



Therapeutic Strategies for Interpreting Acid-Base Status with and Without Blood Gases

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DISCLOSURE

All planners, presenters, and reviewers of this session report no financial relationships relevant to this activity.

Learning Objectives

- Given a case scenario, determine acid-base status using blood gases and explain confounding factors to interpretation of the blood gases.
- Evaluate whether acetate should be added to parenteral nutrition in a given case scenario and determine the appropriate dose, if added, based on general guidelines.
- Discuss medications that are likely contributing to acid-base imbalance in a given case scenario.



Therapeutic Strategies for Interpreting Acid-Base Status Blood Gases

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How often do you interpret ABGs in your current practice; how confident are you in interpreting ABGs?

- A. None; I would like to learn more
- B. Occasionally; I would like some more practice
- C. Frequently; I'm pretty confident
- D. All the time; I'm an expert

Outline

- ABGs in general
- One to practice, traditional
- Confounders type 1
- Same abg or different? As Stewart
- Respiratory ABG?
- Confounders type 2?

Acid/Base Disorders

- Up to 90% of critically ill patients develop an acid/base disorder
 - May be self-limiting after management of the underlying condition
 - More commonly, they accompany complicated clinical conditions that obscure acid/base identification
- Correct identification is necessary to select the appropriate therapeutic intervention

Acid/Base Approaches

Co₂/HCO₃
(Boston)

- Entirely based on Henderson-Hasselbach equation
- Easy to use in stable patients

BE/deficit
(Danish)

- BE is less influenced by changes in PaCO₂
- Allows better quantification of metabolic component

Anion gap

- Primary method for detecting unmeasured anions as the cause of metabolic acidosis
- Most critically ill patients have low albumin and phosphate, making AG less accurate

Stewart
(Physio-
chemical)

- Rejects Henderson-Hasselbach
- Independent variables are CO₂, SID, and total nonvolatile weak acids

Case: SZ

- SZ is a 46 y/o female admitted to MICU with sepsis
- Today is hospital day #3
- Acute renal failure, not yet on CRRT, not mechanically ventilated
- PMH: type 2 DM, hyperlipidemia, hypertension

Case: SZ

- SZ is currently receiving vancomycin, meropenem, NS, norepinephrine, and trophic enteral feeds.
- SZ's hemodynamic status has improved and the team anticipates discontinuation of pressors in the next 24 hours.

Case: SZ

	Today
Na	138
K	4.5
Cl	108
CO2	9
BUN	64
SCr	6.2
Glucose	209
Lactate	5.2
Albumin	2.1
WBC	16.7

	Today @ 0500
pH	7.142
pCO2	14.2
pO2	117
HCO3	4.9
BE	-24
O2SAT	97

How would you interpret SZ's ABG?

- A. Metabolic acidosis
- B. Respiratory acidosis
- C. Metabolic acidosis with respiratory compensation
- D. Respiratory acidosis with metabolic compensation

Arterial Blood Gases (ABGs)

- Laboratory assessment of acid-base status most frequently measured by blood gases

	pH	pCO ₂	P0 ₂	HCO ₃	Base Excess	S0 ₂
Arterial	7.4 (7.35-7.45)	35-45	80-100	22-26	-2 to +2	95-100
Venous	7.36 (7.33-7.43)	41-51	35-40	24-28	0 to +4	70-75

Acid/base –Traditional Approach

- Acid-base status is regulated by the
 - Lungs
 - Kidneys
 - Exogenous buffer system

Carbonic acid/bicarbonate buffer system





pH > 7.45 (> 7.4)

Respiratory alkalosis
= ↓ PCO₂

- Too much CO₂ being removed from body (overbreathing)

Metabolic alkalosis
= ↑ HCO₃

- Too much base HCO₃

pH < 7.35 (< 7.4)

Respiratory acidosis
= ↑ PCO₂

- Lungs unable to remove CO₂ from body

Metabolic acidosis
= ↓ HCO₃

- Consumption or loss of base (HCO₃)

	pH	pCO ₂	PO ₂	HCO ₃	Base Excess	SO ₂
Arterial	7.4 (7.35-7.45)	35-45	80-100	22-26	-2 to +2	95-100



pH
Assess presence of acidemia or alkalemia –
Tightly regulated at 7.4

pCO₂

- Acid
- Respiratory

HCO₃

- Base
- Metabolic

Interpreting ABGs – Traditional Approach

- 3 step approach:
 1. Determine acidosis or alkalosis
 2. Determine primary abnormality
 3. Identify other abnormalities → compensation or mixed?

Interpret SZ's ABG

	Today @ 0500
pH	7.142
pCO ₂	14.2
pO ₂	117
HCO ₃	4.9
BE	-24
O ₂ SAT	97

Normal
7.4
35-45
22-26

How would you interpret SZ's ABG?

