

# Fluid assessment, monitoring and therapy for the acute nurse

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King's College Hospital



# Aims and objectives



- Why do we worry about volume assessment?
- Completing a fluid/volume assessment
- Treatment for hypo/hypervolaemia
- Fluid balance documentation



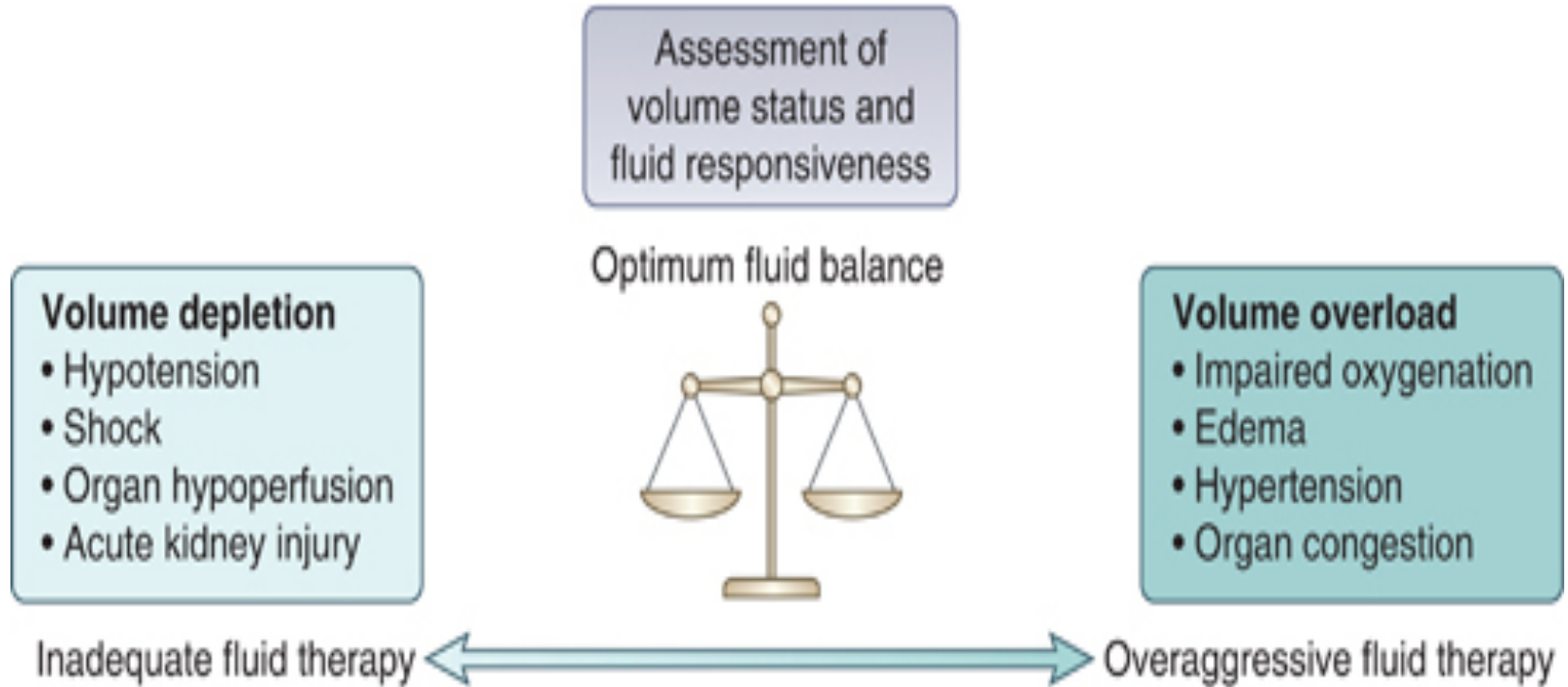
# Why is fluid assessment so important?



