

PCO₂ gap

- The advantages -

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Andrew Rhodes

Consensus on circulatory shock and hemodynamic monitoring. Task force of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine

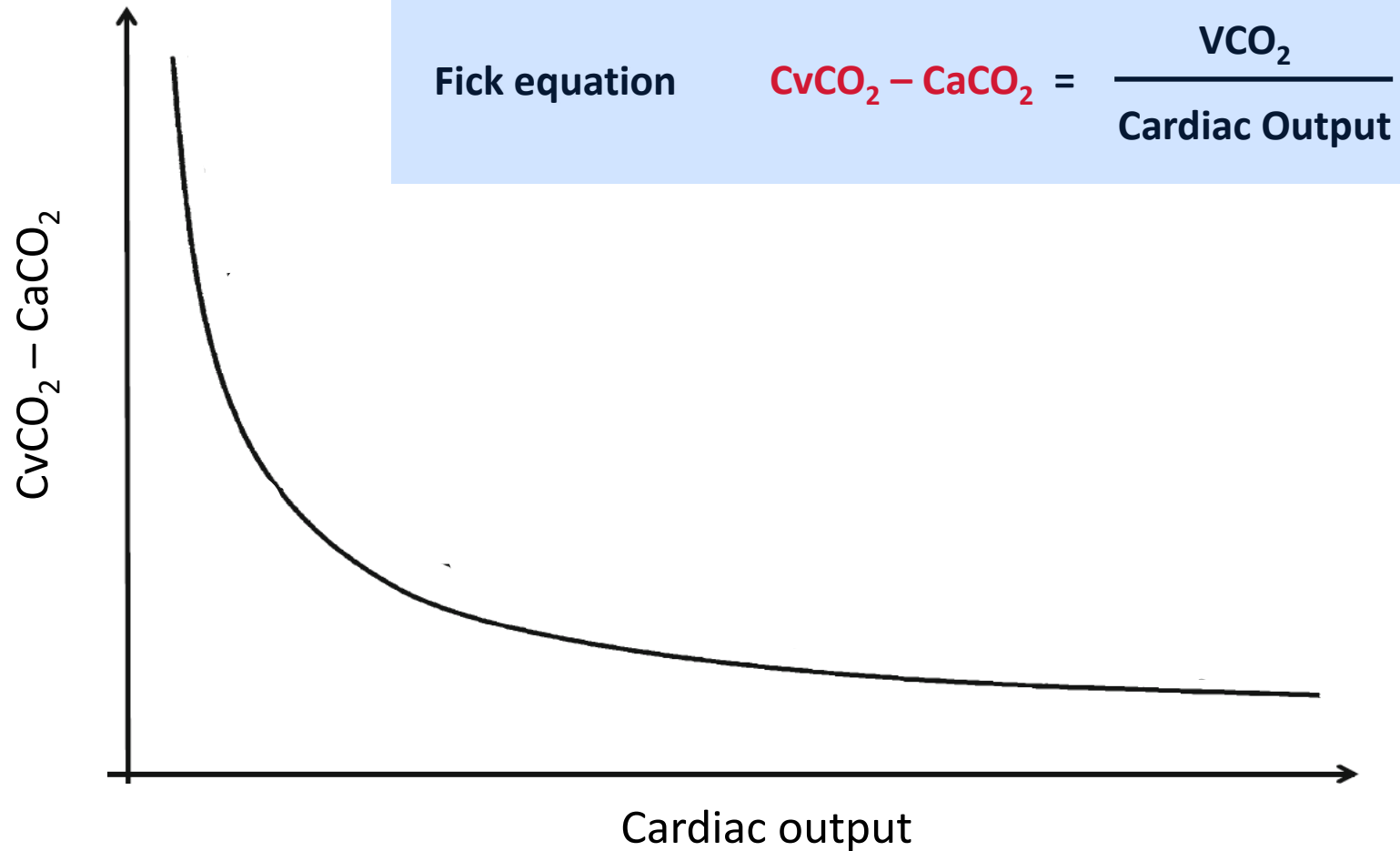
- In patients with a **central venous catheter**, we suggest measurements of **ScvO₂** and **v-aPCO₂** to help assess the underlying pattern and the **adequacy of cardiac output** as well as to **guide therapy**

Level 2; QoE moderate (B)

Hemodynamic management of cardiovascular failure by using PCO_2 venous-arterial difference

Martin Dres · Xavier Monnet · Jean-Louis Teboul

J Clin Monit Comput (2012) 26:367–374



Fick equation

$$C_v\text{CO}_2 - C_a\text{CO}_2 = \Delta C\text{CO}_2 = \frac{V\text{CO}_2}{\text{Cardiac Output}}$$

$$\Delta \text{PCO}_2 = k \cdot \Delta C\text{CO}_2$$

Fick equation

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$$\Delta \text{PCO}_2 = k \cdot \Delta C\text{CO}_2$$

simplified Fick equation

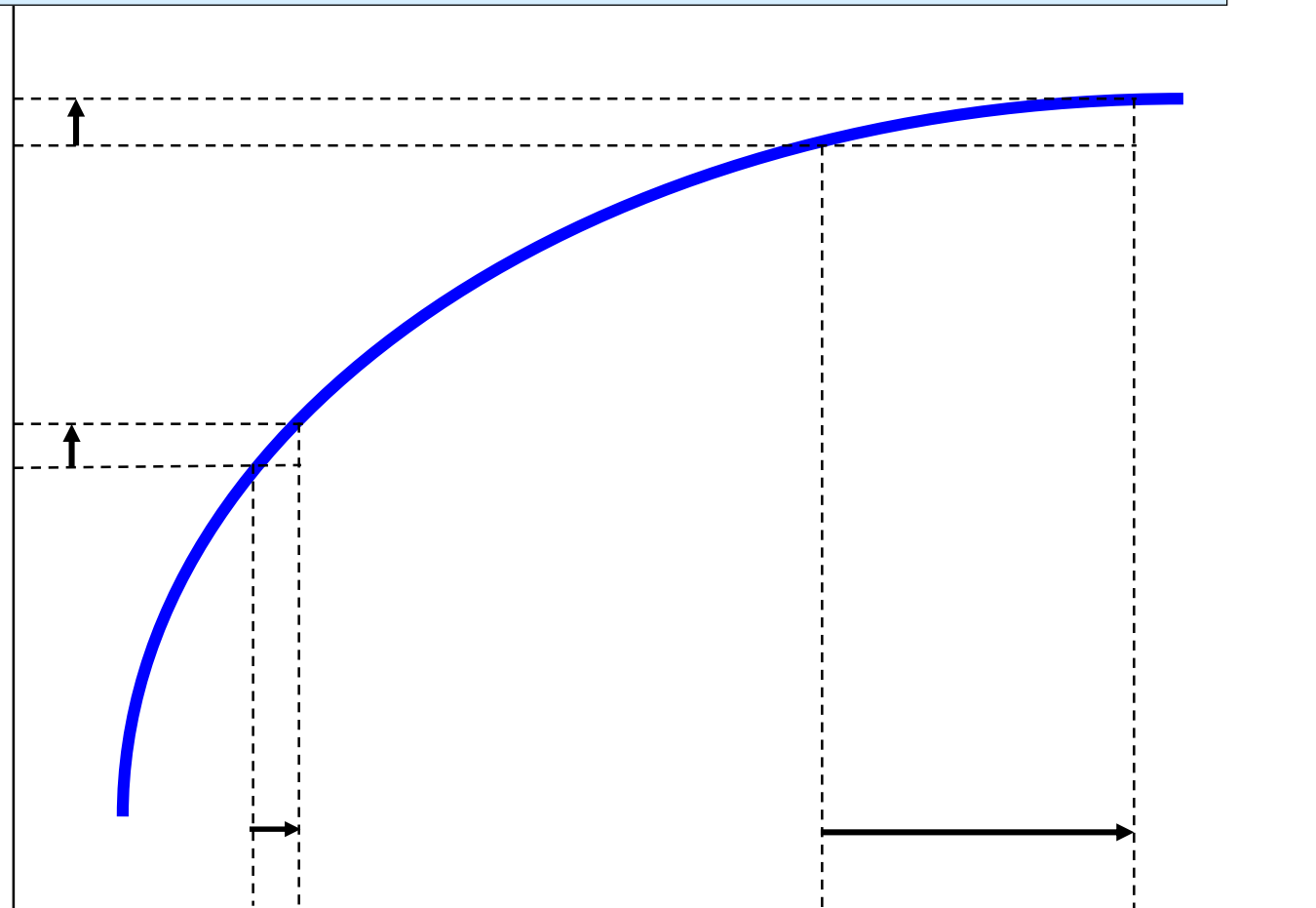
$$\Delta \text{PCO}_2 = k \cdot \frac{V\text{CO}_2}{\text{Cardiac Output}}$$

ΔPCO_2 depends on:

