

Chapter 25:  
Fluid, Electrolyte, and Acid / Base Balance




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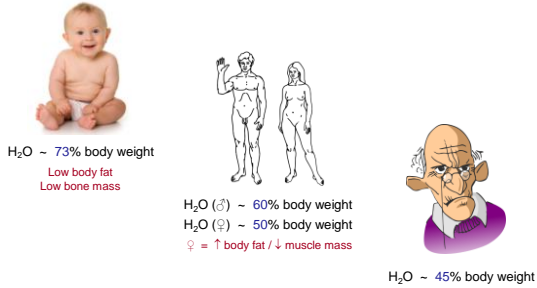
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Chapters 25: Fluid / Electrolyte / Acid-Base Balance

Body Fluids:

1) **Water:** (universal solvent)

Body water varies based on of age, sex, mass, and body composition




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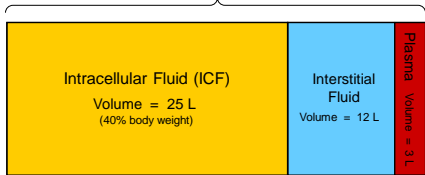
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Chapters 25: Fluid / Electrolyte / Acid-Base Balance

Body Fluids:

1) **Water:** (universal solvent)

Total Body Water  
Volume = 40 L  
(60% body weight)



Extracellular Fluid (ECF)  
Volume = 15 L  
(20% body weight)

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Body Fluids:

2) Solutes:

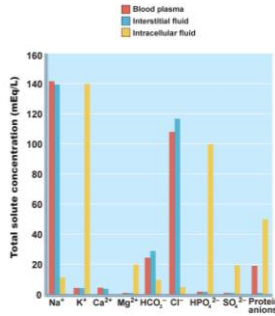
A) Non-electrolytes

(do not dissociate in solution – neutral)  
 • Mostly organic molecules  
 (e.g., glucose, lipids, urea)

B) Electrolytes

(dissociate into ions in solution – charged)  
 • Inorganic salts  
 • Inorganic / organic acids  
 • Proteins

Although individual [solute] are different between compartments, the osmotic concentrations of the ICF and ECF are usually identical...



Marieb & Hoehn – Figure 25.2

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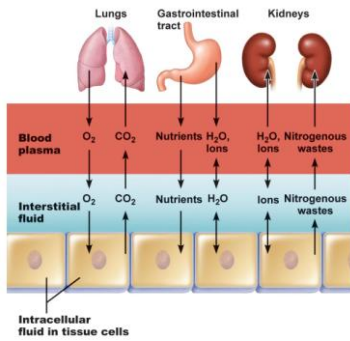
Body Fluids:

2) Solutes:

What happens to ICF volume if we increase osmolarity of ECF?



IV bags of varying osmolarities allow for manipulation of ECF / ICF levels...



Marieb & Hoehn – Figure 25.2

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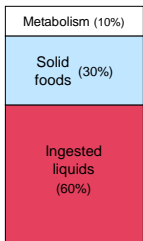
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Water Balance:

For proper hydration:  $Water_{intake} = Water_{output}$

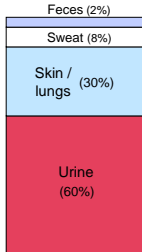
ICF functions as a reservoir

Water Intake



2500 ml/day

Water Output



2500 ml/day

$< 0$   
 Osmolarity rises:  
 • Thirst  
 • ADH release

$> 0$   
 Osmolarity lowers:  
 • Thirst  
 • ADH release

$= 0$

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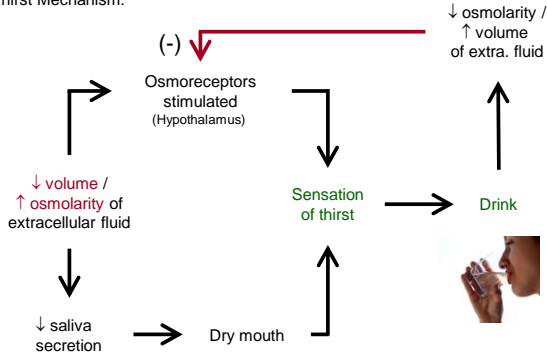
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Water Balance:  
Thirst Mechanism:




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Water Balance:  
Water Balance Disorders:

1) **Dehydration** (long-term water deficiency)



a) **Injury**  
(e.g., burn, hemorrhage)



b) **Exercise**  
(profuse sweating)



c) **Drugs**  
(e.g., diuretic abuse)

2) **Hypotonic hydration** (water intoxication)



Leads to dilution of electrolytes

- ↑ capillary hydrostatic pressure
- ↑ capillary permeability



3) **Edema** (↑ fluid in interstitial space)

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Electrolyte Balance:

**Importance:**

- 1) Total [electrolyte] directly affects water balance
- 2) Individual [electrolyte]s affect cell functions

**Uptake into System:**

- Across digestive epithelium
- Through metabolic activity



Obtaining electrolytes not a problem...



