

Porphyria (por-FEAR-e-uh) refers to a group of disorders that result from a buildup of natural chemicals that produce porphyrin in your body. Porphyrins are essential for the function of hemoglobin — a protein in your red blood cells that links to porphyrin, binds iron, and carries oxygen to your organs and tissues.

5-Aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA) is a precursor of **porphyrins** and **heme** that has been implicated in the neuropsychiatric symptoms associated with **porphyrias**. It is also being used clinically to delineate **malignant gliomas**.

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