

# Antioxidant Therapy in Oxidative Stress-Induced Neurodegenerative Diseases

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Free radicals are formed as a part of normal metabolic activities but are neutralized by the endogenous antioxidants present in cells/tissue, thus maintaining the redox balance. This redox balance is disrupted in certain neuropathophysiological conditions, causing oxidative stress, which is implicated in several progressive neurodegenerative diseases. Following neuronal injury, secondary injury progression is also caused by excessive production of free radicals. Highly reactive free radicals, mainly the reactive oxygen species (ROS) and reactive nitrogen species (RNS), damage the cell membrane, proteins, and DNA, which triggers a self-propagating inflammatory cascade of degenerative events. Dysfunctional mitochondria under oxidative stress conditions are considered a key mediator in progressive neurodegeneration. Exogenous delivery of antioxidants holds promise to alleviate oxidative stress to regain the redox balance.

neurodegeneration

reactive oxygen species

inflammation

polymers

CNS

antioxidant enzymes

## 1. Introduction

Free radicals are generated during pivotal biological processes such as metabolic reactions, cell signaling, and gene transcription <sup>[1]</sup>. Cellular organelles such as mitochondria, peroxisomes, lysosomes, microsomes, endoplasmic reticulum, plasma membrane, and phagocytic cells are also the source of free radical production <sup>[2][3]</sup>. External factors such as environmental pollutants, radiation, smoking, heavy metal exposure, diet, and physical exercise also contribute to the production of free radicals <sup>[4][5]</sup>. Under normal conditions, the innate antioxidative defense system that includes various enzymatic and nonenzymatic antioxidants neutralize free radicals, thus maintaining the redox balance <sup>[6]</sup>. This balance is disrupted under certain pathological conditions such as genetic mutations, inflammation, injury, ischemia/reperfusion, etc. <sup>[7][8][9]</sup>. Excessive free radicals formed overwhelm the endogenous antioxidant defense mechanism, thus causing oxidative stress which downregulates the endogenous defense system <sup>[10][11]</sup>. Neuronal cells are particularly susceptible to damage due to free radicals, as they contain high levels of unsaturated lipids that are susceptible to oxidation and the presence of high levels of redox-active transition metals that catalyze the formation of free radicals <sup>[12]</sup>. The central nervous system (CNS) has high metabolic activity and, hence, a high oxygen demand, which favors free radical formation <sup>[13]</sup>. Metabolism of neurotransmitters also produces free radicals <sup>[14]</sup>. The CNS also has a relatively weaker antioxidant defense than other organs (e.g., liver) which makes it more susceptible to oxidative stress than other organs <sup>[15][16]</sup>. Under

oxidative stress condition, dysfunctional mitochondria are unable to meet the high energy need of neuronal cells for their normal biochemical and physiological functions; hence they become vulnerable to rapid cell death [17].

Pro-oxidants or free radicals are usually those atoms or molecules that contain an unpaired electron in their outermost orbit and can be formed when oxygen interacts with certain molecules [18]. These free radicals are very unstable but highly reactive and, when they interact with other molecules, create additional free radicals, initiating a self-propagating chain reaction of free radical formation [18]. Free radicals contain reactive oxygen species (ROS) and reactive nitrogen species (RNS). ROS are chemically reactive molecules containing oxygen, whereas RNS includes nitrogen (N) and oxygen (O) atoms. The ROS and RNS produced in cells comprise both free radical and non-free radical species and include hydrogen peroxide ( $H_2O_2$ ), nitric oxide ( $^*NO$ ), nitrogen dioxide ( $^*NO_2$ ), hydroxyl radical ( $^*OH$ ), superoxide anion ( $O_2^{*-}$ ), peroxyxynitrite ( $OONO^-$ ), hypochlorous acid ( $HClO$ ), etc. The  $^*OH$  radical, produced from  $H_2O_2$  in the metal-catalyzed (free Fe and Cu) redox reactions such as the Fenton reaction, is particularly unstable and reacts rapidly and nonspecifically with most biological molecules [3].

### 1.1. Endogenous and Exogenous Sources of Free Radicals

There are multiple cellular processes and biochemical reactions that produce free radicals as a part of normal cellular function. For e.g., during Electron Transport Chain (ETC) and its five integrated mitochondrial complexes (I, II, III, IV, and V), reduction of  $O_2$  to  $H_2O$  by cytochrome c oxidase prematurely generates ROS such as singlet oxygen ( $^1O_2$ ),  $O_2^{*-}$ ,  $^*OH$ , and  $H_2O_2$  [19][20][21]. Intracellular organelle, peroxisomes, responsible for the degradation of fatty acids, generate  $H_2O_2$  as a byproduct [22]. Neutrophils that contain myeloperoxidase (MPO) uses  $H_2O_2$  and halides ( $Cl^-$ ,  $Br^-$ , and  $I^-$ ) or pseudohalide ( $SCN^-$ ) ions to catalyze the production of free radicals [23]. Phagocytic cells (neutrophils, macrophages, and monocytes) while defending the CNS against invading microorganisms or clearing the dead cell debris produces ROS [24]. Cytochrome P450 is another intracellular enzyme present in microsomes and the endoplasmic reticulum catalyzes ROS formation [25]. Cytosolic enzymes such as xanthine oxidase (XO) during the catalytic oxidation of hypoxanthine to xanthine and Prostaglandin H Synthase (PHS) from arachidonic acid to prostaglandin generate ROS [24]. In addition, environmental pollutants; ionizing radiation (UV-rays, X-rays,  $\gamma$ -rays, and infrared or electromagnetic waves); smoking; long-term chemical exposure like pesticides, insecticides, or industrial solvents; heavy or transition metals (Cu, Fe, Mn, As, Cd, Pb, and Hg); diet; and physical exercise contribute to the production of ROS/RNS [26][27][28][29][30][31][32][33][34][35][36][37][38][39].

