



CONCEPT MAP 3-1 Causes, signs and symptoms of metabolic acidosis.



Key Points

- When fluid shifts from the intravascular space to the interstitial spaces, hypovolemia may occur.
- With fluid excess, sensorium may be clouded.
- Edema may be treated with diuretic medications, a low-sodium diet, and elastic stockings or sequential compression devices.
- A nurse must know normal ranges for the major electrolytes in the body (see Table 3-3).
- Electrolytes are responsible for the transmission of nerve impulses, contraction of muscles, and excretion of hormones.
- The nurse must be familiar with the signs and symptoms of electrolyte imbalances (see Table 3-4).
- Urine output must be at least 30 mL/hr before IV potassium is given.

- Follow agency procedure for flushing PRN locks and central lines.
- Subcutaneous infusion is mostly used for pain control.
- Total parenteral nutrition is utilized when a patient cannot obtain adequate nutrition by other means.



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NCLEX-PN EXAM STYLE REVIEW QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer(s) for the following questions.

1. Spironolactone (Aldactone) 50 mg orally daily has been prescribed for a patient. Based on the nurse's understanding of the mechanism of action of this medication, appropriate nursing action would include which of the following:

1. monitoring for hypokalemia.
2. reducing dietary intake of salt substitutes.
3. supplementing meals with Vitamin D.
4. encouraging fluid intake.