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INSTITUTE OF  
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Micronutrients:  
Vitamin B5

Dr. Ritamarie Loscalzo

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B Vitamins At a Glance

Letter	Names	Notes/Actions
B1	Thiamin, Benfotiamine	Energy, heart, muscle, and nerve function
B2	Riboflavin, R 5'-Phosphate	Energy, red blood cells, vision
B3	Niacin, Nicotinic Acid, Niacinamide	Energy, nerve function, circulation and heart
B4	Choline, Adenine, Carnitine	Loosely considered as B vitamins - cell membranes, memory, neuromuscular
B5	Pantothenic Acid	Coenzyme A, adrenals, skin
B6	Pyridoxine, Pyridoxal 5'-Phosphate	Brain and nerve, hormones, protein synthesis
B7	Biotin	Hair, metabolism
B8	Inositol	Loosely considered a B vitamin
B9	Folate, Methylfolate, Folinic Acid	Red blood cell production, DNA repair, brain
B10	Pteroylmonoglutamic Acid (PABA – Para-aminobenzoic Acid)	Really a form of folate, skin protector
B11	Salicylic Acid	Not technically a vitamin, loosely categorized
B12	Cobalamin	Red blood cells, DNA repair, nervous system

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### Vitamin B5 General Info

- ✓ Water-soluble B vitamin
- ✓ Also known as **pantothenic acid** or **pantothenate**
- ✓ Consists of B-alanine and pantoic acid joined by peptide bond
- ✓ Name derived from Greek word “panthos” meaning **everywhere** (vitamin B5 is present in virtually all foods)
- ✓ Part of coenzyme A (**CoA**)



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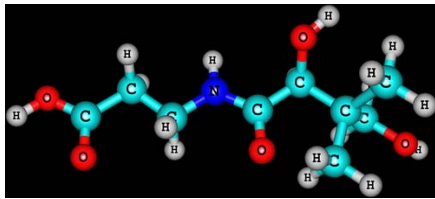
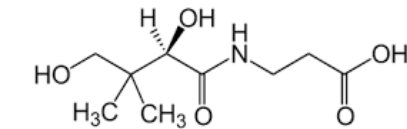
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### Vitamin B5 Chemical Structure



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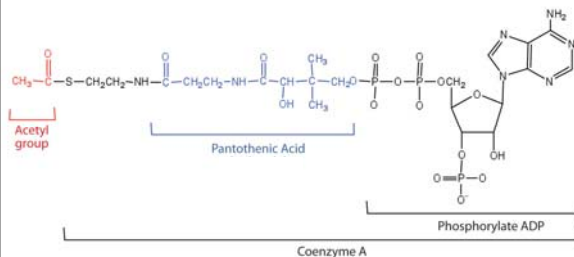
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### Vitamin B5 Coenzyme Form



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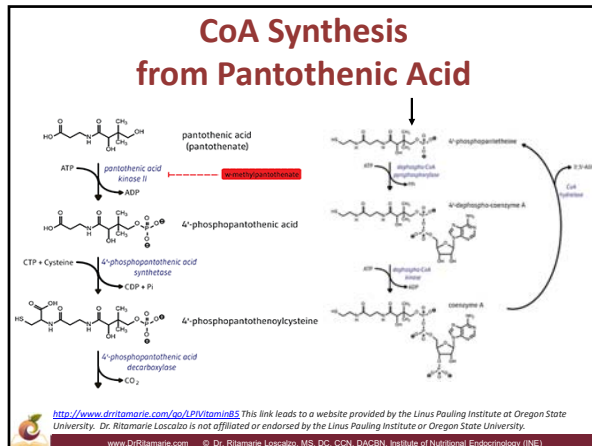
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### Coenzyme A Synthesis

- ✓ Five-step process
- ✓ Requires four molecules of ATP
- ✓ Made from pantothenate and cysteine

1. Phosphorylated to 4'-phosphopantothenate by enzyme pantothenate kinase
2. A cysteine is added to 4'-phosphopantothenate by phosphopantothenoylcysteine synthetase to form 4'-phospho-N-pantothenoylcysteine
3. Decarboxylated by phosphopantothenoylcysteine decarboxylase to 4'-phosphopantetheine
4. 4'-phosphopantetheine is adenylated to form dephospho-CoA by phosphopantetheine adenyltransferase
5. Dephospho-CoA is phosphorylated to coenzyme A by the enzyme dephosphocoenzyme A kinase

