

ECG Changes

Delta ECG

Worsening acute acidosis may lead to hyperkalemia and manifest as problems with electrical conduction, such as tall peaked T waves, prolonged PR interval, bradycardia or even heart block. Chronic respiratory acidosis typically has normal to low potassium levels due to compensatory renal mechanisms.

Muscle Weakness

Weak-drooping-muscle

In a depressed respiratory state, oxygen is not properly delivered to the tissues. Additionally high levels of potassium building up in the body can cause poor muscle tone.

Hyporeflexia

Hippo-reflex-hammer

Condition of reduced or absent reflexes in response to a stimulus. May be a result of increasing levels of potassium building up in the acidotic patient.