

INTRODUCTION

The term "trace elements" is based on historical analytic experience and refers to a collective group of chemical elements present at low concentration in biological cells.

Some of these elements perform essential functions and thus must be obtained from the environment in adequate amount to optimize cellular metabolism.

Trace elements because of their relatively low concentration often function as catalyst in metabolic processes. (*Joseph, 1987*)

The introduction of more sophisticated techniques has resulted in an enormous increase in our understanding of the role these elements play in metabolism. (*Jonathan & shaw, 1980*)

Disorders in mineral elements, nutrition and metabolism in embryo are potentially mutagenic and teratogenic and may lead to abortion or wide variety of malformations. Mineral element disorders later in fetal life may produce growth retardation and various abnormalities. (*Doyle et al., 1989*)