

Severe hyponatremia in a Dialysis Patient.

Case-based discussion



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A 70-year-old woman was hospitalized for treatment of endophthalmitis one week ago. She had received hemodialysis (HD) for 5 years due to diabetic nephropathy. She was conscious and responsive but had headache, nausea and vomiting.

BP 191/73 HR90/min

delta BW 3.4 kg (twice the usual amount)

Before HD

Glu 66 mg/dl

BUN 34.8

Cre 8.22

Na 105 mEq/l

K 4.8

Cl 76

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Q How would you treat this Patient ?

- 1 3% Saline**
- 2 Water restriction**
- 3 Tolvaptan**
- 4 Hemodialysis**

Does this HD patient have severe hyponatremia ?

Severity	Symptom
Moderately severe	Nausea without vomiting Confusion Headache
Severe	Vomiting Cardiorespiratory distress Abnormal and deep Somnolence Seizures Coma (Glasgow Coma ≤ 8)

**A 70-year-old woman. (continued) After 4 hours
Hemodialysis.**

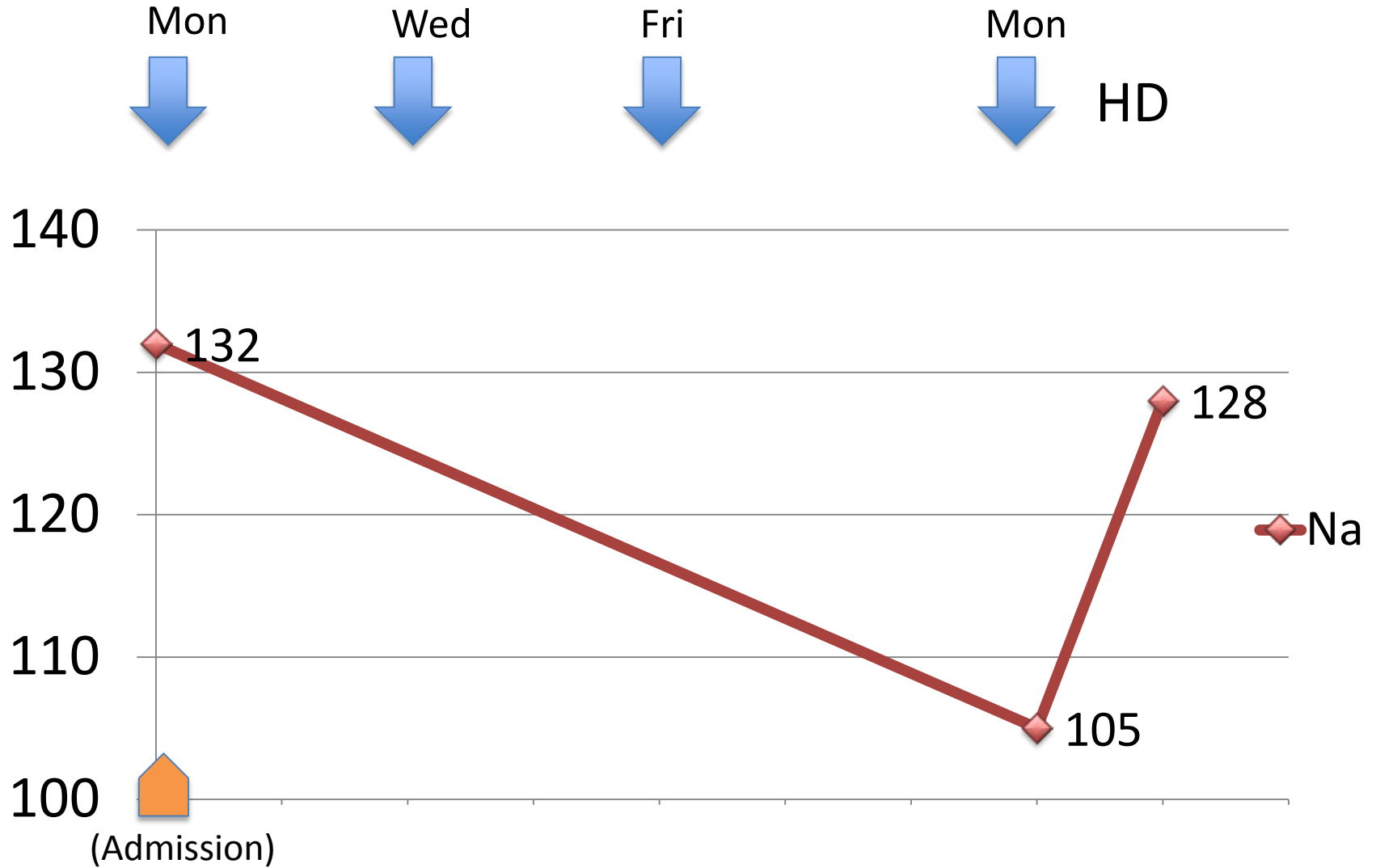
Before HD

Glu	66 mg/dl
BUN	34.8
Cre	8.22
Na	105 mEq/l
K	4.8
Cl	76

After HD

Glu	91 mg/dl
BUN	14.7
Cre	4.57
Na	128 mEq/l
K	3.5
Cl	93

Clinical course



A 70-year-old woman. (continued) After 4 hr Hemodialysis.

Q2 What would be your next step?

- 1 3% Saline
- 2 Water restriction
- 3 Tolvaptan
- 4 Hemodialysis
- 5 Other treatment (eg : DIV water)

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Glu 66 mg/dl
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Before HD

Glu	66 mg/dl
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Na	105 mEq/l
K	4.8
Cl	76

