Glutathione (GSH)

Natural Defense Mechanisms in Health and Disease

The human body is one of nature’s finest miracles and researchers are still unlocking many of its secrets. Recent discoveries have shed important light on the role that glutathione plays in maintaining health and fighting disease.

Most individuals have not heard of glutathione, however given the accelerated course of research publications on the subject and the large impact it will have in future health care, the term glutathione will shortly become integrated into our everyday language, the same way as we use the words “antioxidant” or “cholesterol”.

This small protein, produced naturally in the body, maintains crucial protective functions. In fact, your life depends upon it. Without glutathione, your cells would disintegrate from unrestrained oxidation, your body would have little resistance to bacteria, viruses and cancer, and your liver would cease functioning from the accumulation of toxins.

Dr. Jimmy Gutman
Senior Medical Advisor

There are over 100,000 ARTICLES on glutathione in PubMed, the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature. It is the world's leading source of research on scientific and medical articles.

RESEARCH ON GLUTATHIONE
In the last thirty years the volume of research into GSH has grown immensely. A huge variety of theoretical papers, bench-top laboratory experiments, epidemiological studies, animal projects and — most importantly — clinical trials on humans, has linked glutathione to an extraordinary variety of illnesses. The list is long and would be hard to believe were it not for the strength and credibility of the research.

GLUTATHIONE - “MASTER ANTIOXIDANT”
Advances in the study of antioxidants have grown to the point that a whole new branch of medicine has developed called “Free Radical Biology” which focuses on oxidant/antioxidant balance. These scientists have elaborated upon several hundred different disease processes where antioxidants play a vital role. The shelves of natural food stores and pharmacies are resplendent with a large array of different antioxidants offered. What’s extraordinary, is that none of these antioxidants can work without the presence of glutathione. Glutathione is responsible for recharging and recycling all of the 4,000-plus antioxidants known to science.
GLUTATHIONE - “FOOD FOR THE IMMUNE SYSTEM”

Your immune system is constantly on the prowl for pathogens and foreign antigens—agents of cellular damage, toxicity and disease. These antigens include viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi and even pre-cancerous cells. To neutralize these pathogens the body needs a ready supply of glutathione. If it doesn’t have enough, some of the invaders will get through, infecting the body and/or contributing to aging, and long-term accumulative damage. We can’t avoid illness and aging altogether—although a few scientists are pursuing some age-old dreams—but by keeping our intracellular glutathione levels up we also keep our immune system on full alert and fully armed. Dr. Gustavo Bounous, a leading glutathione expert, concurs that glutathione is fuel for the immune system. “The limiting factor for the proper activity and multiplication of our lymphocytes (white blood cells) is the availability of glutathione”. Dr. Bounous’ research at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, has culminated in the development of a natural health product called “Immunocal”, a natural source of the glutathione precursor cysteine, for the maintenance of a strong immune system.

GLUTATHIONE - “TOXIC WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM”

Hundreds of toxins are eliminated by the GSH enzyme system, including drug metabolites, pollutants, carcinogens and radiation damage. It’s no surprise that GSH concentrations are highest in the liver, the body’s major detoxifying organ. We inhale and ingest natural and synthetic toxins every day of our lives and can’t possibly avoid them, especially in our technological times, our congested and polluted cities and with our bio-engineered food supplies. Experimental studies have shown that low glutathione levels lead to poor liver and kidney function, and result in unnecessarily large quantities of toxins circulating through the body. There, they continuously damage individual cells and organs. The list of toxins eliminated include cigarette smoke, automobile exhaust and heavy metals.

GLUTATHIONE DEPLETION

Every day our bodies are exposed to factors that drain our levels of glutathione: stress, pollution, radiation, infection, drugs, poor diet, aging, injury and fatigue. These all contribute to glutathione depletion which, in turn, leads to cellular aging, disease and death. “Concern about maintaining one’s glutathione level will eventually be on par with other health maintenance issues. People will soon be raising their glutathione levels the same way they take their vitamin pills each morning,” said Dr. Bounous, discoverer of Immunocal.

RAISING GLUTATHIONE

It is vital to clarify one particular aspect of the glutathione story. When people find out about GSH, they want to go to their health store, buy some and ‘take’ it. Although it can be found as a supplement, eating glutathione has negligible effects on your health. It is quickly broken down in your digestive tract and eliminated. GSH must be manufactured within your cells, which is exactly where it appears—in every cell of your body. The only way to accomplish this effectively is to give your body the building blocks (precursors) it needs to manufacture glutathione for itself.

Some pharmaceutical drugs such as NAC (N-acetyl-cysteine) have been developed to provide these precursors but there are also natural ways to raise glutathione levels. The most effective natural way to raise glutathione as borne out by medical research, is by feeding the individual specific cysteine and cystine-rich proteins as found in undenatured whey protein isolates.

This type of natural approach is a welcome complement to traditional medicine, which has historically marginalized nutritional therapy. The key in bridging this gap between Western Medicine and Natural Medicine lies in appropriately studying natural health products with solid research.

Glutathione Summary

- Glutathione (GSH) is a small protein that exists naturally in almost every cell of your body.
- We could not exist without glutathione and low levels are associated with sickness and death.
- There is a constant demand on your glutathione levels from pollution, exercise, aging, infections, stress and countless diseases.
- Raising your body’s glutathione level is not as simple as eating glutathione.
- Glutathione is produced within your cells, therefore, your cells need to have building blocks (precursors) to manufacture glutathione.

Dr. Gutman is recognized as an expert on the subject of glutathione and has authored several books on the topic. He is often heard on radio and television and lectures regularly to medical specialists and the general public.

Immunocal – A patented and proven natural source of the glutathione precursor cysteine, for the maintenance of a strong immune system and helps increase muscle strength and enhance performance when combined with regular exercise.*

* These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.