- **k**, a factor defining the **relation** between **PCO₂** and **CO₂ content**
- **VCO₂** : global **CO₂ production**
- **Cardiac Output**

« k » is not constant and increases with venous hypercapnia

CO_2
Content



PCO_2

Fick equation

$$CvCO_2 - CaCO_2 = \Delta CCO_2 = \frac{VCO_2}{\text{Cardiac Output}}$$

$$\Delta PCO_2 = k \cdot \Delta CCO_2$$

simplified Fick equation

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simplified Fick equation

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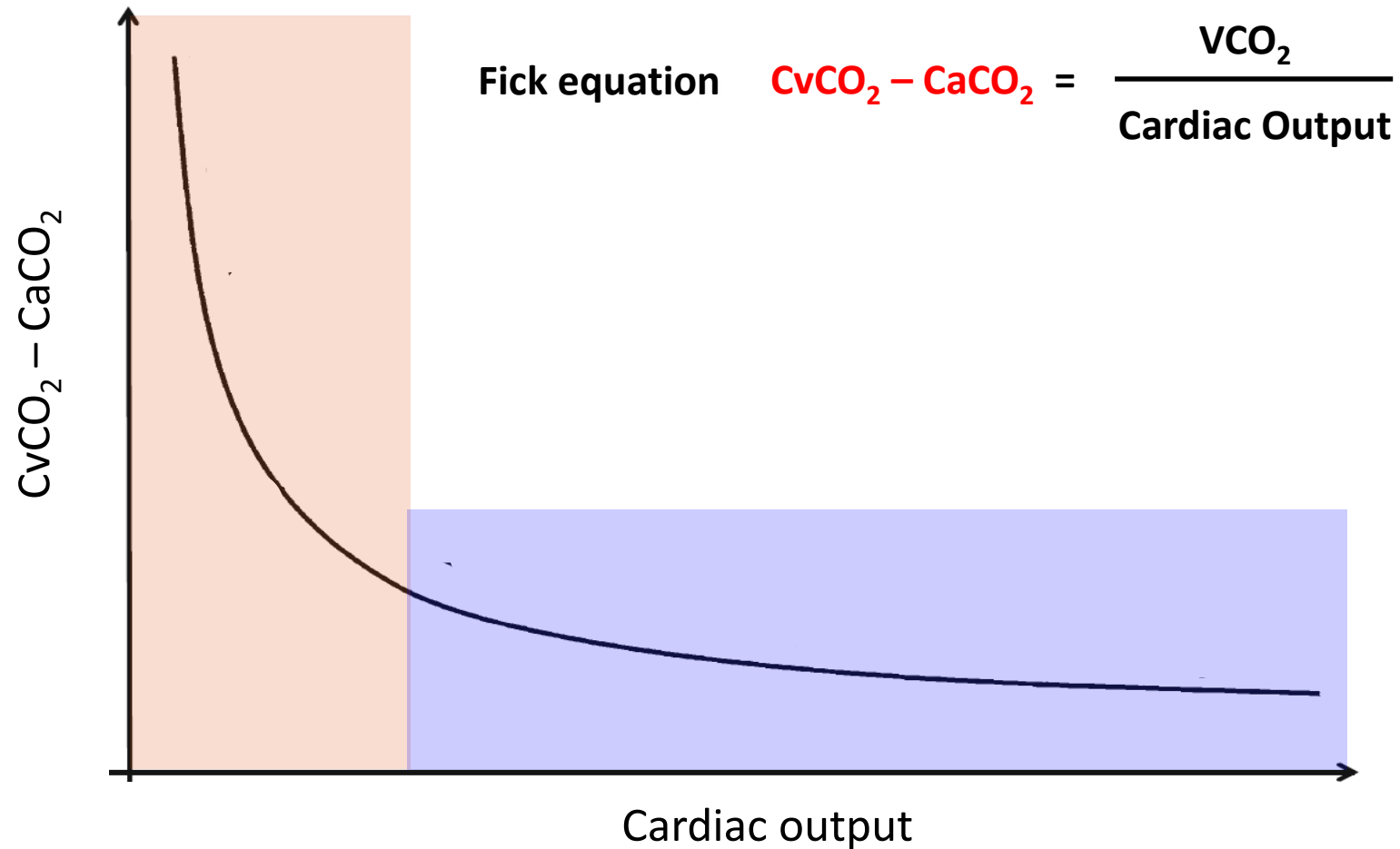
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ΔPCO_2 and cardiac output

In case of **low cardiac output**, the **high ΔPCO_2** is related to **CO_2 stagnation**, a phenomenon that results from a **low clearance** of the **CO_2 produced** at the periphery (due to the **slow efferent venous blood flow**).

ΔPCO_2 : clinical use

- ΔPCO_2 : marker of tissue hypoxia?

$$\Delta \text{PCO}_2 = k \cdot \frac{\text{VCO}_2}{\text{CO}}$$

hypoxia



**aerobic CO₂
production**



**anaerobic CO₂
production**

anaerobic CO₂ production

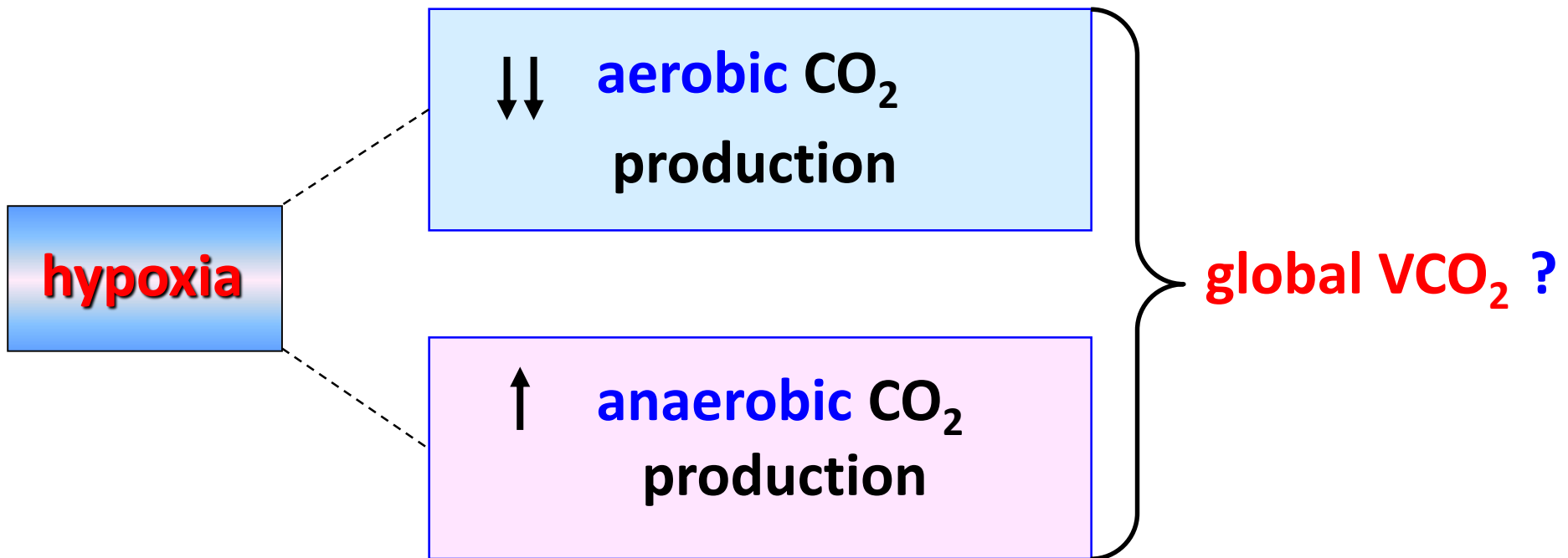
- . **buffering** of H⁺ ions generated under **hypoxic** conditions due to **hydrolysis** of **ATP** and **ADP**