- A. Metabolic acidosis
- B. Respiratory acidosis
- C. Metabolic acidosis with respiratory compensation
- D. Respiratory acidosis with metabolic compensation

SZ's ABG

- 3 step approach:
 1. Determine acidosis or alkalosis
 - pH $7.142 < 7.4$, so **acidosis**
 2. Determine primary abnormality
 - Is $p\text{CO}_2$ abnormal?
 - Would a low $p\text{CO}_2$ cause acidosis?
 - Is HCO_3 abnormal?
 - Would a low HCO_3 cause acidosis?
 3. Identify other abnormalities → compensation or mixed?

SZ's ABG

- SZ has metabolic acidosis
 - The low CO₂ would cause alkalosis, so the lungs are compensating for the primary disorder
- Compensated metabolic acidosis
- Remember the lungs (pCO₂) can compensate in minutes, but the kidneys (HCO₃) take days

Disorder	Compensatory response and equation
Metabolic acidosis	<p>Expected response is 1.2 ↓ for each 1 ↓ in HCO₃</p> $pCO_2 = 40 - [1.2 \times (24 - \text{measured HCO}_3)]$
Metabolic alkalosis	<p>Expected response is 0.7 ↑ for each 1 ↑ in HCO₃</p> $pCO_2 = 40 + [0.7 \times (\text{measured HCO}_3 - 24)]$
Respiratory acidosis	<p>Expected response is 1-3 ↑ for each 10 ↑ in pCO₂</p> <p>< 48 hours: pH ↓ = 0.08 x [(measured pCO₂ - 40)/10]</p> <p>> 48 hours: pH ↓ = 0.03 x [(measured pCO₂ - 40)/10]</p>
Respiratory alkalosis	<p>Expected response is 2-4 ↓ for each 10 ↓ in pCO₂</p> <p>< 48 hours: pH ↑ = 0.08 x [(40 - measured pCO₂)/10]</p> <p>> 48 hours: pH ↑ = 0.03 x [(40 - measured pCO₂)/10]</p>

Confounding Factors

- Not enough information from traditional approach
 - Evaluate whether the ABG matches what you would expect from the clinical picture
 - Mixed or underlying disorder

Stewart or Physiochemical Approach

- Controversial
- Rejects Henderson-Hasselbach
- HCO_3^- and H^+ are dependent variables
 - Independent variables are CO_2 , SID, and total nonvolatile weak acids
- Original equations too complicated to perform at bedside
- There are methods to incorporate this approach into bedside evaluation

Unifying Base Excess and Stewart Approaches

- One method involves calculating the albumin and lactate corrected anion gap
 - Then if elevated, the delta ratio; if normal, calculate the urinary anion gap
- Another method calculates the effect of the strong ion difference (SID) on the base excess
 - And the effect of weak acids on the base excess

Kishen R et al. International Journal of Nephrology and Renovascular Disease 2014;7 209–217.

Interpret ABG - DV

- DV, 56 y/o male, admitted to CVICU after cardiac arrest and ROSC, day #1
- Mechanically ventilated:

pH 7.122

pCO₂ 75

pO₂ 52

HCO₃ 24.5

BE -5

SO₂ 73

How would you interpret DV's ABG?

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

ABG #2 - DV

- DV, 56 y/o male, admitted to CVICU after cardiac arrest and ROSC
- Mechanically ventilated:

pH	7.122
pCO ₂	75
pO ₂	52
HCO ₃	24.5
BE	-5
SO ₂	73

Normal

7.4

35-45

22-26

Confounding Factors

- Time when ABG measured
 - Respiratory vs metabolic time to compensation
 - Compared to past history or vent changes
- Nutrition/Medications

Respiratory Acid/Base Disorders and Time

- Respiratory changes to regulate acid/base status are rapid, in minutes to hours
 - Metabolic compensation takes 2-5 days to reach a new steady state
 - A respiratory disorder with a duration of less than 2-3 days is considered acute
- Review past ABGs, checking dates and times closely
 - When ventilator settings are being changed, there may be multiple ABGs per day

Respiratory Acid-Base Disorders

- Confounding factors
 - Respiratory acidosis may be caused by overfeeding
 - Consider obtaining RQ via indirect calorimetry or ventilator
 - May be caused by overfeeding, $RQ > 1$
 - $RQ = VCO_2/VO_2$
 - Salicylate toxicity may cause respiratory alkalosis (in addition to metabolic acidosis)
 - Caution needed if considering sodium bicarbonate to treat respiratory acidosis

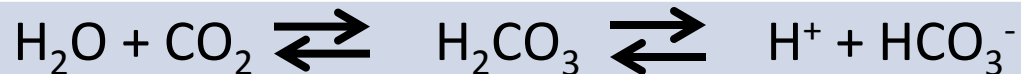
Should buffers be used for respiratory acidosis?

