



# JIM C – HEALTH TERMS

## MONDAY - 09/28/2009

Glucose, a normal component of animal blood, requires no digestion prior to absorption into the bloodstream.

### HOW DID THE TERM “*GLUCOSE*” ORIGINATE?

**Definition:** Monosaccharide (simple) sugar,  $C_6H_{12}O_6$ , also known as grape sugar or corn sugar, is found in honey and the juices of many fruits. Two stereoisomers of the aldohexose sugars are known as glucose, only one of which ( D-glucose) is biologically active.

**Online Etymology:** 1840, from French *Glucose* (1838), from Greek *gleukos* "must, sweet wine," related to *glykys* "sweet," from \**glku-*, dissimilated in Greek from PIE \**dlk-u-* "sweet" (Latin *dulcis*).

- 1747: Andreas Marggraf, a German chemist, discovered sugar in beets and devised a method using alcohol to extract it.
- 1884: Jacobus Henricus van't Hoff, a Dutch physical and organic chemist, published his research on chemical kinetics and introduced the modern concept of chemical affinity.
- 1891 – 1894: Emil Fischer, a German chemist, established the stereochemical configuration of all the known sugars, the synthesis of glucose, and predicted the possible isomers.

**Conventional Wisdom:** Glucose = Body's Primary Source of Energy

**Moment of Zen:** Insulin and Glucose → Homeostasis in the Body