

# Acid Base Disturbance

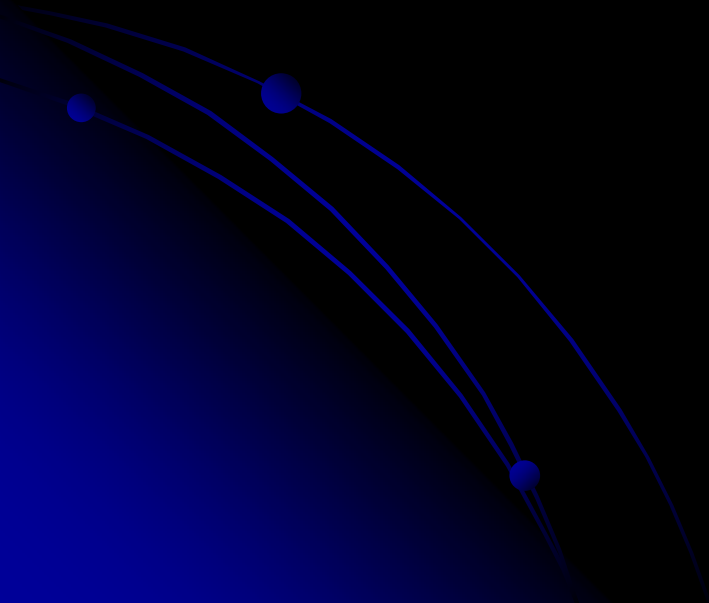


ภูษิต เฟื่องฟู พบ.

ว.ศัลยศาสตร์ทั่วไป, ว.เวชบำบัดวิกฤต  
กองศัลยกรรม โรงพยาบาลพระมงกุฎเกล้า

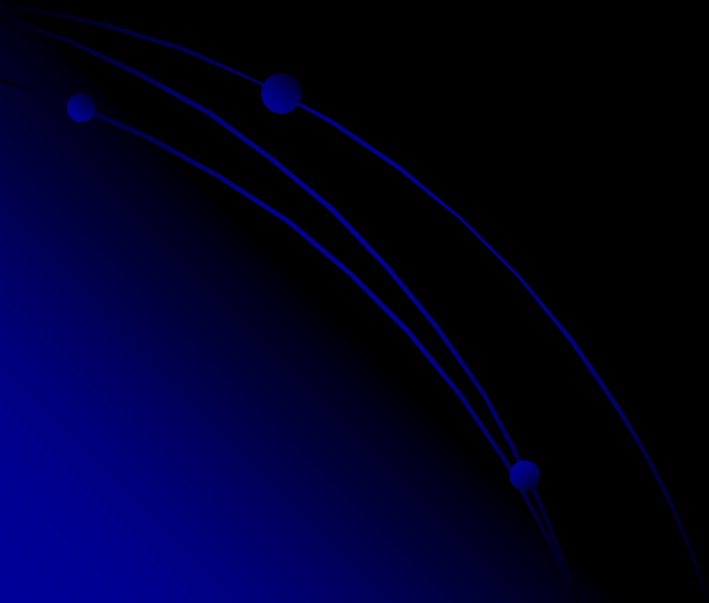
# Overview

- Body Buffer System
- Acid Base disturbances
- Treatment



# Definition

- Acids release  $H^+$ 
  - example:  $HCl \rightarrow H^+ + Cl^-$
- Bases absorb  $H^+$ 
  - example:  $HCO_3^- + H^+ \rightarrow H_2CO_3$



# Introduction

- Metabolism generates Hydrogen ions 40-80 mmol/day
- pH 7.35-7.46 retained  $H^+$  within 35-45 nmol/l

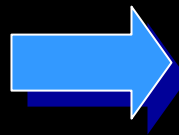
**$H^+$  per day = 40-80 x  
1,000,000 nmol/l**

# pH is logarithmic

- $\text{pH} = \log 1/[\text{H}^+]$   
 $= -\log [\text{H}^+]$   
 $= -\log 0.00000004 \text{ Eq/L}$

$$\text{pH} = 7.4$$

Small  $\Delta \text{pH}$  means  
large  $\Delta [\text{H}^+]$



$$\begin{aligned} \text{pH } 7.4 &= 0.00000004\text{4} \\ \text{pH } 7.1 &= 0.00000008\text{8} \end{aligned}$$

# Buffer: pH Guardian

**H<sup>+</sup> Load**



**Distribution and extra-Cellular buffering**

**Cell buffering**

**Respiratory compensation**

**Renal H<sup>+</sup> secretion**

100

50

0

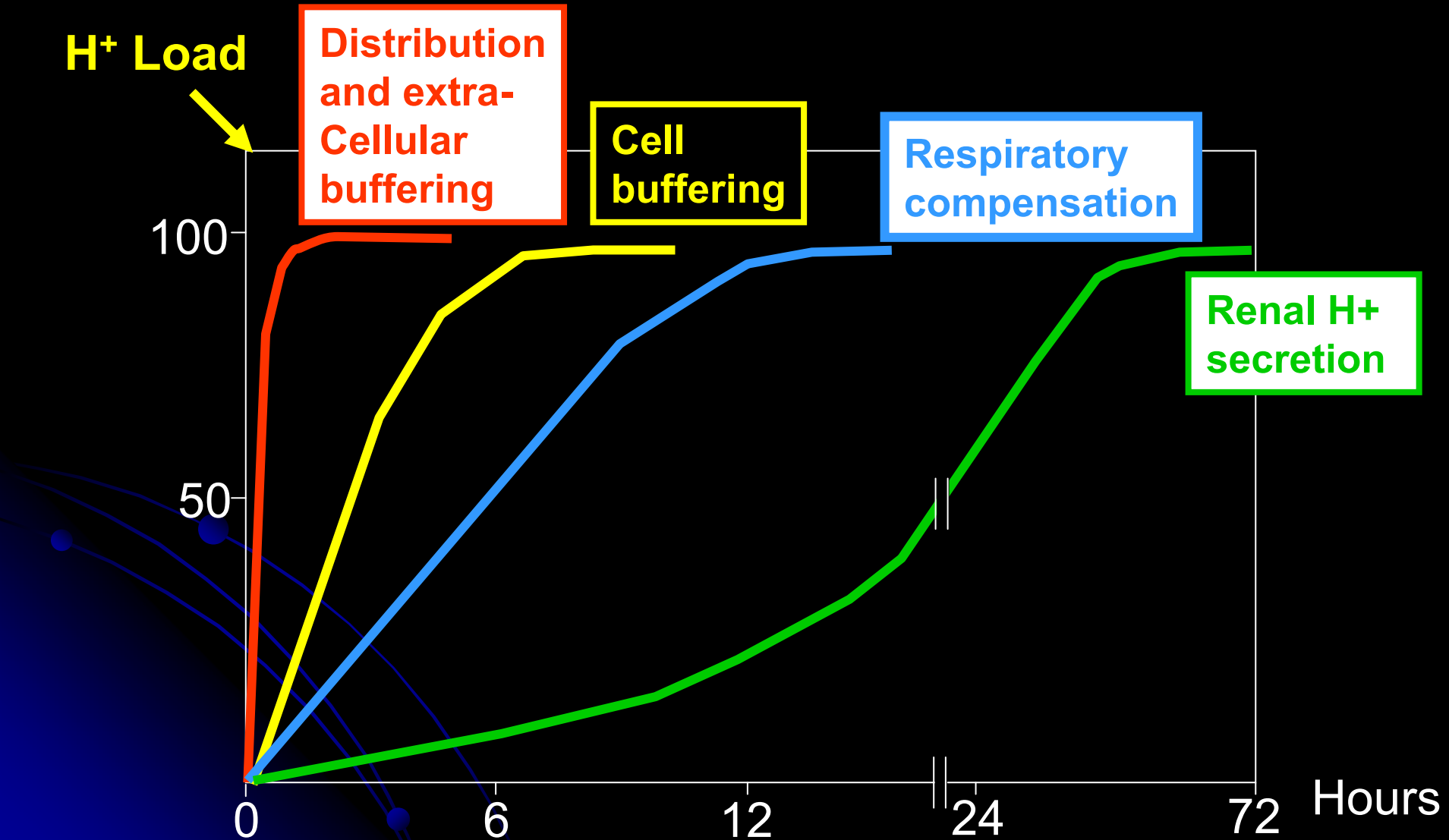
6

12

24

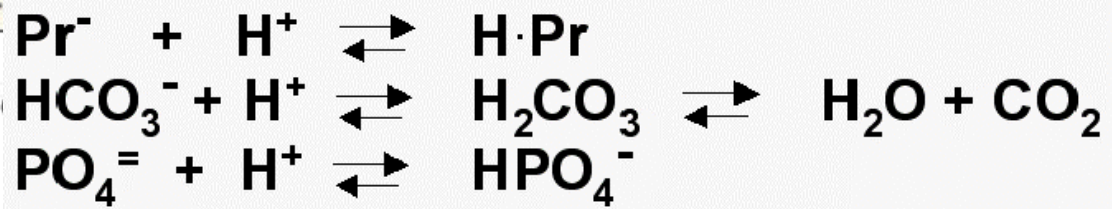
72

Hours

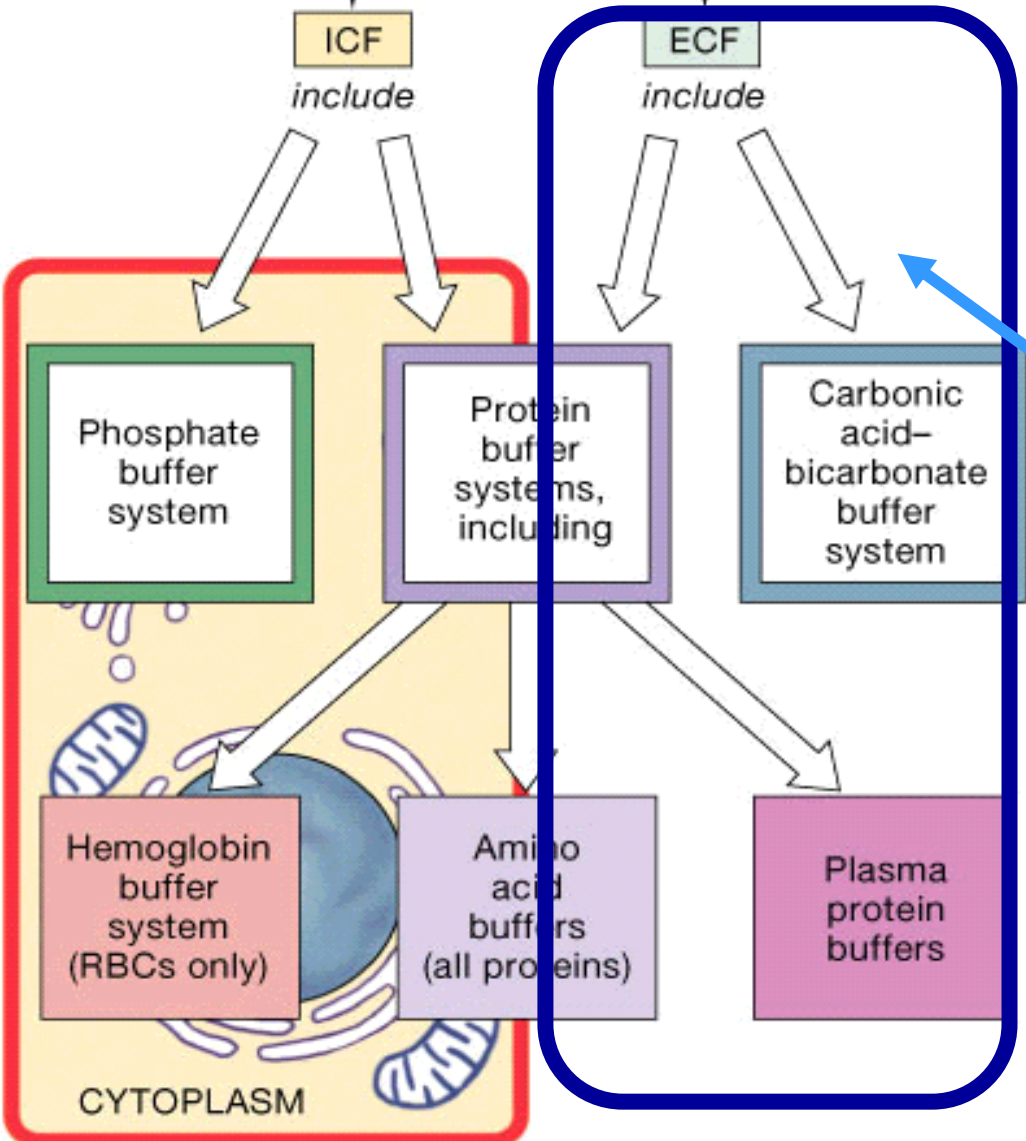


% buffering

BUFFE



1%  
42%  
1%



The ECF accounted for ~43% of total buffering

# Carbonic acid-Bicarbonate Buffer System



CO<sub>2</sub> Production

14,000-20,000 mM/day



Dietary protein breakdown

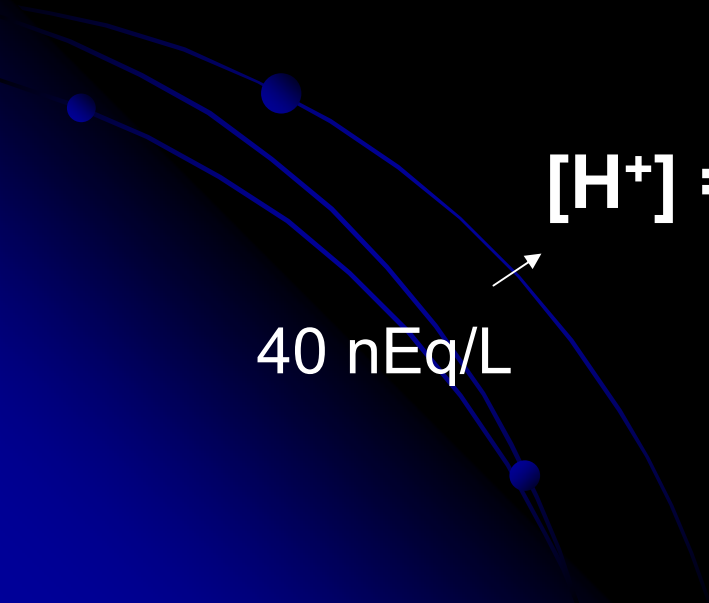
40-80 mEq/day

$$[\text{H}^+] = 24 \times \frac{\text{pCO}_2}{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}$$