### 1.2. Free Radicals: A Double Edge Sword

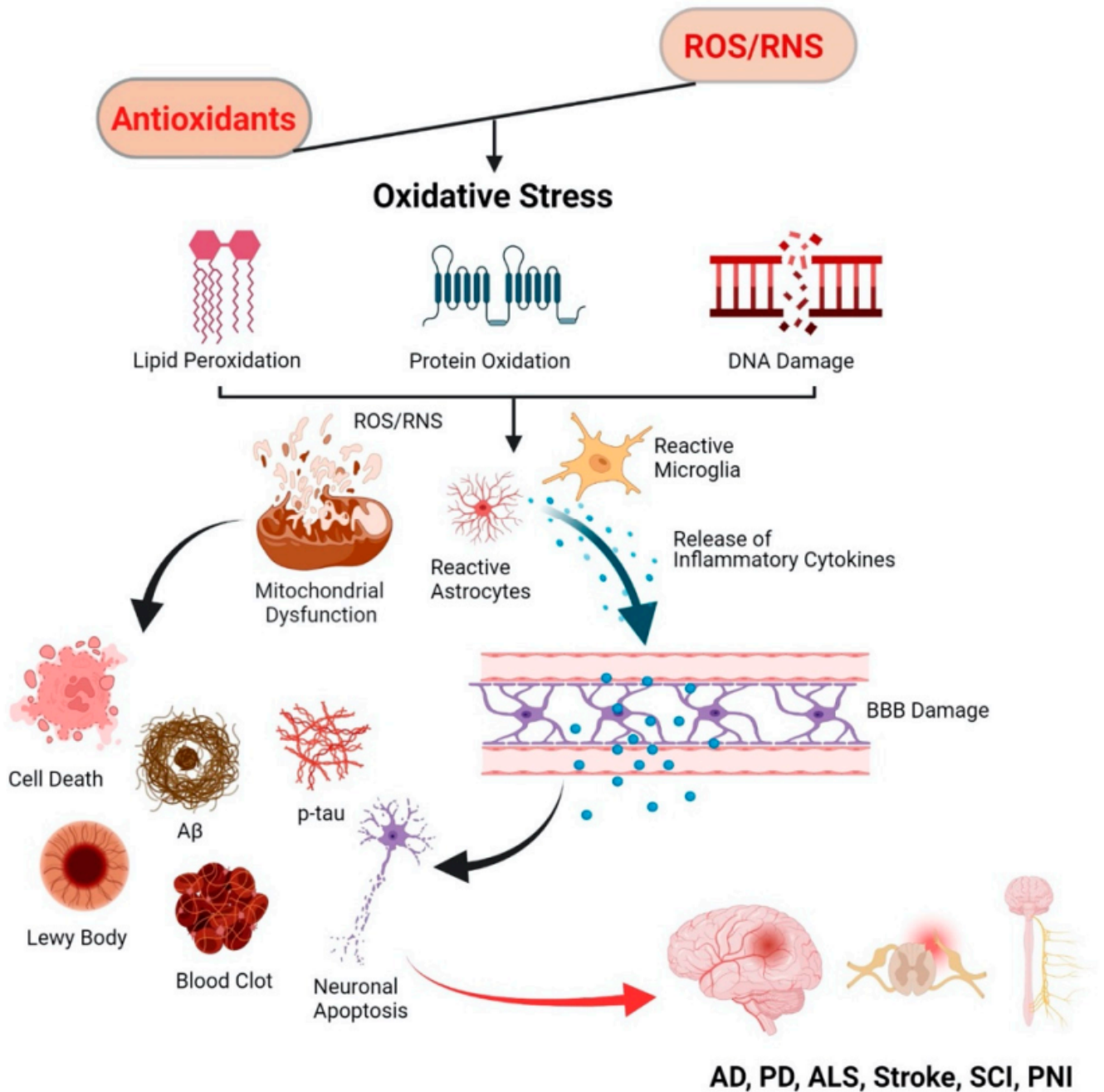
Under normal physiological conditions, low levels of ROS are essential for the regulation of critical signaling pathways involved in cell growth, proliferation, differentiation, survival, regulation of blood pressure, cognitive function, immunity, and maintaining normal antioxidant defense mechanisms of the body [40]. RNS in the CNS regulate cerebral blood flow and memory and plays a significant role in maintaining the immune system and cytokine production [41]. However, excess ROS and RNS, which are the byproducts of the oxygen and nitrogen-rich tissue environment in the body, if not neutralized by the endogenous antioxidants, resulting in oxidative/nitrosative stress [42]. Such conditions can damage cells by starting a chemical chain reaction and modifying biomolecules, i.e., lipids, proteins, and DNA [43]. The ROS produced by mitochondria can accelerate the oxidation of

polyunsaturated fatty acids in the cell membrane lipids, a process known as lipid peroxidation (LPO) that changes the cell membrane structure, impairing its integrity, thus affecting cell signaling. The LPO products such as F2-isoprostanes, malondialdehyde (MDA), 4-hydroxynonenal (4-HNE), and oxidized low-density lipoproteins (LDL) can further damage proteins and nucleic acid bases [44]. With oxidative stress, multiple changes can occur such as mitochondrial DNA mutation, impairment in the mitochondrial respiratory chain, and change in membrane permeability influencing Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis [20][45][46][47].