→ **generation of CO₂**

- . **anaerobic decarboxylation** of α cetoglutarate and oxaloacetate

→ **generation of CO₂**

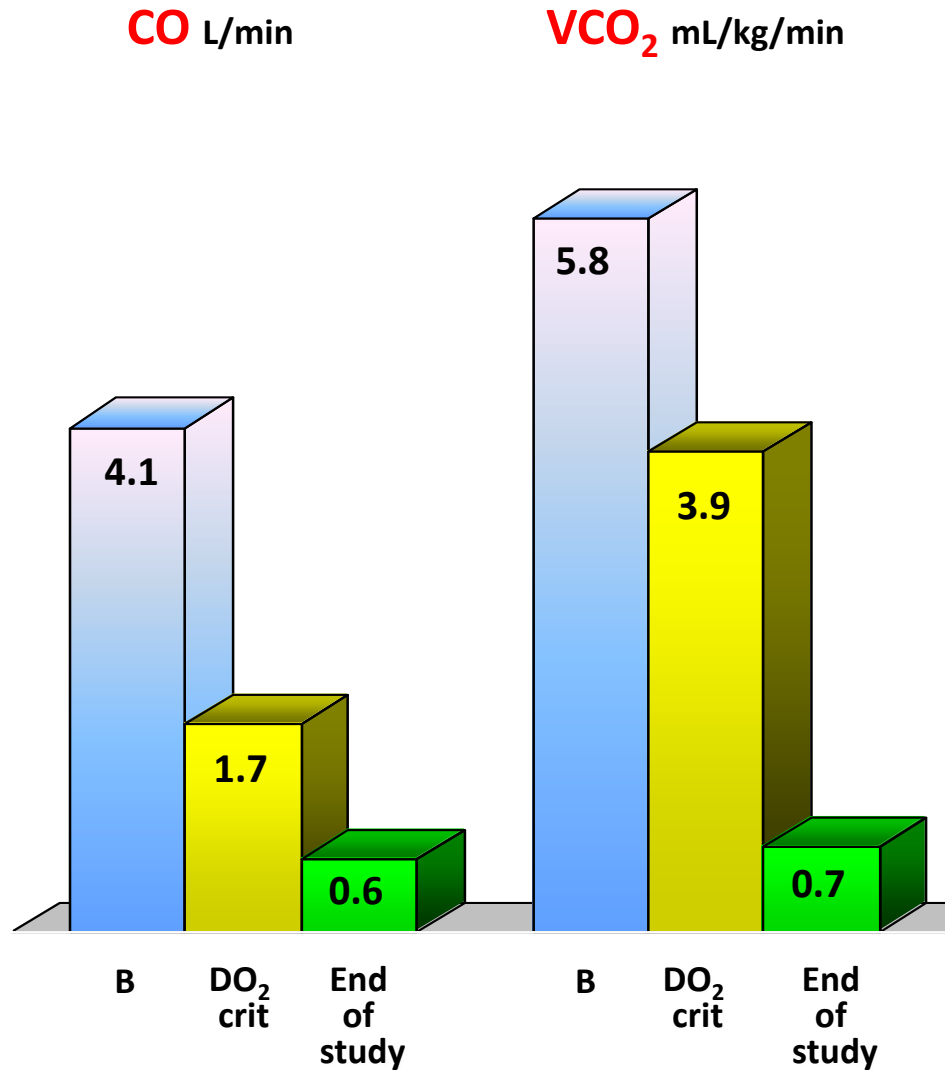
$$\Delta \text{PCO}_2 = k \cdot \frac{\text{VCO}_2}{\text{CO}}$$



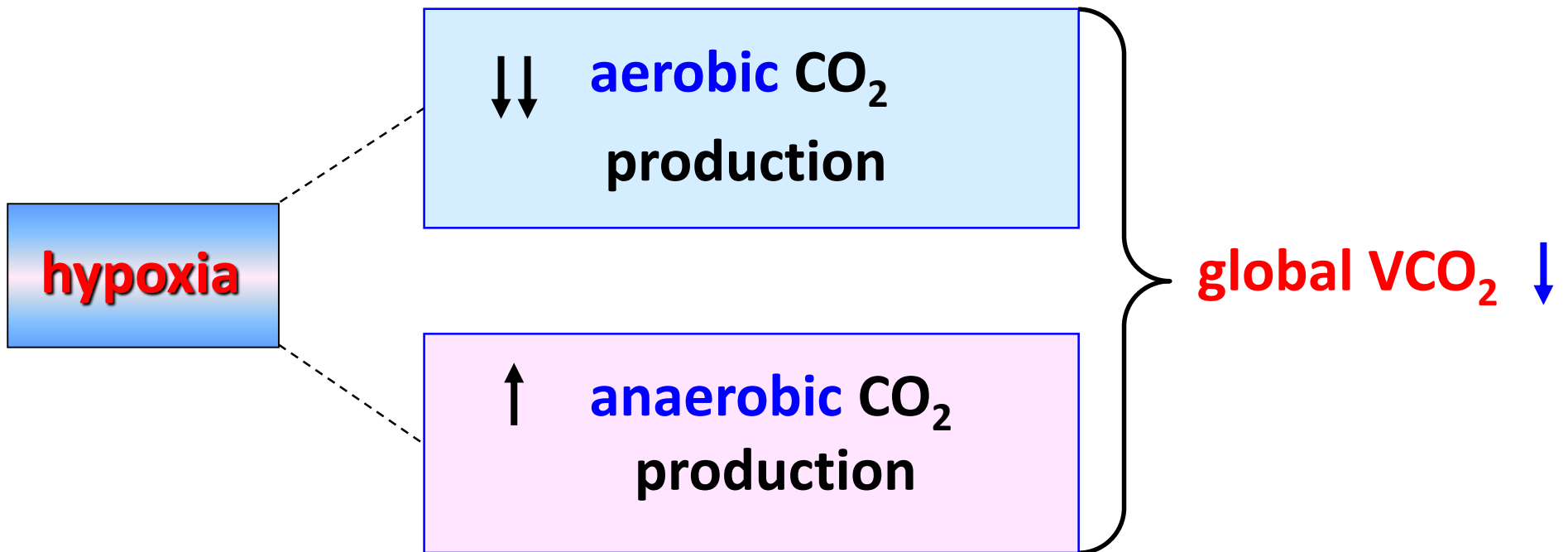
Arteriovenous differences in PCO_2 and pH are good indicators of critical hypoperfusion

Zhang H and Vincent JL

Am Rev Respir Dis 1993 ; 148 : 867-871

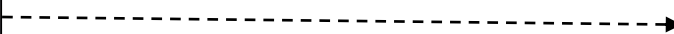


$$\Delta PCO_2 = k \cdot \frac{VCO_2}{CO}$$



$$\Delta \text{PCO}_2 = k \cdot \frac{\downarrow \text{VCO}_2}{\text{CO}}$$

hypoxia



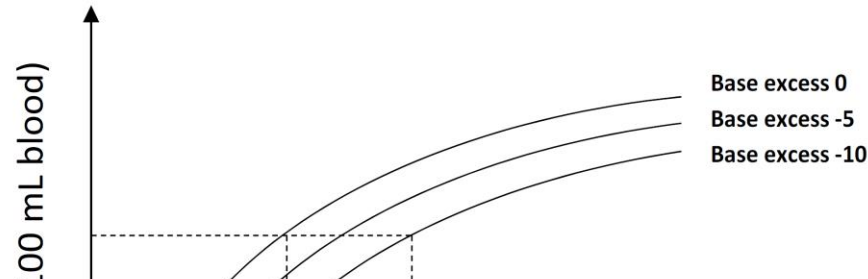
k ?