40 mmHg

40 nEq/L

24 mEq/L





$$[H^+] = 24 \times \frac{pCO_2}{[HCO_3^-]}$$

40 nEq/L (points to 24)  
 40 mmHg (points to pCO<sub>2</sub>)  
 24 mEq/L (points to [HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>])

*estimated[H+]*

*pH*

70

7.10

60

7.20

50

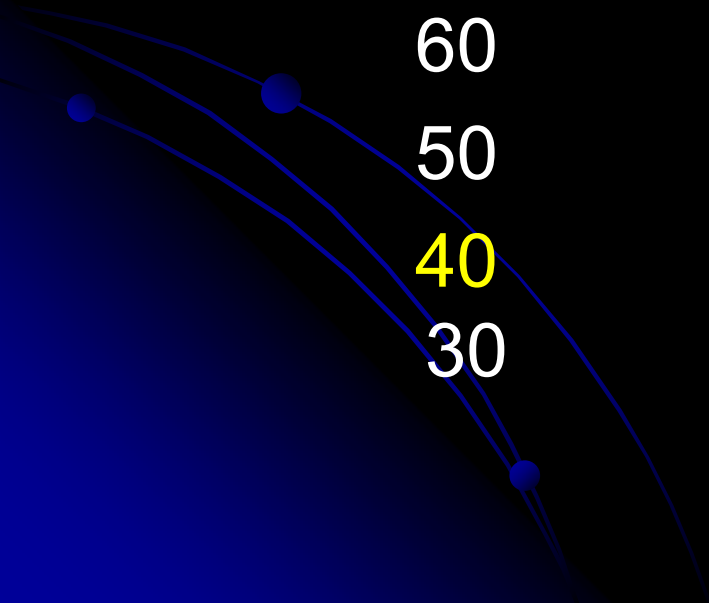
7.30

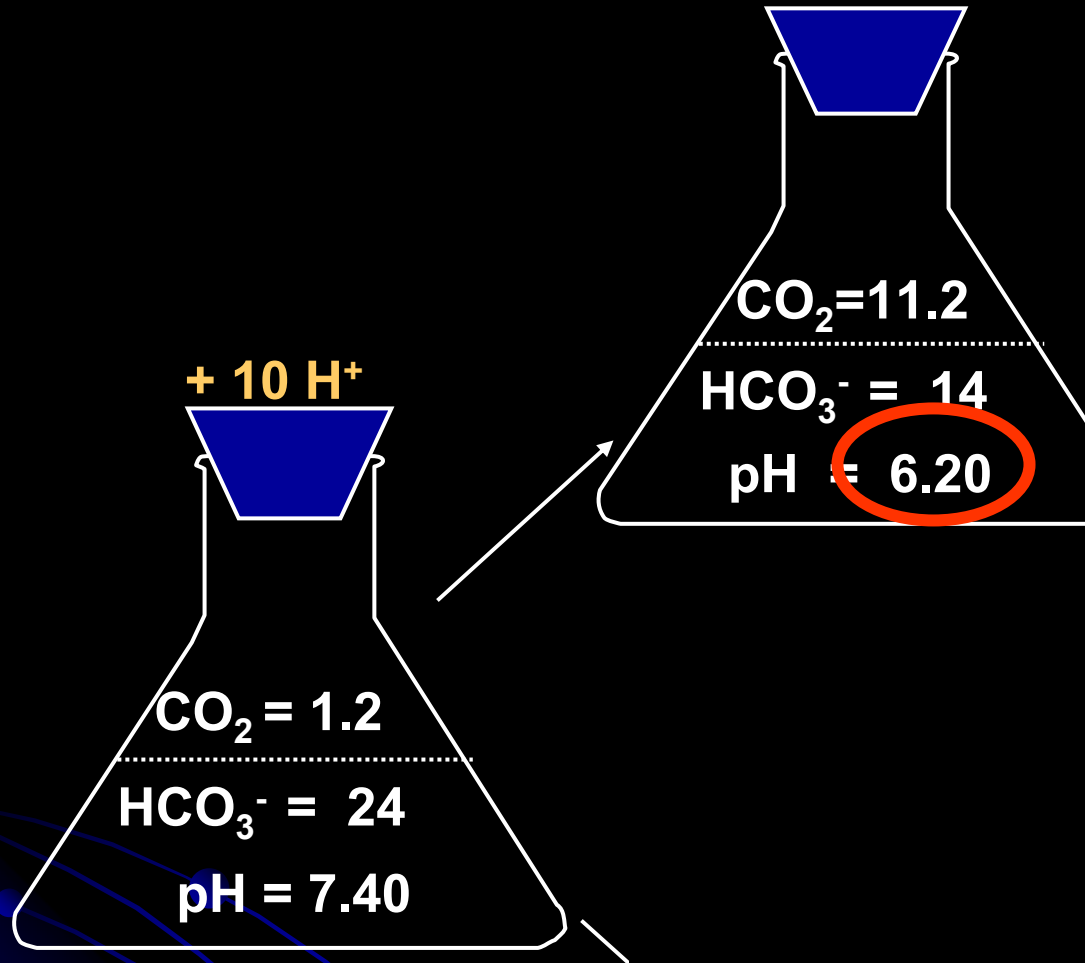
40

7.40

30

7.50





<i>estimated[H<sup>+</sup>]</i>	<i>pH</i>
70	7.10
60	7.20
50	7.30
40	7.40
30	7.50

# Henderson-Hasselbach Equation



$$\text{pH} = \text{pK} + \log \frac{[\text{A}^-]}{[\text{HA}]}$$

$$[\text{HA}] = [\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3] \text{ (at equilibrium)} = [\text{CO}_2]_{\text{dissolved}}$$

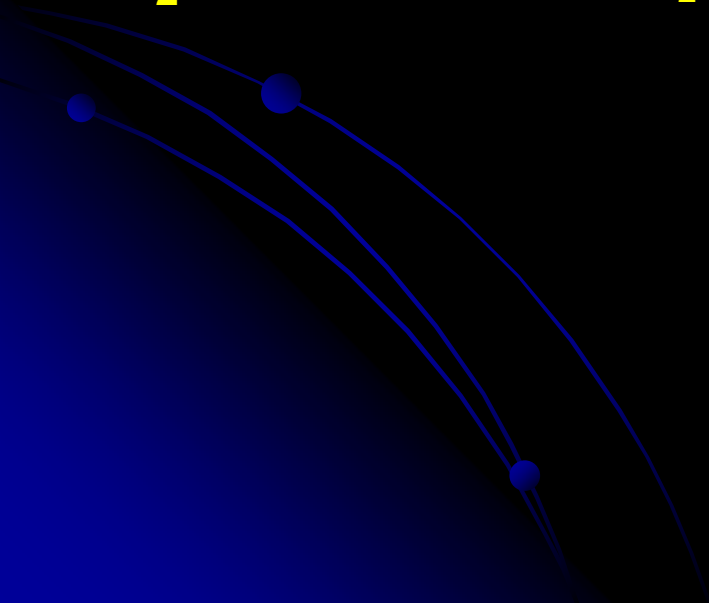
$$\text{pH} = 6.1 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{[\text{CO}_2]_{\text{dissolved}}}$$

$$S_{\text{CO}_2} = 0.03 \text{ mmoles CO}_2/\text{L}/\text{mmHg}$$

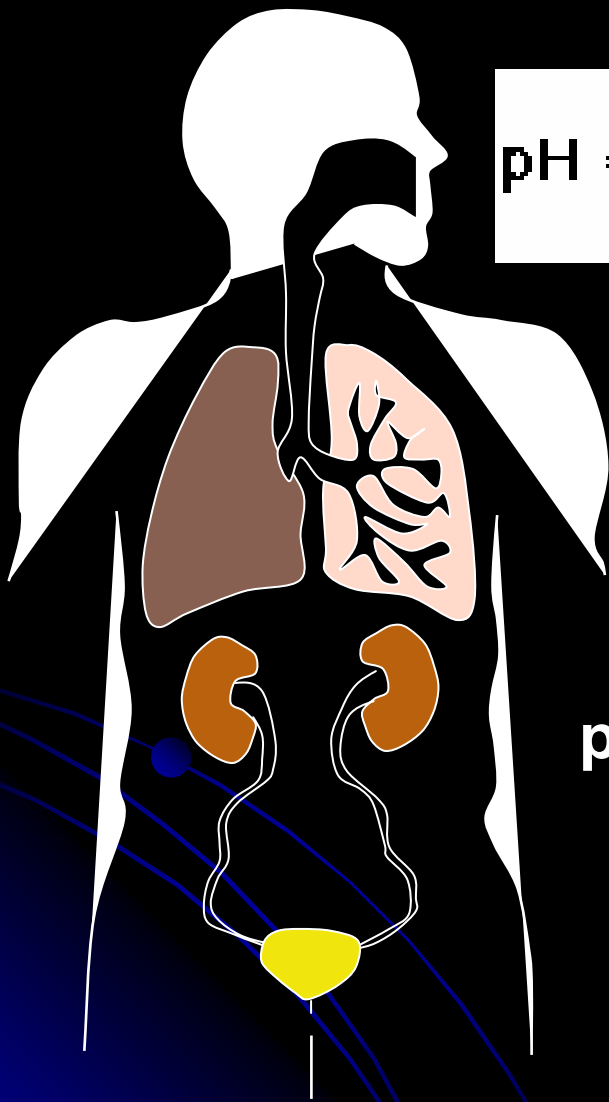
$$\text{pH} = 6.1 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{S_{\text{CO}_2} \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

$$\text{pH} = 6.1 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

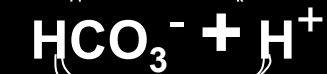
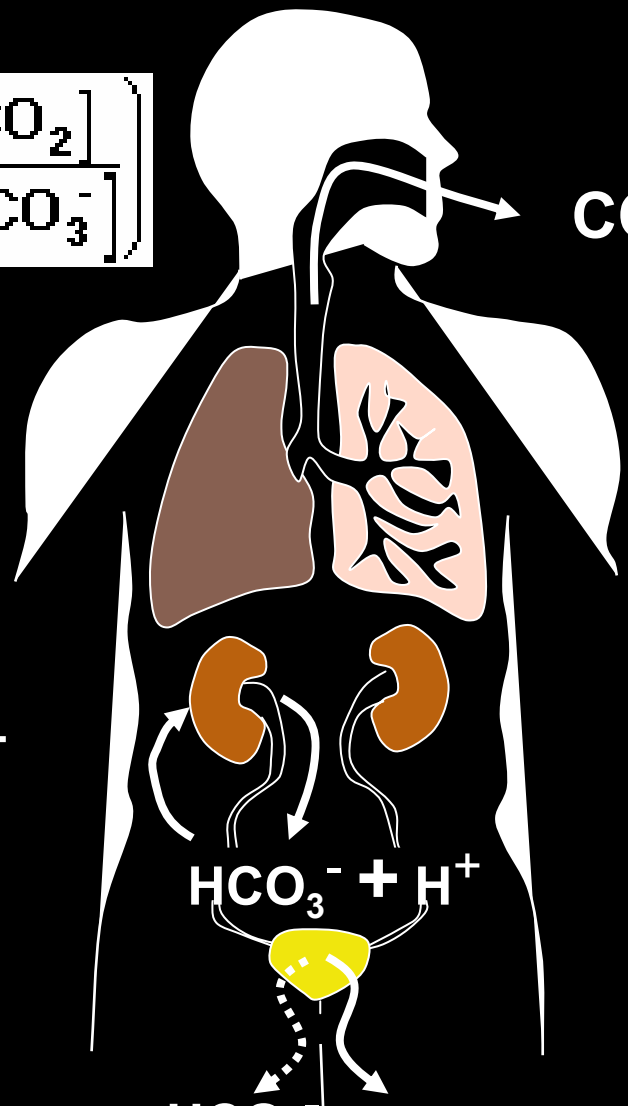
$$\text{pH} = \text{pK} + \log \frac{\text{Kidneys}}{\text{Lungs}}$$



$$\text{pH} = \text{pK} - \log \left( \frac{[\text{CO}_2]}{[\text{HCO}_3^-]} \right)$$



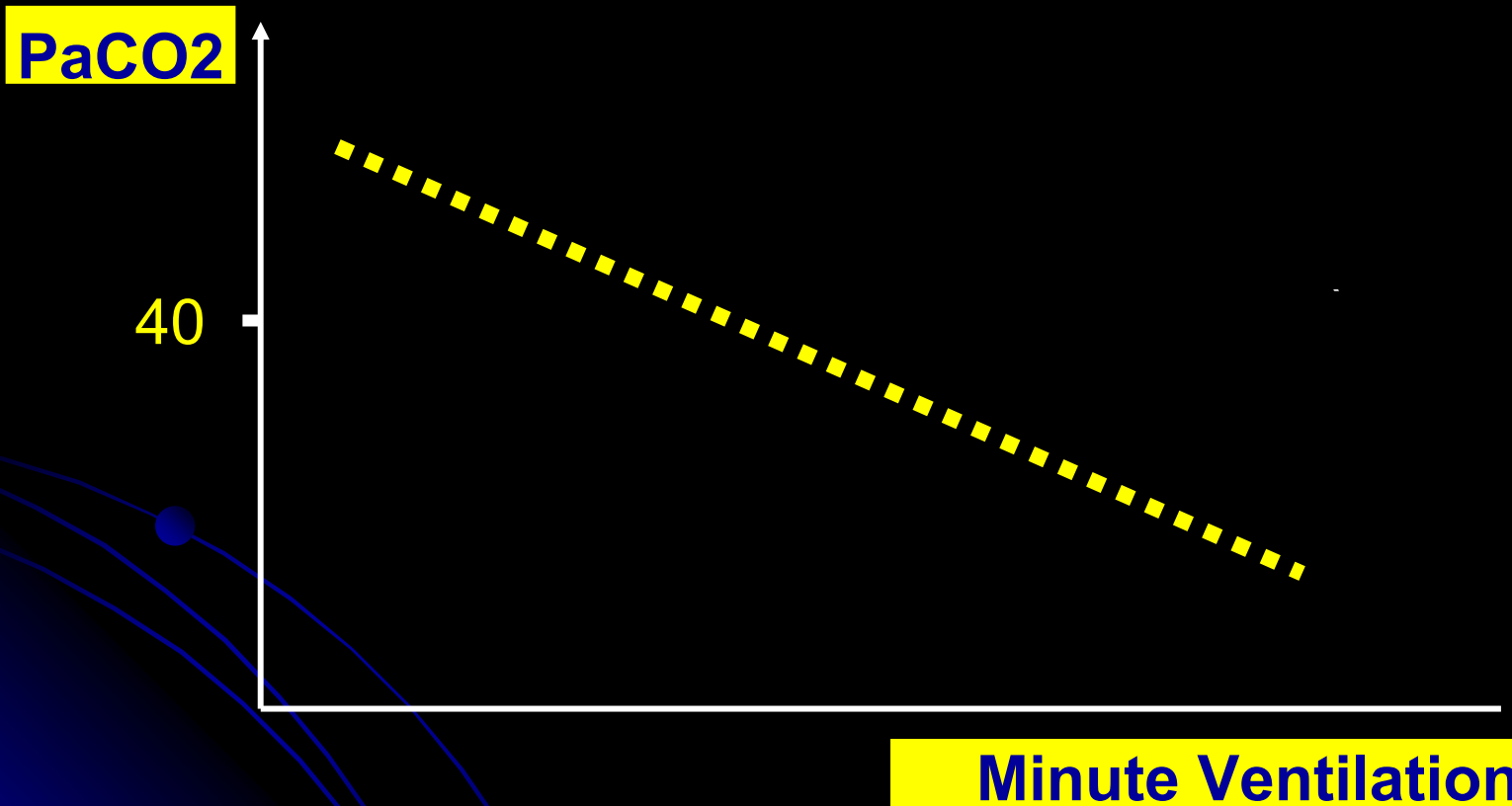
$$\text{pH} \approx \frac{[\text{Kidney}]}{[\text{Lung}]}$$



