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Apolipoprotein Polymorphism in Man – It's Role in Health and Disease

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ABSTRACT Apolipo proteins play an important role in lipid transport in human body; starting from absorption of processed dietary lipids from the exogenous pathway in intestines to the endogenous transport involving extra hepatic cells and processing them in the liver. Along with various enzymes the binding characteristics of apolipoproteins are the main determinants in lipid metabolism in the body. The binding characteristics are in turn dependent on the amino acid sequence and molecular structure of the apolipoprotein. The various apo proteins identified to date, their structure and genetics are discussed. The polymorphisms at the apo proteins loci detected at biochemical level and reported for various world populations are listed. The effect to genetic heterogeneity on the lipid level in health and disease is also delineated.