Serum Osm	<u>323</u>
(Calculated)	226
Osmolar Gap	97

After HD

Glu	91 mg/dl
BUN	14.7
Cre	4.57
Na	128 mEq/l
K	3.5
Cl	93

Serum Osm	<u>292</u>
(Calculated)	266
Osmolar Gap	26

Osmolal gap

Osmolal Gap

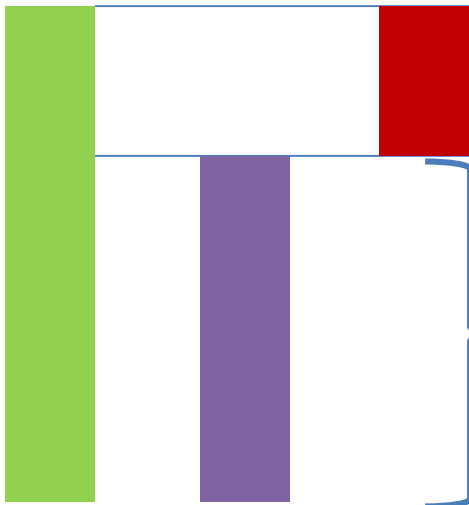
Before 97.0 After 26.0



measured
serum osmolality



calculated
serum osmolality



Osmolal gap

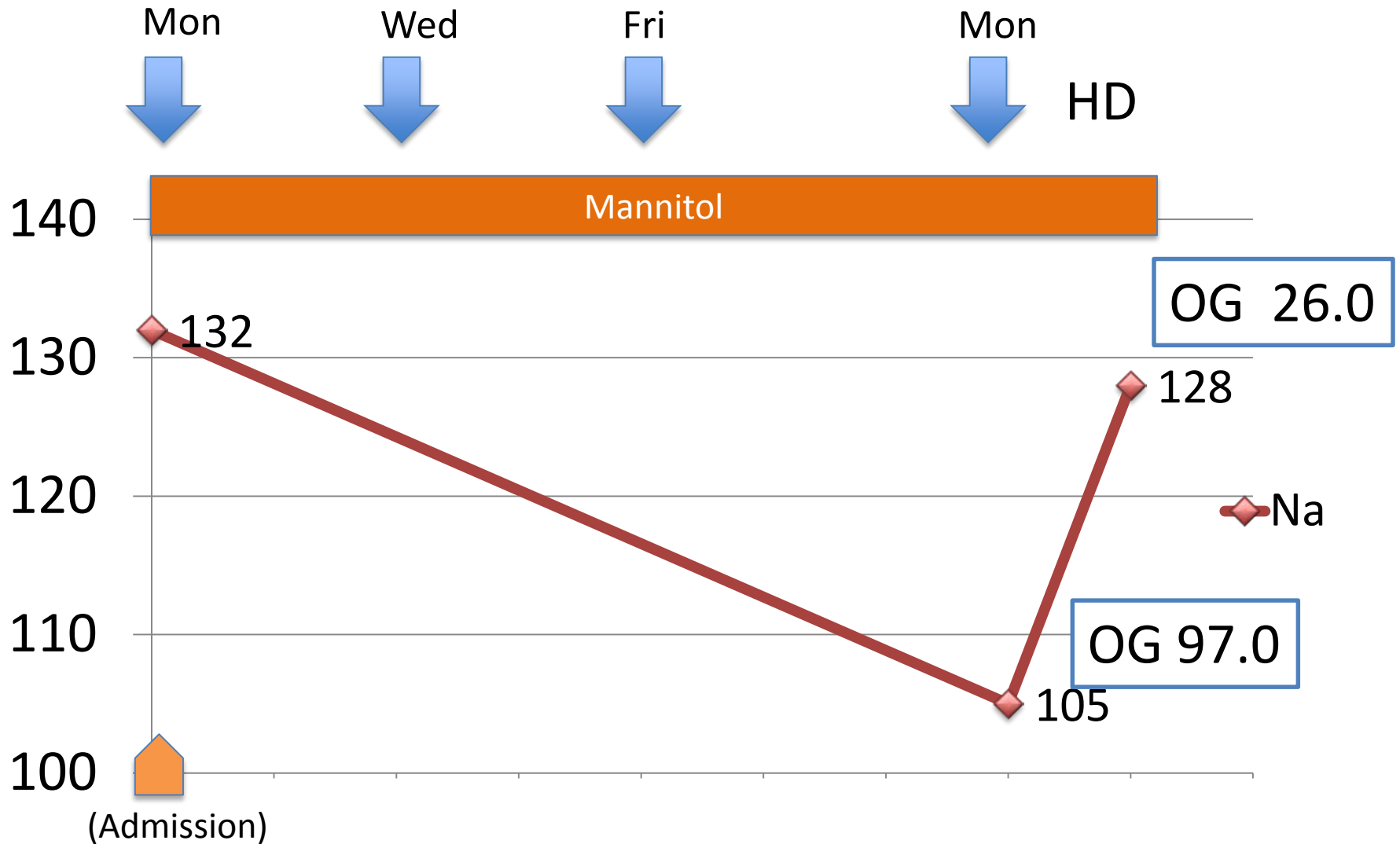
$2 \times [\text{Na}^+] + \text{Glu}/18 + \text{BUN}/2.8$

mOsm

COsm

usually within 10 mOsm/L

Mannitol-induced hypertonic-hyponatraemia



When should we check osmolar gap?

- Patients come to ER in a coma state without any history of toxic substance ingestion
- High anion gap Metabolic acidosis
 - Toxic alcohols and glycols

Mind the gap “MAE DIE”

		Molecular Weight
M	Methanol	32
A	Acetone	58
E	Ethylene glycol	62
D	Diuretics, Dye	180 (Mannnitol)
I	Isopropanol	60
E	Ethanol	46



