



# Electrolyte emergencies

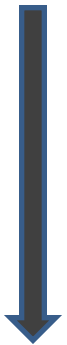
**Fernando Schiraldi**

Medicina d'Urgenza-PS-OM Ospedale San Paolo-Napoli

*[schirald@gmail.com](mailto:schirald@gmail.com)*

# OUTLINE

Na



brain

K



heart  
muscles

Mg<sup>++</sup>



heart,  
muscles  
CNS

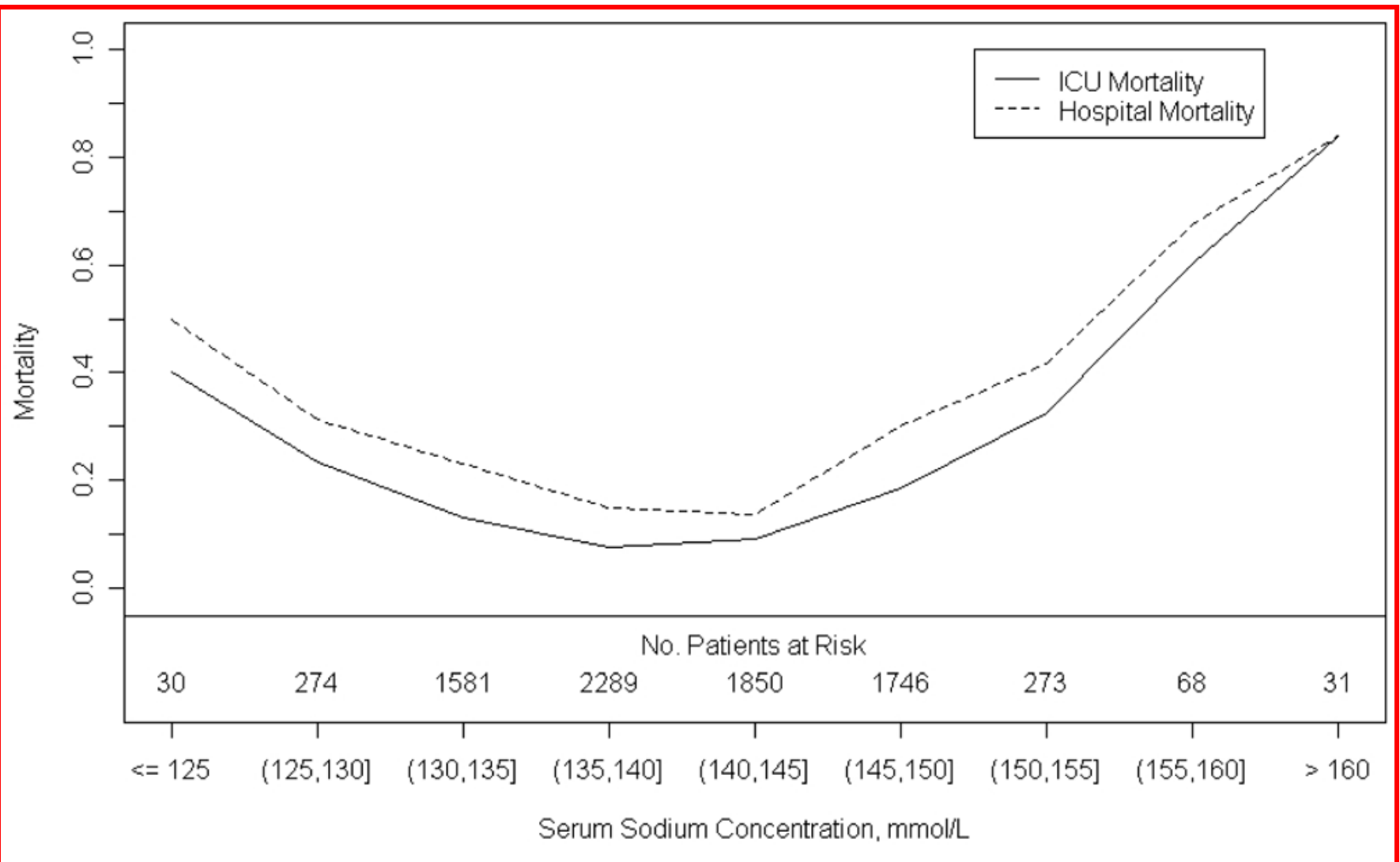
Ca<sup>++</sup>



# A "WATER-STRESSED CHAMPION"



# Mortality and Dysnatremias





# CELL VOLUME REGULATION

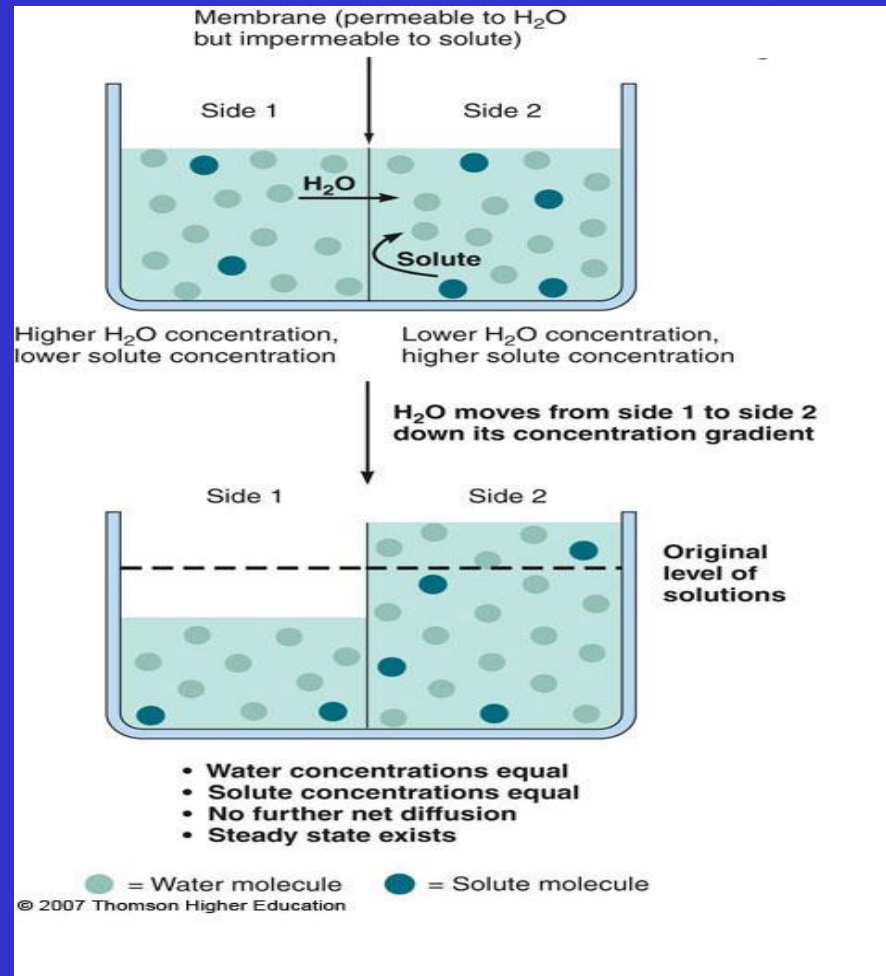
“ The Na pump spends energy from  
ATP hydrolysis.....”

.... ATP DEPLETION = SICK CELL ?

