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# PHYSIOLOGY

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Control of Breathing



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## Topic from this lecture:

- To complete talking about the role of (RS) in acid-base balance .
- To talk about chemoreceptors.

### INTRODUCTION

\* As we mentioned previously that O<sub>2</sub> is loaded on the RBCs until it's (25 , 50 , 75 and 100)% saturated .

- CO<sub>2</sub> is carried through the famous equation:



This equation:

1. It happens in the plasma (RBC) with the assist of carbonic anhydrase enzyme.

2. At the level of tissue →



3. At the level of the lung →

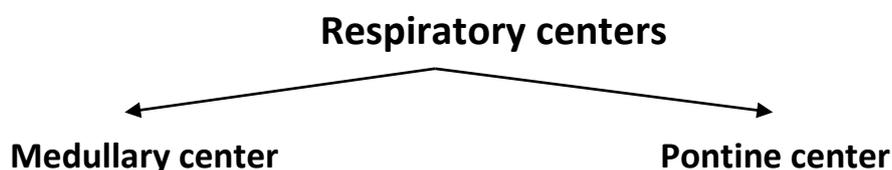


### NOTE !!

- Diffusion of gas through alveolar wall is through simple diffusion .
- All gases are lipid soluble but there is variation in this solubility percentage .
- CO<sub>2</sub> is 40 time more lipid soluble than O<sub>2</sub> . (CO<sub>2</sub> more lipid soluble than O<sub>2</sub>) .
- Gases are transported with electrochemical gradient .

## Control of Breathing

Spontaneous respiration depends completely on a collection of neurons in the brain stem called collectively the **respiratory center**. The neurons of the respiratory center are present in the pons and medulla.



## REGULATION OF RESPIRATION:

The activity of the respiratory center is regulated by:-

- I. *Nervous factors.*
- II. *Chemical factors.*

### I- Nervous regulation of respiration

\* Activity of respiratory centers is that they have impulse and signals that affect diaphragm and intercostal muscles.

→ inspiration → contraction of diaphragm and abduction and eversion of external intercostal muscles.

\* The breathing process is consist of **inspiration** and **expiration** that might be passive or active .

- **Inspiration** → active process.

- **Expiration** → passive process. (because we only relax the already contract muscles).

-**Forced inspiration** → active process.

-**Forced expiration** → active process. (because it includes contraction of the internal intercostal muscles and anterior abdominal wall muscles).

\* respiration is controlled by R.C. in brain which is affected by :

1. Nervous factors → the R.C. receives signals and impulse from all over the body (ex: heart muscles) to control breathing process. (further explanation in 3<sup>rd</sup> year).

2. Chemical factors → concentration of ( $\text{HCO}_3^-$  ,  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}^+$ ) controls breathing in human beings and changes in its value might lead to "increase or decrease respiration rate" ( Hyper ventilation or Apnea and so on ) .

The activity of the respiratory centers is modulated by afferent impulses reaching it from other centers as well as from different parts of the body.

## (1) Afferent impulses from higher centers

### A- From the cerebral cortex:

\* Cerebral cortex: it's the sheath that covers the brain and it controls many function including thinking, speaking, moving and so on.

The cerebral cortex regulates the voluntary ventilation, as **voluntary hyperventilation** and **voluntary apnea**.

1) **Voluntary hyperventilation** → leads to Co<sub>2</sub> wash from the alveolar air (lung) → leading to respiratory alkalosis (decrease of [H<sup>+</sup>]).  
- At the end **apnea** will occur.

2) **Voluntary apnea** → leads to accumulation of Co<sub>2</sub>, after one minute of apnea, Co<sub>2</sub> accumulate to a high level which can stimulate the respiratory center inspire of the effort made to inhibit it, this point is called the breaking point. The period of apnea can be prolonged by a preceding period of hyperventilation before breath holding; to increase O<sub>2</sub> tension and decrease Co<sub>2</sub> tension.

