





Objectives

Introduction of reproductive system.

Genetic basis of sex

• Discuss the Chemical structure of sex hormones.

Describe the Synthesis of sex hormones

Sex hormones chemistry and synthesis

By

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Reproductive system

Reproduction is needed for survival of species so

- Reproduction means continuation of species.
- In case of human reproduction is bi-sexual, i.e it is dependant on fusion of male & female gametes.

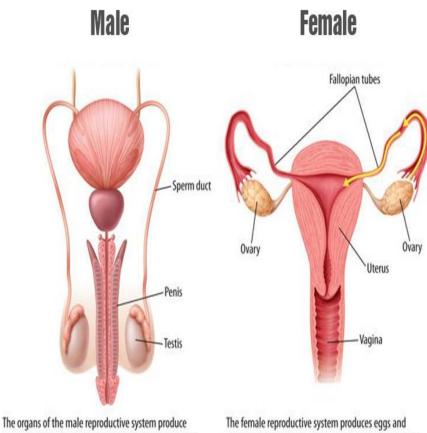


Reproductive system consist of

Primary sex organs.

These are gonads

- Testes in male & ovaries in female.
- Gonads perform two functions
- 1. Production of gametes
- 2. Production of hormones

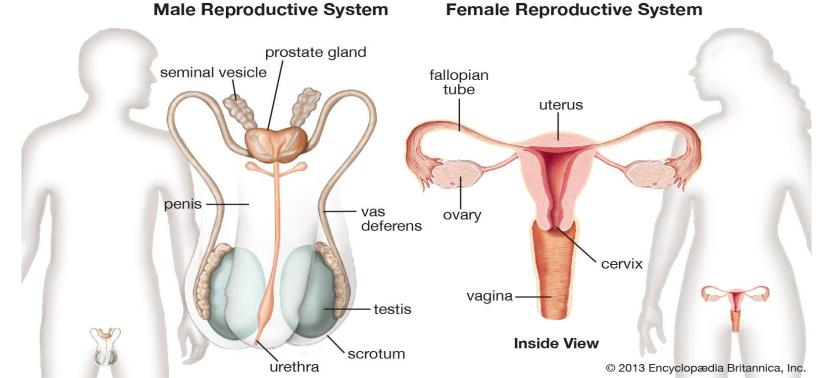


The organs of the male reproductive system produce sperm and deliver it to the female reproductive system.

The female reproductive system produces eggs and provides a place for a new human to grow and develop before birth.

The accessory sex organs

- They are essential for normal reproduction.
- These are
- External genitalia of both sexes.
- Vagina ,uterus, uterine tubes in female
- Seminal vesicles ,vas defrens , bulbouretheral gland & prostate in male



Puberty

This is the biological process through which a person becomes sexually mature.

It is affected by

- Inheritance & genotype
- Socioeconomic factors
- General wellbeing of person

Secondary sex characters

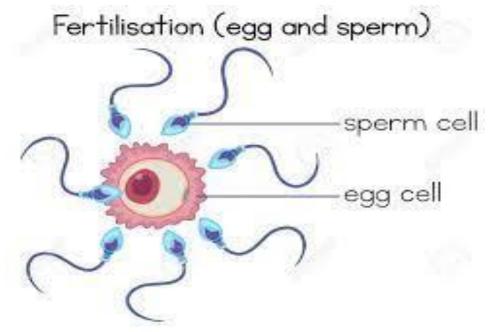
- Physical changes that appear in both sexes at the time of puberty. These are
- Appearance of axillary & pubic hairs in both sexes.

Facial hairs & deepening of voice in male.

 Development of breast & beginning of menstruation in female.

Genetic basis of sex

• The genetic sex of an individual is determined at the time of fertilization when an X & Y-chromosome bearing spermatozoa fuses with a normal X-chromosome bearing ovum, which produces a female (xx) or a male (xy) zygote.



Genetic determinants

- The X & Y –chromosomes are called the sex chromosomes.
- In male the Y chromosome normally carries the sex determining region of Y chromosome which causes the undifferentiated, bipotential gonad to become testis. Y chromosomes are lighter than X chromosome, so Y chromosome containing sperm reach earlier to ovum than X chromosome containing sperm.

