



Breakthrough

Electrolytes

Abnormalities

for internists

Panthita Sornhiran
Nephrology unit
Department of Internal Medicine
Police General Hospital

Case 1:

A 30-year-old woman with underlying HIV disease is brought to ER for fatigue and poor appetite. Her current medications include TDF/3TC/EFV, Bactrim and folic acid. She is afebrile, her blood pressure is 110/70 mmHg, pulse rate of 95 beats/min. The physical examination appears normal.

LAB:

- Na 136 mmol/L K 2.0 mmol/L Cl 115 mmol/L HCO₃ 15 mmol/L
- BUN 15 mg/dL Cr 0.52 mg/dL
- ABG: pH 7.25 pCO₂ 30 paO₂ 98 HCO₃ 9
- UA: pH 7, glucose neg, Alb neg, wbc 0-1, rbc 0-1
- U_{Na} 50 mmol/L, U_K 50 mmol/L, U_{Cl} 60 mmol/L, U_{Glu} 54 mg/dL, U_{urea} 28 mg/dL
- U_{osm} 300 mOsm/kg

What is the **MOST** likely cause of her symptoms ?

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| A. Sjogren syndrome | B. TDF |
| C. Bactrim | D. Chronic diarrhea |



HYPOkalemia ($K < 3.5$ mmol/L)



Pseudohypokalemia

- **↑WBCs** ($> 100,000/\text{mm}^3$) eg. AML



Transcellular shift

- **Insulin**
- **β_2 -agonist**
- Refeeding syndrome
- **Periodic paralysis** (Thyrotoxicosis, Familial)
- Theophylline, Chloroquine

HYPOkalemia ($K < 3.5$ mmol/L)

TTKG < 2

↑Tubular flow

Osmotic diuresis

Extrarenal K^+ loss

Metabolic
ACIDOSIS

- Diarrhea (Lower GI)

NORMAL
acid-base

- Profuse sweating

Metabolic
ALKALOSIS

- Vomiting (Upper GI)

Renal K^+ loss

- Spot UK > 15 mmol/L
- 24h UK > 20 mmol/day
- UK/UCr > 1.5 mEq/mmolCr
- UK/UCr > 13 mEq/gCr

Renal K^+ loss

TTKG > 4

HT + Metabolic **ALKALOSIS**

↑PAC, ↓PRA

- 1° Aldosteronism
- GRA

↑PAC, ↑PRA

- Renal a. Stenosis
- Renin secreting tumor
- Malignant HT

↓PAC, ↓PRA

- Cushing syndrome
- AME
- Liddle

TTKG > 4

Normal BP

Metabolic
ALKALOSIS

UCI > 20 mmol/L

UCa/UCr > 0.2

- Loop diuretic
- Bartter's syndrome

UCa/UCr < 0.15

- Thiazide
- Gitelman syndrome

UCI < 20 mmol/L

- Vomiting
- Chloride diarrhea

Metabolic
ACIDOSIS

- DKA
- RTA
- Acetazolamide

mmol/mmolCr

HYPOkalemia ($K < 3.5$ mmol/L)

Extrarenal K^+ loss

Metabolic
ACIDOSIS

- Diarrhea
(**Lower GI**)

NORMAL
acid-base

- Profuse
sweating

Metabolic
ALKALOSIS

- Vomiting
(**Upper GI**)

Renal K^+ loss

- Spot UK > 15 mmol/L
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Renal K^+ loss

GI secretion	Volume (L/day)	Na ⁺ (mEq/day)	K ⁺ (mEq/day)	Cl ⁻ (mEq/day)	HCO ₃ ⁻ (mEq/day)
Normal stool	< 0.15	20-30	55-75	15-25	0
Vomitus/ NG drainage	0-3	20-100	10-15	120-160	0
Inflammatory diarrhea	1-3	50-100	15-20	50-100	10
Secretory diarrhea	1-20	40-140	15-40	25-105	20-75
Ileostomy	1-1.5	115-140	5-15	95-125	30

Metabolic ACIDOSIS (pH < 7.35, HCO₃ < 22 mmol/L)

Arterial **Vs** Central venous blood gas

	ABG		Central VBG
pH	7.35-7.45	-0.03	7.32-7.42
PaO2	85-100		35-45
PaCO2	35-45	+3	38-48
HCO3	23.58 (SD 8.86)		24.32 (SD =9.8)
SaO2	97-100		70-75

Metabolic **ACIDOSIS** (pH < 7.35, HCO₃ < 22 mmol/L)

Acid-base abnormalities & compensatory response

Disorder	pH	1° Disturbance	Compensatory response
Acute respiratory acidosis	↓	↑pCO ₂	↑pCO ₂ 10 mmHg → ↑[HCO ₃ ⁻] 1 mEq/L
Acute respiratory alkalosis	↑	↓pCO ₂	↓pCO ₂ 10 mmHg → ↓[HCO ₃ ⁻] 2 mEq/L
Chronic respiratory acidosis	↓	↑pCO ₂	↑pCO ₂ 10 mmHg → ↑[HCO ₃ ⁻] 3.5 mEq/L
Chronic respiratory alkalosis	↑	↓pCO ₂	↓pCO ₂ 10 mmHg → ↓[HCO ₃ ⁻] 5 mEq/L
Metabolic acidosis	↓	↓HCO ₃ ⁻	Expected pCO ₂ = 1.5 x [HCO₃⁻] + 8 ± 2
Metabolic alkalosis	↑	↑HCO ₃ ⁻	Expected pCO ₂ = 0.7 x [HCO₃⁻] + 20 ± 2

Metabolic **ACIDOSIS** (pH < 7.35)

Normal **Vs** Wide anion gap metabolic acidosis

$$\text{Anion gap} = \text{Na} - \text{Cl} - \text{HCO}_3$$

Normal ~ 10 ± 2

$$\frac{\Delta \text{AG}}{\Delta \text{HCO}_3} = \frac{\text{AG} - 10}{24 - \text{HCO}_3}$$

$$\text{Corrected AG} = (4 - \text{Albumin}) \times 2.5 + \text{AG}$$

- < 1:** Wide + Normal AG metabolic acidosis
- 1-2:** Pure wide AG metabolic acidosis
- > 2:** Wide AG metabolic acidosis + metabolic alkalosis

Normal anion gap metabolic

Normal anion gap metabolic acidosis

HCO₃ loss

Extrarenal loss (Lower GI)

- Diarrhea
- Uretero-enteric fistula

Renal loss

GI secretion	Volume (L/day)	Na ⁺ (mEq/day)	K ⁺ (mEq/day)	Cl ⁻ (mEq/day)	HCO ₃ ⁻ (mEq/day)
Normal stool	< 0.15	20-30	55-75	15-25	0
Vomitus/ NG drainage	0-3	20-100	10-15	120-160	0
Inflammatory diarrhea	1-3	50-100	15-20	50-100	10
Secretory diarrhea	1-20	40-140	15-40	25-105	20-75
Ileostomy	1-1.5	115-140	5-15	95-125	30

Normal anion gap

Proximal

<

<

Normal anion

#

Normal anion

