

Protoporphyrin IX

Protoporphyrin IX, in the metabolism of **porphyrin**, is created by the enzyme protoporphyrinogen oxidase.

Protoporphyrin IX is an important precursor to biologically essential prosthetic groups such as heme, cytochrome c, and chlorophylls. As a result, a number of organisms are able to synthesize this tetrapyrrole from basic precursors such as glycine and succinyl CoA, or glutamate. Despite the wide range of organisms that synthesize protoporphyrin IX the process is largely conserved from bacteria to mammals with a few distinct exceptions in higher plants.

Protoporphyrin IX (PpIX) fluorescence induced by **5 aminolevulinic acid** (5-ALA) is capable of visualizing **malignant gliomas**.

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