Hormonal determinants

- Fetal testes secretes hormones
- 1. Anti mullerian hormone, which regresses mullerian duct.
- 2. Testosterone, which causes virilization of the wolffian duct.
- 3. Differentiation of external genitalia is dependent upon 5α -reductase ,which converts testosterone to 5α dihydrotestosterone.

Deficiencies of any one of these is responsible for abnormal sexual differentiation.

SEX HORMONES

Sex hormones

Three types

Androgen

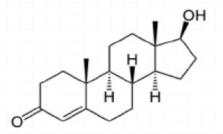
Male hormones

Estrogens

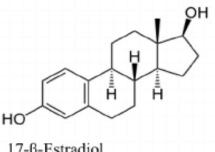
Female hormones

Gastogens

Progestational hormones

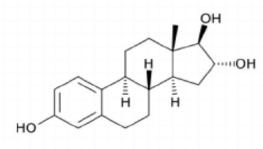


Testosterone (C19H28O2)



17-β-Estradiol (C₁₈H₂₄O₂)

Progesterone (C21H30O2)

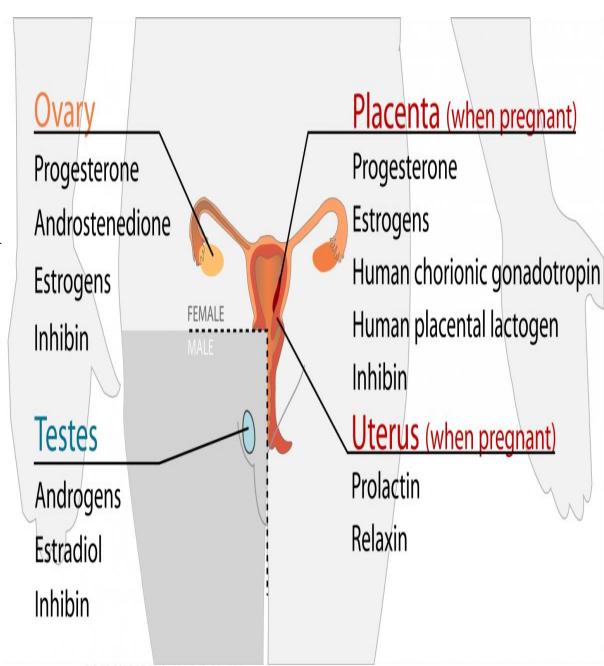


Estriol (C₁₈H₂₄O₃)

Secreted by testes in male and ovaries in female.

They are also secreted in small amount by placenta and adrenal cortex.

Steroid in nature. Related to adrenal cortical hormones



Male hormones

Androgens in man are

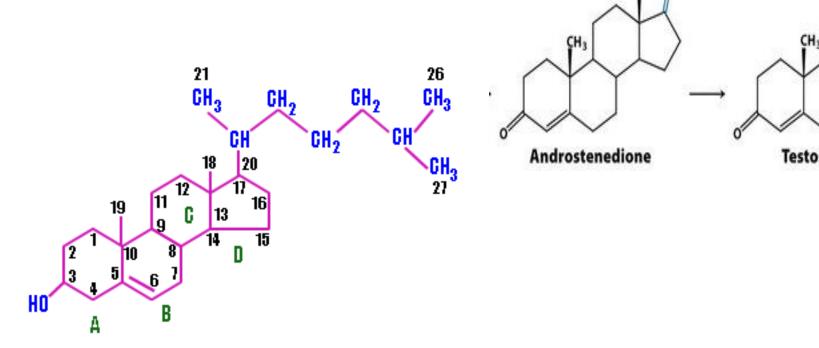
- Testosterones
- Epiandrosterone (3 β-androsterone)
- Androsterone
- Dehydroepiandrosterone

Androsterone

Dehydroepiandrosterone

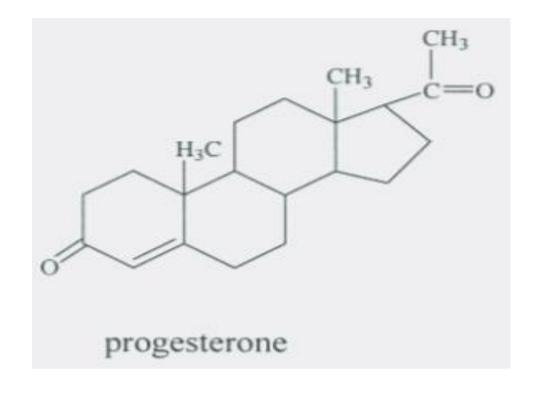
Chemical structure of Androgens

- All contain C₁₉ atoms.
- CH_3 group at C_{10} and C_{13} position.



