



Causes of Respiratory Acidosis and Respiratory Alkalosis	
Respiratory Alkalosis	
Cause	Examples
Hypoxia	High altitude; heart failure; severe ventilation/perfusion mismatch
Lung Disease	Fibrosis (early); edema (early); embolism; pneumonia
Drugs	Salicylates; progesterone, nicotine
Stimulation of Respiration	Psychogenic hyperventilation; cirrhosis; Gram-negative sepsis; pregnancy; pontine tumor or stroke
Respiratory Acidosis	
Pulmonary Airway Disease	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; bronchospasm; foreign body; gastric aspiration; obstructive sleep apnea
Pulmonary Parenchymal Disease	Pneumonia; fibrosis (late); edema (late)
Neuromuscular Disease (acute)	Myasthenia gravis; Guillain-Barré syndrome; botulism; hypokalemia; hypophosphatemia; cervical spinal cord injury
Neuromuscular Disease (chronic)	Morbid obesity; myxedema; poliomyelitis; multiple sclerosis; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
Central Respiratory Depression (acute)	Drugs (e.g., opiates, sedatives); excessive oxygen administration in hypercapnia; central sleep apnea; brain trauma or stroke; bulbar poliomyelitis.