TABLE 4
DIFFERENCES IN pH_a, Pa_{CO₂} AND BASE EXCESS BEFORE AND AFTER ADMINISTRATION OF SODIUM BICARBONATE (NaHCO₃) AMONG PATIENTS WITH ALI

Case	pH _a Pre- NaHCO ₃	pH _a Post- NaHCO ₃	Pa _{CO₂} Pre- NaHCO ₃ (mm Hg)	Pa _{CO₂} Post- NaHCO ₃ (mm Hg)	Base Deficit Pre- NaHCO ₃ (mEq/L)	Base Deficit Post- NaHCO ₃ (mEq/L)	NaHCO ₃ Dose (mEq)
1	7.17	7.10	58	64	-7.8	-11.0	50
2	7.23	7.18	93	108	11.6	12.5	50
3	7.14	7.08	33	48	-16.8	-15.6	200
5	7.27	7.05	38	40	-9.2	-18.7	115
9	7.27	7.09	46	52	-6.5	-14.4	50
10	7.17	7.11	50	59	-9.9	-10.9	30
Mean ± SD	7.21 ± 0.06	7.10 ± 0.04*	53 ± 19	62 ± 24*	-6.4 ± 9.5	-9.7 ± 11.3	82.5 ± 64.5

* p < 0.05 Wilcoxon signed rank test for comparison of pre- and post-NaHCO₃ values.

Carbonic acid/bicarbonate buffer system



Kallet RH, et al. Am J Resp Crit Care. 2000;161: 1149-1153.

Sodium Bicarbonate to Treat Respiratory Acidosis

- Lack of evidence to suggest that sodium bicarbonate improves patient outcome in respiratory acidosis
- The ARDS Network trial allowed sodium bicarbonate infusions to maintain a pH greater than 7.30, but whether this had any effect on patient outcome is unclear

Gehlbach BK, Schmidt, GA. *Critical care*. 2004;8: 259-265.
Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome Network,.N Engl J
Med. 2000 May 4;342(18):1301-8.

Key Takeaways

- Key Takeaway #1: ABGs should always be interpreted in light of the clinical condition of the patient
- Key Takeaway #2: Simple acid/base disorders can be interpreted using a three step traditional approach
- Key Takeaway #3: Complex acid/base disorders require further investigation



Therapeutic Strategies for Interpreting Acid-Base Status Without Blood Gases

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Are there times when ABG's would be helpful to you but they cannot be obtained?

A. YES

B. NO

Outline

1. Algorithm for assessment
2. Cases
 - a) Factors contributing to metabolic alkalosis
 - b) Factors contributing to metabolic acidosis
 - c) Physiology/anatomy considerations

Acid-Base Balance is Complex

- Blood gases give objective data
- Must make assumptions without blood gases
 - Less accurate than ABGs
 - Simplified view of the many factors contributing to acid-base status
 - Confounding factors may be missed

Algorithm for Acid-Base Assessment Without ABG's

Patient has respiratory problems → ABG's needed

No respiratory problems → Likely metabolic disorder

Evaluate **laboratory data** that may substantiate clinical data

Evaluate **clinical factors** that affect acid-base status

Case 1

- 66 yo M admitted to the hospital with c/o abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting starting 12 hr PTA
- Diagnosed with SBO in ER
- Conservative therapy: fluids and NG suction
 - D5%/0.45% NaCl + 20 mEq KCl/L at 200 mL/h (60 mL/kg/d)
 - NG output of 4 L immediately in ER, then 2.5 – 3 L daily
- Day 6: Persistent SBO on imaging

Case 1: Labs

	Admit	Day 3	Day 6
Na ⁺	144	140	145
K ⁺	4.2	3.9	3.3
Chloride	107	105	91
Bicarb (CO ₂)	23	26	33
Glucose	98	114	99
BUN	18	10	22
Creatinine	1.1	0.9	0.7

What is your assessment on day 6 based on the history and labs shown?

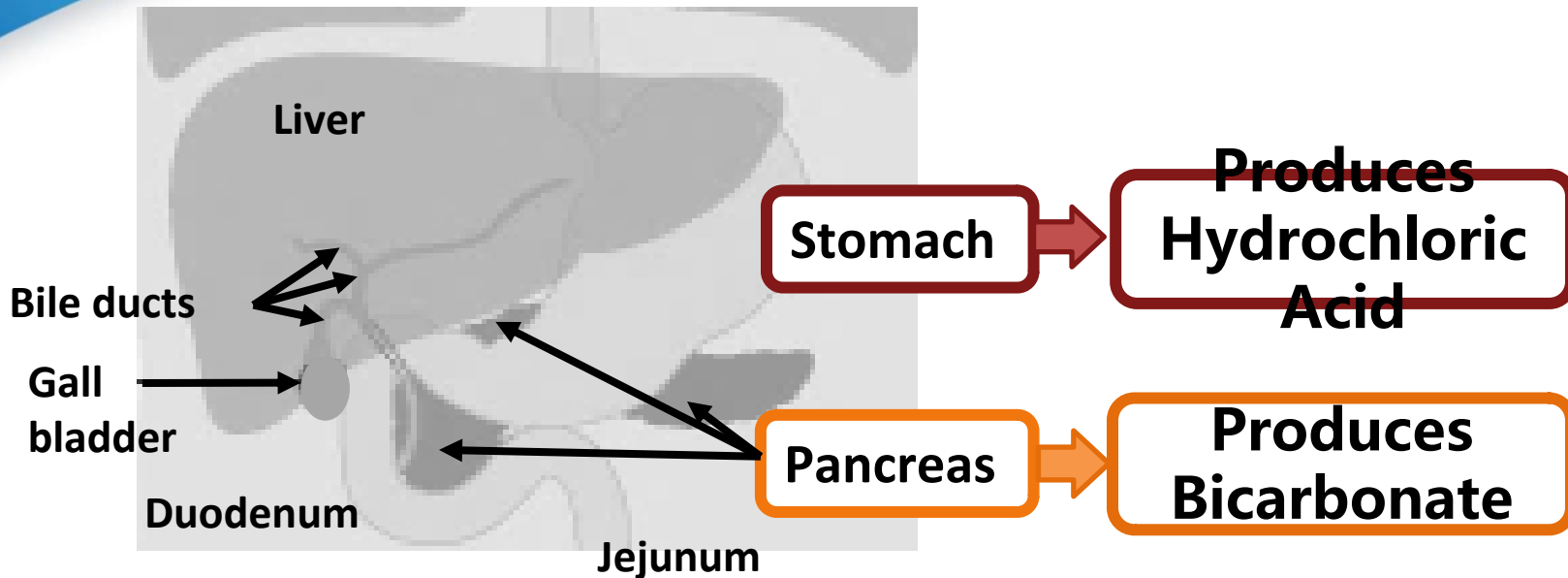
- A. Labs are “contaminated” by IV fluids
- B. Fluids at 60 mL/kg/d caused hypervolemia
- C. Metabolic acidosis from Cl⁻ loss
- D. Metabolic alkalosis from H⁺ loss