UNDERSTANDING THE DISEASE

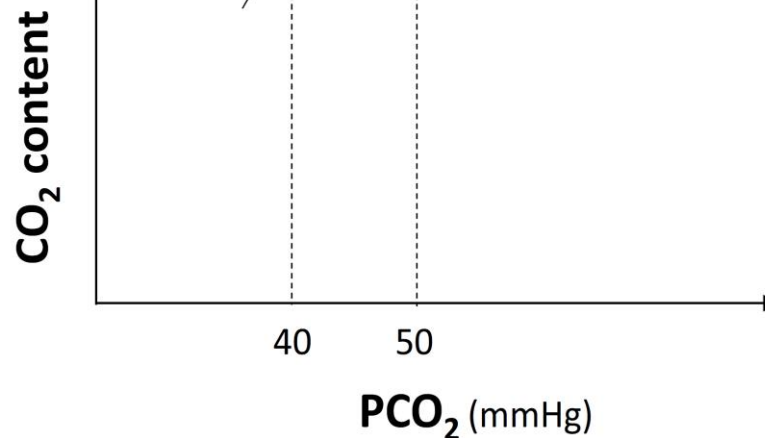
Understanding the Haldane effect

Jean-Louis Teboul^{1,2*} and Thomas Scheeren^{3,4}

« **k** » increases with metabolic acidosis



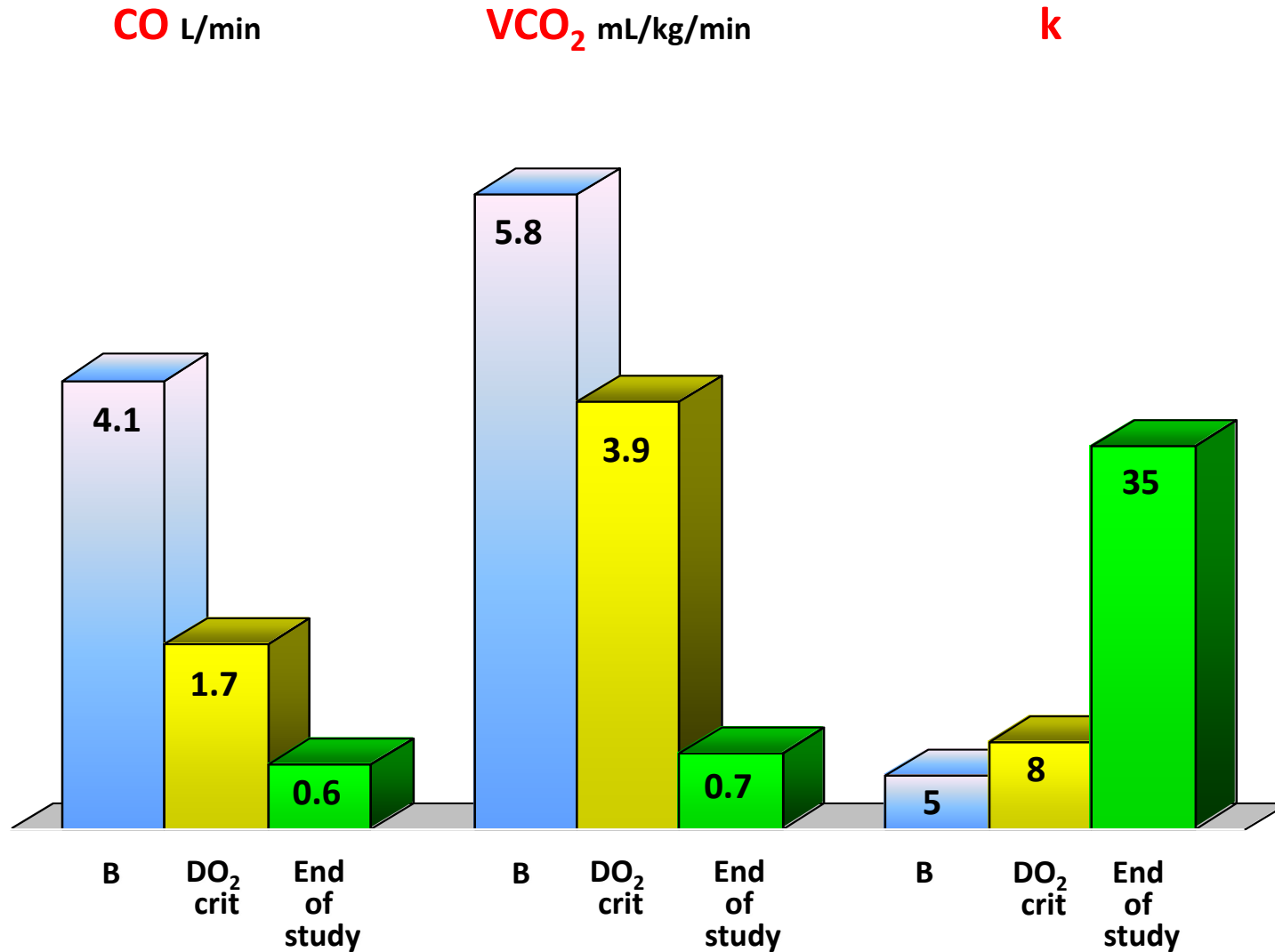
For a given CO₂ content, PCO₂ is higher in case of **metabolic acidosis**



Arteriovenous differences in PCO_2 and pH are good indicators of critical hypoperfusion

Zhang H and Vincent JL

Am Rev Respir Dis 1993 ; 148 : 867-871



$$\Delta \text{PCO}_2 = \uparrow k \cdot \frac{\downarrow \text{VCO}_2}{\text{CO}}$$

hypoxia

k ↑

Tissue hypoxia with low CO



$$\Delta \text{PCO}_2 = k \cdot \frac{\text{VCO}_2}{\text{CO}}$$

$$\Delta \text{PCO}_2 \uparrow$$

Arteriovenous differences in PCO₂ and pH are good indicators of critical hypoperfusion

Zhang H and Vincent JL

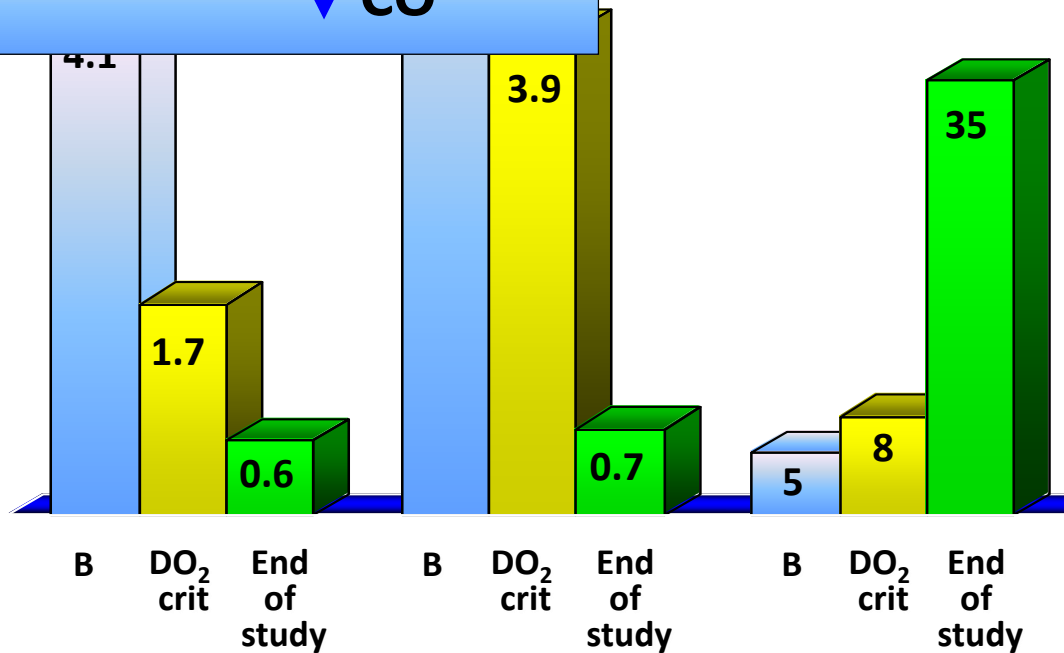
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CO L/min

VCO₂ mL/kg/min

k

$$\uparrow \Delta \text{PCO}_2 = \uparrow k \cdot \frac{\downarrow \text{VCO}_2}{\downarrow \text{CO}}$$



Tissue hypoxia with normal or high CO



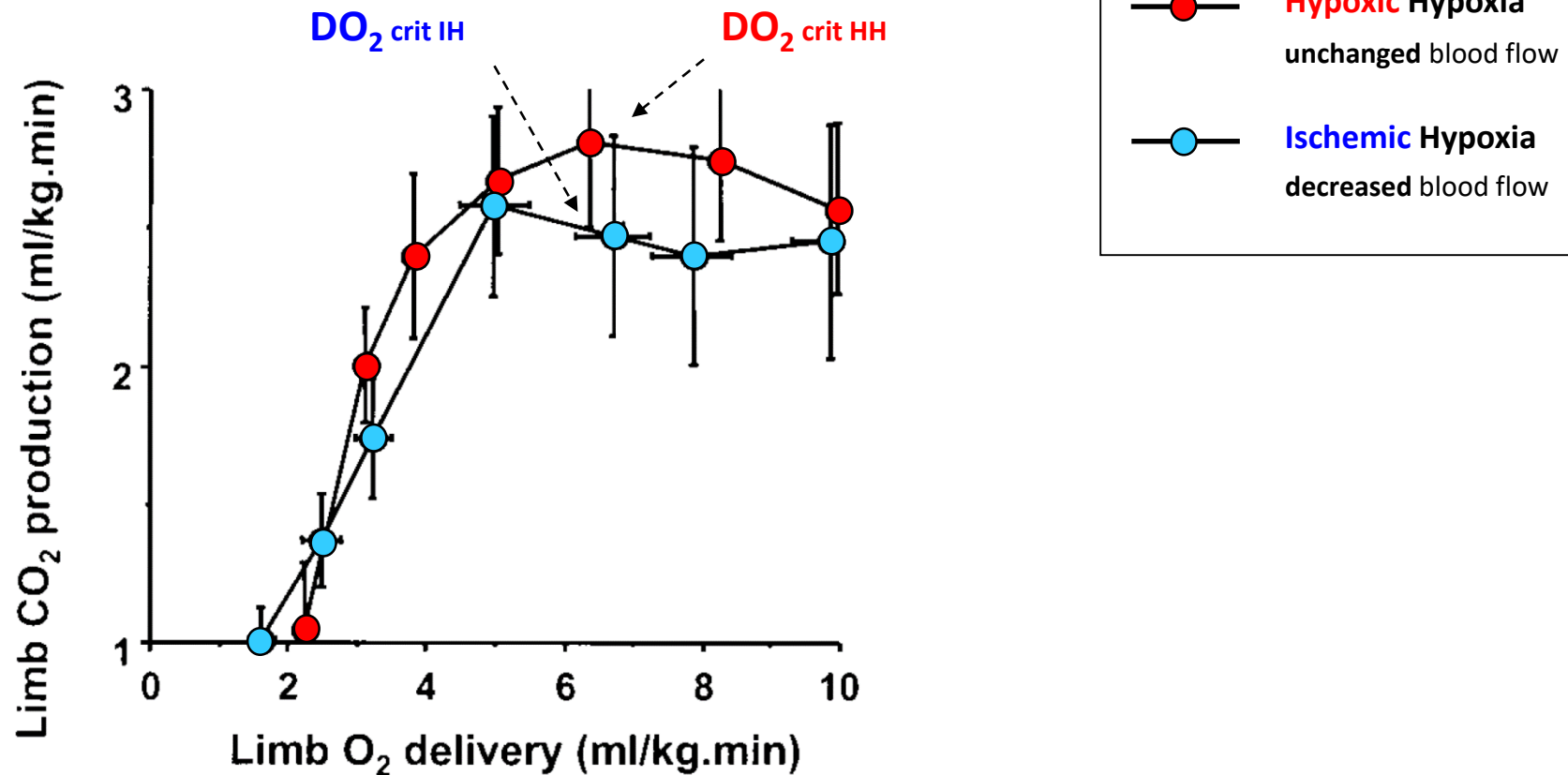
$$\Delta \text{PCO}_2 = k \cdot \frac{\text{VCO}_2}{\text{CO}}$$

