

# REDISCOVERING URINE ELECTROLYTES FOR DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS AND PROGNOSIS OF AKI

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**UNIVERSITY OF SÃO PAULO**

CRRT Conference – February 2012  
Friday, February 17, 7:30-7:45

# OUTLINE

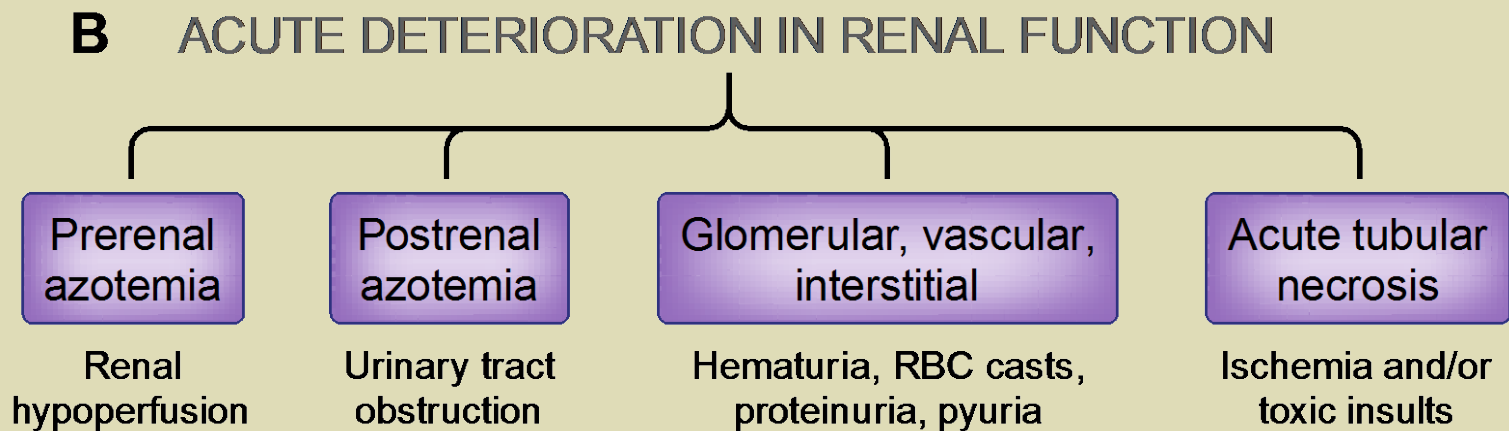
- ✓ Factors affecting the sensitivity and specificity of urine electrolytes to determine
  - ✓ reversibility of acute kidney injury
  - ✓ severity
- ✓ Discuss the interpretation of urine electrolytes in acid-base imbalances.
- ✓ Propose the use of SIDu to monitor tubular acidifying capacity in AKI.

# Urine electrolytes

- Differential diagnosis of natremia disorders
- Correct interpretation of urinary electrolytes
- Pre-renal versus acute tubular necrosis

# Diagnostic Value of Urinary Sodium, Chloride, Urea, and Flow

Robert W. Schrier



# Urinary sodium reflects ECFV

- modest changes in ECFV (extra-cellular fluid volume) or total body sodium
  - ▣ stimulation of renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system - . sympathetic nervous system
    - Decreases urinary excretion of Na
      - Urine Na concentration
      - FE Na

# When Urinary Sodium does not Reflect ECFV (or Total Body Sodium)

- Diuretics
- Bicarbonaturia – in metabolic alkalosis or proximal tubular acidosis
- Increase in solute excretion may also increase urinary sodium losses by the normal kidney
  - ▣ Glucosuria
  - ▣ Mannitol

# Chronic Kidney Disease

- GFR < 60 ml/min)
  - ▣ the renal response not maximal
  - ▣ Can take days
  - ▣ can still decrease in patients with CKD who are not at end-stage

# Established Acute Tubular Necrosis

- Urinary sodium concentration will not be minimal, even with substantial ECFV depletion



# Causes of falsely low Urine Na in patients with an intrinsic cause of AKI

- Selected causes of acute tubular necrosis
  - ▣ Early in contrast-mediated acute renal dysfunction
  - ▣ Rhabdomyolysis
  - ▣ Myoglobinuria, hemoglobinuria
  - ▣ Nonoliguric acute tubular necrosis
- Acute glomerulonephritis
- Acute interstitial nephritis
- Early in sepsis – functional AKI?

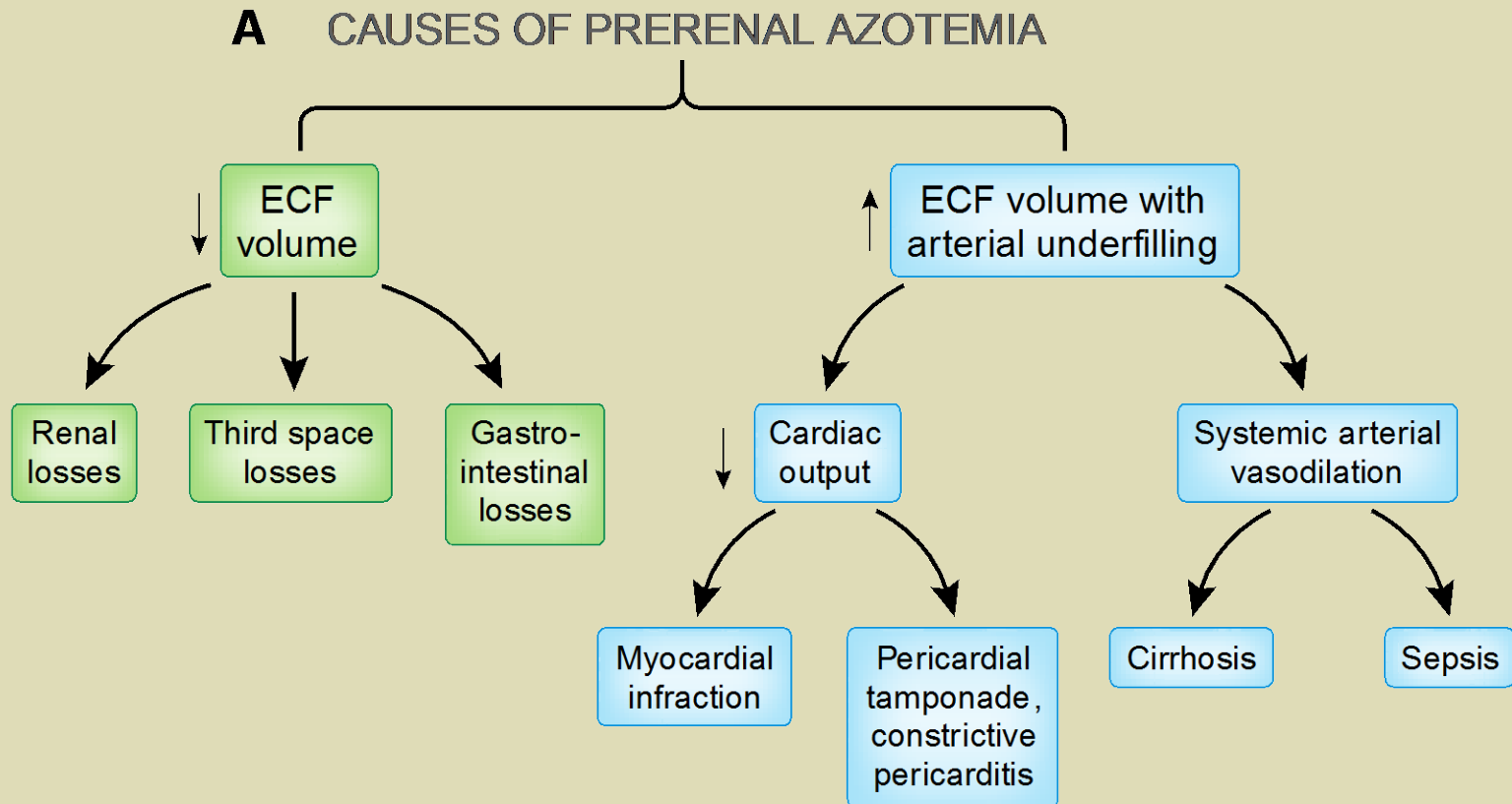
# Low Urine Na with high ECFV

## Underfilling

- Stimulus of the normal kidney to retain sodium is not ECFV depletion or even decreased total plasma volume
  - Arterial baroreceptors in the carotid sinus, aortic arch, and juxtaglomerular apparatus are unloaded with reversal of tonic inhibition to central nervous system
  - Can be associated with ECFV expansion
    - Decrease in stroke volume
    - Primary systemic arterial vasodilation
- Differentiate a reversible renal dysfunction (“pre-renal”) with acute tubular necrosis (ATN)
  - Cannot by a parameter to guide fluid resuscitation

# Diagnostic Value of Urinary Sodium, Chloride, Urea, and Flow

Robert W. Schrier



# Urinary diagnostic indices in AKI

## $FE_{Na}$ vs $FE_{UREA}$

- The  $FENa < 1.0$  in 85 to 94% of patients with prerenal azotemia
  - ▣ within 24 to 72 h
  - ▣ reversal of kidney function secondary to interventions:
    - such as fluid resuscitation or
    - improved cardiac output.
- Did not reverse their  $sCr$  and thus had oliguric ATN
  - $FENa < 1.0$  in only 0 to 4%.

What about the FE Urea?

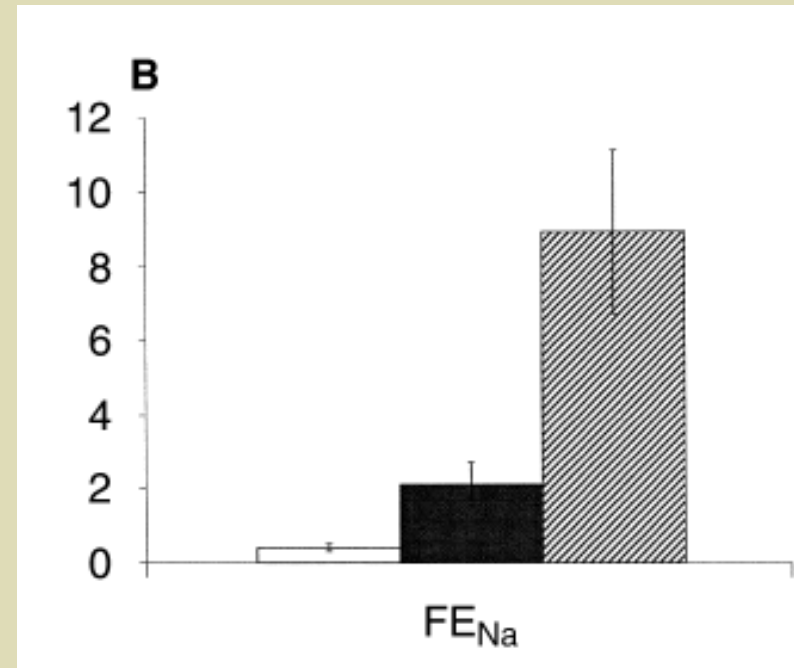
# Fractional Excretion of Urea

- More helpful than FENa in distinguishing prerenal azotemia from ATN in patients on diuretics
- Urea reabsorption in prerenal states
  - ▣ ECFV depletion
  - ▣ Heart failure
  - ▣ Cirrhosis
  - ▣ Is enhanced in the proximal tubule before the sites of diuretic action in the downstream tubule

# Significance of The Fractional Excretion of Urea in The Differential Diagnosis of Acute Renal Failure

CHRISTOS P. CARVOUNIS, SABEEHA NISAR, and SAMERAH GURO-RAZUMAN

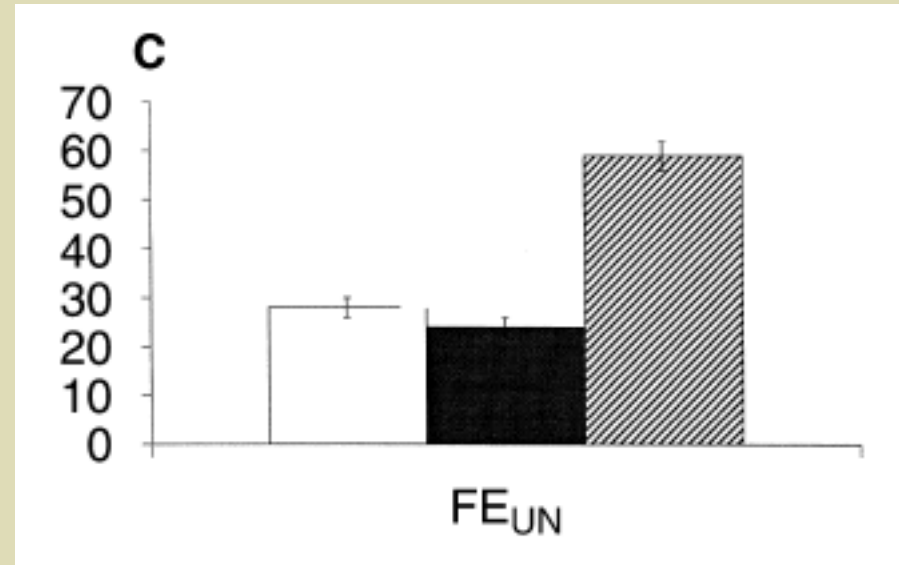
- FEUN vs FENa in 102 episodes of ARF
- three groups:
  - Prerenal no diuretics n= 50
    - 92% FENa < 1%
  - Prerenal with diuretics n= 27
    - 48% FENa < 1%
  - ATN n = 25