Case 1: Interpreting Labs

	Day 6	
Na ⁺	145	High relative to Cl ⁻
K ⁺	3.3	Low
Chloride	91	Low
Bicarb (CO ₂)	33	High
BUN	22	
Creatinine	0.7	

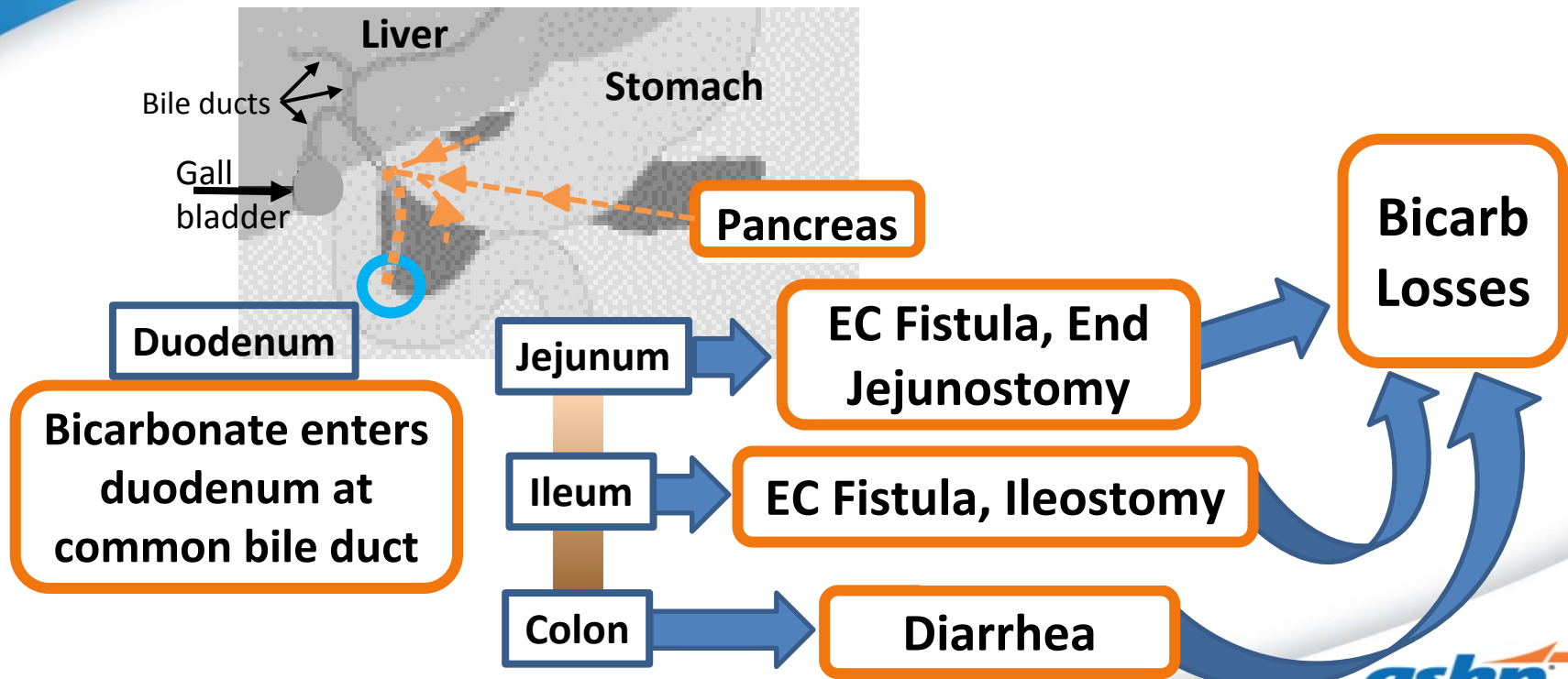
Lab interpretation **MUST** be supported by **CLINICAL EVIDENCE**

