

## Causes

- **Neuromuscular problems**
  - Guillian-Barre syndrome
  - Myasthenia gravis
  - Poliomyelitis
  - Diaphragmatic paralysis (with spinal cord injury)
- **Depression of resp center in brain**
- **Lung issues**
  - Respiratory infections
  - COPD
  - Acute asthma attacks
  - Chronic bronchitis
  - Pulmonary edema
  - Hypoventilation
  - Chest wall trauma
- **Airway obstruction**
  - Retained secretions
  - Tumors
  - Anaphylaxis

# RESPIRATORY ACIDOSIS

pH < 7.35  
PCO<sub>2</sub> > 45

Pt hypoventilates & CO<sub>2</sub> builds up in the bloodstream ↓ the pH. The kidneys try to compensate by conserving HCO<sub>3</sub> which ↑ pH

## S/S

- **Apprehension**
- **Confusion**
- ↓ **DTR**
- **Diaphoresis**
- **Dyspnea**
- **Headache**
- **N, V**
- **Restlessness**
- **Tachycardia**
- **Tremors**
- **Warm, flushed skin**

## Associated Drugs

- **Anesthetics**
- **Hypnotics**
- **Opioids**
- **Sedatives**

## Labs/Diagnostics

- pH < 7.35
- PCO<sub>2</sub> > 45
- HCO<sub>3</sub> varies
- Chest x-ray to help determine cause

## Tx

- **Bronchodilator**
- **O<sub>2</sub>**
- **Drug therapy to tx hypercalemia**
- **Antibiotics to tx infection**
- **Chest physiotherapy to remove secretions**
- **Removal of FB in airway**