# Significance of The Fractional Excretion of Urea in The Differential Diagnosis of Acute Renal Failure

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- Prerenal no diuretics n= 50
  - 92%  $FENa < 1\%$
- Prerenal with diuretics n= 27
  - 48%  $FENa < 1\%$
  - 89%  $Fe_{urea} < 85\%$
- ATN n = 25
- FE Urea identical in the two pre-renal groups
  - (27.9 2.4% vs. 24.5 2.3%)
  - ATN (58.6%)





# Diagnostic Performance of Fractional Excretion of Urea and Fractional Excretion of Sodium in the Evaluations of Patients With Acute Kidney Injury With or Without Diuretic Treatment

Marie-Noëlle Pépin, MD, Josée Bouchard, MD, Louis Legault, MD, and Jean Éthier, MD

- Prospective study
- Feur vs FENa - transient and persistent AKI
- 99 patients AKI
  - ( $\geq 30\%$  sCr within 1 week)
  - returned to baseline within 7 days

# Performance of FE $\leq$ 35% and FENa $\leq$ 1% for the Diagnosis of Transient Acute Kidney Injury

Irrespective of diuretic intake:

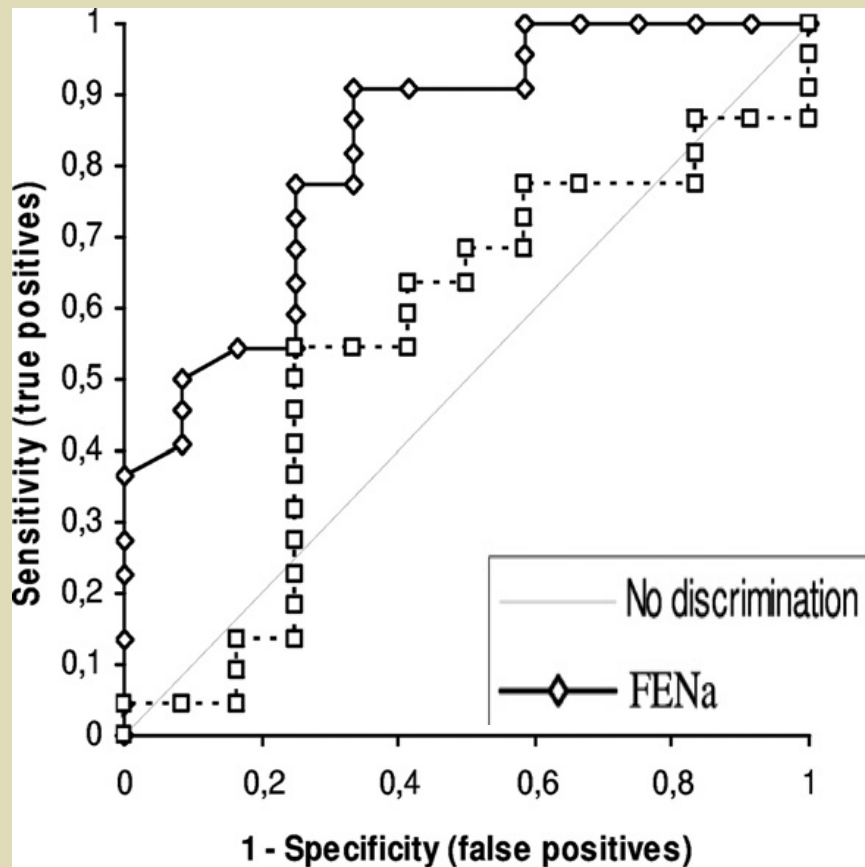
FENa was less in T-AKI than P-AKI ( $2 \pm 4\%$  vs  $5 \pm 6\%$ ;  $P=0.001$ )

FEur was similar in T-AKI ( $29 \pm 19\%$ ) and P-AKI ( $32 \pm 19\%$ ;  $P=0.3$ ).

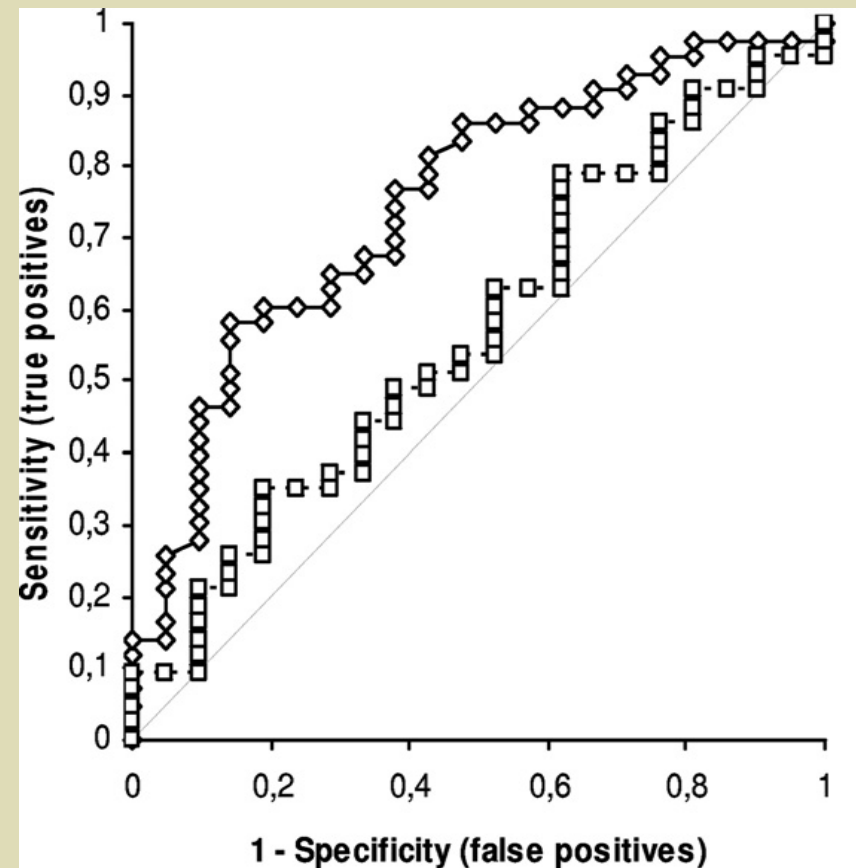
	No Diuretics		Diuretics	
	FEur	FENa	FEur	FENa
Sensitivity (%)	48	78	79	58
Specificity (%)	75	75	33	81
Positive predictive value (%)	79	86	71	86
Negative predictive value (%)	43	64	44	49

# ROC Curves For FEur Fena for Diagnosis of Transient AKI Patients With and Without Diuretic Intake.

No diuretic – 0.56 vs 0.86



Diuretic – 0.57 vs 0.75



# Definition of Prerenal Azotemia

“Prerenal azotemia is classically defined as decreased GFR resulting from renal hypoperfusion in a structurally intact kidney, which is rapidly reversible when the underlying cause is corrected”

## ✓ No consensus definition for PRA

- “reversible increase in serum creatinine and urea concentrations,
- characterized by intact renal parenchymal function but renal hypoperfusion”

# Functional vs Histopathological concepts

**Reversible:  
Functional**

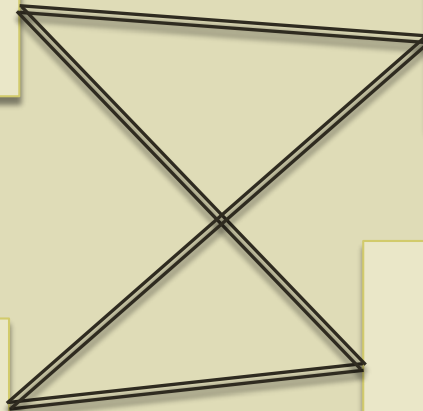
**Intact Parenchyma  
Histopathological**

**Transient  
Azotemia**

**Pre-renal  
Azotemia**

**Persistent  
Azotemia**

**Acute tubular  
necrosis  
(ATN)**



# How Studies Classify Prerenal Patients

“Prerenal AKI was defined as an abrupt decline in baseline kidney function that improved to 10% of baseline after fluid resuscitation and/or hemodynamic manipulation within 48 h.”

# Definitions of PRA used in studies differentiating PRA and ATN

Author	Year	Test	Definitions of PRA
<b>Perlmutter</b>	1959	Urine-serum urea nitrogen ratio	Oliguria and azotemia lasting less than 48 hrs.
<b>Espinel</b>	1976	FE-Na	Prompt increase in urinary output and creatinine clearance effected by hemodynamic improvement.
<b>Miller</b>	1978	Urinary indices	Return of renal function to normal within 24 to 72 hrs after correction of hemodynamics.
<b>Platt</b>	1991	Doppler ultrasound	Clinical judgment (definitions not mentioned).
<b>Chew</b>	1993	Urinary enzymes	Rapid recovery of renal function after treatment of hypotension or dehydration.
<b>Steinhauslin</b>	1994	FE-lithium, FE-UA	Decrease in plasma creatinine toward normal values within 72 hrs of correction of hemodynamic abnormalities.
<b>Izumi</b>	2000	Doppler ultrasound	Not clearly mentioned, but FENa used.
<b>Carvounis</b>	2002	FE-urea	Prompt increase in urinary output and creatinine clearance after hemodynamic improvement.
<b>Parikh</b>	2004	Urinary IL-18	Multiple definitions but included improvement after treatment.
<b>Pepin</b>	2007	FE-Na, FE-urea	Two of 4 criteria (history, physical findings, urine analysis, rapid return to baseline renal function within 7 days).
<b>Perazella</b>	2008	Urine microscopy	Improvement to baseline after fluid resuscitation and/or hemodynamic manipulation within 48 hrs.
<b>Nickolas</b>	2008	Urinary NGAL	Resolved within 3 days or FENa <1%

Is it important to diagnose transient  
AKI?



# Transient vs Prolonged AKI Difference in Outcomes

## Rapid Reversal of AKI and Hospital Outcomes: A Retrospective Cohort Study

- ▣ Tian, J Am J Kidney Dis 53: 974-981; 2009

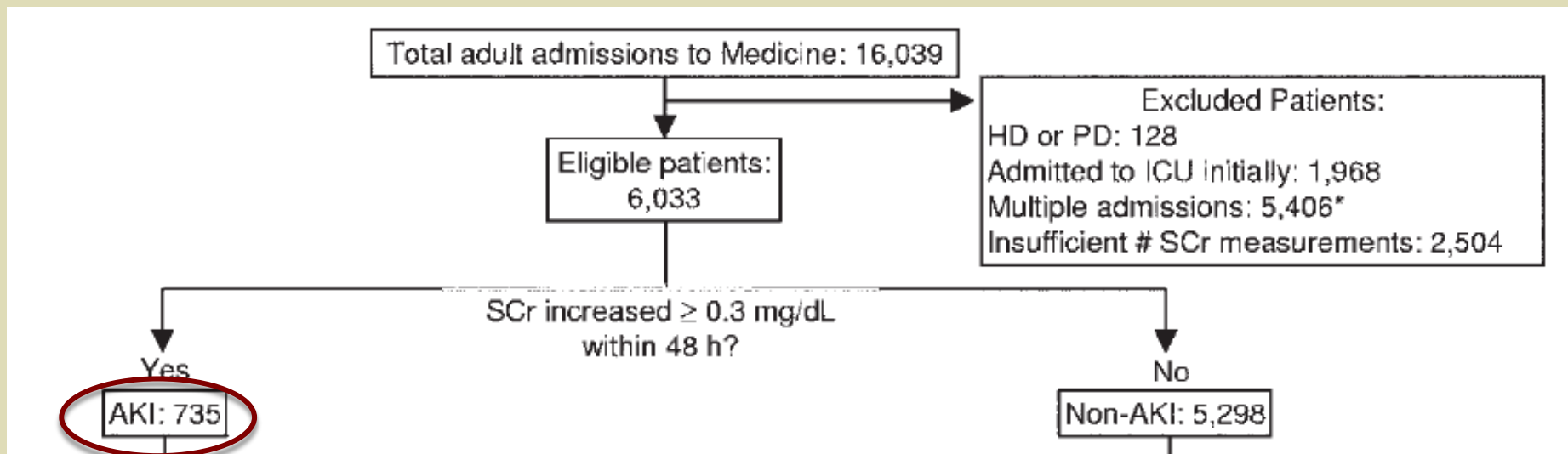
## Transiente Azotemia is Associated with a high risk of death in hospitalized patients

