



11. Disturbances of Acid-Base Balance

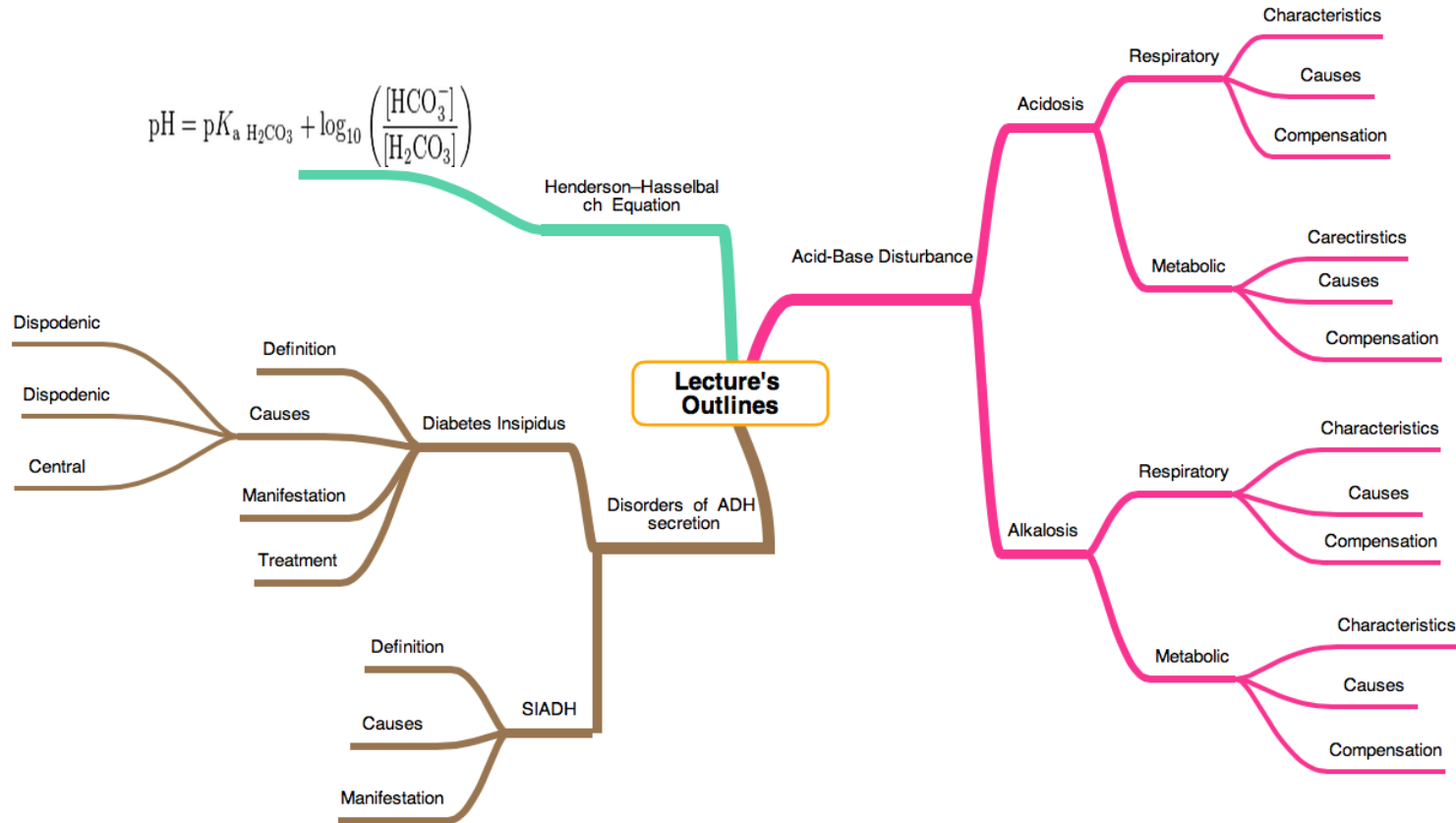
Color index

-Important
-Extra Information

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Please check out this link before viewing the file to know if there are any additions/changes or corrections. The same link will be used for all of our work [Physiology Edit](#)



The Henderson–Hasselbalch Equation

It can be applied to relate the pH of blood to constituents of bicarbonate buffer system.

