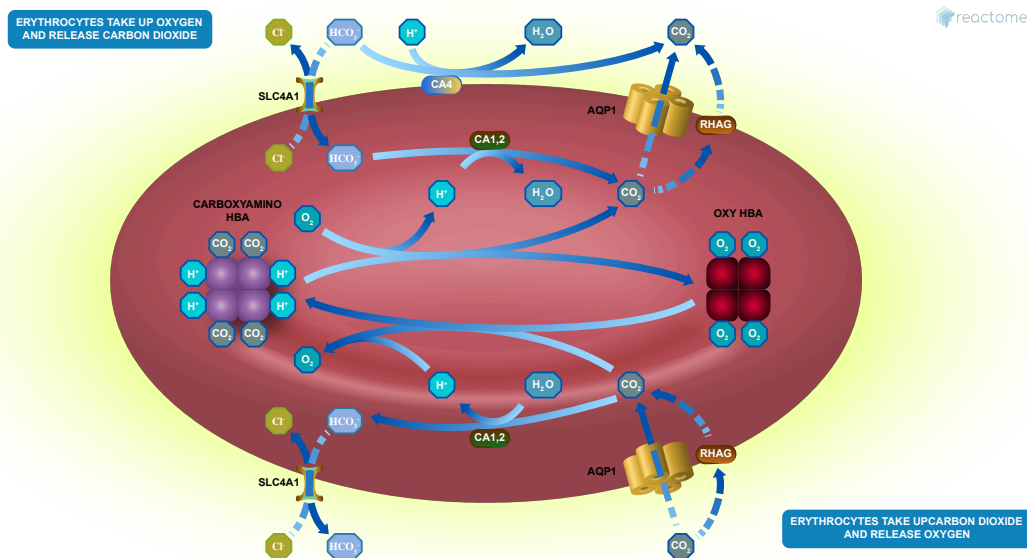


O₂/CO₂ exchange in erythrocytes



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This is just an excerpt of a full-length report for this pathway. To access the complete report, please download it at the [Reactome Textbook](https://reactome.org/textbook/).

20/04/2024

Introduction

Reactome is open-source, open access, manually curated and peer-reviewed pathway database. Pathway annotations are authored by expert biologists, in collaboration with Reactome editorial staff and cross-referenced to many bioinformatics databases. A system of evidence tracking ensures that all assertions are backed up by the primary literature. Reactome is used by clinicians, geneticists, genomics researchers, and molecular biologists to interpret the results of high-throughput experimental studies, by bioinformaticians seeking to develop novel algorithms for mining knowledge from genomic studies, and by systems biologists building predictive models of normal and disease variant pathways.

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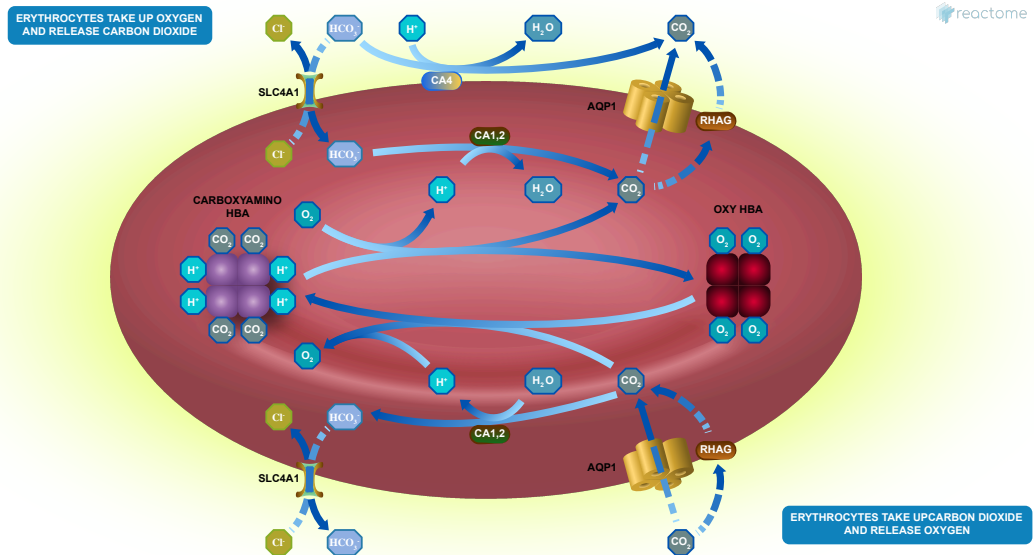
Reactome database release: 88