$$\Delta \text{PCO}_2 \downarrow \text{ or } =$$

Venoarterial CO₂ difference during regional ischemic or hypoxic hypoxia

BENOIT VALLET,¹ JEAN-LOUIS TEBOUL,² STEPHEN CAIN,³ AND SCOTT CURTIS⁴

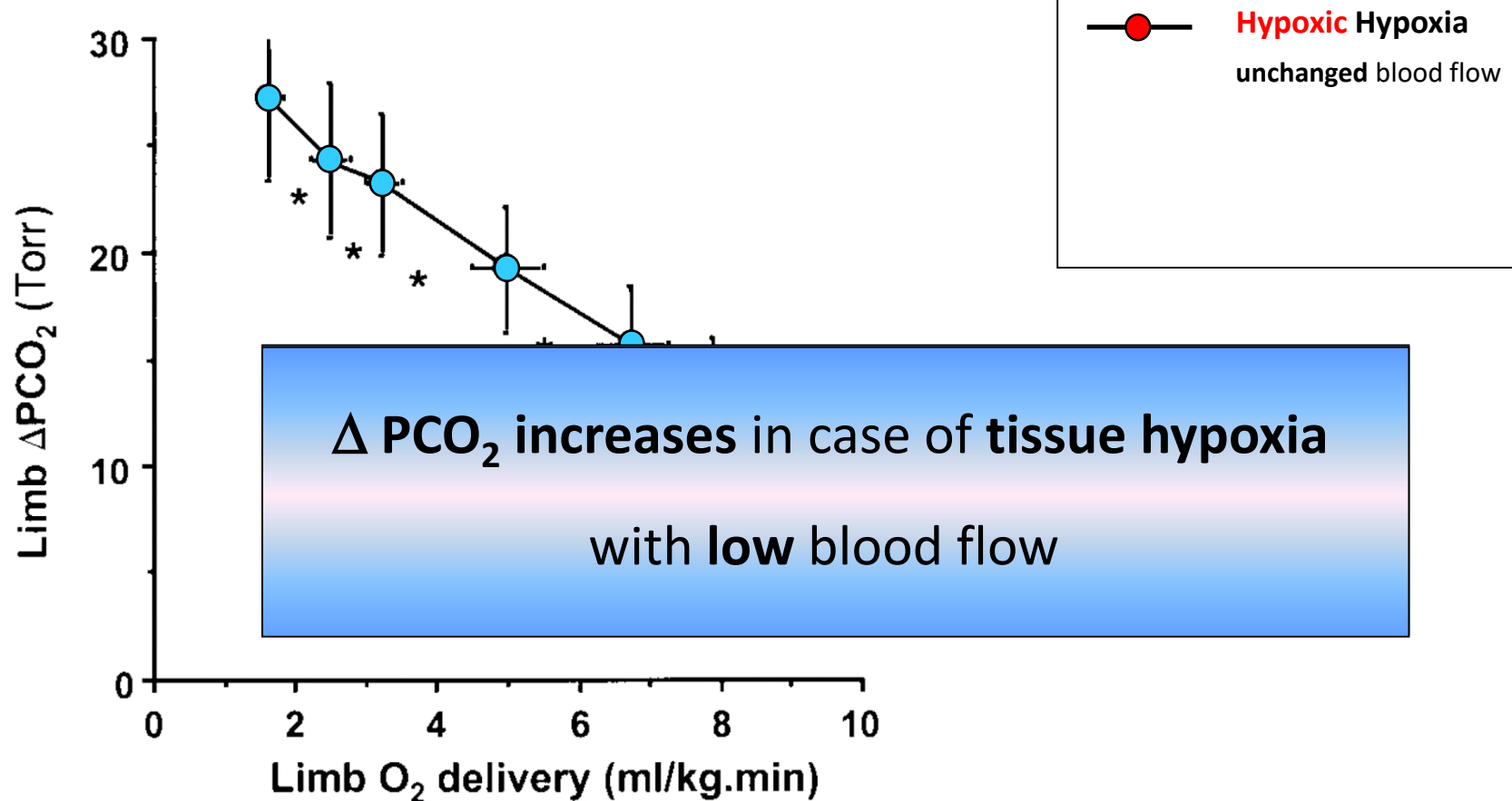
J Appl Physiol 89: 1317–1321, 2000



Venoarterial CO₂ difference during regional ischemic or hypoxic hypoxia

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J Appl Physiol 89: 1317–1321, 2000



Veno-arterial Carbon Dioxide Gradient in Human Septic Shock*

*Jan Bakker, M.D.; Jean-Louis Vincent, M.D., Ph.D, F.C.C.P.;
Philippe Gris, M.D.; Marc Leon, M.D.; Michel Coffernils, M.D.;
and Robert J. Kahn, M.D.*

Chest 1992; 101:509-15

ΔPCO_2

< 6 mmHg

> 6 mmHg

nb patients

49

15

lactate mmol/L

5.6 ± 3.9

6.2 ± 5.0

CI L/min/m²

4.3 ± 1.5

2.9 ± 1.3 *

Fabrice Vallée
Benoît Vallet
Olivier Mathe
Jacqueline Parraguette
Arnaud Mari
Stein Silva
Kamran Samii
Olivier Fourcade
Michèle Genestal

**Central venous to-arterial carbon dioxide
difference: an additional target
for goal-directed therapy in septic shock?**

50 pts with septic shock

all with $ScvO_2 > 70\%$

following initial resuscitation

Low gap group (<i>n</i> = 26)	High gap group (<i>n</i> = 24)	<i>P</i> value
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Haemody

MAP (mmHg)

Cardiac

Heart rate (b/min)

Biological

Lactate (mmol/L)

$ScvO_2$ (%)

ERO_2 (L/min)

$P(cv-a)CO_2$ (mmHg)

Hb (g/dL)

SaO_2 (%)

PaO_2/FiO_2 (mmHg)

$PaCO_2$ (mmHg)

Arterial (pH)

**A high value of $P(cv-a)CO_2$
could encourage to increase CO,
even if $ScvO_2 > 70\%$**

0.01

0.01

95 ± 7	96 ± 5	0.43
174 ± 58	202 ± 60	0.12
38 ± 9	36 ± 6	0.37
7.29 ± 0.07	7.28 ± 0.1	0.41

Take-home messages

Regardless of the presence of **tissue hypoxia**

- **normal** ΔPCO_2 (≤ 6 mmHg) expected if **normal** or **high CO**
- **high** ΔPCO_2 (> 6 mmHg) expected if **low CO**

- A **normal** ΔPCO_2 suggests that **elevation of CO cannot** be a priority in the therapeutic strategy
- A **high** ΔPCO_2 suggests that **elevation of CO may** be a **good** therapeutic option

ΔPCO_2 : clinical use

- ΔPCO_2 : marker of tissue hypoxia ?
- **Combined analysis of ΔPCO_2 and $\text{C}_{a-v} \text{O}_2$**

