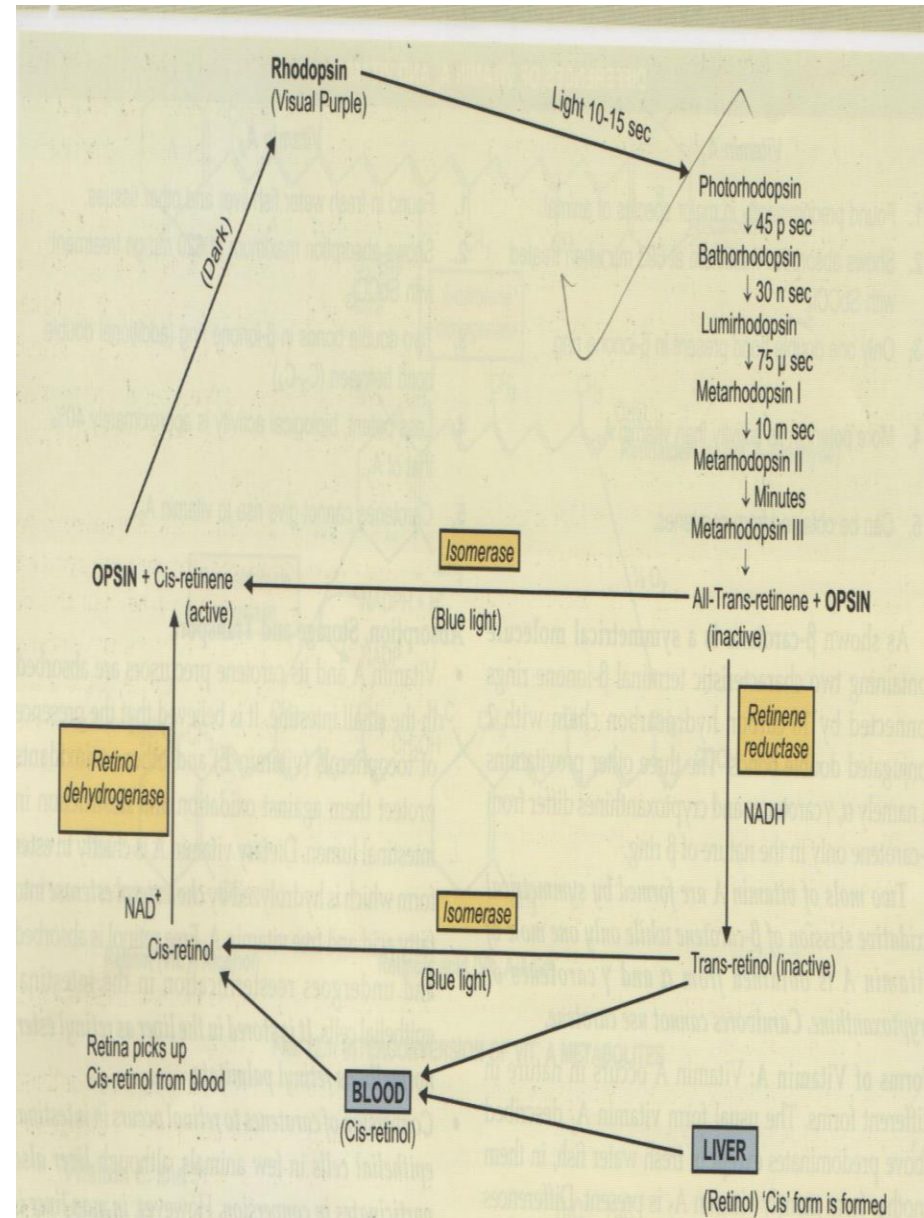
VITAMIN A FUNCTIONS

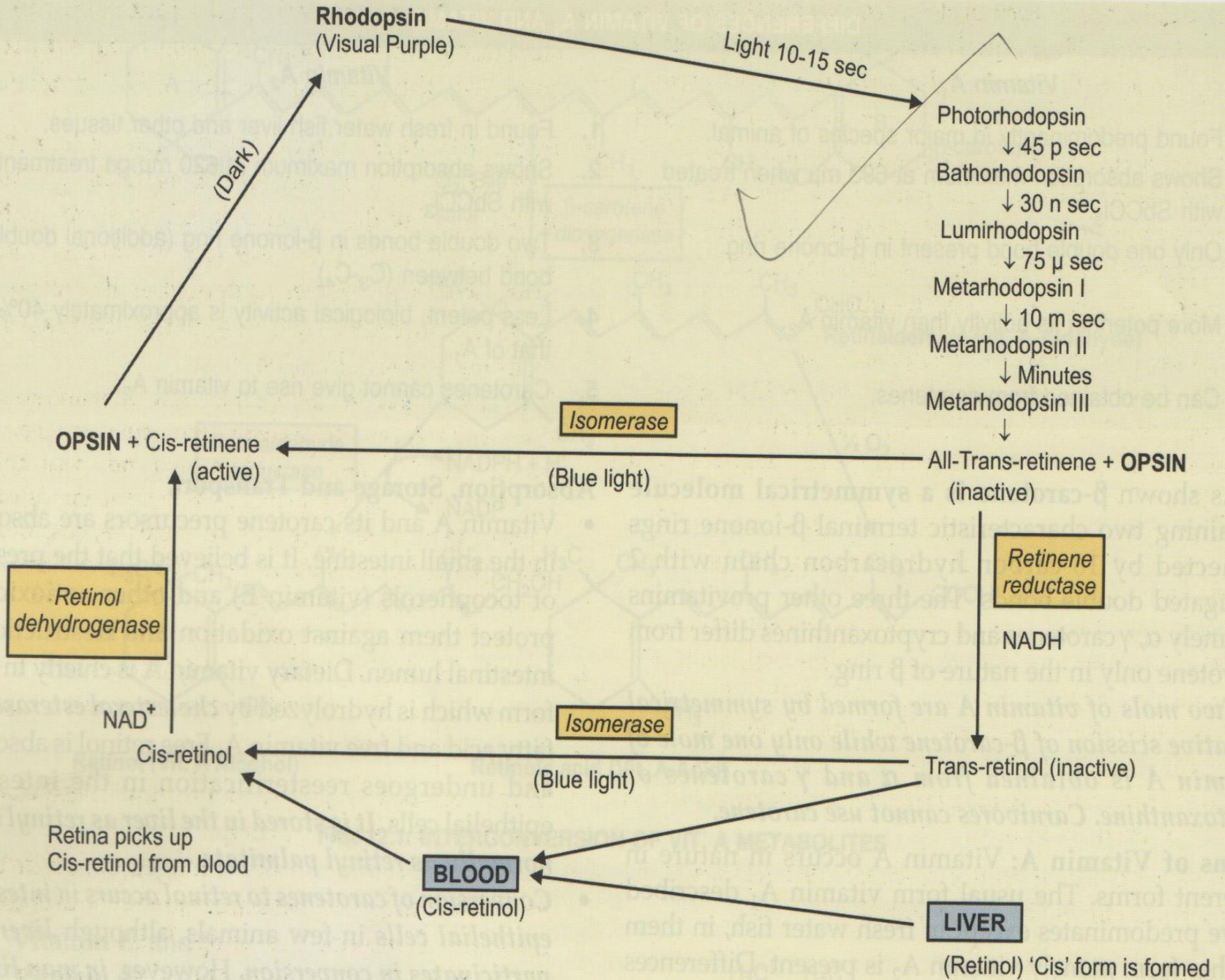
Fats soluble essential for

- Vision
- Reproduction
- Growth and
- Maintenance of epithelial tissues.