# MORE ATTENTION FOR TONICITY

- TONICITY IS EFFECTIVE  
OSMOLALITY
- $\Delta 1 \text{ mOsm/kg} = \Delta 19.3 \text{ mmHg}$   
(Hydrostatic pressure)

# DONNAN EQUILIBRIUM





# CAUSES OF DYSOSMOLALITY

## YOUNG

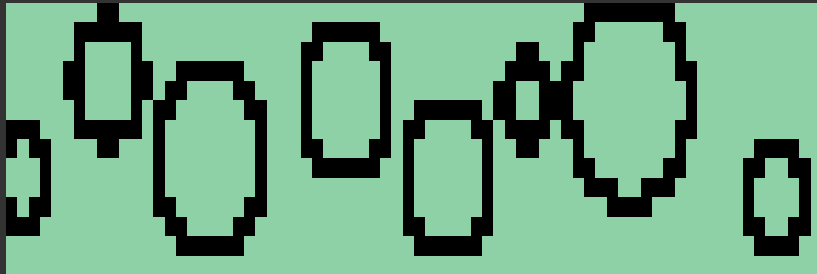
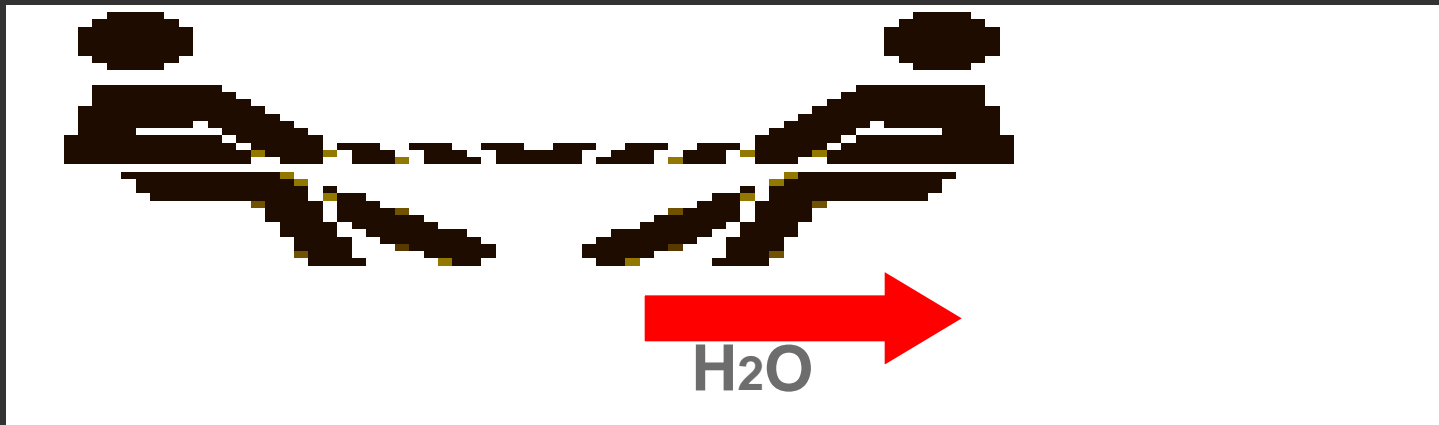
- HEAD TRAUMA
- NEUROSURGERY
- DI
- DM
  
- "DOCTORS"

## OLD

- STROKE
- DM
- NEOPLASMS
- ART NUTR
  
- "DOCTORS"