## **| 2. Oxidative Stress and Neurodegenerative Diseases**

Cell damage triggers a cascade of degenerative events via mitochondrial dysfunction, neuroinflammation, apoptosis, and tissue necrosis [20][48][49]. Oxidative stress-induced homeostatic dysregulation remains a central component of several neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease (AD), Parkinson's disease (PD), and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) [7]. Examples of injury-triggered neurodegenerative diseases include stroke, spinal cord injury (SCI), peripheral nerve injury (PNI), etc. [8][9]. The common link between these neurodegeneration conditions is oxidative stress, ineffective antioxidant defense, and mitochondrial dysfunction (**Figure 1**).

## Implication of Oxidative Stress in Neurodegenerative Diseases/Injuries



**Figure 1.** Schematic representing the effect of oxidative stress in neurodegenerative diseases. Imbalance in the level of ROS/RNS and antioxidants leads to an oxidative stress condition that causes damage to cellular biomolecules, i.e., lipids, proteins, and DNA. Mitochondrial dysfunction and accumulation of activated astrocytes and microglia release inflammatory cytokines and chemokines, promoting cellular apoptosis and tissue death.

### 2.1. Progressive Neurodegenerative Diseases

#### 2.1.1. Alzheimer's Disease (AD)

AD, a leading cause of dementia, is characterized by a progressive decline in cognitive function [48]. Amyloid beta (A $\beta$ ) plaques, neurofibrillary tangles (NFTs), hyperphosphorylated microtubule-associated protein tau, and neuronal loss within the brain are specific histopathological hallmarks of AD patients [49]. Prior to the development of plaque pathology, oxidative stress has been recognized as the key player in the etiology of AD, contributing to mitochondrial dysfunction in synapses and neurons, and in A $\beta$  production [50][51]. In fact, the concept of oxidative stress in AD was originally derived from the “free radical theory of aging”, meaning that free radicals play a central role in the aging process [52]. Mitochondrial dysfunction in AD includes impaired mitochondrial complexes [53][54][55][56], malfunctioning of F1Fo adenosine triphosphate (ATP) synthase, which is involved in oxidative phosphorylation [57][58], and damage to the promoter of the mitochondrial ATP synthase gene that controls ATP generation [59][60]. Further, dysfunctional mitochondria produce 4-HNE that upregulates  $\gamma$ -secretase complex and promotes cleavage of the amyloid precursor protein (APP), leading to A $\beta$  accumulation [61][62]. In addition, increased Ca<sup>2+</sup> and ROS levels lead to a buildup of p-tau aggregates which are toxic and are considered as one of the defining pathological hallmarks of AD patients [63]. ROS also play a pivotal role in the stress kinases like the phospho-c-Jun N-terminal kinase 1 (p-JNK) pathway which is linked to tau hyperphosphorylation and cell death in response to A $\beta$  accumulation [64]. Further, oxidative stress reduces the activities of antioxidants, i.e., superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), and glutathione S-transferase (GST), thus weakening the endogenous antioxidant defense of the CNS [65]. Further, oxidative stress increases The increased levels of LPO under oxidative stress are strongly associated with neurotoxicity in AD [50] as it leads to an increase in amyloidogenesis through upregulation of  $\beta$ -secretase expression [66]. Although there are several downstream degenerative events, it appears that mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative stress are the key triggering factors in the pathogenesis of AD.

### 2.1.2. Parkinson’s Disease (PD)

PD is the second-most common neurodegenerative disease after AD that causes both motor and nonmotor symptoms [67]. The pathology of PD is driven by the accumulation and aggregation of  $\alpha$ -synuclein, a presynaptic neuronal protein in the nervous system [68]. The mechanisms associated with the pathogenesis of PD include aberrant protein homeostasis, bioenergetic impairment, and oxidative stress [69]. Oxidative stress is associated with  $\alpha$ -synuclein protein aggregation [64]. The cascade of events leading to degeneration of dopaminergic neurons in PD is also linked to oxidative stress [70]. Analysis of the postmortem brain tissue of the victims of PD shows elevated levels of oxidative stress markers such as 4-HNE, protein carbonyl, 8-hydroxy-2'-deoxyguanosine, and 8-hydroxy-guanosine [71]. In addition, oxidative stress is associated with the formation of Lewy bodies, which are the clumps of protein in the PD brain [72]. Experimental evidence in PD models suggests that oxidative stress in the dopaminergic neurons activates p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (p38 MAPK) pathway that ultimately leads to apoptosis of the brain cells [73].