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_{\text{a H}_2\text{CO}_3} + \log_{10} \left(\frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{[\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3]} \right)$$

Concentration of bicarbonate in the blood = 24 mmol/L

Solubility constant of CO_2 in blood ≈ 0.0307 mmol/L

$$[\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3] = k_{\text{H CO}_2} \times p_{\text{CO}_2}$$

Cologarithm of the acid dissociation constant of carbonic acid. It is equal to 6.1

Concentration of carbonic acid in the blood

Partial pressure of carbon dioxide in the arterial blood = 40 mmHg

The acidity in the blood

$$\text{pH} = 6.1 + \log_{10} \left(\frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.0307 \times p_{\text{CO}_2}} \right)$$

In health, pH = 7.4

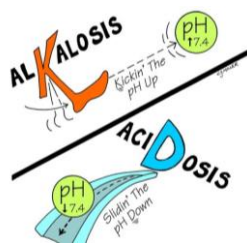
In the previous lecture, we have described the mechanism by which the kidneys secrete H^+ and reabsorb HCO_3^- . Now we can explain how the kidneys readjust the pH of the extracellular fluid when it becomes **abnormal**.

Disturbances of Acid-Base Balance

- Referring to the **Henderson-Hasselbalch equation**, we can see that acidosis occurs when the ratio of HCO_3^- to CO_2 in the extracellular fluid decreases, thereby decreasing pH.

The ratio (pH) ↓
of ↓ HCO_3^-

Metabolic
Acidosis

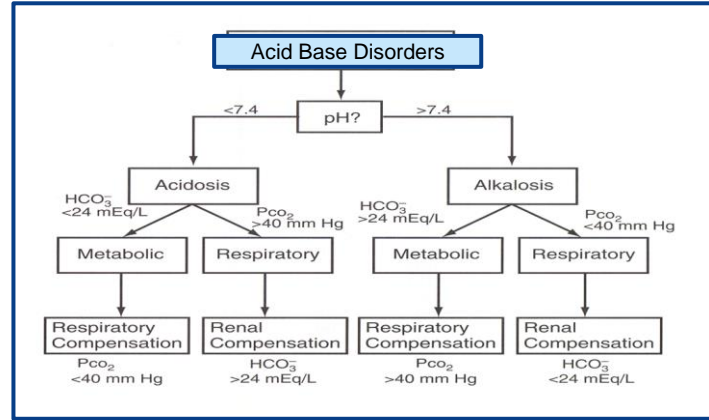
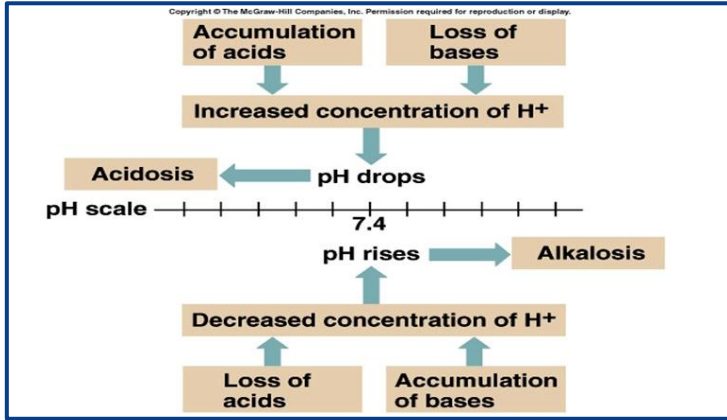


The ratio (pH) ↓
of ↑ PCO_2

Respiratory
Acidosis

The opposite occurs in **alkalosis**.

So, pH problems due to a **respiratory disorder** result in **RESPIRATORY** acidosis or alkalosis.
and pH problems arising from acids or bases of a **non- CO_2 origin** result in **METABOLIC** acidosis or alkalosis



Rates of Correction

Buffers, take seconds.

Respiratory mechanisms, take several minutes to hours.

Renal mechanisms, may take several hours to days.

Respiratory Acidosis

✧ Characterised by :

Reduction in pH, an \uparrow in ECF H^+ concentration, and an \uparrow in P_{CO_2} (above 45 mmHg)

✧ Causes: (results from \downarrow ventilation and \uparrow P_{CO_2})

- Depression of respiratory centres in brain by drugs or head trauma.
- Paralysis of respiratory or chest muscles.
- Emphysema/COPD.
- Pulmonary edema.

