

# Urinary System: Renal Physiology for Medical Students, L10



Chapter 29 : Renal Regulation of Potassium, Calcium,  
Phosphate,  
and Magnesium; Integration of Renal Mechanisms for  
Control of Blood Volume and Extracellular Fluid Volume

**Reference: Guyton & Hall, Jordanian first edition  
Chapter29**

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# Objectives

- Identify the mechanisms by which the kidney regulates Potassium, Calcium, Phosphate homeostasis
- Identify renal tubular mechanisms of potassium reabsorption and secretion
- Understand factors affecting homeostasis of potassium
- Understand examples of integration of renal mechanisms for control of blood volume and extracellular fluid volume



## Question

- A 26-year-old woman recently adopted a healthier diet to eat more fruits and vegetables. As a result, her potassium intake increased from 80 to 160 mmol/day. Which of the following conditions would you expect to find 2 weeks after she increased her potassium intake, compared with before the increase?

	Potassium Excretion Rate	Sodium Excretion Rate	Plasma Aldosterone Concentration	Plasma Potassium Concentration
A)	↔	↔	↑	Large increase (>1 mmol/l)
B)	↔	↓	↑	Small increase (<1 mmol/l)
C)	↑ 2×	↔	↑	Small increase (<1 mmol/l)
D)	↑ 2×	↑	↓	Large increase (>1 mmol/l)
E)	↑ 2×	↑	↔	Large increase (>1 mmol/l)

