

Blood Gas Interpretation

Course Description: This module briefly reviews the physiology of gas exchange and partial pressures, and offers steps for doing rapid blood-gas interpretations. It will give you a clinical understanding of metabolic acidosis-alkalosis and respiratory acidosis-alkalosis, with exercises in differentiation. It also uses a case scenario to exercise the student's understanding.

Course Objectives:

- Explain the physiology of gas exchange at the alveolar level
- Describe the process of lactic acidosis and the levels of compensation
- Describe the physiology, etiology, and causes of metabolic acidosis-alkalosis and respiratory acidosis-alkalosis
- Perform basic blood-gas interpretation based on the steps described in this module
- Describe potential corrective actions for a pH that is either acidotic or alkalotic
- Present procedures for Allen test, insertion, removal, and care of an arterial line