((It occur until a certain limit of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the body and then it has to be washed out from the body))).

\* How to win a competition of keeping your breath for longest time (Apnea) ?

1. Hyper ventilation to wash CO<sub>2</sub>.
2. Deep inspiration.

### B- Afferent impulses from the hypothalamus:

It can control respiration and affect the respiratory centers in the following conditions :

**Pain , temperature and emotions ( seeing , hearing and thinking ) .**

## (2) Afferent impulses from different systems :

### A- Afferent impulses from Respiratory system:

#### i. Sneezing reflex:

It is caused by irritation of the mucous membrane of the nose by foreign material which gives impulses along the trigeminal nerve to the respiratory center leading to deep inspiration followed by forced expiration (**against glottis opened**) which removes out the foreign material.

#### ii. Swallowing reflex:

Breathing is inhibited during swallowing by impulses from the pharynx that pass through the gloss pharyngeal nerve.

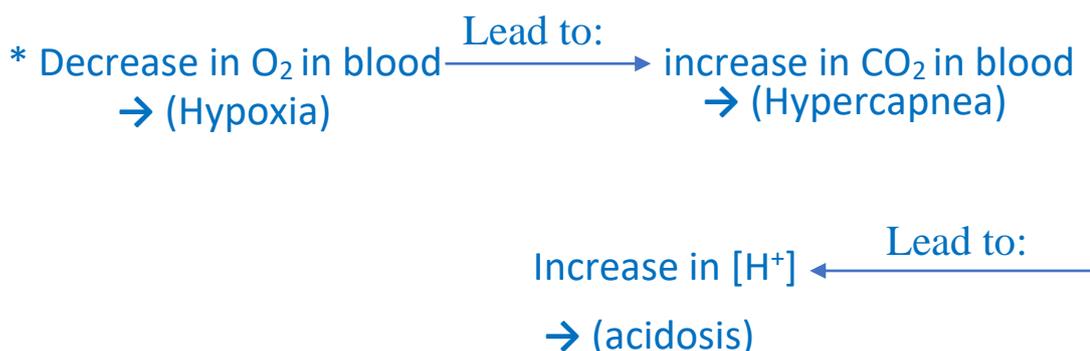
→ During eating glottis is closed and transient apnea occurs.

→ The presence of food in the end of the mouth stops respiration to prevent food from entering lungs .

#### iii. Cough reflex:

→ Irritant in the bronchial mucosa.

Stimulation of irritant receptors present in the airway, from trachea down to respiratory bronchioles by chemical or mechanical substance leads to reflex deep inspiration followed by deep forced expiration against closed glottis, which increases the intrapulmonary pressure that leads to sudden opening of the glottis and ejection of the foreign material.

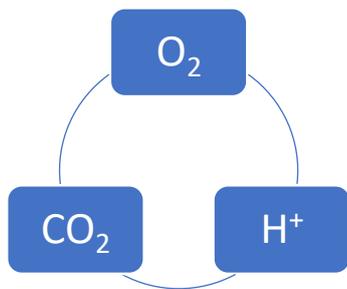


## II- Chemical regulation of Respiration

Ventilation is regulated by the concentration of  $O_2$ ,  $CO_2$  and  $H^+$  in the arterial blood. This regulatory function is done through the chemoreceptors.

\*Chemoreceptors → there are the receptor for  $O_2$ ,  $CO_2$  and  $H^+$  concentration.

\* Chemoreceptors are highly vascularized to sense and detect the concentration of chemical in it .



All of them are stimulants for regulation the respiration, when hypoxia occur it's treated by increase in inspiration rate :

- Hypoxia →  $O_2$  enters body.

- Hypercapnia →  $CO_2$  is washed out through expiration .

- Acidosis → is treated when hypercapnia is .

### There are two types of chemoreceptors: -

1) Peripheral chemoreceptors 2) Central chemoreceptor.