Female hormones

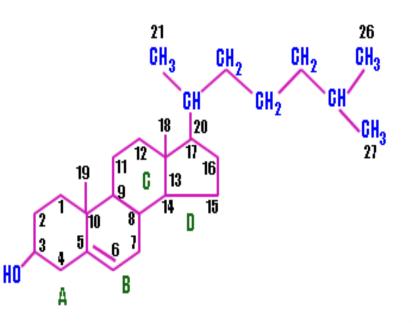
Two main types
Follicular or estrogenic hormones
Progestational hormones



Female hormones

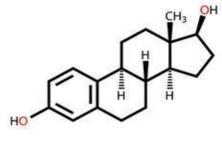
Oestradiol/estrogen

- All naturally occurring estrogens are C_{18} steroids
- Ring A has aromatic nature.
- A methyl group is attached only at 13 position.
- OH group at C₃ position possess phenolic properties.

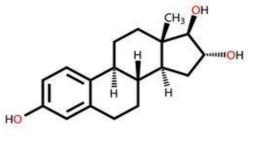


ESTROGENS

Estrone



Estradiol



Estriol

Estrogens classification

NATURAL

Beta Estradiol

The principal estrogenic hormone in circulation and the most active form, and the principal estrogen secreted by the ovaries.

Estriol

Principal metabolite found in urine of pregnant and non pregnant women.

Estriol is a weak estrogen, derived both from estradiol and estrone

Estrone

Small amounts of estrone are also secreted but most of this is formed in the peripheral tissues. it is an oxidative product of estradiol

The estrogenic potency of beta-estradiol is 12 times that of estrone and 80 times that of estriol.

STEROID

SYNTHETIC

Ethinyle Estradiol

Mestranol

NON STEROID

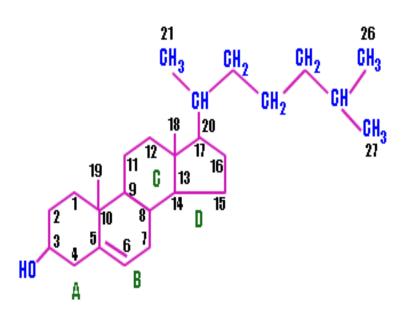
SYNTHETIC

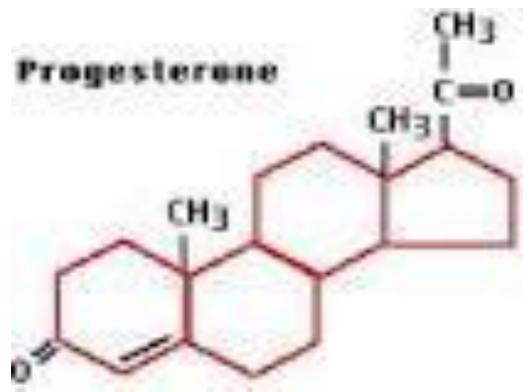
Diethylstilbestrol

Progesterone

Chemically it is 4-pregnane-3,20-dione.

It is C_{21} steroid having methyl group at C_{10} & C_{13}





PROGESTINS CLASSIFICATION

NATURAL

PROGESTERONE

In the normal non-pregnant female, progesterone is secreted in significant amounts only during the latter half of each ovarian cycle, where it is secreted by the corpus luteum. Also formed in adrenal cortex & testes.

SYNTHETIC

- 17–HYDROXYPROGESTERONE
- MEDROXYPROGESTERONE ACETATE
- MEGESTROLE

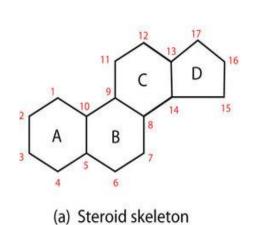
$$\begin{array}{c} CH_3 \\ C=0 \\ \\ D \end{array}$$

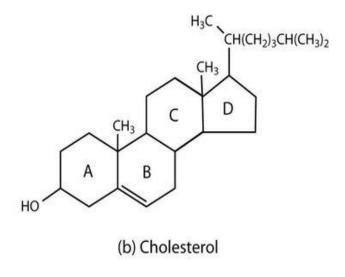
Synthesis of Androgens

- Androgens are produced in testes(leyding cells), adrenal cortex and placenta.
- Synthesized in the interstitial tissues by the Leyding cells.
- The immediate precursor is cholesterol.