✧ Compensation:

1- Renal: By increase in plasma HCO_3^- caused by the addition of *new HCO_3^-* to the ECF by the kidneys. The rise in HCO_3^- helps offset the increase in P_{CO_2} , thereby returning the plasma pH toward normal.

2- Buffers: To continue secretion of H^+ the excess H^+ has to be buffered (phosphate & ammonia), at the same time new molecules of HCO_3^- will be formed and pass into the blood.

Respiratory Alkalosis

✧ Characterised by :

Increase in pH, an \downarrow in ECF H^+ concentration, and an \downarrow in P_{CO_2} (below 45 mmHg)

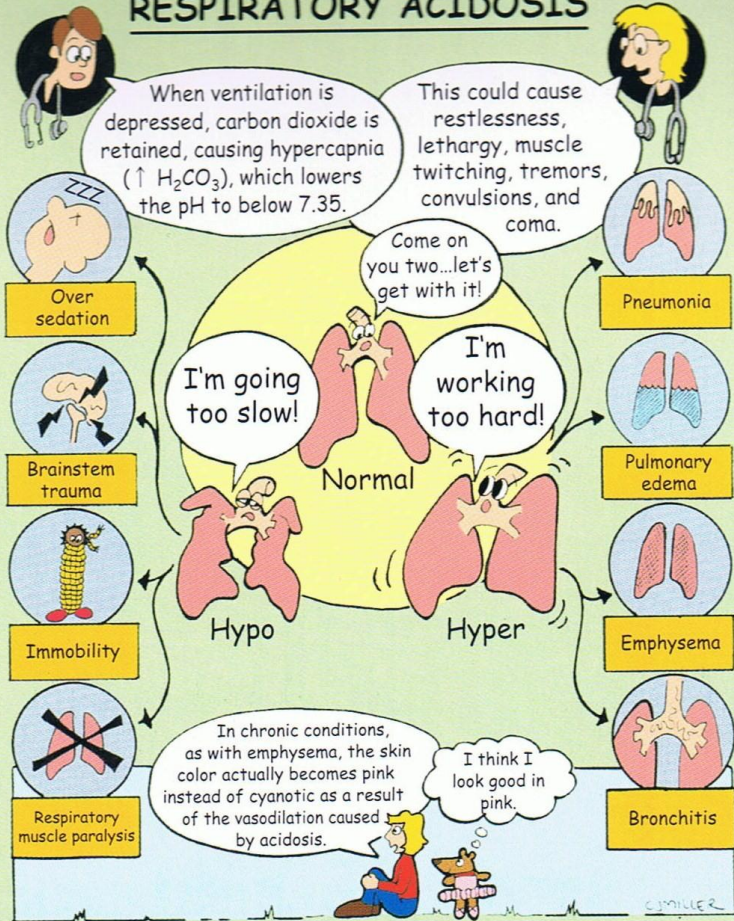
✧ Cause: (results from \uparrow ventilation and \downarrow P_{CO_2})

- Conditions that stimulate respiratory centres leads to a decrease in plasma P_{CO_2} , caused by hyperventilation.
- Oxygen deficiency at high altitudes.

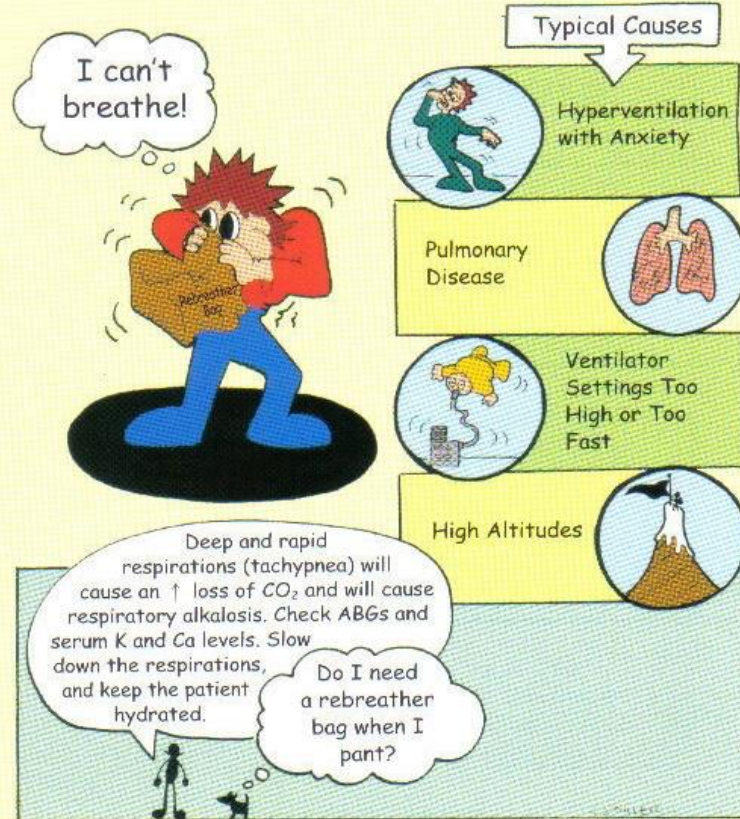
✧ Compensation:

1-Renal: By reduction in plasma HCO_3^- concentration, caused by increased renal *excretion of HCO_3^-* (in an attempt to reduce plasma HCO_3^- concentration toward normal.)

RESPIRATORY ACIDOSIS



RESPIRATORY ALKALOSIS



Metabolic Acidosis

✧ Characterised by :

Reduction in pH, an \uparrow in ECF H^+ concentration, and \downarrow in HCO_3^- (below 22 mEq/L)

✧ Causes:

- Loss of bicarbonate e.g. severe diarrhea.
- Hypoaldosteronism.
- Accumulation of acids e.g.:
 - *Diabetic ketosis.
 - *Failure of kidneys to excrete H^+
 - *Drug toxicity e.g. salicylates.

✧ Compensation:

1- Respiratory: By *Increased ventilation rate*, which reduces P_{CO_2} .

2-Renal: By adding *new HCO_3^-* to the ECF, helps minimize the initial fall in ECF HCO_3^- concentration.

Metabolic Alkalosis

✧ Characterised by :

Increases in pH, an \uparrow in ECF H^+ concentration, and \uparrow in HCO_3^- (above 27 mEq/L)

✧ Causes:

- Excess vomiting = loss of stomach acid.
- Excessive use of alkaline drugs.
- Certain diuretics.
- Endocrine disorders: Hyperaldosteronism.
- Severe dehydration.

✧ Compensation:

1- Respiratory: By *Decreased ventilation rate*, which raises P_{CO_2} .

2-Renal: By increasing *HCO_3^- renal excretion*, which helps compensate for the initial rise in ECF HCO_3^- concentration

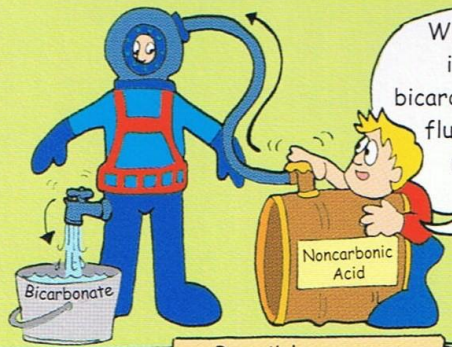
- Does arterial P_{CO_2} remain unchanged in these cases? NO!

Remember, plasma P_{CO_2} changes during metabolic acidosis / alkalosis are a *result of*, not *cause of*, compensatory reflex responses to non-respiratory abnormalities.

METABOLIC ACIDOSIS

7.35 pH

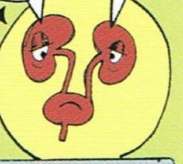
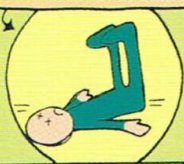
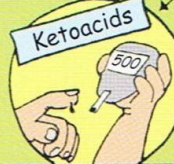
7.35 pH



When acid accumulates in the body or when bicarbonate is lost from body fluid, a bicarbonate deficit results and metabolic acidosis occurs.

We just can't secrete ions or reabsorb bicarbonate.

Possible causes



Due to ketoacidosis

Shock

Severe diarrhea

Impaired kidney function

Warning Signs and Symptoms

- Headache
- Lethargy
- Anorexia
- Deep, rapid respirations (Kussmaul)
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal discomfort (in severe acidosis)
- Coma and dangerous dysrhythmias

Metabolic acidosis will cause changes in the neurologic, respiratory, gastrointestinal, and cardiac systems.