### 2.1.3. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

ALS is also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, in which motor neurons in the brain, brain stem, and spinal cord are damaged, resulting in muscle weakness, atrophy, paralysis, and premature death [74]. Oxidative stress, mitochondrial dysfunction, and mutations in the genes that act on mitochondrial processes are involved in the pathophysiology of ALS [75][76]. Most of the familial ALS patients (15–20%) have mutations in the superoxide

dismutase 1 (SOD1) gene, which plays an important role in the defense mechanism against oxidative stress [77]. More than 150 ALS-related SOD1 gene mutations have been discovered in various parts of the enzyme, which result in protein misfolding and aggregation, increased ROS production, and redox system disequilibrium, ultimately resulting in nerve cell loss [77][78]. ALS is also linked to several interrelated risk factors, such as neuroinflammation, excitotoxicity, mitochondrial dysfunction/dysregulation, and endoplasmic reticulum stress [79][80][81]. Considerably high oxidative stress biomarkers such as MDA, 8-hydroxyguanosine, and advanced oxidation protein products are found in ALS patients [82]. In sporadic ALS patients, cystine/glutamate antiporter overexpression was observed that causes increased oxidative stress and extracellular glutamate accumulation [83]. In addition, dysregulation of the retinoic acid (RA) signaling pathway, a product of vitamin A, contributes to the death of motor neurons [84].

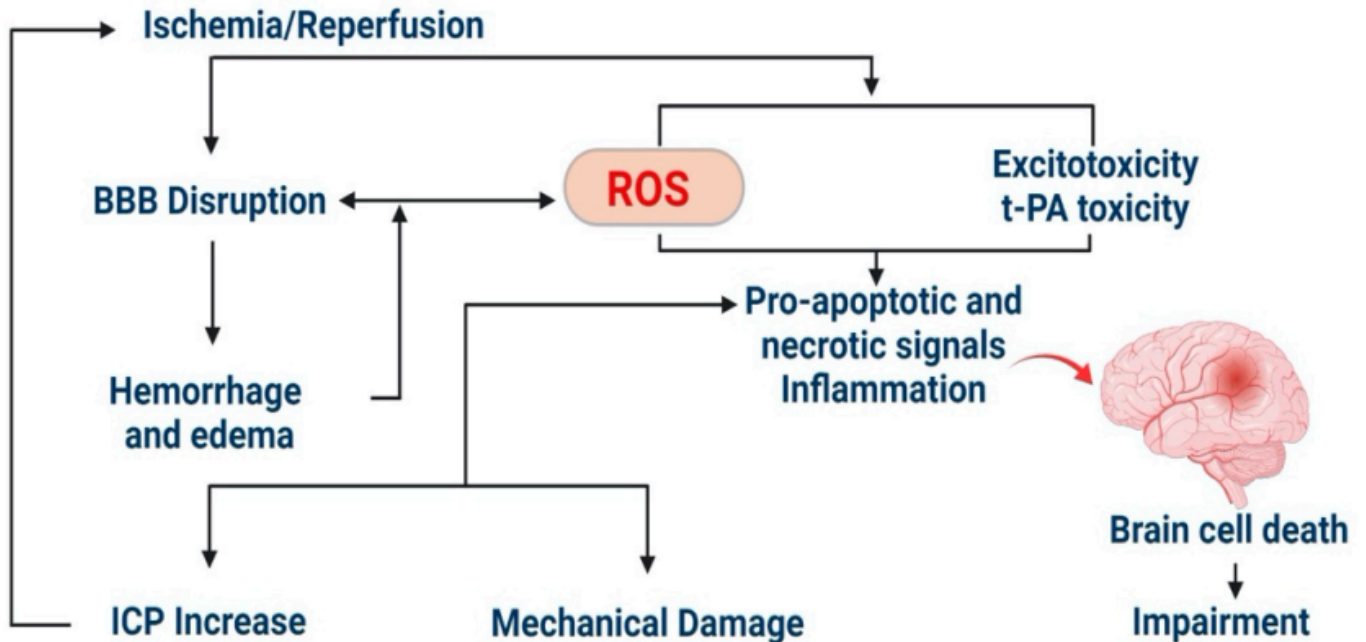
## 2.2. Injury-Induced Oxidative Stress

Neuronal tissue injury, physical or due to ischemic condition, is known to induce oxidative stress that triggers progressive degeneration, known as secondary injury.

### 2.2.1. Stroke

In stroke, thrombus formation in cerebral blood vessels creates an ischemic condition, triggering free radical formation and tissue damage (**Figure 2**) [85]. Resumption of blood supply to the ischemic region further exuberates the condition as more free radicals are formed, termed “reperfusion injury or reoxygenation injury” [86]. Collectively, it is referred to as the ischemia/reperfusion (I/R) injury [86]. Oxidative stress leads to mitochondrial dysfunction, neuroinflammation, and glutamate excitotoxicity, resulting in the blood-brain barrier (BBB) damage, apoptosis/necrosis of neurons, and supporting cellular elements (glial cells and vessels) [87][88][89]. These are the prominent features of neurodegeneration in stroke-related cerebral pathology [90][91][92][93]. Further, excessive ROS production or impaired ROS degradation [94][95] stimulates vasoconstriction, increased platelet aggregation, and endothelial cell permeability, thereby affecting cerebral blood circulation [96]. Activation of matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) disrupts the cerebral extracellular matrix (ECM), which causes immunocyte infiltration and neuroinflammation, culminating in the breakdown of the neurovascular unit (NVU), leading to hemorrhage and edema [97][98].

