

Common Acid/Base Disorders: Causes and Consequences

P. Ryan Killian, PharmD, BCPS
Assistant Professor Clinical Pharmacy
UAMS College of Pharmacy
Critical Care Clinical Pharmacist
Baxter Regional Medical Center
Mountain Home, Arkansas

Disclosure

- I have no financial relationships to disclose
- I will discuss off label use and/or investigational use in my presentation

Goals

- Identify signs and symptoms of common acid/base disorders
- Identify etiology of common acid/base disorders
- Recommend safe and effective pharmacotherapy for common acid/base disorders
- Recommend accurate monitoring for parameters of recommended therapy

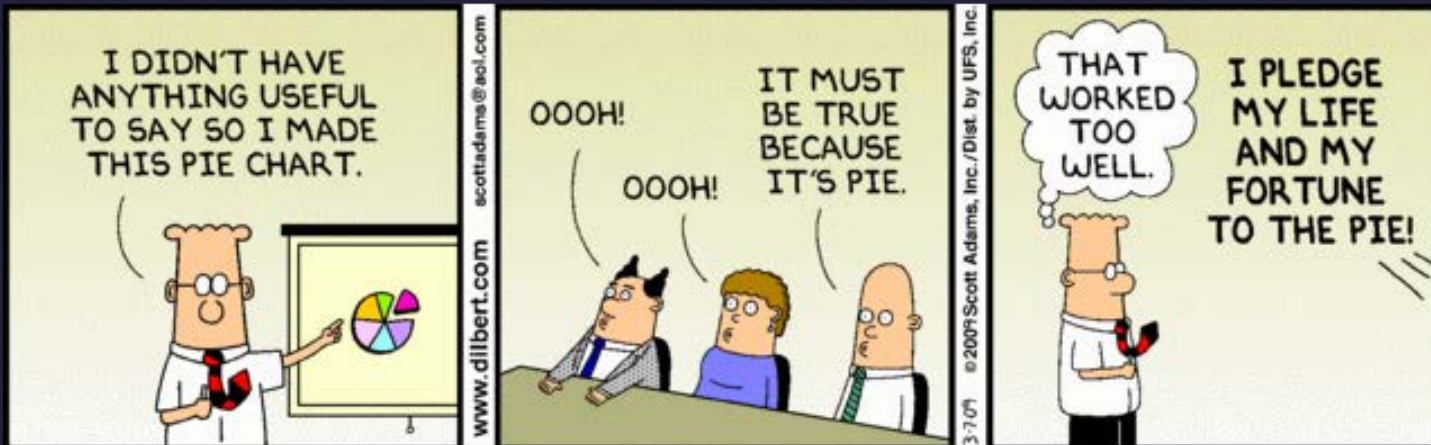
Objectives

- Review available pharmacotherapy for common acid/base disorders
- Discuss appropriate monitoring for parameters of recommended therapy

