

**THIS APPROACH:** When low serotonin or dopamine concentrations exist on an optimal diet, a relative nutritional deficiency of the naturally occurring aromatic amino acids or cofactors is always present.™

### DEFINITIONS

**DEFINITION:** A relative nutritional deficiency occurs when an optimal diet does not meet the needs of the system.™ 1-11

The serotonin, dopamine (catecholamines), and the thiol systems are intertwined. Affect change on one system and the other two systems can become depleted. Depletion on an optimal diet represents a relative nutritional deficiency. 1-14

**Classifications of L-dopa include naturally occurring aromatic amino acid, a drug, and the active ingredient in Mucuna Pruriens.**

#### THE CENTRALLY ACTING MONOAMINES<sup>5</sup>

**Serotonin  
Dopamine  
Norepinephrine  
Epinephrine**

#### THE THIOLS<sup>5</sup>

(SULFUR CONTAINING AMINO ACIDS)

**L-Methionine                      Cystathione  
S-adenosyl-L-methionine      L-cysteine  
S-adenosyl-homocysteine      Glutathione  
Homocysteine**

L-tyrosine, L-tryptophan, 5-HTP, and L-dopa are naturally occurring aromatic amino acids.

Tyrosine → L-DOPA → (Dopamine)  
Tryptophan → 5-hydroxytryptophan → (Serotonin)

Low serotonin, low dopamine, or low glutathione on an optimal diet always represents a relative nutritional deficiency of their precursors or cofactors. 1-14

When serotonin or dopamine concentrations are low and increased synthesis is required, non-amino acid drugs cannot increase synthesis, only nutrients can™. 1-14

The endogenous state occurs when there is the administration of no nutrients or one nutrient precursor of the serotonin or dopamine. 1-14

The competitive inhibition state occurs when serotonin and dopamine precursors are administered simultaneously in significant amounts. 1-14

Observations made in the endogenous state, while administering one precursor do not correlate with competitive inhibition observations™. 8,12

When low serotonin, dopamine, or glutathione concentrations exist on an optimal diet, insufficient synthesis is always present. 1-14

Increasing serotonin, dopamine and glutathione concentrations by increasing synthesis require naturally occurring amino acids and cofactors. 1-14

**THE OPTIMAL SEROTONIN DIET:** Since the synthesis of serotonin from L-tryptophan is rate-limited by serotonin shutting down the tryptophan hydroxylase enzyme, an optimal diet for serotonin synthesis requires increasing L-tryptophan intake to the point where serotonin concentrations no longer increase. 1-14

**THE OPTIMAL DOPAMINE DIET:** Since the synthesis of dopamine from L-tyrosine is rate-limited by dopamine shutting down the tyrosine hydroxylase enzyme, an optimal diet for dopamine synthesis requires increasing L-tyrosine intake to the point where dopamine concentrations no longer increase. 1-14



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