Synthesize from

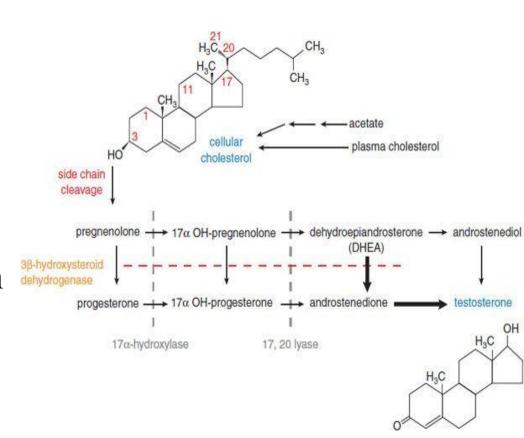
- Acetate
- Cholesterol
- Two pathways
- Δ 4- pathway
- $\Delta 5$ pathway





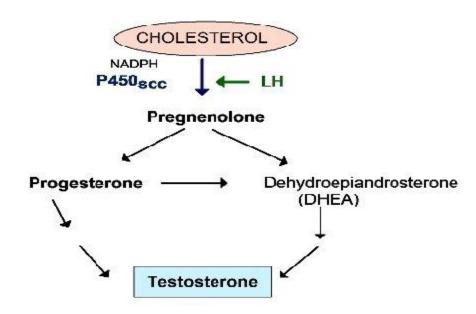
Biosynthesis of androgens

- Rate limiting step is delivery of cholesterol to the inner membrane of mitochondria by the transport protein(StAR).
- Cholesterol is acted upon by side chain cleavage enzyme P450scc.
- Cholesterol is converted to pregnenolone in the leyding cells mitochondria.



- Conversion of cholesterol to pregnanolone is similar in adrenal cortex, ovary and testes.
- The difference is that LH hormone promotes the synthesis in these organs instead of ACTH.

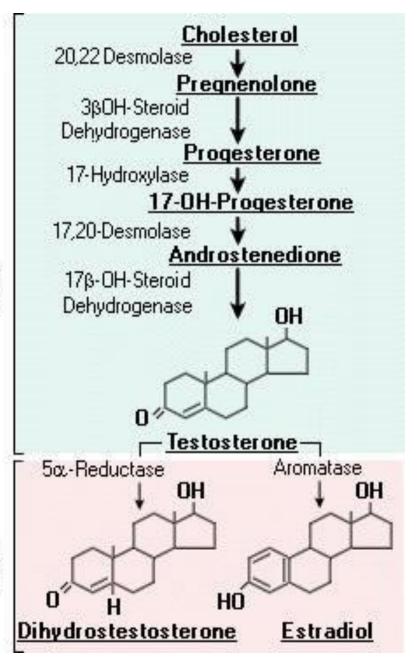
Androgens: Synthesis



- Pregnenolone is translocated to smooth endoplasmic reticulum, where testosterone is synthesized.
- Testosterone secretions are bi urinal that is more in the morning than in the late afternoon.

Leydig Cells

Sertoli Cells



Synthesis of androgens

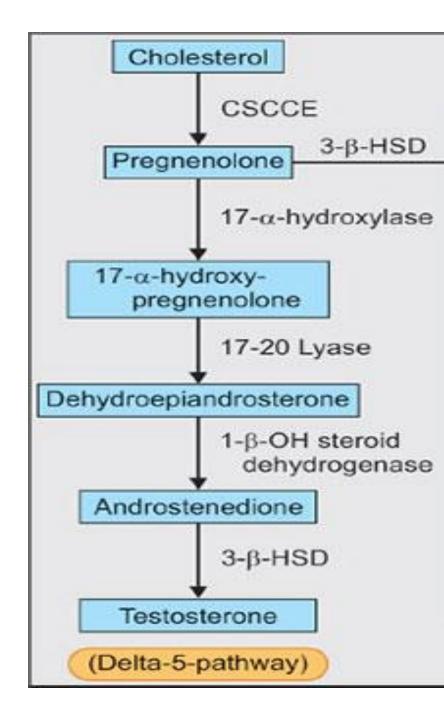
- Five enzyme activities are present in three proteins.
- 3- β -hydroxy steroid dehydrogenase and Δ^{4-5} isomerase.
- $17-\alpha$ -hydroxylase and 17-20-lyase.
- 17-β OH- steroid dehydrogenase

