Figure 4. A flow diagram illustrating a rate-limiting step

If *ALDH2* removes acetaldehyde more slowly than it accumulates thanks to *ADH1B*, then the acetaldehyde will accumulate. This occurs in some people, and some ethnic groups, but not others, and they tend not to drink alcohol in large quantities. In them, the rate-limiting step is *ALDH2*, whereas in others it is *ADH1B*. 