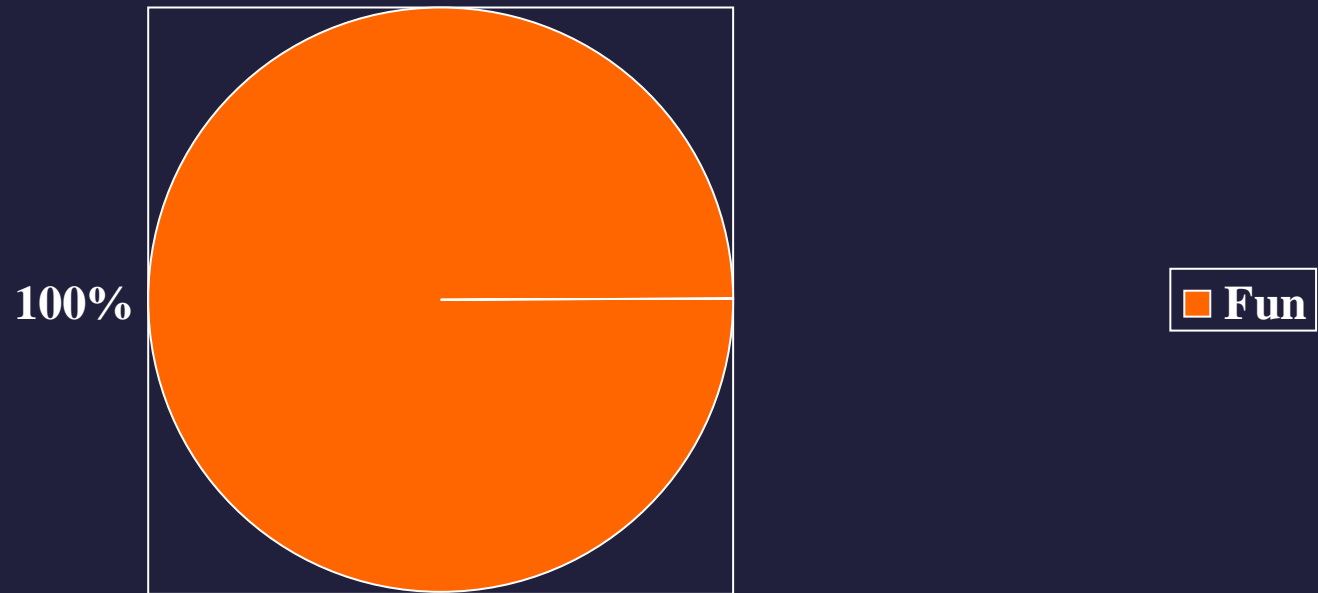
Acid-Base



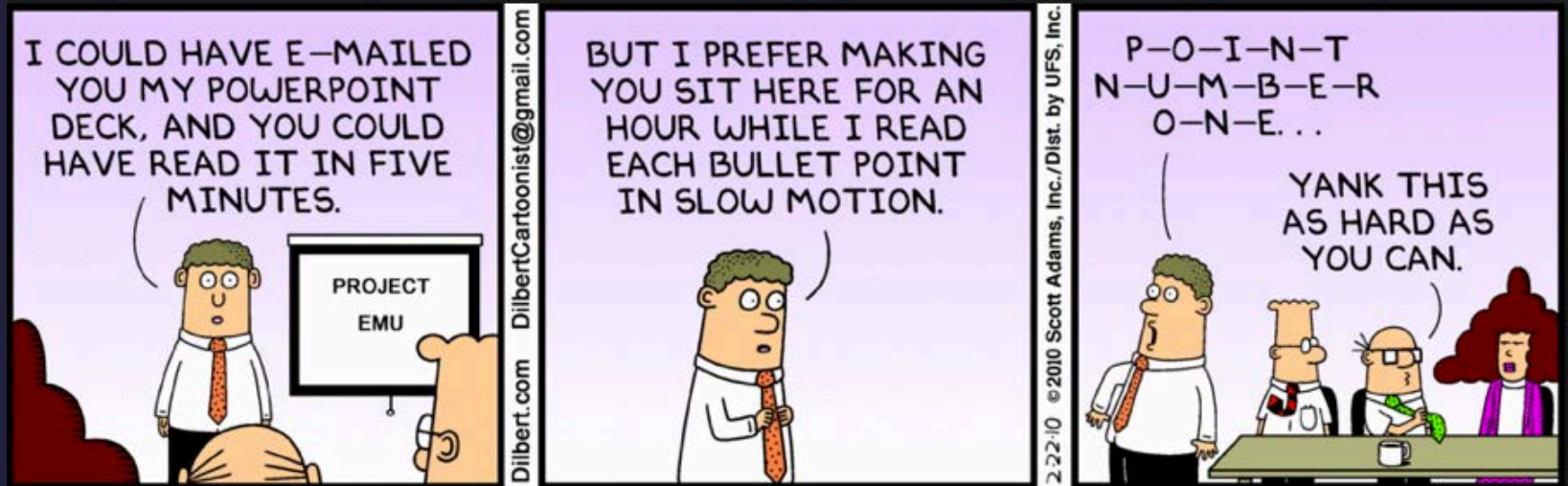
Acid-Base



Acid-Base



Acid-Base



Functions of pH

- Respiratory drive
- Electrolyte levels and availability
 - Potassium
 - Calcium
- Enzyme mediated reactions
- Receptor function

