



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ

Εθνικόν και Καποδιστριακόν  
Πανεπιστήμιον Αθηνών

— ΙΔΡΥΘΕΝ ΤΟ 1837 —

# **NEPHROLOGY 500461:**

## **Homeostasis of electrolytes**

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2025

# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

Acid-base balance, arterial blood gases (ABGs), introduction to acid-base disorders

## METABOLIC ALKALOSIS

Clinical cases

Pathogenesis - Signs and symptoms - Diagnosis

## METABOLIC ACIDOSIS

Clinical cases

Pathogenesis - Signs and symptoms - Diagnosis

## RESPIRATORY ALKALOSIS AND ACIDOSIS

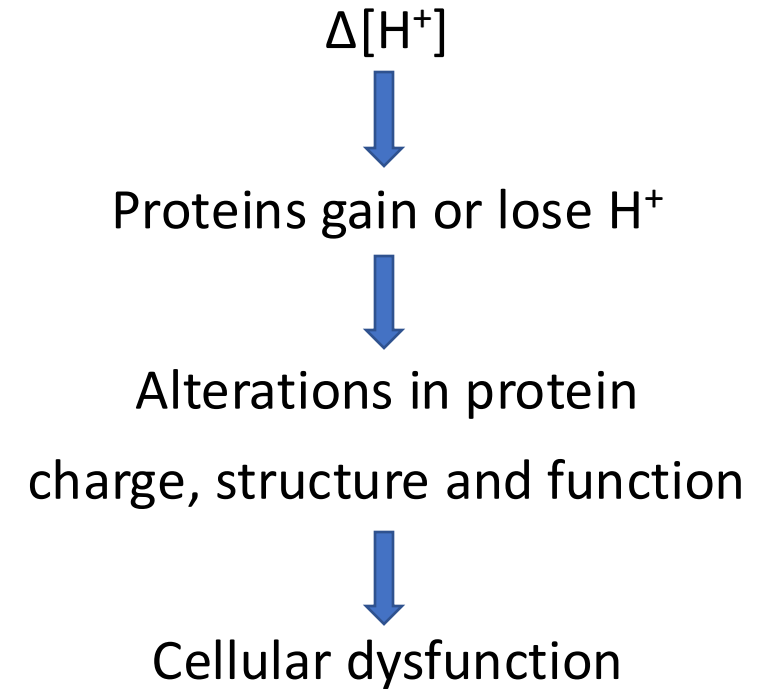
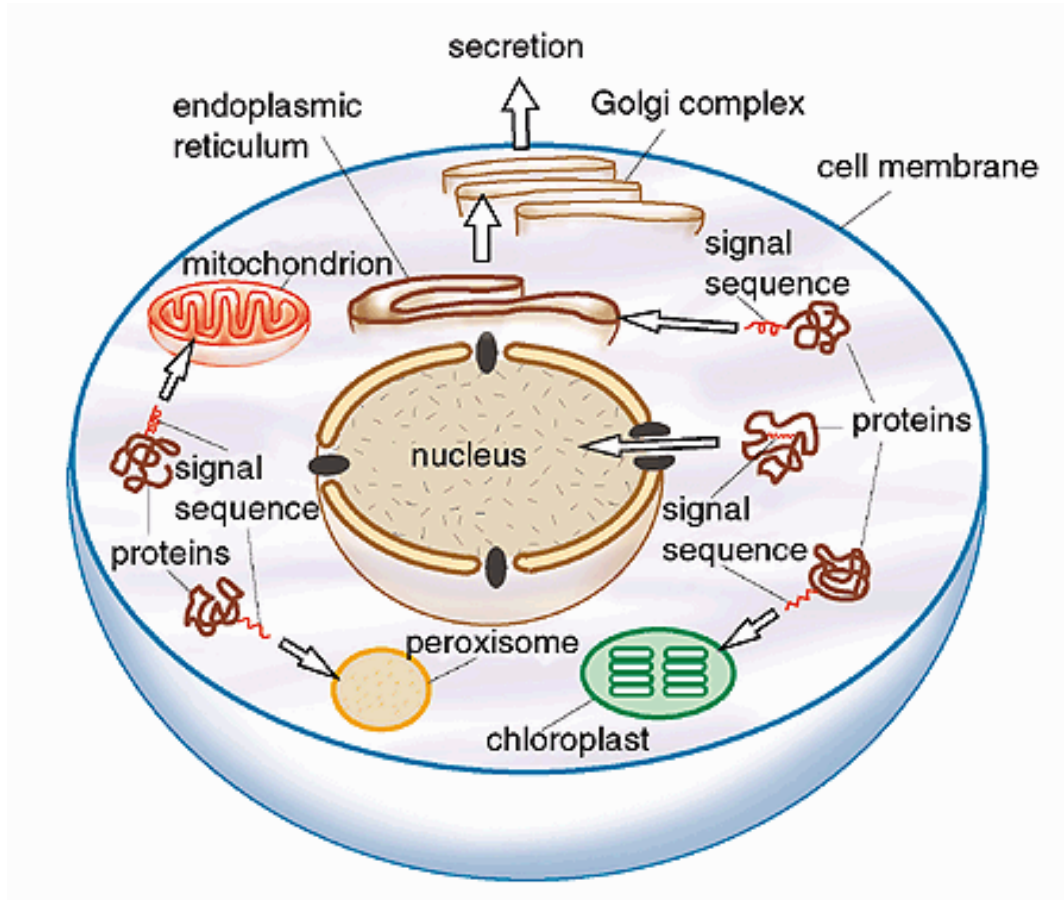
Clinical cases

Pathogenesis - Signs and symptoms - Diagnosis

*Berne and Levy Physiology, ELSEVIER 2018*

*BD Rose and T Post. Clinical Physiology of Acid-Base and Electrolyte Disorders. McGraw Hill 2000*

# $[H^+]$ IS MAINTAINED WITHIN NARROW LIMITS (40 nmol/L)



# DAILY ACID PRODUCTION



CARBONIC ACID	NON-CARBONIC ACIDS
$\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_2\text{CO}_3 \rightleftharpoons \text{H}^+ + \text{HCO}_3^-$	$\text{NH}_4^+ \rightleftharpoons \text{H}^+ + \text{NH}_3$
	$\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^- \rightleftharpoons \text{H}^+ + \text{HPO}_4^{2-}$
Metabolism of carbohydrates and lipids	Metabolism of proteins
15000 mmol $\text{CO}_2$	1 mEq/Kg BW $\text{H}^+$
Loss via respiration	Excreted in urine

Carbonic acid and non-carbonic acids have different rates of production and different routes of elimination

# ACID-BASE BALANCE

**maintains plasma  $[H^+]$  within narrow limits** to maintain normal cellular function

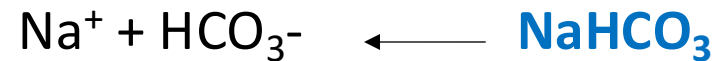
1. Chemical buffering by the intracellular and extracellular **buffers**
2. Control of partial pressure of  $PCO_2$  in the blood by altering **alveolar ventilation**
3. Control of plasma  $HCO_3^-$  concentration by changes in **renal  $H^+$  excretion**

# ACID-BASE BALANCE

## 1. BODY BUFFERS

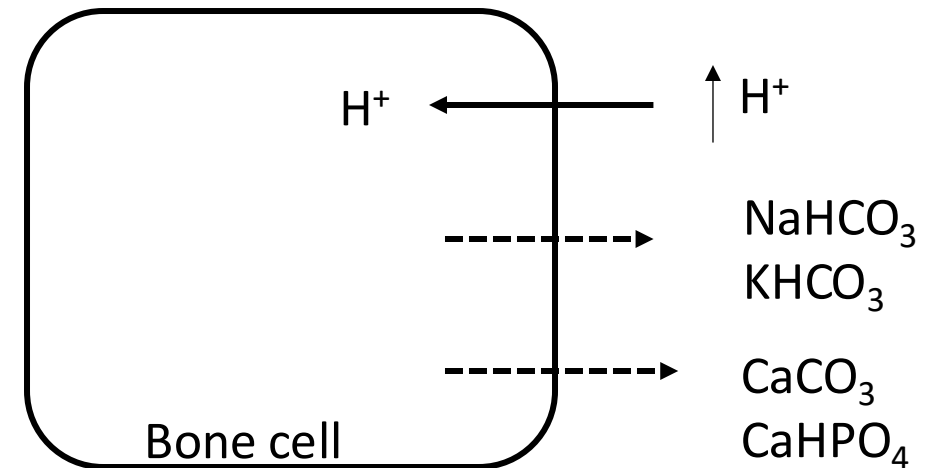
- **Weak acids or bases** with their ionized salts that immediately take up or release  $H^+$  to minimize large changes in  $[H^+]$

- EXTRACELLULAR



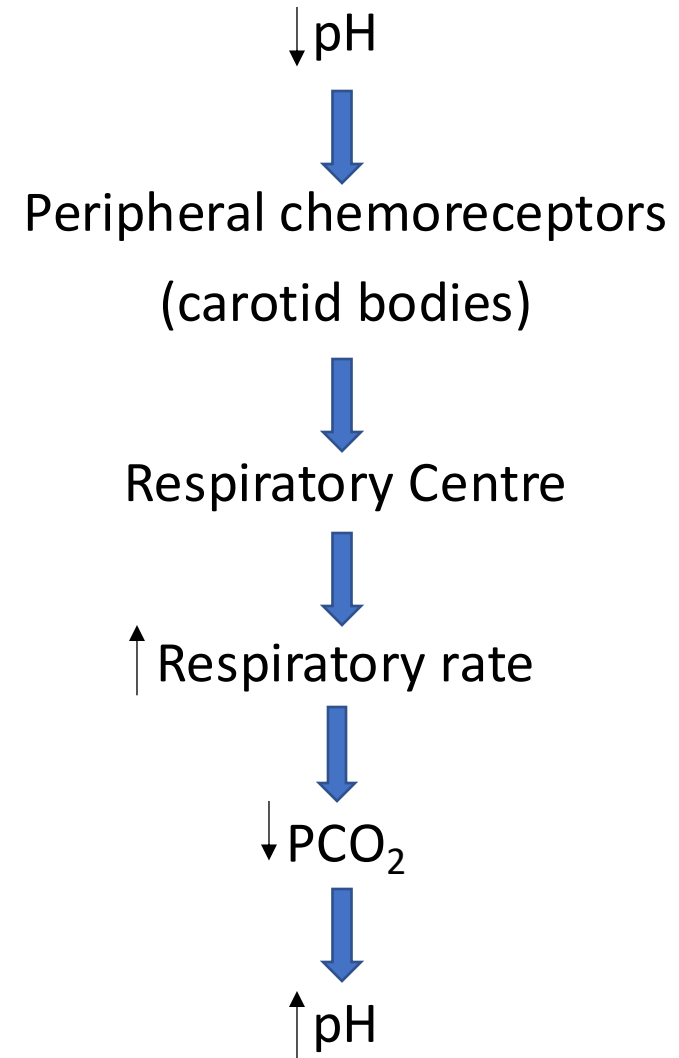
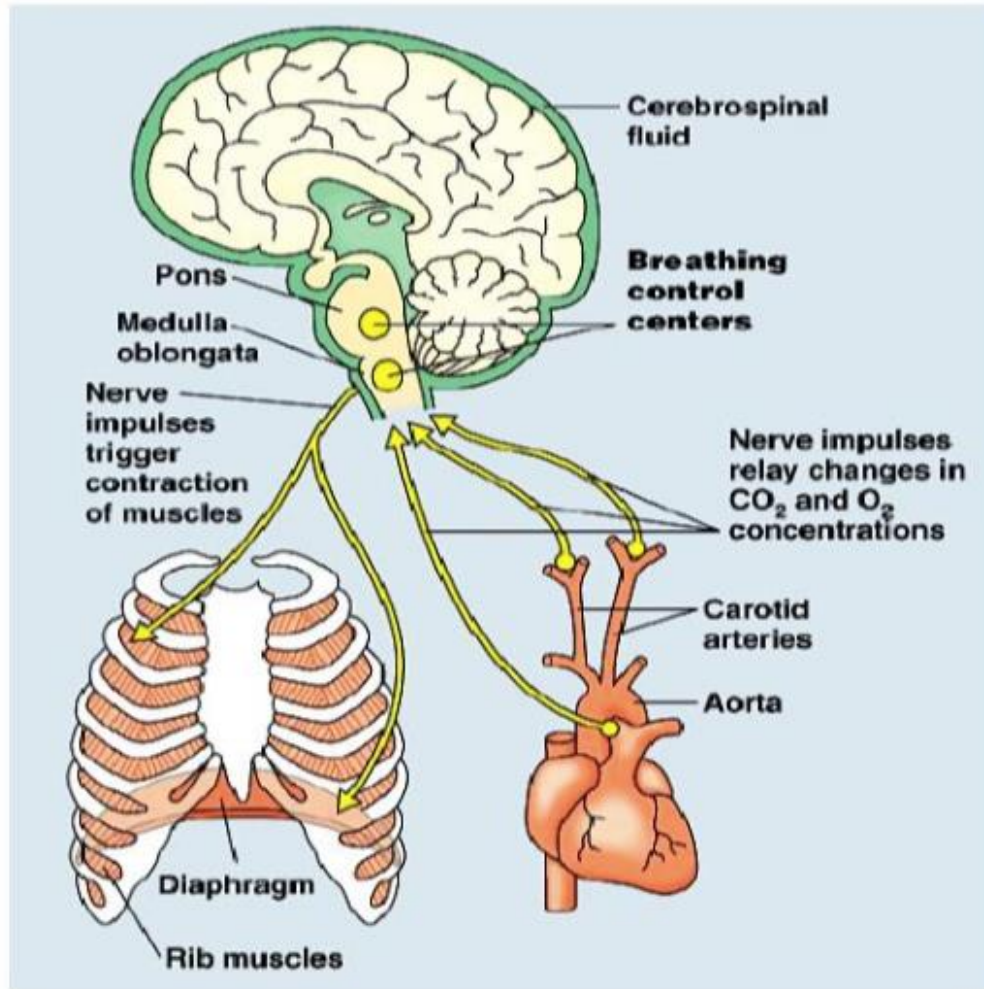
- INTRACELLULAR

