

1. Cholesterol metabolism

- a. reduction in excess cholesterol
 - through degradation of cholesterol to bile acids
 - by solubilization of cholesterol in the bile
- b. regulation of cholesterol synthesis in the liver and intestine
- c. regulation of cholesterol output into the bile
 - 3α -, 7α -bile acids inhibit secretion
 - 3α -, 12α -bile acids increase secretion

2. Digestion and resorption of dietary fats

- a. by formation of micelles
- b. by stabilization and activation of enzymes
(e. g. pancreatic lipase, phospholipase A_2 ,
pancreatic cholesterol esterase)

3. Effects on the bile flow due to osmotic water movement

4. Effects on bile secretion

- a. monohydroxy bile acids function cholestatically
- b. dihydroxy and trihydroxy bile acids have a
choleretical effect

5. Emulsification of fat-soluble vitamins

6. Stimulation of intestinal motility