THE BASICS

ABG Normal Values:

- pH 7.35-7.45
- PCO₂ 35-45 mmHg
- PO₂ 80-100 mmHg
- HCO₃ 20-28 mEq/L

THE BASICS

Acidemia

- high H^+ , low pH
- result of decreased HCO_3 or increased PCO_2

Alkalemia

- low H^+ , high pH
- result of increased HCO_3 or decreased PCO_2

Acidemia

Consequences:

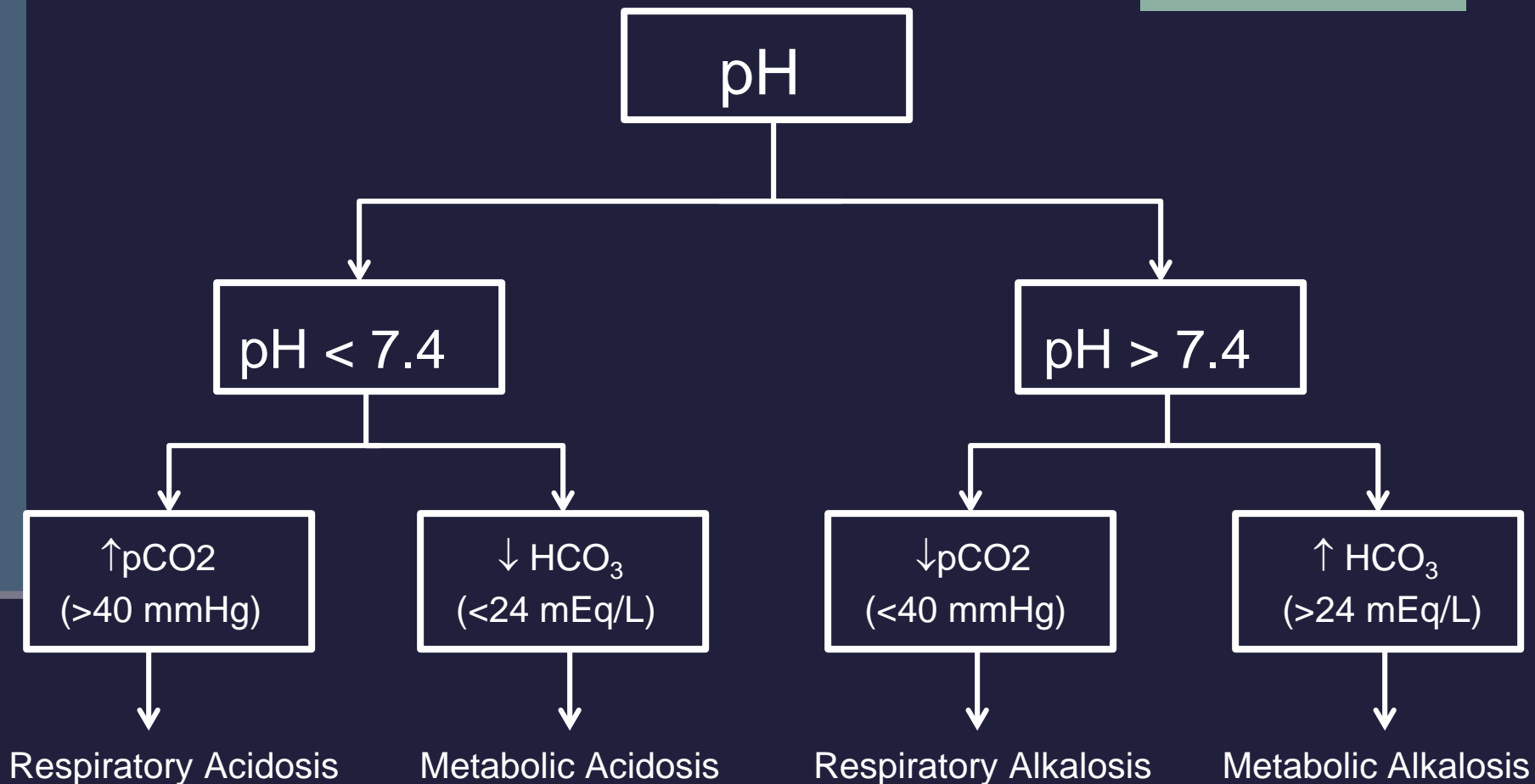
- Cardiovascular
- Respiratory
- Metabolic
- Cerebral