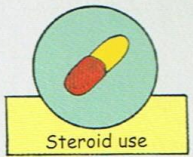
You've gotta watch that K⁺ level too—it will go up!



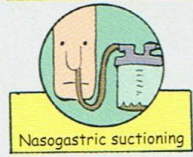
METABOLIC ALKALOSIS

7.45 pH

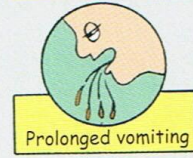
7.45 pH



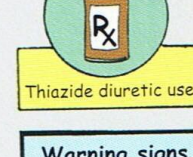
Steroid use



Nasogastric suctioning

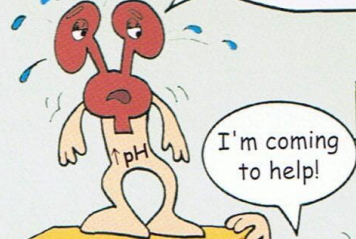


Prolonged vomiting

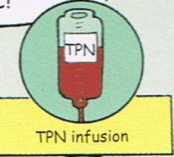
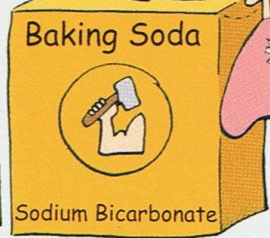


Thiazide diuretic use

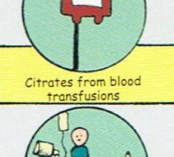
I can't control the pH! There is just too much base, and I have lost my H⁺ concentration! I'm alkalotic!



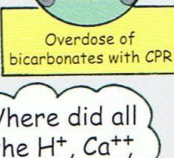
I'm coming to help!



TPN infusion



Citrates from blood transfusions



Overdose of bicarbonates with CPR

Warning signs and symptoms:

- Cardiac dysrhythmias as a result of ↓ K
- Physical weakness
- Muscle cramping
- Hyperactive reflexes
- Tetany
- Convulsions
- Confusion

Where did all the H⁺, Ca⁺⁺, and K⁺ go?



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	pH	H ⁺	Pco ₂	HCO ₃ ⁻
Normal	7.4	40 mEq/L	40 mm Hg	24 mEq/L
Respiratory acidosis	↓	↑	↑↑	↑
Respiratory alkalosis	↑	↓	↓↓	↓
Metabolic acidosis	↓	↑	↓	↓↓
Metabolic alkalosis	↑	↓	↑	↑↑

Example

A patient is in intensive care because he suffered a severe myocardial infarction 3 days ago. The lab reports the following values from an arterial blood sample: (pH =7.21, PCO2= 42, HCO3- = 12)

List the condition: acidosis or alkalosis, metabolic or respiratory, compensated or uncompensated?

Answer:

Metabolic acidosis, uncompensated

(why we say uncompensated? because of the *no change* in plasma Pco₂)

More Examples

pH	PaCO ₂	PaHCO ₃	Condition
★ 7.21 ↓	32 ↓	14 ↓↓↓	Metabolic Acidosis, Compensated.
★ 7.5 ↑	26 ↓↓↓	21 ↓	Respiratory Alkalosis, Compensated.
★ 7.36 ↓	54 ↑↑↑	32 ↑	Respiratory Acidosis, Compensated.

ALWAYS KEEP THIS PICTURE IN MIND

	pH	H ⁺	Pco ₂	HCO ₃ ⁻
Normal	7.4	40mEq/L	40mm Hg	24mEq/L
★ Respiratory acidosis	↓	↑	↑↑	↑
★ Respiratory alkalosis	↑	↓	↓↓	↓
★ Metabolic acidosis	↓	↑	↓	↓↓
Metabolic alkalosis	↑	↓	↑	↑↑

Disorders of ADH secretion

Diabetes Insipidus

Syndrome of inappropriate ADH secretion

Definition

Deficient ADH secretion or reduced response to it .

Non- physiological or excess release of ADH .

Causes

- 1- Central :** damage to the pituitary gland disrupts the storage and release of ADH .
- 2- Nephrogenic :** kidneys are unable to respond to ADH, due to drugs (lithium), chronic disorders such as polycystic kidney disease, sickle cell disease, kidney failure, partial blockage of ureter , genetic disorders.
- 3- Diposdenic :** defect or damage to the thirst mechanism which is located in hypothalamus, results in increase thirst and fluid uptake which suppress ADH secretion.