GI Physiology

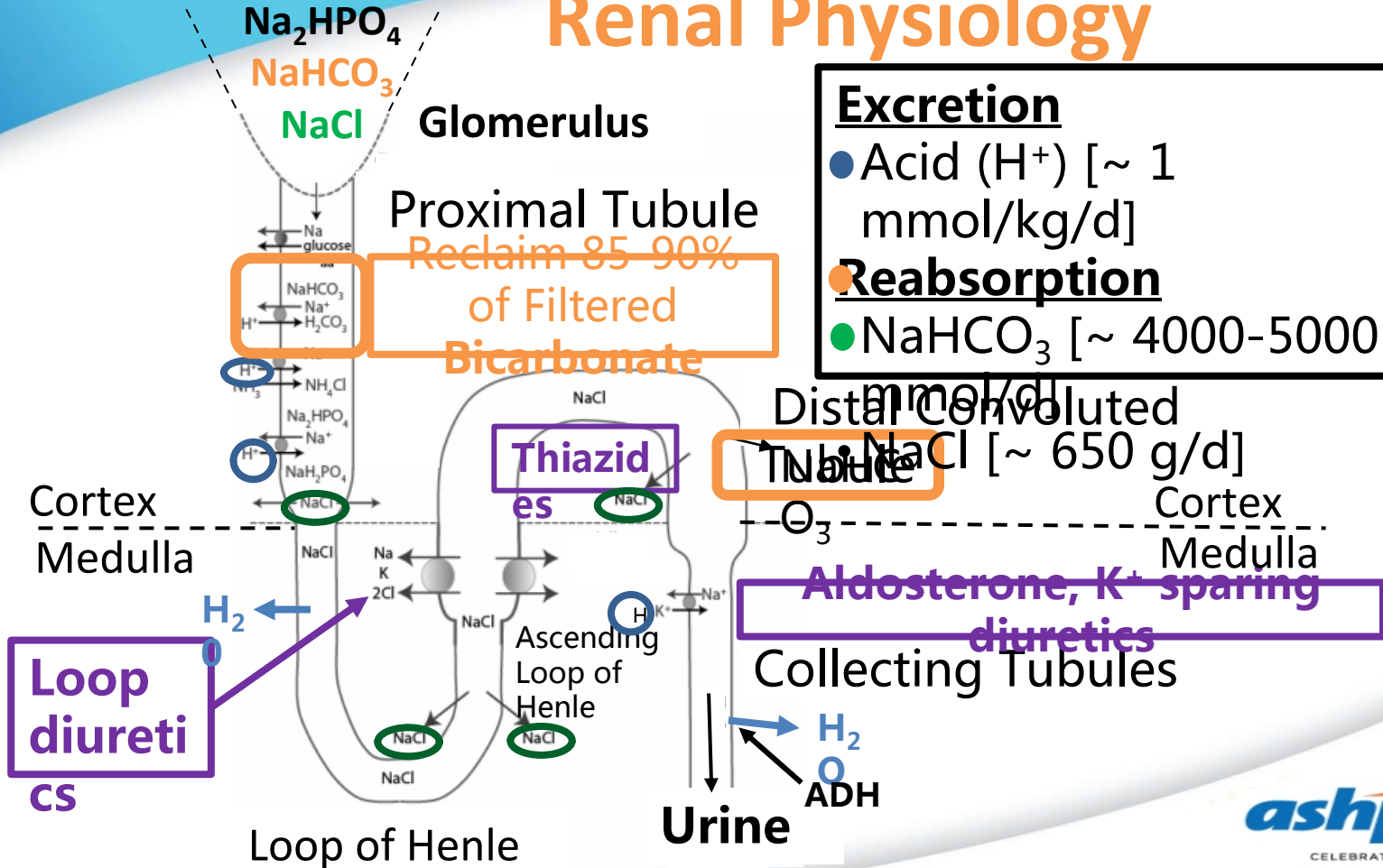


<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/type/gallbladder-cancer/treatment/the-stages-of-gallbladder-cancer>