- ▣ Uchino, Nephrol Dial Transplant; 2010

# Rapid Reversal AKI

## Rapid Reversal of Acute Kidney Injury and Hospital Outcomes: A Retrospective Cohort Study

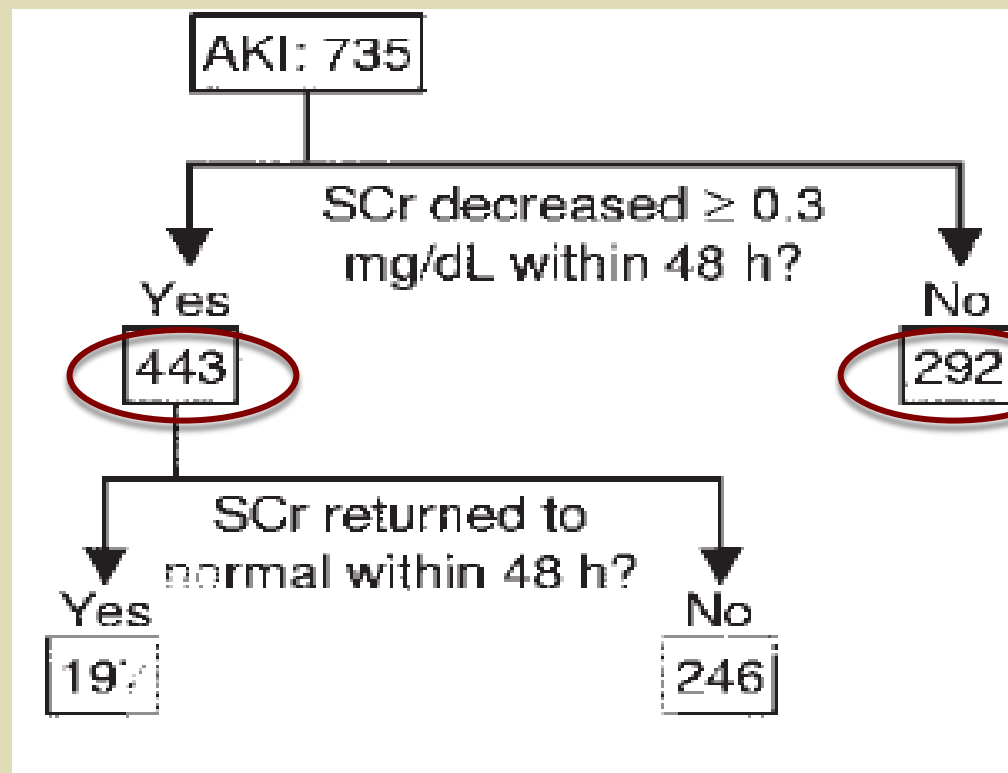
*Jianmin Tian, MD, MPH, Fidel Barrantes, MD, Yaw Amoateng-Adjepong, MD, PhD,  
and Constantine A. Manthous, MD*



# Rapid Reversal AKI

443 rapid reversal AKI – more than 0.3mg/dL decrease within 48 h

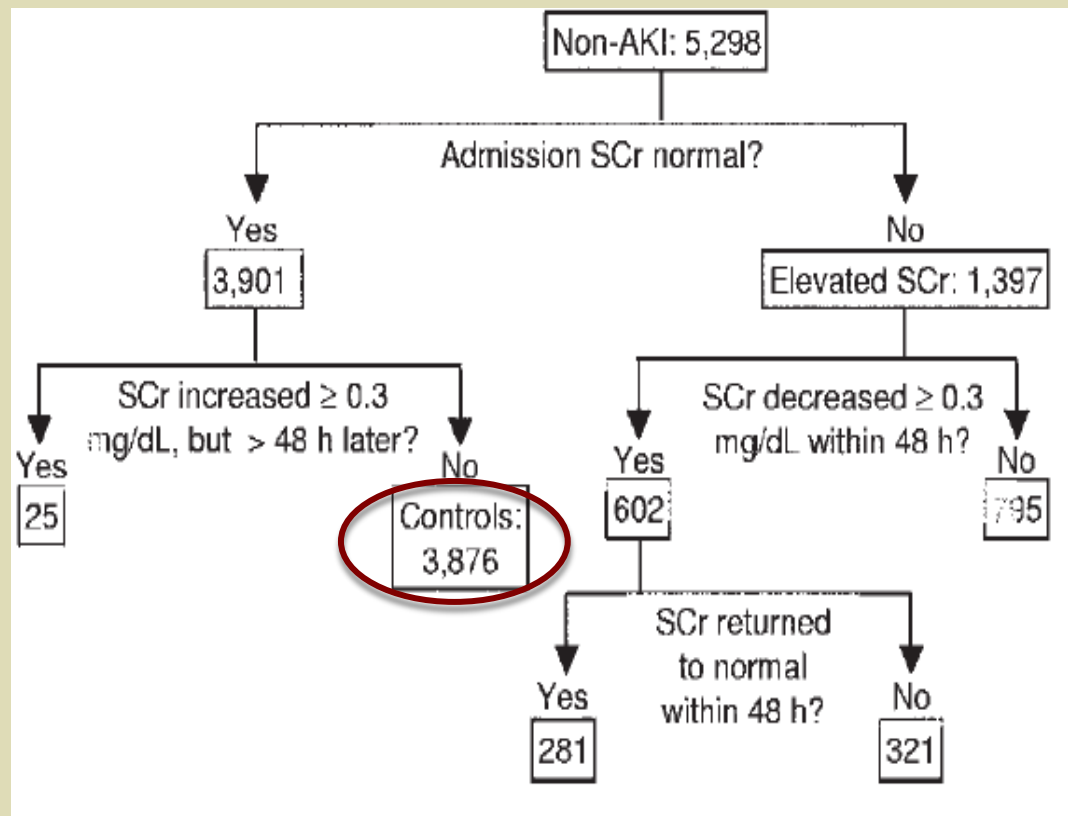
292 prolonged AKI – no improvement after 48 h of the diagnosis



# Rapid Reversal AKI

## Controls:

No AKI no AKI  
ate ICU admission  
or during ICU  
stay



# Rapid Reversal AKI

Older

More  
comorbidity

Worse  
outcomes

Than controls

	Control	Patients With AKI With SCr That Decreased $\geq 0.3$ mg/dL Within 48 h	
	No. of Patients (%)	No. of Patients (%)	<i>P</i> *
No. of patients	3,876	443	
Age (y)			<0.001
$\geq 65$	1,842 (47.5)	304 (68.6)	
<65	2,034 (52.5)	139 (31.4)	
Mean $\pm$ SE	62 $\pm$ 0.3	71 $\pm$ 0.7	
Sex			0.005
Men	1,662 (42.9)	221 (49.9)	
Women	2,214 (57.1)	222 (50.1)	
Race			<0.001
White	2,575 (66.4)	302 (68.2)	
African American	621 (16.0)	95 (21.4)	
Other	680 (17.6)	46 (10.4)	
Deyo-Charlson comorbidity index score $\ddagger$			<0.001
0	2,134 (55.1)	100 (22.6)	<0.001
1-2	1,437 (37.1)	222 (50.1)	<0.001
3-4	197 (5.1)	81 (18.3)	<0.001
$\geq 5$	105 (2.7)	40 (9.0)	<0.001
Transfer to intensive care unit	184 (4.7)	160 (36.1)	<0.001
Mean length of stay (d)	5 $\pm$ 0.1	14 $\pm$ 0.6	<0.001
Hospital mortality	49 (1.3)	59 (13.3)	<0.001
Discharge $\S$			<0.001
Home	3,049 (78.7)	202 (45.6)	
Extended-care facility	655 (16.9)	170 (38.4)	
Hospice care	16 (0.4)	0 (0)	

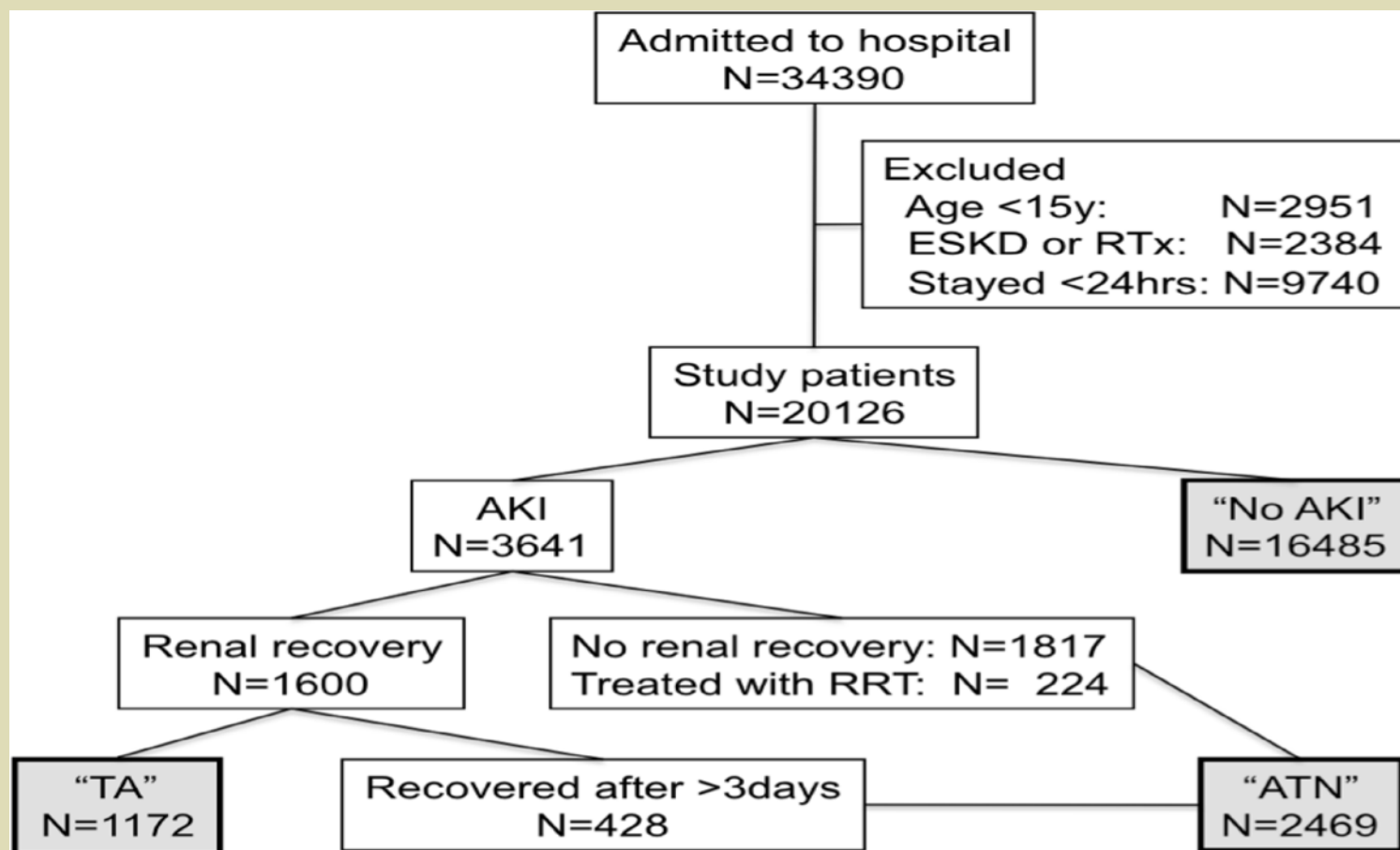
# Rapid Reversal AKI

## Associated mortality

	Unadjusted Odds Ratio (95% confidence interval)	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% confidence interval)
Transient AKI	AKI fully reversed*†	4.4 (2.6-7.3)
	AKI with SCr that did not return to normal*	4.4 (2.7-7.1)
Prolonged AKI	AKI with SCr that did not decrease $\geq 0.3$ mg/dL within 48 h*	8.0 (5.4-11.8)
	Age ( $\geq 65$ y)	3.2 (2.1-4.8)
	Intensive care unit transfer	4.0 (2.8-5.8)
	Deyo-Charlson comorbidity index score‡	1.4 (1.1-1.6)

# Transient azotaemia is associated with a high risk of death in hospitalized patients

Shigehiko Uchino<sup>1</sup>, Rinaldo Bellomo<sup>2</sup>, Sean M. Bagshaw<sup>3</sup> and Donna Goldsmith<sup>2</sup>