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### Vitamin B5 Absorption

- ✓ Occurs in food in **free and bound forms**: 85% bound to CoA
- ✓ Absorbed mainly in **jejunum**
- ✓ **High concentrations**: passive diffusion
- ✓ **Low concentrations**: sodium dependent multi-vitamin carrier
- ✓ CoA hydrolyzed to **pantetheine** then pantothenic acid by phosphatases and pyrophosphatases
- ✓ Shares an intestinal carrier/transporter with **biotin and lipoic acid**
- ✓ **Panthenol**, the alcohol form used in many multivitamins, is also absorbed and converted to pantothenate
- ✓ Pantothenate absorption **decreases to 10%** when intake exceeds 10 times the recommended intake (in pill form)

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## Vitamin B5 Transport and Storage

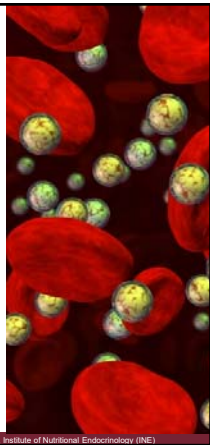
- ✓ Absorbed into intestinal epithelial cells
  - ✓ Enters the portal circulation
  - ✓ Free form in blood serum
  - ✓ Higher concentrations in the red blood cells than in the blood serum
  - ✓ **Active transport uptake by:**
    - Heart
    - Brain
    - Muscle
    - Liver
  - ✓ Passive diffusion into all other tissues
  - ✓ **Found in cells as**
    - 4'-phosphopantothenate
    - Pantotheine
  - ✓ **Most pantothenate is used to synthesize CoA**
    - Liver
    - Brain
    - Kidney
    - Heart
    - Adrenal
- 
- A white truck with a red trailer is shown from a side profile, facing left. The trailer is carrying a large, bright red sphere. On the sphere, the text 'B5' is written in large white letters, and 'Vitamin' is written in smaller white letters below it. The truck has a white cab and a red chassis. The background is plain white.



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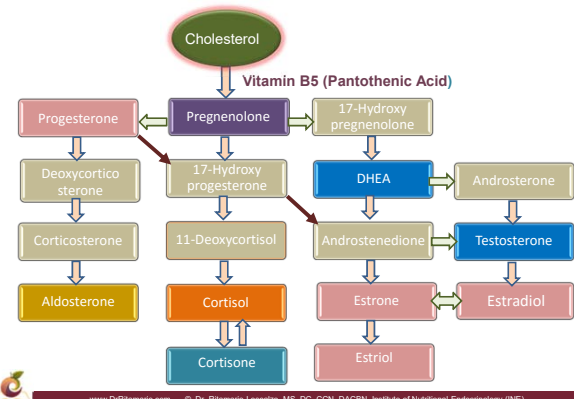
## Vitamin B5 Roles

- ✓ Metabolism of protein, fat, and carbohydrates
- ✓ Krebs cycle
- ✓ Production of cholesterol
- ✓ Production of adrenal hormones
- ✓ Production of sex hormones
- ✓ Production of bile
- ✓ Production of hemoglobin
- ✓ Reducing inflammation
- ✓ Maintaining healthy levels of blood lipids
- ✓ Methylation



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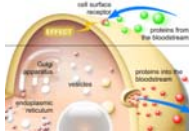
## Vitamin B5 Role in Hormones



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### Acetylation and Proteins

- ✓ CoA was named for its role in acetylation reactions
- ✓ **Acetylation of proteins** alters their overall charge, their three-dimensional structure, and their function
- ✓ Regulates the **activity of peptide hormones**, including those produced by the pituitary gland
- ✓ Regulates function and half-life of many signaling molecules, **transcription factors**, and enzymes
- ✓ **Acetylation of histones** plays a role in the regulation of gene expression by facilitating transcription



<http://www.drRitamarie.com/go/LPIVitaminB5>

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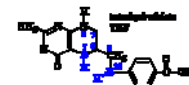
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### Acetylation and Lipids

- ✓ Acetylation is important in formation of **sphingolipids (myelin sheath), phospholipids, and fatty acids**
- ✓ **Fatty acid synthase (FAS)** requires pantothenic acid dependent acyl-carrier protein (ACP) in the form of 4'-phosphopantetheine
- ✓ **Acetyl-CoA, malonyl-CoA, and ACP** are all required for the synthesis of fatty acids
- ✓ 4'-phosphopantetheine is required for 10-formyltetrahydrofolate dehydrogenase (FDH) needed to form **tetrahydrofolate**, an essential cofactor in the metabolism of nucleic acids and amino acids