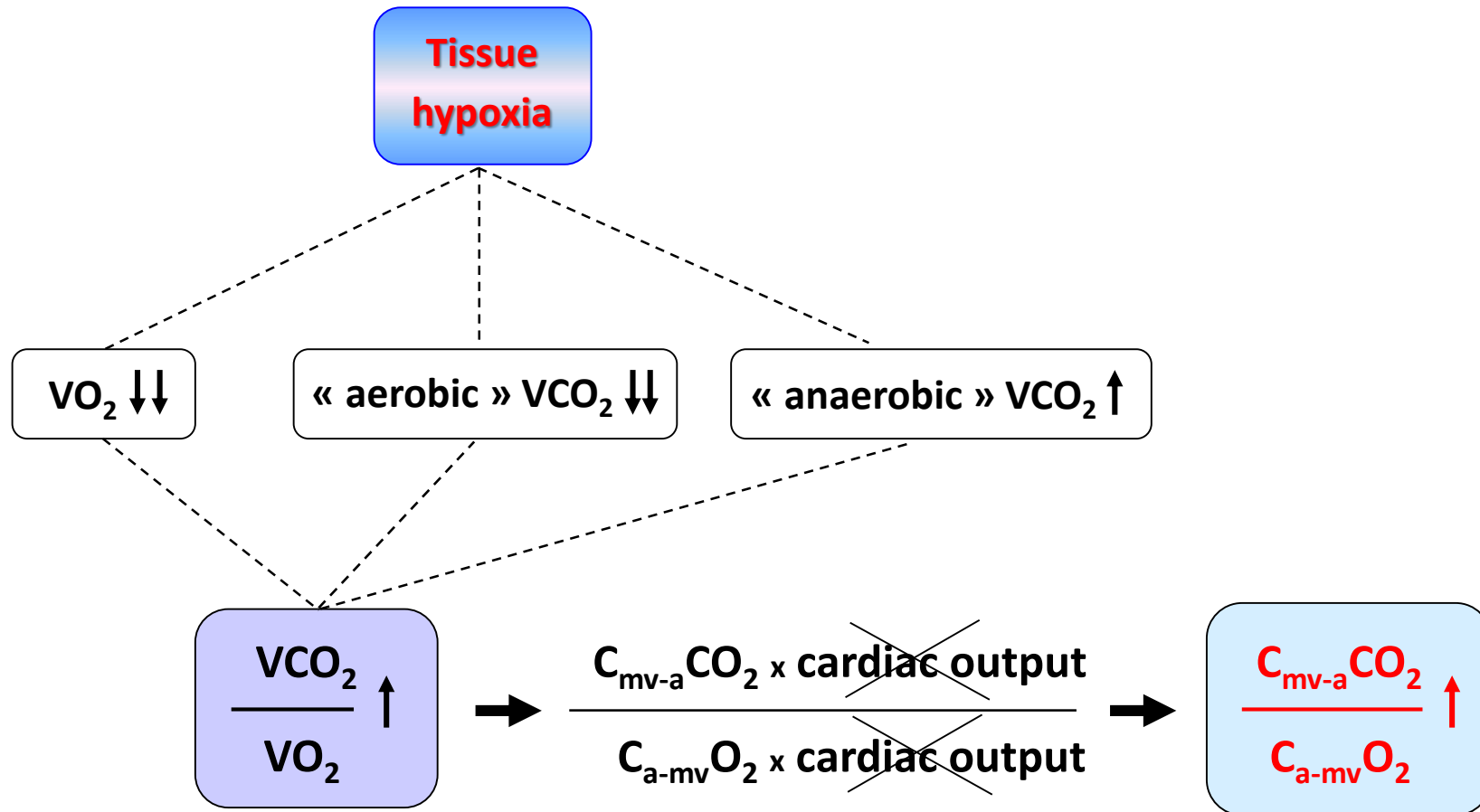
Armand Mekontso-Dessap
Vincent Castelain
Nadia Anguel
Mabrouk Bahloul
Franck Schauvliege
Christian Richard
Jean-Louis Teboul

**Combination of venoarterial PCO_2 difference
with arteriovenous O_2 content difference
to detect anaerobic metabolism in patients**

a ΔPCO_2 relatively greater than C_{a-v}O_2
can suggest the presence of
anaerobic CO_2 production
and thus can detect **tissue hypoxia**

Stephan M. Jakob
A. B. Johan Groeneveld
Jean-Louis Teboul

Venous–arterial CO₂ to arterial–venous O₂ difference ratio as a resuscitation target in shock states?



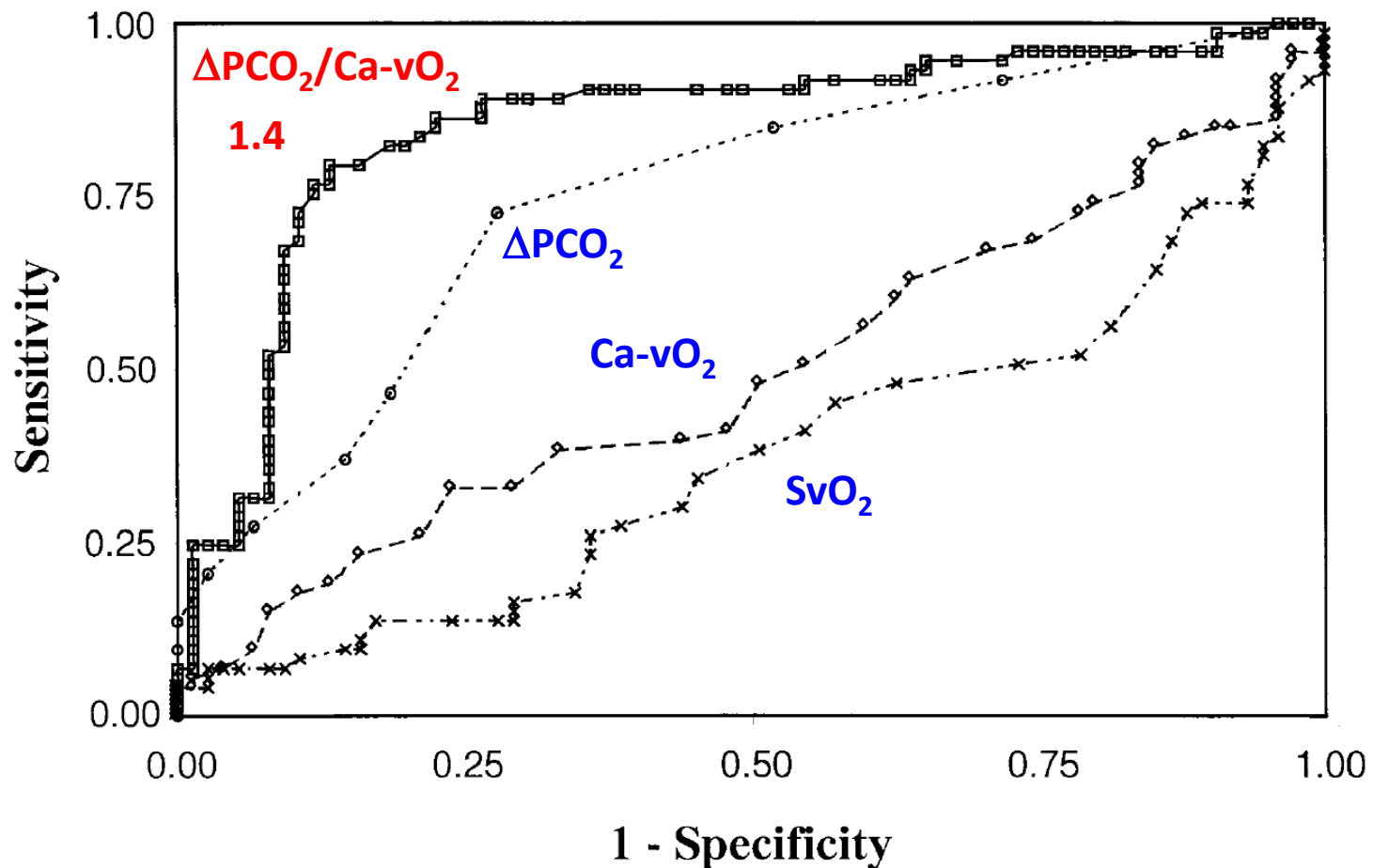
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Combination of venoarterial PCO₂ difference with arteriovenous O₂ content difference to detect anaerobic metabolism in patients

	Lac < 2 mmol/L n=66	Lac ≥ 2 mmol/L n=68	p
SvO ₂	69 ± 9	67 ± 15	0.47
C _{a-v} O ₂	3.6 ± 1.0	3.3 ± 1.5	0.15
Δ PCO ₂	4 ± 2	6 ± 2	<0.001
Δ PCO ₂ / C _{a-v} O ₂	1.1 ± 0.6	2.1 ± 1.0	<0.001

