



Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) Physiology with Crosstalk with GIT Sulfate-Reducing Bacteria (SRB) and Other Bacteria in Therapy of Obesity, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Along with Colorectal Cancer

Kulvinder Kochar Kaur*

Scientific Director Cum Owner Dr Kulvinder Kaur Centre for Human Reproduction, Jalandhar, Punjab, India

***Corresponding Author:** Kulvinder Kochar Kaur, Scientific Director Cum Owner Dr Kulvinder Kaur Centre for Human Reproduction, Jalandhar, Punjab, India.

DOI: 10.31080/ASMI.2026.09.1631

Received: August 27, 2026

Published: September 28, 2026

© All rights are reserved by **Kulvinder Kochar Kaur.**

H₂S delineate's a pivotal molecule for living organisms inclusive of humans. Enrichment of empirical corroborations are present which point a part of H₂S in physiology as well as pathophysiology. The biological parts of H₂S with plethora of concentrating on its part in the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) has been reviewed extensively. H₂S is believed to be the third gasotransmitter, along with nitric oxide (NO) as well as carbon monoxide (CO), in addition to is implicated in i) inflammation, ii) gut motility, iii) oxidative stress (OS), iv) ulcer repair, v) vascular tone, vi) neuromodulation, vii) cryoprotection, viii) memory generation, ix) hormone liberation, x) apoptosis along with x) several other vital biologic working. Certain of such events are further targets for CO as well as NO despite the mechanistic modes of actions of such other gaseous signaling molecules might be variable. H₂S in the GIT is generated apart from by the enzymes cystathionine-β-synthase (CBS), as well as cystathionine-γ-lyase (CSE) of the host however further by sulfate-reducing bacteria (SRB) which are resident microbes utilizing the fermentation by-product hydrogen in the form of the substrate.

H₂S in the intestine is further generated by certain members that reside in the form of gut bacteria.

Of the maximum pronounced generators of H₂S are sulfate-reducing bacteria (SRB). Dependence on the of the prevalence of methane excretors, sulfate reduction is the predominant

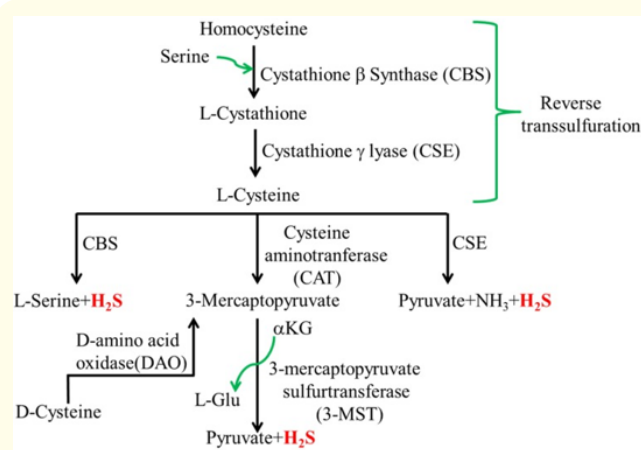


Figure 1: Courtesy ref no- 4 Biogenesis of H₂S by mammalian cells.

hydrogenotrophic pathway in equivalent to 60% of humans. Enumeration of SRB by culture based methods documented a variety of 103–1011 bacteria per gm of human feces. SRB belong to the class δ-Proteobacteria in addition to generate H₂S utilizing the enzyme complex dissimilatory sulfite reductases (DSR) (Figure 2).

The maximum pronounced genus in such category is *Desulfovibrio*, that use lactate as well as hydrogen in the form

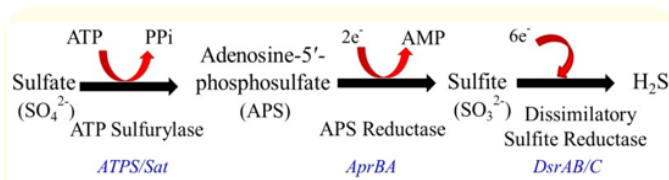


Figure 2: Courtesy ref no-4 Dissimilatory sulfate reduction by SRB. Sulfate is activated to adenosine-5-phosphosulfate (APS) by ATP sulfurylase (ATPS), further acknowledged in the form of sulfate adenylyltransferase (Sat). The second enzyme, APS reductase (Apr), transforms APS to sulfite, that is reduced to sulfide by dissimilatory sulfite reductase (Dsr).

of a substrate. Other genera being *Desulfobacter*, *Desulfomonas*, *Desulfobulbus*, in addition to *Desulfotomaculum*. The SRB utilize sulfate in the form of a terminal electron acceptor (TEA) for respiration, with the concurrent generation of H₂S. Other bacterial species affiliated to variable genera, for instance i) *Streptococcus*, ii) *Fusobacterium*, iii) *Salmonella*, iv) *Enterobacter*, along with v) *Helicobacter* further generate H₂S from L-cysteine, by the actions of cysteine desulphydrase.

In an extra diet- dependent assessment, once obese subjects were fed diets to balance their gut microbes, weight reduction was associated with a reduction in H₂S-generating families *Desulfovibrionaceae* as well as *Enterobacteriaceae* (i) *Escherichia*, ii) *Shigella*, iii) *Klebsiella*, along with iv) *Citrobacter*), in addition to a diminishing in proinflammatory i) Tumor necrosis factor (TNF- α) along with ii) Interleukin (IL-6) cytokines. There are conflicting reports inclusive of an extra study illustrating that *Desulfovibrio* quantities were substantially lesser in obese/overweight children in contrast to controls. Hence, the part of SRB in addition to SRB obtained H₂S in the pathogenesis of a disease situation, for instance obesity, continue to be uncharted. Despite, mounting corroboration points that SRB is associated with inflammatory situations, it is not clear if such is a side derivative or SRB are the causative factors of the disease.

Apart from SRB, other H₂S-generating gut bacteria, for instance *Fusobacterium*, have further been observed to be associated with IBD. The communication amongst H₂S-generating gut bacteria in addition to inflammation was further embraced by the observations that *Bilophila wadsworthia*, a sulfite-reducing bacteria which forms H₂S analogous to *Desulfovibrio* was higher in quantity in mice

fed with high fat diet (HFD), along with this was correlated with proinflammatory reactions in genetically vulnerable mice.

Additional question is are SRB advantageous or inimical ? Does this knowledge possess the capacity of being used to generate innovative treatments to address inflammatory diseases dependent on targeting SRB?

Thus H₂S can be utilized in Ischemia/Reperfusion damage, H₂S in Intestinal Inflammation, H₂S in Ulcer repair, and H₂S in Intestinal Motility. Thereby utilized for therapy of IBD (inclusive of UC, CD) and CRC [1-4].

Bibliography

1. Chan MV and Wallace JL. "Hydrogen sulfide-based therapeutics and gastrointestinal diseases: Translating physiology to treatments". *American Journal of Physiology-Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology* 305 (2013): G467-G473.
2. Stepién PP and Pieniazek NJ. "The use of the L-serine sulphydrylase assay for the estimation of cystathionine beta-synthase". *Analytical Biochemistry* 54 (1973): 294-249.
3. Radcliffe BC and Egan AR. "A survey of methionine adenosyltransferase and cystathionine gamma-lyase activities in ruminant tissues". *Australian Journal of Biological Sciences* 27 (1974): 465-471.
4. Singh SB and Lin HC. "Hydrogen Sulfide in Physiology and Diseases of the Digestive Tract". *Microorganisms* 3.4 (2015): 866-889.