Δ^5 pathway Predominates in human

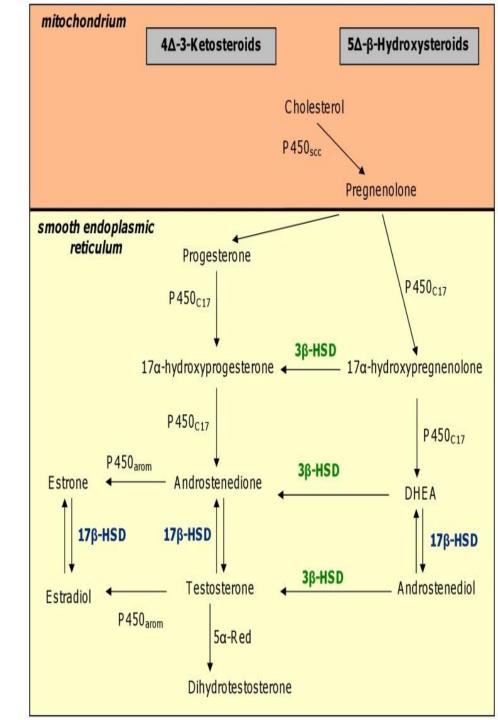
Pregnenolone is converted to $17-\alpha$ -OH-pregnenolone by the enzyme $17-\alpha$ —hydroxylase.

17-α-OH-pregnenolone is then converted to Dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) by cleavage of side chain by enzyme lyase.

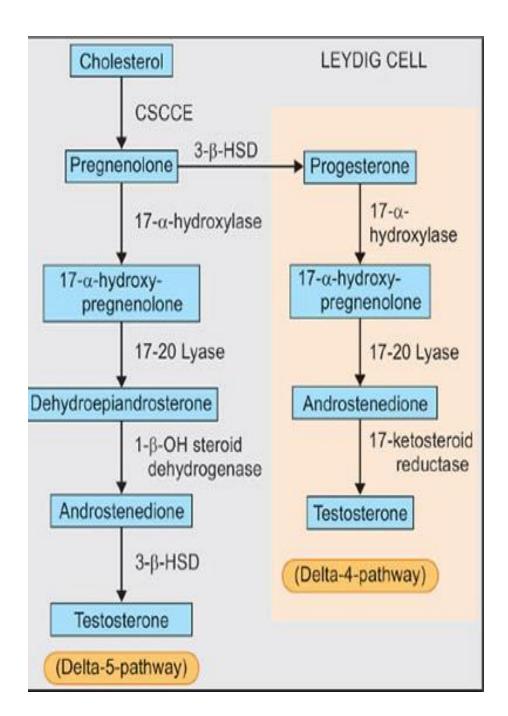
DHEA is first reduced to Δ^5 Androstendiol by 17- β -OH steroid dehydrogenase.



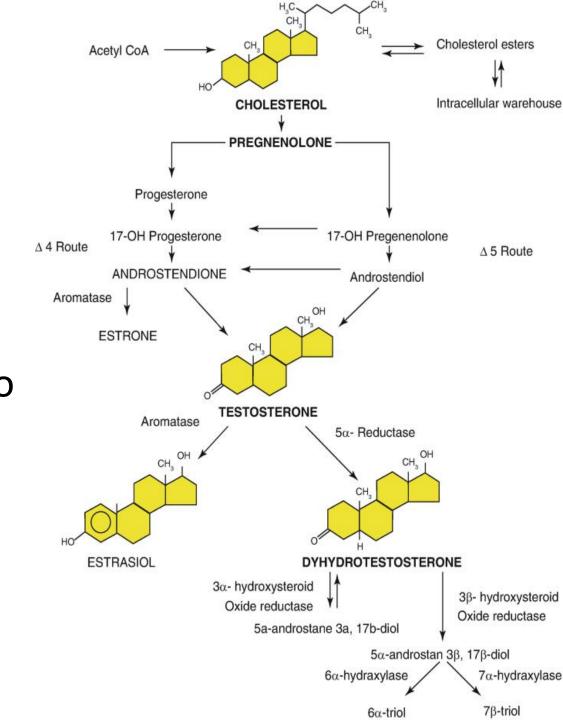
- Androstnediol further undergoes reduction & isomerization to form testosterone.
- DHEA alternatively converted to 'Androstendione' by dehydrogenase which is reduced to form testosterone.