# Normal potassium intake, distribution, and output from the body.

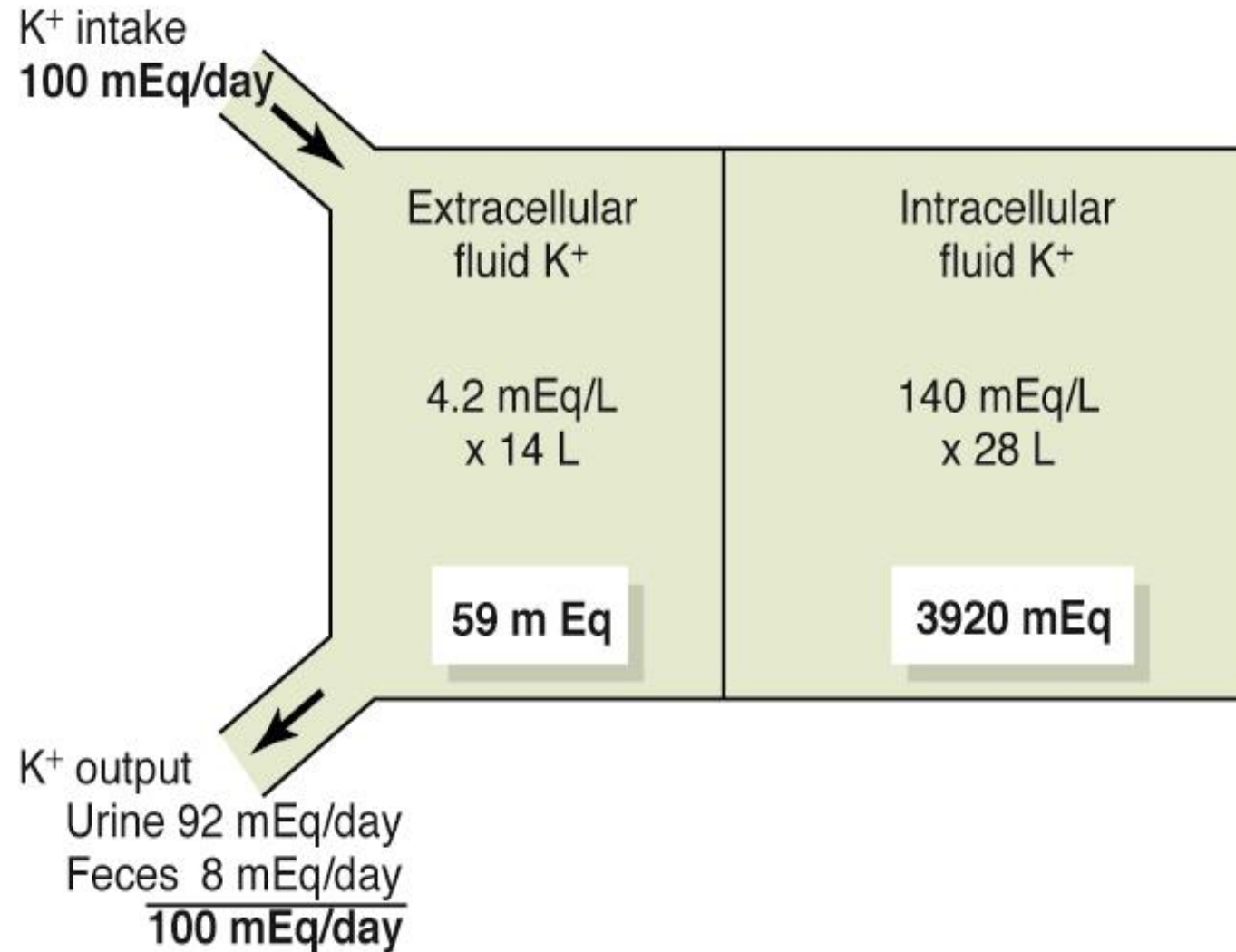


Figure 29-1



# Clinical Perspective

## **Effects of severe hyperkalemia**

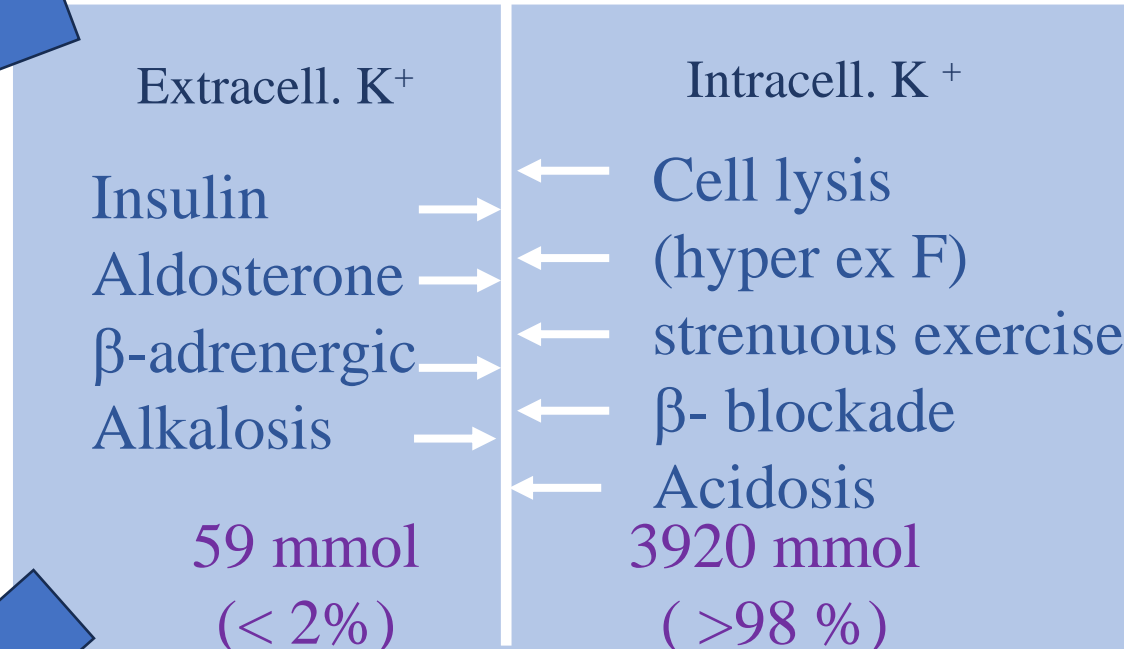
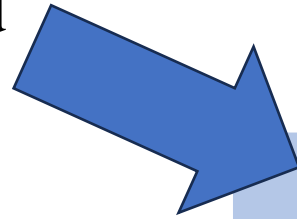
- Partial depolarization of cell membranes
- Cardiac toxicity
  - ventricular fibrillation or asystole

