Blood Urea

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What is urea?

- Urea is the main end product of protein metabolism.
- It is formed by removal of amino group from amino acids in liver and excreted in urine.
- Urea represents 50% of non protein nitrogen of normal blood.

- Normal blood contains 15-40 mg/dl of urea
- In adults over 60 years it rises to 50 mg/dl
- During pregnancy it is 15-20 mg/dl
- Raised values are seen in dehydration
- In renal failure it rises up to 500 mg/dl
- In sever liver disease blood urea is decreased

- *Reference values:* ▶ Newborns (< 10 days) : 6.4-53.5 mg/dl
- > Adults (12-60 years) : 15-40 mg/dl

Physiological:

• Increase:

It occurs in normal people on high protein diet.



• Decrease:

- In infants
- > Pregnancy

> Low protein and high carbohydrates diet





Pathological:

• Increase:

Excessive formation: increased protein catabolism in fever and sepsis.







Faulty excretion:

- Pre-renal failure: a low renal blood supply leads to reduced GFR ex: CHF
- Renal failure: damage to nephrons leads to decreased urine formation and excretion ex: nephritis
- Post-renal failure: urinary tract obstructions

• Decrease:

In transfusion of glucose solution due to dilution of body fluids and reduced protein catabolism

What are medicines that increase blood urea?

- Amphotericin B
- Nafcilline
- Gentamicin
- Diuretics
- Corticosteroids



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