proteins, hemoglobin, bones, skeletal muscles



# ACID-BASE BALANCE

## 2. ALVEOLAR VENTILATION



# ACID-BASE BALANCE

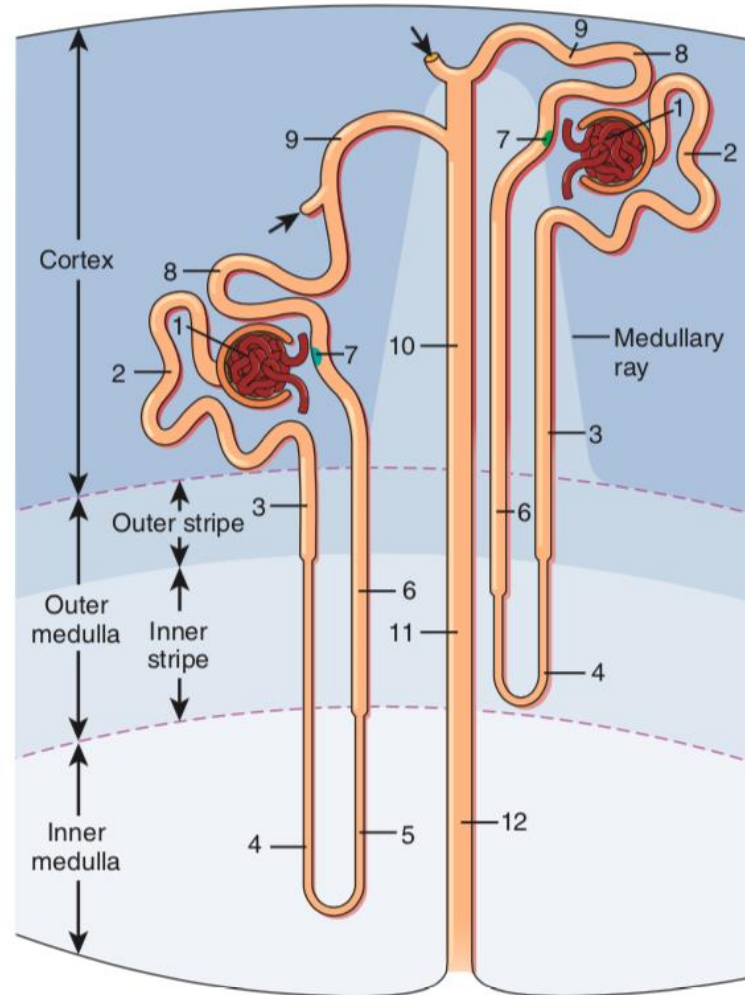
## 3. RENAL H<sup>+</sup> SECRETION

- Kidneys must excrete the 1 mEq/kg BW of non-carbonic acid **generated each day**
- Daily acid load cannot be excreted as free H<sup>+</sup> ions  
**Secreted H<sup>+</sup> are excreted by binding to buffers**, such as HPO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, creatinine and NH<sub>3</sub>
- Daily acid load cannot be excreted unless **all filtered HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> have been reabsorbed**  
(HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> loss in urine = H<sup>+</sup> addition to the blood)