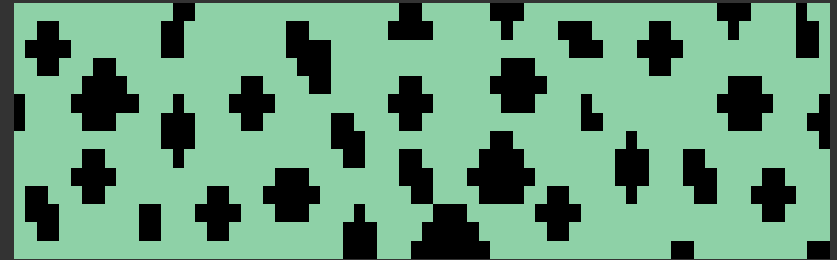
# HYPONATREMIA



ECF



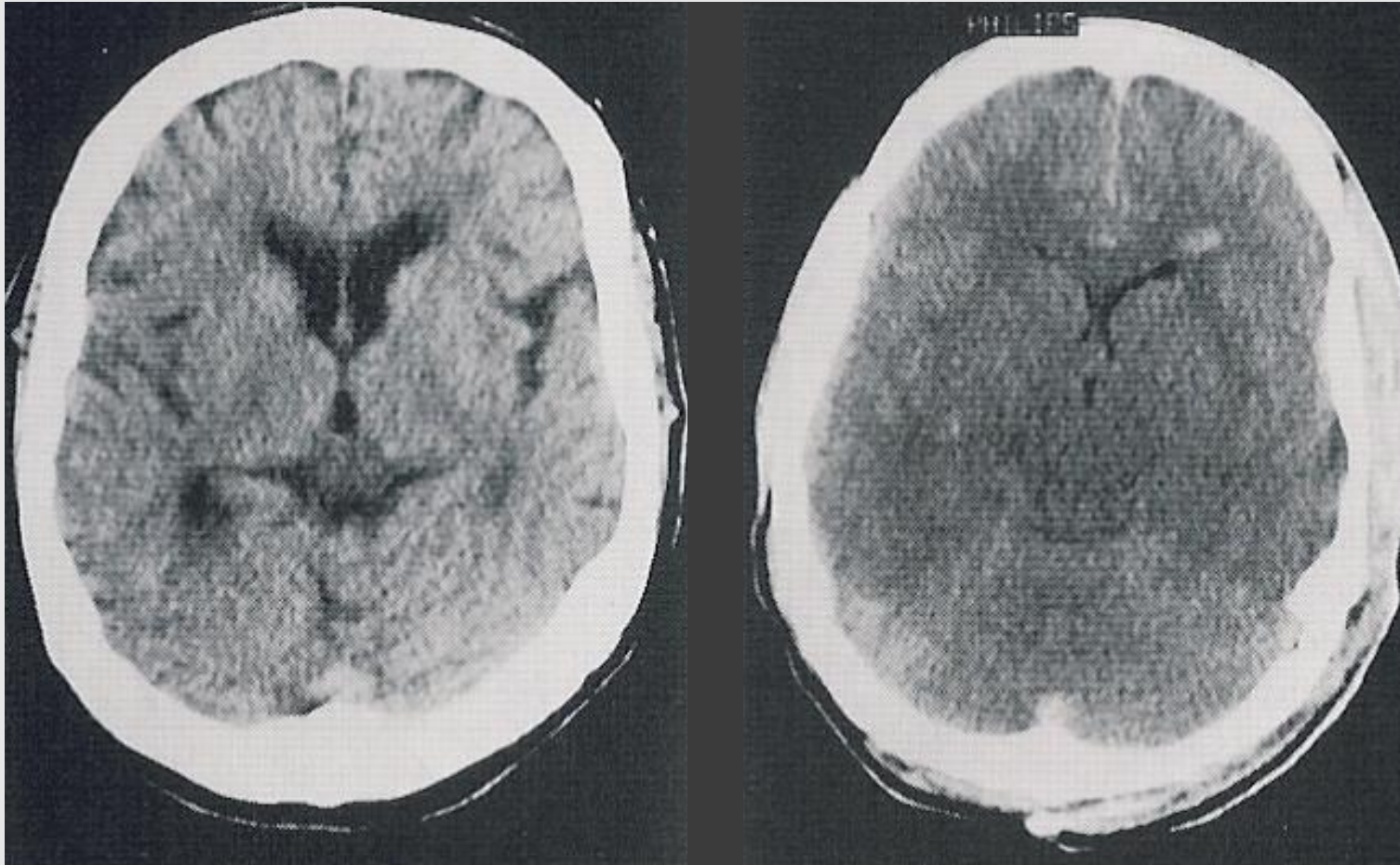
Cell wall



ICF



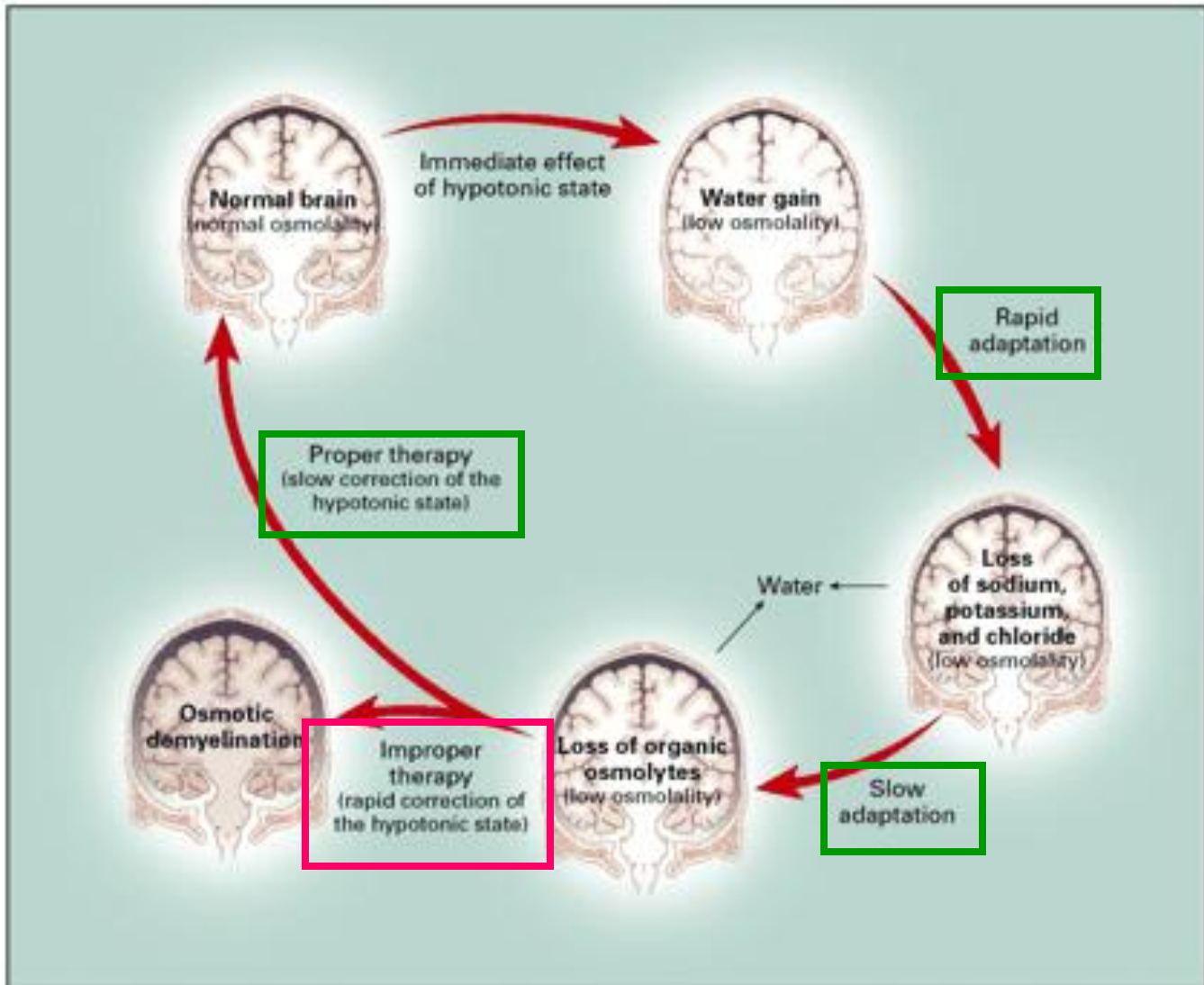
# Acute Hyponatremia Can Cause Death From Cerebral Edema and Brain Herniation



Normal Brain

Hyponatremic Brain





**H J ADROGUE' N E MAD IAS (2000)  
NEJM 342,21:1581-9**

## ....Real Emergency in ED

1) W 40 Y; 60 bw, symptomatic, hypotensive, Na 116

$$122 - 116 = 6 \times (0.5 \times 60 \times 0.33) = 60 \text{ mEq} / 4\text{H}$$

$$\text{HS } 3\% = 513 \text{ mEq/L}$$

$$60 \text{ mEq} = 116 \text{ ml} = 30 \text{ ml/H} \times 4\text{H} \dots$$

Plus Colloids 750 ml

2) W 40 Y; 60 bw, symptomatic, edematous, Na 116

$$P_{\text{osm}} = (116 \times 2) + (108/18) = 238$$

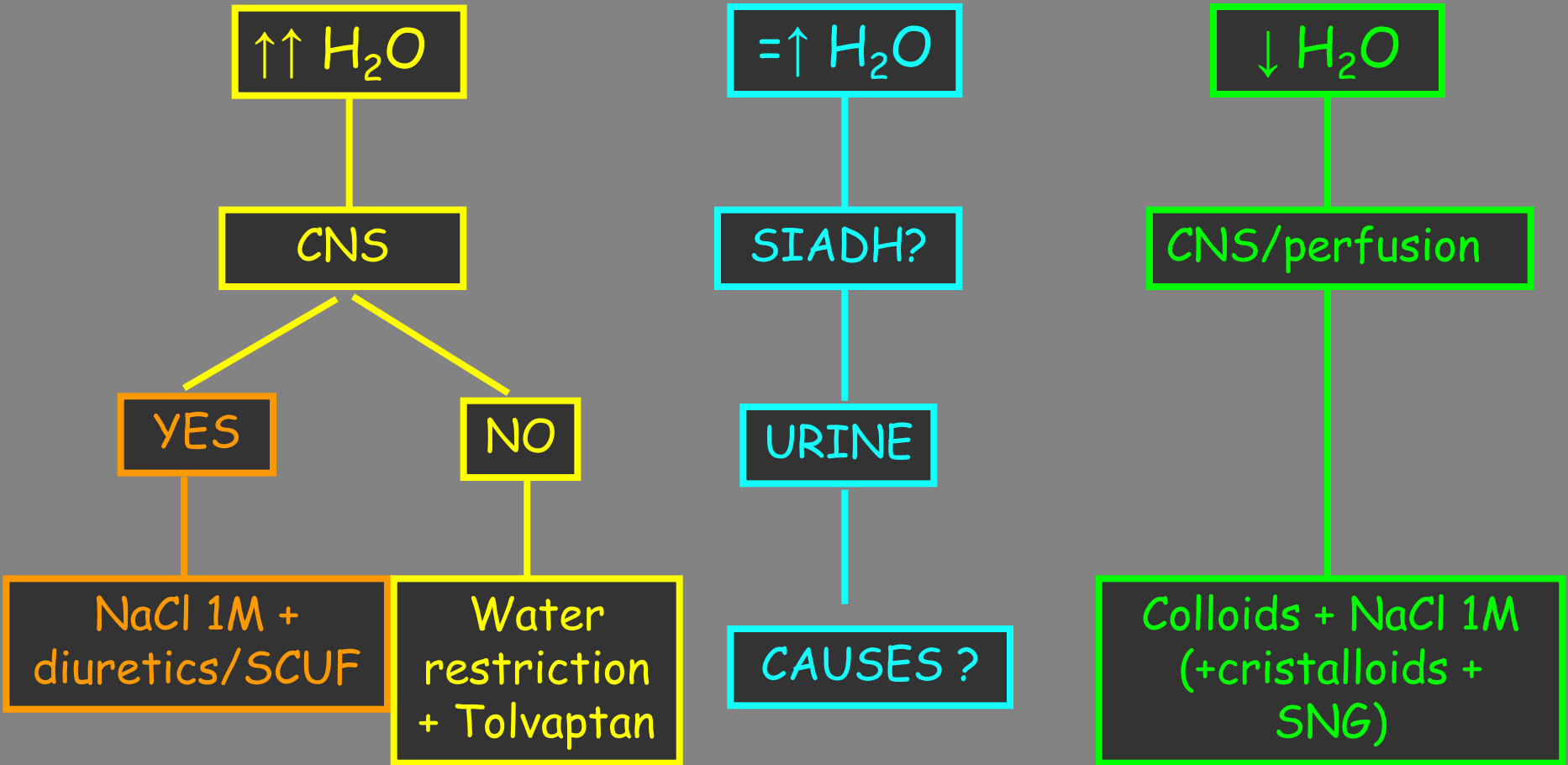
$$\text{Water Excess} = 30 \times \frac{285 - 238}{238} = 6 \text{ L}$$