METABOLIC FUNCTIONS

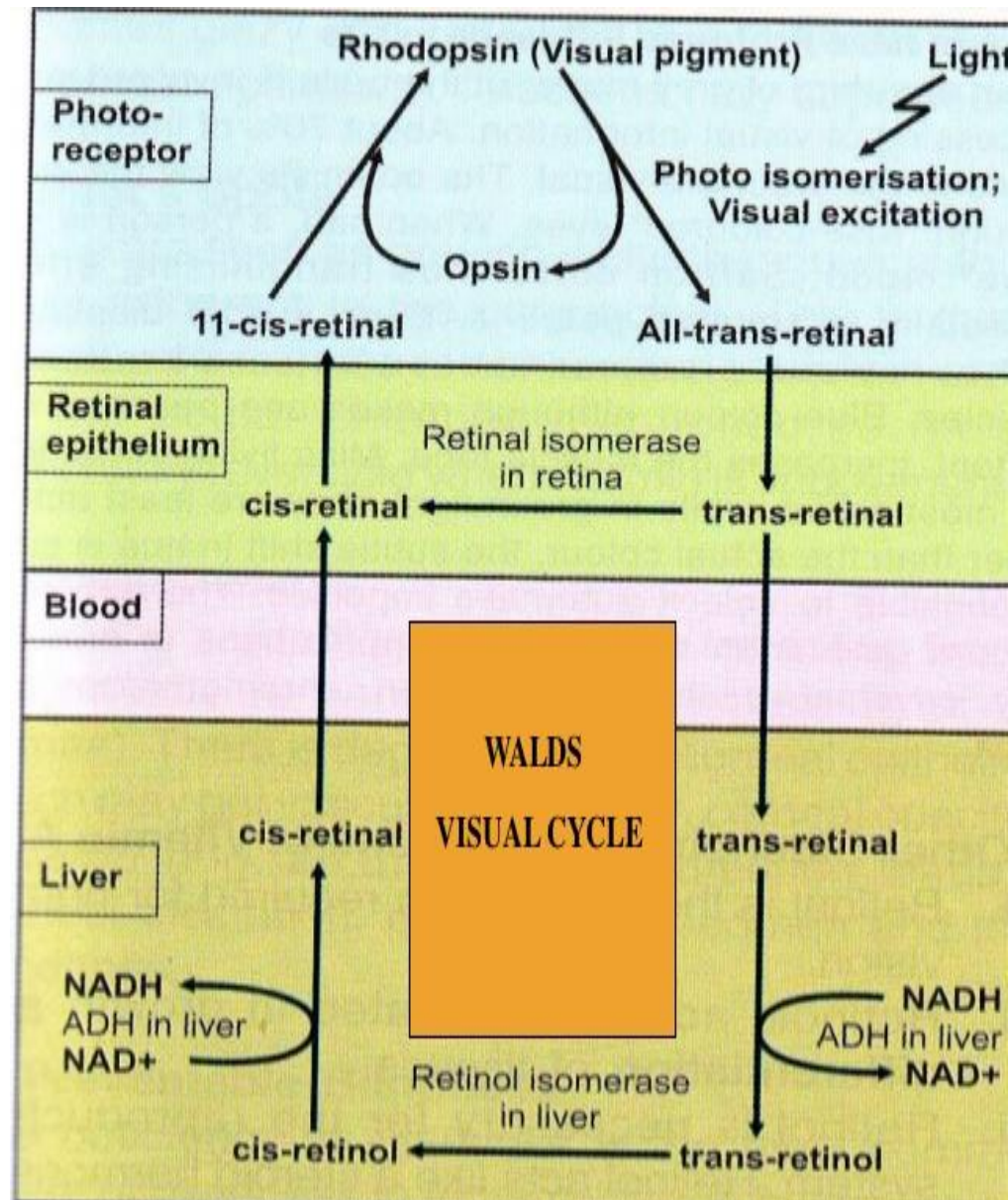
- Vision
- **Wald's visual cycle (Rhodopsin cycle)**
- When light falls on rhodopsin it splits into opsin and all-trans-retinal.
- All-trans-retinal is isomerizes to its 11-cis-isomer .