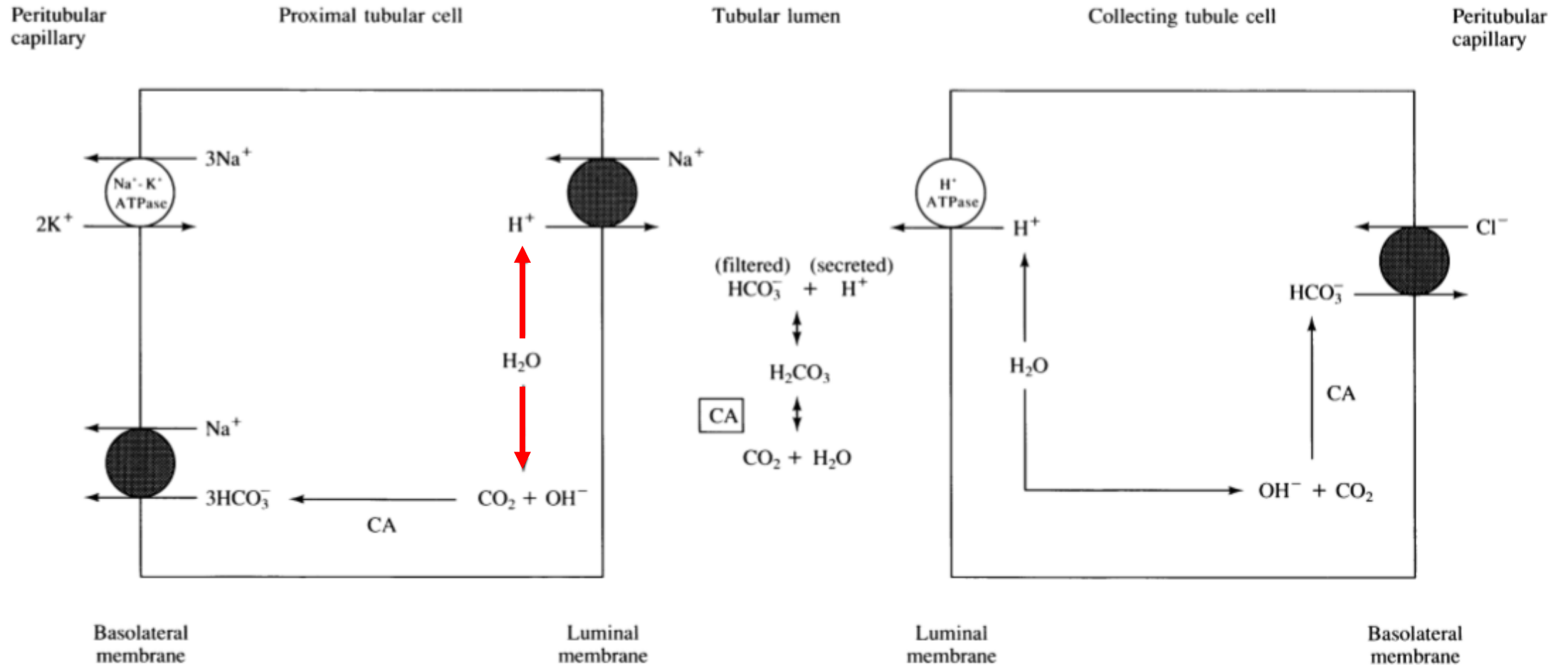
# ACID-BASE BALANCE

## 3. RENAL $\text{H}^+$ SECRETION



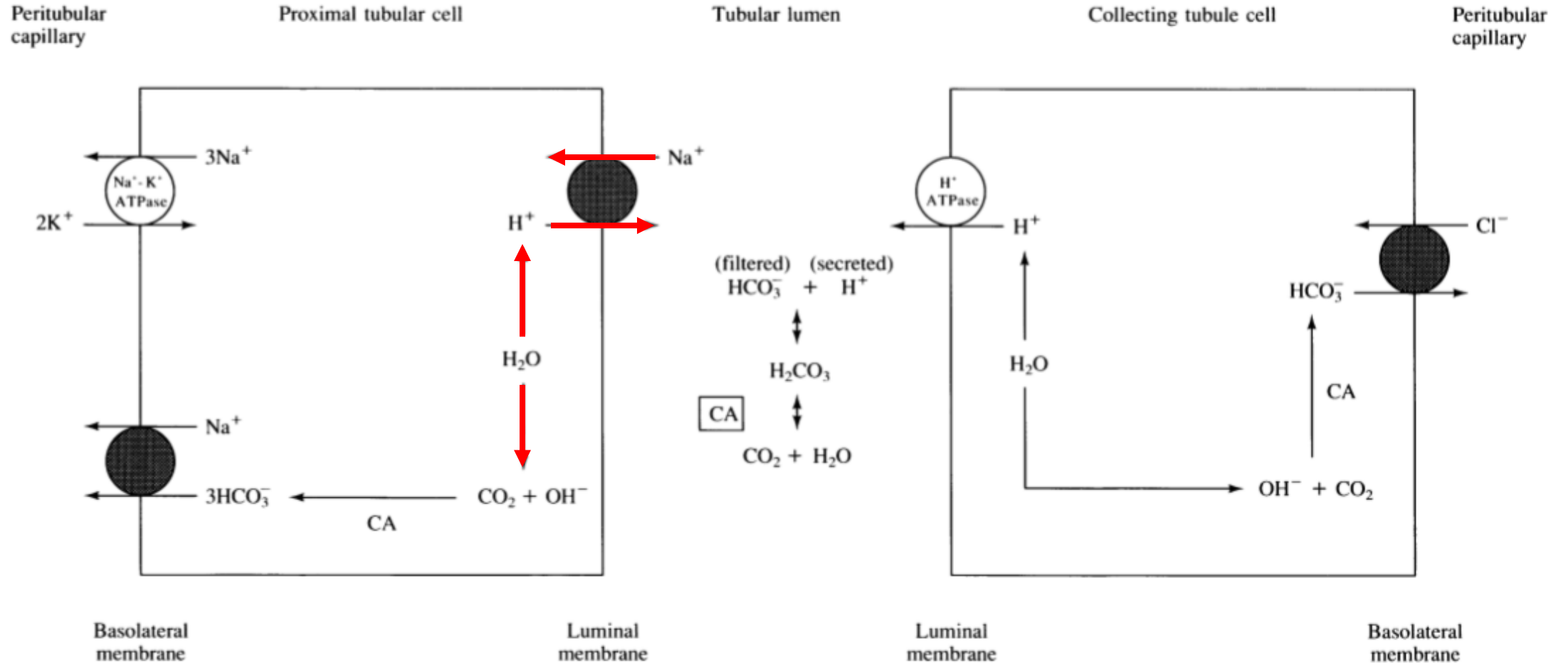
# ACID-BASE BALANCE

## 3a. RENAL $\text{H}^+$ SECRETION



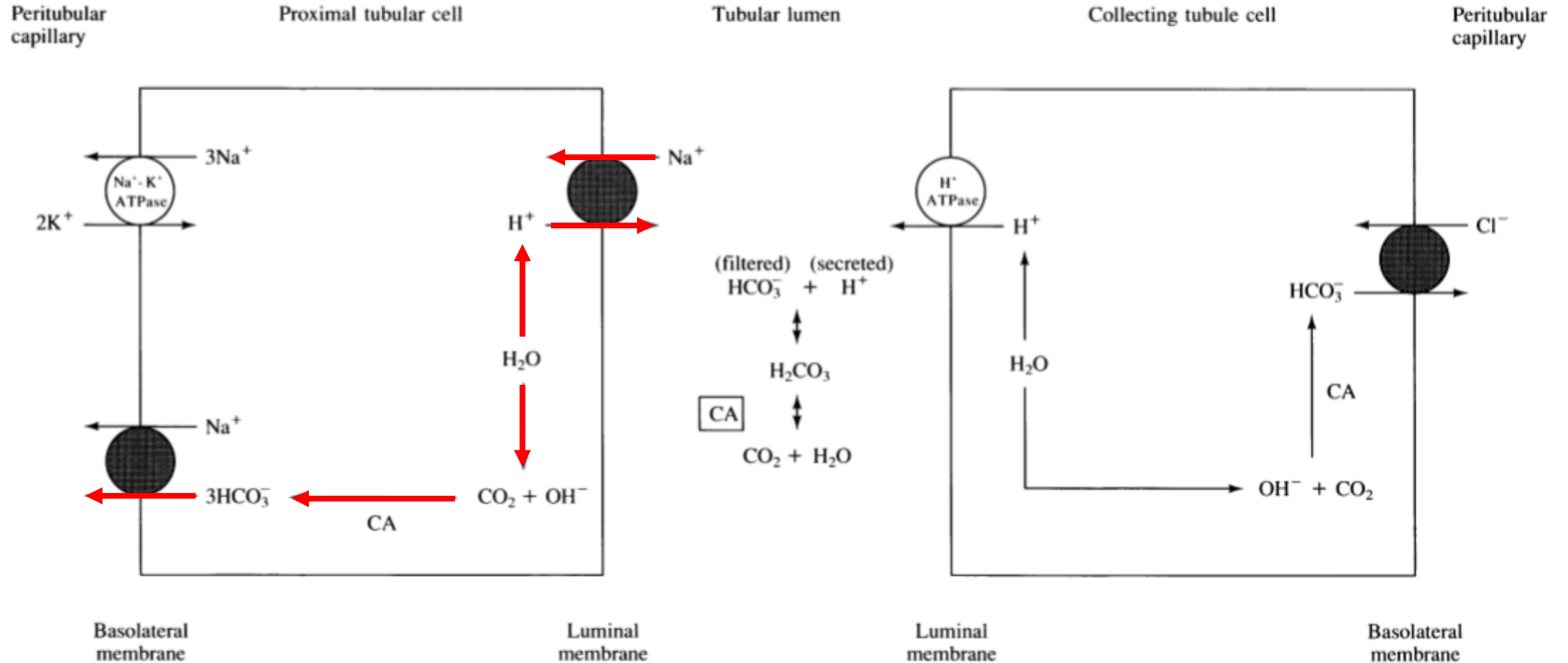
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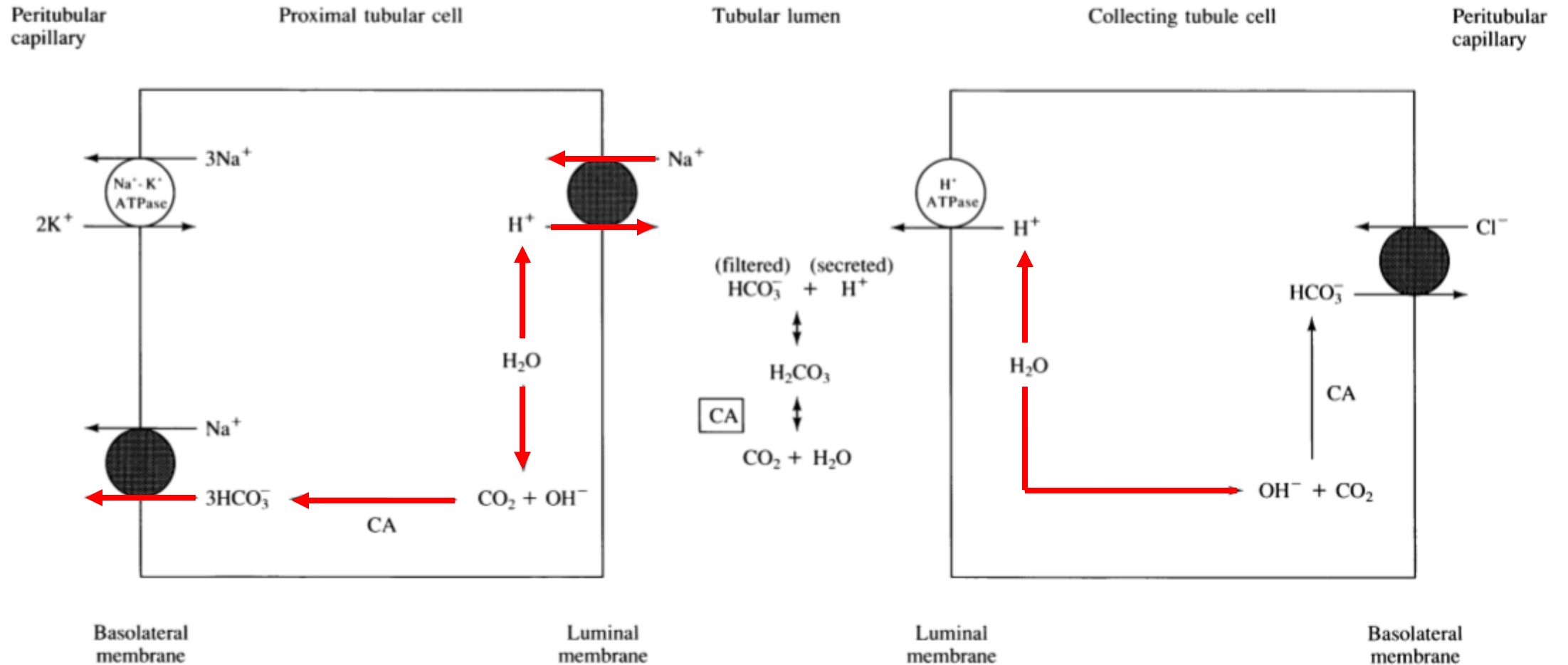
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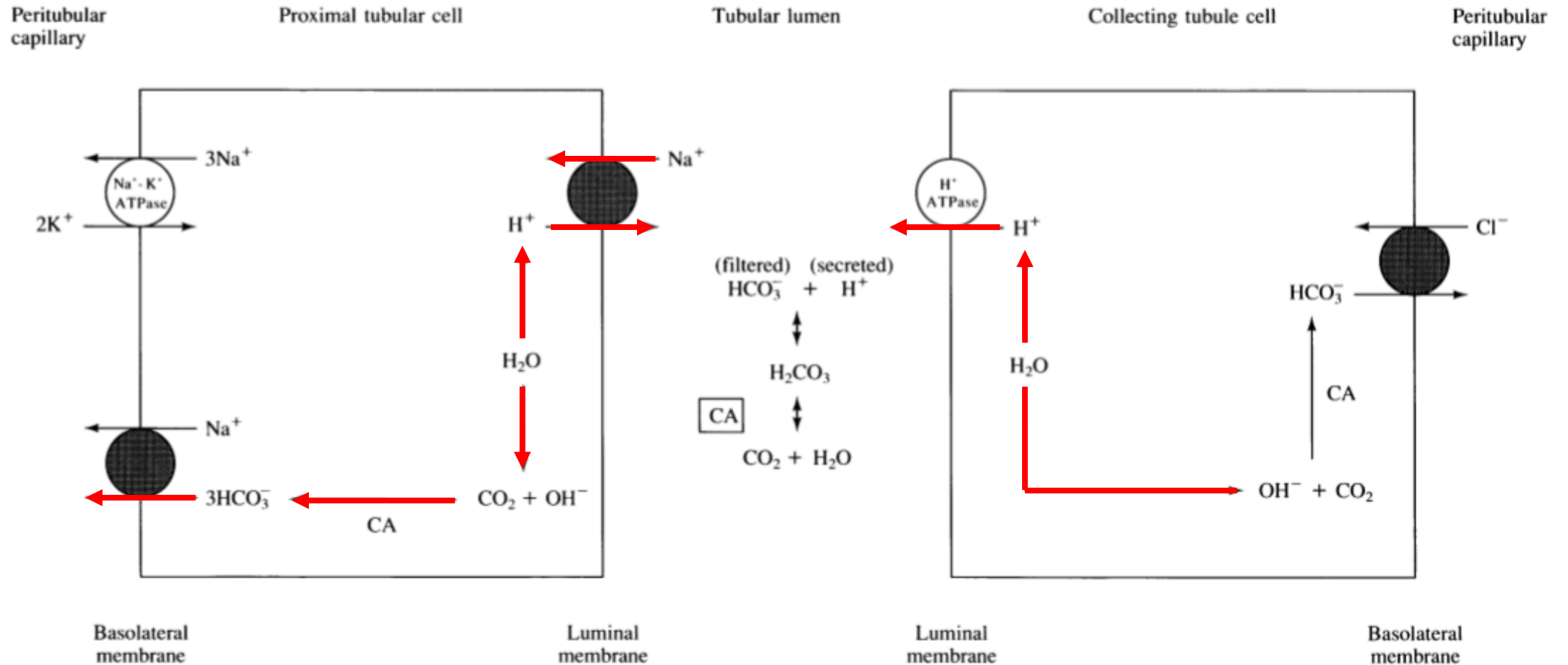
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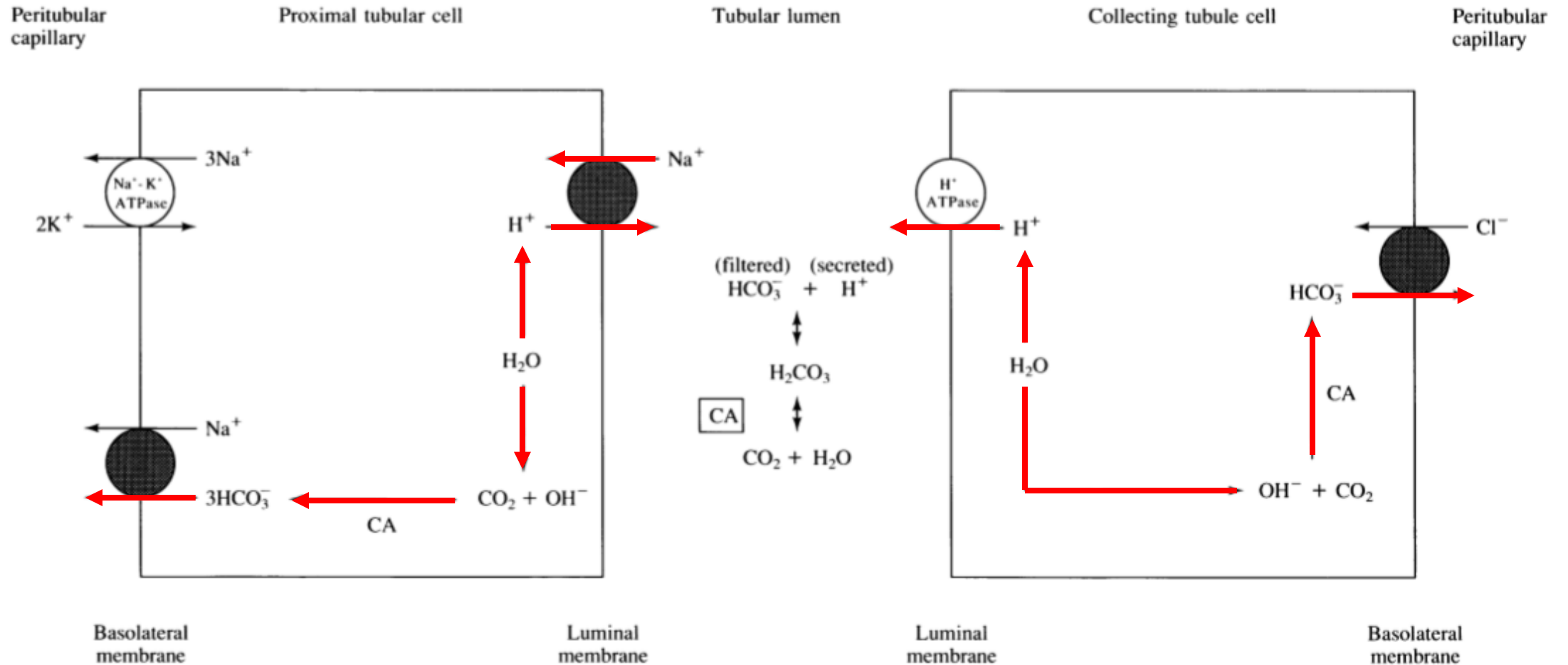
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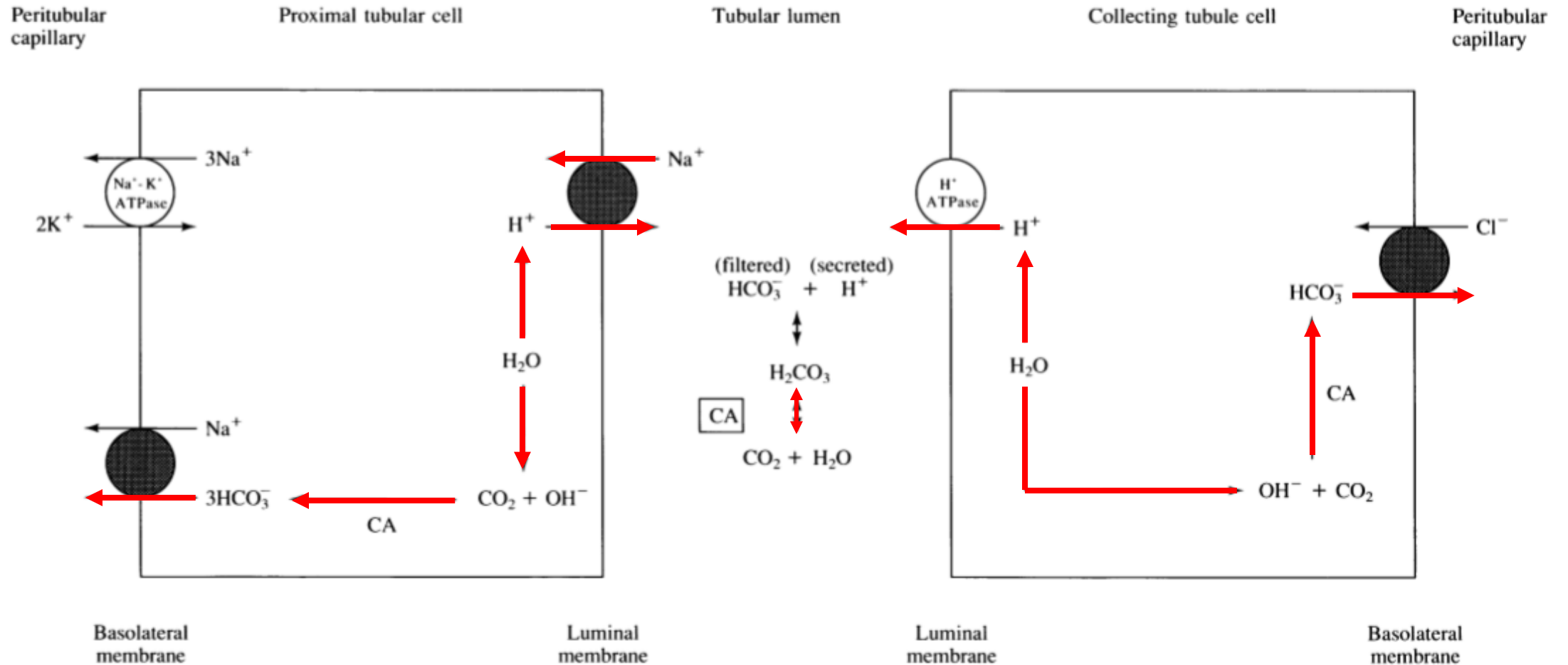
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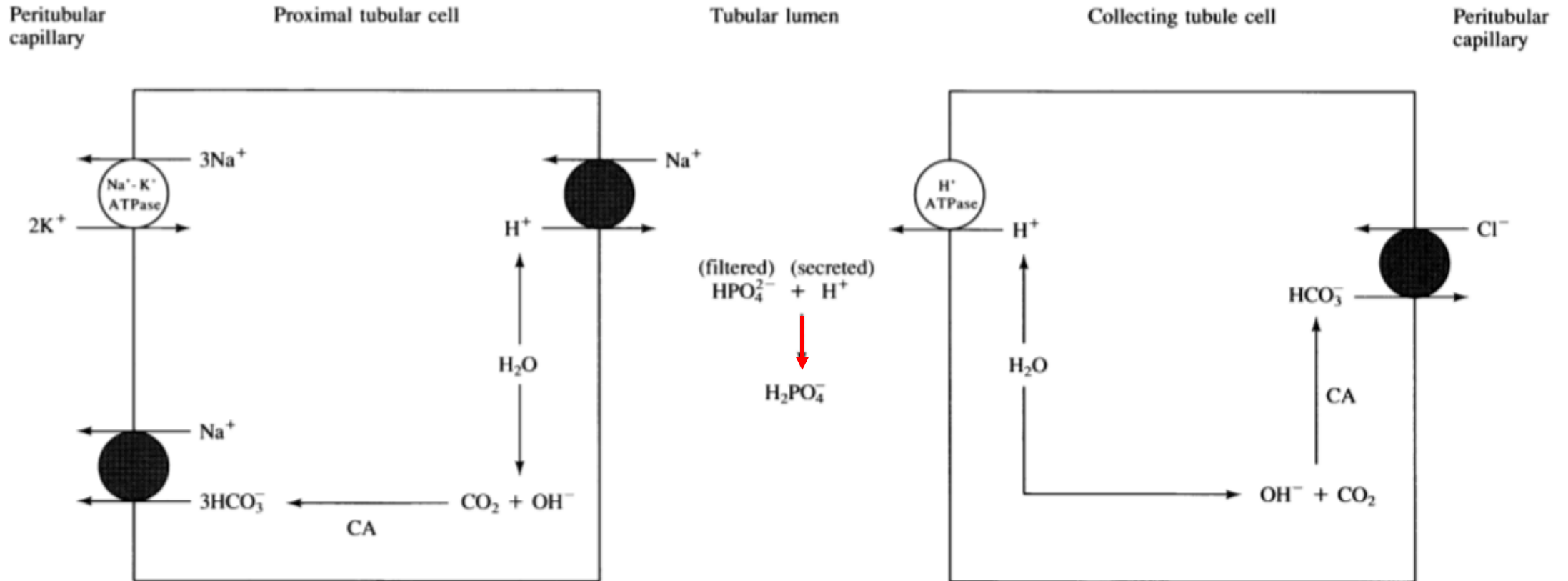


# LEGEND FOR SLIDES ABOVE

**Figure 11-2** Major cellular and luminal events in bicarbonate reabsorption in the proximal tubule and the collecting tubules. Intracellular  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  breaks down into a  $\text{H}^+$  ion and a  $\text{OH}^-$  ion. The latter combines with  $\text{CO}_2$  to form  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ , via a reaction catalyzed by carbonic anhydrase (CA). In the proximal tubule, the  $\text{H}^+$  is secreted into the lumen by the  $\text{Na}^+-\text{H}^+$  exchanger, whereas the  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  is returned to the systemic circulation primarily by a  $\text{Na}^+-3\text{HCO}_3^-$  cotransporter. These same processes occur in the collecting tubules, although they are respectively mediated by an active  $\text{H}^+-\text{ATPase}$  pump in the luminal membrane and a  $\text{Cl}^-/\text{HCO}_3^-$  exchanger in the basolateral membrane. The secreted  $\text{H}^+$  ions combine with filtered  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  to form carbonic acid ( $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$ ) and then  $\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , which can be passively reabsorbed. This dissociation of carbonic acid is facilitated when luminal carbonic anhydrase (CA in box) is present, as occurs in the early proximal tubule (see text). The net effect is  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  reabsorption, even though the  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  ions returned to the systemic circulation are not the same as those that were filtered. Although not shown, the collecting tubule cells also have  $\text{H}^+-\text{K}^+-\text{ATPase}$  pumps in the luminal membrane that are primarily involved in  $\text{K}^+$  reabsorption.