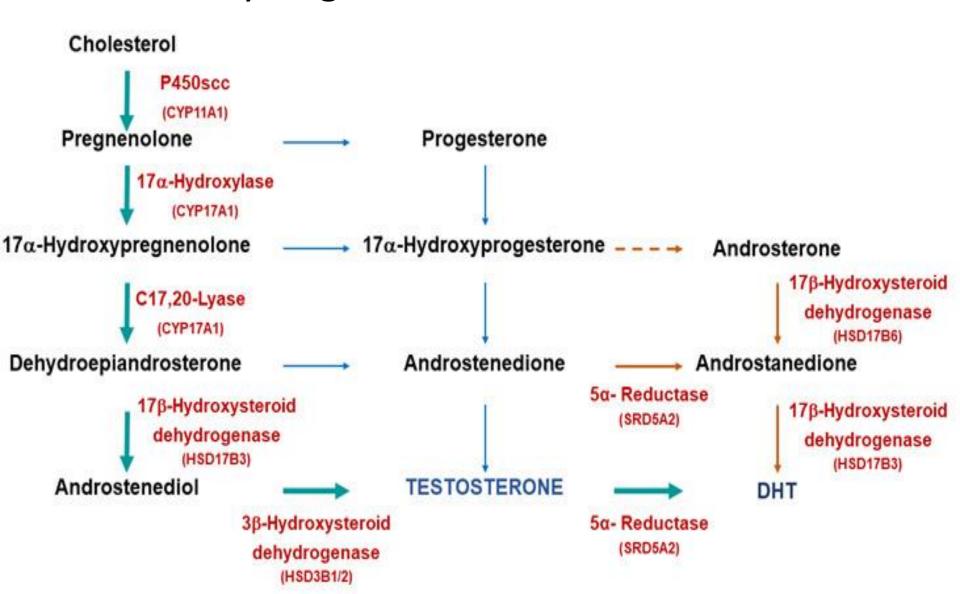
- Δ^4 pathway
- Pregnenolone is converted to progestrone catalyzed by enzyme
 3-β-OH steroid dehydrogenase & isomerase.



- Progestrone is hydroxylated by
- 17-α-hydroxylase to form
 - 17-α-OHprogestrone, which loses its side chain to form 'androstendione' by the enzyme lyase.

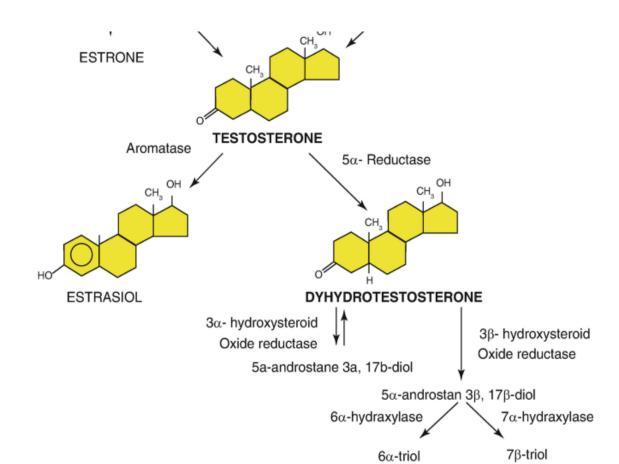


• It is reduced at C_{17} position by enzyme 17- β -OH steroid dehydrogenase to form testosterone.



- Testosterone is metabolized in two ways
- 1. Oxidation at 17 position occur in many tissues including liver and produce 17-ketosteroids that are generally inactive or less active.

2. Reduction of ring A double bond and 3-ketone is less efficient occur primarily in target tissues and produce more active or potent form dihydrotestosterone by enzyme 5α-reductase.