# Transient Azotemia

Risk for hospital mortality 3 times higher for patients with prolonged AKI

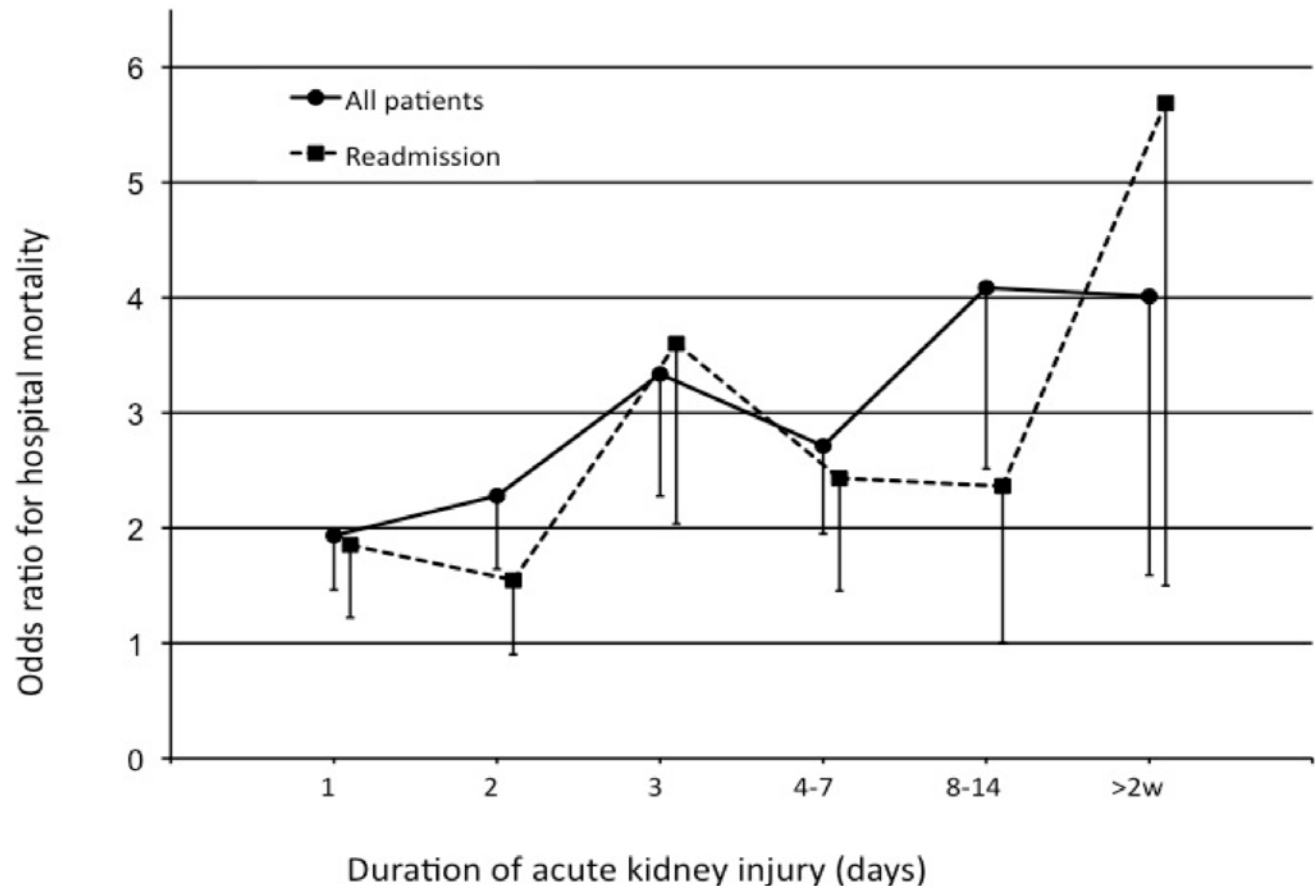
**Table 4.** Multivariate logistic regression analysis for hospital mortality

Variables	Odds ratios (95% CI)	
Age, years	1.036 (1.031–1.041)	<i>P</i> < 0.0001
Male gender	1.199 (1.060–1.356)	<i>P</i> = 0.0038
Readmission	1.860 (1.636–2.115)	<i>P</i> < 0.0001
Emergency admission	1.543 (1.327–1.795)	<i>P</i> < 0.0001
ICU admission	3.181 (2.500–4.048)	<i>P</i> < 0.0001
Mechanical ventilation	5.007 (3.826–6.552)	<i>P</i> < 0.0001
Baseline creatinine, mg/dL	1.514 (1.332–1.722)	<i>P</i> < 0.0001
Operation	0.809 (0.665–0.983)	<i>P</i> = 0.033
Renal condition		
No AKI	1.000 (Reference)	
ATN	6.070 (5.305–6.944)	<i>P</i> < 0.0001
TA	2.264 (1.856–2.762)	<i>P</i> < 0.0001



# Transient Azotemia

Days with AKI and risk for mortality



# Transient AKI

- ✓ Is common (4-6% of hospitalized patients).
- ✓ Independent association with increased mortality.
- ✓ Associated with higher hospital mortality compared to patients with no AKI.
- ✓ Even one day of AKI had a significantly increased odds ratio for hospital mortality.

# Functional vs Histopathological concepts

**Reversible:  
Functional**

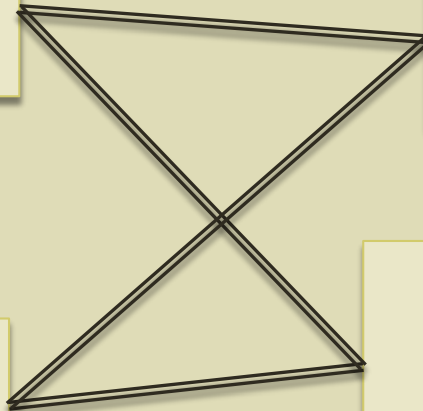
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**Transient  
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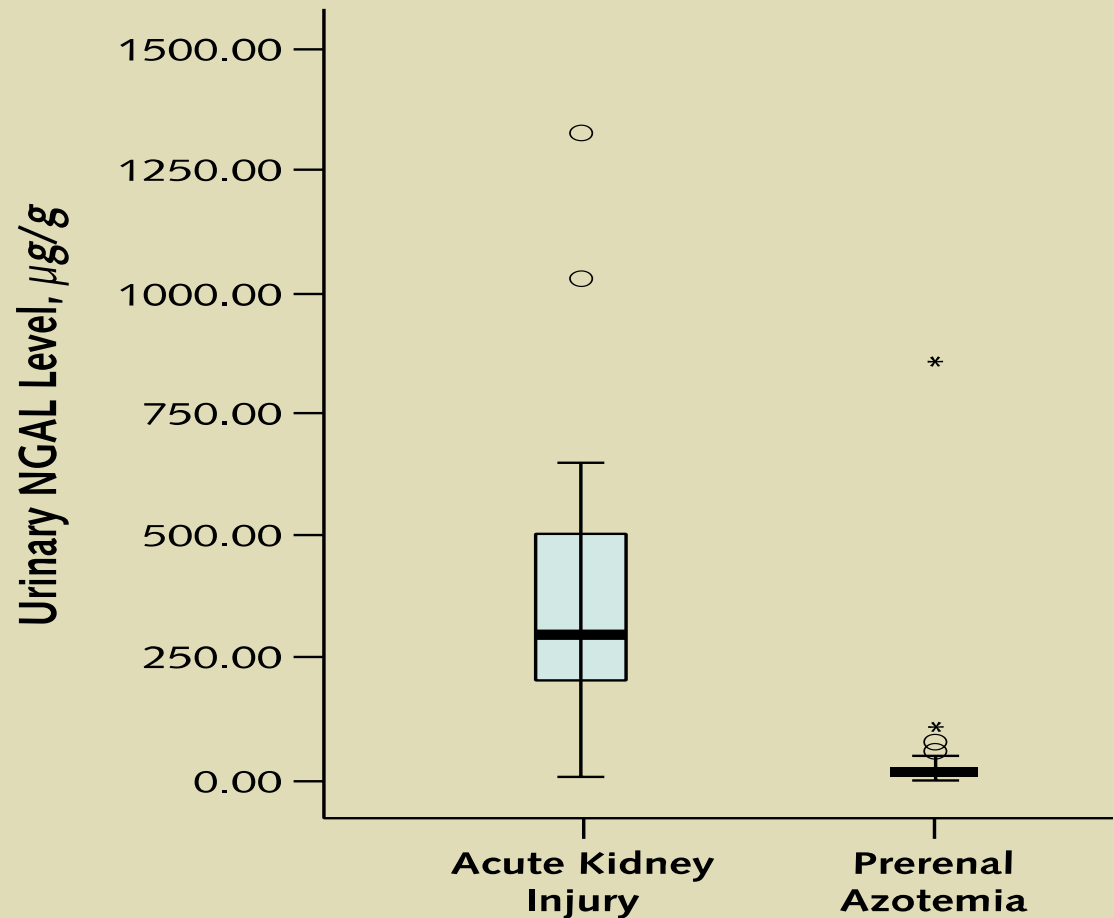
# Sensitivity and Specificity of a Single ED Measurement of Urinary NGAL for Diagnosing AKI

Prerenal azotemia:

new-onset increase in sCr level (RIFLE)