GI Physiology



Renal Physiology



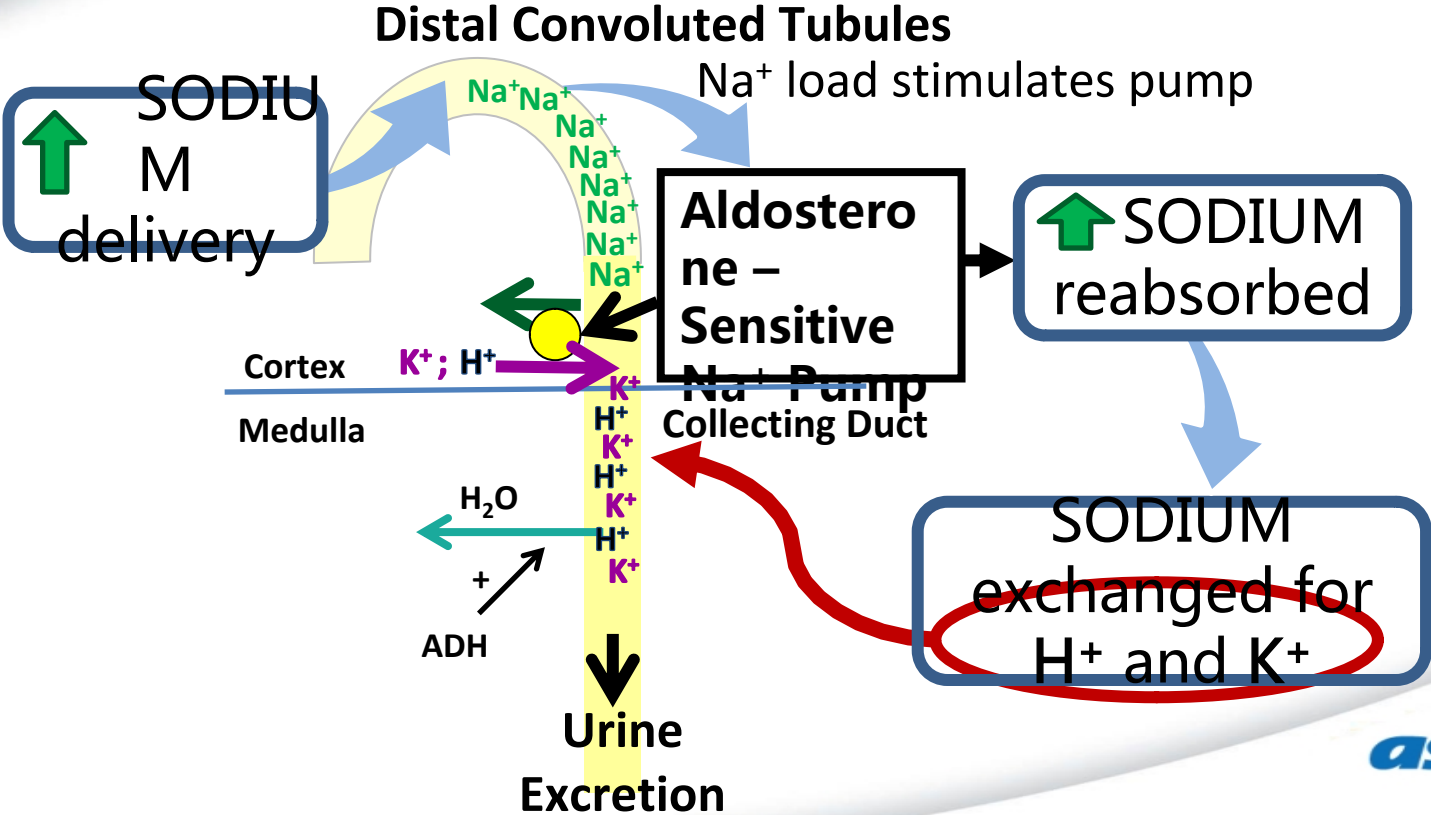
Excretion

- Acid (H^+) [~ 1 mmol/kg/d]
- **Reabsorption**
- NaHCO_3 [$\sim 4000-5000$ mmol/d]

Medications Frequently Associated with Acid-Base Disturbance

Metabolic Acidosis	Mechanism
Spironolactone, Amiloride, Triamterene	Inhibit Na ⁺ reabsorption → hyperchloremia, normal AG
Metabolic Alkalosis	
Loop diuretics	Cl ⁻ depletion, Na ⁺ to DCT
Penicillin	Cl ⁻ depletion, Nonreabsorbable anion
Aminoglycosides	Cl ⁻ depletion, stimulates calcium-sensing receptor

Renal Physiology



Metabolic Alkalosis

Lose Acid

- Gastric acid loss
- Renal H⁺ loss
- Extracellular H⁺ loss (intracellular shift)
- Decreased acid production (PPI, H₂RA)

Gain Bicarb

- Exogenous bicarb
- Bicarb precursor: Lactate, acetate, citrate
- Medications: Loop or thiazide diuretic, glucocorticoids, fludrocortisone, antacids

Metabolic Acidosis

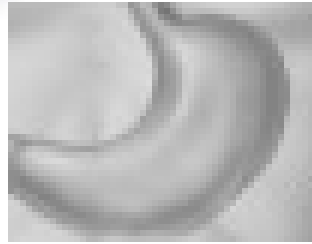
Gain Acid

- Reduce gastric acid loss
- Reduce renal H⁺ loss (renal dysfunction)
- Increase production – infection, DKA

Lose Bicarb

- GI tract losses – enterocutaneous fistula, jejunostomy, ileostomy, diarrhea
- Stop/reduce administration of exogenous bicarb or bicarb precursor (lactate, acetate, citrate)