## Cascade of Degenerative Events Following Ischemia/Reperfusion in Stroke



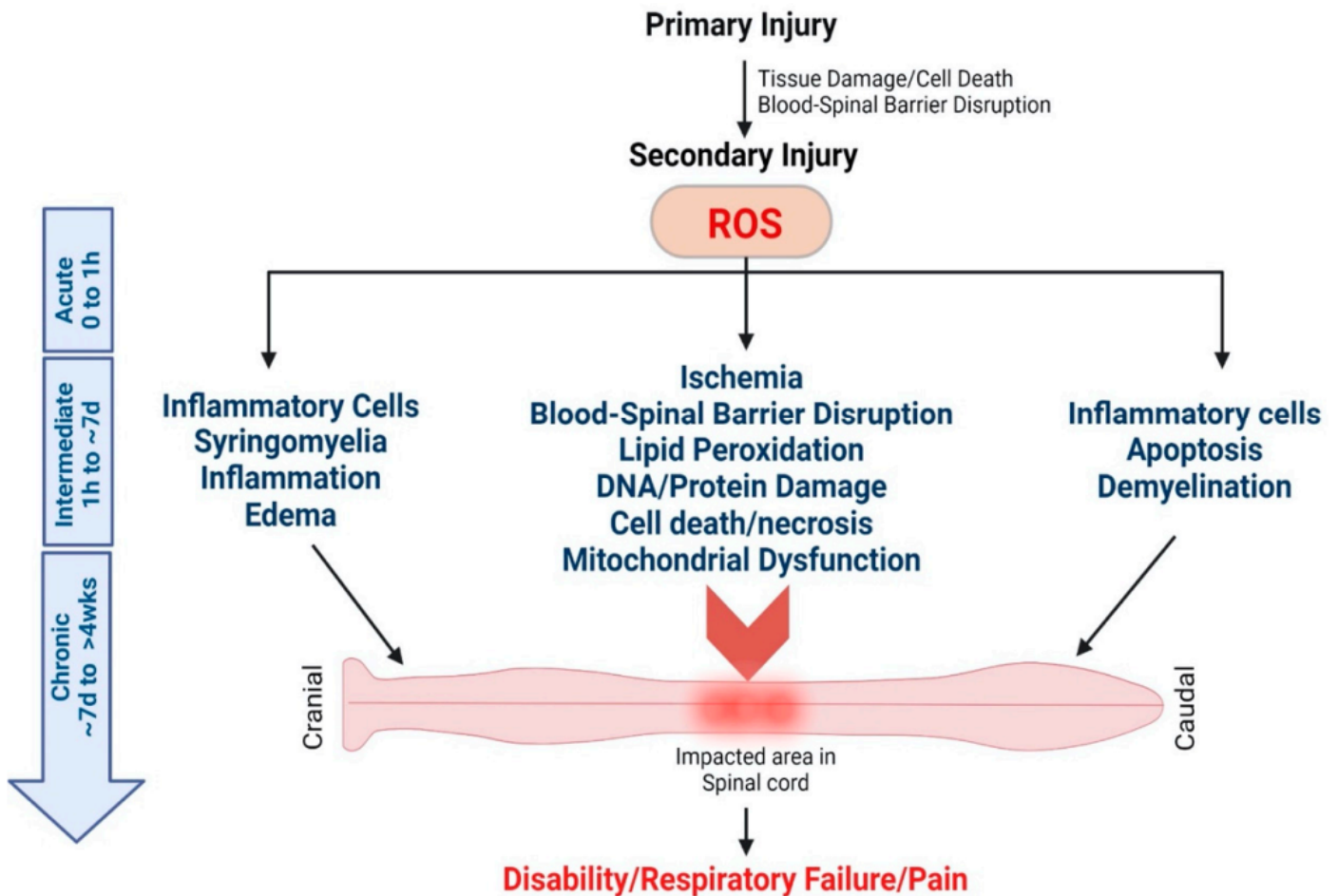
**Figure 2.** ROS-mediated degenerative events during a stroke. Excessive production of ROS during I/R injury leads to mechanical damage to the brain due to breakdown of the BBB and hemorrhage and edema, causing a build-up of intracranial pressure (ICP). The biochemical changes lead to inflammation and progression of apoptosis. Therefore, excess ROS formed during I/R is considered a target to inhibit the progression of secondary brain damage.

### 2.2.2. Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

SCI is another common form of neuronal injury that causes neurological dysfunctions [99] and is characterized by an initial primary injury followed by the secondary phase of injury (Figure 3) [100]. Primary injury results immediately from the initial trauma causing damage to the blood vessels and axons [101]. In contrast, secondary injury is the indirect result of the primary injury that involves inflammation and oxidative stress [10]. The secondary injury progression occurs not only at the site of impact, but it spreads along the entire spinal cord, including the faraway segments of the spinal cord that are not impacted, making the condition more devastating and debilitating with time [101]. Following injury, the elevated levels of ROS and the consequent oxidative stress are considered critical events associated with the secondary injury progression [102]. Under oxidative stress condition, dysfunctional mitochondria become the source of ROS [103] that cause a further cascade of degenerative processes, particularly curtailing ATP production required for normal cellular functioning, thus promoting apoptosis [103]. The excess ROS alters cell functions by modulating ion channels, followed by excessive accumulation of intracellular calcium ions that

eventually causes excitotoxicity [104]. Oxidative stress damages the microvascular endothelium that reduces the spinal cord white matter blood flow, resulting in ischemic injury [105].

### Depiction of ROS-mediated cascade of degenerative events following traumatic SCI



**Figure 3.** Secondary injury cascade following spinal cord injury. Traumatic injury to the spinal cord leads to secondary injury progression that affects the lesion site and the entire spinal cord, including the cranial and caudal segments of the spinal cord. Following injury, excessive production of ROS is considered to trigger the secondary injury cascade of progressive degeneration that affects the entire spinal cord.