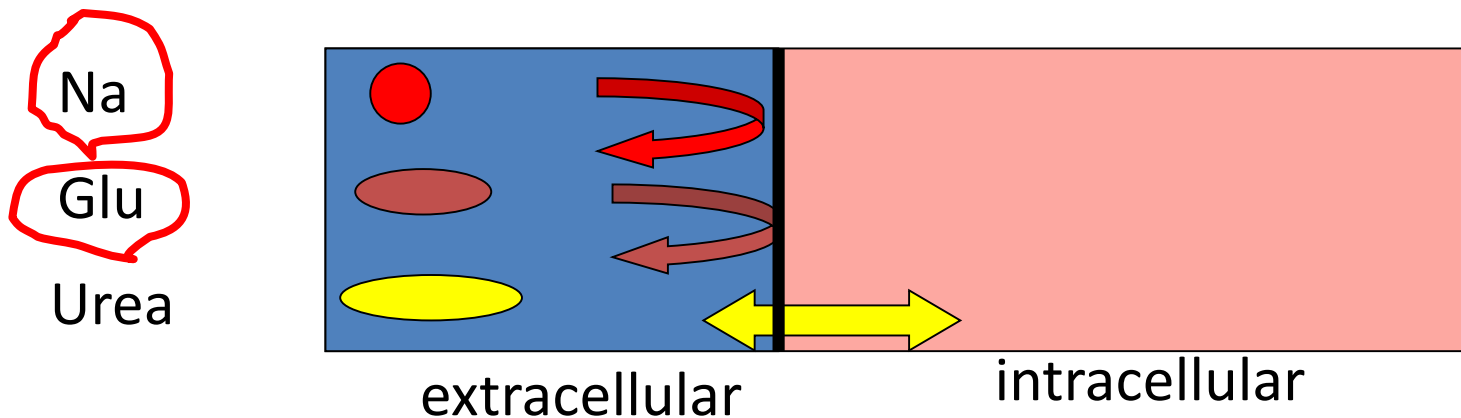
Effective and ineffective osmolality

$$\text{Plasma osmolality} = 2 \times \text{Na} + \text{Glucose}/18 + \text{BUN}/2.8$$

(mEq/L) (mg/dL) (mg/dL)

$$\text{Effective osmolality} = 2 \times \text{Na} + \text{Glucose}/18$$

Urea increased osmolality not an effective osmolyte
“Effective” for Cell Volume



When should we check serum osmolality.

- Differential diagnosis Hyponatremia
 - Hypertonic Hyponatraemia
 - Isotonic Hyponatraemia (Pseudo hyponatremia)
- To rule out alcohol-related intoxications, other intoxications
 - Usually not present in the blood

Mannitol Clinical Use

- Reduction of increased intracranial pressure associated with cerebral edema.
- Reduction of increased intraocular pressure
- Promoting urinary excretion of toxic substances.
- Genitourinary irrigant in transurethral prostatic resection or other transurethral surgical procedures.

Two types of Hypertonic Hyponatremia

	Mannitol intoxication	hyperglycaemia-induced
Hyponatremia	Hypertonic	Hypertonic
Molecular weight	182	180
Metabolism	Excretion: Urine (87 % unchanged drug)	Metabolize in the body
Treatment in renal impairment	Hemodialysis	Insulin
Osmolar Gap	Increase	No change

