

Additional Information

IV Fluid Therapy Calculations

- In cases of lower urinary tract obstruction and hypoadrenocorticoid (Addisonian) crisis where there is hyperkalaemia, crystalloids that contain potassium can be given e.g. Hartmann's solution. This is because the concentration of potassium in the fluids is still lower than the concentration in the blood, which will therefore be lowering the potassium concentration in the blood. These fluids are also more balanced and lead to a more rapid resolution of the acidosis that is present.

Drobatz et. al. (2008). The influence of crystalloid type on acid-base and electrolyte status of cats with urethral obstruction. *Journal of Emergency and Veterinary Clinical Care*. 18, 4, 355-361.

- When administering fluids to an animal of small body size e.g. a cat or small dog, it may be advisable to empty (remove) some of the fluid from the bag to prevent the inadvertent administration of an excessive volume of fluid. Do not replace an empty bag without considering the current fluid status and requirements and the risk of fluid overdose to the animal.
- Common infusion pump abbreviations:
 - VTBI = volume to be infused
If administering a bolus enter the total amount. Once the infusion pump has infused this set amount it will stop and the animal will no longer receive fluids (and most pumps then beep loudly).
 - RATE = rate e.g. 2mL/kg/hr
 - VI = volume infused. This is the total amount of fluid the patient has received (as long as this was reset when the patient was first put on the drip).