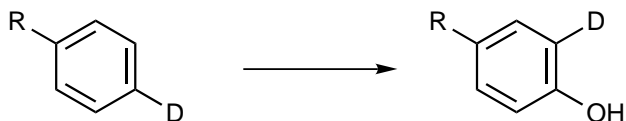


NIH shift

The *intramolecular* hydrogen *migration* which can be observed in enzymatic and chemical hydroxylations of aromatic rings. It is evidenced by appropriate deuterium labelling, i.e.



In enzymatic reactions the NIH shift is generally thought to derive from the rearrangement of arene oxide intermediates, but other pathways have been suggested. (NIH stands for U.S. National Institutes of Health where the shift was discovered.)

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