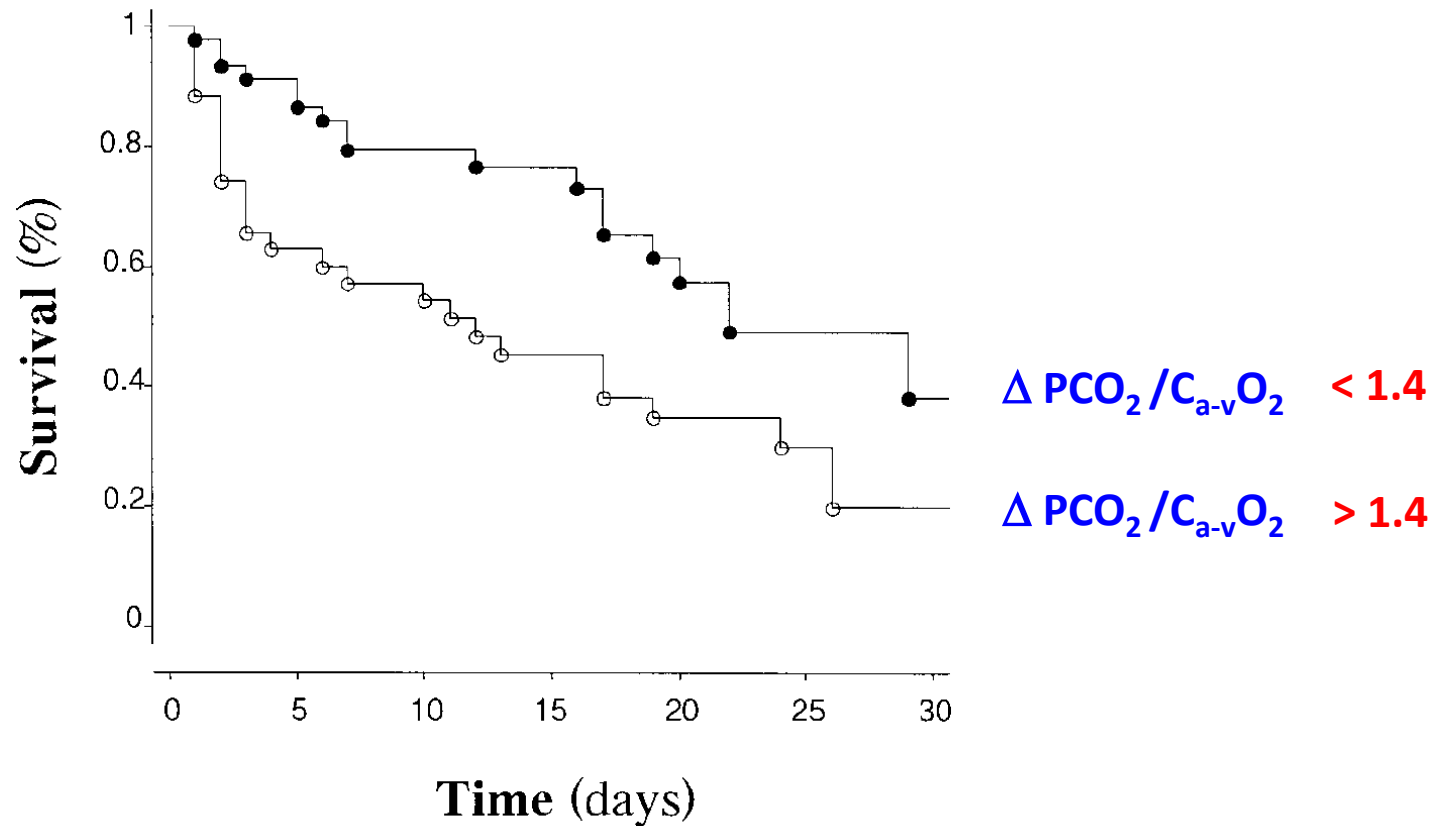
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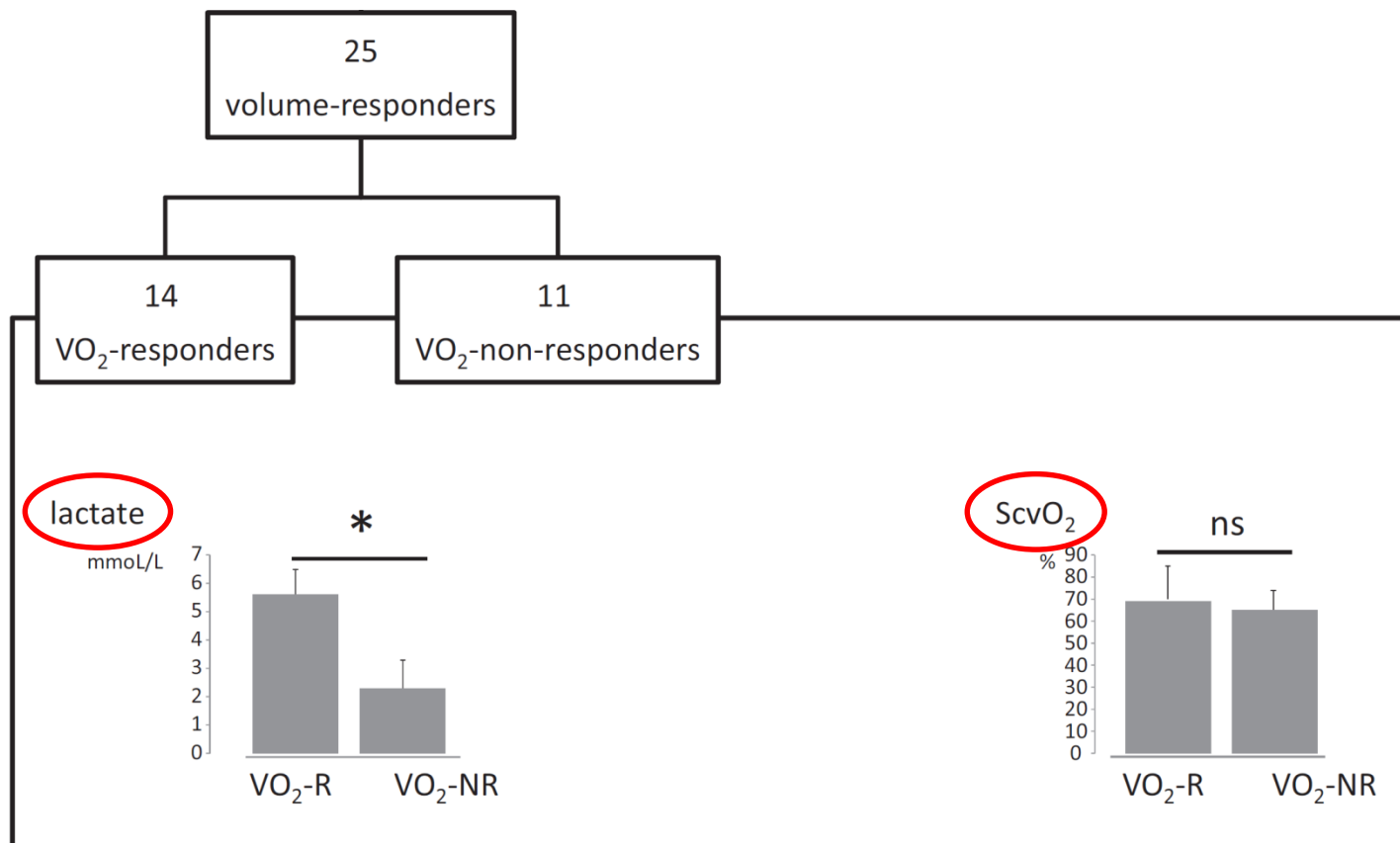
Combination of venoarterial PCO_2 difference with arteriovenous O_2 content difference to detect anaerobic metabolism in patients



Lactate and Veno-Arterial Carbon Dioxide Difference/Arterial-Venous Oxygen Difference Ratio, but Not Central Venous Oxygen Saturation, Predict Increase in Oxygen Consumption in Fluid Responders

Xavier Monnet, MD, PhD^{1,2}; Florence Julien, MD^{1,2}; Nora Ait-Hamou, MD¹; Marie Lequoy, MD^{1,2}; Clément Gosset, MD^{1,2}; Mathieu Jozwiak, MD^{1,2}; Romain Persichini, MD^{1,2}; Nadia Anguel, MD^{1,2}; Christian Richard, MD^{1,2}; Jean-Louis Teboul, MD, PhD^{1,2}

Crit Care Med 2013; 41:1412–1420



**Lactate and Veno-Arterial Carbon Dioxide
Difference/Arterial-Venous Oxygen Difference
Ratio, but Not Central Venous Oxygen Saturation,
Predict Increase in Oxygen Consumption in Fluid
Responders**

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Christian Richard, MD^{1,2}; Jean-Louis Teboul, MD, PhD^{1,2}

Crit Care Med 2013; 41:1412–1420

lactate

$$\Delta \text{PCO}_2 / \text{C}_{a-v}\text{O}_2$$

predicts **better** than **ScvO₂**

the **benefits** for the **tissues**

of **fluid** administration

100-Specificity

Gustavo A. Ospina-Tascón
 Mauricio Umaña
 William Bermúdez
 Diego F. Bautista-Rincón
 Glenn Hernandez
 Alejandro Bruhn
 Marcela Granados
 Blanca Salazar
 César Arango-Dávila
 Daniel De Backer