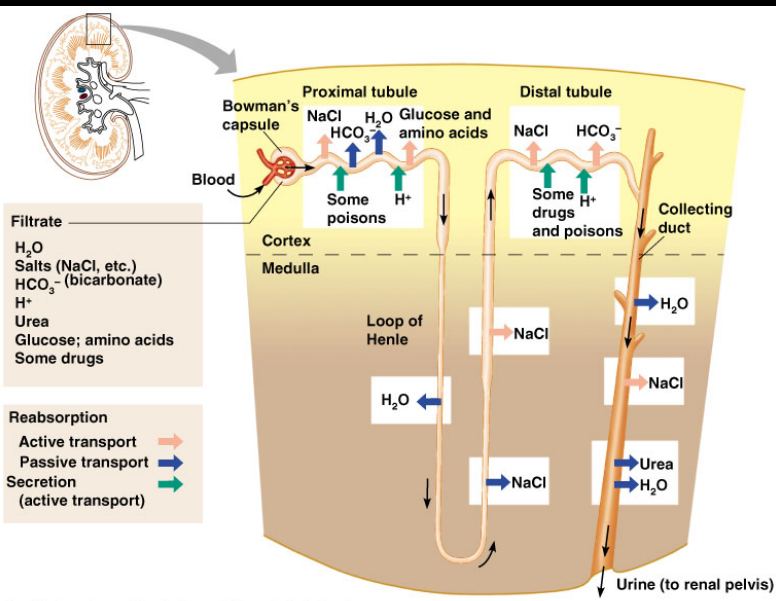
$\text{H}^+$  : Phosphoric acid,  $\text{NH}_4^+$

# Respiratory Component

PaCO<sub>2</sub> & Minute Ventilation



# Renal Component



- Production of “new” bicarbonate via excretion of acid  $\approx 70$  mEq/day
- Reabsorption of filtered bicarbonate  $\approx 4,000$  mEq/day

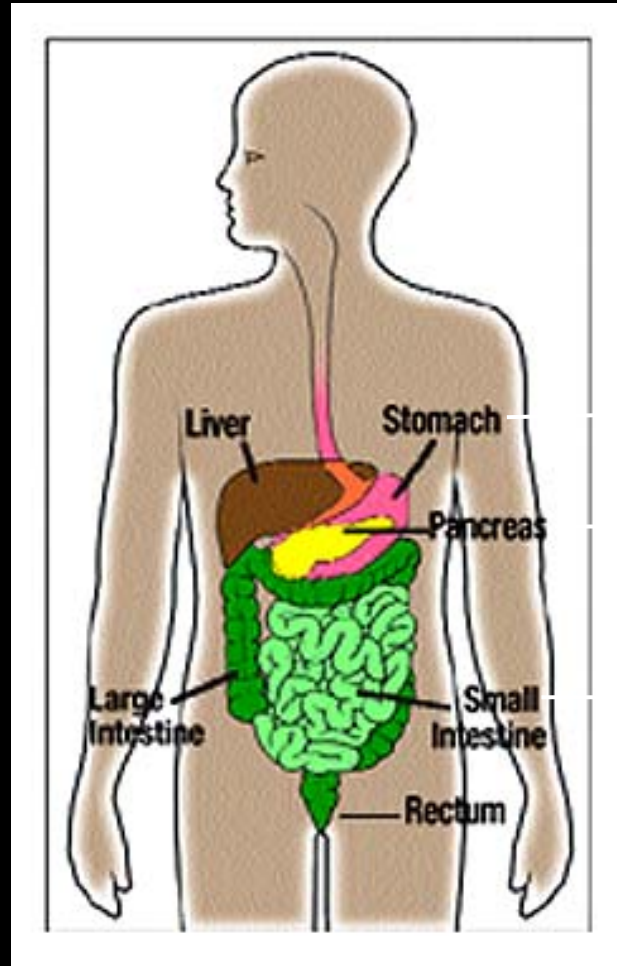
# Acid-base disturbances from Gastrointestinal loss

## Vomiting:

Loss of  $H^+$  leading to alkalosis

## Diarrhea:

Loss of  $HCO_3^-$  leading to acidosis

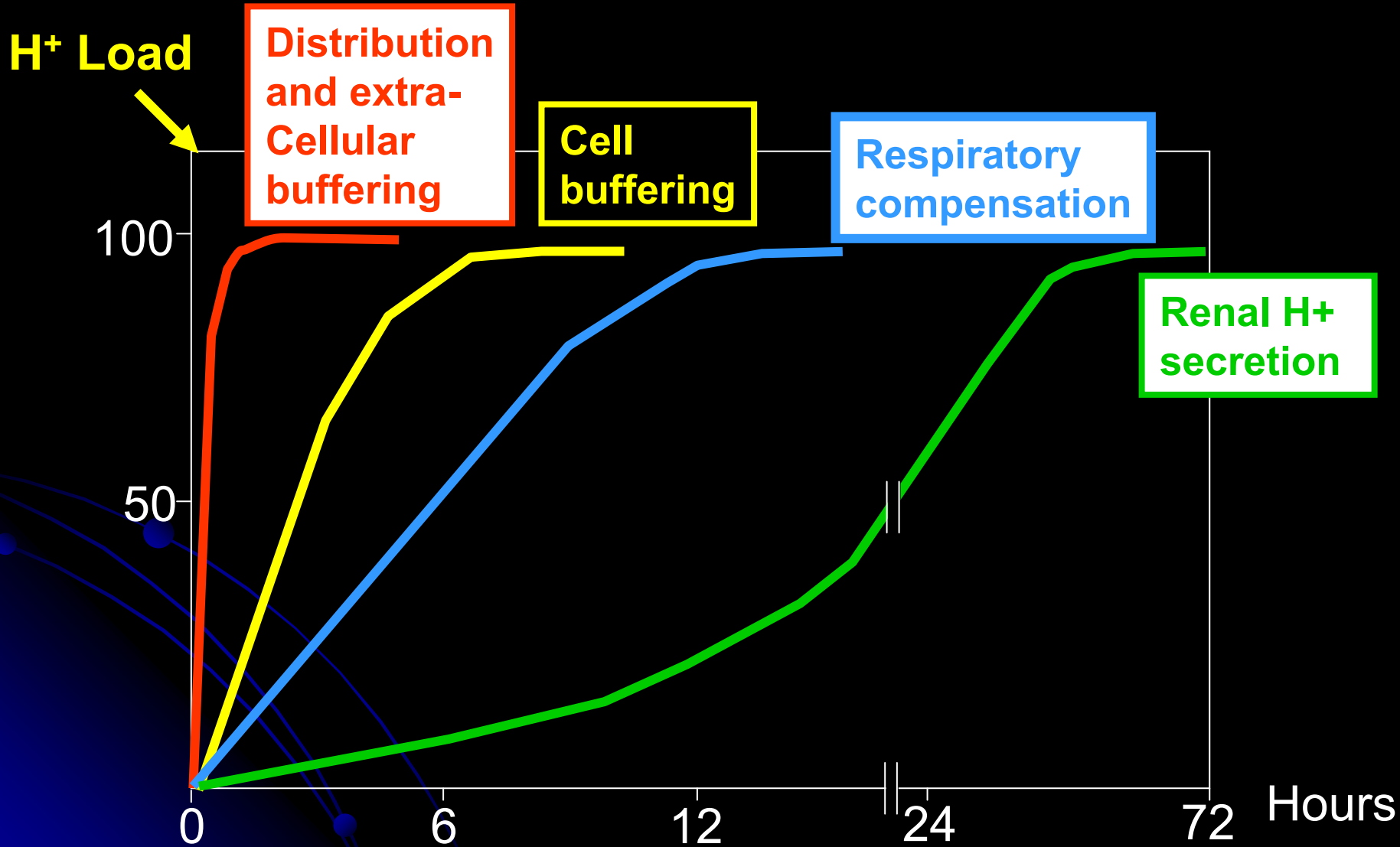


Highly acidic, pH =1.0

Secretes  $HCO_3^-$

pH varies from 4.0 to 8.0

# The Big 3 of pH Guardian





# The Four Cardinal Acid Base Disorders

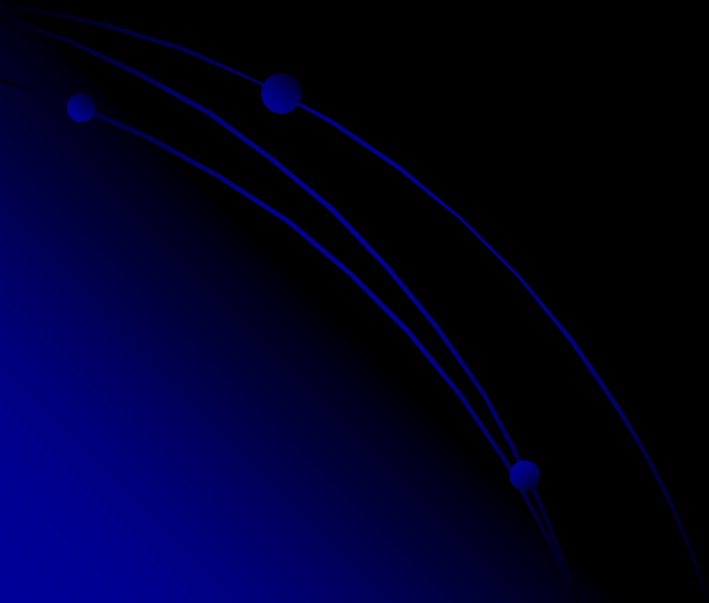
Disorder	pH	pCO <sub>2</sub>	[HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]
M acidosis	↓	↓	↓
M alkalosis	↑	↑	↑
R acidosis	↓	↑	↑
R alkalosis	↑	↓	↓

# Boston approach in Systemic ABG analysis

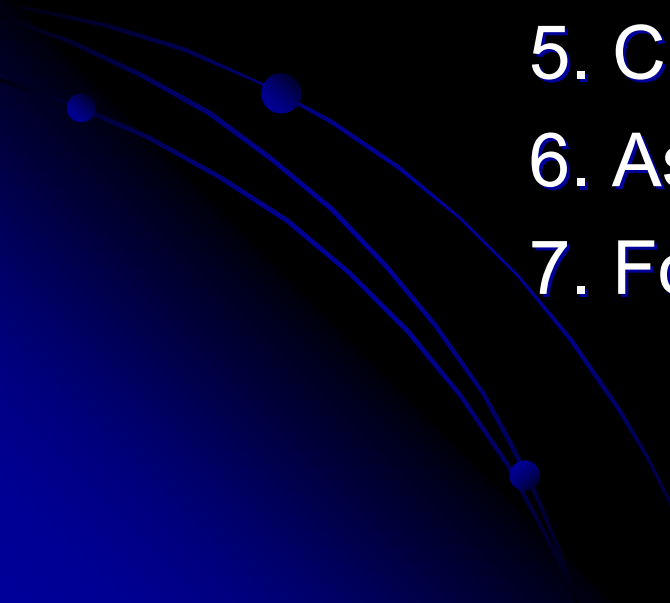
1. Check arterial pH
2.  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$  &  $\text{PaCO}_2$  analysis
3. Calculate AG
4. Assess delta ratio
5. Check “clues”
6. Assess compensatory responses
7. Formulate acid-base diagnosis

# 1. Check arterial pH

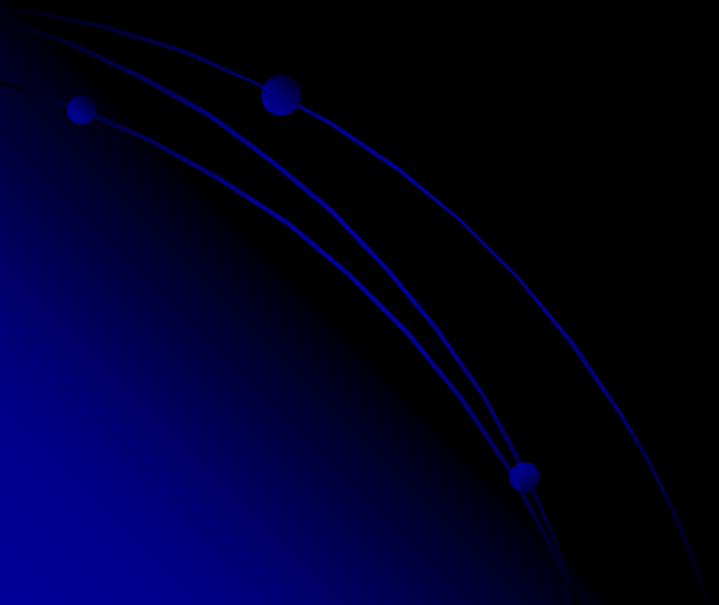
- pH < 7.4 = acidosis  
pH > 7.4 = alkalosis
- Principle – No over-compensation



# Boston approach in Systemic ABG analysis

- ✓ 1. Check arterial pH
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  7. Formulate acid-base diagnosis
- 

