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THE PREDICTIVE VALUE OF CARBOXYHEMOGLOBIN IN CRITICALLY ILL TRAUMATIZED PATIENTS.

Thesis

Submitted to The Faculty of Medicine,

University of Alexandria,

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of

Master Degree in

CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE

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Dedication

To all Whom

9 love

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABG Arterial blood gases

AIDS Acquired immune deficiency syndrome

APACHE Acute physiology and chronic health evaluation

APS Acute physiology score

ARDS Acute respiratory distress syndrome

CBC Complete blood count

CNS Central nervous system

CO Carbon monoxide

COH Carboxyhemoglobin

GC Gas chromatography
GCS Glasgow coma score

HBO Hyper baric oxygen

HO Heme oxygenase

I.C.U Intensive care unit

NO Nitric oxide

O₂ Oxygen

P(A-a)O₂ Alveolar-arterial oxygen tension gradient

PaCO₂ Partial arterial carbon dioxide tension

PaO₂ Partial arterial oxygen tension

PPM Part per million

RTS Revised trauma score

SaO₂ Oxygen saturation

SAPS Simplified acute physiology score

SMC Smooth muscle cells

SPSS Statistical package for special scientists

TISS Therapeutic intervention scoring system

TS Trauma score

VSM Vascular smooth muscle

WBC White blood count

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INTRODUCTION

CARBON MONOXIDE

The normal blood cells contain hemoglobin, carbonic anhydrase enzyme (which catalyses reaction between carbon dioxide and water), cytoplasmic enzymes [glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase and pyruvate kinase, ions as potassium (K^+), sodium (Na^+), magnesium (Mg^+), chloride(Cl^-), bicarbonate (HCo_3^-) and phosphate (PO_4^-)(1).

Each molecule of hemoglobin consists of four subunits, each containing one polypeptide chain (globin) and one iron-protporphyrin complex (hem). Hem is a ring structure formed of 4 pyrol molecules (protporphyrin) with ferrous (Fe⁺⁺) ion at the center of the ring, it is essential for oxygen carriage. The 4 heme complexes join together to from a hemoglobin molecule with a binding capacity for 4 oxygen molecules (or 8 oxygen atoms)⁽¹⁾.

The old, abnormal, or damaged red blood cells are phagocytosed by phagocytic cells of the reticuloendothelial system present in the spleen, liver, bone marrow and other tissues. The lysosomal enzymes break down the hemoglobin liberated from the red cells inside the reticuloendothelial cells, into hem and globin parts. The globin part is broken down into amino acids that are utilized for newer blood cell formation or used in the general protein synthesis in the body⁽²⁾.

Iron is removed from the hem part of hemoglobin and released into blood where it is bound to the carrier protein transferrin, which carries iron to the bone marrow where it is used again in erythropoiesis or to the liver where it is stored. The remaining part of the hem molecule is converted to biliverdin. Biliverdin in turn is converted to bilirubin which diffuses to the blood and binds to albumin, bilirubin is taken up by the liver, conjugated with glucuronic acid and secreted in the bile⁽²⁾.

CO is a tasteless, odourless, colourless, and non-irritating gas produced by incomplete combustion of organic materials. It also produced in man during the catabolism of hemoglobin⁽³⁾.

The normal endogenous production of CO is sufficient to saturate 0.4-0.7% of the body's hemoglobin-that is 0.4-0.7% carboxyhemoglobin (COH) at rest. However a national survey in North America found 2-3% COH in urban non smokers as a result of environmental exposure and 5-6% in smokers (cigarette smoker contains about 4% CO)⁽⁴⁾.