

WIKIPEDIA

Histamine

Histamine is an organic nitrogenous compound involved in local immune responses, as well as regulating physiological function in the gut and acting as a neurotransmitter for the brain, spinal cord, and uterus.^{[3][4]} Histamine is involved in the inflammatory response and has a central role as a mediator of itching.^[5] As part of an immune response to foreign pathogens, histamine is produced by basophils and by mast cells found in nearby connective tissues. Histamine increases the permeability of the capillaries to white blood cells and some proteins, to allow them to engage pathogens in the infected tissues.^[6] It consists of an imidazole ring attached to an ethylamine chain; under physiological conditions, the amino group of the side-chain is protonated.

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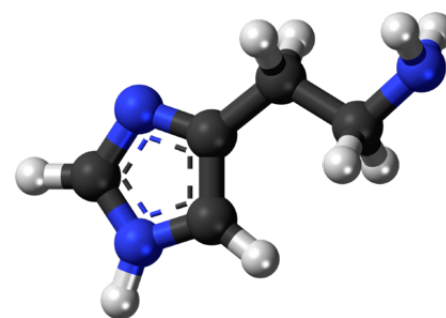
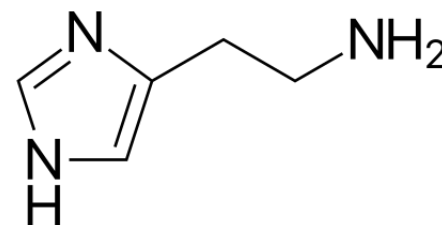
Disorders

History

See also

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Histamine



Names

IUPAC name

2-(1*H*-Imidazol-4-yl)ethanamine

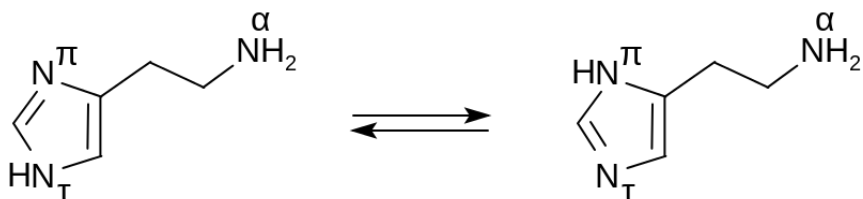
Identifiers

CAS Number	51-45-6 (http://www.commonchemistry.org/ChemicalDetail.aspx?ref=51-45-6) ✓
3D model (JSmol)	Interactive image (https://chemapps.stolaf.edu/jmol/jmol.php?model=NCCc1c%5BnH%5Dcn1)
ChEBI	CHEBI:18295 (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/chebi/searchId.do?chebiId=18295) ✓
ChEMBL	ChEMBL90 (https://)

External links

Properties

Histamine base, obtained as a mineral oil mull, melts at 83–84 °C.^[7] Hydrochloride^[8] and phosphorus^[9] salts form white hygroscopic crystals and are easily dissolved in water or ethanol, but not in ether. In aqueous solution, the imidazole ring of histamine exists in two tautomeric forms, identified by which of the two nitrogen atoms is protonated. The nitrogen farther away from the side chain is the 'tele' nitrogen and is denoted by a lowercase tau sign and the nitrogen closer to the side chain is the 'pros' nitrogen and is denoted by the pi sign. The tele tautomer, *N^τ-H*-histamine, is preferred in solution as compared to the pros tautomer, *N^π-H*-histamine.



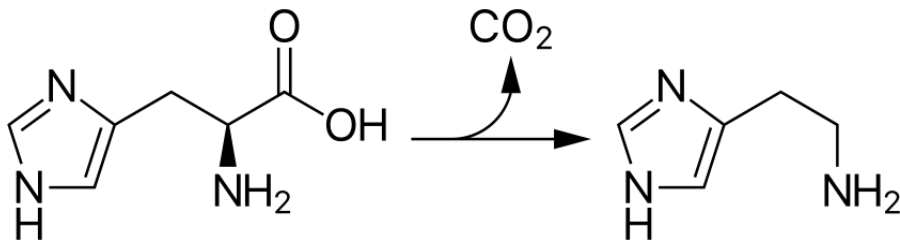
The tele tautomer (*N^τ-H*-histamine), on the left is more stable than the pros tautomer (*N^π-H*-histamine) on the right.