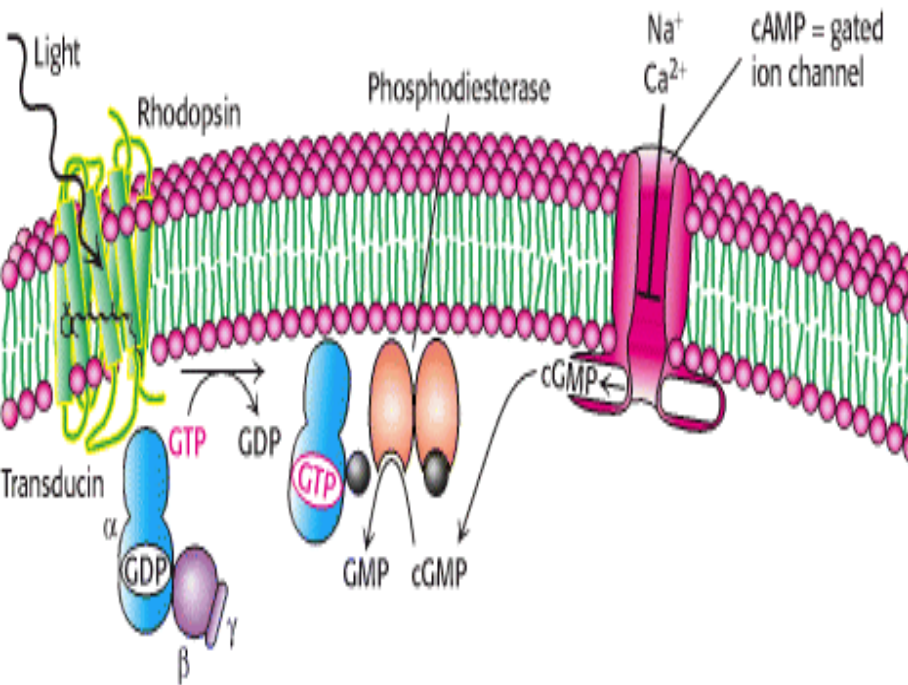


wald's visual cycle

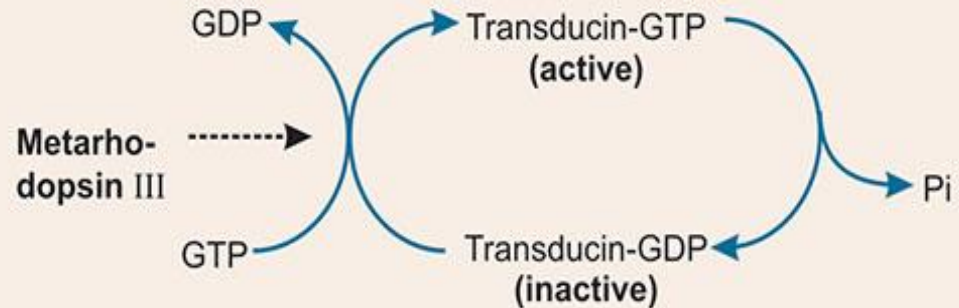
- All-trans-retinal can be converted to all-trans-retinol by retinene reductase.
- All-trans-retinol is first isomerizes to 11-cis-retinol
- 11-cis-retinol then be converted to 11-cis-retinal by retinol dehydrogenase.
- 11-cis-retinal combines with opsin to form rhodopsin.



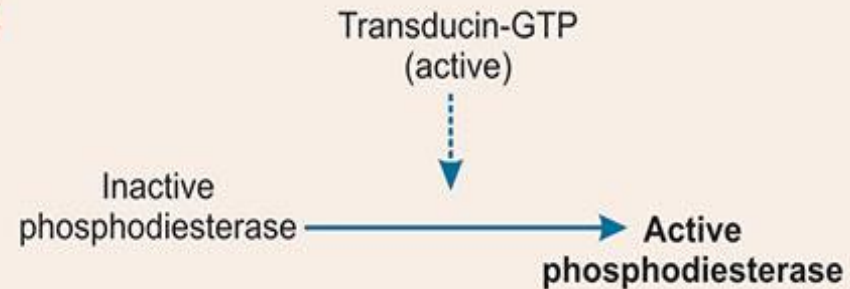
Role of cyclic GMP in light and dark adaptation



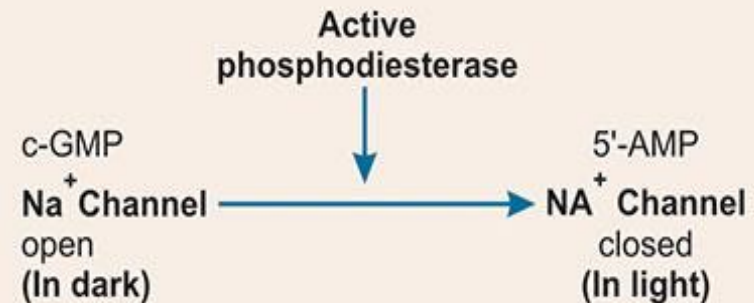
Step-I



Step-II



Step-III



- 2) Binds to transcription regulatory proteins and causes gene expression and tissue differentiation.
- 3) Enhance the activity of Immune system.
- 4) Embryonic development and reproduction. Involve in cell differentiation + cell division

- 5) Bone metabolism- osteoblasts and osteoclasts depend on vitamin A. deficiency results in growth retardation.
- 6) Haematopoiesis-synthesis of transferrin. has a role in iron absorption.
- 7) Skin health- controls biosynthesis of membrane glycoproteins and glycosaminoglycans necessary for mucous secretions to prevent keratin synthesis.
- 8) Antioxidant and anticancer activity (β -carotene).
- 9) Sperm production in male, reproductive cycle in female require vitamin A.