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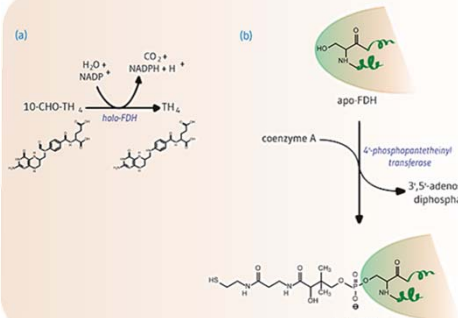
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**Figure 3. 4'-Pantetheinylation of Formyltetrahydrofolate Dehydrogenase (FDH)**



<http://www.drRitamarie.com/go/LPIVitaminB5> This link leads to a website provided by the Linus Pauling Institute at Oregon State University. Dr. Ritamarie Loscalzo is not affiliated or endorsed by the Linus Pauling Institute or Oregon State University.

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### Vitamin B5, Lipids, and Cardiovascular Disease

- ✓ 900 mg/day shown to **lower LDL cholesterol** and triglycerides, reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease  
Donati C, Bertieri RS, Barbi G. Clin Ter 1989 Mar 31;128(6):411-22, PMID: 2524328  
<http://www.drRitamarie.com/go/PMID2524328>
- ✓ Pantetheine supplements appear to **reduce blood levels of triglycerides** and possibly improve cholesterol by 25%  
<http://www.drRitamarie.com/go/PMID11425046>
- ✓ Pantetheine **blocks the activity of HMG-CoA** (cholesterol synthesis) by about 50% leading to significantly lower cholesterol production  
<http://www.drRitamarie.com/go/PantetheineTriglycerides>  
<http://www.drRitamarie.com/go/PrepareMDPantetheine>



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### Vitamin B5 and Lipids

- ✓ **University of Minnesota Medical School Study:**
  - Healthy, unmedicated adults
  - **Double-blind, randomized, placebo controlled and cross-over**
  - Each patient was given placebo, 600 mg, and 900 mg pantetheine for 6 weeks; under these conditions pantetheine:
    - Reduced LDL-c by 10-15%
    - Fasted triglycerides by 20-25%
    - Increased HDL-c by 15-20%



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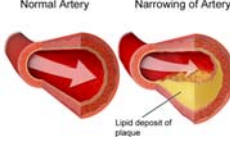
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### Vitamin B5 and Artery Health

- ✓ Administered to cholesterol-fed rabbits (0.5% cholesterol diet + 1% pantetheine) for 90 days; results:
  - **Total cholesterol levels were reduced 64.7%**
  - HDL/total cholesterol ratio increased
  - Total aortic area with evident **plaques** was **reduced by 18.2%**
  - Microscopic examination: **Reduction in the severity of lesions, both in the aorta and in the coronary arteries**
- ✓ 182 patients with coronary heart disease and stable **angina** given pantetheine, 500 mg/day for 3 weeks; had favorable effects on hemodynamics, lipids, riboflavin, and ascorbic acid



Carrara P, Matturri L, Galbusera M, Lovati MR, Franceschini G, Sirtori CR. Atherosclerosis 1984 Dec;53(3):255-64  
<http://www.drRitamarie.com/go/PrepareMDPantetheine>

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### Long-Term Pantetheine Study

- ✓ A one-year clinical trial
- ✓ 24 patients with established dyslipidemia of Fredrickson's types II A, II B, and IV, alone or associated with **diabetes mellitus**
- ✓ Blood lipid assays repeated after 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12 months of treatment
  - **Consistent and statistically significant reductions in:**
    - Total cholesterol
    - LDL
    - Apolipoprotein B
  - **Increased levels of:**
    - HDL
    - Apolipoprotein A



Arsenio L, Badria P, Magnati G, Strata A, Trovato R. Clin Ther 1986;8(5):537-45 PMID: 3094958

<http://www.drRitamarie.com/go/PMID3094958>

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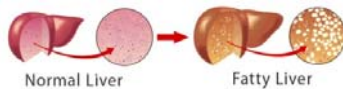
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### Vitamin B5 and Fatty Liver