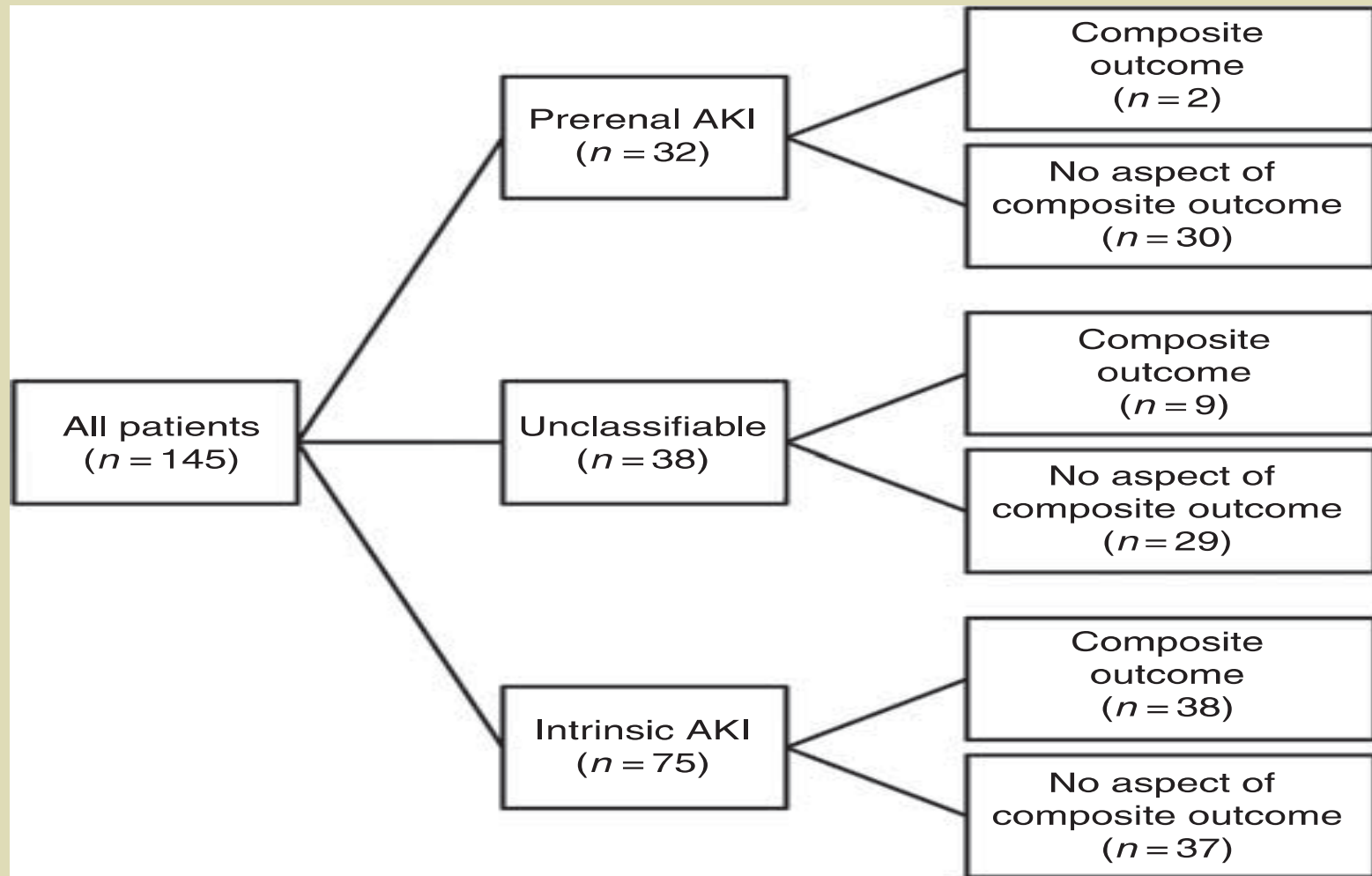
And

Resolved within 3 days with treatment aimed at restoring perfusion



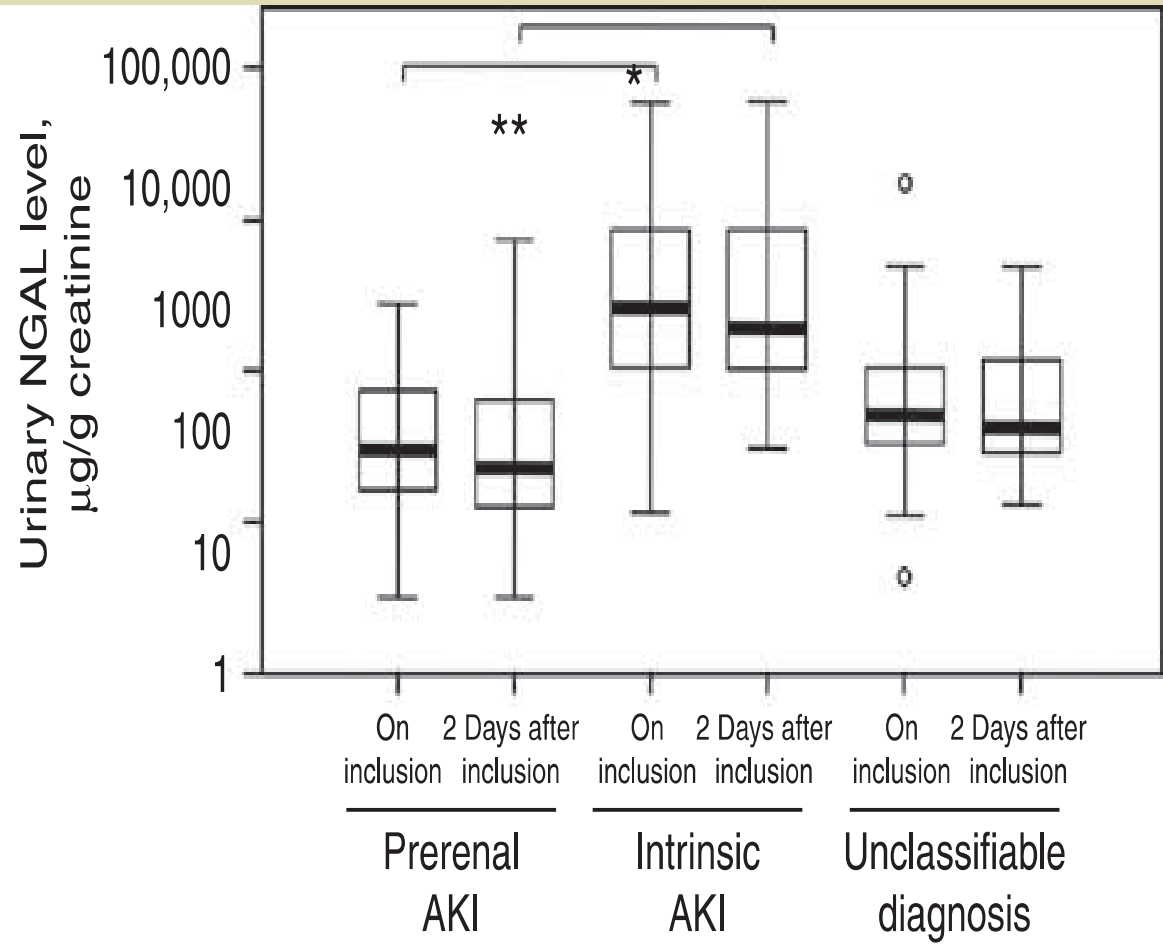
# Urinary NGAL distinguishes pre-renal from intrinsic renal failure and predicts outcomes

Eugenia Singer, Antje Elger, Saban Elitok<sup>2</sup>, Ralph Kettritz<sup>1</sup>, Thomas L. Nickolas, Jonathan Barasch<sup>3</sup>, Friedrich C. Luft<sup>1,2</sup> and Kai M. Schmidt-Ott<sup>1</sup>,



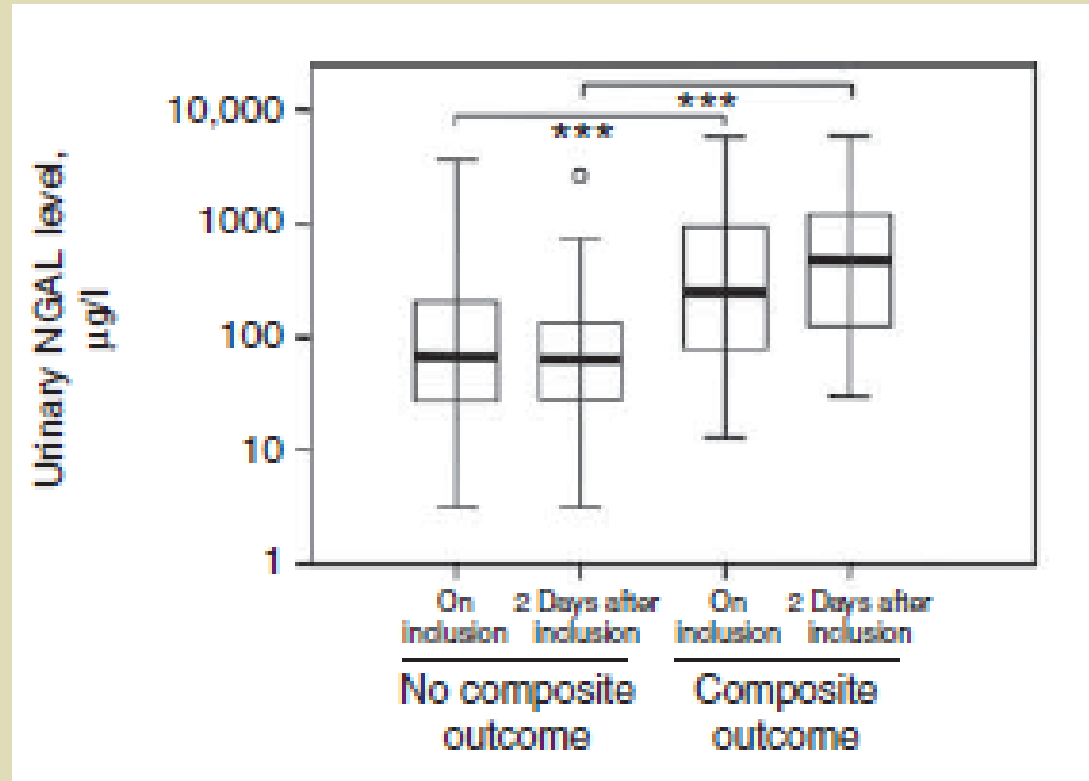
# Biomarker levels in differential diagnosis of AKI and prediction of outcomes.

NGAL levels were significantly higher in patients with a clinical diagnosis of intrinsic AKI when compared with prerenal AKI



# Biomarker levels in differential diagnosis of AKI and prediction of outcomes.

Median NGAL levels on inclusion and 2 days after inclusion were significantly higher in patients, who later experienced the composite clinical outcome, when compared with all others



# Biomarkers in Predicting Intrinsic AKI vs Prerenal AKI

- NGAL levels effectively discriminated between intrinsic and prerenal AKI
  - area under the receiver-operating characteristic curve 0.87
- An NGAL level
  - over 104 Ig/l indicated intrinsic
  - < 47 Ig/l – unlikely intrinsic AKI



# Current Concepts of Reversibility

- Reversibility with manipulation
  - ▣ Fluid
  - ▣ Hemodynamics
- Common in certain settings
  - ▣ Dehydration
  - ▣ Hypotension
- Biomarkers
  - ▣ Urine output
  - ▣ Changes in BUN/Creatinine/Electrolytes in serum and urine

# Clinical review: Reunification of acid–base physiology

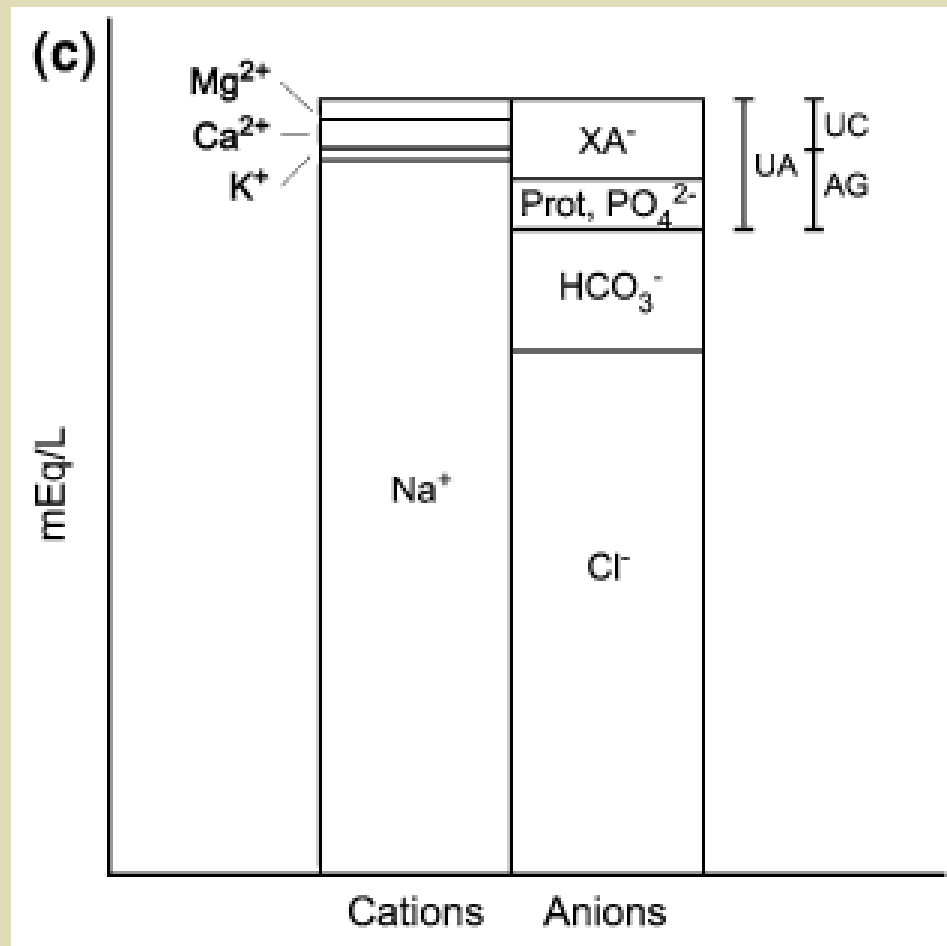
John A Kellum

**Figure 1**

Descriptive	Semi-quantitative	Quantitative	
Henderson-Hasselbalch	Base Excess	Physical Chemical	
pCO <sub>2</sub> “Fixed acids” H <sup>+</sup>	pCO <sub>2</sub> Buffer Base	pCO <sub>2</sub> SID A <sub>TOT</sub>	<b>Affecters</b>
HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> Anion Gap	SBE	SIG	<b>Markers &amp; Derived Variables</b>

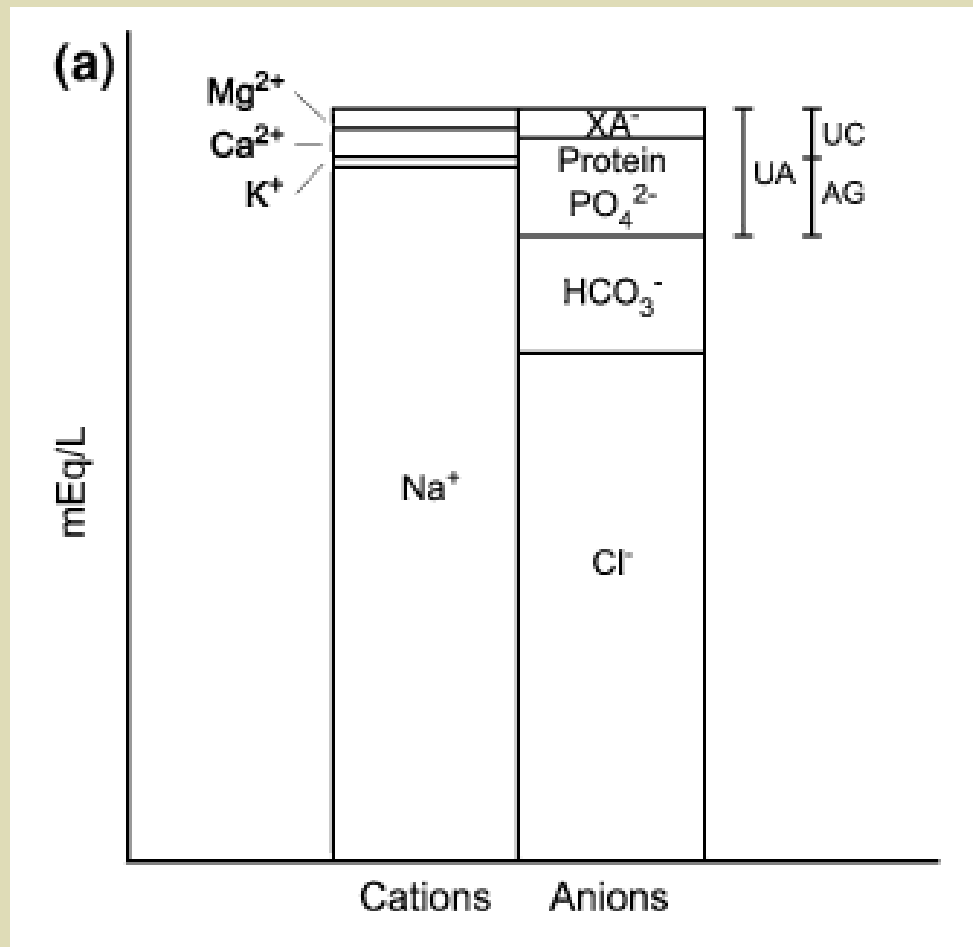
# Diagnosing metabolic acidosis in the critically ill: bridging the anion gap, Stewart, and base excess