Cause of non-hypotonic hyponatremia

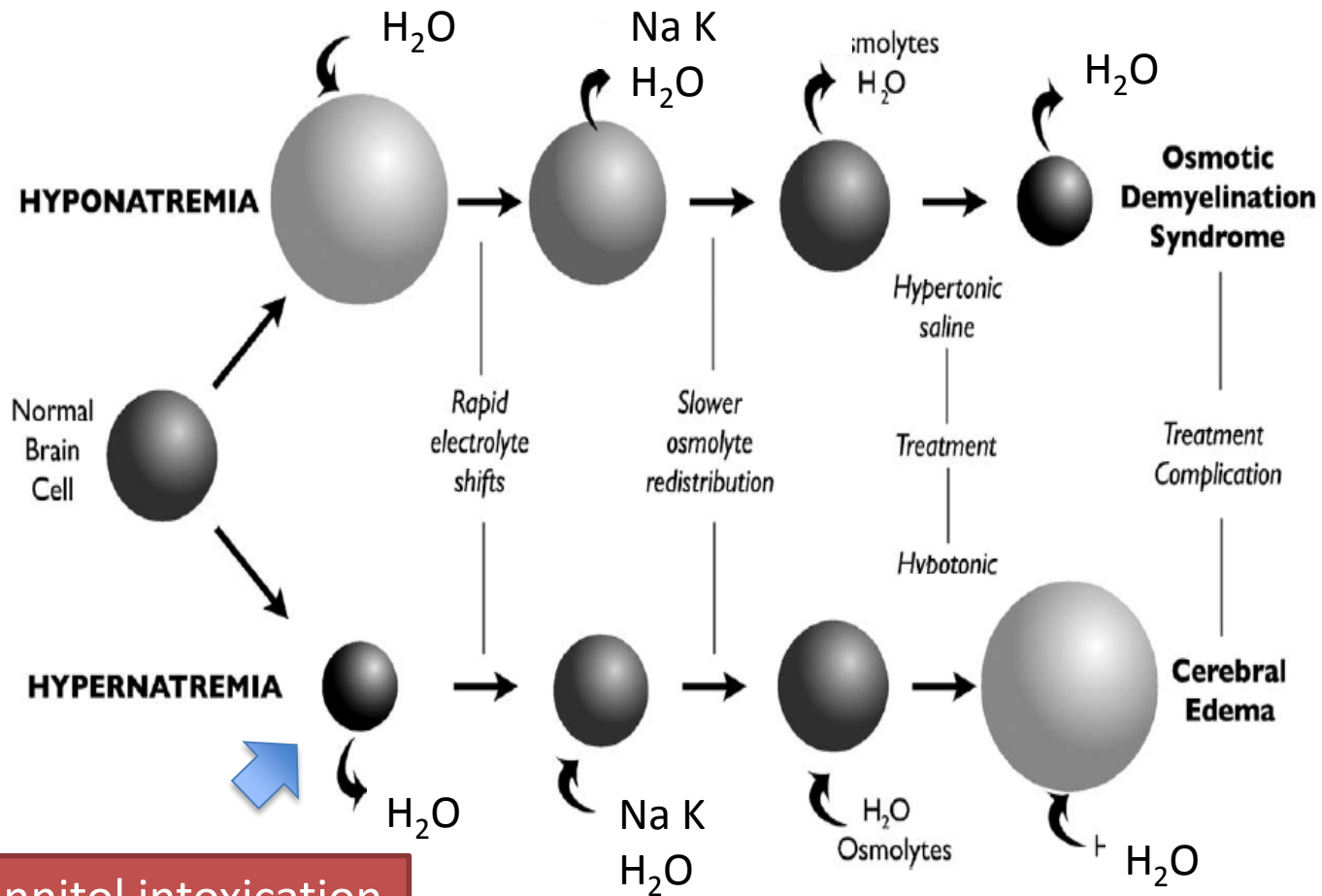
Table 10. Causes of non-hypotonic hyponatraemia.