- ✓ 600 mg/day of pantetheine, 16 outpatients with fatty liver and hypertriglyceridemia for six months or longer
  - **9/16 pantetheine patients were no longer diagnosed as having fatty liver**
  - Visceral fat calculated from the CT image was significantly reduced
  - Subcutaneous fat area increased
  - **Suggests pantetheine may transfer fat from liver and viscera to subcutaneous**



(Osano Y, Hirose N, Nakajima K, Hata Y. "The effects of pantethine on fatty liver and fat distribution." J Atheroscler Thromb 2000;7(1):55-8)



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### Pantetheine and Cognitive Function

- ✓ In rats that received daily injections, **pantetheine facilitated the learning process and activity levels**
- ✓ Pantetheine **supports BDNF** (Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor)



Morisaki N, Matsuoka N, Shirai K, Sasaki N, Saito Y, Kumagai A. "Effect of pantethine on fatty acid oxidation in microvessels of rat brain." Tohoku J Exp Med 1983 Sep;141(1):41-5

<http://www.drRitamarie.com/go/PMID16797865>

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### Other Uses of Vitamin B5

- ✓ Large daily doses of pantothenic acid were helpful to **relieve symptoms of arthritis**  
(Haslock DJ, Wright V, "Pantothenic acid in the treatment of osteoarthritis." Rheumatol Phys Med 1971 Feb;11(1):10-3)
- ✓ Pantetheine used successfully for heart burn, ulcers, and candida infections, and has been used with some success in the management of **certain allergies**  
<http://www.drRitamarie.com/go/DrOfemAllergies>
- ✓ Rat study: **deficiency of pantothenic acid can cause hair to turn gray and fall out**; no human studies
- ✓ Panthoderm may be helpful in treatment of minor skin injuries



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### Vitamin B5 Interactions

- ✓ Nutrients that compete for absorption and transport:
    - Biotin
    - Lipoic Acid
  - ✓ Medications:
    - **Tetracycline:** Vitamin B5 interferes with the absorption and effectiveness
    - **Alzheimer's drugs:** Cholinesterase inhibitors: B5 increases the effects leading to severe side effects; should not be taken with B5 unless under a doctor's supervision
- Cholinesterase inhibitors include:
- Donepezil (Aricept)
  - Memantine hydrochloride (Ebixa)
  - Galantamine (Reminyl)
  - Rivastigmine (Exelon)



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### Vitamin B5 RDI

#### Infants:

- ✓ Birth up to 6 months: 1.7 mg (adequate intake)
- ✓ 7-12 months: 1.8 mg (adequate intake)

#### Children:

- ✓ 1-3 years: 2 mg a day
- ✓ 4-8 years: 3 mg a day
- ✓ 9-13 years: 4 mg a day

#### Adults:

- ✓ Males: 14 years and older: 5 mg a day
- ✓ Females: 14 years and older: 5 mg a day

#### Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding:

- ✓ Pregnant women: 6 mg
- ✓ Breastfeeding women: 7 mg a day



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### Signs and Symptoms Vitamin B5 Deficiency

- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Muscle cramps
- ✓ Plantar Fasciitis
- ✓ Irritability
- ✓ Hypoglycemia
- ✓ Cramps
- ✓ Heart palpitations
- ✓ Hair loss
- ✓ Insomnia
- ✓ Intestinal distress
- ✓ Joint aches
- ✓ Nausea
- ✓ Premature graying of hair
- ✓ Restlessness
- ✓ Vomiting



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### Impact of Vitamin B5 Excess

- ✓ There is no known toxicity to vitamin B5
- ✓ Excess easily excreted in the urine
- ✓ Diarrhea in very high intakes of 10-20 g/day calcium D-pantothenate for 6 weeks
- ✓ One case report of life-threatening eosinophilic pleuropericardial effusion in an elderly woman who took a combination of 10 mg/day of biotin and 300 mg/day of pantothenic acid for two months



Debourdeau PM, Djeddar S, Estival JL, Zammit CM, Richard RC, Castot AC. Life-threatening eosinophilic pleuropericardial effusion related to vitamins B5 and H. Ann Pharmacother. 2001;35(4):424-426

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### Top Food Sources of Vitamin B5

