

Electrolytes imbalances

K Potassium

3.4 – 5.5 mmol/L

| Problem | Hyperkalemia | Hypokalemia |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Causes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acidosis - NA/K ATPase dysfunction : Beta blockers , Digoxin , ↓ Insulin - Massive Cell breakdown - Impaired renal function : low GFR - ↓ Aldosterone : Addison disease - Dehydration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alkalosis - GI losses: Diarrhea , vomiting , Laxatives - Renal losses: diuretic - Insufficient dietary intake - ↑ Aldosterone : hyperaldosteronism - Rapid transcellular shift : Insulin therapy , beta2 agonist (Epinephrine) |
| Clinical features | <p>Arrhythmias</p> <p>ECG changes progress through → tall, peaked T waves → QRS widening → PR interval prolongation → loss of P waves → a sine wave pattern.</p> | <p>Arrhythmias</p> <p>ECG change: Flattening of T waves ,U waves appear if severe.</p> |
| Treatment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce Cardiac muscle irritability with IV Ca gluconate membrane stabilizer(only if EKG changes) - Push K into cells : insulin, Sodium bicarbonate , beta agonist - Remove the K load : loop diuretics(furosemide) , dialysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stop the loss : treat underlying causes - Replace lost K with K (Should not be administered at rate greater than 10-20 mmol/hr , if greater it will lead to thrombophlebitis) |

Calcium Ca

8.5 to 10.5 mg/dL

| Problem | Hypercalcemia | Hypocalcemia |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Causes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ↑ intestinal absorption : ↑ intake of Ca , vitamin D - ↑ Renal reabsorption : Thiazide diuretics - ↑ bone resorption : immobilization, metastasis - ↑ PTH : hyperparathyroidism , malignancy - ↑ Vitamin D | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ↓ intestinal absorption : ↓ intake - ↓ renal reabsorption : loop diuretics - ↓ PTH : hypoparathyroidism - ↓ Vitamin D : renal failure - Bone remodeling: Hungry bone syndrome “ post parathyroidectomy“ |
| Clinical features | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cardiac : shortened QT interval - Neuromuscular : muscle weakness - STONES: Nephrocalcinosis , Nephrogenic diabetes inspidus , dehydration - Bones : bones pain - GIT : Abdominal pain , N/V , pancreatitis, peptic ulcer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cardiac : Prolonged QT interval - Neuromuscular : Paresthesia , spasm “tetany” , Chvostek sign , Trousseau sign. - Neuropsychiatric: Seizure |
| Treatment | give fluid for hydration then look for the cause : either PTH dependent , or PTH independent. | replacing Ca either orally or IV , then treat the underlying causes. |