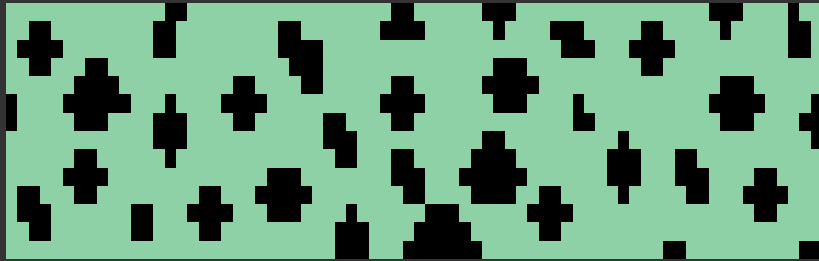
2008 3 12



# HYPONATREMIA



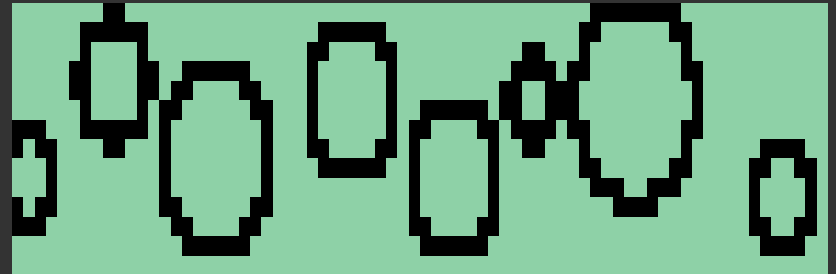
# HYPERNATREMIA



ECF

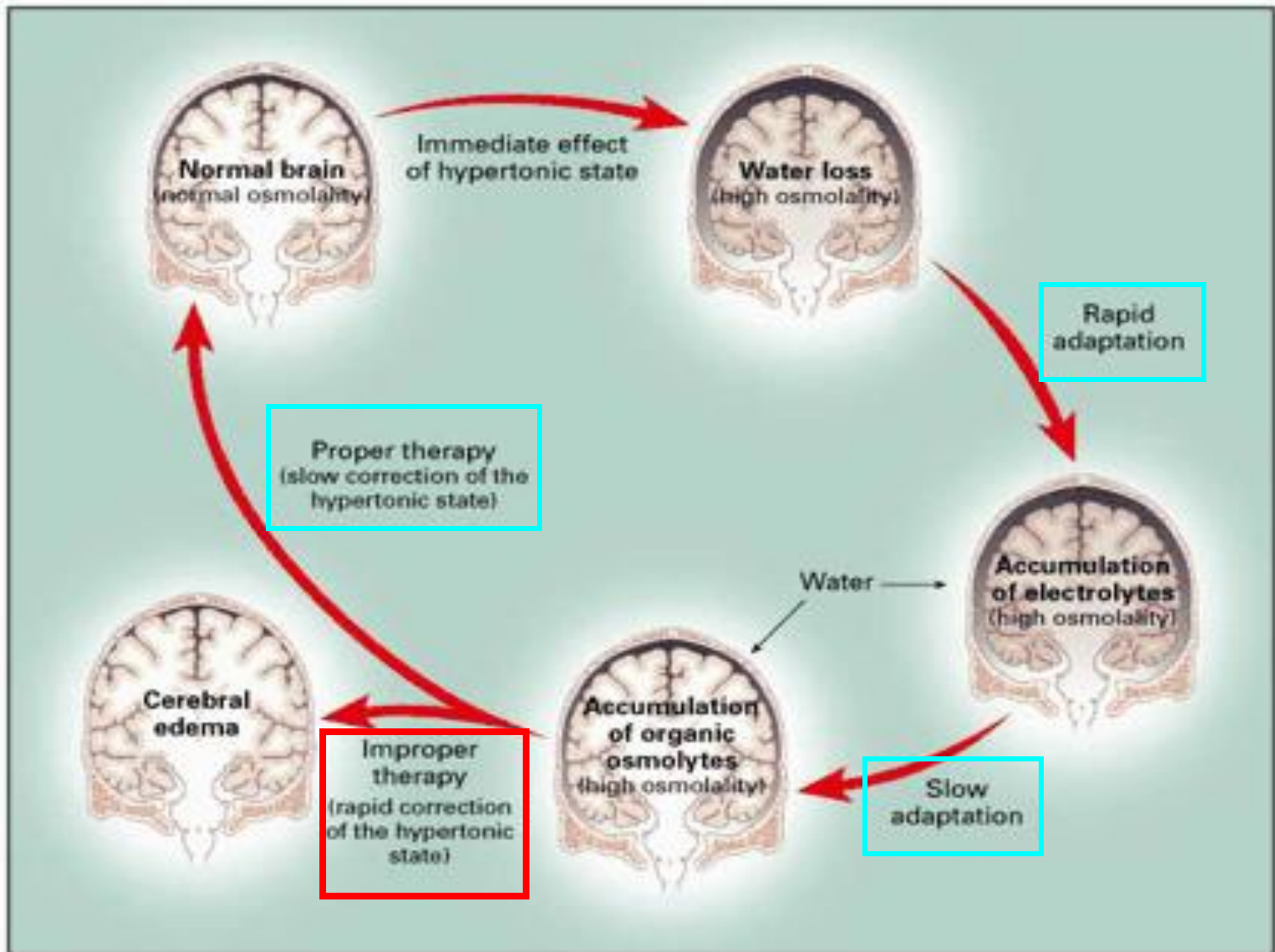


Cell wall



ICF





H. Adrogè, N. Madias NEJM 2000; 342: 1493-99

# HOW TO CORRECT HYPERNATREMIAS

↓ perfusion → colloids + NS or 1/2N

= perfusion → NaCl + water

*Cerebral impairment* → *Two steps*

# HYPERKALEMIA IN ICU

## I → E SHIFT

- acidosis
- ↓ Insulin
- hyperosmolarity
- massive citolysis

## K overload

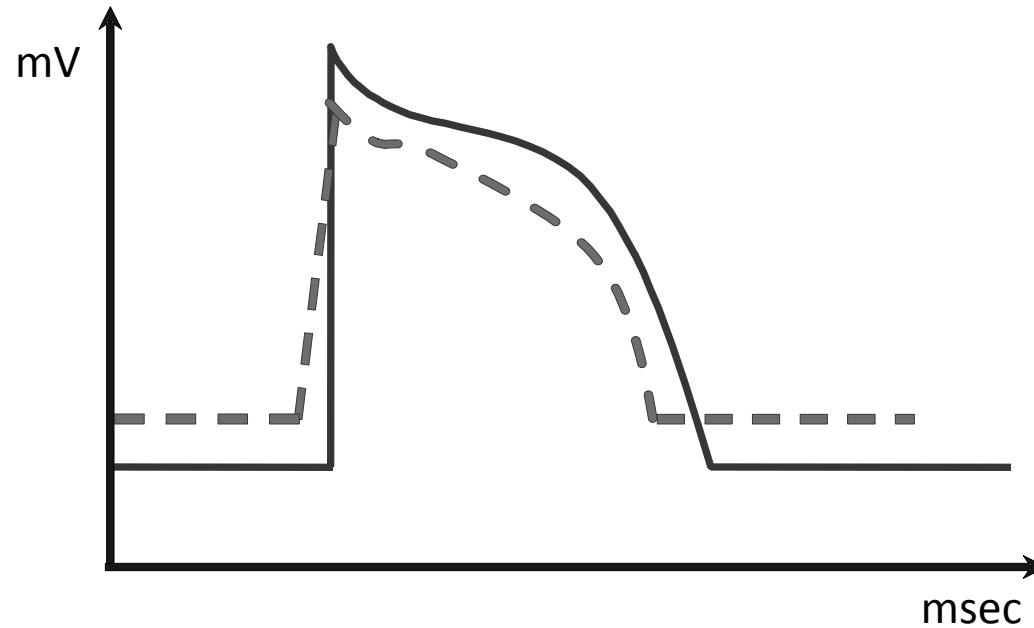
- renal failure
- adrenal insufficiency
- digoxin intoxication
- Hypoaldosteronism
- Drugs (ACE-I...K sparing diuretics)