Histamine has two basic centres, namely the aliphatic amino group and whichever nitrogen atom of the imidazole ring does not already have a proton. Under physiological conditions, the aliphatic amino group (having a pK_a around 9.4) will be protonated, whereas the second nitrogen of the imidazole ring ($pK_a \approx 5.8$) will not be protonated.^[10] Thus, histamine is normally protonated to a singly charged cation. Histamine is a monoamine neurotransmitter.

Synthesis and metabolism

Histamine is derived from the decarboxylation of the amino acid histidine, a reaction catalyzed by the enzyme L-histidine decarboxylase. It is a hydrophilic vasoactive amine.

	www.ebi.ac.uk/chembl/db/index.php/compound/inspect/ChEMBL90) ✓
ChemSpider	753 (http://www.chemspider.com/Chemical-Structure.753.html) ✓
ECHA InfoCard	100.000.092 (https://echa.europa.eu/substance-information/-/substanceinfo/100.000.092)
IUPHAR/BPS	1204 (http://www.guidetopharmacology.org/GRAC/LigandDisplayForward?tab=summary&ligandId=1204)
KEGG	D08040 (https://www.kegg.jp/entry/D08040) ✓
MeSH	Histamine (https://www.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/mesh/2014/MB_cgi?mode=&term=Histamine)
PubChem CID	774 (https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/774)
UNII	820484N8I3 (https://fdasis.nlm.nih.gov/srs/srsdirect.jsp?regno=820484N8I3) ✓
CompTox Dashboard (EPA)	DTXSID4023125 (https://comptox.epa.gov/dashboard/DTXSI)



Conversion of histidine to histamine by histidine decarboxylase

Once formed, histamine is either stored or rapidly inactivated by its primary degradative enzymes, histamine-N-methyltransferase or diamine oxidase. In the central nervous system, histamine released into the synapses is primarily broken down by histamine-N-methyltransferase, while in other tissues both enzymes may play a role. Several other enzymes, including MAO-B and ALDH2, further process the immediate metabolites of histamine for excretion or recycling.

Bacteria also are capable of producing histamine using histidine decarboxylase enzymes unrelated to those found in animals. A non-infectious form of foodborne disease, scombroid poisoning, is due to histamine production by bacteria in spoiled food, particularly fish. Fermented foods and beverages naturally contain small quantities of histamine due to a similar conversion performed by fermenting bacteria or yeasts. Sake contains histamine in the 20–40 mg/L range; wines contain it in the 2–10 mg/L range.^[11]

Storage and release

Most histamine in the body is generated in granules in mast cells and in white blood cells (leukocytes) called basophils. Mast cells are especially numerous at sites of potential injury — the nose, mouth, and feet, internal body surfaces, and blood vessels. Non-mast cell histamine is found in several tissues, including the brain, where it functions as a neurotransmitter. Another important site of histamine storage and release is the enterochromaffin-like (ECL) cell of the stomach.

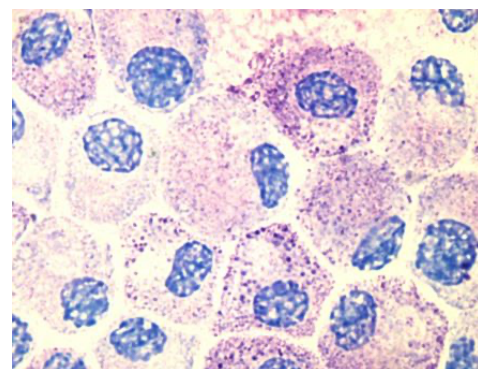
The most important pathophysiologic mechanism of mast cell and basophil histamine release is immunologic. These cells, if sensitized by IgE antibodies attached to their membranes, degranulate when exposed to the appropriate antigen. Certain amines and alkaloids, including such drugs as morphine, and