## 2. $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$ & $\text{PaCO}_2$ analysis



# Respiratory Compensation for Metabolic Changes

- **Metabolic acidosis**

PaCO<sub>2</sub> decreases by 1.2 x the drop in [HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]

$$\text{PaCO}_2 \approx 1.5 [\text{HCO}_3^-] + 8$$

- **Metabolic alkalosis**

PaCO<sub>2</sub> increases by 0.7 x the rise in [HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]

$$\text{PaCO}_2 \approx 0.9 [\text{HCO}_3^-] + 16$$

# Metabolic Compensation for Respiratory Changes

- **Respiratory Acidosis**

Acute:  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$  increases by 0.1 x the rise in  $\text{PaCO}_2$

Chronic:  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$  increases by 0.35 x the rise in  $\text{PaCO}_2$

- **Respiratory Alkalosis**

Acute:  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$  decreases by 0.2 x the fall in  $\text{PaCO}_2$

Chronic:  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$  decreases by 0.5 x the fall in  $\text{PaCO}_2$

# [HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>] & PaCO<sub>2</sub> analysis

- Both are low

The last 2-digit if pH = PaCO<sub>2</sub>

metabolic acidosis

respiratory alkalosis

Both are high

metabolic alkalosis

respiratory acidosis

- Opposite directions [HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>] & PaCO<sub>2</sub>

Mixed disorder must be present



- 60-year-old diabetic with a long history of not taking her insulin. She is admitted to the hospital and you receive the following data on her:

pH 7.26, PaCO<sub>2</sub> 42, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> 17... **Metabolic acidosis.**

- A 1st year resident was anxious about her basic sciences examination. She felt numbness around her mouth and tingling in her hands and went to the clinic.

pH 7.48, PaCO<sub>2</sub> 30, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> 23... **Respiratory alkalosis**

A 1st year medical student who did really well on his 1st biochemistry test celebrated too much afterwards. After a weekend of atonement, his lab values are:

pH 7.48, PaCO<sub>2</sub> 51, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> 29... **Metabolic alkalosis**

A 40 year-old man with renal failure for 1 year presents with nausea, vomiting and weakness. His blood chemistry reveals Na 138 mEq/L, K 5.5 mEq/L, Cl 95 mEq/L, HCO<sub>3</sub> 16 mEq/L  
ABG: pH 7.31, PaCO<sub>2</sub> 31 mmHg  
The most likely acid-base disorder is

- A. Metabolic alkalosis
- B. Respiratory alkalosis
- C. Mixed respiratory alkalosis and metabolic acidosis
- D. Metabolic acidosis
- E. Mixed respiratory acidosis and metabolic alkalosis

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- C. Mixed respiratory alkalosis and metabolic acidosis
- D. Metabolic acidosis**
- E. Mixed respiratory acidosis and metabolic alkalosis

Winter's formula:  $\text{PaCO}_2 = 1.5 [\text{HCO}_3^-] + 8$   
 $= 1.5[16] + 8$   
 $= 32$

An acutely-ill 50-year-old woman with a history of severe vomiting for the past 4 days. Physical examination profound lethargy, a pulse rate of 120/min, a respiration rate of 12/min, and BP of 80/50 mmHg.

### Serum electrolytes

Sodium	140 meq/L
Potassium	3.3 meq/L
Chloride	85 meq/L
Bicarbonate	25 meq/L

### Arterial blood studies on room air:

pH 7.40

PaCO<sub>2</sub> 41 mmHg,



1

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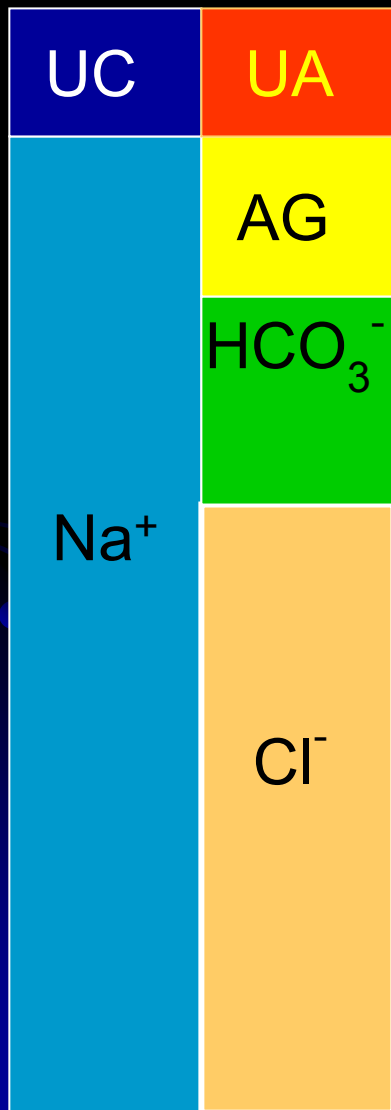
1

2

# Boston approach in Systemic ABG analysis

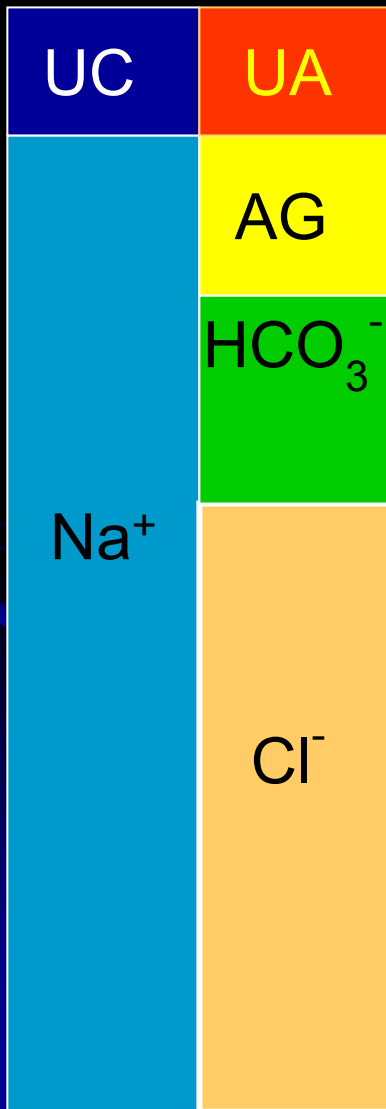
- ✓ 1. Check arterial pH
- ✓ 2.  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$  &  $\text{PaCO}_2$  analysis
3. Calculate AG
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5. Check “clues”
6. Assess compensatory responses
7. Formulate acid-base diagnosis

### 3. Calculate “Anion Gap”



- Unmeasured cations  
 $K^+$ ,  $Ca^{++}$ , and  $Mg^{++}$   
account for about 11 mEq/L.
- Unmeasured anions  
 $(PO_4)^{3-}$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ , albumin and some  
organic acids,  
accounting for 20 to 24 mEq/L.
- Typical anion gap is  $23 - 11 = 12$  mEq/L.
- The anion gap can be affected by  
increases or decreases in the UC or UA.

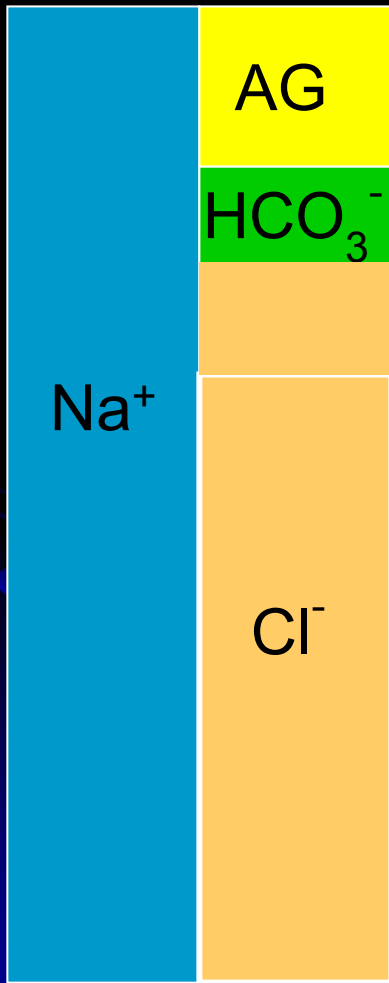
## Decreased anion gap



- ↑ Unmeasured cations  
K<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>++</sup>, and Mg<sup>++</sup>  
gamma globulin
- ↓ Unmeasured anions  
(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sup>3-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, albumin and some organic acids,
- The effect of low albumin can be accounted for by adjusting the normal range for the anion gap 2.5 mEq/L upward for every 1-g/dL fall in albumin.



# Normal anion gap Metabolic acidosis



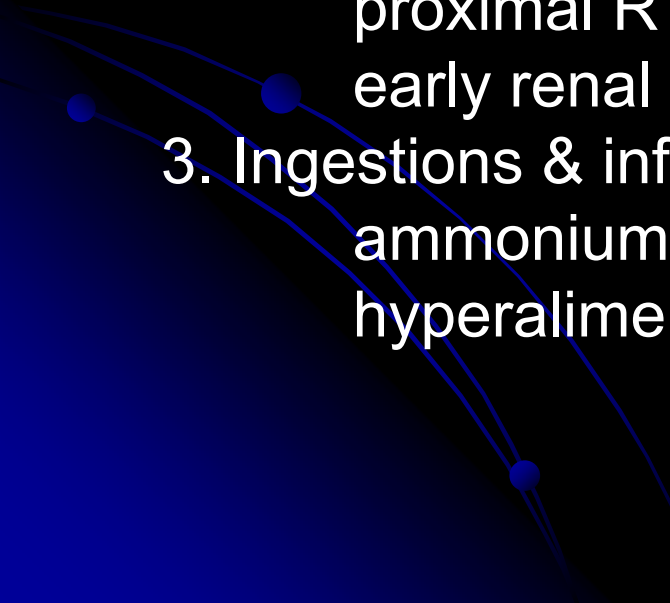
}  $\sim 10-12 \text{ mEq/L} \equiv [\text{Na}^+] - ([\text{Cl}^-] + [\text{HCO}_3^-])$

$\text{HCO}_3^-$  loss

= **Normal** AG Metabolic acidosis

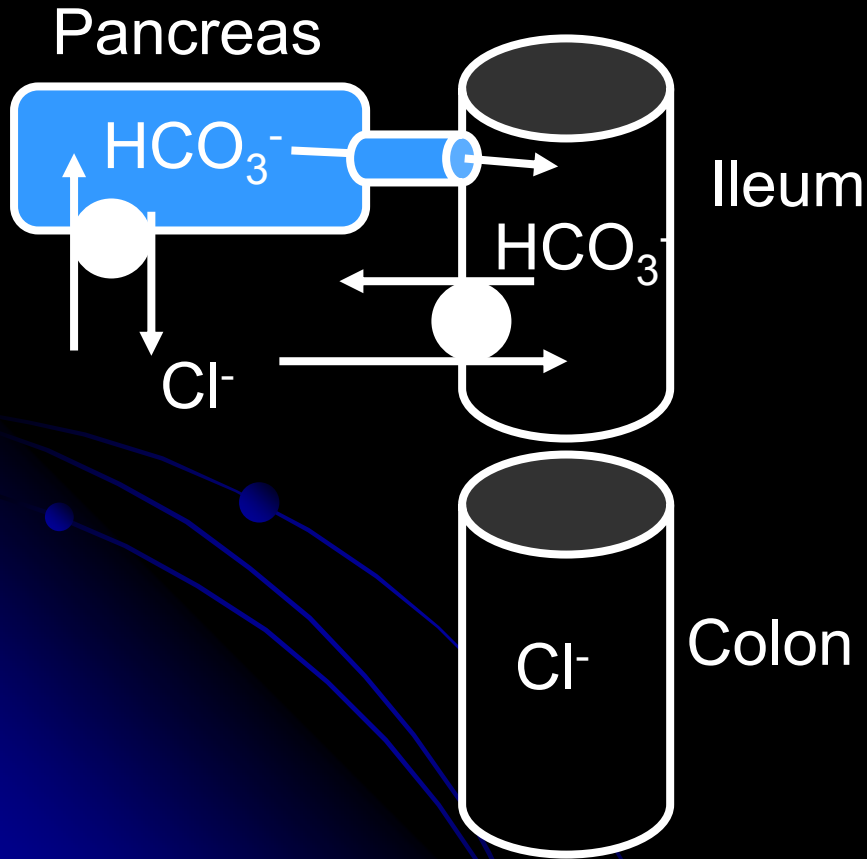
- Occur in GI tract or Renal

# Causes of a “Normal anion gap” (hyperchloremic) metabolic acidosis

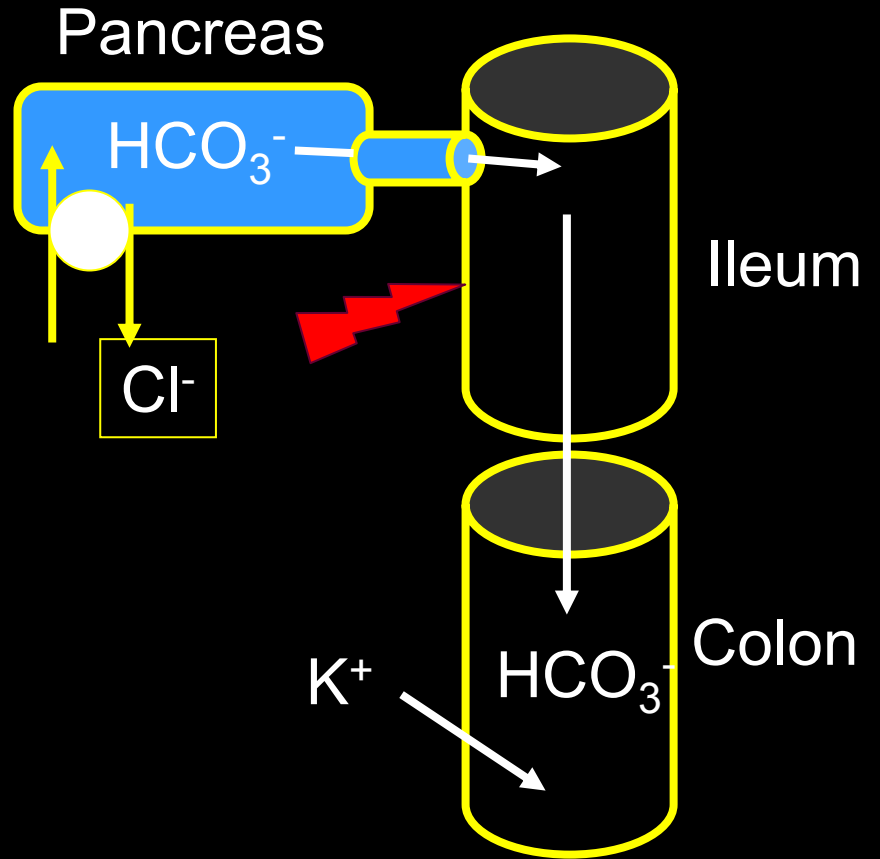
1. GI bicarbonate loss:
    - diarrhea
    - villous adenoma
    - pancreatic fistulae
    - uretero-sigmoidostomy
    - obstructed uretero-ileostomy
  2. Renal bicarbonate (or equivalent) loss
    - proximal RTA, distal RTA and type IV RTA
    - early renal failure
  3. Ingestions & infusions
    - ammonium chloride
    - hyperalimentation (arginine/lysine-rich)
- 