## The Nernst's law

$$E_m = 61.5 \times \log \frac{[K]_e}{[K]_i}$$

$$E_m = 61.5 \times \log \frac{7}{170} = -85 \text{ mV}$$

# Iperkaliemia



↓ resting potential

↑  $g_K$

↓ phase 0:

low QRS voltage

↓ conduction velocity:

large QRS

SA e AV blocks

small P wave

atrial paralysis

↓ phase 3 :

short QT

tall T wave

ST elevation

pH **7.472** ↑  
 pCO2 29.7 ↓  
 pO2 97.7  
 HC03-att 21.2  
 HC03-std 23.1  
 ctCO2 22.1  
 BE(B) -1.7  
 BE(ecf) -2.4

Rita, 75 y.  
 fatigue

Enalapril  
 Spironolattone

BP 100/60 HR 70  
 SpO2 97% FiO2 21%  
 RR 22

### OSSIGENAZIONE 37°C

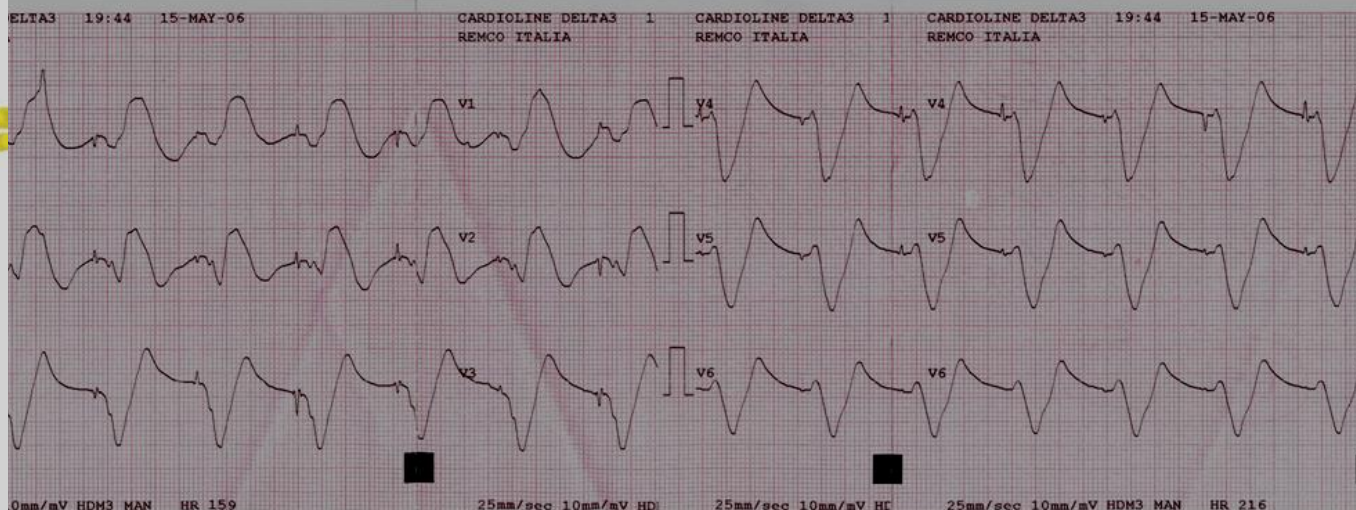
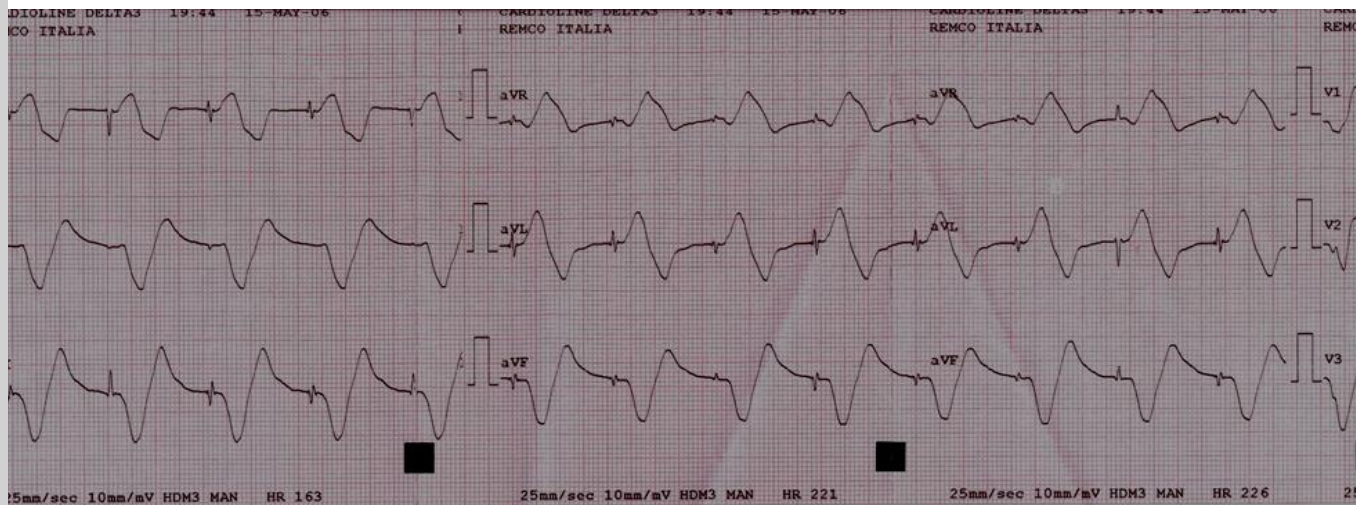
tHb 10.3 ↓  
 Hct 30  
 ctO2(a) 14.3 ↓  
 B02 14.2 ↓  
 pO2 97.7  
 sO2 99.0 ↑  
 O2Hb 98.0 ↑  
 COHb 0.6  
 MetHb 0.4  
 HHb 1.0

