

ACID BASE BALANCE

RULES OF INTERPRETATION		
PH	PaCO ₂	HCO ₃
< 7.35 = acidosis	> 45 mm Hg = respiratory acidosis	< 22 mEq/L = metabolic acidosis
> 7.45 = alkalosis	< 35 mm Hg = respiratory alkalosis	> 26 mEq/L = metabolic alkalosis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is OK to use what you know about your patient • The body usually does the smart thing to compensate: metabolic disorders - compensated by the lung; respiratory disorders - compensated by the kidney. • Any pH below 7.35 – state of acidosis; Any pH above 7.45 – state of alkalosis CO₂ is an acid HCO₃ is a base. Any change in CO₂ reflects a respiratory change Any change in HCO₃ reflects a metabolic change. • Usually the initiating abnormality is the predominate abnormality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the pH has returned to normal, compensation has taken place. • If the primary event is a fall in pH – whether respiratory or metabolic in origin – the arterial pH stays on the acid side after compensation. • If the primary event is an increase in pH – whether respiratory or metabolic in origin – the arterial pH stays on the base side after compensation
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