Alkalemia

Consequences:

- Cardiovascular
- Respiratory
- Metabolic
- Cerebral

PRIMARY ACID-BASE DISTURBANCES



PRIMARY ACID-BASE DISTURBANCES

Respiratory acidosis

- Primary change: increased PCO₂
- Increase in PCO₂ due to alveolar hypoventilation or impairment of respiration
- Compensation: enhanced renal H⁺ secretion (occurs over 3-5 days) resulting in increased plasma HCO₃

Respiratory Acidosis

Respiratory center depression

- Drug-induced
 - Anesthetics
 - Barbituates
 - Benzodiazepines
 - Opiates
 - Parenteral or enteral nutrition (if excessive carbohydrates)
- Sleep apnea
- Obesity
- CNS disease (stroke, infection)

Respiratory Acidosis

- Neuromuscular disorders:
 - myasthenia gravis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, hypokalemia, myopathy
- Upper airway obstruction
- Pulmonary disease:
 - COPD
 - Asthma
 - Pulmonary edema
 - Pneumothorax
 - Pneumonia
- Mechanical ventilation

Respiratory Acidosis

Treatment

- Correct underlying disorders
- Hold or discontinue any respiratory depressant drugs
- Improve ventilation/respiration
- Reverse effects of respiratory depressants if present:
 - Opiates: Naloxone 0.4-2 mg SQ/IV/IM q 2-3 min prn (should see response within 10 minutes)
 - Benzodiazepines: Flumazenil 0.2 mg IV q1 min prn (max 5 doses per series, may repeat series at 20 minute intervals)

Respiratory Acidosis

- ABG every 2-5 hours initially
- ABG every 12-24 hours as pH improves
- Basic Metabolic Panel
- Respiratory status

PRIMARY ACID-BASE DISTURBANCES

Metabolic Acidosis

- Primary change: decreased HCO_3
- Decrease in plasma HCO_3 due to HCO_3 loss or accumulation of acid
- Compensation: fall in PCO_2 resulting from alveolar hyperventilation

Diagnostics

Anion Gap

- $[\text{Na}^+] - \{[\text{Cl}^-] + [\text{HCO}_3^-]\}$
- Normal: 10-14
- High AG indicates overproduction of acid or presence of renal failure
- Low AG signifies hypoalbuminemia, halide intoxication, multiple myeloma

GAP Metabolic Acidosis

- Lactic Acidosis
- Ketoacidosis
- Endstage Renal Failure
- Methanol ingestion
- Ethylene Glycol ingestion
- Salicylates

GAP Metabolic Acidosis

Methanol

Uremic acid

Diabetic Ketoacidosis

Propylene glycol

I (Infection, Iron, Isoniazid)

Lactic acidosis

Ethylene glycol

Salicylates

GAP Metabolic Acidosis

Methanol

Uremia

Lactic Acidosis

Ethylene glycol

Propylene Glycol

Aspirin

Ketoacidosis

Lactic Acidosis

Risk factors

- hypoxia
 - hypotension
 - sepsis
 - cardiovascular shock
 - anemia
 - ischemia
 - diabetes

- leukemia

Lactic Acidosis

Drug Induced:

- APAP
- catecholamines
- NRTIs (ddI, d4T, ddC)
- Ibuprofen
- Iron overdose
- Isoniazid overdose
- Linezolid
- Metformin
- Neuroleptic malignant syndrome
- Nitroprusside (secondary to cyanide toxicity)

Lactic Acidosis

Drug Induced cont.

