

Methods of Absorption

Different methods of membrane transport are used in epithelium cells to absorb different nutrients

Simple Diffusion

Nutrients pass down the concentration gradient between phospholipids in the membrane

Example: Hydrophobic nutrients such as fatty acids and monoglycerides.

Facilitated Diffusion

Nutrients pass down the concentration gradient through specific channel proteins in the membrane

Example: Hydrophilic nutrients such as fructose.

Active Transport

Nutrients are pumped through the membrane against the concentration gradient by specific pump proteins

Example: Mineral ions such as sodium, calcium and iron.

Pinocytosis

Small droplets of the fluid are passed through the membrane by means of vesicles

Example: triglycerides and cholesterol in lipoprotein particles.

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