LIPIDS: Structure

Triglycerides, Phospholipids, and Sterols

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TYPES OF LIPIDS

1. Triglycerides

2. Phospholipids

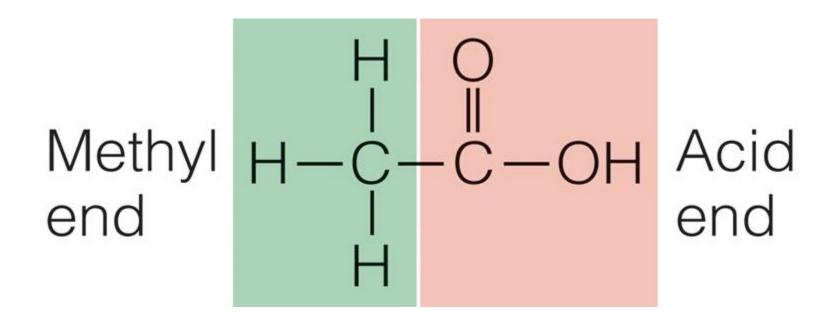
3. Sterols

TRIGLYCERIDES

Triglycerides – Fats & Oils
 Structure – composed of
 3 fatty acids + glycerol

Fatty Acids

Organic acid (chain of carbons with hydrogens attached) that has an acid group at one end & a methyl group at the other end. e.g CH₃COOH



Fatty Acids & Triglycerides

glycerol + 3 fatty acids → triglyceride + H₂O

FATTY ACIDS

Saturation

- Saturated fatty acid carbon chains filled with hydrogen atoms (no C=C double bonds)
 - Saturated fat triglyceride containing 3 saturated fatty acids, such as animal fats (butter)
 - 2. Appear solid at room temperature

Length of carbon chain

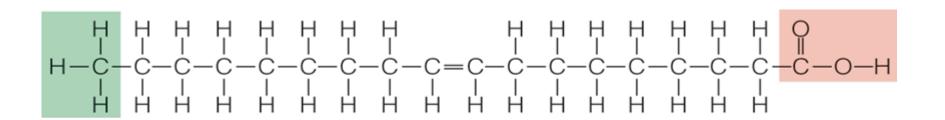
Stearic acid - 18-carbon, saturated

$$H-C$$
 $H-C$
 $C-O-H$

Simplified structure

FATTY ACIDS

- Unsaturated fatty acid carbon chains lack some hydrogens (>1 C=C double bond)
 - 1. Monounsaturated fat triglyceride containing fatty acids with 1 double bond; i.e. canola & olive oil
 - Polyunsaturated fat- triglycerides containing a high % of fatty acids with >2 double bonds; i.e. corn, safflower, soybean, sunflower oils and fish;
 - 3. Appear liquid at room temperature



Oleic acid – 18-carbon, monounsaturated

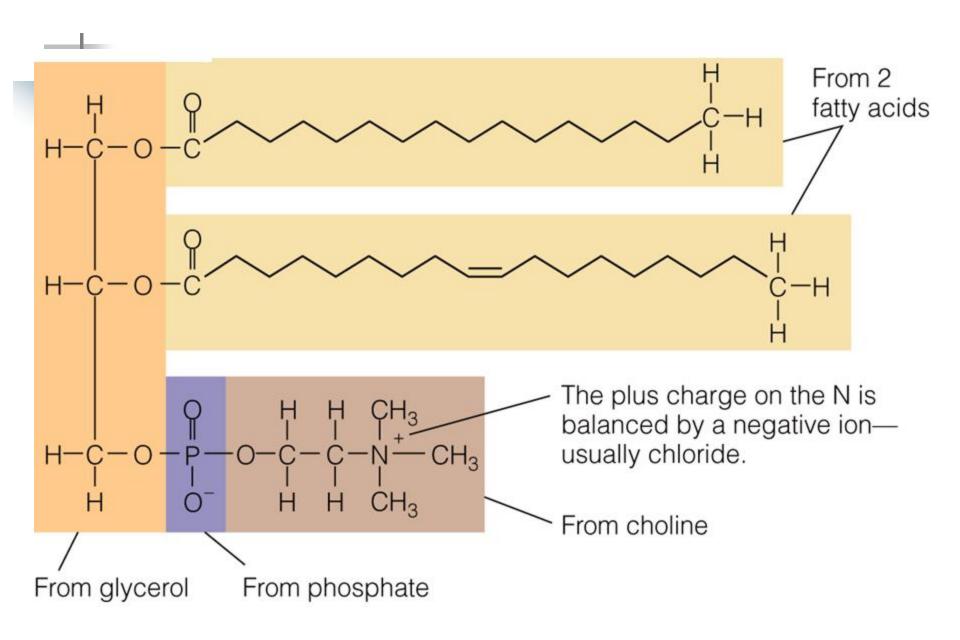
Linoleic acid – 18-carbon, polyunsaturated

PHOSPHOLIPIDS

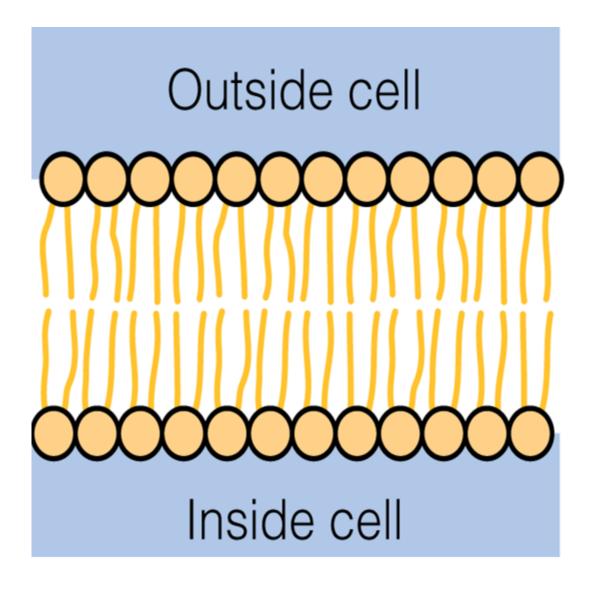
Phospholipids – similar to triglycerides in structure except only 2 fatty acids + choline

Phospholipids in foods: Lecithin, egg yolks, soybeans, wheat, peanuts

Lecithin



Phospholipids



Watery fluid

Glycerol heads

Fatty acid tails

Watery fluid

Sterols

Structure consists of carbon rings

Cholesterol

Vitamin D₃

STEROLS

- Important part of:
 - 1. Sex hormones testosterone
 - 2. Vitamin D
 - 3. Bile (aids fat digestion)
 - 4. Adrenal hormones cortisol
 - 5. Cholesterol in foods and made by the liver; dietary sources include egg yolks, liver, meats, dairy products

Fat Digestion

- Hydrolysis
 - Triglycerides →
 monoglycerides, fatty acids,
 glycerol

Health Effects of Fats

- Excess fat intake contributes to many diseases including:
 - 1. Obesity
 - 2. Diabetes
 - 3. Cancer
 - 4. Heart disease
- How?
 - 1. High fat diets = high kcal diets
 - 2. High saturated fat intake raises blood cholesterol
 - 3. High fat intakes may promote cancer