## Effects of severe hypokalemia

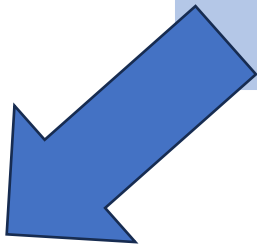
- Hyperpolarization of cell membranes
- Fatigue, muscle weakness
- hypoventilation
- delayed ventricular repolarization

# Potassium Regulation: Internal and External

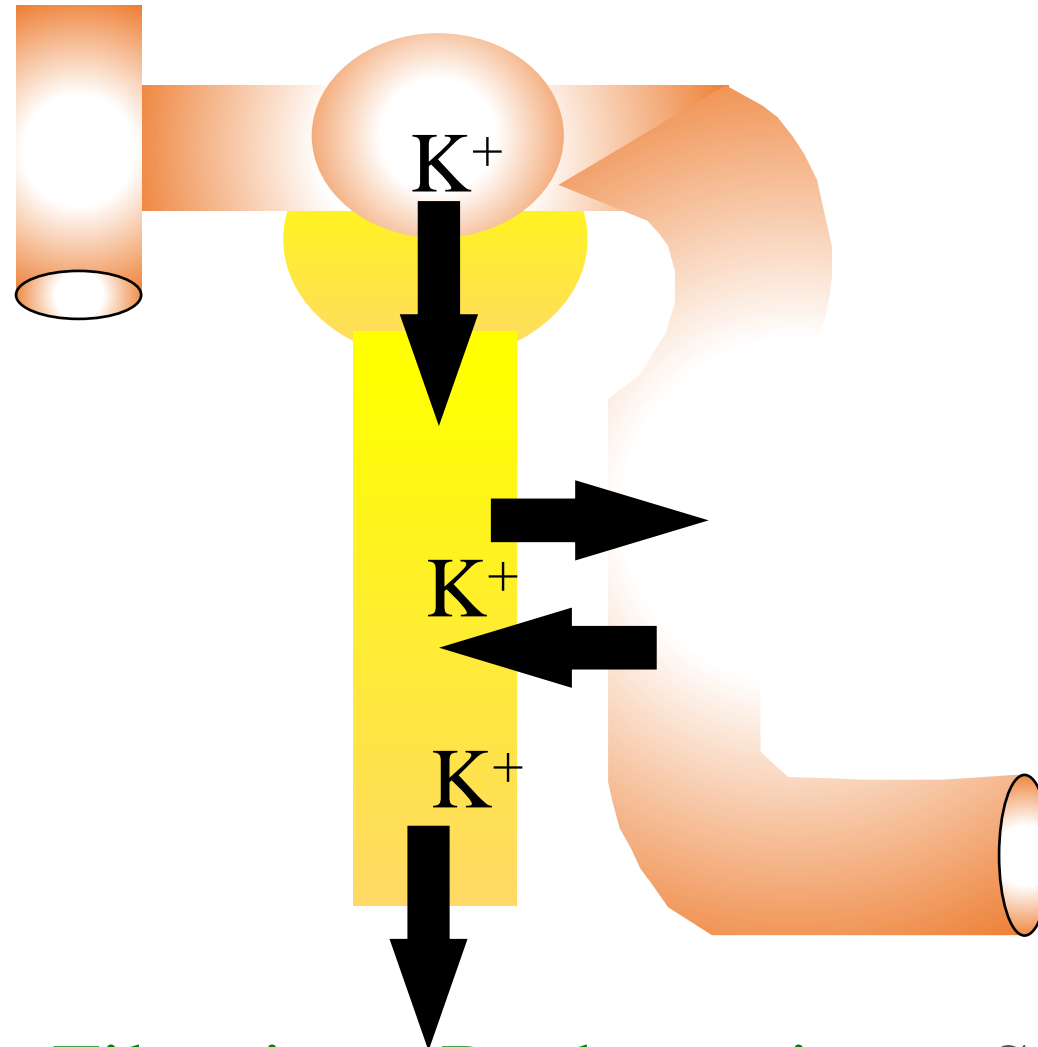
K<sup>+</sup> intake  
100 mEq/d



K<sup>+</sup> output  
Total = 100 mEq/d



# Control of Potassium Excretion



$$\text{Excretion} = \text{Filtration} - \text{Reabsorption} + \text{Secretion}$$