**Pica:**  
Appetite for abnormal substances

**Release from System:**

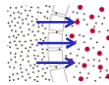
- Through digestive tract / kidney
  - Through perspiration
  - Gastrointestinal disorders



Replenish both fluids and electrolytes...



**Cholera:**  
Electrolyte / fluid loss due to bacterial toxin




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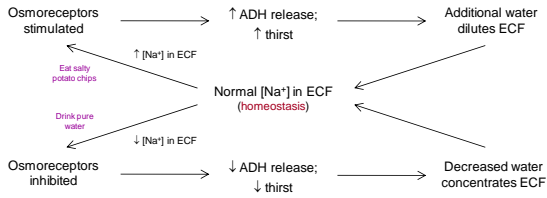
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**Electrolyte Balance:**  
**A) Sodium Balance:**

- Importance:**
- 1) Contributes to osmotic pressure
  - 2) Maintains neuron / muscle function

Most abundant cation in ECF (~280 mosm)



- Most common ion associated with electrolyte balance problems
  - Hyponatremia = ↓ [Na<sup>+</sup>]
  - Hypernatremia = ↑ [Na<sup>+</sup>]

Estrogens enhance Na<sup>+</sup> reabsorption; thus, edema during menstrual cycle / pregnancy

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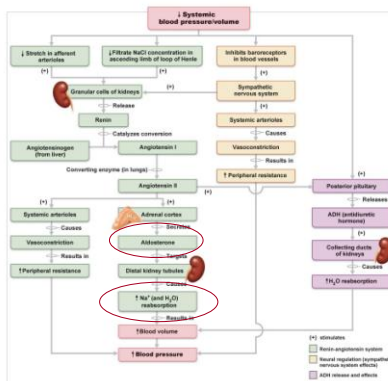
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**Electrolyte Balance:**

Baroreceptor-initiated reflexes also affect [Na<sup>+</sup>] in body



Marieb & Hoehn - Figure 25.10

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Hypokalemia = ↓ [K<sup>+</sup>]  
 Hyperkalemia = ↑ [K<sup>+</sup>]

**Electrolyte Balance:**

**B) Potassium Balance:**

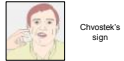
- Importance:**
- 1) Maintains neuron / muscle function
  - 2) Assists in maintenance of pH

- As a rule, K<sup>+</sup> levels in ECF sufficiently high that K<sup>+</sup> needs to be secreted
- Rate lost at kidney depends on:
  - 1) Changes in [K<sup>+</sup>] of ECF (↑ [K<sup>+</sup>] = ↑ rate of secretion)
  - 2) Changes in pH (↓ pH = ↓ rate of secretion)
  - 3) Aldosterone levels (↑ aldosterone = ↑ rate of secretion)

**C) Calcium Balance:**

- Importance:**
- 1) Maintains neuron / muscle function
  - 2) Allows for normal blood clotting

- Levels in ECF regulated primarily by parathyroid hormone:
  - 1) ↑ PTH = ↑ bone desorption
  - 2) ↑ PTH = ↑ intestinal Ca<sup>++</sup> absorption
  - 3) ↑ PTH = ↑ renal Ca<sup>++</sup> reabsorption



Hypocalcemia = ↓ [Ca<sup>++</sup>]  
 Hypercalcemia = ↑ [Ca<sup>++</sup>]

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Acid-Base Balance:

Acidosis = pH < 7.35  
Alkalosis = pH > 7.45

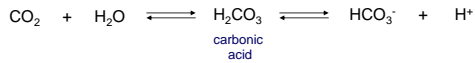
Critical for body to maintain pH between 7.35 – 7.45

Problems Encountered:

- 1) Disruption of cell membrane stability
- 2) Alteration of protein structure
- 3) Enzymatic activity change

Acid Types:

- 1) **Volatile Acids:** Acids that can leave solution and enter the atmosphere



- 2) **Fixed Acids:** Acids that do not leave solution

- Result from metabolism (e.g., phosphoric acid / lactic acid / ketone bodies)
- Can only be eliminated via kidneys

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Acid-Base Balance:

H<sup>+</sup> Gain:

- Across digestive epithelium
- Cell metabolic activities

Distant from  
one another →

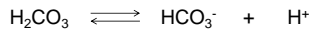
H<sup>+</sup> Loss:

- Release at lungs
- Secretion into urine

Chemical Buffering Systems:

Dissolved compounds that neutralize H<sup>+</sup> during transport by binding H<sup>+</sup> when pH drops and releasing H<sup>+</sup> when pH rises

- 1) **Bicarbonate Buffer System:** (primary ECF buffer)



- Limitation: Can't protect system from pH changes resulting from elevated / depressed CO<sub>2</sub> levels

Respiratory system must be working normally

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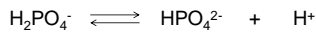
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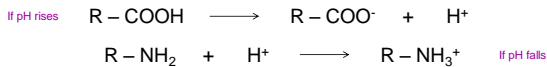
Acid-Base Balance:

- 2) **Phosphate Buffer System:** (primary ICF buffer)



- Also an important buffer in urine

- 3) **Protein Buffer System:** (both ECF and ICF buffer)



- Proteins are most plentiful and powerful source of buffers in body

Buffers are a short-term fix to the problem;  
In the long term, H<sup>+</sup> must be removed from the system...

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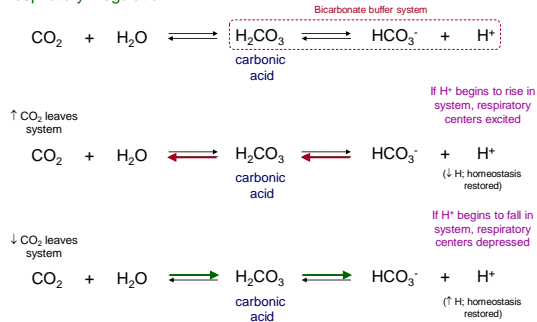
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Maintenance of Acid-Base Balance:

Doubling / halving of areolar ventilation can raise / lower blood pH by 0.2 pH units

1) Respiratory Regulation:




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Maintenance of Acid-Base Balance:

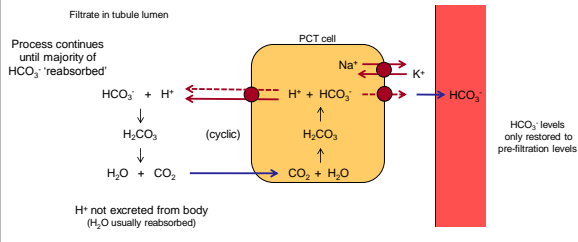
Kidneys are ultimate acid-base regulatory organs

2) Renal Regulation:

- Remove both volatile / metabolic acids

Kidneys focus on maintaining adequate HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> levels in body

A) Bicarbonate 'reabsorption':




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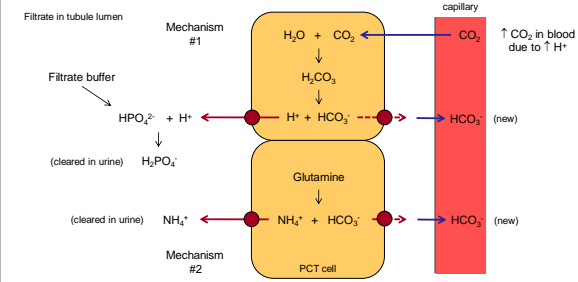
Maintenance of Acid-Base Balance:

C) Bicarbonate secretion:  
If high pH (low [H<sup>+</sup>]) exists in blood HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> can be secreted by PCT cells

2) Renal Regulation:

B) Bicarbonate generation:

If low pH (high [H<sup>+</sup>]) exists in blood




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Disturbances of Acid-Base Balance:

In the short term, respiratory / urinary system will compensate for disorders...

1) Respiratory Acid / Base Disorders:



Cause:  
Hypoventilation  
(e.g., emphysema)  
  
(Most common acid / base disorder)

A) **Respiratory Acidosis:**  
↑ CO<sub>2</sub> retained in body



Cause:  
Hyperventilation  
(e.g., stress)  
  
(Rarely persists long enough to cause clinical emergency)

B) **Respiratory Alkalosis:**  
↓ CO<sub>2</sub> retained in body

2) Metabolic Acid / Base Disorders:



Causes:  
Starvation  
(↑ ketone bodies)  
↑ Alcohol consumption  
(↑ acetic acid)  
Excessive HCO<sub>3</sub> loss  
(e.g., chronic diarrhea)

A) **Metabolic Acidosis:**  
↑ fixed acids generated in body



Causes:  
Repeated vomiting  
(alkaline tide 'amped')  
Antacid overdose  
  
(Rare in body)

A) **Metabolic alkalosis:**  
↑ HCO<sub>3</sub> generated in body

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