

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL CLINICAL LABORATORIES

UPDATE Urine Anion Gap (UAG)

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INTRODUCTION:

The urine anion gap (UAG) represents an indirect index of urinary ammonium excretion in patients with hyperchloremic metabolic acidosis. A positive UAG is usually indicative of low or normal ammonium excretion. Thus, patients with metabolic acidosis due to impaired renal ammonium excretion (such as a distal RTA) will have a positive UAG. The UAG is also typically positive in patients with a chronic respiratory alkalosis; metabolic compensation in such patients is associated with an appropriate reduction in ammonium excretion and a decrease in the serum bicarbonate (HCO_3) concentration. A negative UAG is usually indicative of increased ammonium excretion. Such values of the UAG occur in patients with metabolic acidosis generated by diarrhea.

PRINCIPLE:

Urine Na, K and Cl is analyzed by ISE (ion selected electrode) method.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION:

- 5-10 ml of random urine specimen is required.

SCHEDULE:

- Test will be performed daily with next day reporting.

PLEASE FILE FOR QUICK REFERENCE