- 1- Infections : HIV, Meningitis, encephalitis, abscess.
- 2- vascular : subarachnoid or subdural hemorrhage.
- 3- Neoplasm
- 4- Post-pituitary surgery, multiple sclerosis, psychosis, BMT or stem cell transplant.
- 5- Drugs : chemotherapeutic, antidepressants, Bromocriptine (dopamine agonist).
- 6- Pulmonary diseases.
- 7- Idiopathic

Manifestation

Polyuria - polydipsia (excess thirst) - Diluted urine (low fixed specific gravity) -Dehydration (when patients don't drink enough).
In DM : urine is concentrated due to hyperglycemia.

- Oliguria

Treatment

For central causes : synthetic hormone (desmopressin) can be taken orally or injection.
For Nephrogenic causes : desmopressin is not effective, and Moduretic is given .
In these two types patients should drink fluid only when thirsty, not at other times.
For Diposdenic causes: no effective treatment is found yet .

- hyponatremia (lethargy , apathy, disorientation, muscle cramps, anorexia ,agitation) when Na conc. Is lower than 110 mEq\L (seizures, bulbar palsies, hypothermia, stupor, coma)
- water toxicity (nausea, vomiting, personality changes, confusion) –

	Respiratory Acidosis	Respiratory Alkalosis	Metabolic Acidosis	Metabolic Alkalosis
	Carbonic acid (CO ₂) excess > 40	Decreased CO ₂ (Hyperventilation)	bicarbonate(HCO ₃) < 24 mEq/L	Bicarbonate(HCO ₃) excess >24mEq/L
causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Depression of respiratory center in brain by drugs or head trauma -Paralysis of respiratory or chest muscles -Emphysema/COPD. -Pulmonary edema. 	Oxygen deficiency at high altitudes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of bicarbonate e.g. severe diarrhea. -Hypoaldosteronism. -Accumulation of acids e.g.: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1-Diabetic ketosis . 2-Failure of kidneys to excrete H⁺ 3-Drug toxicity e.g. salicylates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Excess vomiting = loss of stomach acid -Excessive use of alkaline drugs -Certain diuretics -Endocrine disorders: (Hyperaldosteronism). (cause secretion of H⁺) -Severe dehydration
features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction in pH - Increase in PaCO₂ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase in pH. - Decrease in PaCO₂ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -decrease in pH. -primary abnormality is a decrease in plasma HCO₃. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase plasma pH - rise in HCO₃.
compensation	<p>1-Buffer.</p> <p>2-Renal: Increase new generation HCO₃→increase secretion of H⁺</p>	<p>1- Buffer</p> <p>2- Renal renal excretion of HCO₃ to reduce plasma HCO₃ to normal</p>	<p>1-Buffer</p> <p>2-Respiratory: hyperventilation (reduces PaCO₂).</p> <p>3- Renal (if kidney normal): new bicarbonate excretes more H⁺.</p>	<p>1- Buffer</p> <p>2-Respiratory: (hypoventilation) →Raises CO₂.</p>

METABOLIC ALKALOSIS

- Restlessness Followed by Lethargy
- Confusion (↓LOC, Dizzy, Irritable)
- Dysrhythmias (Tachycardia)
- Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea
- Compensatory Hypoventilation
- Tremors, Muscle Cramps, Tingling of Fingers & Toes
- Causes:
 - Severe Vomiting
 - Excessive GI Suctioning
 - Diuretics
 - Excessive NaHCO_3
- Hypokalemia

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METABOLIC ACIDOSIS

- Headache
- ↓BP
- Hyperkalemia
- Muscle Twitching
- Warm, Flushed Skin (Vasodilation)
- Nausea, Vomiting
- ↓Muscle Tone, ↓Reflexes (Confusion, TDrowsiness)
- Kussmaul Respirations (Compensatory Hyperventilation)
- Causes:
 - ↑ H^+ Production (DKA, hypermetabolism)
 - ↓ H^+ Elimination (renal failure)
 - ↓ HCO_3 Production (dehydration, liver failure)
 - ↑ HCO_3 Elimination (diarrhea, fistulas)

