

The order of the N-terminus of Human serum albumin (HSA), more especially Asp1–Ala2–His3–Lys4, is extremely vulnerable to oxidative stress–induced metabolic alterations and degradation. This vulnerability leads to reduced affinity of the N-terminal sequence (NTS) to transition metals, particularly cobalt. This altered variant of albumin is referred to as ischemia–modified albumin (IMA).