# Renal tubular sites of potassium reabsorption and secretion.

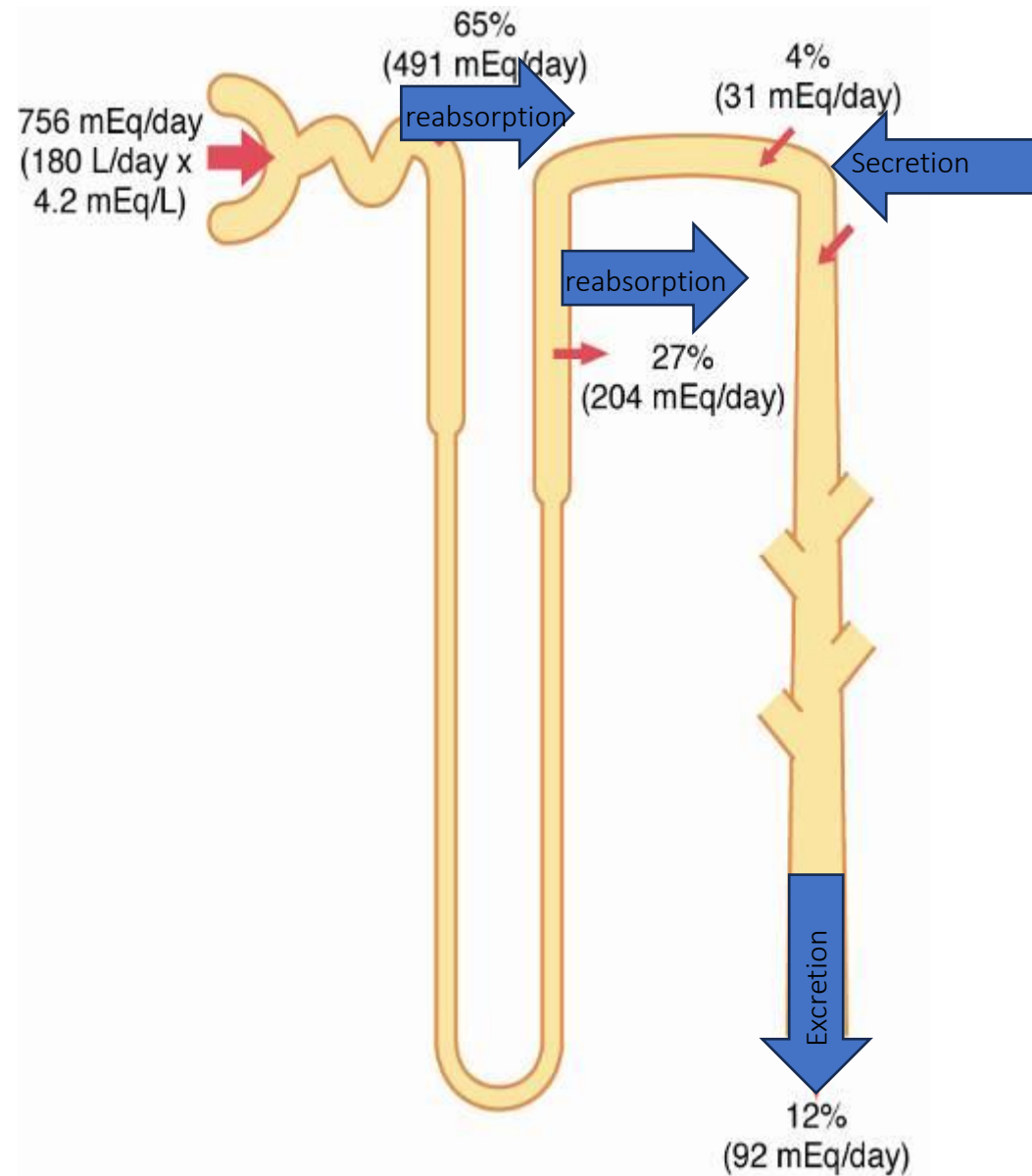
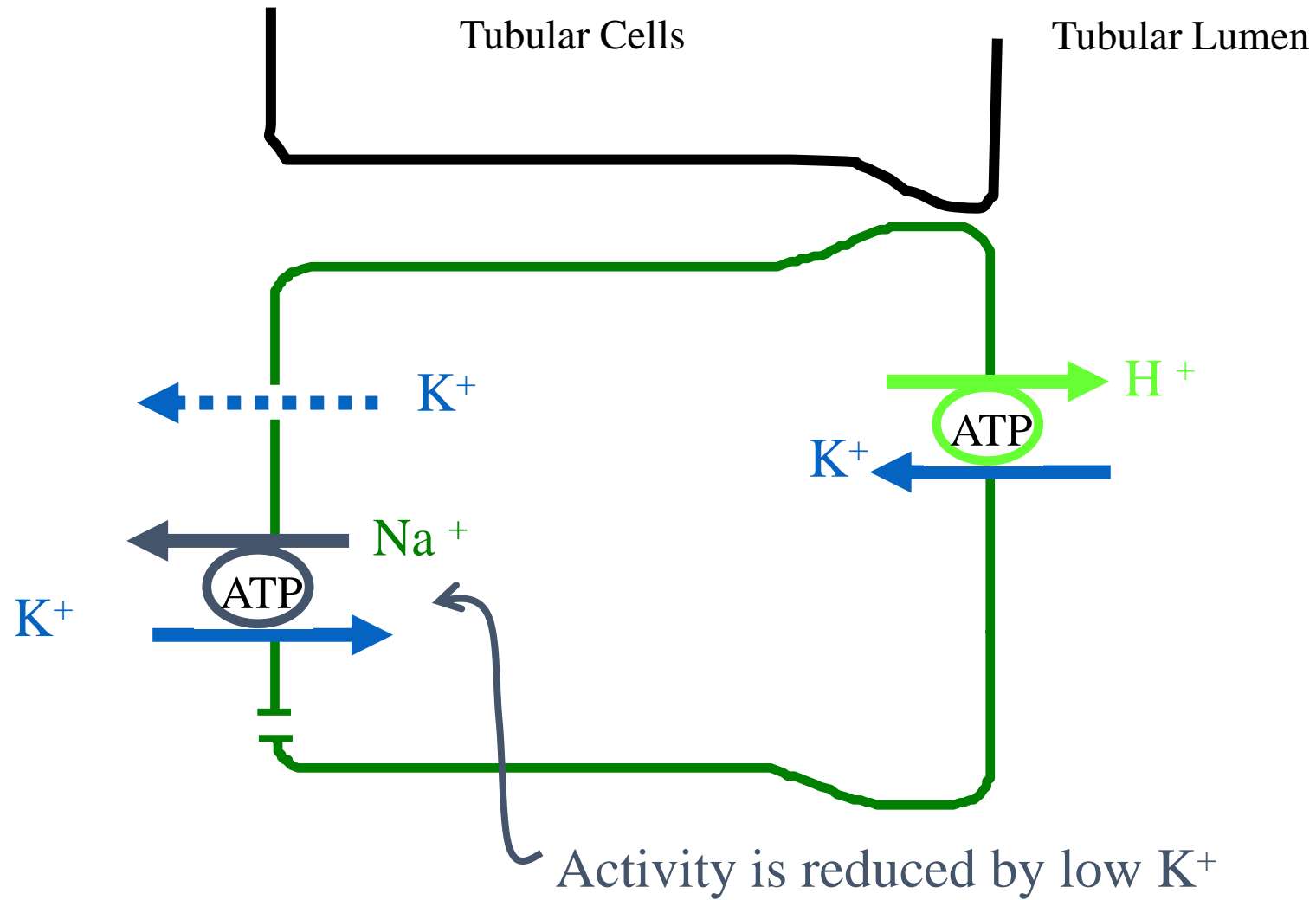