Case 1: Factors Affecting Acid-Base Status

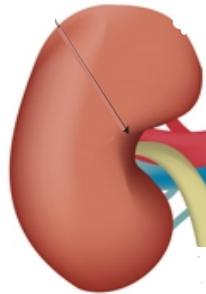


Hydrochloric Acid

Vomiting or NG suction

↑
Acid (H⁺) Loss

May have an effect Aldosterone



↑ Na⁺ to DCT

↑ Aldosterone sensitive Na⁺ pump stimulated

↑ Na⁺ re-absorption

Exchange Na⁺ for K⁺ and H⁺

Case 1: Factors Affecting Acid-Base Status

- Hypokalemia – when intracellular K^+ is low, more HCO_3 is reabsorbed in the kidney
- Chloride deficiency – HCO_3 is reabsorbed with Na^+ rather than chloride to maintain electroneutrality
- Volume depletion – Na^+ is retained, which increases HCO_3 reabsorption (contraction alkalosis)

What is your assessment on day 6 based on the history and labs shown?

- A. Labs are “contaminated” by IV fluids
- B. Fluids at 60 mL/kg/d caused hypervolemia
- C. Metabolic acidosis from Cl^- loss
- D. Metabolic alkalosis from H^+ loss

Metabolic Alkalosis Management

- What fluid issues should be considered?
 - Avoid bicarb, bicarb precursors
 - Lactate in LR, Acetate in PN, Citrate in CRRT
 - Adequate volume to prevent “contraction alkalosis”
- Any other therapies that impact alkalosis?
 - Adequate potassium to prevent hypokalemia
 - Reduce acid production in stomach (???)
 - PPI, H₂RA may reduce gastric acid removal with NG suction

Case 2

- 72 y.o. patient s/p colostomy after admission 12 days ago
- In ICU x 4 days; tube feeding advanced to goal on day 3
- Back to OR for end ileostomy hospital day 7
- Transferred from ICU to floor HD 9
- Ileostomy output HD 9 to 12: 1 → 1.7 → 3.6 → 4.7 liters/day
- Temperature to 38.4⁰ C last night, on broad spectrum abx

Case 2: Labs

	Day 7	Day 10	Day 12
Na+	139	135	138
K+	3.9	3.7	5.5
Chloride	106	108	114
Bicarb (CO ₂)	25	20	14
Glucose	100	118	136
BUN	16	17	32
Creatinine	1	0.9	1.5

Case 2: Interpreting Labs

	Day 12	
Na ⁺	138	Low relative to Cl⁻
K ⁺	5.5	High normal
Chloride	114	High
Bicarb (CO ₂)	14	Low
BUN	32	
Creatinine	1.5	

Lab interpretation **MUST** be supported by **CLINICAL EVIDENCE**

What is your assessment on day 12 based on the history and labs shown?

- A. Renal failure has resulted in hypervolemia
- B. Increased ileostomy output is due to tube feeding
- C. Metabolic acidosis
- D. Metabolic alkalosis

Factors Affecting Acid-Base Status

GI tract losses or outputs

- Gastric losses? No
- Post-pancreas losses? Yes – Ileostomy with high output



Bicarb Losses

Potassium reflects H⁺ intra- and extra-cellular shifts

Gains or retention

- Renal H⁺ gain? Yes - Renal impairment/failure
- Other acids? Possible
 - Lactic acid with sepsis
 - Organic acids (kidney)



Acid Gain

What is your assessment on day 12 based on the history and labs shown?

- A. Renal failure has resulted in hypervolemia
- B. Increased ileostomy output is due to tube feeding
- C. Metabolic acidosis
- D. Metabolic alkalosis

Metabolic Acidosis Management

- Reduce chloride provision
 - Fluids with lower NaCl content
 - Use bicarb precursors: lactate (LR), acetate, citrate
- Removal of organic acids
 - Renal replacement therapy (CRRT, HD)
 - Treatment that improves renal function

Metabolic Acidosis Management

How much bicarb precursor is needed ?

- General rule: 1 mEq/kg/day of acetate for effect
 - If not excreting “usual” 1 mmol H⁺/kg/day, must neutralize this
- Calculate bicarbonate deficit (mEq HCO₃)
 - Deficit = HCO₃ Vd x (desired HCO₃ – measured HCO₃)
 - * HCO₃ Vd = (0.4 + 2.6/measured HCO₃) - ideal body wt
 - Deficit = 0.6 x wt (kg) x (desired HCO₃ - measured HCO₃)
 - HCO₃ end-point goal is typically 10-15

[http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/808418;](http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/808418)

<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/242975-overview>

Case 3

- 50 y.o. readmitted to the hospital for the 6th time in 5 months
- Tmax 39° C, tachycardia, mild hypotension; abdominal pain and distention
- Home PN x 1.5 years after complications of vascular surgery; usual jejunostomy output of 3 – 4 Liters/day
- Hx multiple abdominal surgeries leading to EC fistula and end jejunostomy; multiple septic episodes/CRBSI
- Hx poor diet and medication adherence

Case 3

Do labs support this?

What type of acid-base problem is expected given the patient history?