This document contains 3 pathways ([see Table of Contents](#))

O₂/CO₂ exchange in erythrocytes ↗

Stable identifier: R-HSA-1480926

Compartments: cytosol, extracellular region, plasma membrane



In capillaries of the lungs Erythrocytes take up oxygen and release carbon dioxide. In other tissues of the body the reverse reaction occurs: Erythrocytes take up carbon dioxide and release oxygen (reviewed in Nikinmaa 1997, Jensen 2004).

In the lungs, carbon dioxide (CO₂) bound as carbamate to the N-terminus of hemoglobin (HbA) and protons bound to histidine residues in HbA are released as HbA binds oxygen (O₂). Bicarbonate (HCO₃⁻) present in plasma is taken up by erythrocytes via the band3 anion exchanger (AE1, SLC4A1) and combined with protons by carbonic anhydrases I and II (CA1, CA2) to yield water and CO₂ (reviewed by Esbaugh & Tufts 2006, De Rosa et al. 2007). The CO₂ is passively transported out of the erythrocyte by AQP1 and RhAG. HCO₃⁻ in plasma is also directly dehydrated by extracellular carbonic anhydrase IV (CA4) present on endothelial cells lining the capillaries in the lung.

In non-pulmonary tissues CO₂ in plasma is hydrated to yield protons and HCO₃⁻ by CA4 located on the apical plasma membranes of endothelial cells. Plasma CO₂ is also taken up by erythrocytes via AQP1 and RhAG. Within erythrocytes CA1 and, predominantly, CA2 hydrate CO₂ to yield HCO₃⁻ and protons (reviewed in Geers & Gros 2000, Jensen 2004, Boron 2010). HCO₃⁻ is transferred out of the erythrocyte by the band 3 anion exchange protein (AE1, SLC4A1) which cotransports a chloride ion into the erythrocyte.

Also within the erythrocyte, CO₂ combines with the N-terminal alpha amino groups of HbA to form carbamates while protons bind histidine residues in HbA. The net result is the Bohr effect, a conformational change in HbA that reduces its affinity for O₂ and hence assists the delivery of O₂ to tissues.