• DHT is active form in prostate, external genetalia and some areas of skin.

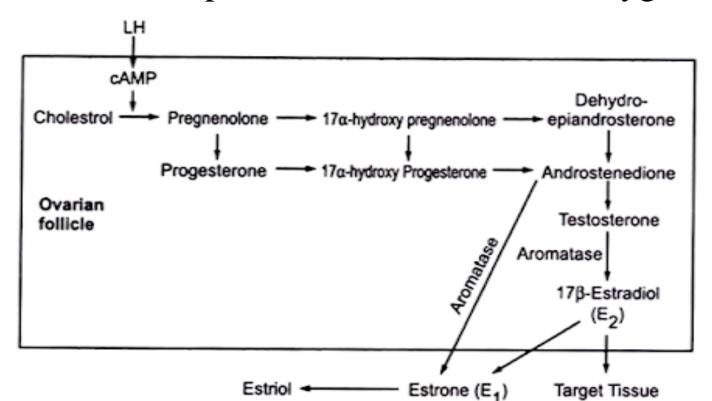
- Testosterone production in adult male is 5mg/day.
- DHT is $400\mu gm$. 50-100 μgm is secreted by testes the rest is produced peripherally by 5- α reductase.

SYNTHESIS OF ESTROGENS

Estrogen is synthesized by aromatization of androgens i.e testosterone & androstendione.

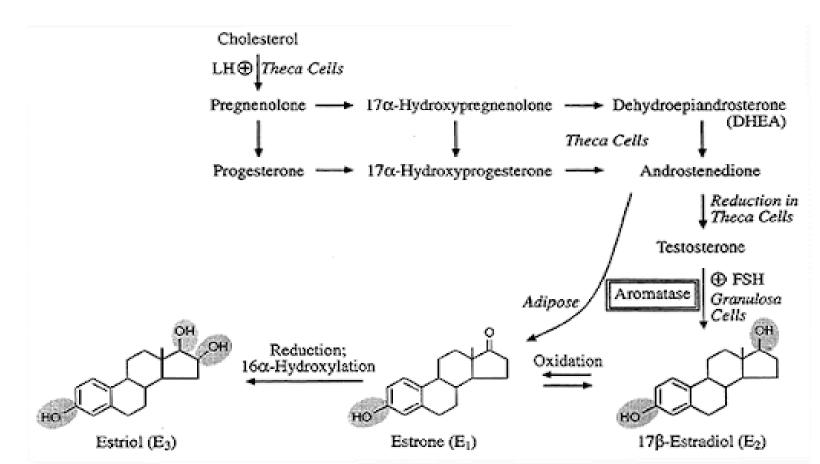
The process involves three hydroxylation steps, requiring molecular oxygen & NADPH.

Enzyme aromatase complex includes P450 monooxygenase.



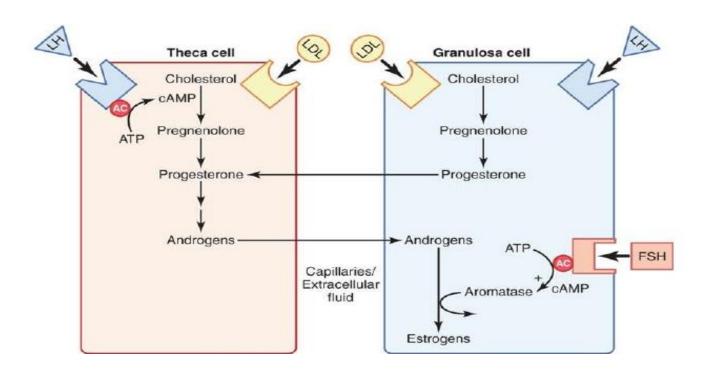
Synthesis of estrogen

- Estradiol is formed if the substrate of this enzyme is testosterone.
- Estrone results from aromatization of androstendion.