( both are sensitive for  $O_2$ ,  $CO_2$  and  $H^+$  but the peripheral chemoreceptors are more sensitive for hypoxia while central chemoreceptors are more sensitive for hypercapnia "variable sensitivity" ) .

### 1) Peripheral chemoreceptors:

#### Site:-

- Carotid bodies, at the bifurcation of the common carotid arteries.
- Aortic bodies (thoracic entry) , located at the aortic arch.

#### Blood supply:-

The carotid and aortic bodies have a rich blood supply, and their response to changes in blood gases is very fast.

- These receptors respond to decreased arterial  $PO_2$ , decreased pH, and increased  $CO_2$  concentration.
- Peripheral chemoreceptors are **more sensitive to decreased  $O_2$  tension "hypoxia"** (it is sensitive to all of them but especially the hypoxia) .

## 2) Central chemoreceptor :

### Site:-

- They are located in the medulla oblongata close to the medullary respiratory centers. (in the brain) .
- It has a direct connection with the inspiratory centers.
- These receptors are stimulated **by increased CO<sub>2</sub>** level, and the mechanism of its activation is through H<sup>+</sup> ions. (hypercapnia).
- **NOTE : CO<sub>2</sub> is the main stimulant for respiration , increase in CO<sub>2</sub> level in the blood is what makes us regulate our respiration**

**N.B: H<sup>+</sup> ions do not easily pass through the blood brain barrier (BBB), but it stimulates the central chemoreceptors as follow:**

CO<sub>2</sub> enter the **C.S.F** of the medulla, and then react with H<sub>2</sub>O to give carbonic acid which rapidly dissociates into HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and H<sup>+</sup> .



- The released H ions stimulate respiration through stimulation of the central chemoreceptors.
- Central chemoreceptors are more sensitive to changes in CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sup>+</sup> concentration.

**N.B**

If respiratory (ex: pneumonia) depression is treated with pure O<sub>2</sub>, peripheral chemoreceptors will be inhibited leading to more respiratory depression. A gas mixture of 95% O<sub>2</sub> and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> is given instead to stimulate the central chemoreceptors by the CO<sub>2</sub>. (carbogen)

And this is an example of applied physiology

### Ventilatory response to CO<sub>2</sub>

The increase in Co<sub>2</sub> tension of arterial blood stimulates respiration and increases pulmonary ventilation, while a decrease of CO<sub>2</sub> tension inhibits respiration.

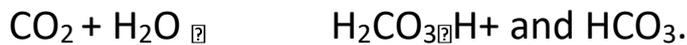
**NOTE:** the increase of CO<sub>2</sub> stimulates both chemoreceptors but mainly central chemoreceptors “MCQ”

❓ **Mechanism:** increased CO<sub>2</sub> tension in arterial blood will stimulate R.C through respiratory chemoreceptors.

### **a- Central chemoreceptors:-**

➤ As discussed above CO<sub>2</sub> diffuses through the (BBB) into the cerebrospinal fluid (C.S.F) passing the cells of the chemoreceptors.

➤ CO<sub>2</sub> is converted into H<sup>+</sup> ions.



➤ The H<sup>+</sup> ions stimulate the chemoreceptor cells (H<sup>+</sup> ions receptors) which stimulate the neurons of the respiratory center.

➤ On the other hand, hyperventilation → lowers the CO<sub>2</sub> tension in alveolar air, CO<sub>2</sub> in arterial blood and CO<sub>2</sub> tension in the CSF. → This lowers the H<sup>+</sup> concentration in the C.S.F. → leading to inhibition of R.C → leading to increased CO<sub>2</sub> tension in alveolar air and arterial blood to the normal level.

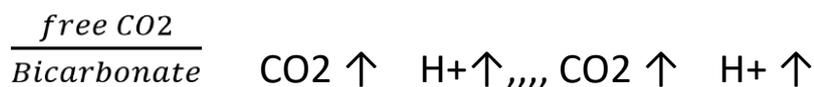
(Alkalosis >> Apnea)

### **(b) Peripheral chemoreceptors:-**

These receptors are sensitive to decreased O<sub>2</sub> tension and to a **lesser extent to** increased H<sup>+</sup> ion concentration and to increased CO<sub>2</sub> tension of arterial blood.