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Editions

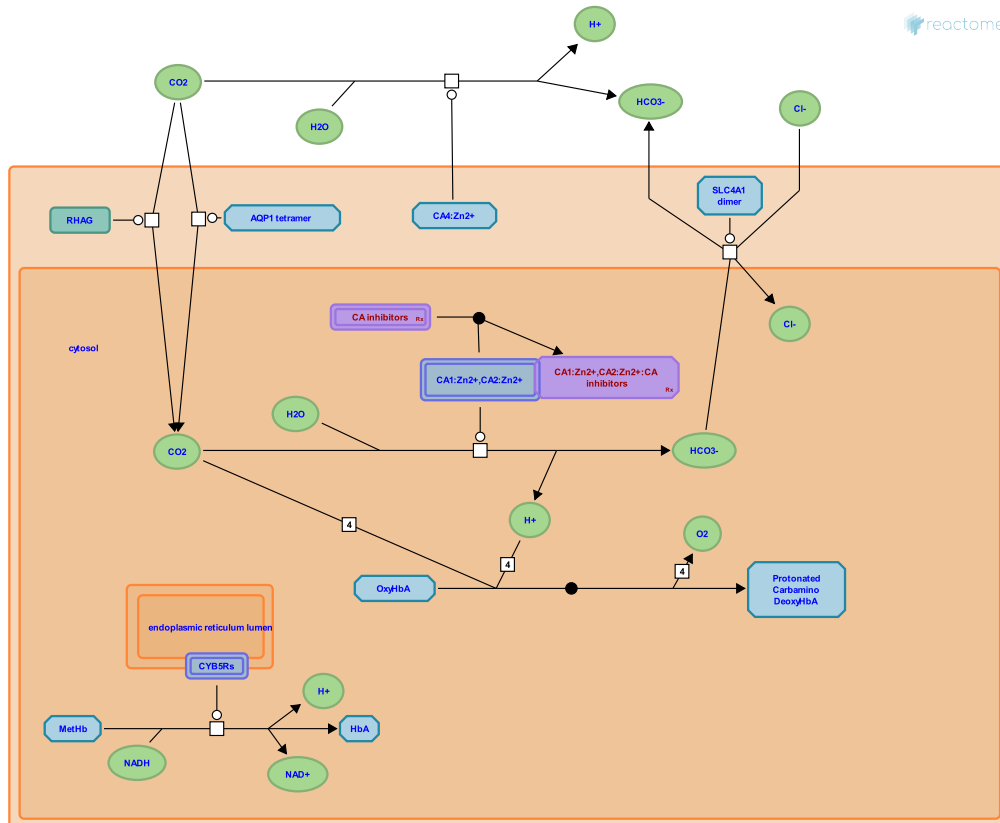
2011-11-01	Authored, Edited	May, B.
2012-04-27	Reviewed	Jassal, B.

Erythrocytes take up carbon dioxide and release oxygen ↗

Location: O₂/CO₂ exchange in erythrocytes

Stable identifier: R-HSA-1237044

Compartments: plasma membrane, extracellular region, cytosol



Carbon dioxide (CO₂) in plasma is hydrated to yield protons (H⁺) and bicarbonate (HCO₃⁻) by carbonic anhydrase IV (CA4) located on the apical plasma membranes of endothelial cells. Plasma CO₂ is also taken up by erythrocytes via AQP1 and RhAG. Within erythrocytes CA1 and, predominantly, CA2 hydrate CO₂ to HCO₃⁻ and protons (reviewed in Geers & Gros 2000, Jensen 2004, Boron 2010). The HCO₃⁻ is transferred out of the erythrocyte by the band 3 anion exchange protein (AE1, SLC4A1) which cotransports a chloride ion (Cl⁻) into the erythrocyte. Also within the erythrocyte, CO₂ combines with the N-terminal alpha amino groups of HbA to form carbamates while protons bind histidine residues in HbA. The net result is the Bohr effect, a conformational change in HbA that reduces its affinity for O₂ and hence assists the delivery of O₂ to tissues.

Literature references

- Jensen, FB. (2004). Red blood cell pH, the Bohr effect, and other oxygenation-linked phenomena in blood O₂ and CO₂ transport. *Acta Physiol Scand*, 182, 215-27. ↗
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Editions