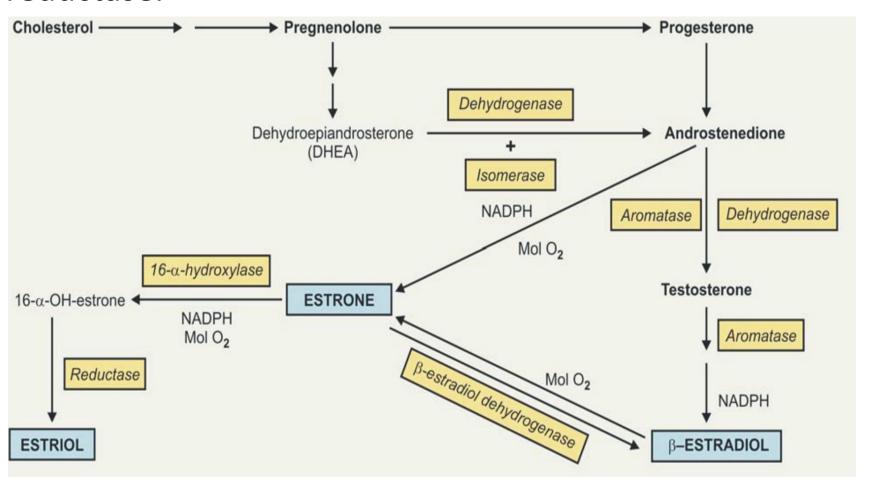
SYNTHESIS OF ESTROGENS

- Theca interna cells of graffian follicals are source of testosterone and androstendione.
- In granulosa cells testosterone is converted to estrone and β-estradiol by enzyme aromatase.



Synthesis of estrogen

- Estrone is converted to $16-\alpha$ -OH-estrone by enzyme $16-\alpha$ -hydroxylase, which also require mol O_2 & NADPH.
- $16-\alpha$ -OH-estrone is reduced to form estriol by enzyme reductase.

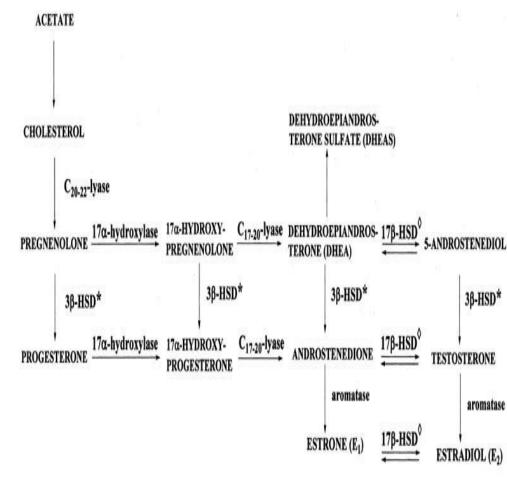


- Significant estrogen is produced by peripheral aromatization of androgens.
- In males peripheral aromatization accounts for 80% production of estradiol.
- In females 50% estradiol is produced by aromatization of adrenal androgens in pregnancy.
- Conversion of androstendione to estrone is the major source of estrogen in postmeopausal women.

Synthesis of progesterone

Progesterone is an intermediate in the synthesis of corticosteroids, testosterone & estrogen.

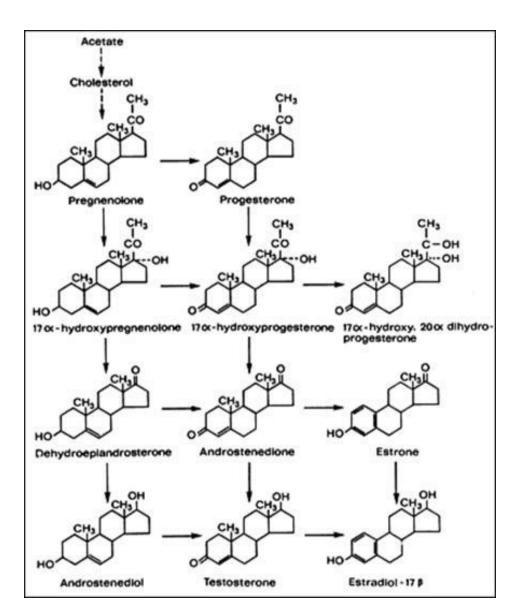
Pregnanolone is immediate precursor.



^{* 3}β-HSD = 3β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase-Δ^{5,4}-isomerase

0 17β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase

- In the plasma it is transported in bound(98%) as well as in free(2%) form.
- 80% is bound to plasma albumin,18% to cortisol binding globulin.
- Metabolized in the liver to pregnandiol which is excreted in urine.



- Chatterjea
- Satiyanarayn
- Harper's illuatrated biochemistry