### ***Ventilatory response to H<sup>+</sup> ion concentration***

H<sup>+</sup> ion concentration in the blood is proportional to the ratio of



Increased H<sup>+</sup> ion concentration in arterial blood as in metabolic acidosis stimulates R.C, while decrease in H<sup>+</sup> ion concentration will inhibit the R.C.

### ❓ **Mechanism:-**

Increased H<sup>+</sup> ion concentration **stimulates** peripheral chemoreceptors **only**, which send impulses along afferent fibers in the vagus and glossopharyngeal nerves to stimulate respiratory center.

MCQ:

Metabolic acidosis will stimulate?

Peripheral chemoreceptors only. (why?): because H<sup>+</sup> can't cross (BBB)

## ***Ventilatory response to O2 lack***

Respiration is stimulated by a decrease in O<sub>2</sub> tension in arterial blood

### **Mechanism:-**

- Through stimulation of the peripheral chemoreceptors O<sub>2</sub> lack will stimulate the respiratory center and increase pulmonary ventilation.
- **Moderate decrease** in O<sub>2</sub> tension in arterial blood → sufficient to stimulate the peripheral chemoreceptors has no action on the central chemoreceptors.
- **Marked decrease** in O<sub>2</sub> tension in arterial blood → will inhibit R.C **if the peripheral chemoreceptors are denervated.**

### **N.B**

- ◆ Drop of O<sub>2</sub> tension in arterial blood is a **weaker** stimulus for the R.C than the rise in CO<sub>2</sub> tension in arterial blood.
- ◆ The R.C is stimulated when O<sub>2</sub> tension in arterial blood drops below 60 mmHg.