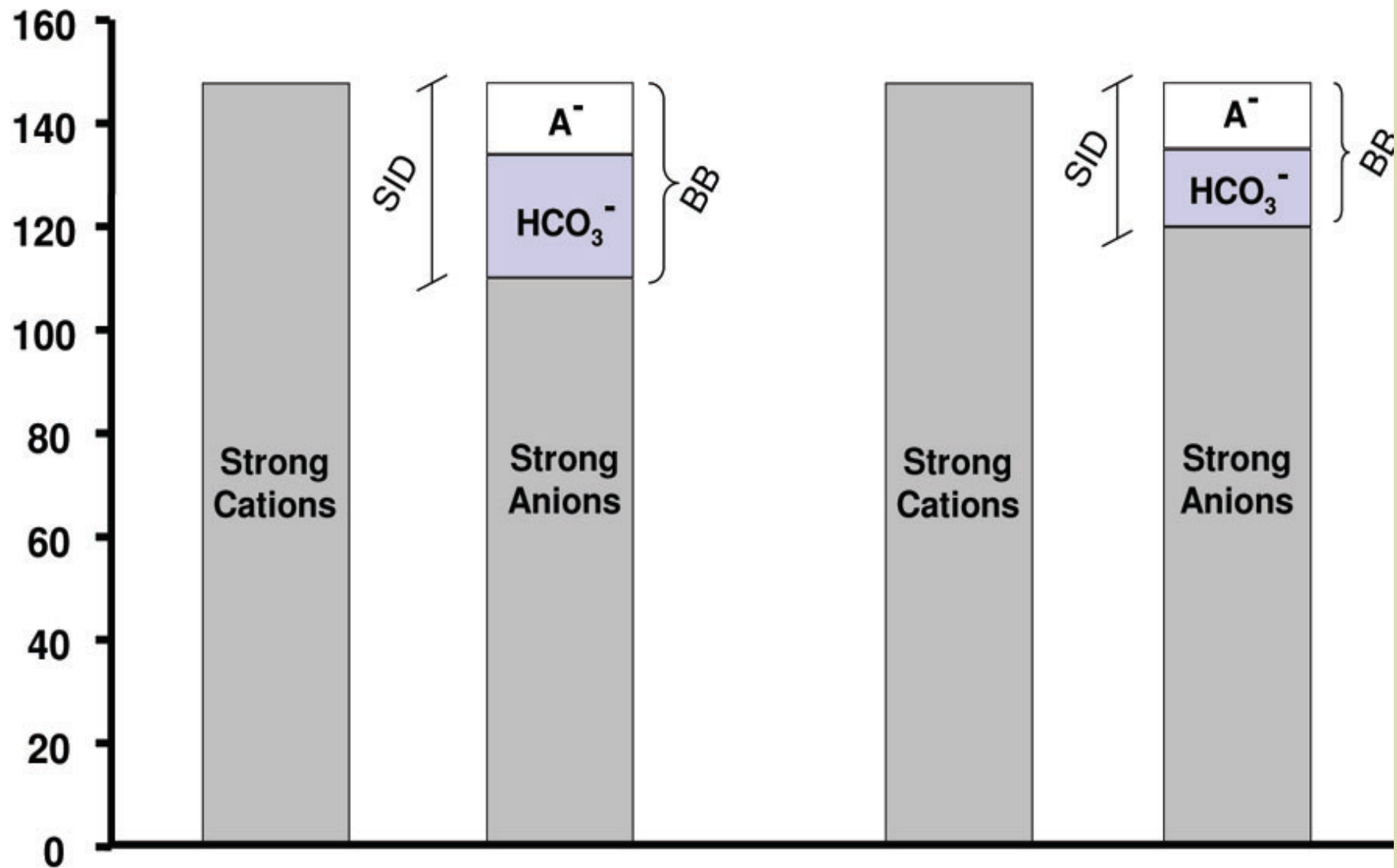
Christina Fidkowski, MD *Æ* James Helstrom, MD



# Diagnosing metabolic acidosis in the critically ill: bridging the anion gap, Stewart, and base excess

Christina Fidkowski, MD Æ James Helstrom, MD





**Ideal conditions**

**Acidosis**

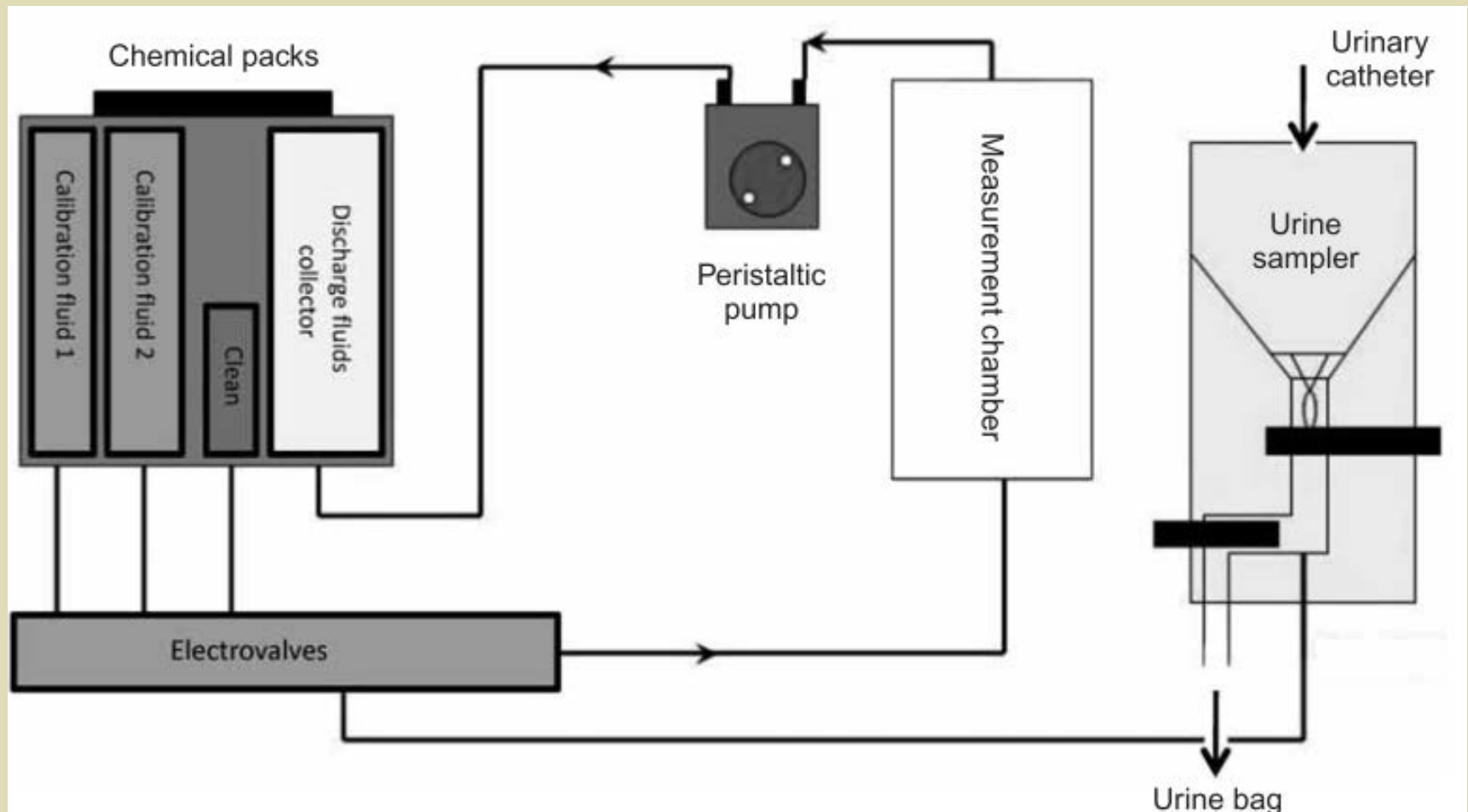
# Kidney instant monitoring: a new analyzer to monitor kidney function

CAIRONI<sup>1, 2</sup>, T. LANGER<sup>1</sup>, P. TACCONE<sup>2</sup>, P. BRUZZONE<sup>2</sup>, S. DE CHIARA<sup>2</sup>, F. VAGGINELLI<sup>2</sup>, L. CASPANI<sup>2</sup>, C. MARENGHI<sup>2</sup>, L. GATTINONI

- As the kidney has been classically seen as a “slow” organ in the correction of acid-base disturbances, especially as compared to the “fast” lung