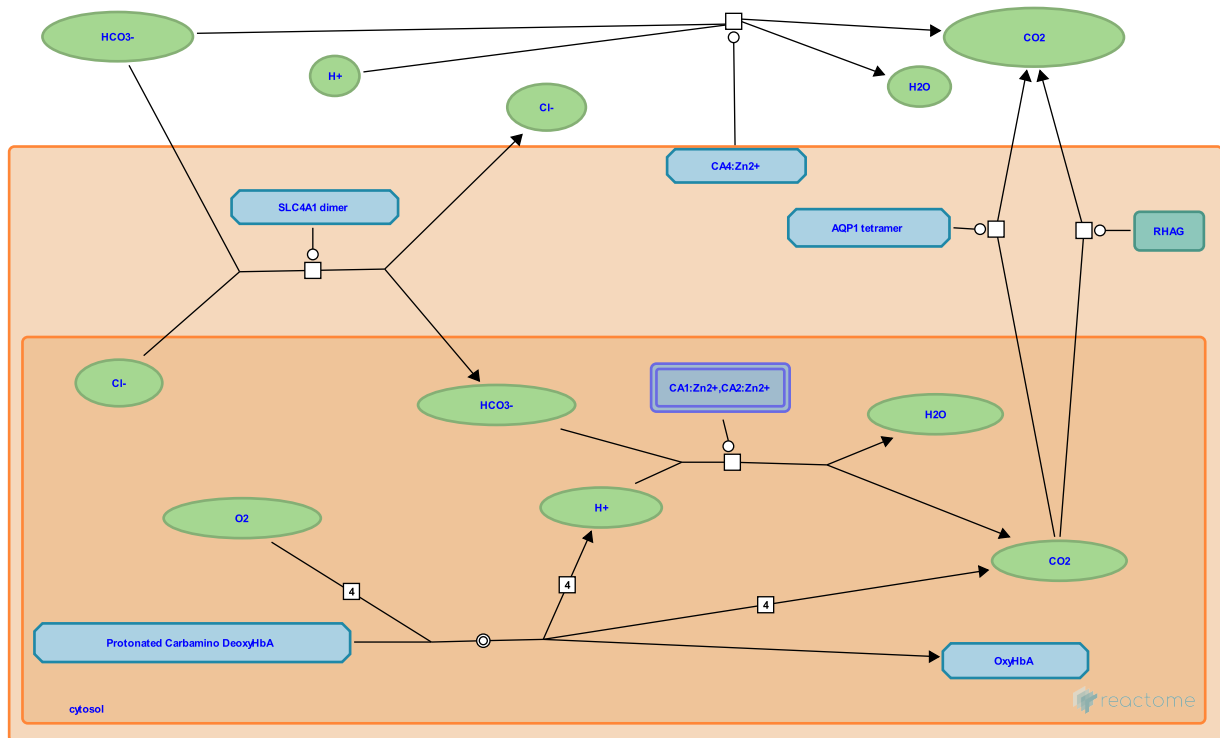
2011-03-24	Authored, Edited	May, B.
2012-04-27	Reviewed	Jassal, B.

Erythrocytes take up oxygen and release carbon dioxide ↗

Location: O₂/CO₂ exchange in erythrocytes

Stable identifier: R-HSA-1247673

Compartments: plasma membrane, extracellular region, cytosol



Erythrocytes circulating through the capillaries of the lung must exchange carbon dioxide (CO₂) for oxygen (O₂) during their short (0.5-1 sec.) transit time in pulmonary tissue (Reviewed in Jensen 2004, Esbaugh and Tufts 2006, Boron 2010). CO₂ bound as carbamate to the N-terminus of hemoglobin and protons (H⁺) bound to histidine residues in hemoglobin are released as hemoglobin (HbA) binds O₂. Bicarbonate (HCO₃⁻) present in plasma is taken up by erythrocytes via the band3 anion exchanger (AE1, SLC4A1) and combined with H⁺ by carbonic anhydrases I and II (CA1/CA2) to yield water and CO₂ (Reviewed by Esbaugh and Tufts 2006). CO₂ is passively transported out of the erythrocyte by AQP1 and RhAG. HCO₃⁻ in plasma is also directly dehydrated by extracellular carbonic anhydrase IV (CA4) present on endothelial cells lining the capillaries in the lung.

Literature references

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Editions

2011-04-04	Authored, Edited	May, B.
2012-04-27	Reviewed	Jassal, B.

Table of Contents

- Introduction 1
- ❖ O₂/CO₂ exchange in erythrocytes 2
 - ❖ Erythrocytes take up carbon dioxide and release oxygen 4
 - ❖ Erythrocytes take up oxygen and release carbon dioxide 5
- Table of Contents 6