أنتهى

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لجنة الطب والجراحة

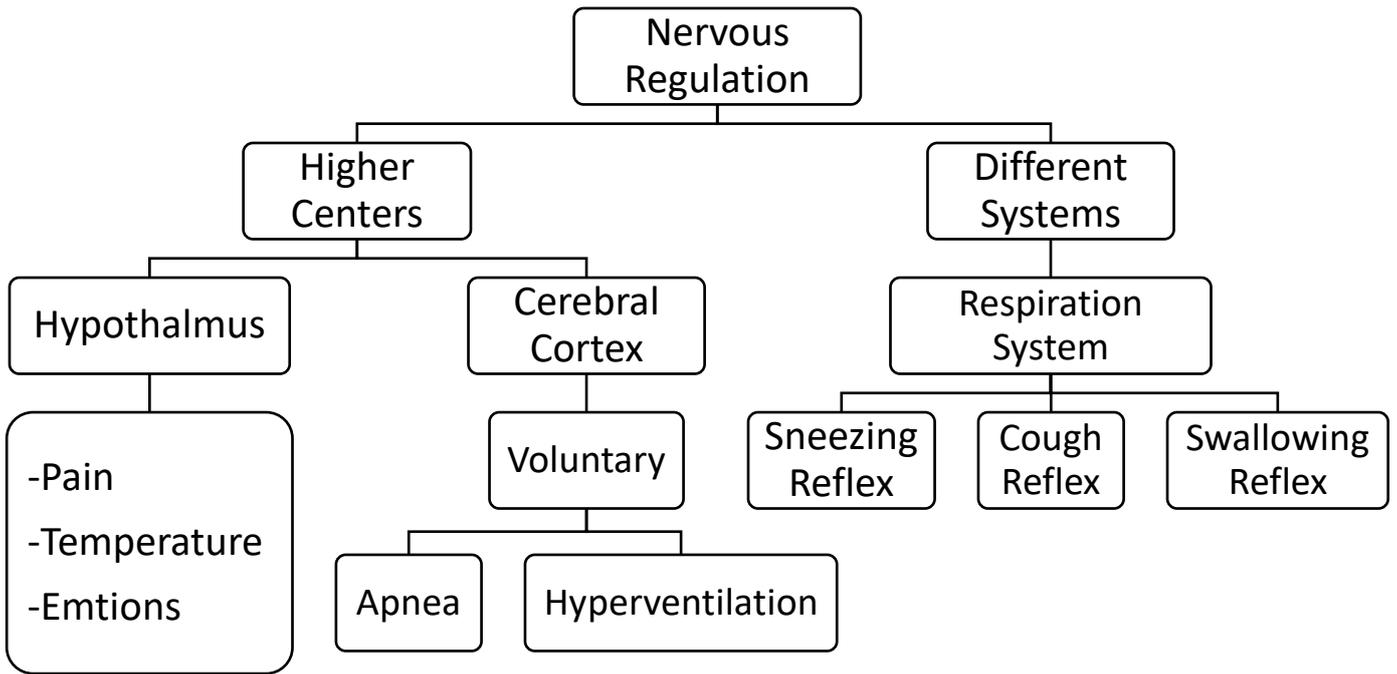
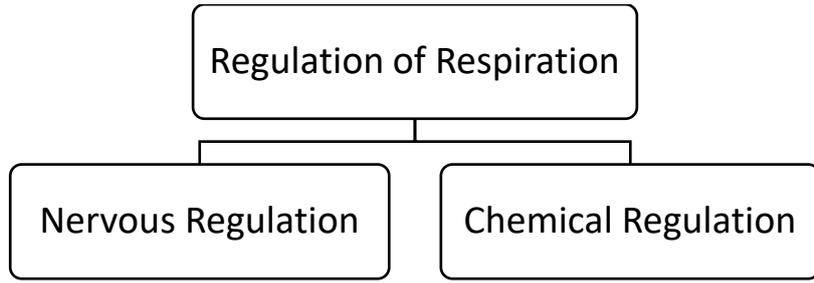
"مبيض" Sulaf maaitah

"محوسب و مدقق" Feras Al-Heshmah

"محوسب" Monther Qatawnah

"مدقق" Ibrahim tayseer

# تلخيص المحاضرة



	<i>Sneezing Reflex</i>	<i>Swallowing reflex</i>	<i>Cough Reflex</i>
<b>Impulses origin</b>	Mucous membrane of the <b>NOSE</b>	The <b>PHARYNX</b>	From <b>TRACHEA</b> down to <b>RESPIRATORY BRONCHIOLES</b>
<b>Nerve</b>	Trigeminal nerve	Glossopharyngeal nerve	<b>X</b>
<b>Action</b>	<b>Deep inspiration</b> followed by <b>forced expiration</b>	Breath is inhibited	<b>Deep inspiration</b> followed by <b>deep forced expiration</b> against <u>closed glottis</u>
<b>Action Result</b>	Which removes out the foreign material.		which increases the intrapulmonary pressure that leads to sudden opening of the glottis and ejection of the foreign material.

## تلخيص المحاضرة

	Peripheral chemoreceptor	Central chemoreceptor
<b>Site</b>	Carotid bodies Aortic bodies	Medulla oblongata
<b>Blood Supply</b>	Have rich blood supply, thus their response to changes in blood gases is very fast	H <sup>+</sup> ions do not easily pass through BBB
<b>Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sensitive to O<sub>2</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sup>+</sup></li><li>• More sensitive to decreased O<sub>2</sub> tension</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sensitive to O<sub>2</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sup>+</sup></li><li>• More sensitive to changes in CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sup>+</sup> tension</li></ul>
<b>H<sup>+</sup> ions</b>	Interact with metabolic H <sup>+</sup> ions	Interact with H <sup>+</sup> ions which result from CO <sub>2</sub> that enter the brain

تلخيص: محمود بركات