# Diarrhea Causes Loss of $\text{HCO}_3^-$

Normal

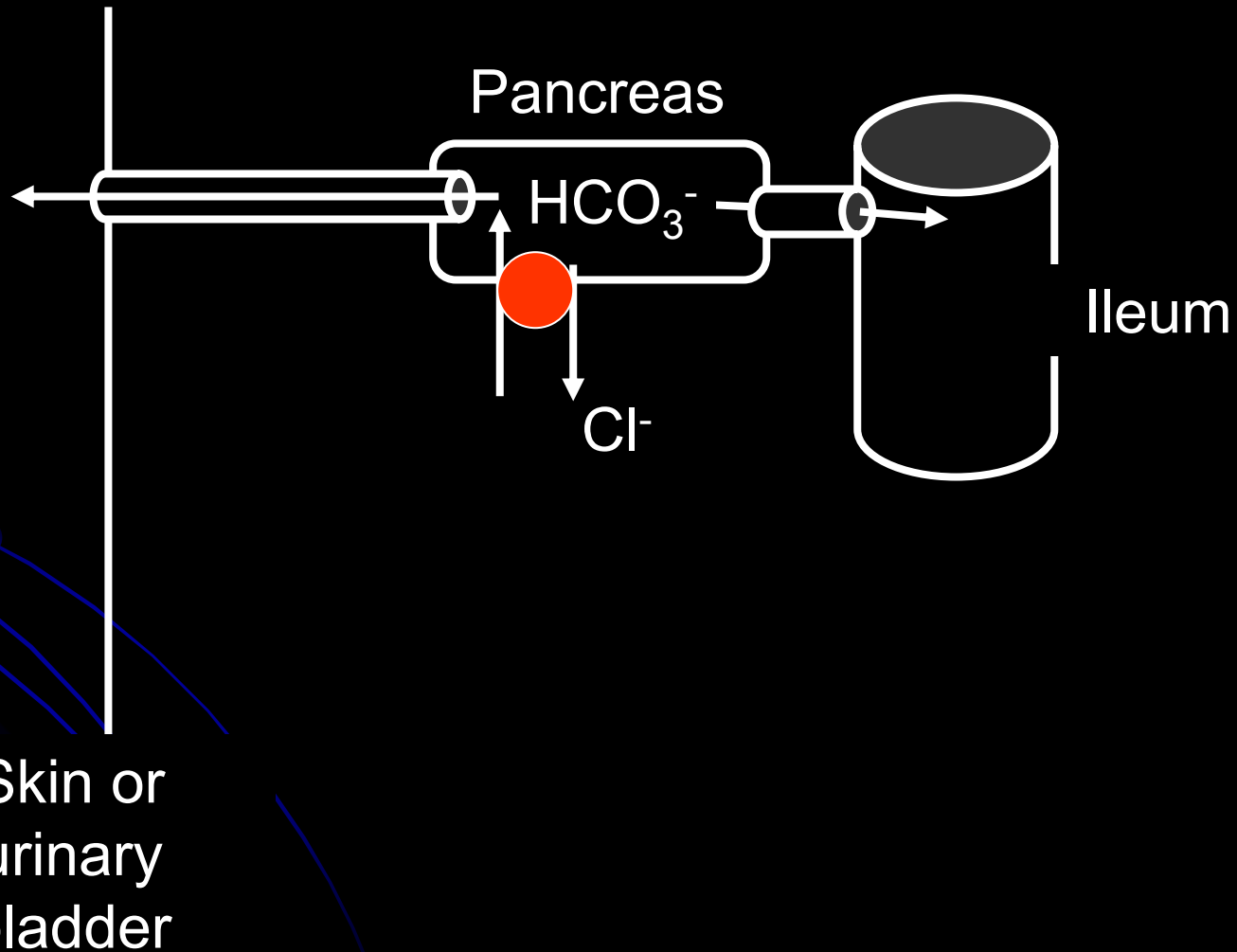


Diarrhea

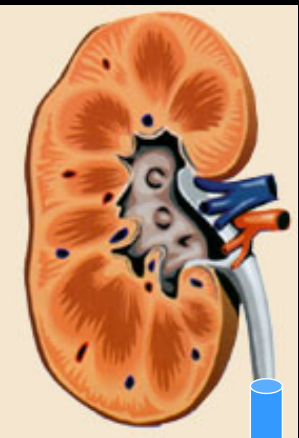


Normal AG acidosis and Hypo-K

# Pancreatic fistula or transplant

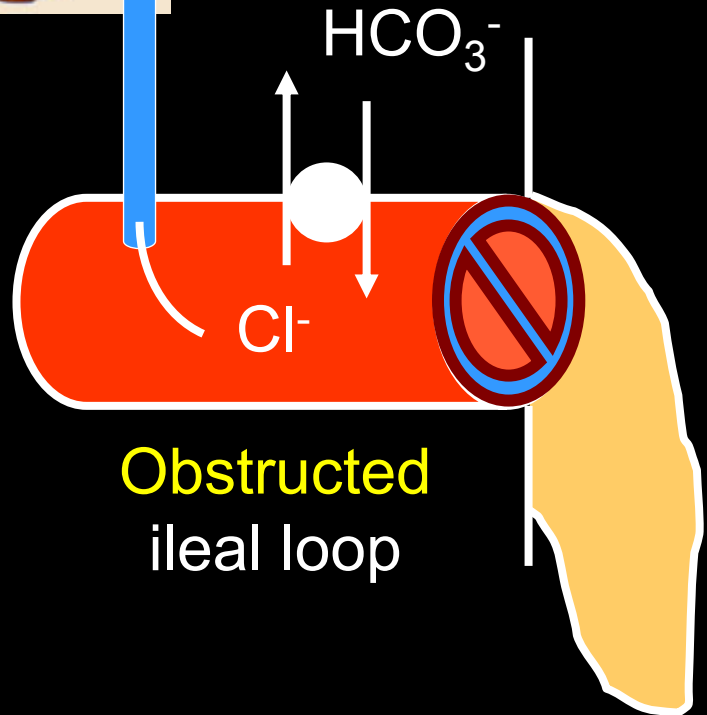
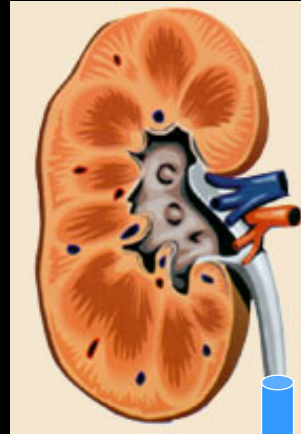
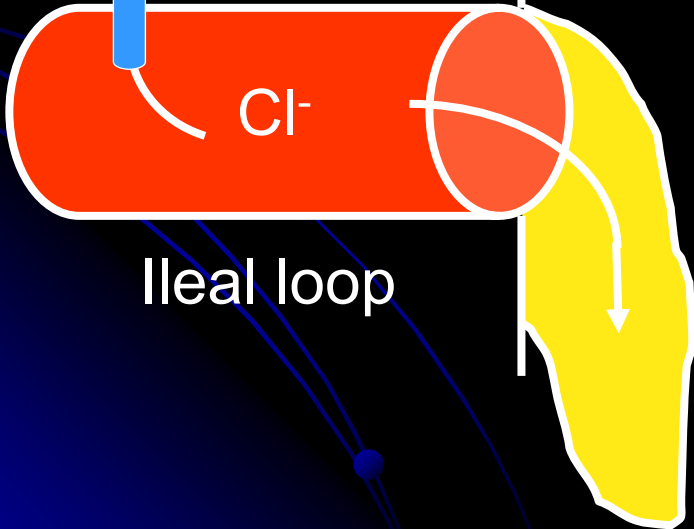


# Obstructed Uretero-ileostomy

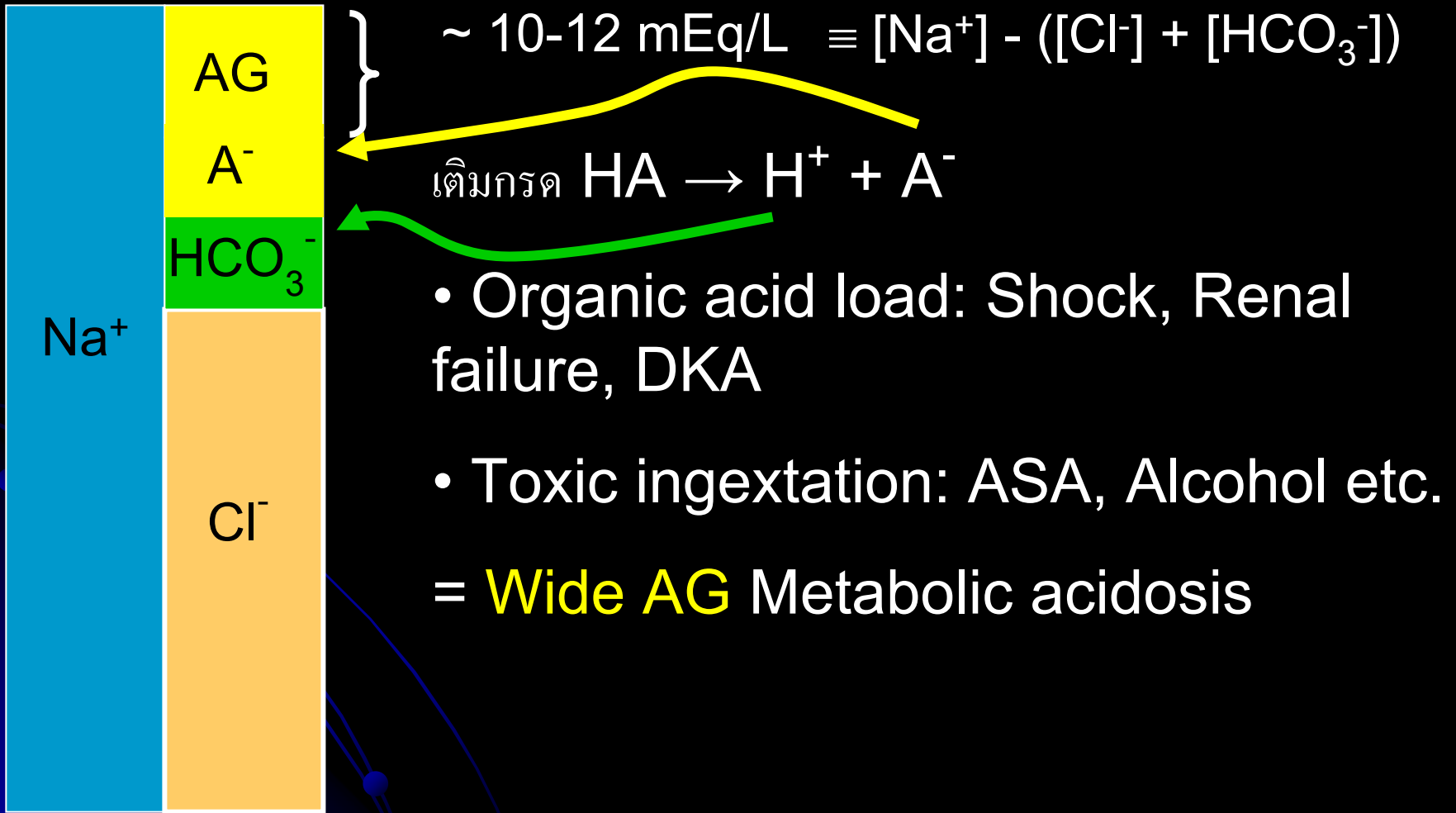


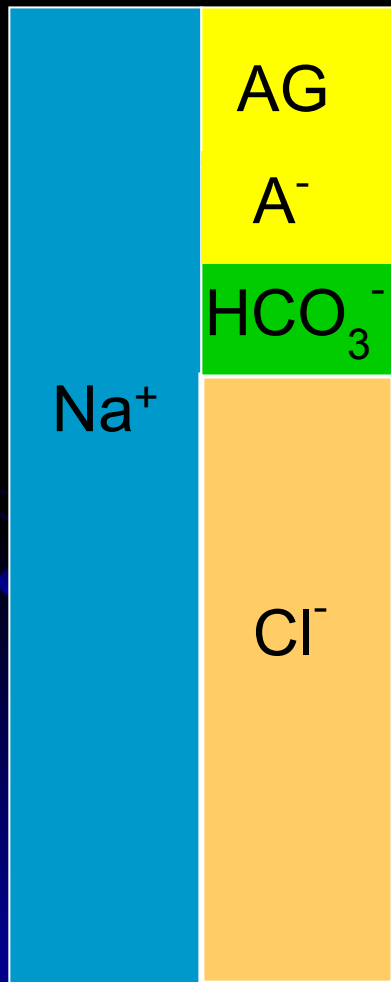
Ureter

Skin



# Wide-anion gap Metabolic acidosis





- AG elevated

in either acidosis or alkalosis

- **AG > 20**

67% likelihood of metabolic acidosis

- **AG > 30**

~ 100% likelihood of metabolic acidosis

An acutely-ill 50-year-old woman with a history of severe vomiting for the past 4 days. Physical examination profound lethargy, a pulse rate of 120/min, a respiration rate of 12/min, and BP of 80/50 mmHg.