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RESPIRATORY ALKALOSIS

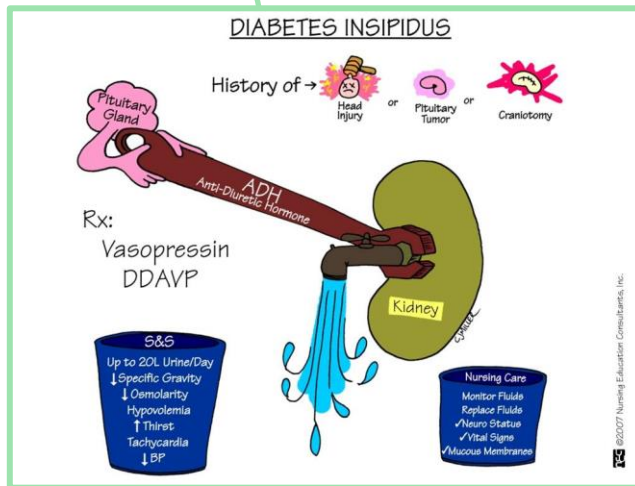
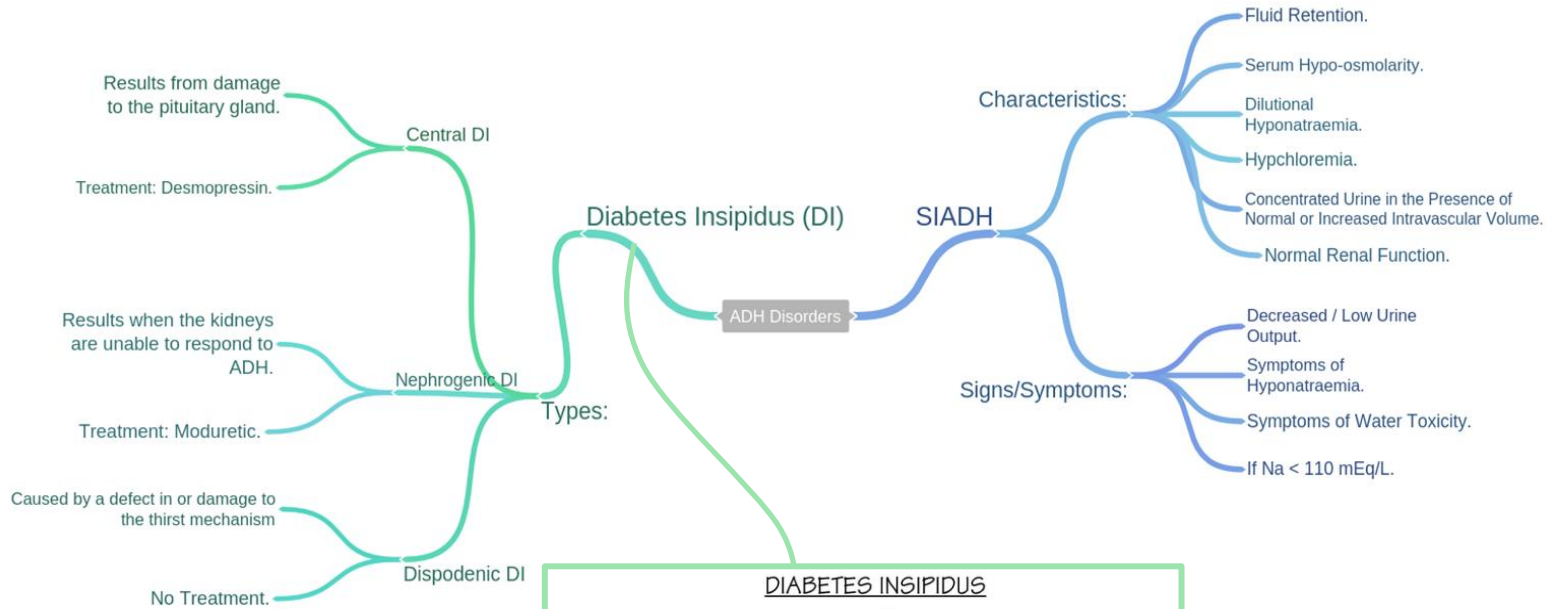
- Seizures
- Lethargy & Confusion
- Deep, Rapid Breathing
- Light Headedness
- Hyperventilation
- Nausea, Vomiting
- Tachycardia
- Causes:
 - Hyperventilation (Anxiety, PE, Fear)
 - Mechanical Ventilation
- ↓or Normal BP
- Hypokalemia
- Numbness & Tingling of Extremities