#### 2.2.3. Peripheral Nerve Injury (PNI)

The peripheral nervous system (PNS) is a bundle of long nerve fibers that connect different parts of the body with the CNS. Damage to the peripheral nerves due to trauma and compression can cause impairment in the brain's communication with the target organs [106]. These injuries affect motor and sensory behaviors, perception, consciousness, and sensations of the skin and joints [106]. The most common symptoms of PNI are defects in sensory and motor function that can lead to complete paralysis of the affected limb or the development of intractable neuropathic pain [107]. Many surgical procedures, such as oral and maxillofacial surgery, can also cause injury to the peripheral nerves [108]. The major component of the mechanism and pathogenesis of PNI involves



oxidative stress and inflammation that exacerbates neural damages and plays a negative role in the regeneration process [109]. Experimental evidence at the preclinical level has demonstrated that inhibiting oxidative stress could help improve functional recovery by accelerating the repair processes [110][111][112][113][114].

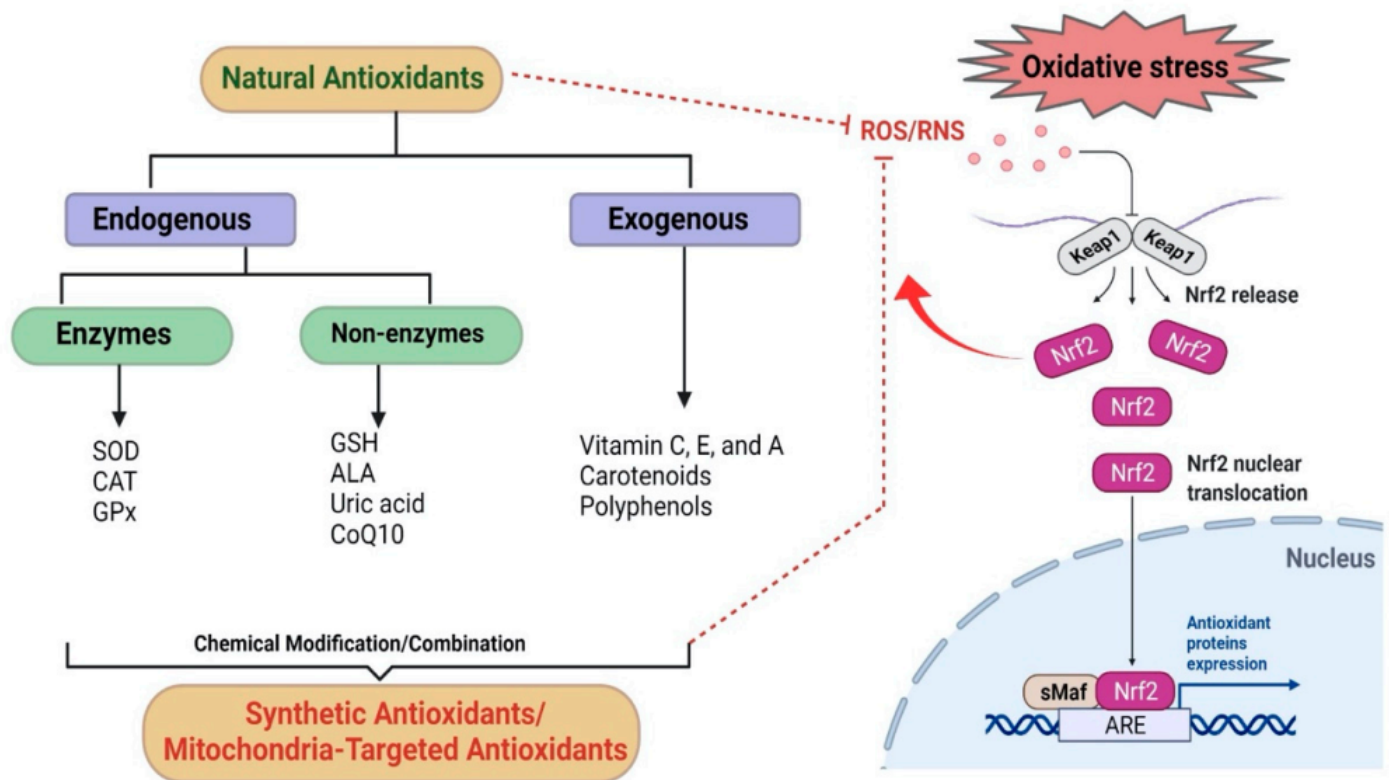
Other neurodegenerative diseases implicated due to oxidative stress are: vascular dementia [115], Down syndrome [116], Autism [117], attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) [118], Huntington's disease (HD) [119], multiple sclerosis (MS) [120], depression [121], and epilepsy [122]. Similarly, in traumatic brain injury (TBI) [123], progressive degeneration occurs due to the accumulation of excessive free radicals, glutamate release, Ca<sup>2+</sup> overload, mitochondrial dysfunction, leading to apoptosis/necrosis [123].