### Serum electrolytes

Sodium	140 meq/L
Potassium	3.3 meq/L
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### Arterial blood studies on room air:

pH 7.40  
PaCO<sub>2</sub> 41 mmHg,

1

2

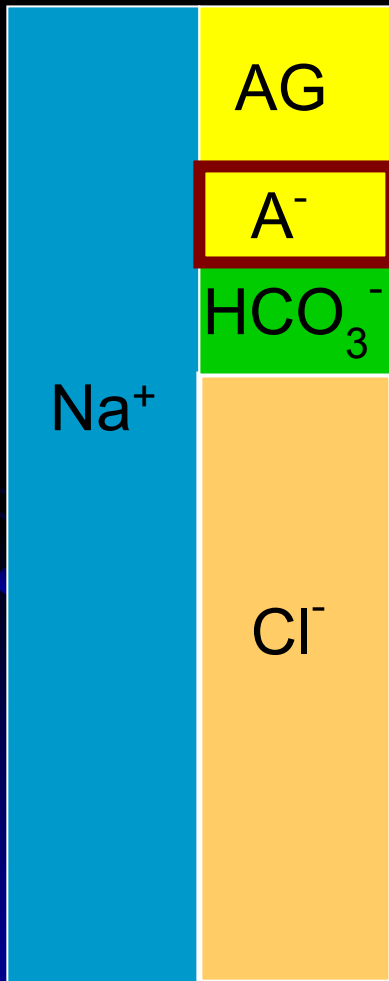
3.  $AG = 140 - 85 - 25 = 30$



# Boston approach in Systemic ABG analysis

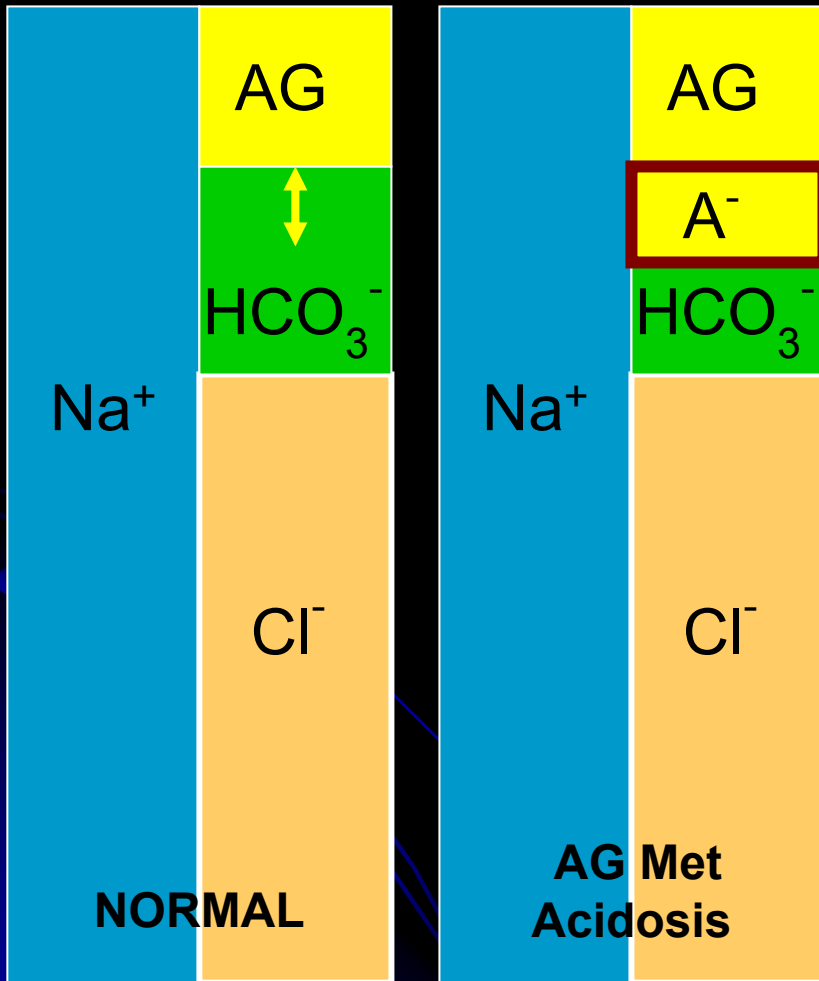
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# Assess delta ratio



- $\uparrow \Delta \text{H}^+ = \downarrow \Delta \text{HCO}_3^-$
- The delta-delta ratio, to determine if a second metabolic disorder is present.
- Delta gap =  $\frac{\text{Anion gap} - 12}{\Delta [\text{HCO}_3^-]}$

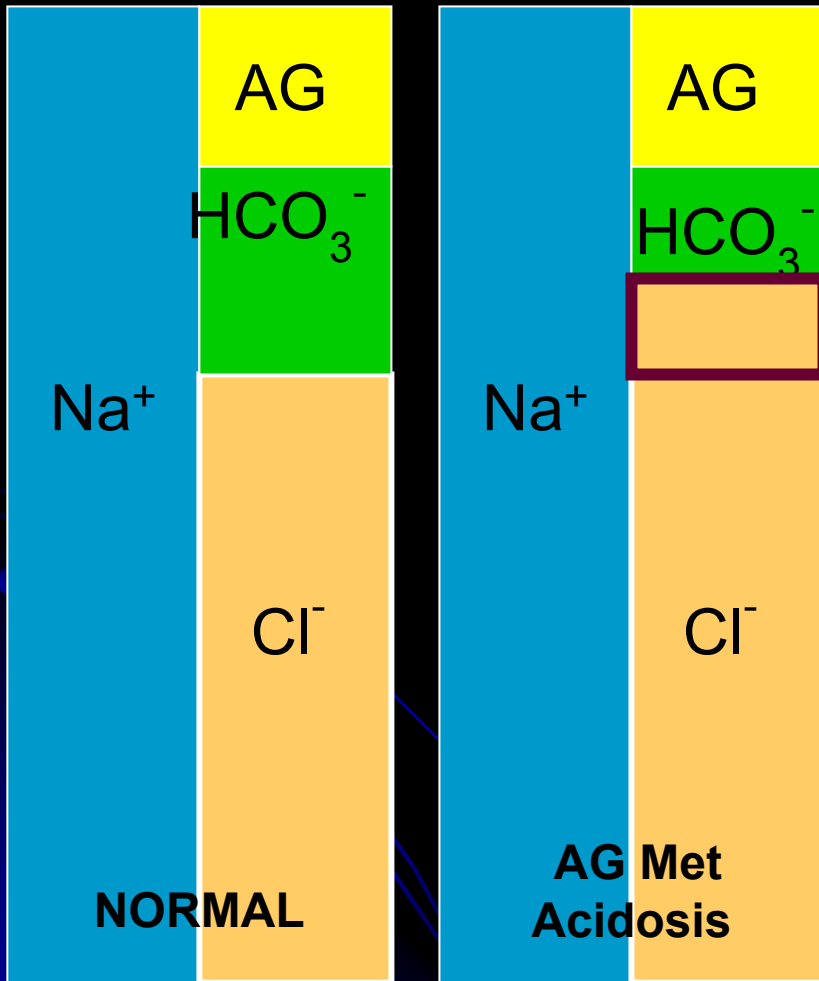
# Assess the Anion Gap Delta Ratio



- $$\begin{aligned} \text{Delta gap} &= \frac{\uparrow \Delta \text{H}^+}{\downarrow \Delta \text{HCO}_3^-} \\ &= \frac{\text{Anion gap} - 12}{\Delta [\text{HCO}_3^-]} \end{aligned}$$

1 to 2 = Pure Anion Gap Acidosis

# Assess delta/delta ratio



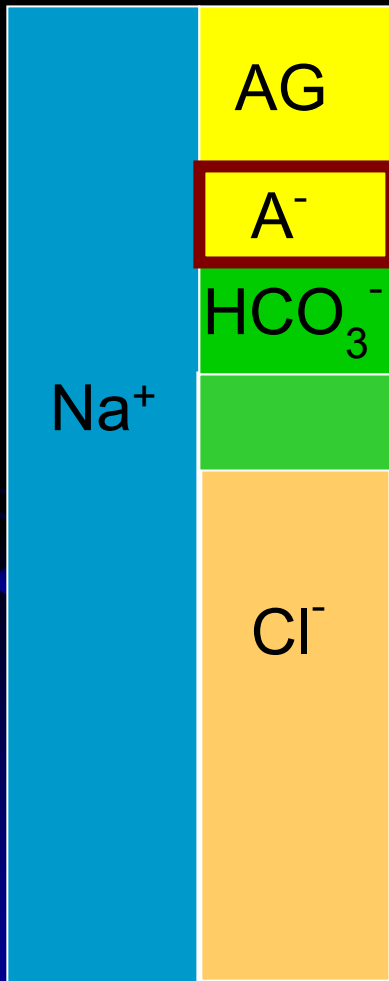
- $$\text{Delta gap} = \frac{\uparrow \Delta \text{H}^+}{\downarrow \Delta \text{HCO}_3^-}$$

$$= \frac{\text{Anion gap} - 12}{\Delta [\text{HCO}_3^-]}$$

< 0.4 Normal AG acidosis

1 to 2 = Pure Anion Gap Acidosis

# Assess delta ratio



- Delta gap =  $\frac{\uparrow \Delta \text{H}^+}{\downarrow \Delta \text{HCO}_3^-}$   
=  $\frac{\text{Anion gap} - 12}{\Delta [\text{HCO}_3^-]}$

< 0.4      Normal anion gap acidosis

1 to 2      Pure Anion Gap Acidosis

> 2      High AG acidosis combined with  
metabolic alkalosis or pre-existing  
compensated respiratory acidosis

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PaCO<sub>2</sub> 41 mmHg,

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3.  $AG = 140 - 85 - 25 = 30$

4.  $\Delta Gap = 30 - 12/25 - 24 = \underline{18}$

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$$3. \quad AG = 140 - 85 - 25 = 30$$

$$4. \quad \Delta Gap = 30 - 12/25 - 24 = \underline{18}$$

The most like acid-base disorder is:

- A Metabolic acidosis
- B Metabolic alkalosis
- C Respiratory acidosis and metabolic alkalosis
- D Metabolic acidosis and metabolic alkalosis
- E Respiratory alkalosis

A 42-year-old man is admitted to the hospital with dehydration and hypotension.

Na 165 mEq/L, K 4.0 mEq/L, Cl 112 mEq/L,  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  32 mEq/L

No arterial blood gas is obtained.

What is acid-base disturbance?

$\text{HCO}_3^-$  32 mEq/L → Met alkalosis Vs Resp acidosis

Anion gap:  $165 - (32 + 112) = 21$  mEq/L

→ Wide gap met acidosis

$\Delta$  gap =  $21 - 12 = 9$

→  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  should be  $24 - 9 = 15$

**The co-existence of met acidosis and met alkalosis**



# Boston approach in Systemic ABG analysis

- ✓ 1. Check arterial pH
- ✓ 2.  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$  &  $\text{PaCO}_2$  analysis
- ✓ 3. Calculate AG
- ✓ 4. Assess delta ratio
5. Check “clues”
6. Assess compensatory responses
7. Formulate acid-base diagnosis

# Pertinent Clues

- Hyperglycaemia
  - **Hypo-K**
  - Hyper-K
  - **Hyperchloremia**
  - Elevated creatinine
- DKA
- Suggests metabolic alkalosis**
- Suggests metabolic acidosis
- Common with normal AG  
metabolic acidosis**
- Uraemic acidosis or  
hypovolaemia

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# The Four Cardinal Acid Base Disorders

Disorder	pH	pCO <sub>2</sub>	[HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]
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M acidosis	↓	↓	↓
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M alkalosis	↑	↑	↑
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R acidosis	↓	↑	↑
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R alkalosis	↑	↓	↓
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# Rule of Metabolic acidosis

- Mechanism =  $\downarrow \text{HCO}_3^-$
- $1.2(\Delta \downarrow \text{HCO}_3^-) = \Delta \downarrow \text{PaCO}_2$

- Anion gap:

If  $\Delta \text{AG} > 20$  met acidosis 67%

If  $\Delta \text{AG} > 30$  met acidosis 100%

- Wide gap  $\rightarrow \Delta \text{Gap}$
- Normal gap  $\rightarrow \text{Urine AG}$

What are the acid-base disorders in a 28-year-old man who presents to the ED with several days of vomiting, nausea and abdominal pain. His blood pressure is low and he has tenting of the skin. He has the following electrolytes:

Na 144 mEq/L

K 4.2 mEq/L

Cl 95 mEq/L

CO<sub>2</sub> 14 mEq/L

$$AG = 144 - (95 + 14) = 35$$

$$\Delta AG = 35 - 12 = 23$$

$$\Delta HCO_3 = 27 - 14 = 13$$

Combined wide gap met acidosis (from dehydration and poor perfusion) *and* a met alkalosis (from vomiting and loss of stomach acid)

A 27-year-old woman with acute renal failure:

Na 140 mEq/L

K 4 mEq/L

Cl 115 mEq/L

CO<sub>2</sub> 5 mEq/L

ABG:pH 7.12, PaCO<sub>2</sub> 13 mmHg, HCO<sub>3</sub> 4 mEq/L

Met acidosis:  $AG = 140 - (115 + 5) = 20$

$\Delta AG = 20 - 12 = 8$

$\Delta HCO_3 = 20 \rightarrow \text{Delta ratio} = 0.4$

Combined wide-gap and normal-gap Met acidosis

# Differential Dx of high-anion gap acidosis

Lactic acidosis

Salicylates

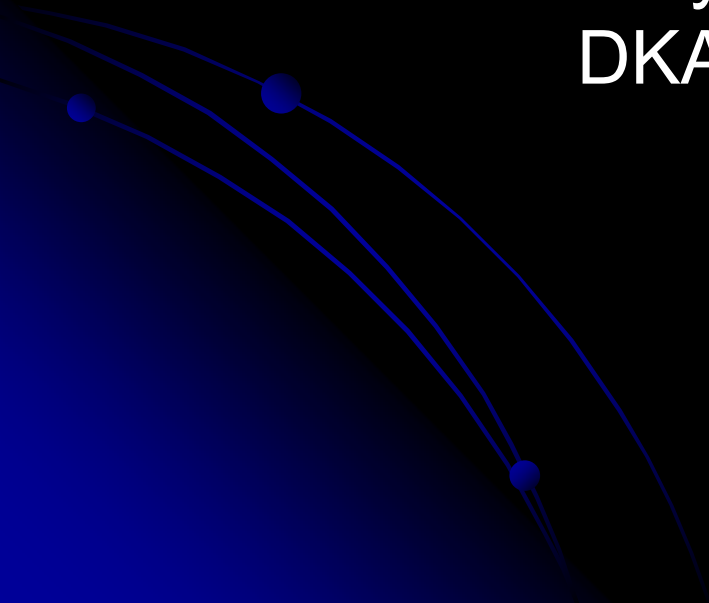
Uremia

Methanol intoxication

Paint sniffing (toluene)