# ACID-BASE BALANCE

## 3b. RENAL $\text{H}^+$ SECRETION

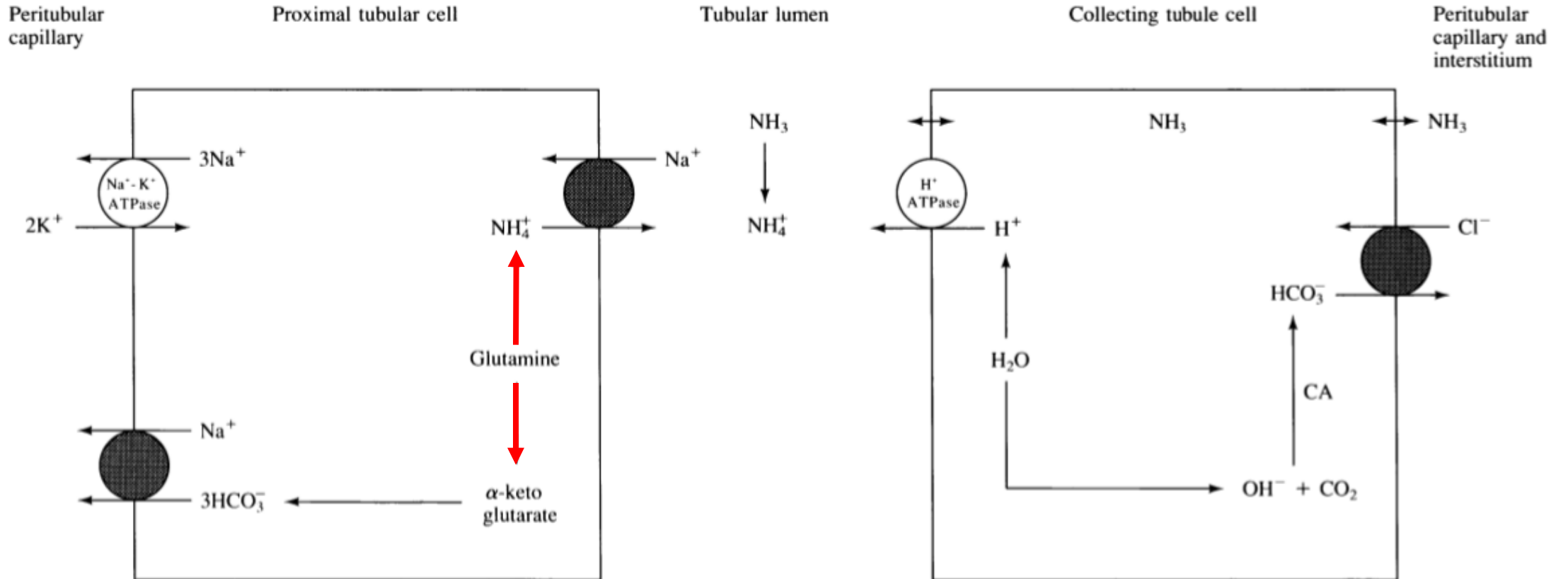


## LEGEND FOR SLIDE ABOVE

**Figure 11-3** Formation of titratable acidity, which is primarily due to buffering of secreted  $\text{H}^+$  by filtered  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$  and, to a lesser degree, other buffers such as creatinine. Note that a new  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  ion is returned to the peritubular capillary for every  $\text{H}^+$  ion that is secreted.