### 3. Antioxidants

From the above review of the etiology of different neurodegenerative diseases, oxidative stress is considered as the key component, whether these are chronic neurodegenerative conditions such as AD, PD, or ALS or caused by neuronal tissue injuries, such as in stroke, SCI, or PNI. Dysfunctional mitochondria under oxidative stress become the main source of free radical formation and deplete the energy needed for normal cellular function, leading to inflammation and cell death [124]. Another set of literature data indicates that dysfunctional mitochondria cause oxidative stress [125]. Thus, there is a complexity in understanding the root cause, whether oxidative stress leads to mitochondrial dysfunction, or it is mitochondrial dysfunction that leads to oxidative stress [49][126][127]. Despite ambiguity on the root cause of oxidative stress, it is hypothesized that an effective treatment based on antioxidants can alleviate oxidative stress and regain the redox balance that can attenuate mitochondrial dysfunction and curtail the downstream cascade of degeneration [126]. It is also contemplated that oxidative stress-free condition can promote regeneration and healing by the endogenous mechanisms, such as by promoting migration and differentiation of progenitor and stem cells [127]. In addition, an oxidative stress-free environment could promote differentiation of macrophages preferentially to M2 phenotype, which contains growth factors and can promote healing, rather than to M1 phenotype, which contains degenerative inflammatory cytokines [128]. With this in consideration, natural and synthetic antioxidants have been evaluated in preclinical model studies and clinical trials [129].

Antioxidants can reduce oxidative stress by quenching/scavenging free radical intermediates, thereby preventing oxidative chain reactions from propagating [4]. These antioxidants predominantly include various endogenous antioxidant enzymes with their substrates or coenzymes and nonenzymatic antioxidants, along with exogenous (natural and synthetic) antioxidant sources that maintain the redox equilibrium in the biological system [130]. Endogenous antioxidant activity is directly regulated by nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2 (Nrf2). It is a ubiquitous redox-sensitive transcription factor that stimulates the expression of antioxidant response element (ARE)-containing gene promoters involved in ROS detoxification. These promoters are heme oxygenase 1 (HO-1), glutathione s-transferase (GST), and NADPH quinone oxidoreductase 1 (NQO1) (Figure 4) [131]. Thus, the Nrf2 pathway is an important aspect of the cellular defense mechanism against oxidative stress [132].