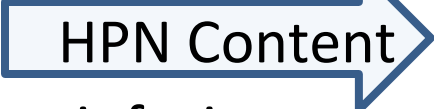
- A. Mixed acid-base d/o
- B. Metabolic acidosis
- C. Metabolic alkalosis
- D. No acid-base d/o

Lab Test	3 days PTA	HD #1
Na ⁺	133	130
K ⁺	3.9	3.3
Chloride	103	112
Bicarb (CO ₂)	20	17
Glucose	86	115
BUN	15	14

Case 3: Hospital Day #1

- Antibiotics continued from start in ED
 - Rapid improvement in HR, BP, temp by transfer to floor
- MIV D5%-0.45%NaCl + 20 mEq KCl/L @ 125 mL/hr
- Hold PN
- Abdominal CT: large abscess, dilated loops small bowel, no free air

Case 3: Hospital Day #2

- Blood cx: no growth
- Restart PN  HPN Content
 - Continuous infusion
- Stop MIV: D5%-
0.45%NaCl + 20 mEq
KCl/L @ 125 mL/hr

	Home PN		
	mEq/D	mEq/L	mEq/kg
NaCl	230	77	4.4
NaAcetate	240	80	4.6
K-Acetate	40	20	0.8
KCl	68	33	1.3
Volume	3 L		58 mL/kg

5.4 (bracketed next to NaAcetate and K-Acetate mEq/kg values)
2.1 (bracketed next to KCl mEq/kg value)

Case 3: Hospital Day #3

- Continued clinical response to antibiotics started in ED
- Abdomen more distended on am rounds
- Emesis x 8 starting mid afternoon → NG refused
- Fistula + jejunostomy output only 200 mL after noon
 - Was 1.5 – 1.8 L/day while npo in hospital
 - Usual output at home 3 – 4 liters/day
- Abdominal imaging indicates SBO
 - Likely transition point near Ligament of Trietz

Case 3: Hospital Day #4

What factors contributed to the rise in HCO_3^- ?

- Acid loss: Emesis (x 8)
- Bicarb retention: 200 mL jejunostomy output
- Administration of acetate in PN

	3 days PTA	HD#1	HD#4
Na^+	133	130	141
K^+	3.9	3.4	4.9
Chloride	103	112	107
Bicarb (CO_2)	20	16	29
Glucose	86	115	112
BUN	15	14	18
Creatinine	1	0.9	1

Case 3: Hospital Day #5

- PN electrolyte content adjusted on HD #4 based on labs
- Patient admitted to ICU after emergent surgery
- Intubated → ABGs available to assess acid-base status

Key Takeaways

Key Takeaway #1: Acid-base status can be “simplistically” assessed using the clinical situation plus routine lab result when the patient’s respiratory status is not compromised

Key Takeaway #2: Sodium and chloride generally “move together” when fluid is responsible and move in opposite directions when a metabolic acid-base disturbance occurs

Key Takeaway #3: GI losses and renal function are keys to assessing metabolic acid-base status without ABGs

Key Takeaway #4: Things change, sometimes rapidly

Self-Assessment Questions:

What is the Expected Effect on Acid-Base Status?

1. Patient with gastric fistula due to cancer. Output has been averaging 4 liters per day for over a week.
A. Acidosis **B.** Alkalosis **C.** Need ABGs
2. The patient has taken only 2 liter 0.9% NaCl daily for the past 4 days due to increased edema.
A. Worsen current acid-base disturbance
B. Normalize acid-base balance
C. Shift to the opposite acid-base status

Self-Assessment Question:

What is the Expected Effect on Acid-Base Status?

3. Patient with gastric fistula due to cancer. Continuing 2 L 0.9% NaCl daily, increased oral fluids to maintain hydration. Stopped H₂RA in PN a week ago.
- A. Worsen current acid-base disturbance
 - B. Normalize acid-base balance
 - C. Shift to the opposite acid-base status
 - D. Need ABGs to assess acid-base status

Self-Assessment Questions: What is the Expected Effect on Acid-Base Status? The Preferred Therapeutic Option?

4. Patient with increased (> 3 L/d) jejunostomy output.
A. Acidosis B. Alkalosis C. Need ABGs

5. Which “stock” fluid is most likely to help mitigate acid-base disruption in this patient?
A. 0.9% NaCl
B. D5W-0.45%NaCl
C. Lactated Ringers
D. All are equal if given in adequate volume

Self-Assessment Question: What is the Preferred Therapeutic Option?

6. Patient with increased (> 3 L/d) jejunostomy output. PN to start. Wt 60 kg. Using the general guideline, how many mEq ACETATE would be added to PN?

- A. 154
- B. 77
- C. 60
- D. 30

Labs Results Today	
Na+	135
Chloride	112
Bicarb (CO ₂)	20
Creatinine	0.9

Self-Assessment Question: What is the Expected Effect on Acid-Base Status?

7. A patient with large NG output for several days is most likely to develop what type of acid-base disorder?
 - A. Metabolic acidosis
 - B. Metabolic alkalosis
 - C. No acid-base disorder
 - D. Mixed acid-base disorder



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