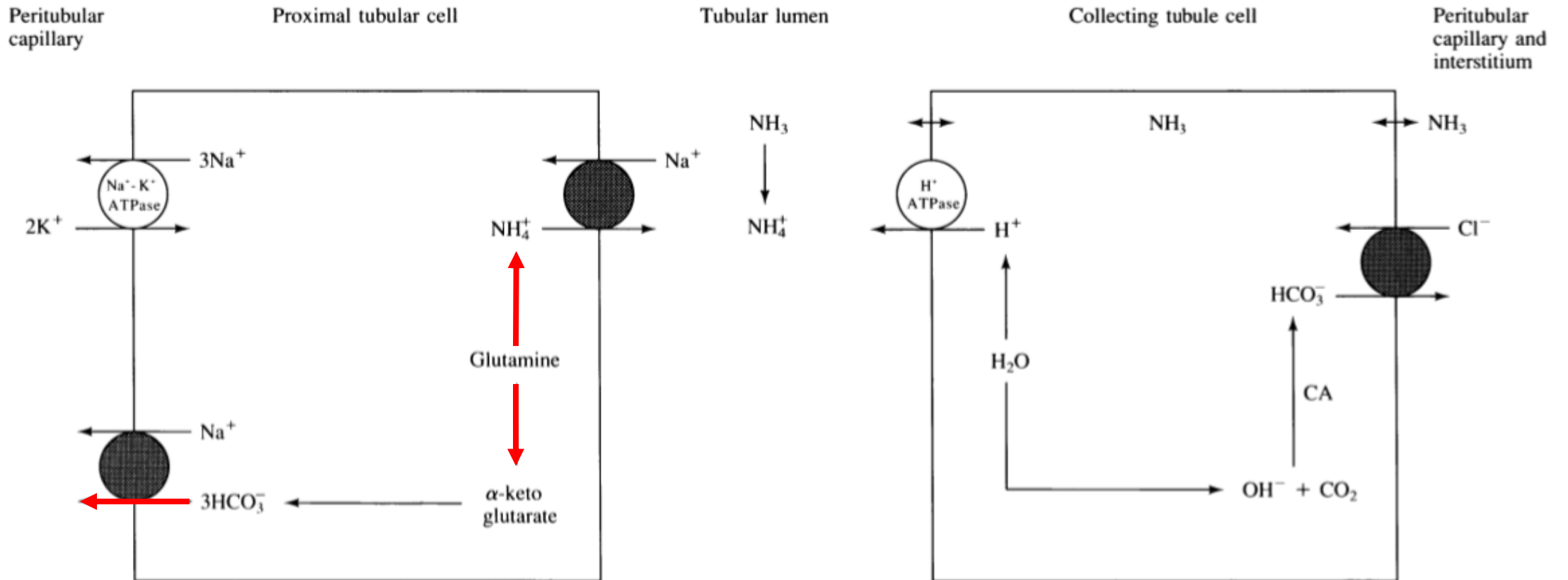
# ACID-BASE BALANCE

## 3c. RENAL $\text{H}^+$ SECRETION



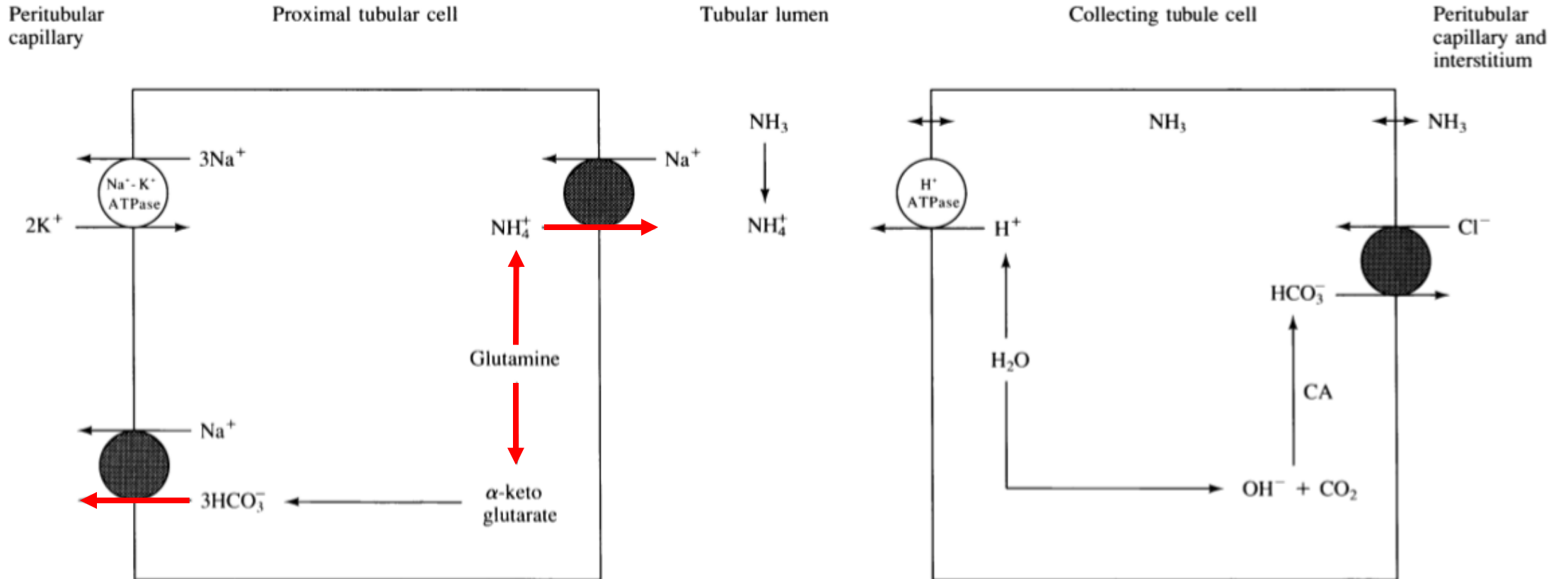
# ACID-BASE BALANCE

## 3c. RENAL $\text{H}^+$ SECRETION



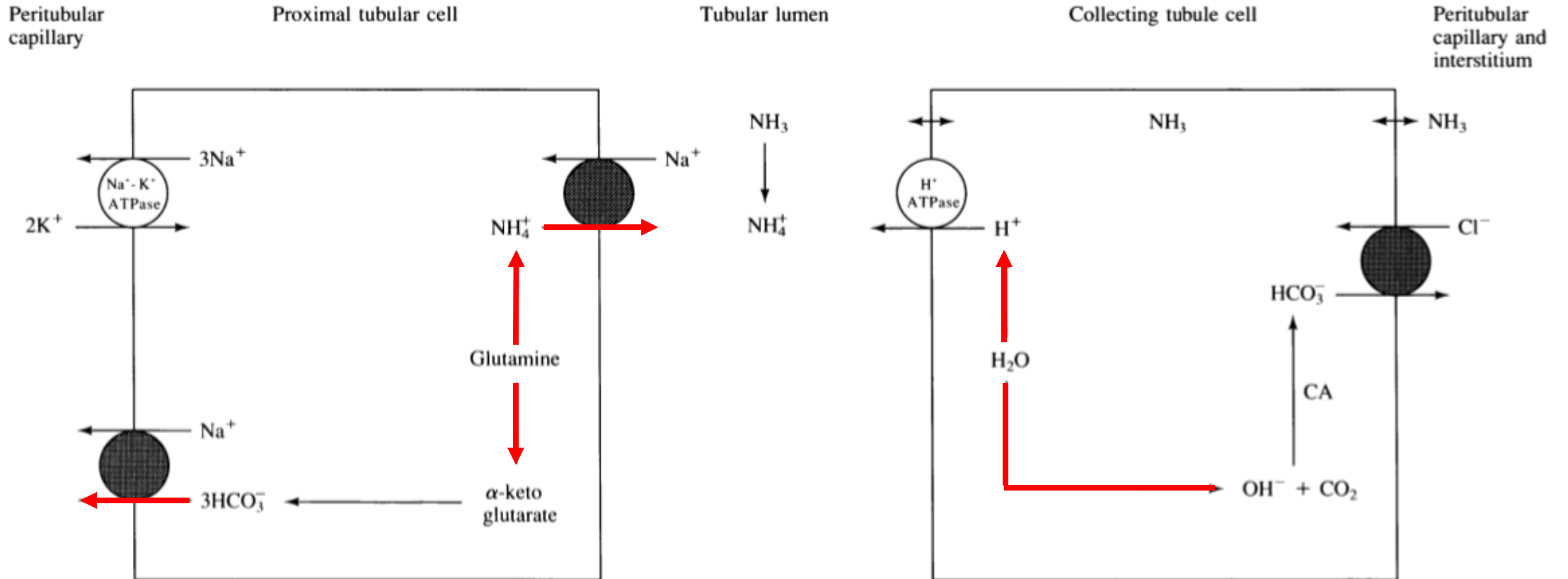
# ACID-BASE BALANCE

## 3c. RENAL $\text{H}^+$ SECRETION



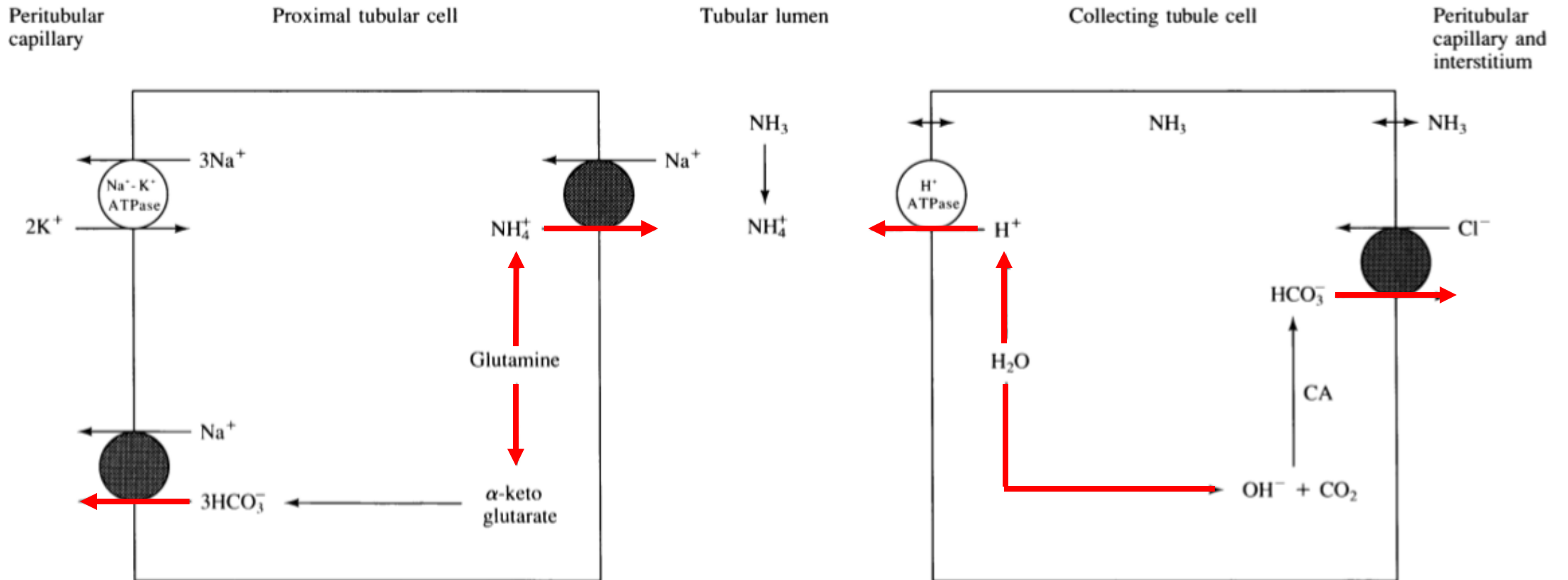
# ACID-BASE BALANCE

## 3c. RENAL $\text{H}^+$ SECRETION



# ACID-BASE BALANCE

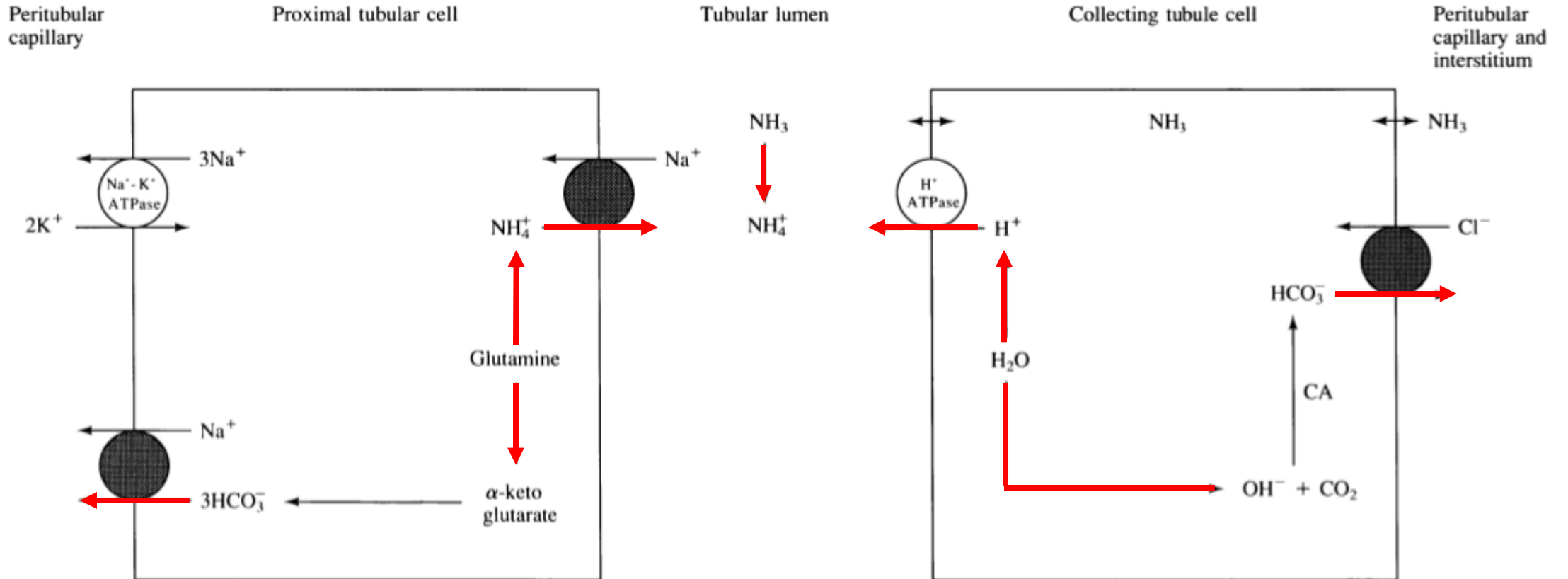
## 3c. RENAL $\text{H}^+$ SECRETION





# ACID-BASE BALANCE

## 3c. RENAL $\text{H}^+$ SECRETION



# LEGEND FOR SLIDES ABOVE

**Figure 11-4** Formation of urinary ammonium ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ). In the proximal tubule, glutamine is taken up by the cells and metabolized into  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate. Utilization of the latter results in the generation of  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ , whereas  $\text{NH}_4^+$  substitutes for  $\text{H}^+$  on the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{H}^+$  exchanger and is then secreted directly into the lumen. The mechanism is different in the collecting tubules; nonpolar, lipid-soluble  $\text{NH}_3$  diffused from the interstitial fluid into the lumen, where it combines with secreted  $\text{H}^+$  to form  $\text{NH}_4^+$ . Ammonium is lipid-insoluble and is therefore unable to back-diffuse out of the lumen. Note that each  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ion that is excreted is associated with the generation of a new  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  ion that is returned to the peritubular capillary.

# ACID-BASE DISORDERS

1. Excessive acid or base addition into the organism
2. Disorder of **alveolar ventilation**
3. Disorder of **renal H<sup>+</sup> excretion**

# ASSESSMENT OF ACID-BASE BALANCE

## Henderson-Hasselbach equation:

$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

## Measurement of pH (arterial blood gases, ABGs):

- Blood drawn anaerobically in a heparinized syringe (to prevent loss of PCO<sub>2</sub>)
- Rapid measurement or cooling at 4°C (to prevent anaerobic glycolysis by RBCs and organic acid production by WBCs)
- Do not dilute blood specimen



After a pulse is found, a blood sample is taken from the artery

# ASSESSMENT OF ACID-BASE BALANCE

## Henderson-Hasselbach equation:

$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

## Normal values in ABGs:

	pH	HCO <sub>3</sub> (mEq/L)	PCO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)
Arterial Blood	7.37-7.43	22-26	36-44
Venous Blood	7.32-7.38	23-27	42-50
	<b>7.4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>40</b>



After a pulse is found, a blood sample is taken from the artery

# ASSESSMENT OF ACID-BASE BALANCE

## Henderson-Hasselbach equation:

$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

	pH	Primary Disorder	Compensation
METABOLIC ACIDOSIS	↓	↓ [HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]	↓ PCO <sub>2</sub>
METABOLIC ALKALOSIS	↑	↑ [HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]	↑ PCO <sub>2</sub>
RESPIRATORY ACIDOSIS	↓	↑ PCO <sub>2</sub>	↑ [HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]
RESPIRATORY ALKALOSIS	↑	↓ PCO <sub>2</sub>	↓ [HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]

# ASSESSMENT OF ACID-BASE BALANCE

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		pH	Primary disorder	Compensation
METABOLIC ACIDOSIS		↓	↓ [HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ] <b>1mEq/L</b>	↓ PCO <sub>2</sub> <b>1.2 mmHg</b>
METABOLIC ALKALOSIS		↑	↑ [HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ] <b>1mEq/L</b>	↑ PCO <sub>2</sub> <b>0.7 mmHg</b>
RESPIRATORY ACIDOSIS	ACUTE	↓	↑ PCO <sub>2</sub> <b>10 mmHg</b>	↑ [HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ] <b>1 mEq/L</b>
	CHRONIC	↓	↑ PCO <sub>2</sub> <b>10 mmHg</b>	↑ [HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ] <b>3.5 mEq/L</b>
RESPIRATORY ALKALOSIS	ACUTE	↑	↓ PCO <sub>2</sub> <b>10 mmHg</b>	↓ [HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ] <b>2 mEq/L</b>
	CHRONIC	↑	↓ PCO <sub>2</sub> <b>10 mmHg</b>	↓ [HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ] <b>4 mEq/L</b>

# ASSESSMENT OF ACID-BASE BALANCE

## Henderson-Hasselbach equation:

$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

Self-assessment questions:

	pH	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (mEq/L)	PCO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)
Example 1	7.32	14	28

1. Is there an acid-base disorder?



# ASSESSMENT OF ACID-BASE BALANCE

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1. Is there an acid-base disorder?
2. Is the acid-base disorder an acidosis or an alkalosis?

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1. Is there an acid-base disorder?
2. Is the acid-base disorder an acidosis or an alkalosis? **ACIDOSIS**
3. Is the acid-base disorder metabolic or respiratory?

# ASSESSMENT OF ACID-BASE BALANCE

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4. Which is the compensation of the organism?

# ASSESSMENT OF ACID-BASE BALANCE

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Example 1	7.32	14	28

1. Is there an acid-base disorder?
2. Is the acid-base disorder an acidosis or an alkalosis? **ACIDOSIS**
3. Is the acid-base disorder metabolic or respiratory? **METABOLIC**
4. Which is the compensation of the organism? **Reduction in PCO<sub>2</sub>**

# ASSESSMENT OF ACID-BASE BALANCE

## Henderson-Hasselbach equation:

$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

## Self-assessment questions:

	pH	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (mEq/L)	PCO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)
Example 1	7.32	14	28
Example 2	7.47	20	14
Example 3	7.08	14	49
Example 4	7.51	38	49



# OUTLINE

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Acid-base balance, arterial blood gases (ABGs), introduction to acid-base disorders

## **METABOLIC ALKALOSIS**

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# CLINICAL CASE 1

A 38-year-old man presented to an emergency department with progressive weakness and decreased urine output after having vomited up to 20 times per day over a period of 7 days. The patient was referred to our intensive care unit. Before medical consultation, he was healthy, and no other symptoms were reported. Diarrhea, fever, chills, or abdominal pain was absent.

# CLINICAL CASE 1

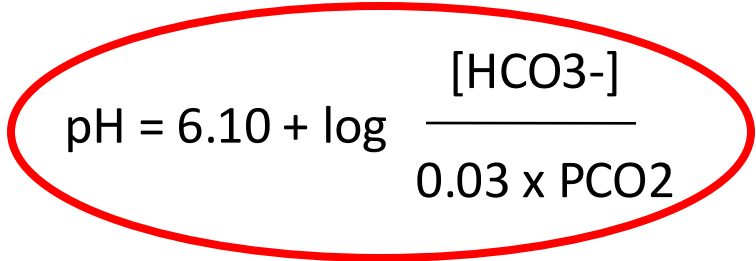
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Clinical examination revealed a patient of normal weight (height: 180 cm, weight: 70 kg). Blood pressure and heart rate were elevated (150/80 mmHg, 105/min); the respiratory rate was normal (13/min), but oxygen saturation was low (89%). During blood pressure measurement, a positive Trousseau sign was noted. The mucous membranes were dry, and the physical examination was otherwise unremarkable.

# CLINICAL CASE 1

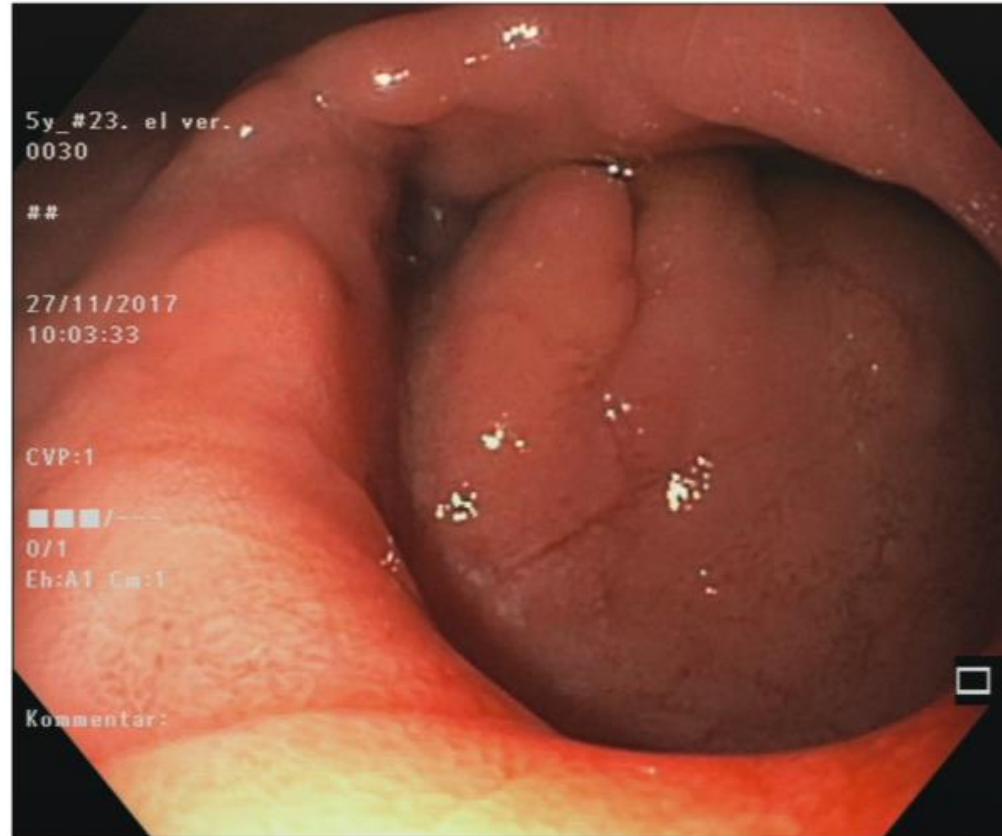
BIOCHEMISTRY (BLOOD)		ABGs		BIOCHEMISTRY (URINE)	
Ure (mg/dl)	176	pH	7.71	Cl (mEq/L)	?
Cre (mg/dl)	5.2	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (mEq/L)	72	Na (mEq/L)	?
Na (mEq/L)	130	PCO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)	56.1		
K (mEq/L)	2.4				
Cl (mEq/L)	52				
Ca <sup>++</sup> (mmol/L)	0.7				

# CLINICAL CASE 1


$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

BIOCHEMISTRY (BLOOD)		ABGs		BIOCHEMISTRY (URINE)	
Ure (mg/dl)	176	pH	7.71	Cl (mEq/L)	?
Cre (mg/dl)	5.2	HCO3- (mEq/L)	72	Na (mEq/L)	?
Na (mEq/L)	130	PCO2 (mmHg)	56.1		
K (mEq/L)	2.4				
Cl (mEq/L)	52				
Ca++ (mmol/L)	0.7				

# CLINICAL CASE 1



**Figure 2:** Gastrointestinal endoscopy. Endoscopy revealing an obstruction of the duodenum. Further, imaging with magnetic resonance imaging and endosonography excluded a compression by a neoplastic process

# CLINICAL CASE 1 - DISCUSSION

## METABOLIC ALKALOSIS

### PATHOGENESIS

**GENERATION PHASE** : Gastrointestinal H<sup>+</sup> loss

**MAINTENANCE PHASE:** Hypochloremia

Hypokalemia

Hypovolemia (pre-renal acute kidney injury)

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

**UNDERLYING DISEASE (obstruction of the duodenum):** vomiting

**CURRENT DISEASE (hypovolemia):** hypotension, increased HR, dry mucous membranes

**(hypocalcemia):** tetany, Trousseau's sign

# CLINICAL CASE 1 - DISCUSSION



The Trousseau sign of latent tetany is a way to determine if an individual may have hypocalcemia. Trousseau's sign is considered positive when **a carpopedal spasm of the hand and wrist occurs after an individual wears a blood pressure cuff inflated over their systolic blood pressure for 2 to 3 minutes.**



## CLINICAL CASE 2

A 60-year-old male patient was admitted to our hospital with epileptic seizures and dehydration. Clinical examination revealed a delirious patient with skin and mucosal dryness. Family members reported on recurrent vomiting. There was no regular medication taken by the patient. Magnetic resonance imaging excluded cerebral bleeding and ischemia.