Ethylene glycol intoxication

DKA or alcoholic ketoacidosis

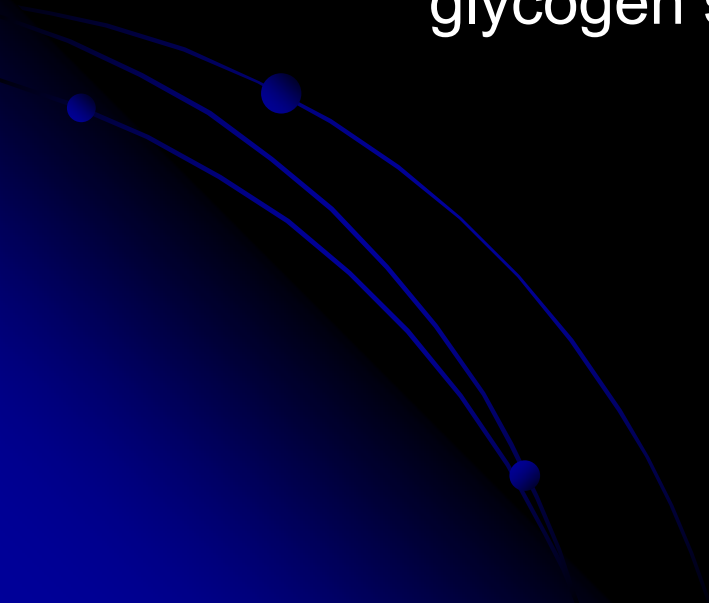




# Lactic acidosis

Type A = increased  $O_2$  demand or decreased  $O_2$  delivery

Type B = Malignancies (lymphoma)  
Phenformin, metformin  
hepatic failure  
acute respiratory alkalosis (salicylates)  
glycogen storage disease type I  
etc



## Salicylates -

± Hx aspirin ingestion,  
nausea, tinnitus,  
unexplained hyperventilation,  
noncardiogenic pulmonary edema,  
elevated prothrombin time

Usually: mixed respiratory  
alkalosis & metabolic acidosis  
(rare: pure metabolic acidosis)

Toxic at  $< 5$  mEq/l,  
so no anionic contribute to AG

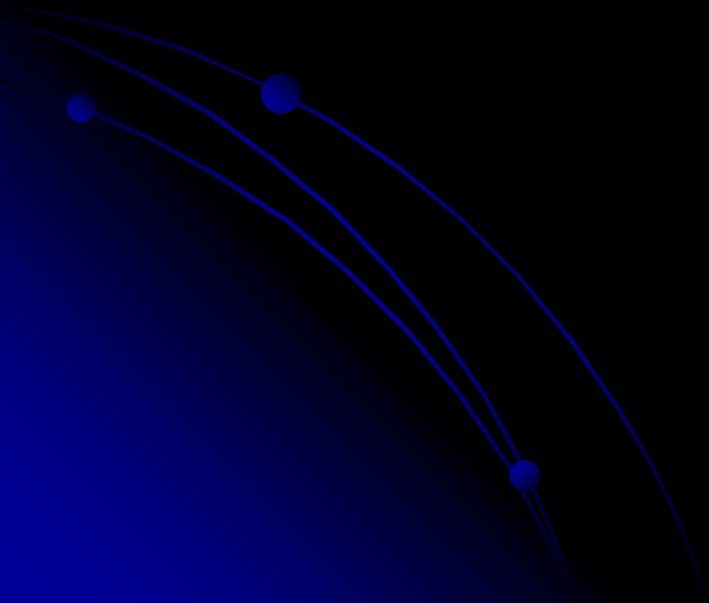
No increase in osmolal gap ( $[ASA] < 5$  mM)



Treatment for salicylate intoxication:

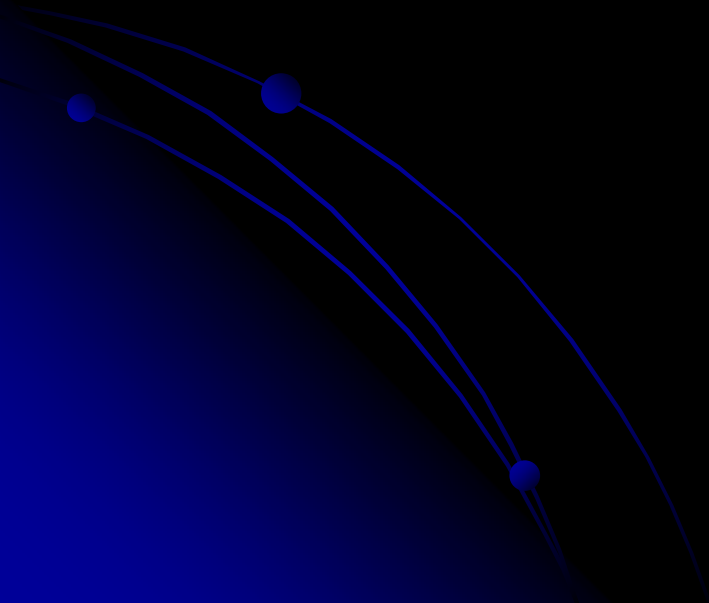
Un-ionized form (protonated) enters the brain  
and is excreted poorly

Rx....alkalinize ( $\text{HCO}_3$  infusion) to maximize renal excretion  
(dialysis)

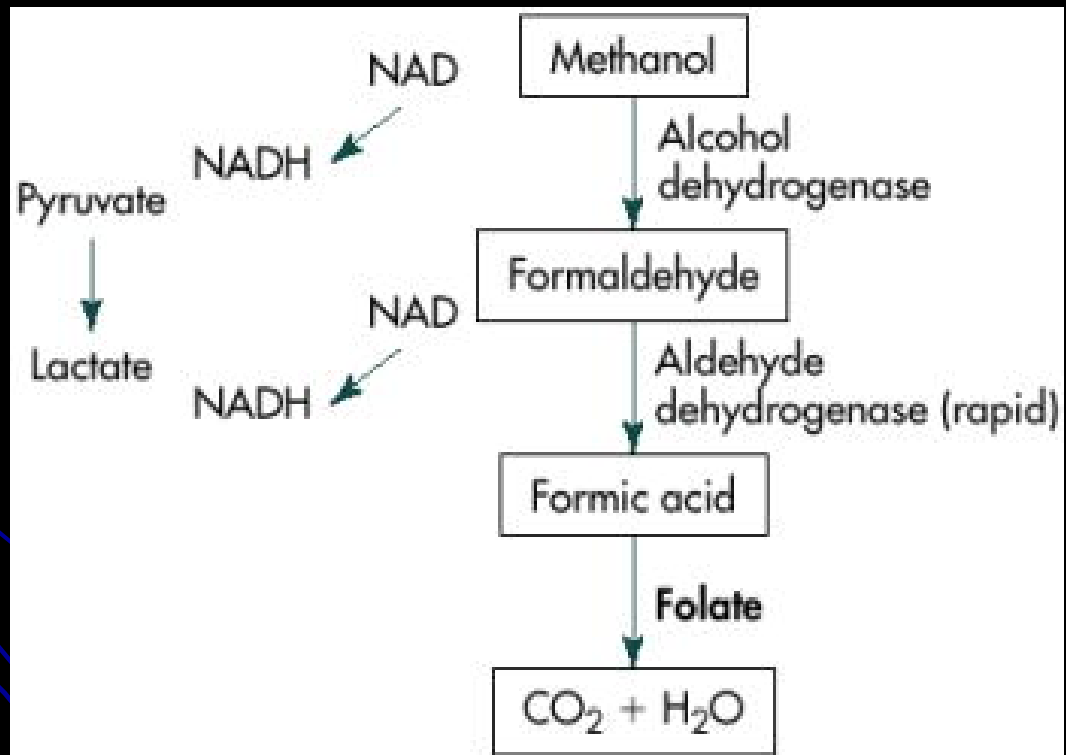


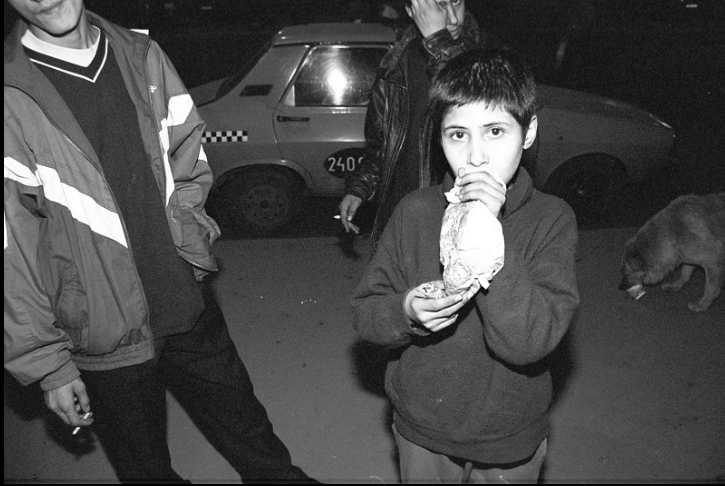
Uremia is indicated by BUN, creatinine  
(chronicity by kidney size and Hct).

Methanol - presents with  
± abdominal pain, vomiting,  
headache; CT: BL putamen infarcts  
visual disturbance (optic neuritis)



Anion gap may be  $> 50$   
Osmolal gap  $> 10$  mOsm





## Paint sniffing (“huffing”) (toluene)

may present as either  
anion gap acidosis  
or normal gap acidosis  
Anion = hippurate

No increase in osmolal gap

## Ethylene glycol

- presents with  $\pm$  CNS disturbances, cardiovascular collapse, respiratory failure, renal failure

Oxalate crystals

(octahedral or dumbbell)  
in urine are diagnostic

Anion gap may be  $> 50$

Osmolal gap  $> 10$  mOsm



## Diabetic ketoacidosis -

Key clinical features are:

type I DM (i.e. no insulin)

a trigger: e.g. sepsis, fracture, stroke

hyperglycemia

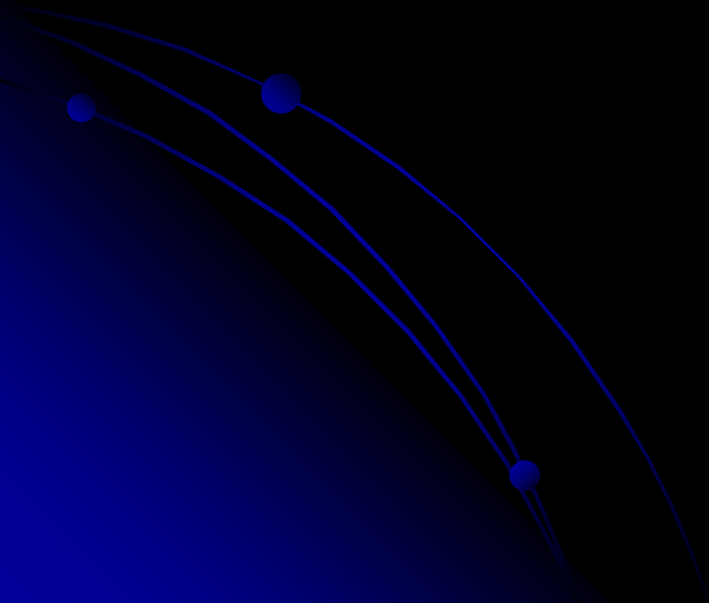
ECF vol depletion & renal insufficiency

acetoacetic- and  $\beta$  hydroxybutyric- acids



## Alcoholic ketoacidosis -

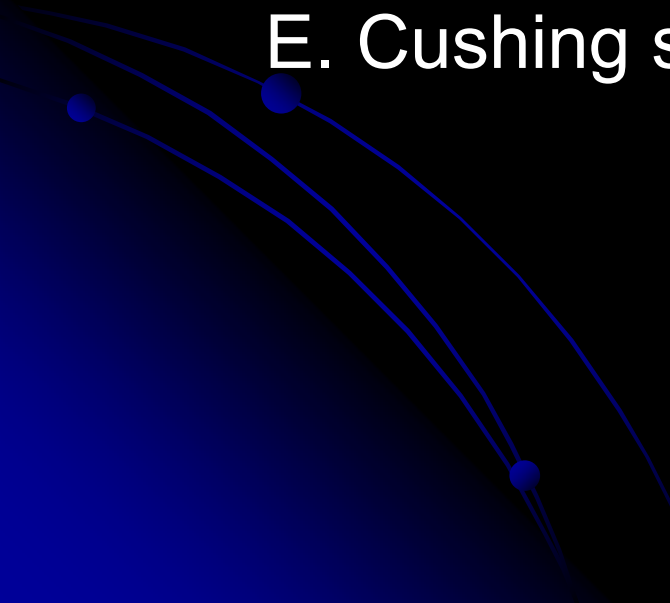
recent stopping ingestion of ethanol, hypoglycemia,  
and contracted ECF (usually due to vomiting)



Initial administration of fluid during the resuscitation of a patient who has a gun short wound of the thorax and abdomen results in a rise in blood pressure to 110/80 mmHg. At this point, arterial blood gases are pH, 7.25;  $PO_2$ , 95 mmHg;  $PCO_2$  25 mmHg;  $HCO_3^-$  15 mEq/L. The patient's metabolic acidosis would be treated best with