- Propylene glycol
- Propofol
- Salicylate overdose (mixed disorder: metabolic acidosis with respiratory alkalosis)
- Streptozocin
- Sorbitol and Xylitol
- Theophylline overdose

Lactic Acidosis

Treatment

- Optimize hemodynamics
 - MAP
 - HR
 - CVP

- O₂ delivery
 - Hb
 - Arterial O₂ saturation
 - Central venous O₂ saturation

Lactic Acidosis

Treatment

■ pH correction

■ Sodium Bicarbonate

- V_d 50% body weight

■ THAM

- Tromethamine (mL of 0.3 M solution) = body weight (kg) x base deficit (mEq/L) x 1.1

■ HD

- Continuous HD preferred, controlled studies needed

Acetaminophen Overdose

- Stage III
- Liver failure
- Decreased lactate clearance
- Treatment
 - Standard APAP overdose treatment and supportive care

Metformin

■ Mechanism

- Increased serum levels of metformin
- Interference with oxidative phosphorylation
- Suppression of hepatic gluconeogenesis

■ Treatment

- Supportive Care
- Hemodialysis

■ Contraindicated with renal dysfunction?

Propylene Glycol

- d-Lactate and l-lactate are normal products of metabolism
- May occur with or without oxidative phosphorylation impairment

Propylene Glycol

- diazepam
- digoxin
- esmolol
- etomidate
- hydralazine
- lorazepam
- MVI injection
- nitroglycerine
- pentobarbital
- phenobarbital
- phenytoin
- trimethoprim/
sulfamethoxazole

Propylene Glycol

Treatment

- Discontinue drug
- Optimize hemodynamics
- O₂ delivery
- pH correction

Aspirin Overdose

- Interference with oxidative phosphorylation
- Hyperlactatemia is usually minimal
- Commonly presents as a mixed disorder
- Treatment:
 - Activated charcoal
 - Sodium bicarbonate to pH greater than 7.45
 - HD in patients with renal failure

Propofol Infusion Syndrome

- Interference with oxidative phosphorylation
- Lactic acidosis can be seen with prolonged high-dose infusion (>5 mcg/kg/min for > 48 h)
- Treatment:
 - Discontinuation
 - Supportive Measures

Diabetic Ketoacidosis

- Diabetes Mellitus
 - Infection
 - Myocardial infarction
 - Gestational Diabetes
 - Initial presentation/insufficient insulin
- Breakdown of fatty acids/production of ketones
- Treatment
 - Insulin
 - Fluid/electrolytes
 - Sodium bicarbonate for pH < 7.1

Gap Metabolic Acidosis

Treatment

- Increased AG Acidosis: treat underlying disorder
- Renal Failure
 - Hold or discontinue any suspected drugs
 - Consider oral alkali therapy if no improvement in acidosis within 1-3 days or if symptomatic

Gap Metabolic Acidosis

Monitoring

- Hemodynamics
- O₂ delivery
- Basic Metabolic Panel
- Lactic Acid

Acid-Base



Non-Gap Metabolic Acidosis

Risk Factors

- Cirrhosis
- CHF
- Diabetes
- renal dysfunction
- ECF volume depletion
- cholestyramine + aldosterone antagonists
- cumulative dose of amphotericin B > 2-3 g