# CLINICAL CASE 2

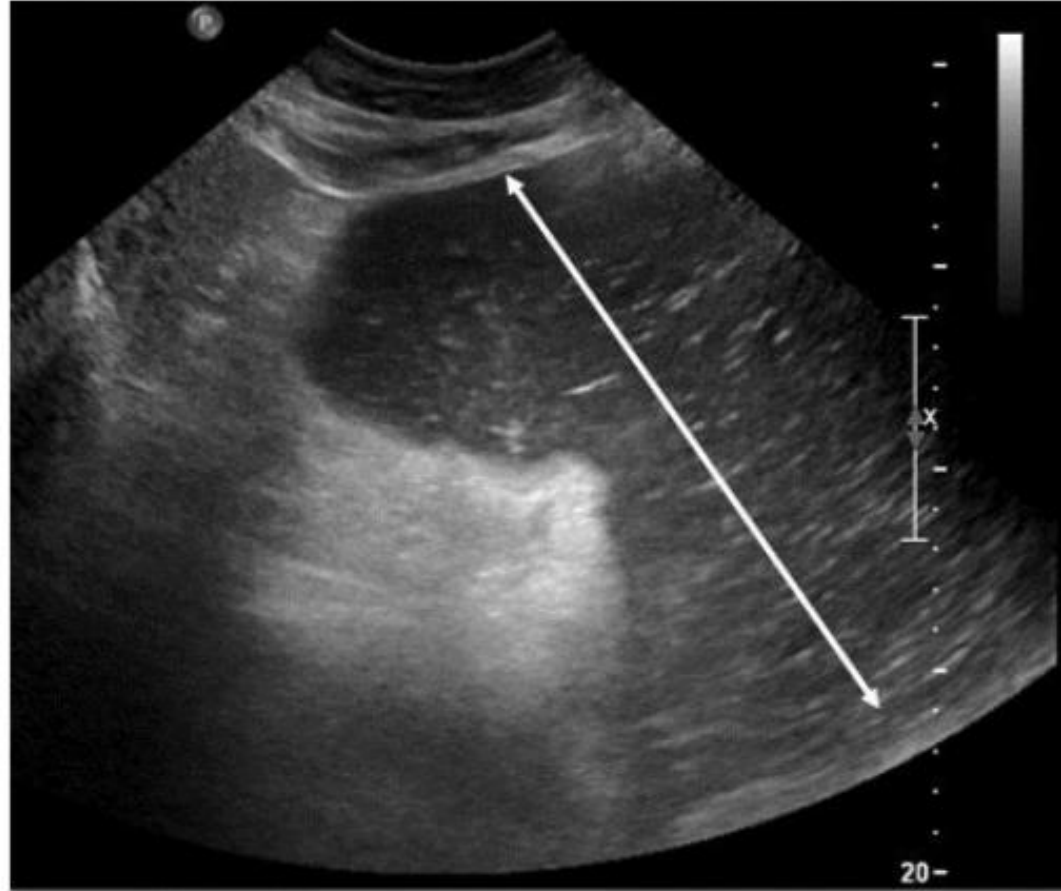
BIOCHEMISTRY (BLOOD)		ABGs		BIOCHEMISTRY (URINE)	
Ht (%)	54	pH	7.56	Cl (mEq/L)	5
Ure (mg/dl)	80	HCO3- (mEq/L)	42	Na (mEq/L)	44
Cre (mg/dl)	1.8	PCO2 (mmHg)	53		
Na (mEq/L)	145				
K (mEq/L)	2.7				
Cl (mEq/L)	<60				

# CLINICAL CASE 2

$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

BIOCHEMISTRY (BLOOD)		ABGs		BIOCHEMISTRY (URINE)	
Ht (%)	54	pH	7.56	Cl (mEq/L)	5
Ure (mg/dl)	80	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (mEq/L)	42	Na (mEq/L)	44
Cre (mg/dl)	1.8	PCO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)	53		
Na (mEq/L)	145				
K (mEq/L)	2.7				
Cl (mEq/L)	<60				

## CLINICAL CASE 2



**Fig. 1.** Abdominal ultrasound showed an enlarged stomach

## CLINICAL CASE 2



**Fig. 3. a** Thoracoabdominal computed tomography showed a hiatal hernia 3.5 cm in diameter and an intrathoracic upside-down stomach (white arrow) surrounded by a fluid fringe (asterisk) as a sign of

## CLINICAL CASE 2



**Fig. 2.** By esophagogastroduodenoscopy we diagnosed a large hiatal hernia with an intrathoracic pylorus and multiple mucosal hemorrhages as signs of incipient incarceration. The fact that 3 l of fluid were initially removed from the esophagus and stomach confirmed gastric outlet obstruction.

THEREFORE ...

# METABOLIC ALKALOSIS

## **PATHOGENESIS**

### **GENERATION PHASE**

#### **1. H<sup>+</sup> LOSS**

##### A. GASTROINTESTINAL LOSS

- (a) Vomiting, nasogastric tube
- (b) Congenital chloridorrhea
  - Villous adenoma
  - Laxatives

##### B. KIDNEY LOSS

- (a) Diuretics
- (b) Hyperaldosteronism
- (c) Hypocalcemia

##### Γ. TRANSLOCATION INTO THE CELLS

- (a) Hypokalemia

#### **2. HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> ADDITION**

##### A. MASSIVE TRANSFUSIONS

##### B. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> ADMINISTRATION

### **MAINTENANCE PHASE**

#### **1. HYPOVOLEMIA**

#### **2. HYPOCHLOREMIA**

#### **3. HYPOKALEMIA**



# METABOLIC ALKALOSIS

## **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**

### **ASYMPTOMATIC**

### **UNDERLYING DISEASE**

History: vomiting, diarrhea, laxatives

Clinical examination: nasogastric tube

### **VOLUME AND ELECTROLYTE DISORDERS**

#### Hypovolemia

Weakness, dry mucous membranes and skin, hypotension, thirst, muscle cramps

#### Hypokalemia

Polyuria, thirst, muscle weakness, arrhythmia

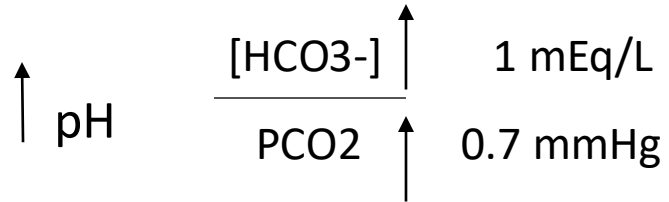
#### Hypocalcemia

Muscle spasm, tetany, paresthesia, seizures, coma

# METABOLIC ALKALOSIS

## DIAGNOSIS

### ABGs



### BLOOD BIOCHEMISTRY

Hypokalemia

Hypochloremia

### URINE BIOCHEMISTRY

Na >10 mmol/L

Cl <10-20 mmol/L

# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

Acid-base balance, arterial blood gases (ABGs), introduction to acid-base disorders

## METABOLIC ALKALOSIS

Clinical case

Pathogenesis - Signs and symptoms - Diagnosis

## METABOLIC ACIDOSIS

Clinical case

Pathogenesis - Signs and symptoms - Diagnosis

## RESPIRATORY ALKALOSIS AND ACIDOSIS

Clinical cases

Pathogenesis - Signs and symptoms - Diagnosis

*Berne and Levy Physiology, ELSEVIER 2018*

*BD Rose and T Post. Clinical Physiology of Acid-Base and Electrolyte Disorders. McGraw Hill 2000*

# CLINICAL CASE 3

Patient: Mr. Johnson, a 45-year-old male

Chief Complaint: Shortness of breath and chest pain

History of Present Illness: Mr. Johnson was admitted to the hospital with a three-day history of shortness of breath and chest pain. He also reported a fever, cough with yellow-green sputum, and fatigue. He has a history of smoking and a history of alcohol abuse.

Past Medical History: Mr. Johnson has a history of hypertension, which is well-controlled with medication. He also has a history of obstructive sleep apnea, for which he uses a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine.

Medications: Lisinopril 20 mg once daily, metoprolol 25 mg once daily

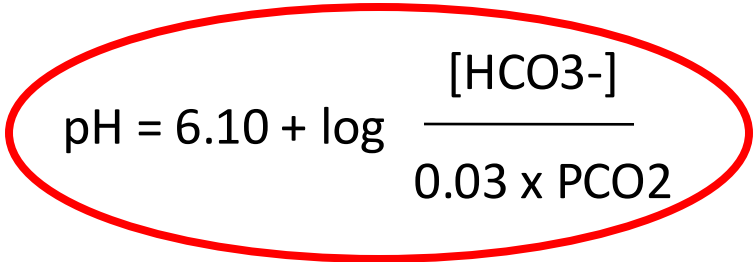
Physical Examination: Mr. Johnson appeared uncomfortable and was using accessory muscles to breathe. His blood pressure was 120/80 mmHg, heart rate was 110 beats per minute, and respiratory rate was 28 breaths per minute. Lung examination revealed crackles in both lung fields, and his oxygen saturation was 88% on room air.

elevated to 16,000/mm<sup>3</sup>, and his chest X-ray showed an infiltrate in the right lower lobe.

# CLINICAL CASE 3

BIOCHEMISTRY (BLOOD)		ABGs	
Ht (%)	40	pH	7.21
Ure (mg/dl)	80	HCO3- (mEq/L)	6
Cre (mg/dl)	2	PCO2 (mmHg)	18.4
Na (mEq/L)	140	Lactic acid (mmol/L)	5.23
K (mEq/L)	4.9		
Cl (mEq/L)	110		

# CLINICAL CASE 3


$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

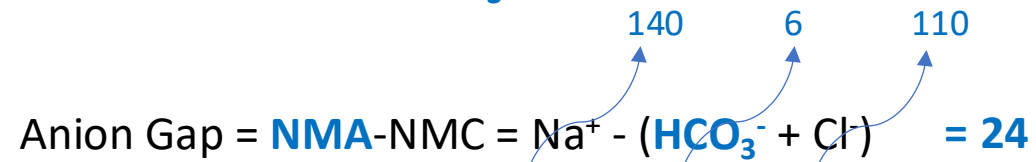
BIOCHEMISTRY (BLOOD)		ABGs	
Ht (%)	40	pH	7.21
Ure (mg/dl)	80	HCO3- (mEq/L)	6
Cre (mg/dl)	2	PCO2 (mmHg)	18.4
Na (mEq/L)	140	Lactic acid (mmol/L)	5.23
K (mEq/L)	4.9		
Cl (mEq/L)	110		

# CLINICAL CASE 3

**CATIONS = ANIONS**

PLASMA



$$\text{Anion Gap} = \text{NMA} - \text{NMC} = \text{Na}^+ - (\text{HCO}_3^- + \text{Cl}^-) = 24$$


The diagram illustrates the calculation of the anion gap. It shows the equation: Anion Gap = NMA - NMC = Na<sup>+</sup> - (HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> + Cl<sup>-</sup>) = 24. Blue arrows point from the numbers in the equation to their corresponding values: 140 for Na<sup>+</sup>, 6 for HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, 110 for NMA, and 24 for the final result. The NMC value is not explicitly shown but is implied to be 110 based on the calculation.

Normal value = 10 +/- 2 mmol/L

**NORMOCHLOREMIC  
METABOLIC ACIDOSIS  
WITH INCREASED ANION GAP**

# CLINICAL CASE 4

A 59-year-old woman came to Fujita Health University Hospital with complaints of general weakness and numbness of the fingers and was admitted for treatment. At the age of 29 years, she had undergone total hysterectomy due to uterine cancer, followed by radiotherapy. After the procedure, she experienced lack of uresiesthesia and an inability to completely empty her bladder, necessitating clean intermittent self-catheterization. From 2 years prior to admission, she had begun to experience occasional watery diarrhea. Four months before admission, she suffered from acute pyelonephritis and was treated with antibiotics. However, no urological examinations were conducted to clarify the cause of the pyelonephritis. Five days before admission, after she had eaten raw oysters, watery diarrhea had developed, with fever and vomiting. Because she experienced general weakness and numbness of the fingers, she was transferred to our hospital. She was lethargic but conscious and alert. Her weight was 37.4kg (5kg below usual weight); body temperature was 36.2°C, blood pressure was 116/72mmHg, pulse was 72 beats/min with regular sinus rhythm, and respiration rate was 16/min.

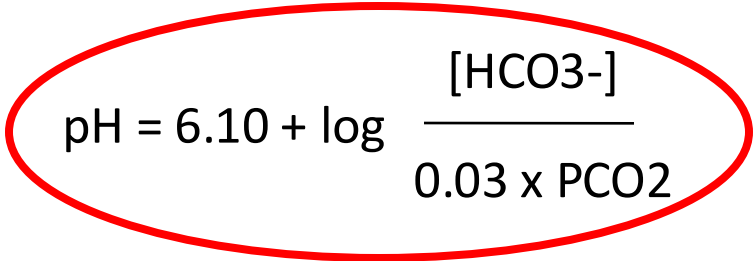
Physical examination was unremarkable except for muscle weakness of 4/5 in both upper and lower extremities.