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Properties	
Chemical formula	C ₅ H ₉ N ₃
Molar mass	111.148 g·mol ^{−1}
Melting point	83.5 °C (182.3 °F; 356.6 K)
Boiling point	209.5 °C (409.1 °F; 482.6 K)
Solubility in water	Easily soluble in cold water, hot water ^[1]
Solubility in other solvents	Easily soluble in methanol. Very slightly soluble in diethyl ether. ^[1] Easily soluble in ethanol.
log <i>P</i>	−0.7 ^[2]
Acidity (p <i>K</i> _a)	Imidazole: 6.04 Terminal NH ₂ : 9.75 ^[2]
Pharmacology	
ATC code	L03AX14 (WHO (https://www.whocc.no/atc_ddd_index/?code=L03AX14)) V04CG03 (WHO (https://www.whocc.no/atc_ddd_index/?code=V04CG03)) (phosphate)
Except where otherwise noted, data are given for materials in their standard state (at 25 °C [77 °F], 100 kPa).	
✓ verify (what is ✗ ?)	

curare alkaloids, can displace histamine in granules and cause its release. Antibiotics like polymyxin are also found to stimulate histamine release.

Infobox references

Histamine release occurs when allergens bind to mast-cell-bound IgE antibodies. Reduction of IgE overproduction may lower the likelihood of allergens finding sufficient free IgE to trigger a mast-cell-release of histamine.



Mast cells.

Mechanism of action

In humans, histamine exerts its effects primarily by binding to G protein-coupled histamine receptors, designated H₁ through H₄.^[12] As of 2015, histamine is believed to activate ligand-gated chloride channels in the brain and intestinal epithelium.^{[12][13]}

Biological targets of histamine in the human body

<u>G-protein coupled receptor</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Sources</u>
<u>Histamine H₁ receptor</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNS: Expressed on the <u>dendrites</u> of the output neurons of the <u>histaminergic tuberomammillary nucleus</u>, which projects to the <u>dorsal raphe</u>, <u>locus coeruleus</u>, and additional structures. • Periphery: <u>Smooth muscle</u>, <u>endothelium</u>, <u>sensory nerves</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNS: <u>Sleep-wake cycle</u> (promotes wakefulness), <u>body temperature</u>, <u>nociception</u>, <u>endocrine homeostasis</u>, regulates <u>appetite</u>, involved in cognition • Periphery: Causes <u>bronchoconstriction</u>, <u>bronchial smooth muscle contraction</u>, <u>urinary bladder contractions</u>, <u>vasodilation</u>, promotes <u>hypernociception</u> (<u>visceral hypersensitivity</u>), involved in <u>itch perception</u> and <u>urticaria</u>. 	[12][13][14][15]
<u>Histamine H₂ receptor</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNS: <u>Dorsal striatum</u> (<u>caudate nucleus</u> and <u>putamen</u>), <u>cerebral cortex</u> (<u>external layers</u>), <u>hippocampal formation</u>, <u>dentate nucleus</u> of the <u>cerebellum</u> • Periphery: Located on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNS: Not established (note: most known H₂ receptor ligands are unable to cross the <u>blood–brain barrier</u> in sufficient concentrations to allow for neuropsychological and behavioral testing) • Periphery: Primarily 	[12][13][16][15]