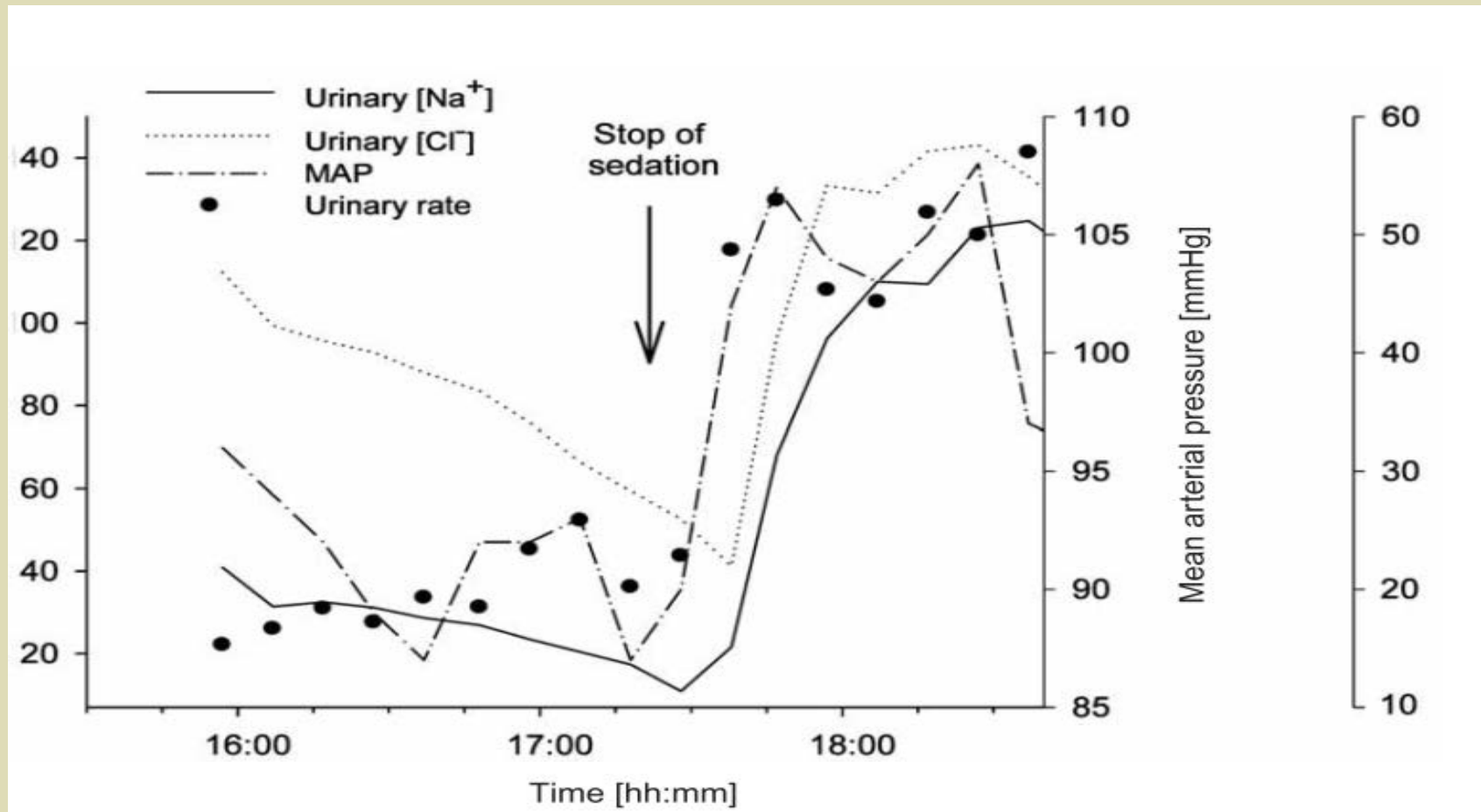
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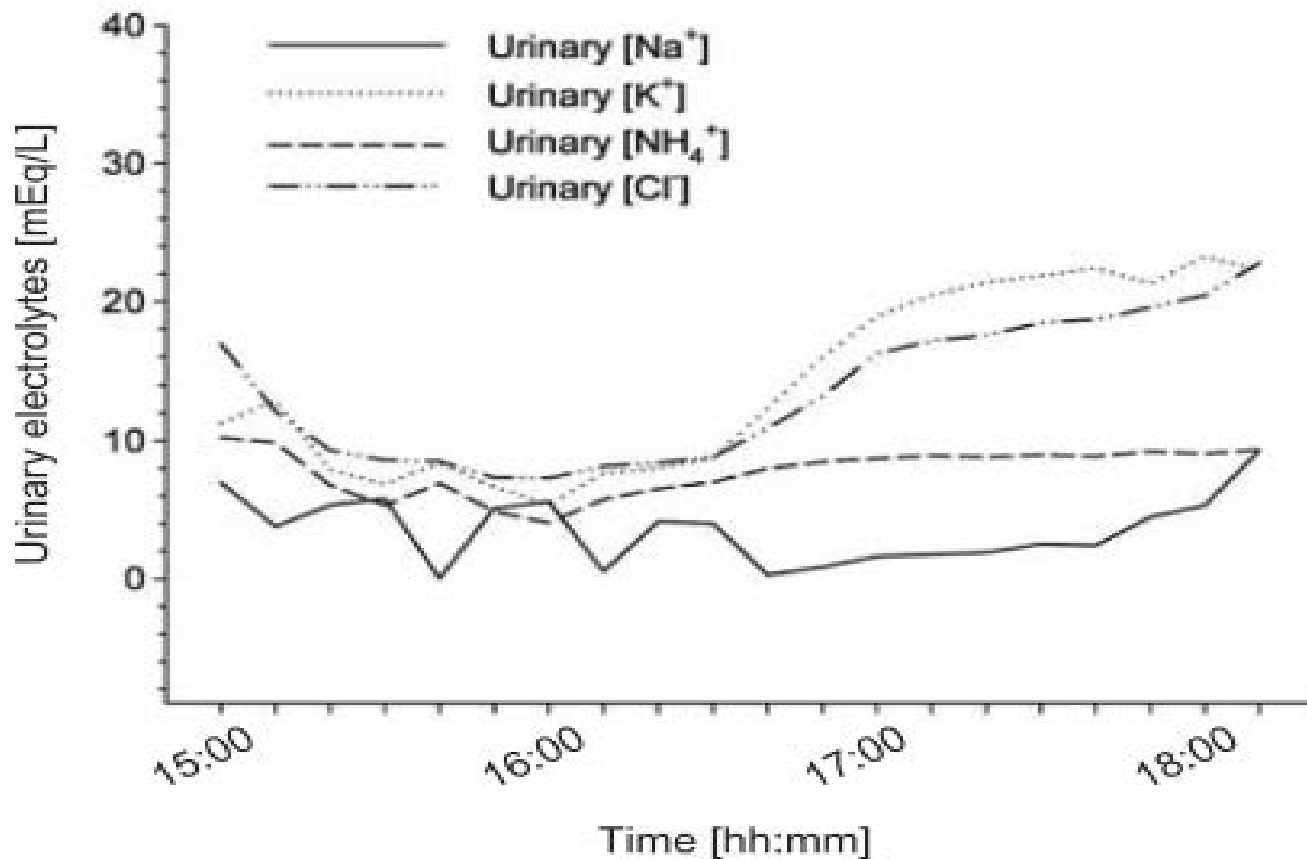
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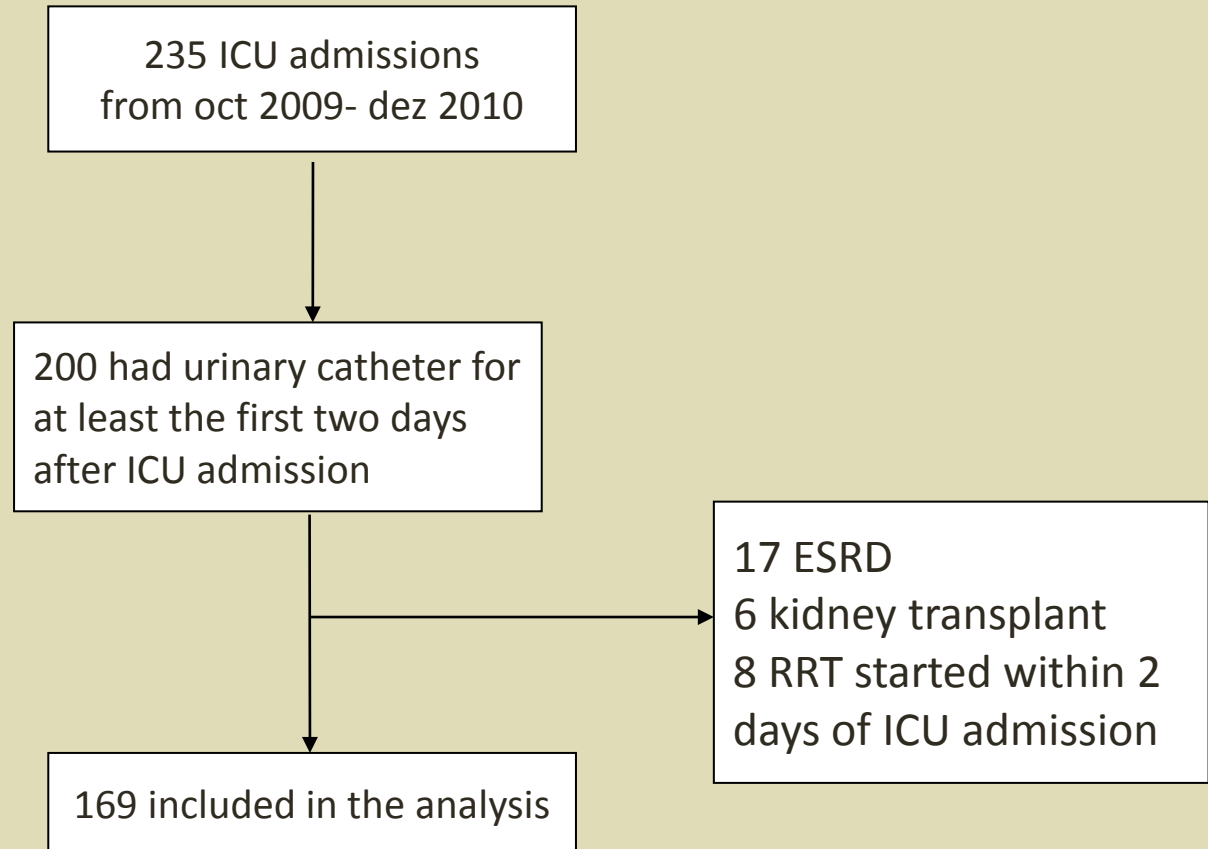
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# Monitoring of Urine Electrolytes in a Clinical ICU

4 bedroom  
Clinical ICU

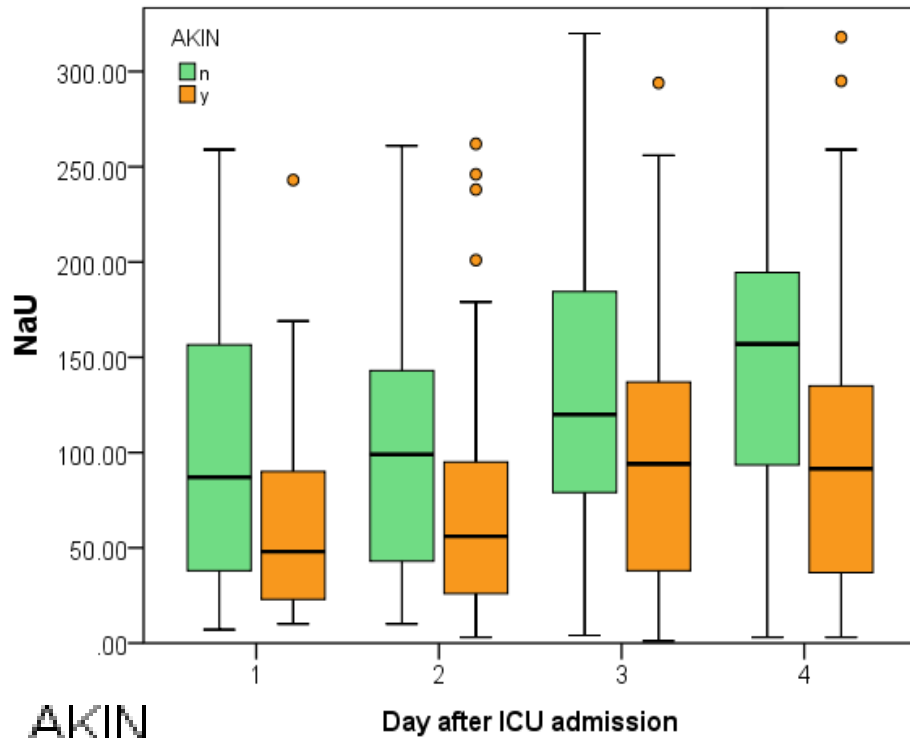
prospectively  
recorded  
daily blood  
and spot  
urinary  
electrolytes  
from patients  
with urinary  
catheters  
admitted to  
our ICU