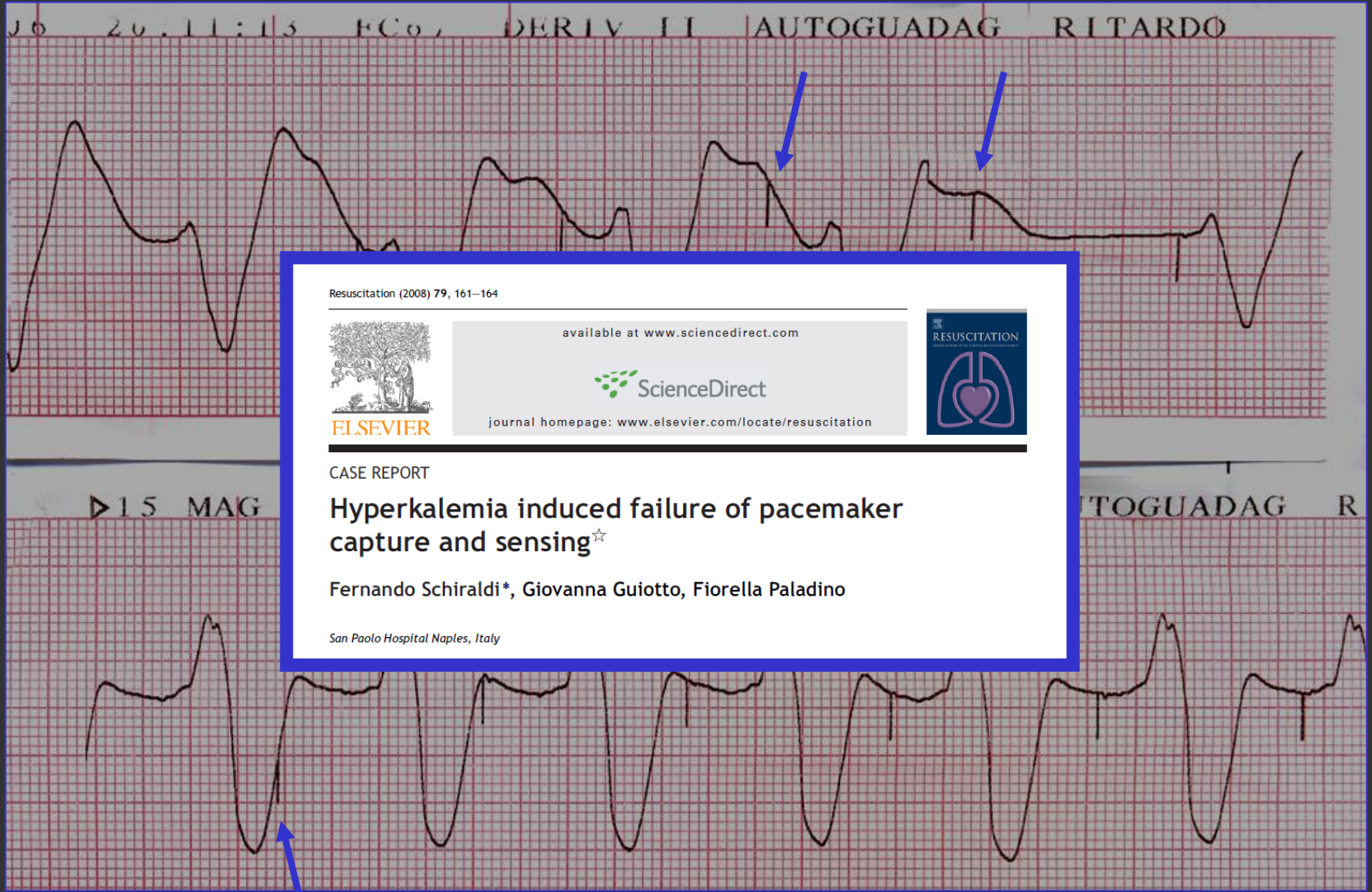
### ELETTROLITI

Na+ 129.8 ↓  
 K+ **9.27** ↑  
 Ca++ 1.23  
 Ca++(pH 7.4) 1.27  
 Cl- 107 ↑  
 Gap Anionico 10.8

### METABOLITI

Glu 141 ↑  
 Lat 1.71





Resuscitation (2008) 79, 161–164



ELSEVIER

available at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)



journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/resuscitation](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/resuscitation)

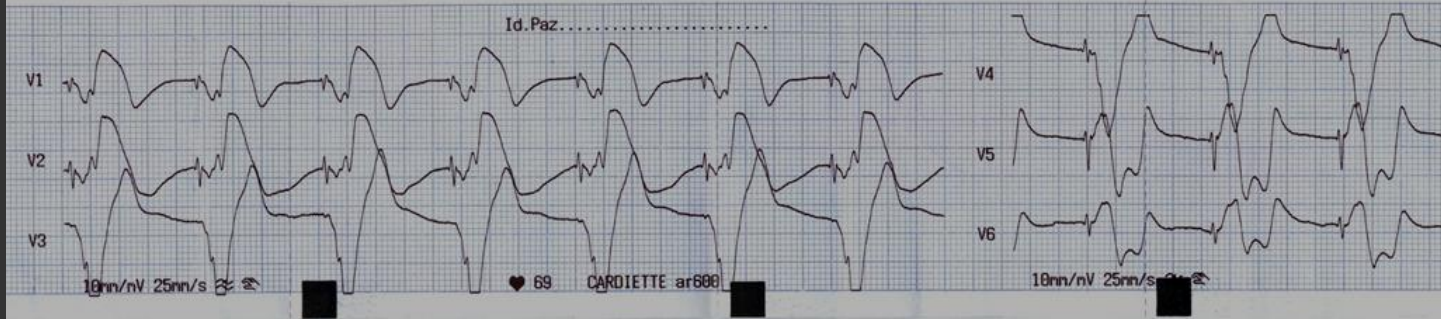
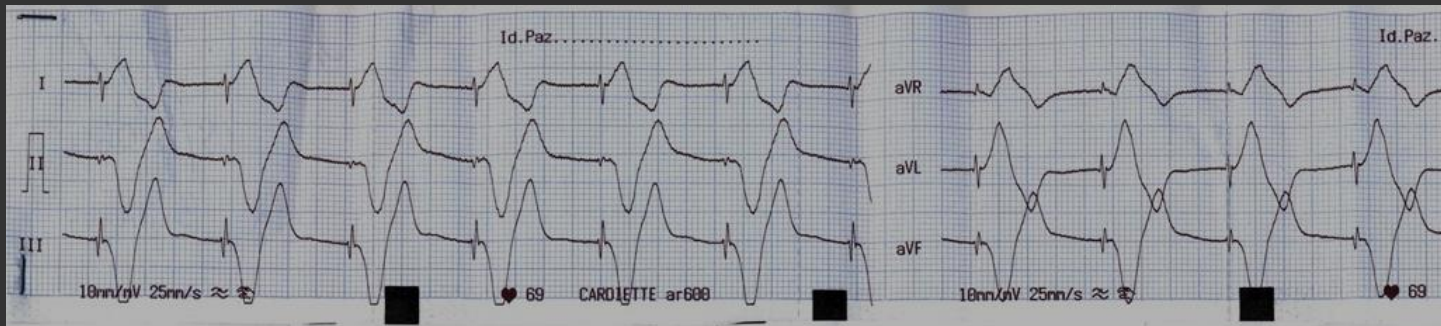


CASE REPORT

## Hyperkalemia induced failure of pacemaker capture and sensing<sup>☆</sup>

Fernando Schiraldi\*, Giovanna Guiotto, Fiorella Paladino

*San Paolo Hospital Naples, Italy*



$K^+ = 8.2 \text{ mEq/L}$

$K^+ = 6.5 \text{ mEq/L}$

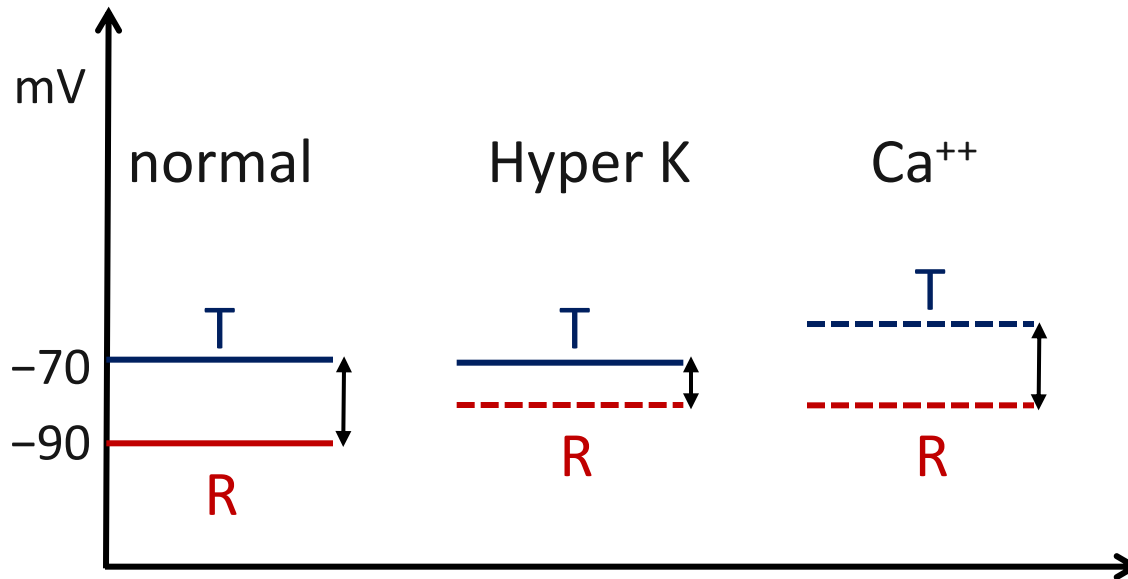


# TIME SCHEDULED APPROACH TO HYPERKALEMIA

SUBSTANCE	TIME ONSET	LASTING
Calcium chloride	1-2 min	15-20 min
Sodium bicarbonate	10-15 min	60-120 min
Insulin + glucose	20-30 min	2-4 hours
$\beta$ -agonists		