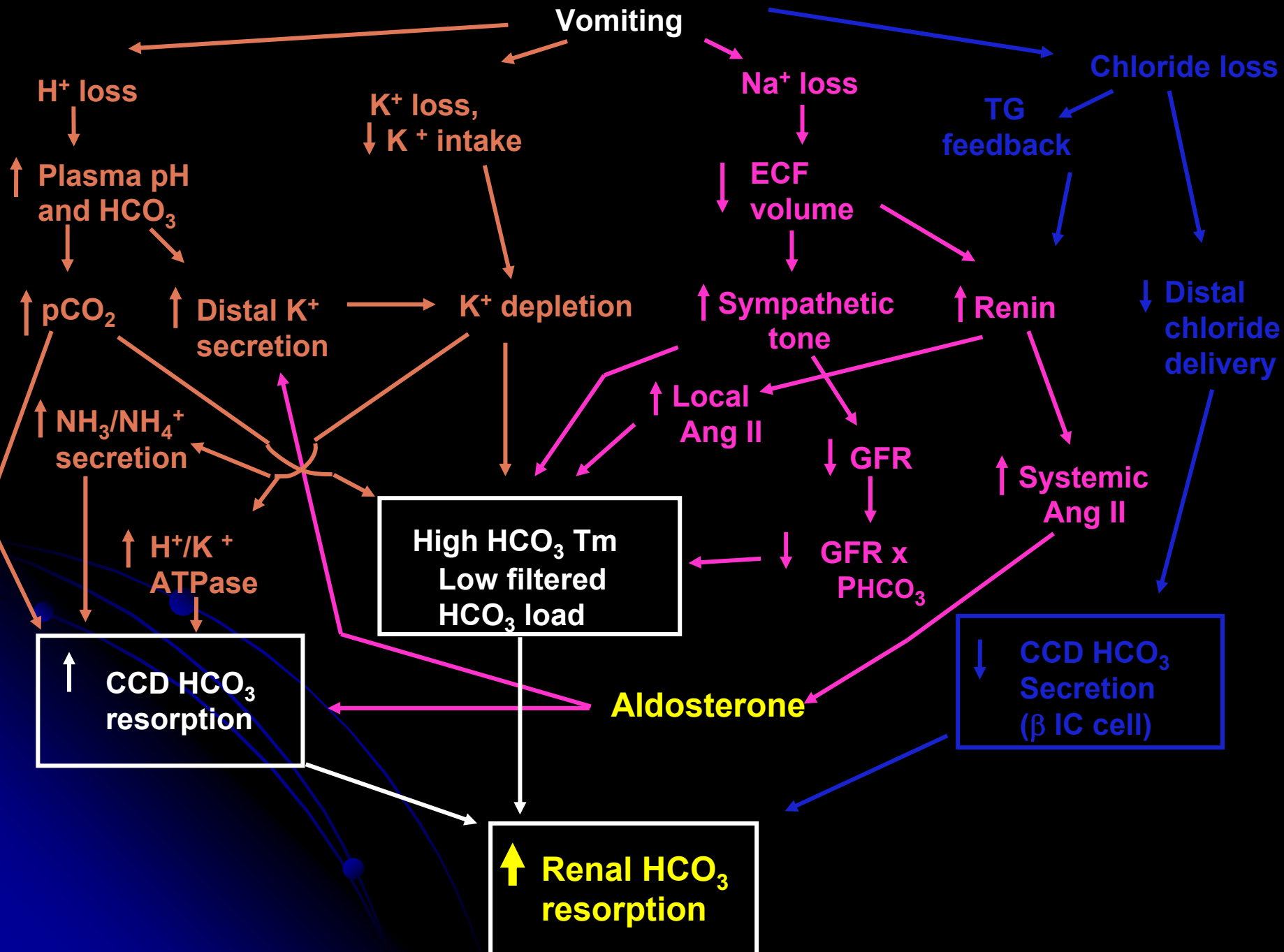
- A. Tromethamine (Tham)
- B. Sodium bicarbonate
- C. Dextran 70
- D. Balanced salt solution
- E. Hyperventilation

Metabolic alkalosis may be caused by all of the following  
EXCEPT

- A. Gastric outlet obstruction with vomiting
  - B. Diarrhea
  - C. Magnesium deficiency
  - D. Diuretics
  - E. Cushing syndrome
- 

# The Four Cardinal Acid Base Disorders

Disorder	pH	pCO <sub>2</sub>	[HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]
M acidosis	↓	↓	↓
M alkalosis	↑	↑	↑
R acidosis	↓	↑	↑
R alkalosis	↑	↓	↓



# DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF METABOLIC ALKALOSIS USING URINE Cl

## Low Urine [Cl<sup>-</sup>]

Vomiting

NG suction

Diuretics (late)

Posthypercapnia

Cystic fibrosis

Low Cl<sup>-</sup> intake

## Normal Urine [Cl<sup>-</sup>]

Mineralocorticoidism

RAS, aldosteronism

11-bDH deficiencies

Bartter's

Diuretics (early)

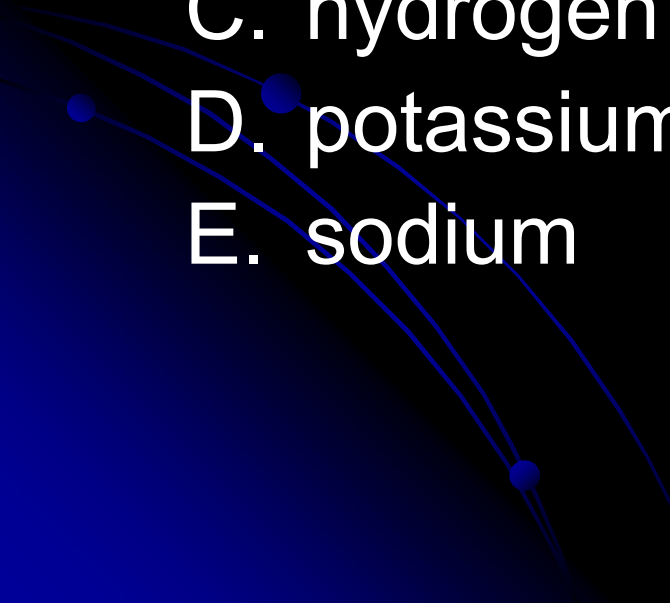
Severe K<sup>+</sup> depletion

A 54 year-old man has been vomiting for three days and has lost 5% of his body weight. His serum electrolytes are as follow: Na 136 mEq/L, K 3.1 mEq/L, Cl 88 mEq/L, HCO<sub>3</sub> 37 mEq/L

Which of the following is most helpful in determining the cause of his acid-base disorder?

- A. Urine Sodium
- B. Urine Creatinine
- C. Urine Chloride
- D. Urine anion gap
- E. Urine pH

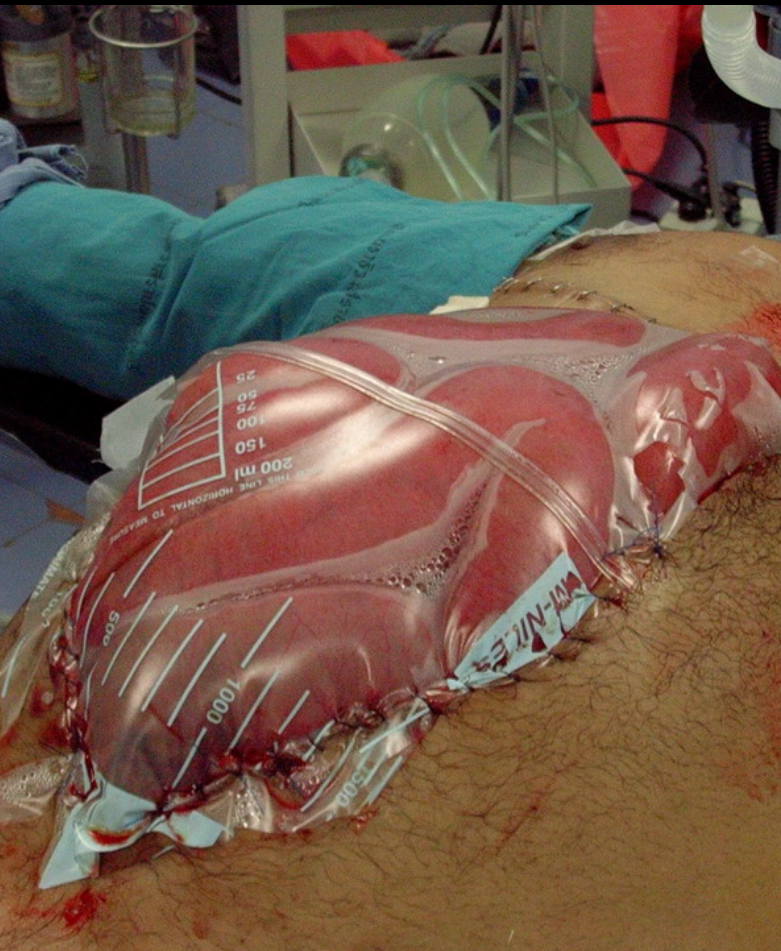
The most important ion to replace in a patient dehydrated after several days of emesis from an obstructing pyloric channel ulcer is

- A. bicarbonate
  - B. chloride
  - C. hydrogen
  - D. potassium
  - E. sodium
- 



# The Four Cardinal Acid Base Disorders

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M acidosis	↓	↓	↓
M alkalosis	↑	↑	↑
R acidosis	↓	↑	↑
R alkalosis	↑	↓	↓



SpO<sub>2</sub> Low ALARM

HR: 135

SpO<sub>2</sub>: 88

Pressure: 135  
Systolic: 199 / Diastolic: 127 (Mean: 136)

Pulse: 133

Start STOP



766  
3.00  
PATIENT SAMPLE REPORT

status: ACCEPTED  
01/27/2005 23:15:22  
Sample Type:  
Arterial  
Sample No.: 62  
Patient:  
ID: 253766  
Name:  
MADAOH  
Sex: U  
Instrument:  
Model: GEM 3000  
S/N: 16162

Measured (37.0C)

pH	7.15	
pCO2	95	mmHg
pO2	60	mmHg
Na+	137	mmol/L
K+	4.1	mmol/L
Ca++	3.97	mg/dL
Hct	38	%

Temp-Corrected (37.1C)

# Causes of Respiratory Acidosis

## Acute

10 mm Hg  $\uparrow$  pCO<sub>2</sub> →  
1 mEq/L  $\uparrow$  HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>

Asthma

Pulmonary edema

Drug overdose

Cardiac arrest

Sleep apnea

## Chronic

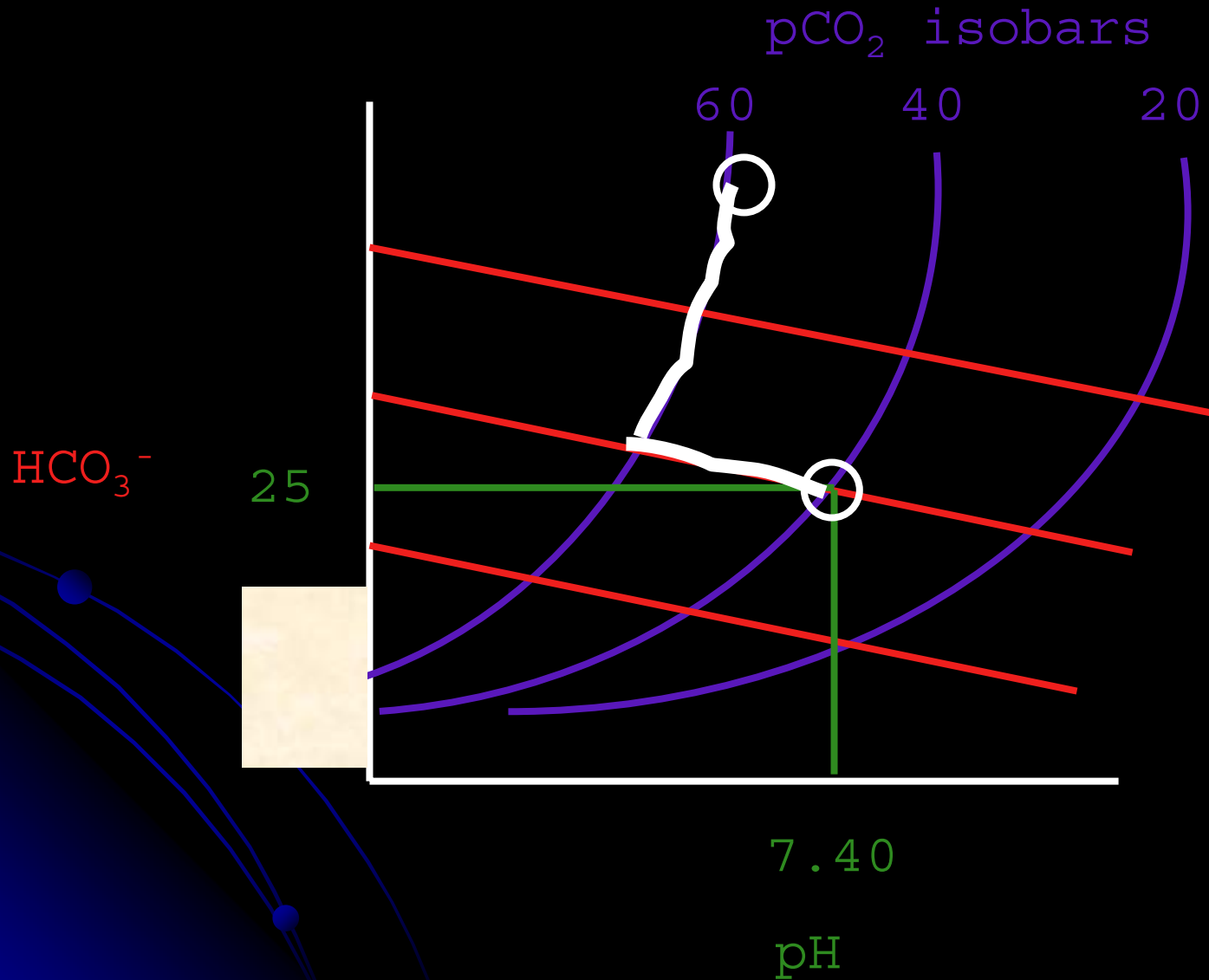
10 mm Hg  $\uparrow$  pCO<sub>2</sub> →  
3.5 mEq/L  $\uparrow$  HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>

Chronic Obstructive  
Pulmonary Disease  
(COPD)

Obesity/Pickwickian

Neuromuscular (e.g.  
Lou-Gehrig's)

# Acute Vs Chronic Respiratory Acidosis



# Triple Ripple

Disorder	pH	pCO <sub>2</sub>	[HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]
----------	----	------------------	----------------------------------

M acidosis	↓	↓	↓
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M alkalosis	↑	↑	↑
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R acidosis	↓	↑	↑
------------	---	---	---

R alkalosis	↑	↓	↓
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# WHAT IS THE ACID-BASE DISTURBANCE?

145 □ 95 □ 30  
3.5 □ 25 □ 1.8

RA-ABG: 7.50 /pCO<sub>2</sub> 33 /pO<sub>2</sub> 105



1. Respiratory alkalosis

2. Anion gap =  $145 - (95 + 25) = 25$

→ Wide-gap met acidosis

3.  $\Delta$  Gap =  $25 - 12 = 13$

$\Delta$  HCO<sub>3</sub> = 1pH is high = metabolic alkalosis

This is the “Triple Ripple”

- A 60-yr-old man with the odor of alcohol on his breath is brought to ER. He is hypotensive, hypothermic, and tachycardia. At admission, laboratory documented :  
Na 135, K 3.9, Cl 90, HCO<sub>3</sub> 15  
BUN 42 Cr 2.0  
Blood Sugar 120  
ABG : pH 7.36 pO<sub>2</sub> 80 pCO<sub>2</sub> 40  
Which of the following is the most accurate description of this patient's acid-base disorder ?

**AG = 30**

- ~~A. Simple metabolic acidosis~~
- ~~B. Respiratory acidosis and metabolic acidosis~~
- ~~C. Metabolic acidosis and respiratory alkalosis~~
- ~~D. Met acidosis, met alkalosis, and respiratory acidosis~~
- ~~E. Met acidosis, respiratory alkalosis, and respiratory acidosis~~



**Thank You**