	<u>parietal cells</u> , <u>vascular smooth muscle cells</u> , <u>neutrophils</u> , <u>mast cells</u> , as well as on cells in the <u>heart</u> and <u>uterus</u>	involved in vasodilation and stimulation of <u>gastric acid secretion</u> . Urinary bladder relaxation. Modulates gastrointestinal function.	
<u>Histamine H₃ receptor</u>	Located in the <u>central nervous system</u> and to a lesser extent <u>peripheral nervous system tissue</u>	<u>Autoreceptor</u> and <u>heteroreceptor</u> functions: decreased <u>neurotransmitter release</u> of <u>histamine</u> , <u>acetylcholine</u> , <u>norepinephrine</u> , <u>serotonin</u> . Modulates <u>nociception</u> , <u>gastric acid secretion</u> , and <u>food intake</u> .	[12]
<u>Histamine H₄ receptor</u>	Located primarily on <u>basophils</u> and in the <u>bone marrow</u> . It is also expressed in the <u>thymus</u> , <u>small intestine</u> , <u>spleen</u> , and <u>colon</u> .	Plays a role in <u>mast cell chemotaxis</u> , <u>itch perception</u> , <u>cytokine production and secretion</u> , and <u>visceral hypersensitivity</u> . Other putative functions (e.g., <u>inflammation</u> , <u>allergy</u> , <u>cognition</u> , etc.) have not been fully characterized.	[12]
<u>Ligand-gated ion channel</u>	Location	Function	Sources
<u>Histamine-gated chloride channel</u>	Putatively: <u>CNS (hypothalamus, thalamus)</u> and <u>intestinal epithelium</u>	<u>Brain</u> : Produces <u>fast inhibitory postsynaptic potentials</u> <u>Intestinal epithelium</u> : <u>chloride secretion</u> (associated with <u>secretory diarrhea</u>)	[12][13]

Roles in the body

Although histamine is small compared to other biological molecules (containing only 17 atoms), it plays an important role in the body. It is known to be involved in 23 different physiological functions. Histamine is known to be involved in many physiological functions because of its chemical properties that allow it to be versatile in binding. It is Coulombic (able to carry a charge), conformational, and flexible. This allows it to interact and bind more easily.^[17]

Vasodilation and fall in blood pressure

It has been known for more than one hundred years that an intravenous injection of histamine causes a fall in the blood pressure.^[18] The underlying mechanism concerns both vascular hyperpermeability and vasodilation. Histamine binding to endothelial cells causes them to contract, thus increasing vascular leak. It also stimulates synthesis and release of various vascular smooth muscle cell relaxants, such as nitric oxide, endothelium-derived hyperpolarizing factors and other compounds, resulting in blood vessel dilation.^[19] These two mechanisms play a key role in the pathophysiology of anaphylaxis.

Effects on nasal mucous membrane

Increased vascular permeability causes fluid to escape from capillaries into the tissues, which leads to the classic symptoms of an allergic reaction: a runny nose and watery eyes. Allergens can bind to IgE-loaded mast cells in the nasal cavity's mucous membranes. This can lead to three clinical responses:^[20]

1. sneezing due to histamine-associated sensory neural stimulation
2. hyper-secretion from glandular tissue
3. nasal congestion due to vascular engorgement associated with vasodilation and increased capillary permeability

Sleep-wake regulation

Histamine is a neurotransmitter that is released from histaminergic neurons which project out of the mammalian hypothalamus. The cell bodies of these neurons are located in a portion of the posterior hypothalamus known as the tuberomammillary nucleus (TMN). The histamine neurons in this region comprise the brain's histamine system, which projects widely throughout the brain and includes axonal projections to the cortex, medial forebrain bundle, and elsewhere. The histamine neurons in the TMN are involved in regulating the sleep-wake cycle and promote arousal when activated.^[21] The neural firing rate of histamine neurons in the TMN is strongly positively correlated with an individual's state of arousal. These neurons fire rapidly during periods of wakefulness, fire more slowly during periods of relaxation/tiredness, and stop firing altogether during REM and NREM (non-REM) sleep.

First-generation H₁ antihistamines (i.e., antagonists of histamine receptor H₁) are capable of crossing the blood–brain barrier and produce drowsiness by antagonizing histamine H₁ receptors in the tuberomammillary nucleus. The newer class of second-generation H₁ antihistamines do not readily permeate the blood–brain barrier and thus are less likely to cause sedation, although individual reactions, concomitant medications and dosage may increase the likelihood of a sedating effect. In contrast, histamine H₃ receptor antagonists increase wakefulness. Similar to the sedative effect of first-generation H₁ antihistamines, an inability to maintain vigilance can occur from the inhibition of histamine biosynthesis or the loss (i.e., degeneration or destruction) of histamine-releasing neurons in the TMN.