Non-Gap Metabolic Acidosis

- Renal HCO_3^- loss
 - Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors
 - Renal Tubular Acidosis (RTA)
- Gastrointestinal HCO_3^- loss
 - Diarrhea
 - Pancreatic, biliary or small bowel fistulas or drainage
 - Cholestyramine, laxative abuse
- Dilutional (rapid administration of IV fluids)

Non-Gap Metabolic Acidosis

Renal Tubular Acidosis (RTA)

Proximal RTA (Type II)	Distal RTA (Type I)	Hyperkalemia-associated Distal RTA (Type IV)
Acetazolamide	Amphotericin B	Aldosterone deficiency or resistance
Sulfamethoxazole	Cisplatin	Heparin
Topiramate		ACEIs and ARBs
AMGs		Amiloride
Arginine		Lithium
Cidofovir		Trimethoprim
Ifosfamide		Triamterene
Tetracycline (expired)		Foscarnet
Streptozotocin		Tacrolimus

Non-Gap Metabolic Acidosis

Treatment

pH < 7.1

- Discontinue any suspected drugs
- IV fluids
- Calculate bicarbonate deficit
 $(0.5\text{L/kg} \times \text{Weight (kg)} \times [\text{HCO}_3]_{\text{desired}} - [\text{HCO}_3]_{\text{observed}})$
- Give 30-50 % of calculated dose over 30 minutes to several hours
- Reassess need for additional replacement with ABG 30 minutes after end of infusion (target pH 7.15-7.20, plasma bicarbonate 8-10 mEq/L)
- Hemodialysis if renal failure present or insufficient response

Non-Gap Metabolic Acidosis

Treatment

- Proximal RTA
 - 10-25 mEq alkali/kg/24 hr in 3 divided doses
 - prefer potassium citrate or potassium/sodium citrate combination

Non-Gap Metabolic Acidosis

Treatment

- Distal RTA
 - 1-2 mEq alkali/kg/24 hr in 3 divided doses
 - sodium bicarbonate preferred
 - titrate to serum HCO_3^- 20-24 mEq/L

Non-Gap Metabolic Acidosis

Treatment

- Hyperkalemic Distal RTA
 - reduce serum potassium using following order of intervention
 - Kayexylate 15-30 g po 1-4x/d ± dietary potassium restriction
 - Addition of furosemide 60-80 mg po daily
 - Addition of fludrocortisone 0.1-0.2 mg po daily (monitor for s/sx of fluid retention)

Alkali Therapy

Generic Name	Trade Name	mEq Alkali
Shohl's solution (sodium citrate/citric acid)	Bicitra	1 mEq Na/ml = 1 mEq bicarbonate/mL
Sodium bicarbonate	Various	325 mg tablet = 3.9 mEq bicarbonate/tablet 650 mg tab = 7.8 mEq bicarbonate/tablet
Potassium citrate	Urocit-K	5 mEq citrate/tablet
Potassium bicarbonate/ Potassium citrate	K-Lyte K-Lyte DS	25 mEq bicarbonate/tablet 50 mEq bicarbonate/tablet
Potassium citrate/ Citric acid	Polycitra-K	2 mEq K/ml = 2 mEq bicarbonate/mL 30 mEq bicarbonate/packet
Sodium citrate/potassium citrate/citric acid	Polycitra	1 mEq K/mL, 1 mEq Na/mL = 2 mEq bicarbonate/mL

Non-Gap Metabolic Acidosis

Treatment

- pH > 7.1
 - Discontinue any suspected drugs
 - IV fluids
 - Hemodialysis if renal failure or insufficient response

Non-Gap Metabolic Acidosis

Monitoring

- ABG
- Basic Metabolic Panel (especially K⁺)
- Ins and outs

Acid-Base



PRIMARY ACID-BASE DISTURBANCES

Respiratory Alkalosis

- Primary change: decreased PCO₂
- Decreased PCO₂ resulting from hyperventilation
- Compensation: small decrease in NH₄⁺ excretion leading to decreased plasma HCO₃⁻ with plasma pH (usually) in normal range

