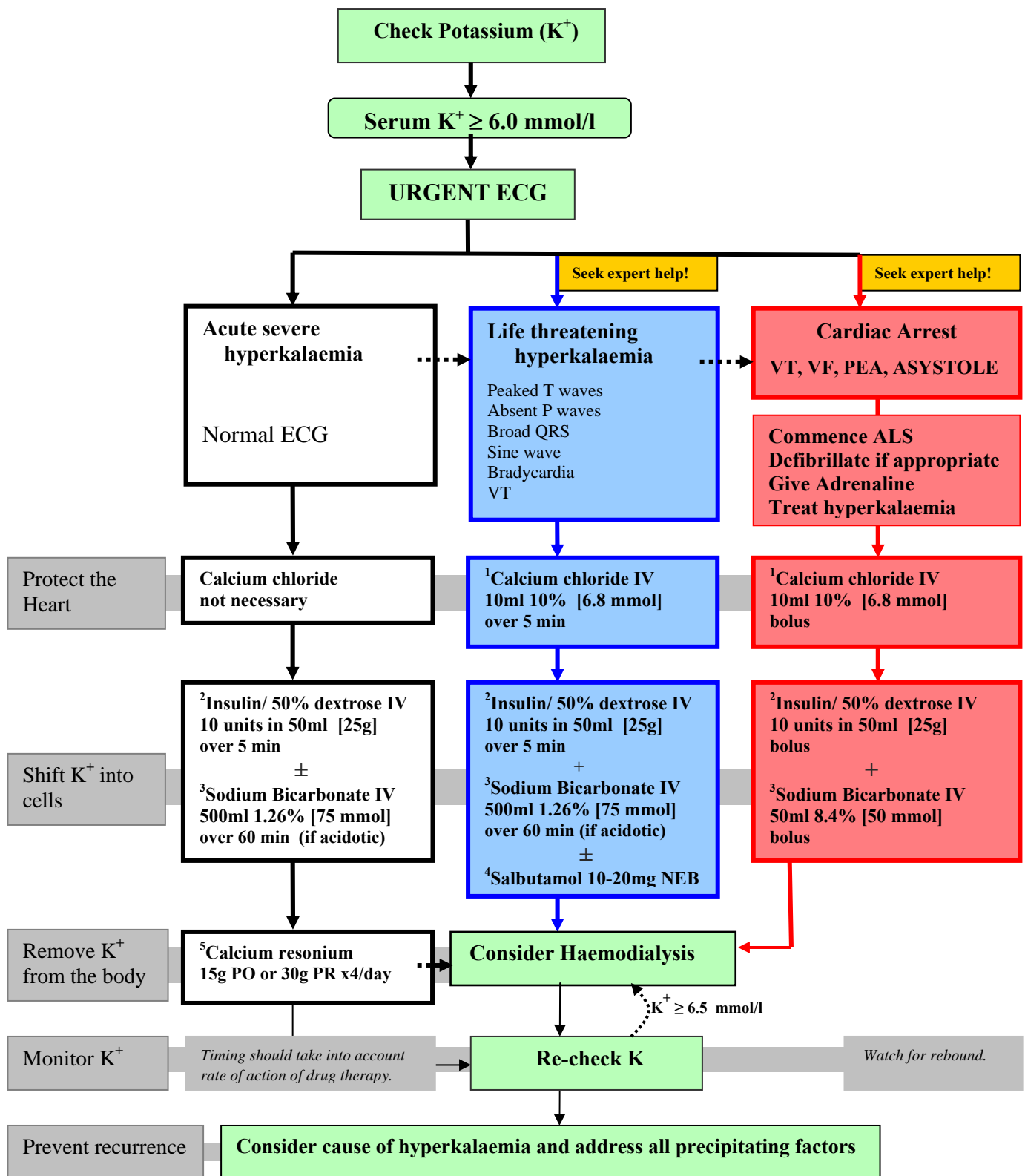


# **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF POTASSIUM DISORDERS IN ADULTS**

- Hyperkalaemia
- Hypokalaemia
- Contact details
- Authors

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF HYPERKALAEMIA IN ADULTS



<sup>1</sup>Calcium Chloride – Repeat every 2-3 min until QRS complex narrows or arrhythmia resolves. Calcium gluconate is acceptable but contains only 2.2mmol calcium therefore adjust dose.

<sup>2</sup>Insulin/dextrose – Use soluble insulin preparation and check blood glucose every 15 min.

<sup>3</sup>Sodium bicarbonate - Indicated only if metabolic acidosis (bicarbonate < 15 mmol/l) present and should not be used as monotherapy.

<sup>4</sup>Salbutamol – Caution advised in presence of tachyarrhythmias. In patients with IHD, use only 10mg.

<sup>5</sup>Calcium resonium – Too slow for emergency treatment. Laxatives recommended to avoid constipation.

<sup>1</sup>Alfonzo A, <sup>2</sup>Isles C, <sup>3</sup>Geddes C, <sup>1</sup>Deighan C. *Resuscitation*, 2006 (in press).

Created by Renal Units of <sup>1</sup>Glasgow Royal Infirmary, <sup>2</sup>Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary, <sup>3</sup>Western Infirmary.



Approved by GRI Resuscitation Committee Feb 2006.

Review date – June 1, 2007.

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF HYPOKALAEMIA IN ADULTS



<sup>1</sup>Potassium Chloride – standard concentration is 20 mmol K<sup>+</sup> [1.5g] in 500ml 0.9% Saline. Higher concentration may be given in life-threatening circumstances – 20 mmol K<sup>+</sup> [1.5g] in 100ml 0.9% Saline but seek specialist advice.

<sup>2</sup>Magnesium Sulphate – repletion of magnesium will allow more rapid correction of hypokalaemia.

<sup>3</sup>Diet – particularly important in patients with renal failure and advice from a renal dietician is valuable.

**Oliguria** – urine output < 400ml/day. Caution advised in potassium replacement in oliguric patients.

**Dialysis Patients** – PD patients are susceptible to hypokalaemia. Review dialysis prescription in HD patients.

<sup>1</sup>Alfonzo A, <sup>2</sup>Isles C, <sup>3</sup>Geddes C, <sup>1</sup>Deighan C. *Resuscitation*, 2006 (in press).

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