

# Renal Tubular Acidosis in Children

New Insights in Diagnosis and  
Treatment

Ricardo Muñoz  
*Editor*

 Springer

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Preface

aying special attention to the molecu-  
rs working at hydrogen excretion and  
ubular cells of the nephron.

Ricardo Muñoz

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Systemic Regulation of Acid-Base Metabolism</b> . . . . .	<b>1</b>
	Javier Zamora-García and Ricardo Muñoz	
<b>2</b>	<b>Renal Regulation of Acid-Base Metabolism</b> . . . . .	<b>25</b>
	Ricardo Muñoz	
<b>3</b>	<b>Physiology of Renal Potassium Handling</b> . . . . .	<b>45</b>
	Adrián Rafael Murillo-de-Ozores, Gerardo Gamba, and María Castañeda-Bueno	
<b>4</b>	<b>Genetic Origin of Renal Tubular Acidosis</b> . . . . .	<b>57</b>
	Laura Escobar-Pérez and Rosa Vargas-Poussou	
<b>5</b>	<b>History of Renal Tubular Acidosis</b> . . . . .	<b>71</b>
	Víctor M. García Nieto, Teresa Moraleda Mesa, and Margarita Monge Zamorano	
<b>6</b>	<b>Classification of Renal Tubular Acidosis</b> . . . . .	<b>81</b>
	Norma Elizabeth Guerra Hernández	
<b>7</b>	<b>Laboratory Diagnosis of Renal Tubular Acidosis.</b> <b>Acidification Tests</b> . . . . .	<b>87</b>
	Víctor M. García Nieto, María Isabel Luis Yanes, and Patricia Tejera Carreño	
<b>8</b>	<b>Proximal Renal Tubular Acidosis (Type II)</b> . . . . .	<b>101</b>
	Mara Medeiros, Omar Guadarrama, and Ricardo Muñoz	
<b>9</b>	<b>Distal Renal Tubular Acidosis (Type I DRTA)</b> . . . . .	<b>111</b>
	Ricardo Muñoz	

**10 Hyperkalemic Renal Tubular Acidosis (RTA Type IV) . . . . . 125**  
 Jesús Lagunas-Muñoz and Ricardo Muñoz

**11 Renal Tubular Acidosis Due to Miscellaneous Etiology . . . . . 143**  
 Mario Matos-Martínez and Ricardo Muñoz

**Index . . . . . 151**

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Contents

acidosis (RTA Type IV) ..... 125  
do Muñoz

Miscellaneous Etiology ..... 143  
do Muñoz

..... 151

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## Abbreviations

(NH <sub>3</sub> )	Am
(NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> )	Am
(nm/l)	Nat
(OH <sup>-</sup> )	Hy
[H <sup>+</sup> ]	Hy
[HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]	Bic
11-β-HSD2	11-
ACTH	Ad
ADH	An
AII RB	An
AQP	Aq
ASDN	Alc
BK	Ma
CA II/IV	Ca
CaSR	Cal
CCT	Co
CNT	Co
DOC	De
DRTA	Dis
ECF	Ext
ENaC	Epi
FENa	Fra
GH	Gr
GTTK	Re
H <sup>+</sup> ATPase (V-H <sup>+</sup> ATPase)	Hy
	(V <sub>e</sub> )
H <sup>+</sup> K <sup>+</sup> ATPase	Hy
H <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Ca
HCN1-HCN4	Hy
	Nu
HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Bic

## Chapter 3

# Physiology of Renal Potassium Handling

Adrián Rafael Murillo-de-Ozores, Gerardo Gamba,  
and María Castañeda-Bueno

### Introduction

$K^+$  is the most abundant cation in intracellular fluid with a concentration of approximately 140 mmol/L, while in the extracellular fluid (ECF) the physiological concentration of  $K^+$  ranges between 3.5 and 5.0 mmol/L. This concentration gradient allows the establishment of the electrical potential of plasma membranes of all the cells of the organism, which plays an especially important role in excitable cells, such as in skeletal or cardiac muscle cells, smooth muscle cells, and neurons. Therefore, alterations in the extracellular  $K^+$  concentration ( $[K^+]_{ECF}$ ) can cause, for example, serious alterations in the function of skeletal or smooth muscle and the heart [1, 2].

### Potassium Balance

Daily  $K^+$  intake ( $\pm 54$  mmol/day) is similar to the total amount of  $K^+$  in the extracellular fluid ( $\pm 60$  mmol). Therefore, different mechanisms are responsible for preventing sudden changes in the  $[K^+]_{ECF}$  in the postprandial period.

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