Gastric acid release

Enterochromaffin-like cells, located within the gastric glands of the stomach, release histamine that stimulates nearby parietal cells by binding to the apical H₂ receptor. Stimulation of the parietal cell induces the uptake of carbon dioxide and water from the blood, which is then converted to carbonic acid by the enzyme carbonic anhydrase. Inside the cytoplasm of the parietal cell, the carbonic acid readily dissociates into hydrogen and bicarbonate ions. The bicarbonate ions diffuse back through the

basilar membrane and into the bloodstream, while the hydrogen ions are pumped into the lumen of the stomach via a K^+/H^+ ATPase pump. Histamine release is halted when the pH of the stomach starts to decrease. Antagonist molecules, like ranitidine, block the H_2 receptor and prevent histamine from binding, causing decreased hydrogen ion secretion.

Protective effects

While histamine has stimulatory effects upon neurons, it also has suppressive ones that protect against the susceptibility to convulsion, drug sensitization, denervation supersensitivity, ischemic lesions and stress.^[22] It has also been suggested that histamine controls the mechanisms by which memories and learning are forgotten.^[23]

Erection and sexual function

Libido loss and erectile failure can occur during treatment with histamine H_2 receptor antagonists such as cimetidine, ranitidine, and risperidone.^[24] The injection of histamine into the corpus cavernosum in men with psychogenic impotence produces full or partial erections in 74% of them.^[25] It has been suggested that H_2 antagonists may cause sexual difficulties by reducing the functional binding of testosterone to its endogenous receptors.^[24]

Schizophrenia

Metabolites of histamine are increased in the cerebrospinal fluid of people with schizophrenia, while the efficiency of H_1 receptor binding sites is decreased. Many atypical antipsychotic medications have the effect of increasing histamine production, because histamine levels seem to be imbalanced in people with that disorder.^[26]

Multiple sclerosis

Histamine therapy for treatment of multiple sclerosis is currently being studied. The different H receptors have been known to have different effects on the treatment of this disease. The H_1 and H_4 receptors, in one study, have been shown to be counterproductive in the treatment of MS. The H_1 and H_4 receptors are thought to increase permeability in the blood-brain barrier, thus increasing infiltration of unwanted cells in the central nervous system. This can cause inflammation, and MS symptom worsening. The H_2 and H_3 receptors are thought to be helpful when treating MS patients. Histamine has been shown to help with T-cell differentiation. This is important because in MS, the body's immune system attacks its own myelin sheaths on nerve cells (which causes loss of signaling function and eventual nerve degeneration). By helping T cells to differentiate, the T cells will be less likely to attack the body's own cells, and instead, attack invaders.^[27]

Disorders

As an integral part of the immune system, histamine may be involved in immune system disorders^[28] and allergies. *Mastocytosis* is a rare disease in which there is a proliferation of mast cells that produce excess histamine.^[29]

History

The properties of histamine, then called β-iminazolethylamine, were first described in 1910 by the British scientists Henry H. Dale and P.P. Laidlaw.^[30] By 1913 the name *histamine* was in use, using combining forms of *histo-* + *amine*, yielding "tissue amine".

"H substance" or "substance H" are occasionally used in medical literature for histamine or a hypothetical histamine-like diffusible substance released in allergic reactions of skin and in the responses of tissue to inflammation.

See also

- Anaphylaxis
- Diamine oxidase
- Hay fever (allergic rhinitis)
- Histamine intolerance
- Histamine receptor antagonist
- Red wine headache
- Scombroid food poisoning
- Photic sneeze reflex

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External links

- [Histamine MS Spectrum](http://gmd.mpimp-golm.mpg.de/Spectrums/a2a57255-e29a-4df3-98ea-a64d4a95056.aspx) (<http://gmd.mpimp-golm.mpg.de/Spectrums/a2a57255-e29a-4df3-98ea-a64d4a95056.aspx>)
 - [DrugBank EXPT01785](https://www.drugbank.ca/drugs/EXPT01785) (<https://www.drugbank.ca/drugs/EXPT01785>)
 - [Histamine bound to proteins](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe-srv/PDBeXplore/ligand/?ligand=HSM) (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe-srv/PDBeXplore/ligand/?ligand=HSM>) in the [PDB](#)
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