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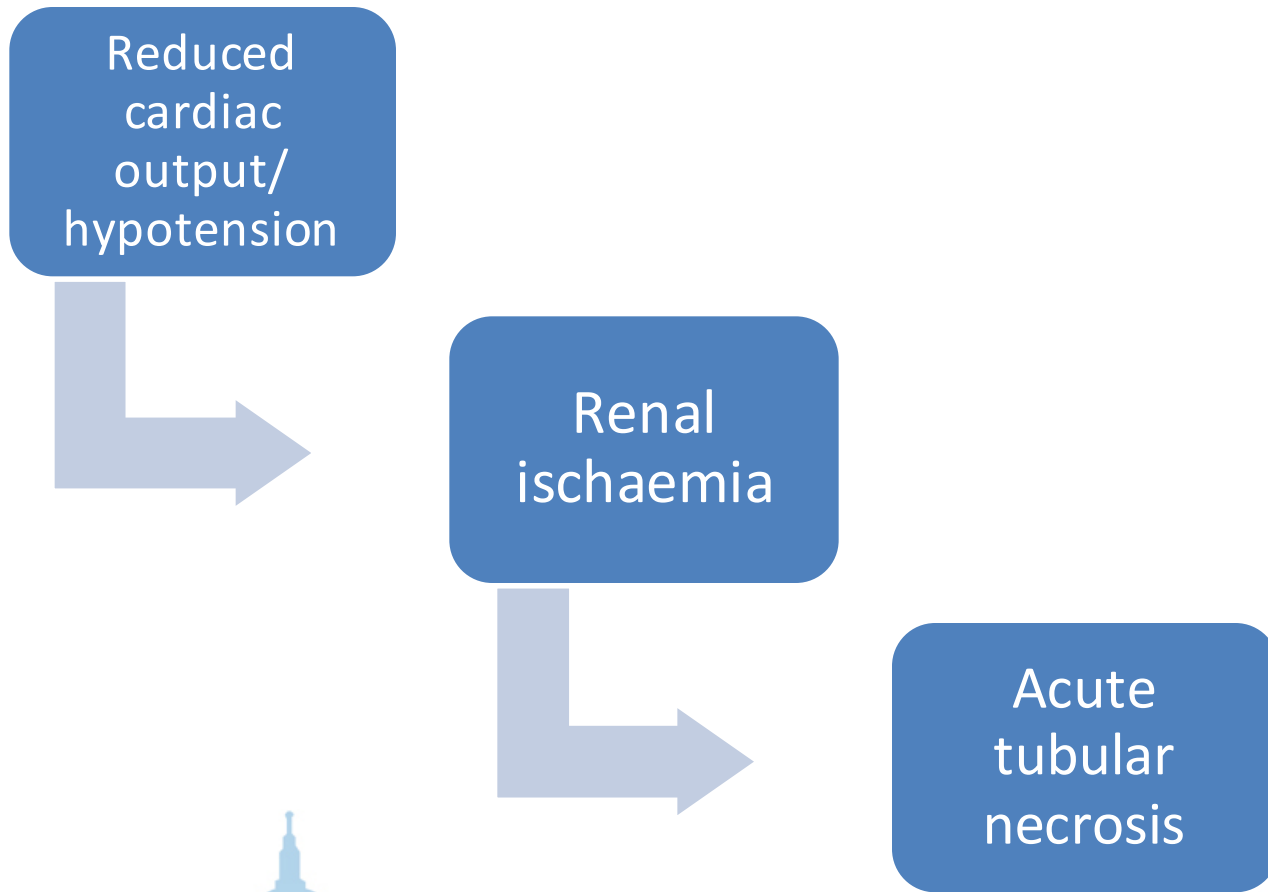
Assessment of intravascular volume status and volume responsiveness in critically ill patients

Kambiz Kalantari, Jamison N Chang, Claudio Ronco and Mitchell H Rosner

# Hypovolaemia- what happens in the kidneys?



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It is reversible- patients  
recover!



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But we want to avoid it in  
the first place!



# Assess for hypovolaemia



## Physical examination

- Vital signs

- Bloods:



## Physical examination

- Thirst
- Acute loss in body weight of >0.9kg over a few days
- Peripheral temperature
- Capillary refill time
- Headaches/lightheaded
- Confusion
- Skin turgor
- Mucous membranes
- Dry, cracked lips
- Passive leg raising

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## • Bloods:



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- **Vital signs**
- Pulse- rate, rhythm and strength
- Blood pressure
- Orthostatic changes in both
- Urine output/ concentrated
- **Bloods:**
- Elevated urea
- Lactate



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# Most useful?



Review on the value of physical examination on diagnosis of hypovolaemia found:

Only reliable for large blood losses (>1litre)

No single clinical sign is reliable...

look at whole picture!

Review on the value of physical examination on diagnosis of hypovolaemia found:

Postural  
dizziness

Postural pulse  
increment

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# If hypovolaemic... WHAT fluid?



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- Normal saline 0.9%
- 5% dextrose
- Gelofusine/ Geloplasma
- Plasmolyte
- Compound sodium lactate
- Dextran
- Albumin
- Haemaccel
- Blood



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CRYSTALLOID  
OR  
COLLOID??



# What fluid?



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Group	HES	Saline	<i>P</i> RR
Mortality	18.0%	17.0%	0.26
Renal injury	34.6%	38%	0.005
Renal failure	10.4%	9.2%	0.12
RRT	7.0%	5.8%	0.004
Adverse events	5.3%	2.8%	<0.001



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# What fluid?