# Electrical effects of Calcium



# HYPOKALEMIA IN ICU

## E → I SHIFT

- alkalosis
- Insulin
- $\beta$ -agonists
- teophillin
- tireotoxicosis

## Low intake/wasting

- alcoholism
- TPN
- NGS / vomiting
- Diarrhea / enemas
- Diuretics
- Hyperaldosteronism

pH

Acid

Normal

Alkaline

K



N



Ca<sup>++</sup>



N



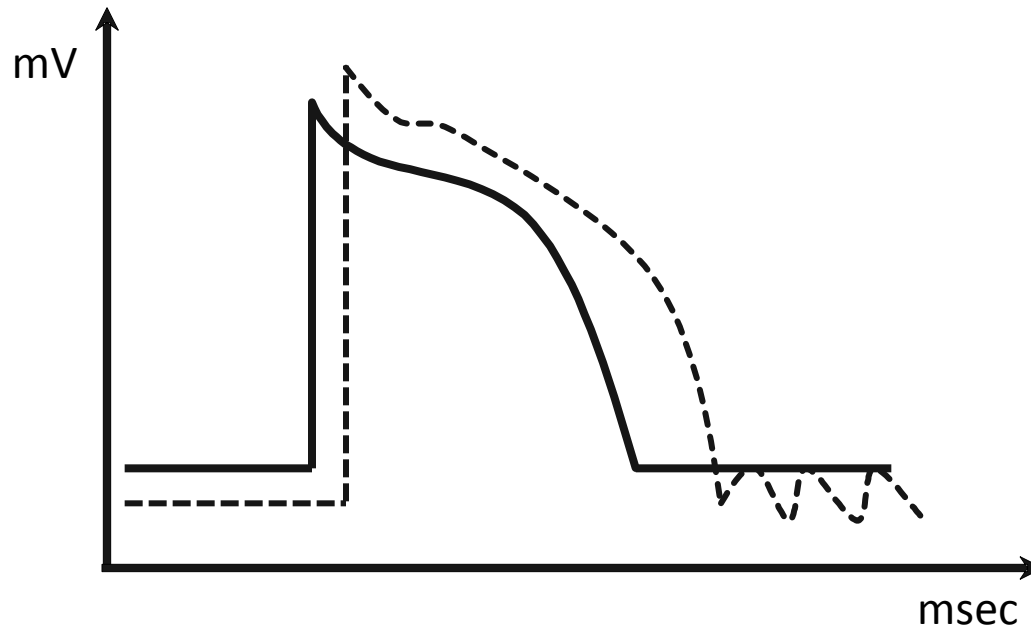
Mg<sup>++</sup>



N



# Ipokaliemia



↑ resting potential

↓  $g_K$

↑ phase 0:

high amplitude QRS

↑ conduction velocity:

narrow QRS

phase 3 prolongation:

long QT

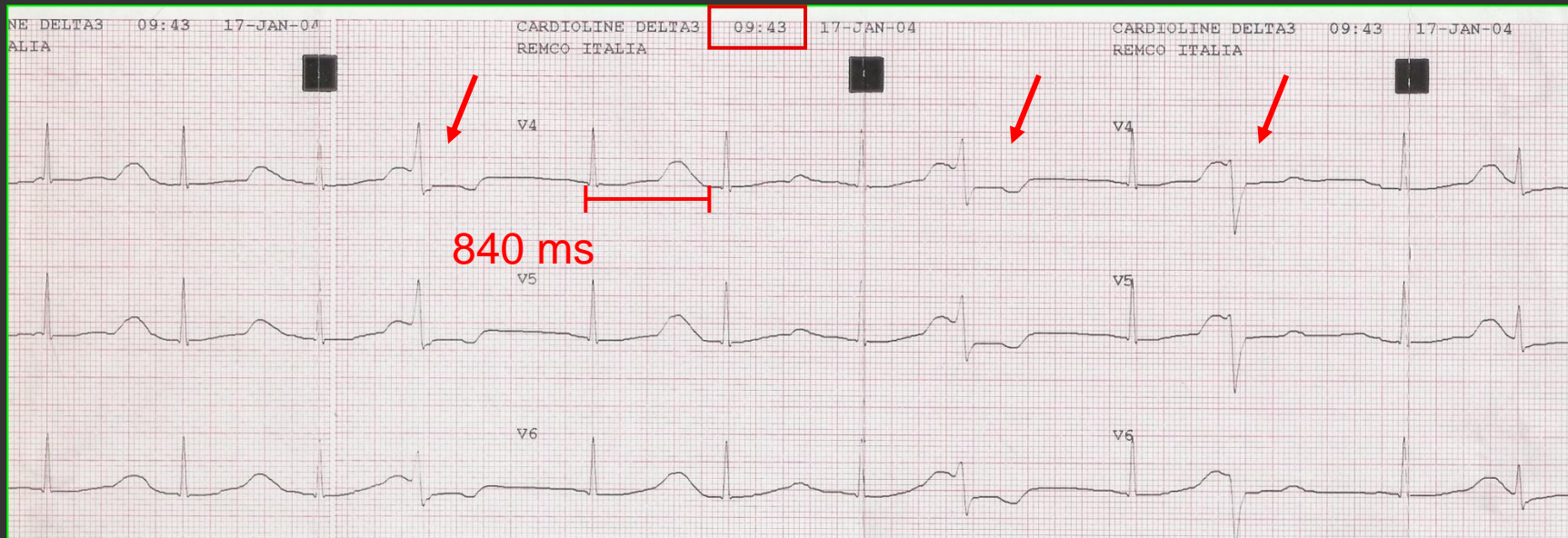
small T wave

U wave

} "*dispersed repolarization*"

Amiodarone

K<sup>+</sup> 1.8



# The "Sicilian Gambit"

DRUG		channels			receptors				pump
		Na fast	Ca med	K slow	$\alpha$	$\beta$	M <sub>2</sub>	P	Na/K ATPase
Lidocain	(Ib)	○							
Propafenon Flecainide	(Ic)	●				●			
Propranolol	(II)	○				●			
Amiodaron	(III)	○		○	●	●			
Sotalol				●		●			
Verapamil	(IV)	○		●	●				
Atropine							●		
Adenosine								○	
Digoxin								○	●



## How to correct hypokalemia

Emergency: KCl 10-20 mEq iv +  
MgSO<sub>4</sub> 10-20 mEq iv

Male  
80 kg  
K=1.8

$$\Sigma = 2/3 \text{ TBW} = 48 \times 2/3 = 32 \text{ L}$$

$$\Delta = (5 - 1.8) \times 32 = 100 \text{ mEq}$$

50 mEq in 2-4 h  
50 mEq in 12-24 h

Mg ?