Plant-Based	Animal-Based	
✓ Mushrooms	✓ Chicken	✓ Salmon
✓ Cauliflower	✓ Turkey	✓ Beef
✓ Sweet potato	✓ Yogurt	✓ Eggs
✓ Broccoli		
✓ Beet greens		
✓ Asparagus		
✓ Turnip greens		
✓ Bell peppers		
✓ Cucumber		
✓ Celery		
✓ Avocado		
✓ Lentils		
✓ Peas		



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## Food Preparation Effects on Vitamin B5

- ✓ Easily destroyed by heat
- ✓ Destroyed by light
  - Store away from light to protect vitamin B5 content
- ✓ Can be lost in water when foods are boiled or soaked



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## WH Foods Vitamin B5 Foods Ranking

Food	Serving Size	Cals	Amount (mg)	DR% DV (%)
Mushrooms, Shiitake	0.50 cup	40.6	2.61	52
Mushrooms, Cremini	1 cup	54.8	1.06	22
Cauliflower	1 cup	25.5	0.63	13
Beets, Potatoes	1 cup	180.0	1.77	35
Broccoli	1 cup	54.6	0.36	7
Beet Greens	1 cup	38.9	0.47	9
Asparagus	1 cup	39.8	0.40	8
Turnip Greens	1 cup	28.8	0.39	8
Beet Greens	1 cup	28.5	0.29	6
Cucumber	1 cup	15.6	0.27	5
Celery	1 cup	16.2	0.25	5
Avocado	1 cup	240.0	2.08	42
Lentils	1 cup	229.7	1.24	25
Onion, Peas	1 cup	233.3	1.17	23
Chicken	4 oz	187.1	1.09	22
Turkey	4 oz	146.7	1.02	20
Salmon	1 cup	149.4	0.95	19
Salmon	4 oz	157.6	0.92	18
Egg	0.33 cup	188.5	0.81	16
Beef	4 oz	175.0	0.77	15
Egg	1 each	77.5	0.70	14
Potatoes	1 cup	140.9	0.65	13
Wheat	1 cup	151.1	0.63	13
Corn	1 each	73.8	0.61	12
Onion	4 oz	124.9	0.59	12
Potatoes	1 medium	118.7	0.53	11
Wheat, Spaghetti	1 cup	75.8	0.48	10



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<http://www.drRitamarie.com/qa/WHFVitaminB5Foods>

## Herbs High In Vitamin B5



Black catnip



Eyebright



Red clover



Alfalfa



Burdock



Nettle



Yellow dock



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### Risk Factors for Vitamin B5

- ✓ **Alcoholics**
  - Decreased intake
  - Decreased absorption
  - Impaired utilization of vitamin B5
- ✓ **Anorexia**
- ✓ **Lactose intolerance**
- ✓ **Hypothyroid and adrenal fatigue**
  - The conversion of vitamin B5 into FAD and FMN is impaired
- ✓ **Very physically active people (athletes, laborers)**
  - Slightly increased vitamin B5 requirement



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### What Depletes Vitamin B5?

- ✓ **Stress**
- ✓ **Refined foods**
- ✓ **Alcohol**
- ✓ **Beta Blockers:**
  - ✓ Blocadren
  - ✓ Tenormin
  - ✓ Nadolol
  - ✓ Toprol XL
  - ✓ Inderal
  - ✓ Lopressor
  - ✓ Cartrol
  - ✓ Brevibloc
  - ✓ Sectral
  - ✓ Betapace
  - ✓ Corgard



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### Assessing Status of Vitamin B5

- ✓ Static serum level not always accurate
- ✓ NutrEval by Genova / Metamatrix
- ✓ SpectraCell Labs
- ✓ Diet journal
- ✓ Questionnaires and good history taking for signs and symptoms



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### Vitamin B5 Supplementation

- ✓ Generally included in multivitamins and B-complex vitamins
- ✓ Available forms:
  - Pantothenic acid
  - Panthenol: common in multivitamins
  - Pantetheine: possibly most effective
  - Calcium D-pantothenate
- ✓ Capsules, powder, liquid
- ✓ According to Dr. Lam, best with high dose nutritional cocktail of vitamin C, lysine, proline, bioflavonoids, pine bark extract, glycine, carnitine, magnesium, fructooligosaccharides, glutamine, and ascorbyl palmitate



<http://www.drRitamarie.com/go/DrLamPantothenicAcid>

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### References

- ✓ **Advanced Nutrition and Human Metabolism**  
– Gropper, Smith and Groff.
- ✓ Linus Pauling Institute:  
<http://www.drRitamarie.com/go/LPIVitaminB5>
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