# CLINICAL CASE 4

BIOCHEMISTRY (BLOOD)		ABGs		BIOCHEMISTRY (URINE)	
Ht (%)	28.3	pH	7.14	Cl (mEq/L)	132
Ure (mg/dl)	42	HCO3- (mEq/L)	3	Na (mEq/L)	70
Cre (mg/dl)	1	PCO2 (mmHg)	14	K (mEq/L)	9
Na (mEq/L)	140				
K (mEq/L)	3				
Cl (mEq/L)	130				

# CLINICAL CASE 4


$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

BIOCHEMISTRY (BLOOD)		ABGs		BIOCHEMISTRY (URINE)	
Ht (%)	28.3	pH	7.14	Cl (mEq/L)	132
Ure (mg/dl)	42	HCO3- (mEq/L)	3	Na (mEq/L)	70
Cre (mg/dl)	1	PCO2 (mmHg)	14	K (mEq/L)	9
Na (mEq/L)	140				
K (mEq/L)	3				
Cl (mEq/L)	130				

# CLINICAL CASE 4

**CATIONS = ANIONS**

## PLASMA

$$\text{Na}^+ + \text{NMC} = \text{HCO}_3^- + \text{Cl}^- + \text{NMA}$$

$$\text{Anion Gap} = \text{NMA} - \text{NMC} = \text{Na}^+ - (\text{HCO}_3^- + \text{Cl}^-)$$

Normal value = 10 +/- 2 mmol/L

## URINE

$$\text{Na}^+ + \text{K}^+ + \text{NMC} = \text{Cl}^- + \text{NMA}$$

$$\text{Anion Gap} = \text{NMA} - \text{NMC} = \text{Na}^+ + \text{K}^+ - \text{Cl}^-$$

# CLINICAL CASE 4

**CATIONS = ANIONS**

## PLASMA

$$\text{Na}^+ + \text{NMC} = \text{HCO}_3^- + \text{Cl}^- + \text{NMA}$$

$$\text{Anion Gap} = \text{NMA} - \text{NMC} = \text{Na}^+ - (\text{HCO}_3^- + \text{Cl}^-) = 11$$

Normal value = 10 +/- 2 mmol/L

**HYPERCHLOREMIC  
METABOLIC ACIDOSIS  
WITH NORMAL ANION GAP**

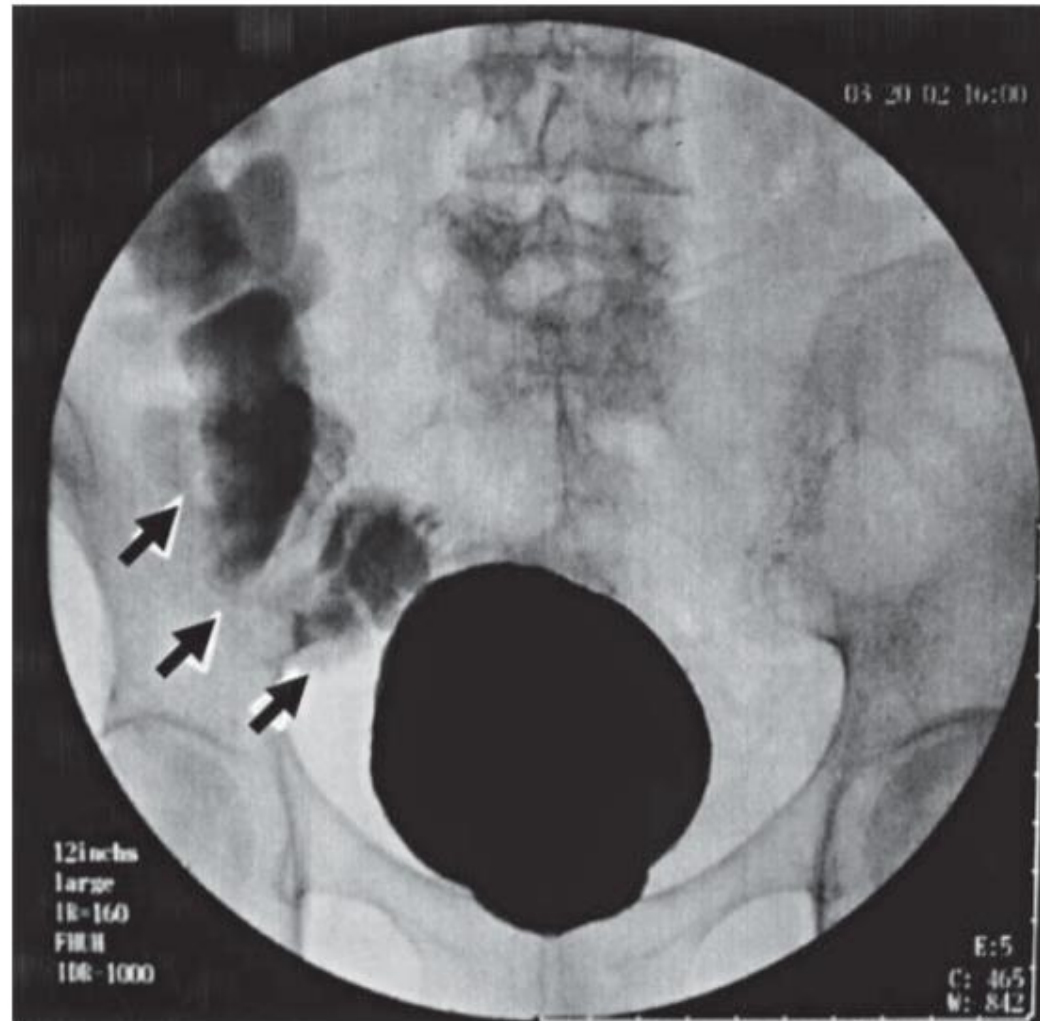
## URINE

$$\text{Na}^+ + \text{K}^+ + \text{NMC} = \text{Cl}^- + \text{NMA}$$

$$\text{Anion Gap} = \text{NMA} - \text{NMC} = \text{Na}^+ + \text{K}^+ - \text{Cl}^- = \text{NEGATIVE}$$

**EXTRARENAL CAUSE**

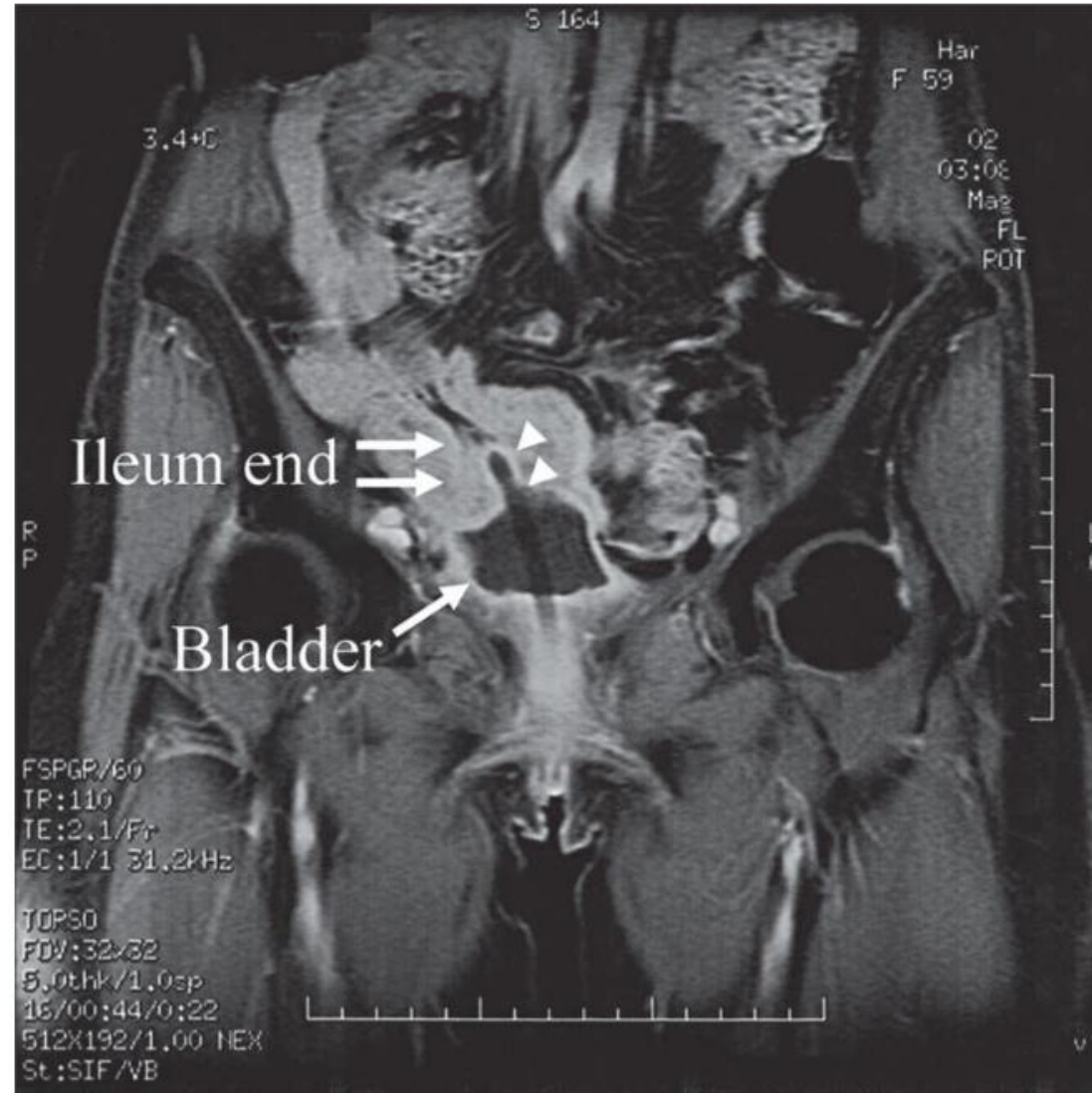
## CLINICAL CASE 4



**Fig. 2.** Voiding cystourethrogram showed preferential drainage of contrast medium in the bladder into the ascending colon (*arrows*)

## CLINICAL CASE 4

**Fig. 3.** Pelvic portion magnetic resonance imaging showed that the catheter tip installed in the bladder was located in the end of the ileum (*arrow heads*)



THEREFORE ...

# METABOLIC ACIDOSIS

## PATHOGENESIS AND CLASSIFICATION

### HYPERCHLOREMIC WITH NORMAL ANION GAP

#### 1. EXTRARENAL CAUSES

*(Increased renal  $H^+$  excretion, negative UAG)*

- (a) Diarrhea
- (b) Ureterosigmoidostomy
- (c) Pancreatic, biliary or intestinal fistula

#### 2. RENAL CAUSES

*(Reduced renal  $H^+$  secretion, positive UAG)*

- (a) Type I RTA (distal tubule, impaired  $H^+$  secretion)
- (b) Type II RTA (proximal tubule, impaired  $HCO_3^-$  reabsorption)
- (c) Type IV RTA
- (d) Renal failure ( $GFR > 15-20$  ml/min)

### NORMOCHLOREMIC WITH INCREASED ANION GAP

#### 1. EXTRARENAL CAUSES

- (a) Lactic acidosis
- (b) Diabetic acidosis
- (c) Fasting
- (d) Ethanol, methanol, salicylate intoxication

#### 2. RENAL CAUSES

- (a) Uremic acidosis ( $GFR < 10$  ml/min)



# METABOLIC ACIDOSIS

## **PATHOGENESIS AND CLASSIFICATION**

### TYPE IV RENAL TUBULAR ACIDOSIS

- Diabetes mellitus
- NSAIDs
- Cyclosporin
- RAS inhibition
- Spironolactone
- Amiloride
- Heparin
- Ketoconazole
- Lupus nephritis

# METABOLIC ACIDOSIS

## PATHOGENESIS AND CLASSIFICATION

### LACTIC ACIDOSIS

#### TYPE A

- Cardiogenic shock
- Septic shock
- Hemorrhage
- Anemia
- Tissue hypoxia
- CO poisoning

#### TYPE B (ABSENCE OF TISSUE HYPOXIA)

- G6PD deficiency
- Metformin, Linezolid, Propofol
- Liver failure
- Malignancy

# METABOLIC ACIDOSIS

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

### CARDIOVASCULAR AND PULMONARY

Increased depth and rate of respiration, shortness of breath, arrhythmia, reduced myocardial contractility

### NEUROLOGIC

Lethargy, coma

### MUSCULOSKELETAL

Children: impaired growth, rickets

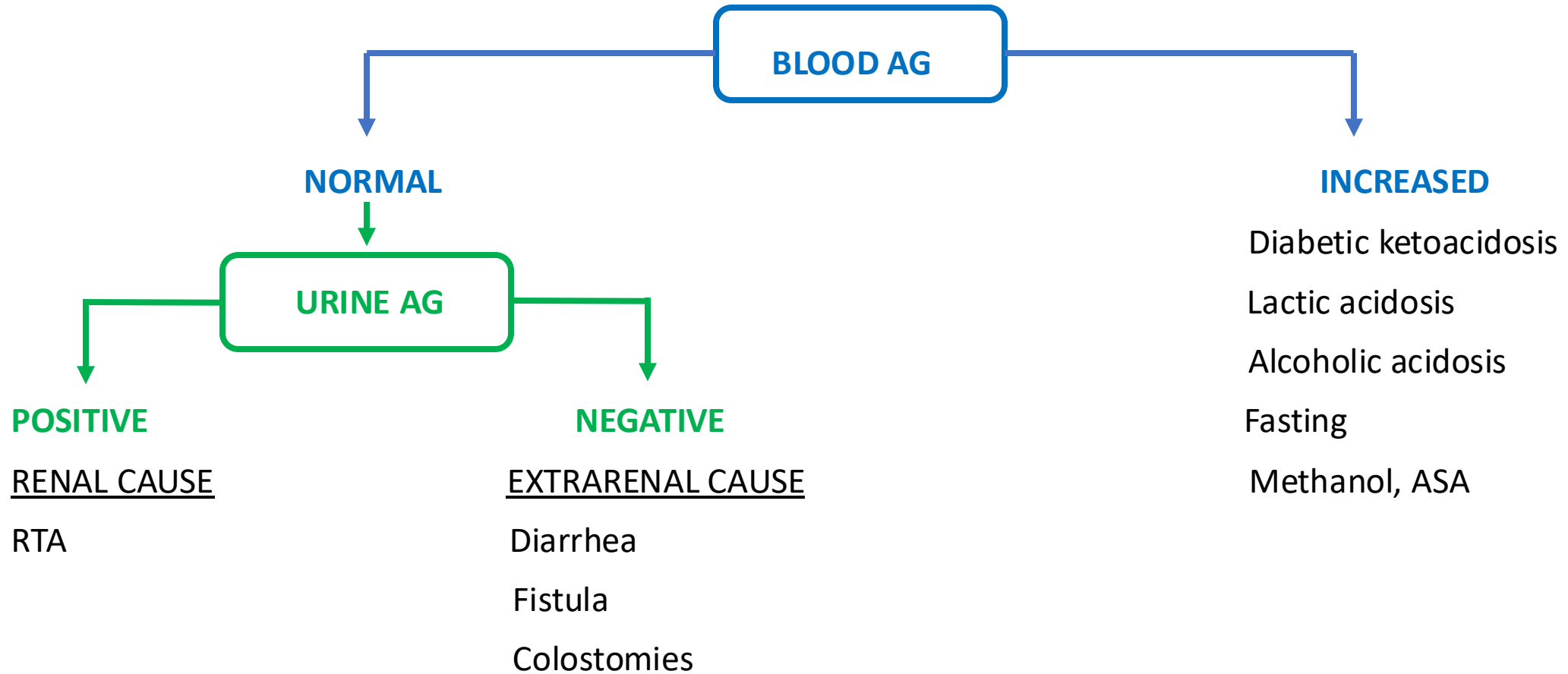
Adults: Osteitis fibrosa, osteomalacia, osteoporosis

### UNDERLYING DISEASE

Diarrhea

# METABOLIC ACIDOSIS

## DIAGNOSTIC APPROACH



# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

Acid-base balance, arterial blood gases (ABGs), introduction to acid-base disorders

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Clinical cases

Pathogenesis - Signs and symptoms - Diagnosis

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# RESPIRATORY ACIDOSIS

## CAUSES AND PATHOGENESIS

### EXTRAPULMONARY DISEASE

#### A. INHIBITION OF THE RESPIRATORY CENTRE

##### 1. ACUTE

- (a) Opiates, anesthetics, sedatives
- (b) CNS lesions

#### B. DISORDERS OF THE RESPIRATORY MUSCLES - CHEST WALL

##### 1. ACUTE

- (a) Myasthenia
- (b) Aminoglycosides
- (c) Guillen-Barre Syndrome

##### 2. CHRONIC

- (a) Kyphoscoliosis
- (b) Obesity
- (c) Poliomyelitis
- (d) Spinal cord injury

### PULMONARY DISEASE

#### C. UPPER AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION

##### 1. ACUTE

- (a) Aspiration of foreign body or vomitus
- (b) Laryngospasm
- (c) Obstructive sleep apnea