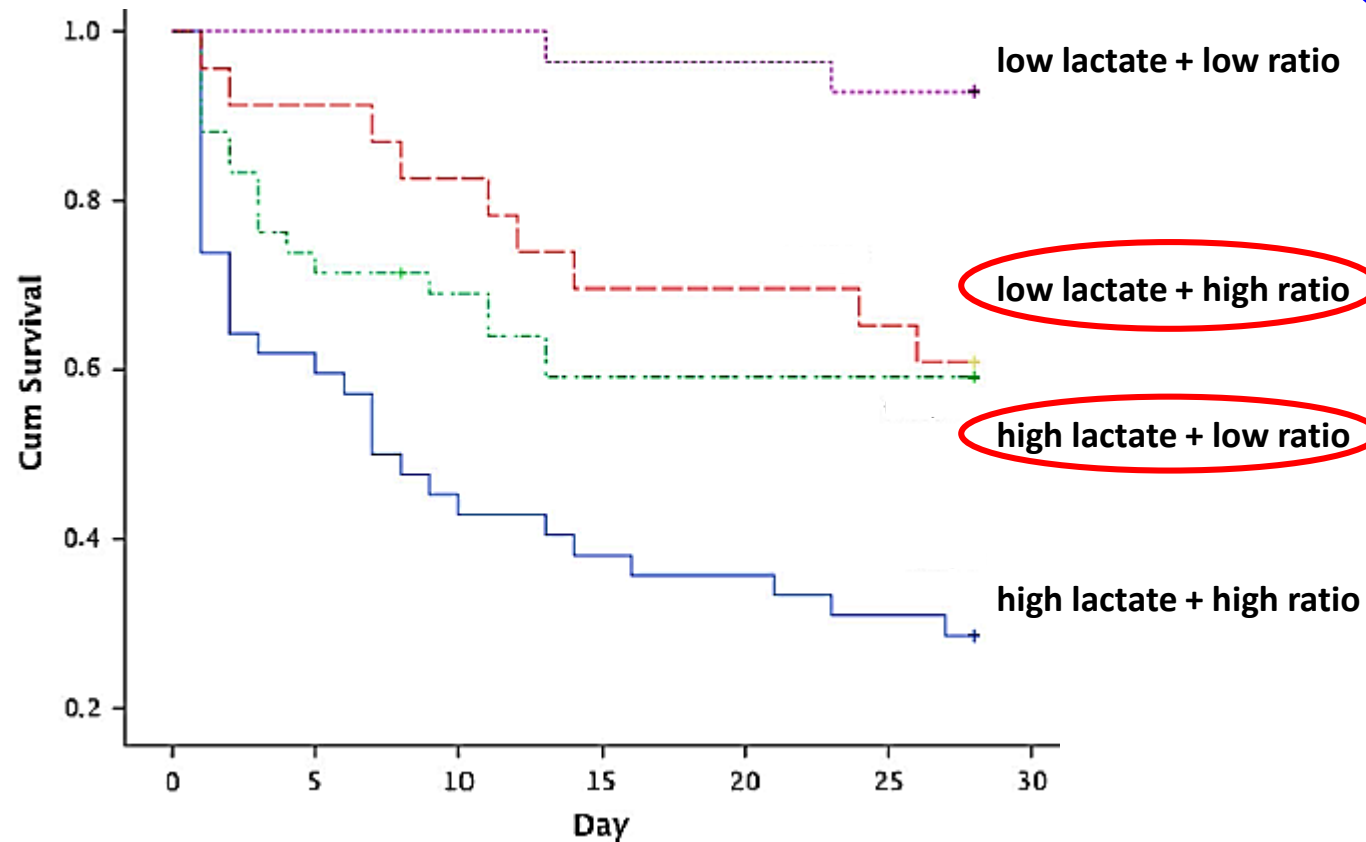
Combination of arterial lactate levels and venous-arterial CO₂ to arterial-venous O₂ content difference ratio as markers of resuscitation in patients with septic shock

Table 3 Multivariate logistic regression for predictors of mortality at day 28

	T0			T6			T6 (for SvO ₂ ≥65 %) ^a		
	RR	95 % CI	<i>p</i>	RR	95 % CI	<i>p</i>	RR	95 % CI	<i>p</i>
Cv-aCO ₂ /Da-vO ₂	3.85	1.60–9.27	0.003	3.97	1.54–10.24	0.004	5.71	1.20–27.19	0.03
Lactate, mmol/L	1.19	0.98–1.44	0.09	1.58	1.13–2.22	0.008	2.41	1.22–4.76	0.01
VO ₂ , mL/min/m ²	1.00	0.98–1.01	0.59	0.99	0.98–1.00	0.24	1.01	0.99–1.02	0.30
DO ₂ , mL/min/m ²	1.00	0.99–1.00	0.69	1.00	0.99–1.01	0.43	1.00	0.99–1.01	0.67
SvO ₂ , %	0.97	0.90–1.04	0.35	0.93	0.86–1.01	0.06			
CI, L/min/m ²	0.82	0.44–1.53	0.54	0.94	0.39–2.26	0.89	1.28	0.33–4.96	0.72
APACHE II	1.08	0.98–1.19	0.09	1.03	0.94–1.14	0.54	0.94	0.80–1.10	0.45
Age, years	1.03	0.99–1.06	0.14	1.02	0.98–1.06	0.38	1.10	0.99–1.21	0.06
Time before T0, h	0.62	0.36–1.04	0.07	0.72	0.41–1.27	0.26	0.63	0.29–1.40	0.25
Gender	0.45	0.16–1.27	0.13	0.77	0.24–2.45	0.66	0.15	0.03–0.99	0.05
Fluids, mL	1.00	0.99–1.01	0.84	1.00	1.00–1.01	0.93	1.00	0.99–1.00	0.81
Norepinephrine, µg/kg/min	1.78	0.23–13.94	0.58	0.41	0.06–2.89	0.37	0.25	0.01–7.56	0.42
MAP, mmHg	0.96	0.92–1.01	0.09	0.98	0.92–1.05	0.58	0.98	0.89–1.09	0.71

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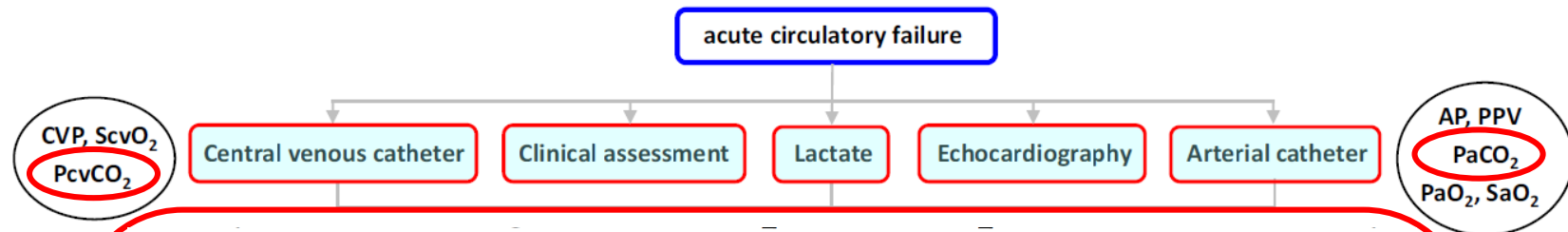
Combination of arterial lactate levels and venous-arterial CO₂ to arterial-venous O₂ content difference ratio as markers of resuscitation in patients with septic shock





Less invasive hemodynamic monitoring in critically ill patients

Jean-Louis Teboul^{1*}, Bernd Saugel², Maurizio Cecconi³, Daniel De Backer⁴, Christoph K. Hofer⁵, Xavier Monnet¹, Azriel Perel⁶, Michael R. Pinsky⁷, Daniel A. Reuter², Andrew Rhodes³, Pierre Squara⁸, Jean-Louis Vincent⁹ and Thomas W. Scheeren¹⁰



coupling arterial and central venous blood sampling allows calculation of the venous-to-arterial carbon dioxide pressure difference (PCO₂ gap), which could be a good indicator of the adequacy of CO relative to the actual global metabolic conditions and could be helpful in conditions where oxygen extraction is altered while ScvO₂ is within the normal range. In this particular case, an abnormally high PCO₂ gap (>6 mmHg) could suggest that CO should be elevated to improve tissue oxygenation.

Conclusion -1-

If **shock** (hyperlactatemia, etc...) persists while **ScvO₂ > 70%**

Consider **ΔPCO_2**

```
graph TD; A[Consider ΔPCO2] --> B[ΔPCO2 > 6 mmHg]; A --> C[ΔPCO2 < 6 mmHg];
```

$\Delta\text{PCO}_2 > 6$ mmHg

Consider
further **increase** in **CO**

$\Delta\text{PCO}_2 < 6$ mmHg

No benefits expected from **CO increase**

Just pray and **hope** some **benefits**
from **treatment** of infection

Conclusion -2-

$$\Delta\text{PCO}_2 / \text{C}_{\text{a-v}}\text{O}_2$$

- Can help to detect **anaerobiosis**
- When **combined** with **lactate**, can help to better define the patient's **prognosis**

Thank you