- **Hydroxyethyl Starch or Saline for Fluid Resuscitation in Intensive Care, Myburgh et al NEJM 2012 (Oct 17)**
- –7000 patients admitted to ICU randomly assigned to 6% HES (MW 130 kDa) or 0.9% sodium chloride for all fluid resuscitation

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3.1.1: In the absence of hemorrhagic shock, we suggest using isotonic crystalloids rather than colloids (albumin or starches) as initial management for expansion of intravascular volume in patients at risk for AKI or with AKI. (2B)

KDIGO (2012)



# How do we give it?



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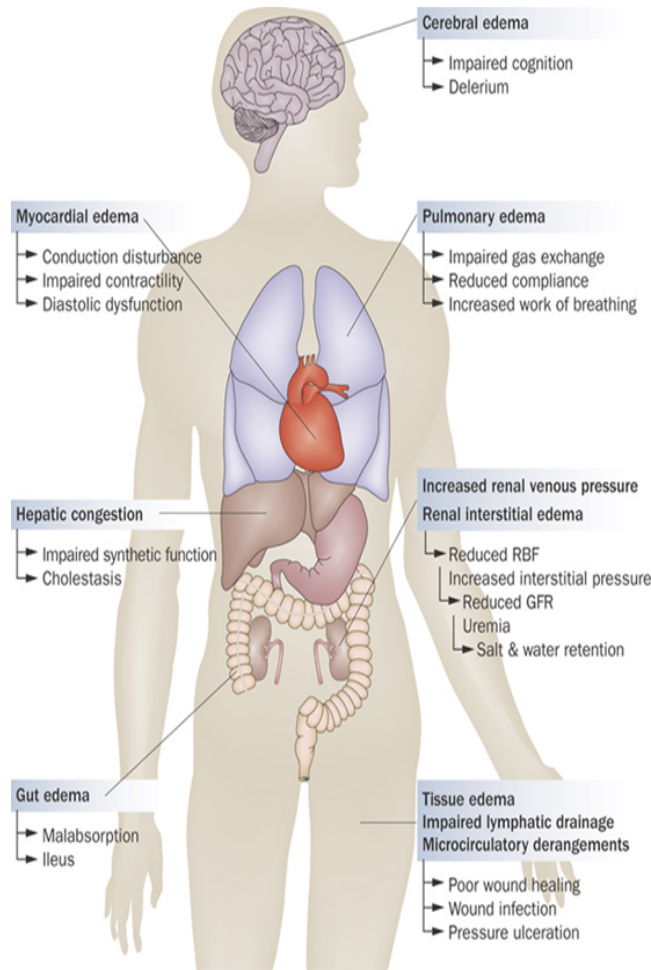
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- Aim to make patient euvolaemic
- Give maintenance fluids (estimated output plus 500mls)



# Assess for hypervolaemia



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Prowle, J. R. et al. (2009) Fluid balance and acute kidney injury  
*Nat. Rev. Nephrol.* doi:10.1038/nrneph.2009.213

# Symptoms



- Hypertension
- Peripheral oedema
- Shortness of breath
- Confusion



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- Peripheral oedema
- Shortness of breath
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# Diuretics



- 3.4.1: We recommend not using diuretics to prevent AKI. (1B)
- 3.4.2: We suggest not using diuretics to treat AKI, except in the management of volume overload. (2C)



# Now what...



# Now what...

- Oxygen



# Now what...

- Oxygen
- Furosemide



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- Strict input/output monitoring



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- Daily weights
- Treat the cause
- IV access
- Anuria- exclude obstruction
- May need dialysis



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# Fluid balance charts



- ALL input- IV fluids, blood, drinks, NG feed/flushes, drinks with meds



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- Over 24 hours, add up totals and get 24hr balance!



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- Women should drink 1.6L and men 2L a day
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Weight (kg)	Minimal accepted urine output (mls/hr)	Expected daily output (based on minimal expected hourly)
50	25	600
60	30	720
70	35	840
80	40	960
90	45	1080
100	50	1200
110	55	1320
120	60	1440



# Input/output



- What we put in should come out
- Perfect 24hr balance would be +500-600mls
- Cannot account for insensible losses
  - sweat, respiratory tract, faeces
- But this won't be the aim everyday



- Volume assessment is difficult but essential
- Look at whole patient picture
- Keep patients euvolaemic when they come into hospital - then you shouldn't run into trouble
- Always review response to treatment
- Encourage patients/ relatives to help with fluid charts - educate them





- <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodfood/Pages/water-drinks.aspx>
- Hamilton, S, (2001), Detecting dehydration and malnutrition in the elderly, Nursing, vol 31(12), www.springer.net
- Kavouras, SA, (2002), Assessing hydration status, Current Opinion in Clinical Nutrition and Metabolic Care, (5), 519-524
- Menten, J, (2006), Oral hydration in older adults: greater awareness is needed in preventing, recognizing, and treating dehydration, American Journal of Nursing, vol 106(6), 40-9
- McMillen and Pitcher, (2010), The balancing act: Body fluids and protecting patient health, British Journal of Healthcare Assistants; vol 5 (3), 117-121.
- Scales K, Pilsworth J, (2008,) The importance of fluid balance in clinical practice. Nursing Standard, vol 22 (47), 50-57.
- Vivanti, A et al, (2008), Clinical assessment of dehydration in older people admitted to hospital
- What are the strongest indicators?, Archives of gerontology and geriatrics, vol 47 (3)