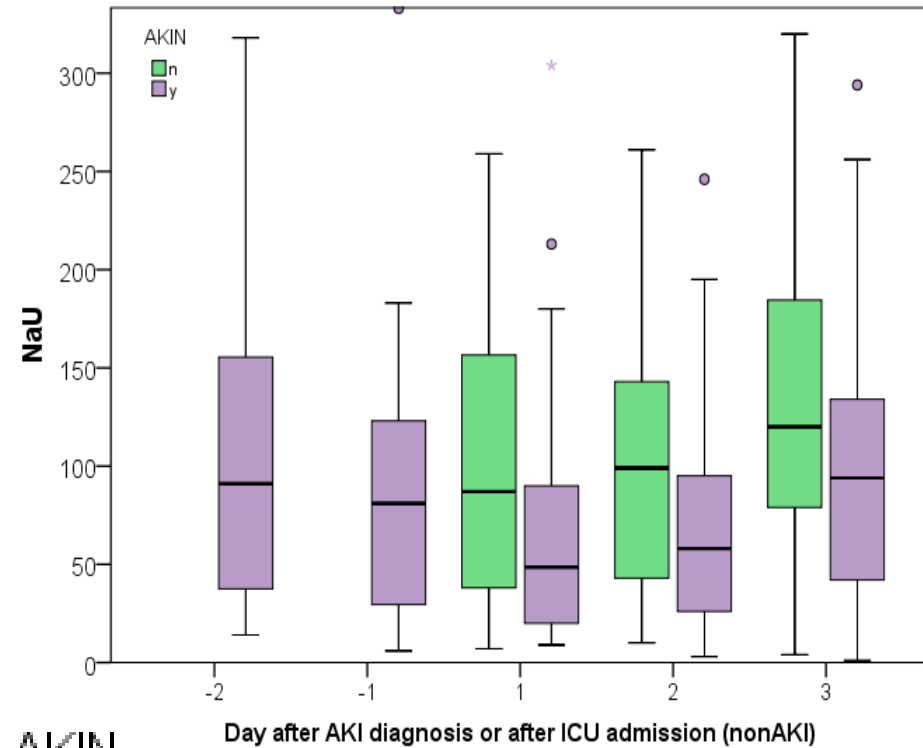
# Urine Na

All patients after ICU admission

After AKI diagnosis or after ICU admission for non-AKI



AKIN

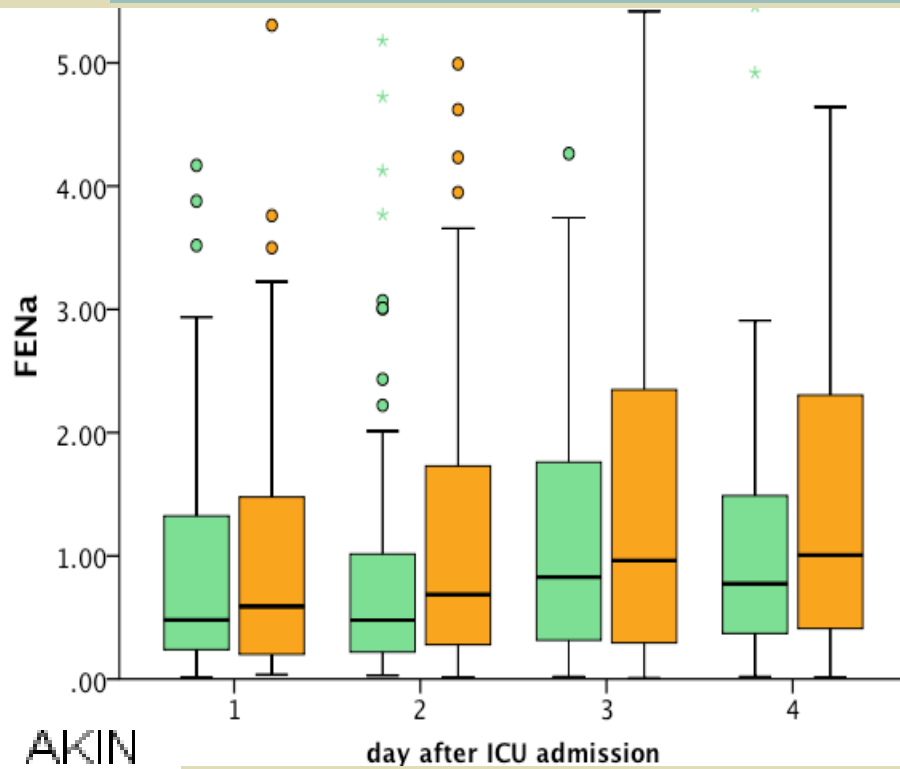


AKIN



# FE Na

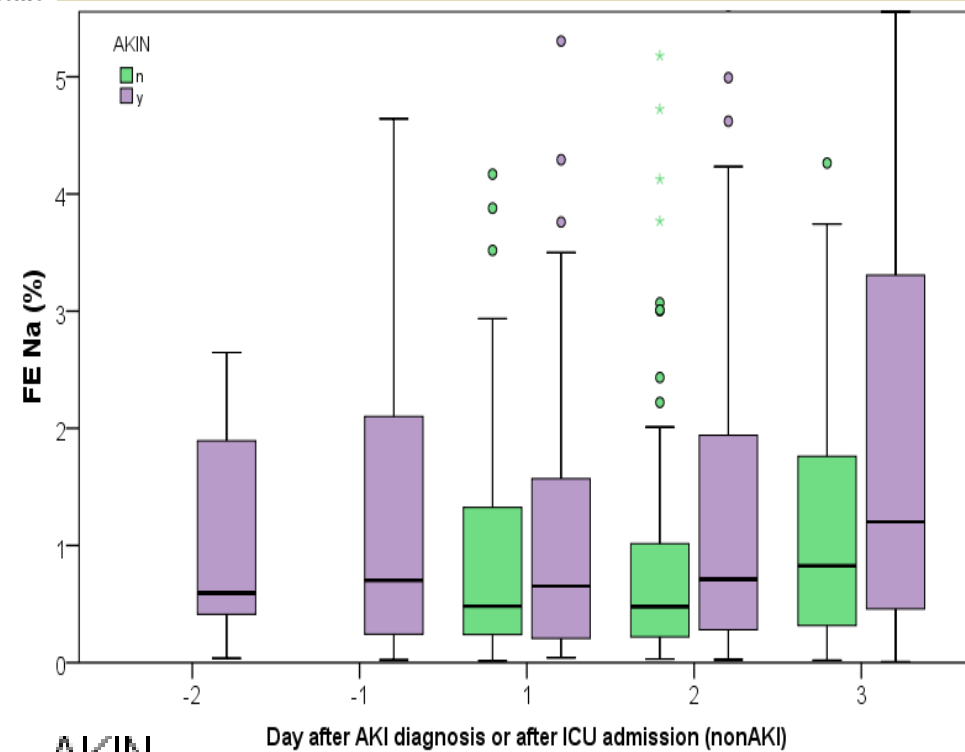
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AKIN



After AKI diagnosis or after ICU admission for non-AKI

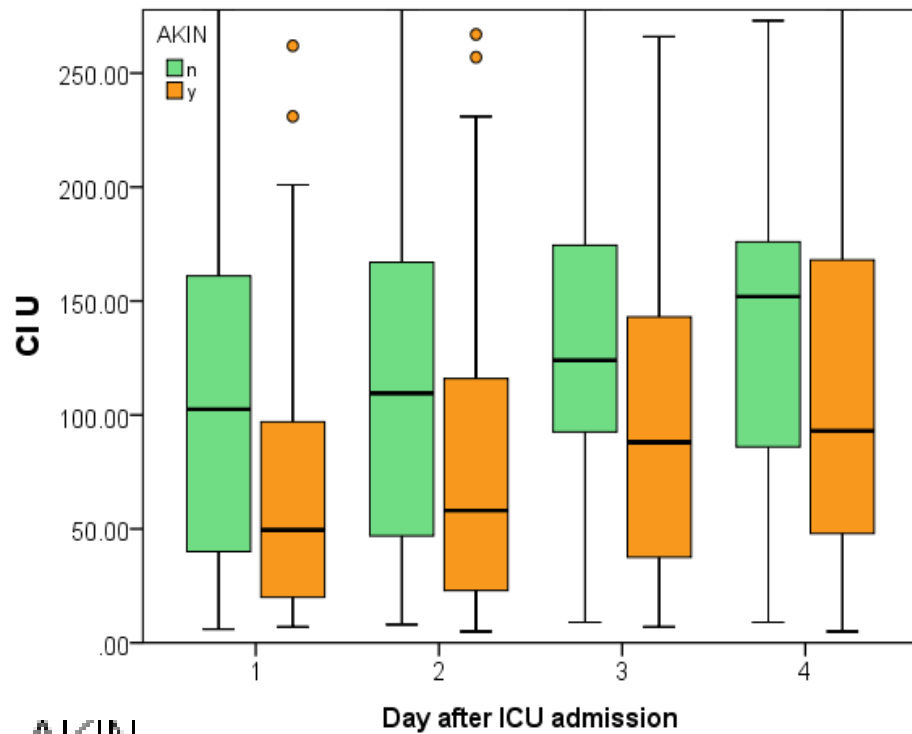


AKIN



# Urine CI

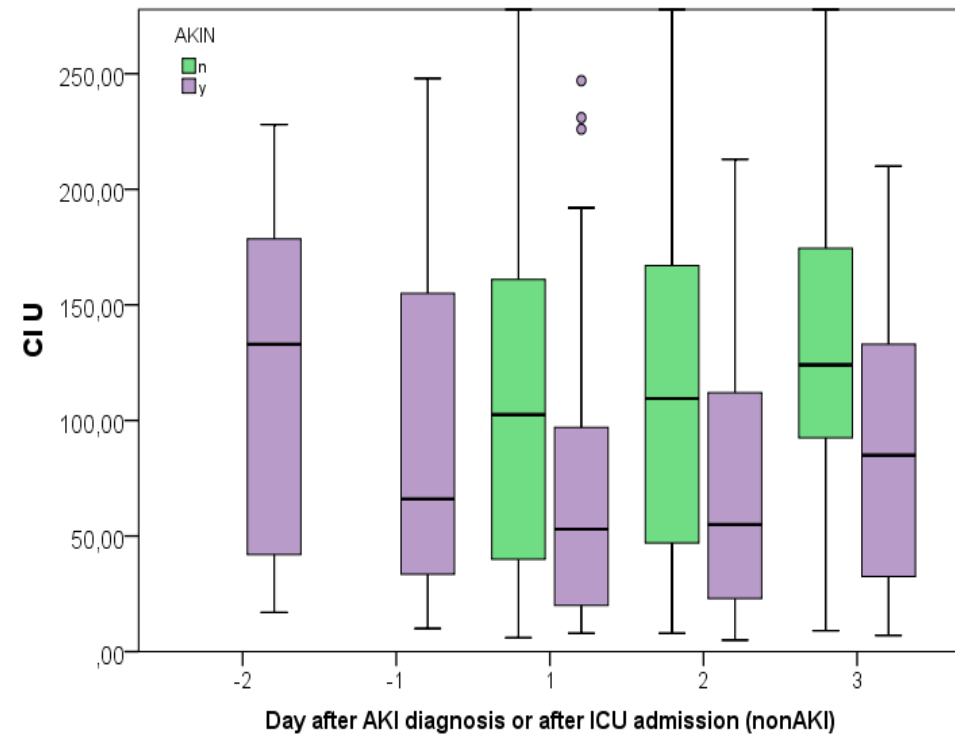
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AKIN



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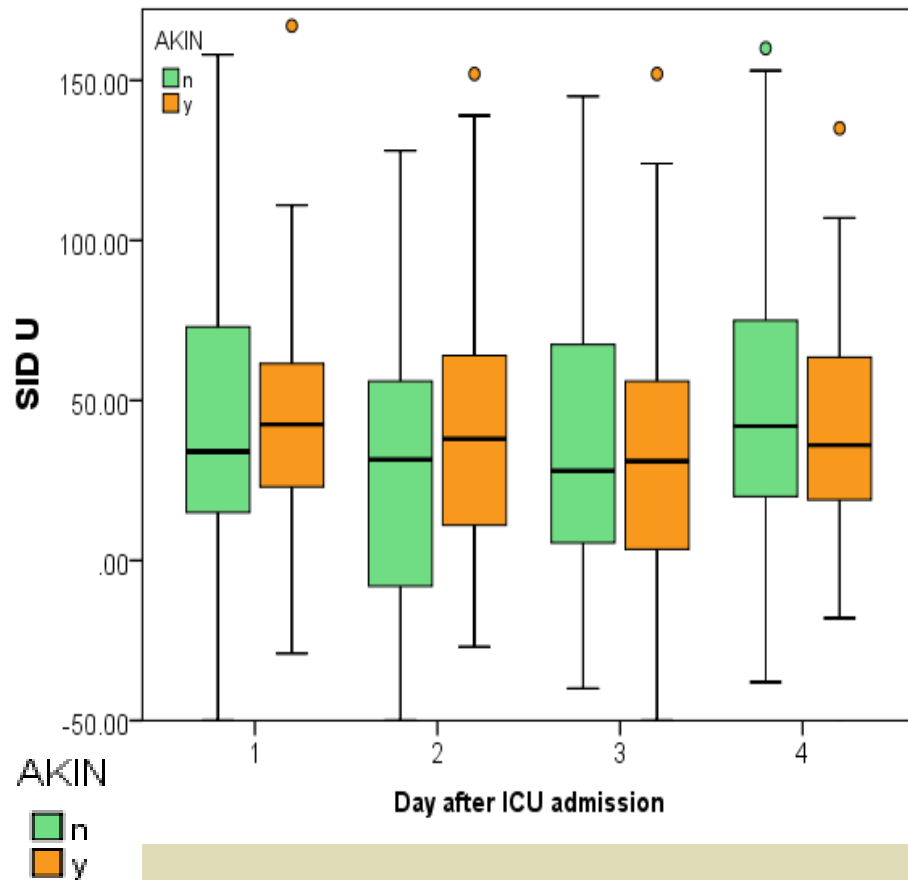


AKIN

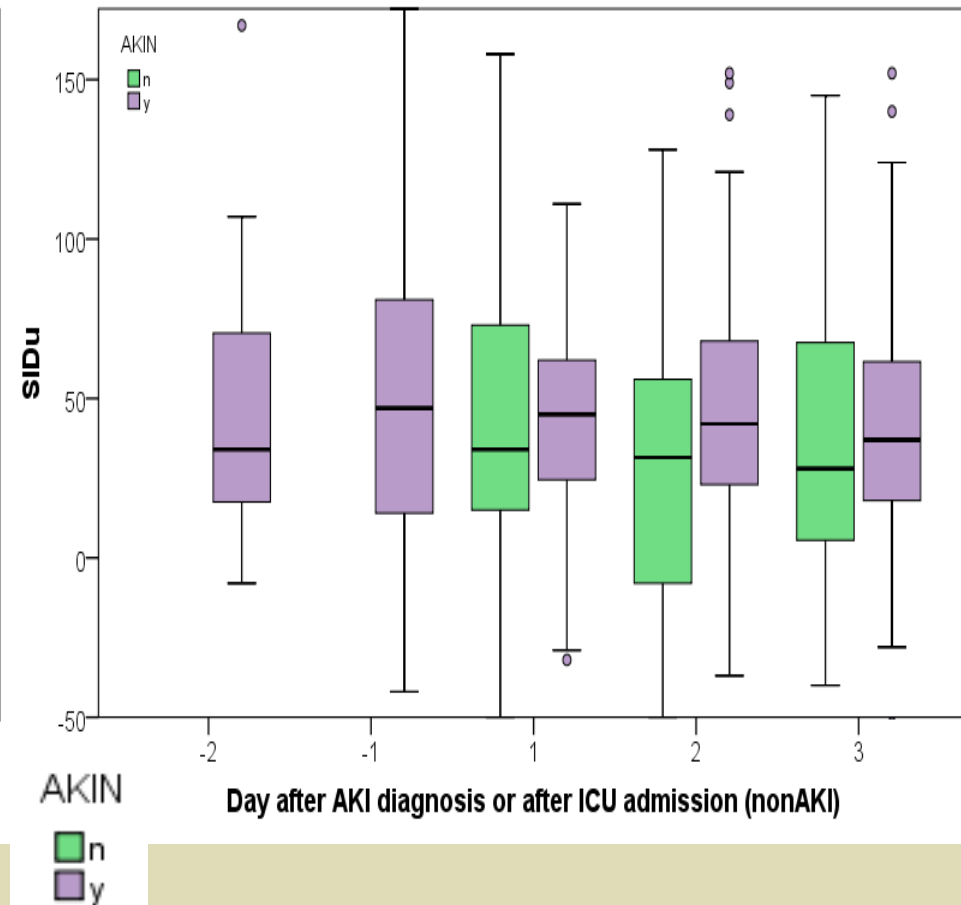


# SID U

All patients after ICU admission



After AKI diagnosis



# Summary

- Potential benefits of assessing urinary electrolytes
- Concept of functional and histopathological to distinguish between transient AKI
- Fluid administration: patient vs renal responsiveness
- Role of urine electrolytes as a useful tool in the interpretation of acid-base imbalances
- SIDu as a monitor of tubular acidifying capacity and early inability of urinary acidification in AKI

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