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RESPIRATORY ACIDOSIS

- Hypoventilation → Hypoxia
- Rapid, Shallow Respirations
- ↓BP with Vasodilation
- Dyspnea
- Headache
- Hyperkalemia
- Dysrhythmias (↑K)
- Drowsiness, Dizziness, Disorientation
- Muscle Weakness, Hyperreflexia
- Causes:
 - ↓Respiratory Stimuli (Anesthesia, Drug Overdose)
 - COPD
 - Pneumonia
 - Atelectasis

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1- What is the normal arterial blood PH:

- A. 7.4
- B. 7.35
- C. 6

2- Decrease in HCO_3 concentration is termed as:

- A. Respiratory acidosis
- B. Metabolic acidosis
- C. Metabolic alkalosis

3- What is the initial cause of respiratory acidosis:

- A. Decrease in PCO_2
- B. Decrease in HCO_3
- C. Increase in PCO_2

4- What is lower limit of pH at which a person can live for more than a few hours is and the upper limit is about.....:

- A. 6,8 , 8
- B. 7 , 8.3
- C. 7.5 , 9

5- 5.which of these mechanisms takes hours or several days to regulate acid base balance:

- A. Buffer system
- B. Respiratory systems
- C. Kidneys

6- Which of the following is not a symptom of Diabetes insipidus:

- A. Polyuria
- B. Polydipsia
- C. Concentrated urine

7- Results from damage to the pituitary gland?

- A. Central DI
- B. Nephrogenic DI
- C. Dipsogenic DI

8- During Nephrogenic DI treatment the patient should drink a lot of water.

- A. True B. False

9- in Dispodenic DI urine output is?

- A.Decrease
- B. Increase
- C. Constant

10- Syndrome of inappropriate ADH secretion could be caused by?

- A. Encephalitis
- B. Hemorrhage
- C. Chemotherapy
- D. All of them

1- Mention the causes of metabolic alkalosis:

Excess vomiting = loss of stomach acid, Excessive use of alkaline drugs, Certain diuretics, Endocrine disorders: Hyperaldosteronism, and Severe dehydration.

3- What will happen if there is metabolic acidosis (compensation) ?

*Respiratory: increased ventilation rate reduces PaCO_2 .

*Renal : adds new bicarbonate to the extracellular fluid and excretes more H^+ .

4- List the primary

*Acids taken with foods (such as proteins)

*Cellular metabolism produces CO_2 .

5- Why the phosphate buffer is important in renal tubules?

*Becomes concentrated in the tubular fluid, so become powerful

*Its $\text{pK}_a = 6.8$, which close to the pH in the tubular fluid of the distal nephron

6- How the kidney regulates blood pH?

By Reabsorption of filtered bicarbonate, Generation of new bicarbonate and Excretion of H^+ .

6- A persons's arterial blood pH = 7.25, PCO_2 is 24 mmHg and HCO_3 is 10.2 mEq/L.

Which might cause this pattern?

(it's metabolic acidosis) thus the causes may be : diarrhoea, Salicylate overdose and CRF.

1- Central DI is treated by?

Desmopressin

2- List 3 of Nephrogenic DI causes?

- Drugs—like lithium,
- Chronic disorders including polycystic kidney disease, sickle cell disease, kidney failure, partial blockage of the ureters, and inherited genetic disorders.

3- Why Dispodenic DI can't be treated with Desmopressin?

Because Desmopressin may decrease urine output but not thirst and fluid intake. This fluid overload can lead to water intoxication, a condition that lowers the concentration of sodium in the blood and can seriously damage the brain cells.

4- What are the Symptoms of water toxicity?

Nausea, vomiting, personality changes, confusion

5- List 3 of SIADH characteristics?

- 1-Serum hypo-osmolarity
- 2-dilutional hyponatraemia
- 3-hypchloremia

THANK YOU FOR CHECKING OUR WORK!

BEST OF LUCK

Done By:

- ✧ Rawa Alohali
- ✧ Nora Alhelali
- ✧ Amirah Mansour
- ✧ Nouf Alharbi
- ✧ Hadeel Alsulami
- ✧ Malak Alkhathlan
- ✧ Najilaa2020
- ✧ Raghad Alotaibi
- ✧ Nojoud Alrasheed
- ✧ Nouf Almasoud