Causes of Deficiency

Primary

- Nutritional

Secondary

- Impaired absorption--celiac disease
- lack of lipase--pancreatitis
- Impaired storage--liver disease
- Failure to convert β -carotene to retinol
- Zinc deficiency inhibits retinol mobilization from liver
- Alcohol interfere conversion of retinol to retinaldehyde.

DEFICIENCY

1) NIGHT BLINDNESS:

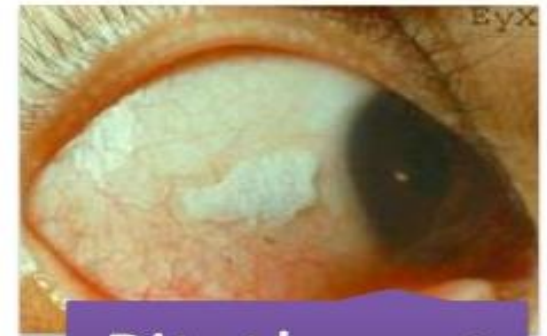
- Vitamin A deficiency depresses the re synthesis of rhodopsin and interfere with the function of rods resulting in night blindness.

2) XEROPHTHALMIA:

- Dryness of conjunctiva and cornea.
- white opaque dots on either side in each eye(bitot's spots).



Bitot's spot



Bitot's spot

Deficiency

3) Keratomalacia

keratinisation , softening and ulceration of corneal epithelium,keratomalacia and loss of vision.



Xerophthalmia



Keratomalacia

4) Skin become dry, scaly and rough.

Keratinization of respiratory epithelium leads to infection and low resistance to disease. UTI and calculi formation.

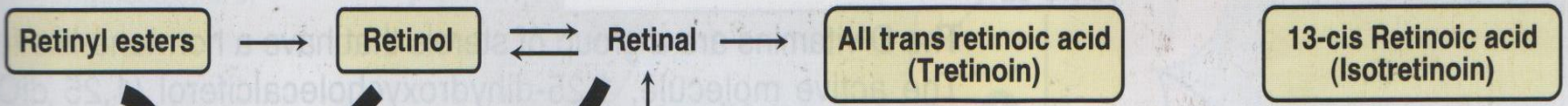
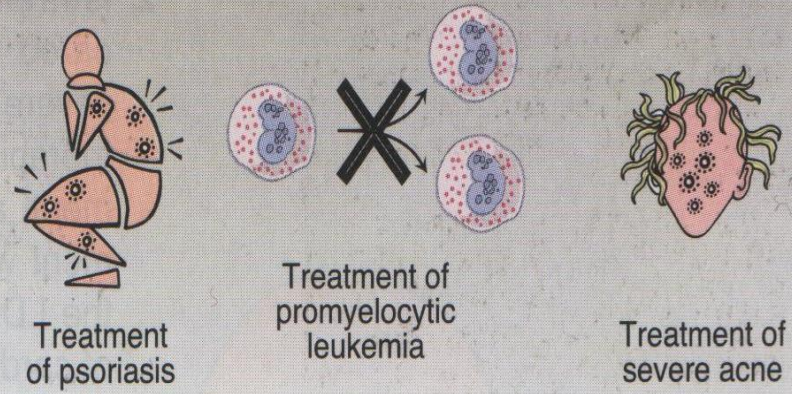


**Deficiency
of
Vitamin A
Leads to Dry Skin**

CLINICAL USES

- For treatment of acne and psoriasis.
- Retinyl palmitate used in skin creams.
- Tretinoin (all trans retinoic acid) used for topical application.
- Used in oral leukoplakia.
- Beta carotenes decreases incidence of heart and lung disease and skin cancer.

**Actions
as therapeutic
agents**



♂ ♀
Maintenance of reproduction

👁️
Maintenance of vision

👤 👤 👤
Promotion of growth

🧬
Differentiation and maintenance of epithelial tissue; gene expression

**Actions
as dietary
components**

HYPERVITAMINOSIS 'A'

- Nausea, jaundice, irritability, anorexia, vomiting, blurring of vision, headache, hair loss, muscle and abdominal pain and weakness, drowsiness and altered mental status.
- In chronic cases hair loss, dry skin, fever, insomnia, weight loss, bone fractures, anemia and diarrhea.
- Congenital malformations in growing fetus.

References

- Chatterjea
- Jaypee
- Satyanaryn