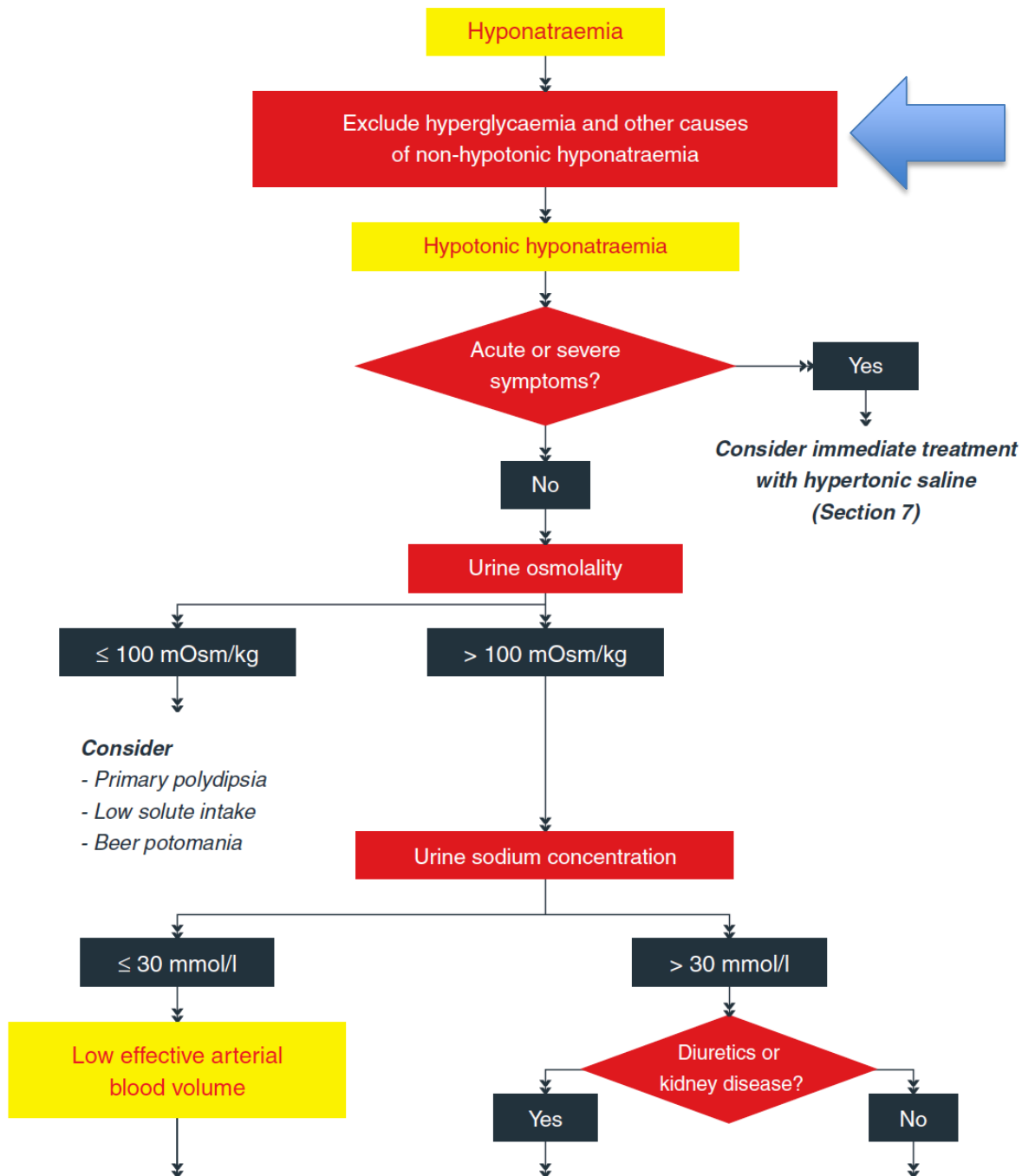
Setting	Serum osmolality	Examples
Presence of 'effective' osmoles that raise serum osmolality and can cause hyponatraemia	Isotonic or hypertonic	Glucose [31] Mannitol [32] Glycine [33] Histidine-tryptophan-ketoglutarate [243] Hyperosmolar radiocontrast media [244] Maltose [245]
Presence of 'ineffective' osmoles that raise serum osmolality but do not cause hyponatraemia	Isotonic or hyperosmolar	Urea [36] Alcohols [36] Ethylene glycol [36]
Presence of endogenous solutes that cause pseudohyponatraemia (laboratory artifact)	Isotonic	Triglycerides [97], cholesterol [97] and protein Intravenous immunoglobulins [96] Monoclonal gammopathies [246]

Renal failure combined with hyponatremia becomes hypotonic hyponatremia but with hyperosmolality.