#### D. DISORDERS AFFECTING GAS EXCHANGE ACROSS THE PULMONARY CAPILLARIES

##### 1. ACUTE

- (a) Acute pulmonary edema
- (b) Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)
- (c) Severe asthma, pneumonia

##### 2. CHRONIC

- (a) Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

# RESPIRATORY ACIDOSIS

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

### CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

1. ACUTE

Headache, blurred vision, papilledema, restlessness, anxiety, delirium

2. CHRONIC (mild symptoms)

### CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

Arrhythmias

Peripheral vasodilation

# RESPIRATORY ACIDOSIS

## DIAGNOSIS

$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

## ACUTE OR CHRONIC?

		pH	Primary disorder	Compensation
RESPIRATORY ACIDOSIS	ACUTE	↓	↑ PCO <sub>2</sub> <b>10 mmHg</b>	↑ [HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ] <b>1 mEq/L</b>
	CHRONIC	↓	↑ PCO <sub>2</sub> <b>10 mmHg</b>	↑ [HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ] <b>3.5 mEq/L</b>

## EXTRAPULMONARY OR PULMONARY DISORDER?

Past history and clinical examination

$$(A-a) \text{ O}_2 \text{ gradient} = 150 - 1.25 \times \text{PCO}_2 - \text{PO}_2$$

Normal values = 5-10 mmHg in <30 years old  
= 15-20 mmHg

Increased: Pulmonary disorder



# RESPIRATORY ALKALOSIS

## CAUSES - PATHOGENESIS

### A. HYPOXIA

1. PULMONARY DISEASE
  - (a) Pneumonia
  - (b) Interstitial lung fibrosis
  - (c) Emboli
  - (d) Pulmonary edema
2. CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE
3. HYPOTENSION
4. SEVERE ANEMIA
5. HIGH ALTITUDE RESIDENCE

### B. PULMONARY DISEASE

### C. STIMULATION OF THE RESPIRATORY CENTRE

1. PSYCHOGENIC VOLUNTARY HYPERVENTILATION
2. LIVER FAILURE
3. GRAM NEGATIVE SEPSIS
4. PREGNANCY, PROGESTERONE
5. NEUROLOGIC DISORDERS
  - (a) Cerebrovascular accidents
  - (b) Pontine tumors

### D. MECHANICAL VENTILATION

# RESPIRATORY ALKALOSIS

## **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**

## **UNDERLYING DISEASE**

## **NERVOUS SYSTEM**

Light-headedness, altered consciousness, paresthesia of the extremities, cramps, carpopedal spasm

## **CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM**

Supraventricular and ventricular arrhythmias

# RESPIRATORY ALKALOSIS

## DIAGNOSIS

$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

		pH	Primary disorder	Compensation
RESPIRATORY ALKALOSIS	ACUTE	↑	↓ PCO2 10 mmHg	↓ [HCO3-] 2 mEq/L
	CHRONIC	↑	↓ PCO2 10 mmHg	↓ [HCO3-] 4 mEq/L

## CLINICAL CASE 5

A 24-year-old male patient presented at the Emergency Department of his local hospital reporting malaise, headache and mild dyspnea. He had a history of cigarette smoking but no significant past illnesses; physical examination, blood tests, chest X-ray and a head computed tomography (CT) scan were normal and on the same day he was discharged with symptomatic therapy. After four days he returned to the hospital with fever,

productive cough and respiratory distress: a chest X-ray showed a left lung infiltrate and the patient was admitted to the Infectious Disease Department with a presumptive diagnosis of community-acquired pneumonia. Treatment with ceftriaxone and azithromycin was started but he rapidly developed a severe respiratory failure unresponsive to helmet-CPAP and required intubation and mechanical ventilation (MV). Vital signs at admission were: blood pressure 100/50 mmHg, pulse 110 bpm, body temperature 38.8 °C, body mass index (BMI) 24 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Laboratory values showed

# CLINICAL CASE 5

BIOCHEMISTRY (BLOOD)		ABGs	
WBC (#/ $\mu$ l)	3200 (N<L)	pH	7
CRP (ng/ml)	0.9	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (mEq/L)	18
Ure (mg/dl)		PCO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)	109
Cre (mg/dl)		PO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)	44

# CLINICAL CASE 5

$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

BIOCHEMISTRY (BLOOD)		ABGs	
WBC (#/μl)	3200 (N<L)	pH	7
CRP (ng/ml)	0.9	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (mEq/L)	18
Ure (mg/dl)		PCO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)	109
Cre (mg/dl)		PO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)	44

[HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>] **1 mEq/L**

PCO<sub>2</sub> **10 mmHg**

## CLINICAL CASE 5

Bacterial cultures of blood, urine and tracheal aspirate were negative, as well as autoimmune tests. A nasal swab tested with real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) was positive for H1N1 infection. Treatment with high-dose oseltamivir (300 mg/day) was immediately added to the initial empirical antibacterial therapy. Two days after, two other members of the patient's family developed high fever and productive cough without respiratory distress and were diagnosed with H1N1 infection.

## CLINICAL CASE 5

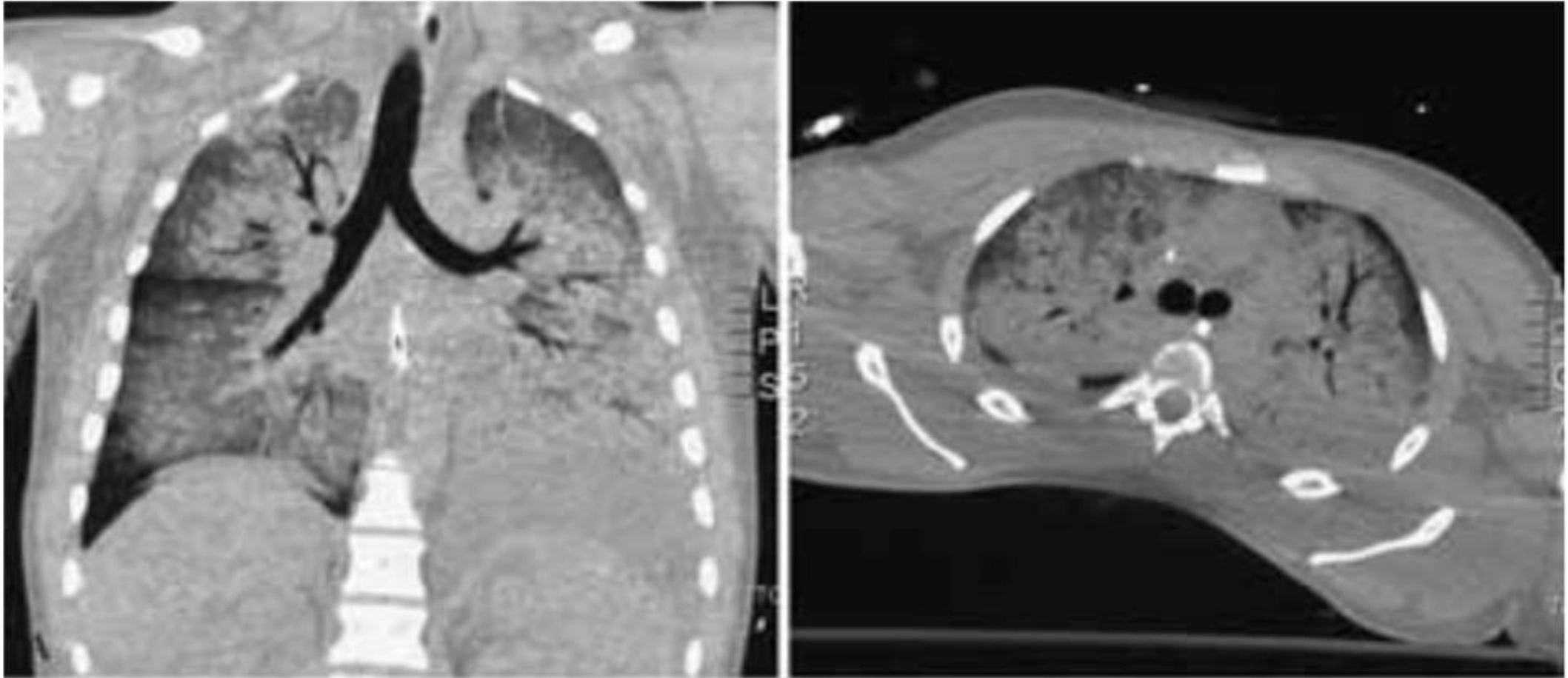


Figure 1.—A) Chest CT-scan obtained immediately after admission to our ICU: massive bilateral consolidation with air bronchogram are visible; B) Chest CT-scan obtained before discharge shows a partial resolution with residual areas of ground-glass and fibrotic strias.



# CLINICAL CASE 5 - DISCUSSION

## ACUTE RESPIRATORY ACIDOSIS

### PATHOGENESIS

Disorder affecting gas exchange across the pulmonary capillaries (ARDS)

$$(A-a) \text{ O}_2 \text{ gradient} = 150 - \overset{109}{1.25\text{PCO}_2} - \overset{44}{\text{PO}_2} = 58 \text{ mmHg } (>10, 24 \text{ yo})$$

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

#### UNDERLYING DISEASE (H1N1 infection):

Malaise, fever, cough

#### NERVOUS SYSTEM

anxiety, headache, papilledema, restlessness

#### CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM (increased cardiac output, vasodilation)

warm, wet skin, tachycardia

# CLINICAL CASE 6

Chief complaint: Difficulty breathing and muscle weakness

History of Present Illness: The patient is a 38-year-old male who presented to the hospital with a complaint of difficulty breathing and muscle weakness. He reported that he has been experiencing fatigue, muscle weakness, and shortness of breath for several weeks, and it has been progressively getting worse. He also noticed that he has been breathing faster than usual and has been feeling lightheaded.

Medical History: The patient did not have any significant medical history.

Physical Examination: On examination, the patient appeared weak and had difficulty moving his limbs. He had a respiratory rate of 30 breaths per minute, and his oxygen saturation was 92% on room air. His blood pressure was 150/90 mmHg, and his heart rate was 110 beats per minute. His lungs were clear on auscultation, and his abdomen was soft and non-tender.

Diagnostic Tests: Blood tests revealed an elevated cortisol level and a low potassium level, which were consistent with Cushing's syndrome. An MRI of the brain showed a pituitary adenoma, which was the cause of the Cushing's syndrome. The patient was diagnosed

# CLINICAL CASE 6

ABGs	
pH	7.34
HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (mEq/L)	37
PCO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)	67
PO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)	60

# CLINICAL CASE 6

$$\text{pH} = 6.10 + \log \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{0.03 \times \text{PCO}_2}$$

ABGs	
pH	7.34
HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (mEq/L)	37
PCO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)	67
PO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)	60

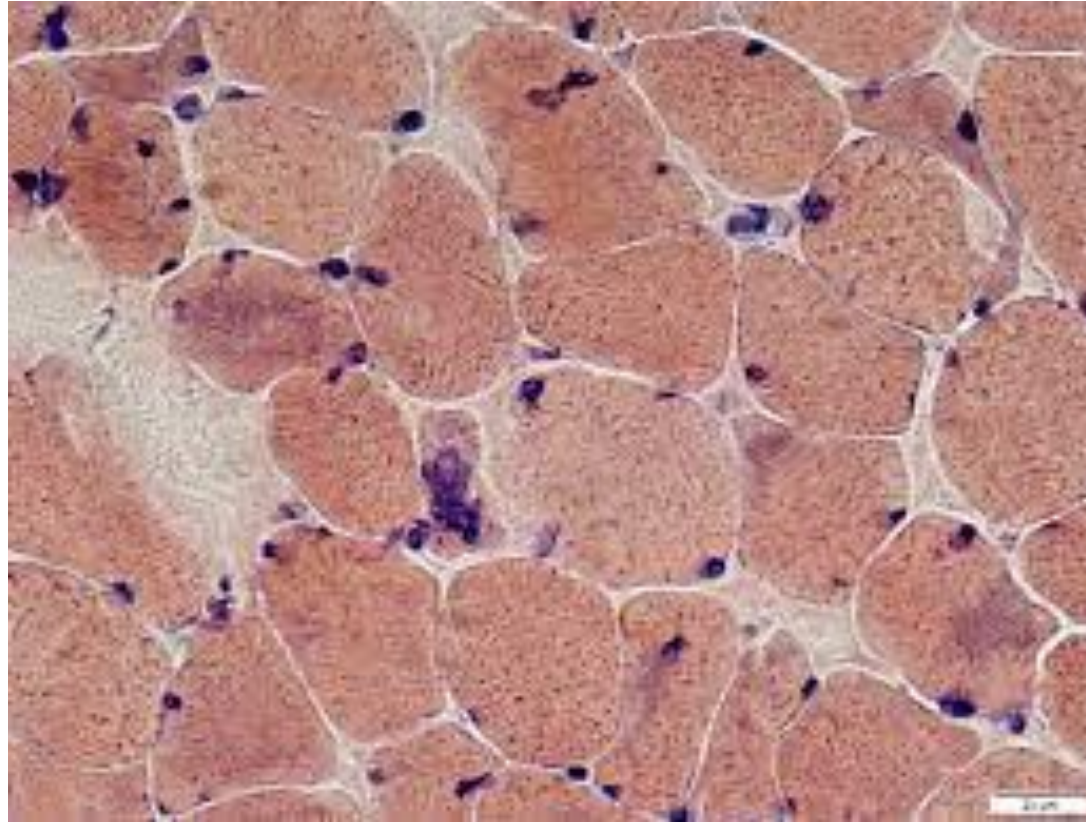
[HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>] **3.5 mEq/L**

PCO<sub>2</sub> **10 mmHg**

(A-a) O<sub>2</sub> gradient = 150 - 1.25<sup>67</sup>PCO<sub>2</sub> - <sup>60</sup>PO<sub>2</sub> = **6 mmHg**

**EXTRAPULMONARY DISORDER**

## CLINICAL CASE 6



Muscle biopsy: muscle atrophy

# CLINICAL CASE 6 - DISCUSSION

## CHRONIC RESPIRATORY ACIDOSIS

### PATHOGENESIS

Chronic disorder of the respiratory muscles

$$(A-a) \text{ O}_2 \text{ gradient} = 150 - 1.25 \overset{67}{\text{PCO}_2} - \overset{60}{\text{PO}_2} = 6 \text{ mmHg} \quad (<20, 38 \text{ yo})$$

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

#### UNDERLYING DISEASE

#### NERVOUS SYSTEM

Absence of symptomatology (chronic disease)



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