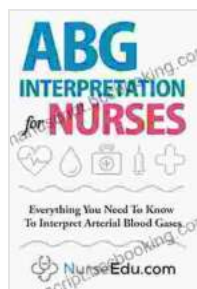


Everything You Need To Know To Interpret Arterial Blood Gases

Correctly interpreting ABGs is essential for the diagnosis and management of acid-base disorders and respiratory disorders. ABGs can provide valuable information about the patient's overall health and can help guide treatment decisions. For example, a patient with a low PaO₂ may need supplemental oxygen, and a patient with a high PaCO₂ may need mechanical ventilation.

1. **Check the pH.** The pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of the blood. A normal pH is between 7.35 and 7.45. A pH below 7.35 is considered acidotic, and a pH above 7.45 is considered alkalotic.
2. **Check the PaO₂.** The PaO₂ is a measure of the amount of oxygen in the blood. A normal PaO₂ is between 80 and 100 mmHg. A PaO₂ below 80 mmHg is considered hypoxemic, and a PaO₂ above 100 mmHg is considered hyperoxemic.
3. **Check the PaCO₂.** The PaCO₂ is a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide in the blood. A normal PaCO₂ is between 35 and 45 mmHg. A PaCO₂ below 35 mmHg is considered hypocapnic, and a PaCO₂ above 45 mmHg is considered hypercapnic.
4. **Check the HCO₃⁻.** The HCO₃⁻ is a measure of the amount of bicarbonate in the blood. A normal HCO₃⁻ is between 22 and 26 mEq/L. A HCO₃⁻ below 22 mEq/L is considered metabolic acidosis, and a HCO₃⁻ above 26 mEq/L is considered metabolic alkalosis.

- **Respiratory acidosis** occurs when the PaCO₂ is elevated and the pH is decreased. This can be caused by conditions that impair ventilation, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pneumonia, and asthma.
- **Respiratory alkalosis** occurs when the PaCO₂ is decreased and the pH is increased. This can be caused by conditions that increase ventilation, such as hyperventilation and altitude sickness.
- **Metabolic acidosis** occurs when the HCO₃⁻ is decreased and the pH is decreased. This can be caused by conditions that produce acids, such as diabetic ketoacidosis, lactic acidosis, and renal failure.
- **Metabolic alkalosis** occurs when the HCO₃⁻ is increased and the pH is increased. This can be caused by conditions that lose acids, such as vomiting and diarrhea.
- [Arterial Blood Gases](#)
- [Interpretation of Arterial Blood Gases](#)
- [ABG Interpretation Made Ridiculously Simple](#)
- [Arterial Blood Gas \(ABG\) Calculator](#)



ABG Interpretation for Nurses: Everything You Need To Know To Interpret Arterial Blood Gases by Ken Williams

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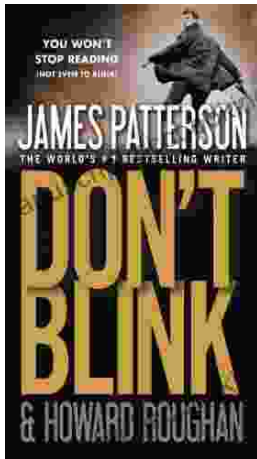
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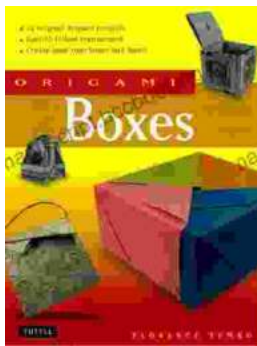
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