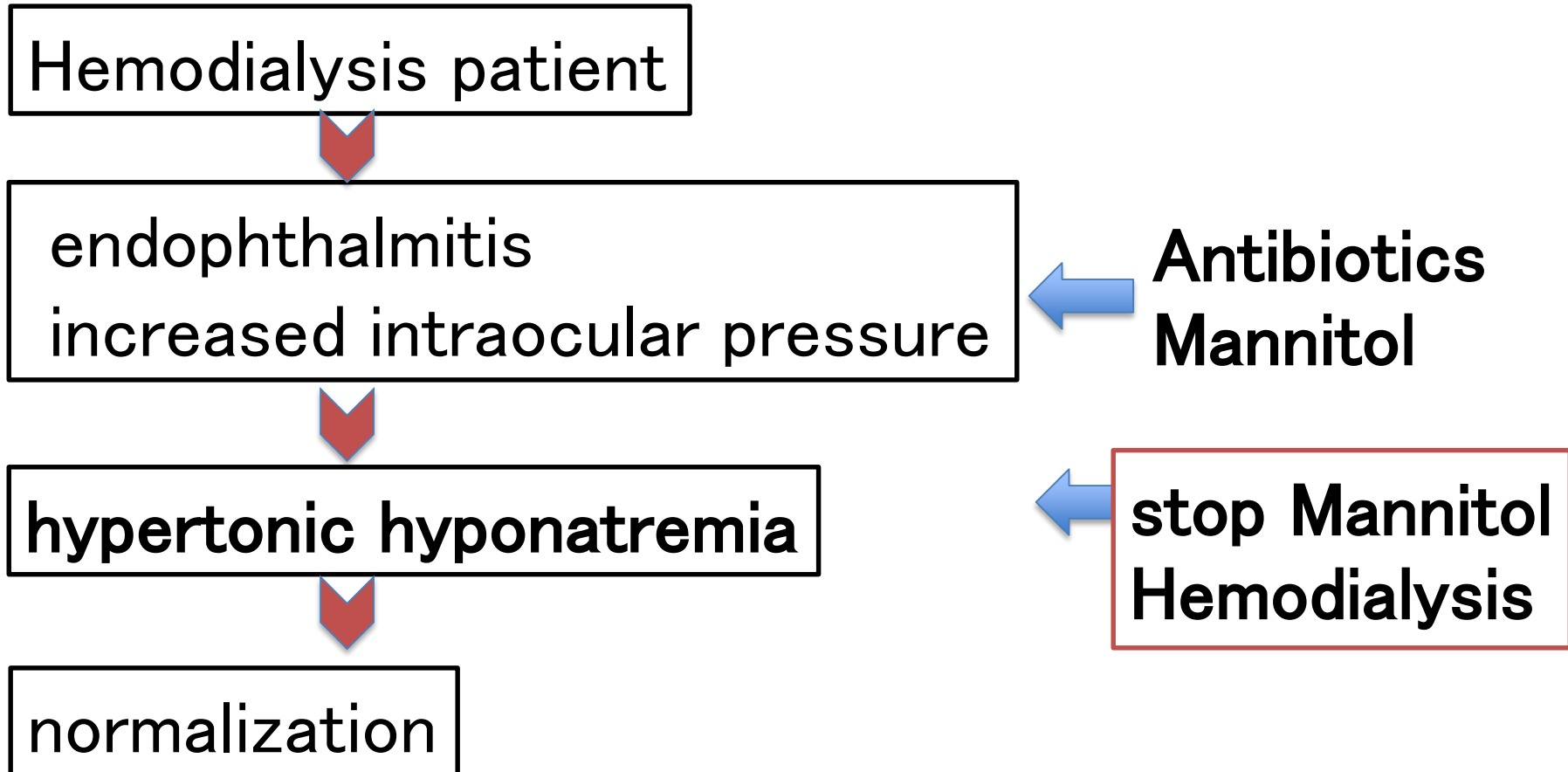
Setting	Serum osmolality	Examples
Effective osmoles serum osmolality ↑ (cause hyponatremia)	Isotonic or hypertonic	Glucose Mannitol Glycine, Maltose Hyperosmolar radiocontrast media
Ineffective osmoles serum osmolality ↑ (not cause hyponatremia)	hypotonic and hyperosmolar	Urea, Alcohols, Ethylene glycol
Pseudohyponatremia (laboratory artifact)	Isotonic	Triglycerides, cholesterol, protein, ivlg, monoclonal gammopathies

Brain cell pathophysiology in hyponatremia





Patient's summary



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Take Home messages

- When treating a hyponatremic patient, please be careful not to miss hypertonic hyponatremia
- Check serum osmolality when diagnosing hyponatremia, or if you suspect Alcohol-related and other intoxications