Respiratory Alkalosis

- Hypoxemia:
 - Pulmonary disease
 - Anemia
 - Heart failure
 - High altitude
- Respiratory center stimulation
- Pulmonary disease: pneumonia, edema, emboli, interstitial fibrosis
- Mechanical hyperventilation

Respiratory Alkalosis

Respiratory center stimulation

- Drug-induced:
 - Salicylates (mixed metabolic acidosis and respiratory alkalosis)
 - Progesterone
 - Theophylline overdose
 - Catecholamines
- Pregnancy
- Psychogenic
- CNS disorders
- Liver failure
- Gram-negative sepsis

Respiratory Alkalosis

Treatment

- Identify and correct underlying disorders
- Hold or discontinue any suspected drugs
- Initiate oxygen therapy in patients with severe hypoxemia ($pO_2 < 40$ mmHg) or change ventilator settings as needed
- Treat theophylline and salicylate overdoses appropriately

Respiratory Alkalosis

Monitoring

- Arterial Blood Gas
- Basic Metabolic Panel
- Respiratory status

PRIMARY ACID-BASE DISTURBANCES

Metabolic Alkalosis

- Primary change: increased HCO_3
- Increase in plasma HCO_3 due to H^+ loss or HCO_3 gain
- Compensation: rise in PCO_2 resulting from decreased alveolar ventilation

Metabolic Alkalosis

- ECF volume contraction, normotension, hypokalemia, secondary hyperaldosteronism
- ECF volume expansion, hypertension, hypokalemia, mineralcorticoid excess

Metabolic Alkalosis

Volume Contraction

- Drug-induced
 - nonreabsorbable anions (ampicillin, nafcillin, penicillin, ticarcillin)
 - Diuretics
 - Gentamicin
 - Laxative abuse
 - Co-administration of sodium polystyrene sulfonate and AlOH or MagOH

Metabolic Alkalosis

Volume Contraction

- GI: vomiting, gastric aspiration, villous adenoma
- Edematous states
- Mg or K depletion
- Recovery from lactic acidosis or ketoacidosis
- Post-hypercapnic states

Metabolic Alkalosis

Volume Expansion

- Drug-induced:
 - Fludrocortisone
 - Glycyrrhizic acid (black licorice, chewing tobacco)

Metabolic Alkalosis

Volume Expansion

- Renal artery stenosis
- Hypertension
- Renin-secreting tumor
- Primary aldosterism
- Adrenal enzyme defects
- Cushing's syndrome
- Liddle's syndrome

Metabolic Alkalosis

Treatment

- Correct underlying disorder, hold or discontinue any suspected drugs
- If ECF volume contracted:
 - NS at appropriate rate for degree of volume depletion
- Replace potassium as needed
- If ECF volume overload:
 - If no renal insufficiency: Acetazolamide: 250-375 daily or BID
 - If ARF or ESRD: hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis (reduced bicarbonate bath)

Metabolic Alkalosis

Treatment

- If severe alkalemia ($\text{pH} > 7.7$) with ECF volume excess or renal failure:
 - Calculate HCl dose required:
 - Males: $[0.5\text{L/kg} \times \text{weight (kg)}] \times [103 \text{ mEq/L} - \text{observed serum chloride}]$
 - Females: $[0.6\text{L/kg} \times \text{weight (kg)}] \times [103 \text{ mEq/L} - \text{observed serum chloride}]$
 - Administer dose HCl in D5W or NS via central vein at rate of 10-25 mEq/hr
- Hypoaldosteronism: spironolactone or amiloride

Metabolic Alkalosis

Monitoring

- Arterial Blood Gas
- Respiratory Status
- Basic Metabolic Panel

Conclusion

- Verify disorder
- Hold or discontinue any suspected drugs
- Supportive Care
- Correct pH if disorder severe
- Monitor

Questions