# ipoMg<sup>++</sup>-related cardiac effects

- ↑↑ Triggered activity
- QT Dispersion
- ↑ Digitalis Toxicity
- TdP, VF



[Mg<sup>++</sup>]<sub>p</sub> = 1,3 mEq/L

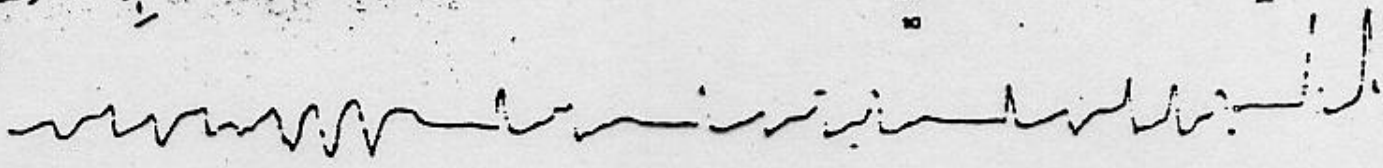
500  
Jules

[K<sup>+</sup>] = 2,6 mEq/L  
Pv = 7,528

2/7/84 = 1055

50  
25  
0

A

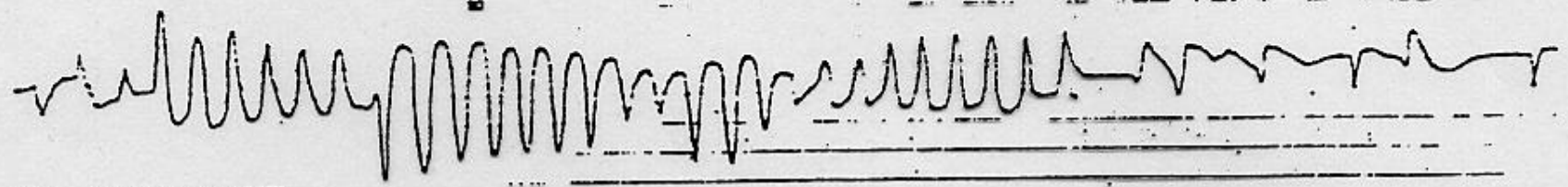


Honeywell SpA Cod. 9511.504.00009

50  
25  
0

50  
25  
0

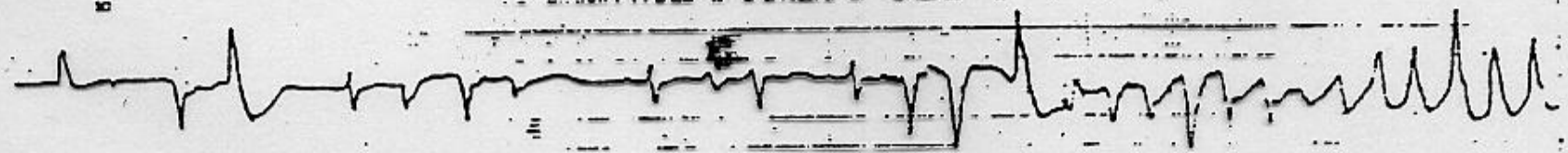
B



50  
25  
0

50  
25  
0

C



Honeywell SpA Cod. 9511.504.00009

camere Jules

50  
25  
0

D



EC 11.00  
6% 15 mEq di FeCl s.v.  
+ 35 mEq in 200 ml di Alcol + MgSO<sub>4</sub> 6 mEq

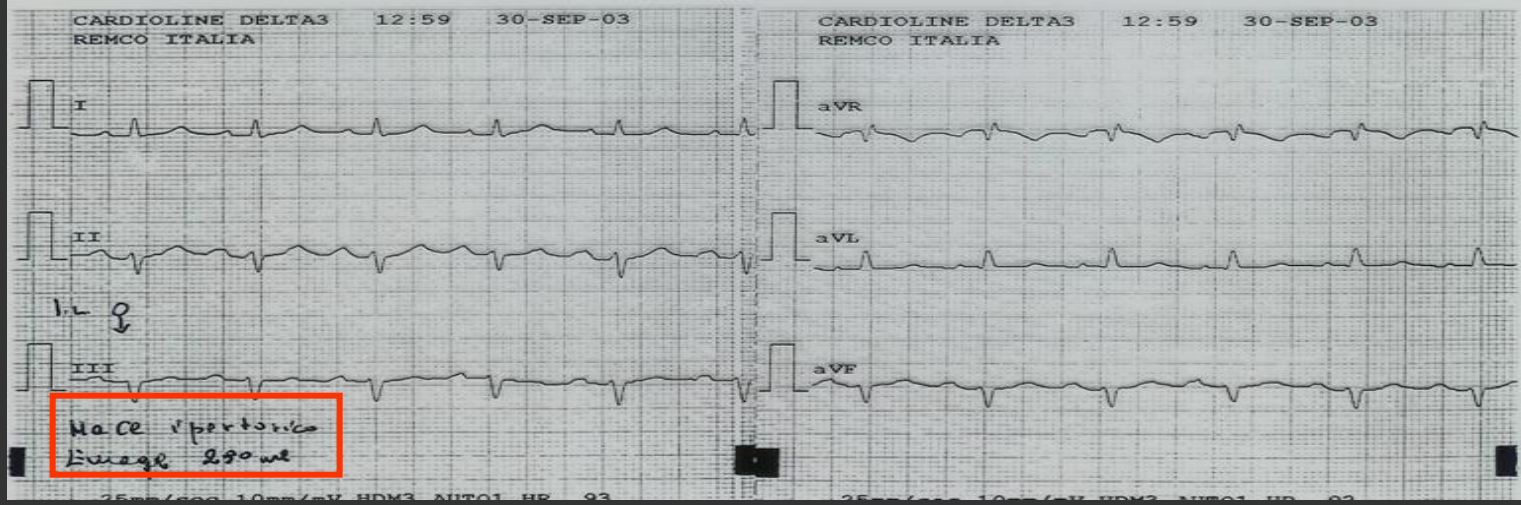
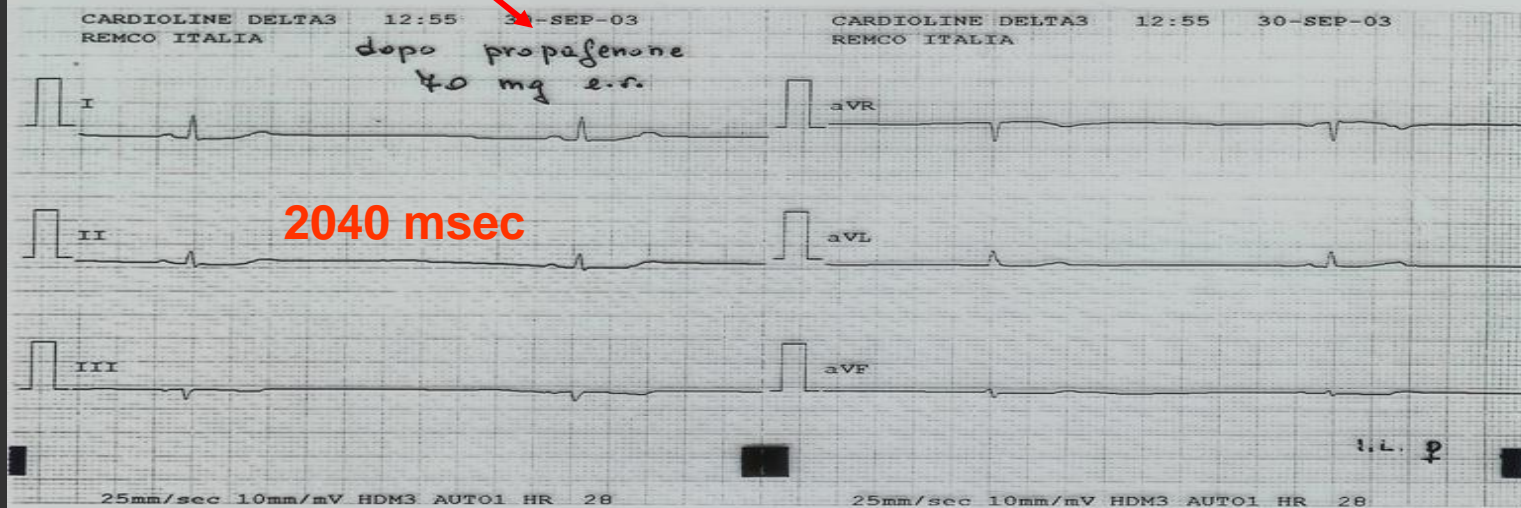
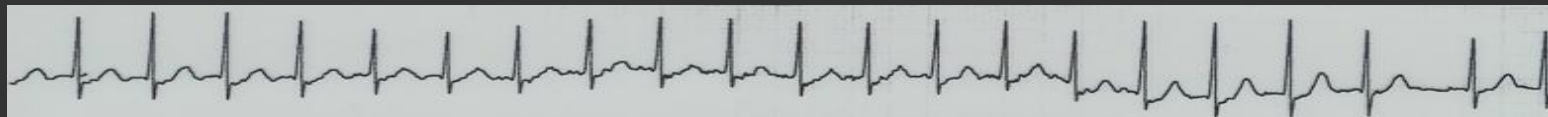


**sodium**

# The "Sicilian Gambit"

DRUG		channels			receptors				pump
		Na fast	Ca med	K slow	$\alpha$	$\beta$	M <sub>2</sub>	P	Na/K ATPase
Lidocain	(Ib)	○							
Propafenon Flecainide	(Ic)	●		○		●			
Propranolol	(II)	○				●			
Amiodaron Sotalol	(III)	○		○	●	●			
Verapamil	(IV)	○		●	●				
Atropine							●		
Adenosine								○	
Digoxin								○	●

1c ??



## KEY POINTS

- pH/Electrolytes/Fluid Balance
- Brain, Heart, Neuroexcitability.....
- Timing
- The full picture (DO<sub>2</sub>, Age, Diseases, Drugs....)

When dealing with dyselectrolytemias.....

*Don't play hard...*



*...play first with  
the sea within us.....*