### Classification of Natural and Synthetic Antioxidants

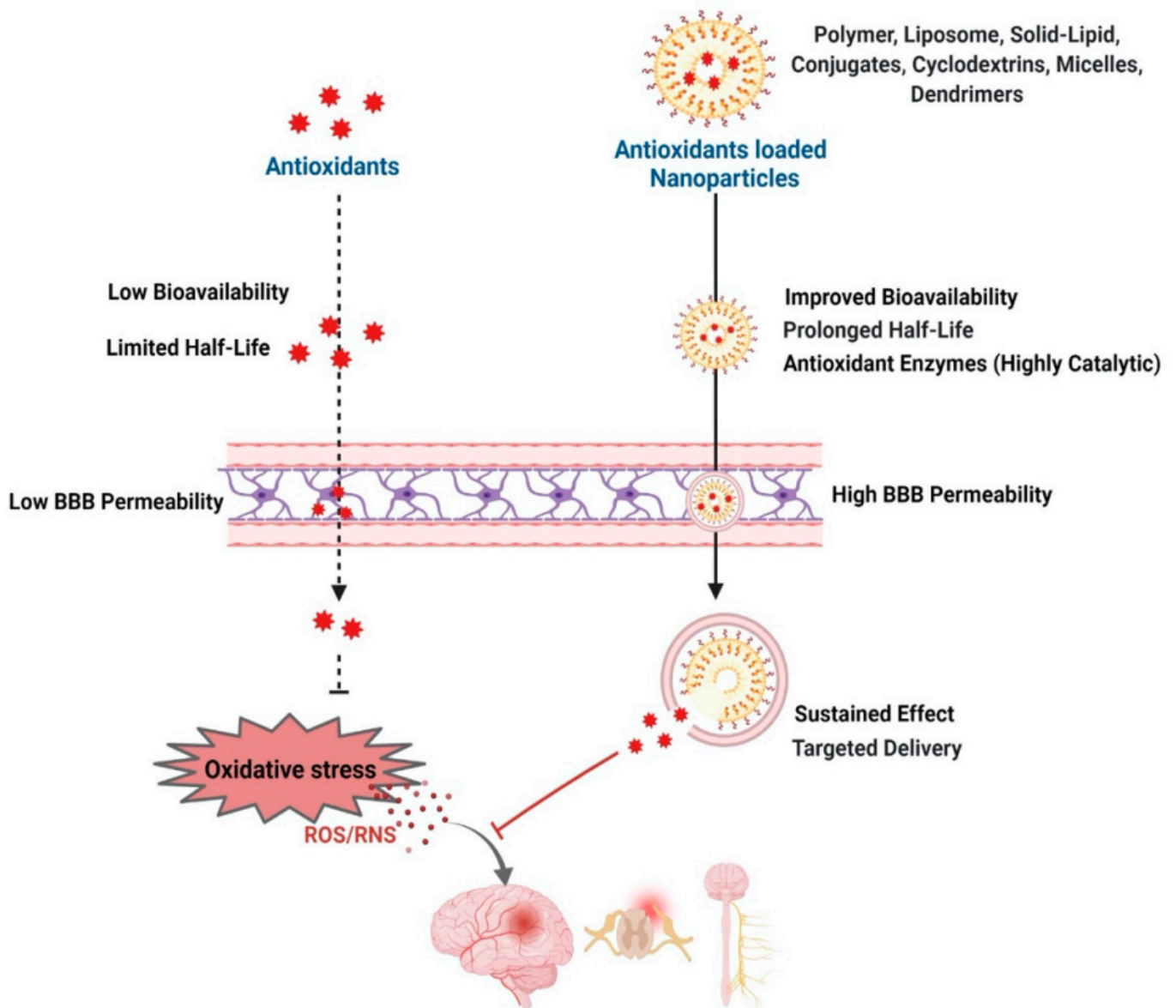


**Figure 4.** Natural and synthetic antioxidants: Classification of natural and synthetic antioxidants and the endogenous Nrf2 pathway, which regulates the activation of ARE genes. Kelch-like ECH-associated protein 1 (Keap1) represents a negative regulator of Nrf2. Under physiological conditions, Keap1 forms a ubiquitin E3 ligase complex with Cullin3 in the cytoplasm that targets Nrf2 for polyubiquitination and rapid proteasomal degradation. During oxidative stress, cysteines in Keap1 are modified and inactivated, and Nrf2 can quickly translocate into the nucleus, where it binds to small musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma oncogene homolog (sMaf) proteins, upregulates downstream ARE genes, and maintains redox homeostasis.

## 4. Antioxidant-Based Nanotherapy

To overcome the limitations of natural and synthetic antioxidants, significant efforts have been made to improve their efficacy using drug delivery approaches. These include exploring nanocarriers of different polymeric materials, conjugates, and complexes [133][134] to improve their stability, half-lives, transport to the CNS, and sustained their effect in the target tissue (Figure 5).

## Potential Advantages of Nanoparticle-based Delivery Systems



**Figure 5.** Antioxidant-based nanotherapy. Schematic depicting advantages of delivery of antioxidant-loaded nanoparticles to improve half-life of antioxidants and their ability to cross the BBB, improve bioavailability, and sustain the effect, thus effectively neutralizing oxidative stress in neurodegenerative diseases.

Due to its broad pharmacological effects, including anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, curcumin has been widely investigated in clinical studies. To overcome its low water solubility, poor bioavailability, and rapid metabolism, curcumin is formulated as nanocurcumin using different nanocarriers, such as liposomes, polymers, conjugates, cyclodextrins, micelles, dendrimers, and nanoparticles [135]. Transferrin-conjugated poly (lactic co-glycolic acid) (PLGA) nanoparticles have been demonstrated to improve the bioavailability of curcumin to the brain and reduce A $\beta$  deposition and tau hyperphosphorylation in the AD model [136]. Similarly, different formulations of nanoparticles have been shown to inhibit aggregation of A $\beta$  and reduce depressive-like behavior and oxidative

stress in AD models [137][138]. Intra-arterial administration of resveratrol (RES)-encapsulated nanoparticle (RES-NP) in a rat transient middle cerebral artery occlusion (t-MCAO) enhanced the resveratrol bioavailability and its brain-penetration, resulting in reduced infarct volume, and attenuated oxidative stress [139], brain edema, and neuronal apoptosis. The treatment also contributed to neurogenesis, leading to improved neurological recovery [140]. In a cerebral palsy rabbit model, intravenous treatment of dendrimer-based N-acetyl-L-cysteine (NAC) [141], a glutathione precursor with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties [142], reduced neuroinflammation and neurological injury, and improved motor function. In general, formulating antioxidants in nanocarriers has enhanced their efficacy due to better stability and/or improved transport to the CNS than free antioxidants [143][144][145][146][147][148][149][150][151][152][153][154][155][156][157][158][159][160][161][162][163][164][165][166][167][168][169]. Nanocurcumin has been evaluated as an add-on therapy to Riluzole in a pilot randomized clinical trial for safety and efficacy in ALS [170] and AD patients as dietary supplements [171]. In another study, solid–lipid curcumin showed significantly improved cognition and mood in a healthy older population [172].

Edaravone-loaded ceria nanoparticles have been demonstrated to cross the BBB via receptor-mediated transcytosis and protect the BBB [173]. In addition to the antioxidant property of ceria nanoparticles, edaravone provided its effect against oxidative stress in a stroke model [173]. Jin et al. demonstrated that the treatment with edaravone-encapsulated agonistic micelles caused rapid infarct volume reduction, prolonged survival, improved axonal remodeling, and reduced behavioral deficits than free edaravone-treated animals [174]. Wang et al. reviewed nanotechnology-based strategies for the treatment of ALS, including antioxidant agents [175]. Nanoparticle-loaded edaravone has been tested on the postoperative effects in patients with cerebral hemorrhage. The nanoparticle-loaded edaravone showed reduced edema as compared to free edaravone treated group, significantly improved neurological function, and reduced the production and release of interleukin and tumor necrosis factor, which was considered beneficial to protect healthy brain tissue and other organs, and conducive to the recovery and healing [176].

Despite promising results in preclinical studies, clinical translation of antioxidants as a therapy to treat neurodegenerative diseases remains elusive. The issues could be their low bioavailability, instability, limited transport to the target tissue, and/or poor antioxidant capacity, requiring repeated and high dosing, which cannot be administered to humans because of dose-limiting toxicity. Nanoparticle-mediated delivery of antioxidant enzymes could potentially address some of the above issues. Apart from being endogenous, the main advantage of antioxidant enzymes is their catalytic mechanism of action; hence, they are significantly more effective at lower doses in detoxifying the deleterious effects of free radicals than nonenzymatic antioxidants.

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