Figure 29-2



# Late Distal and Cortical Collecting Tubules Intercalated Cells – Reabsorb $K^+$



# Potassium Secretion by Principal Cells

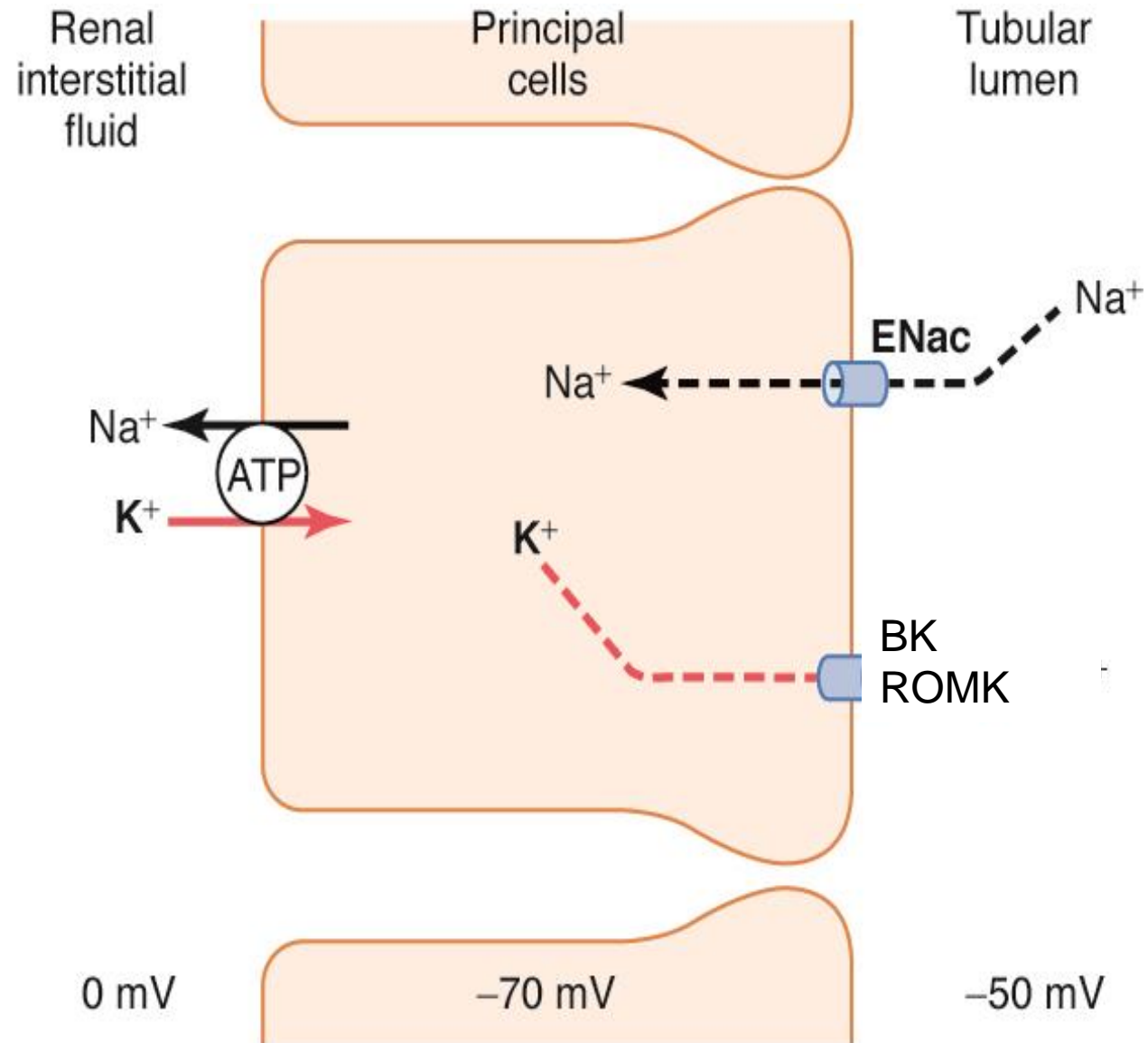


Figure 29-3

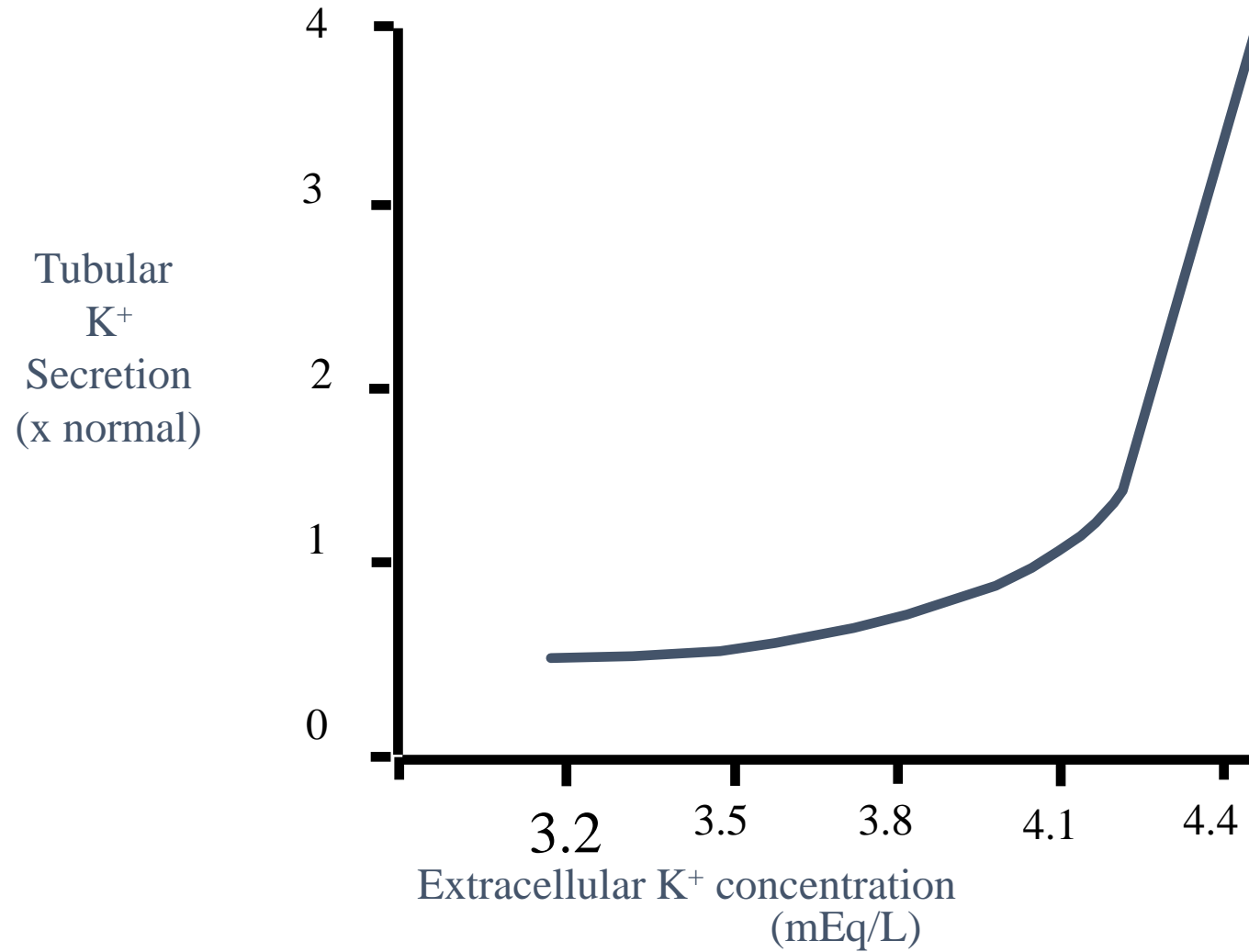


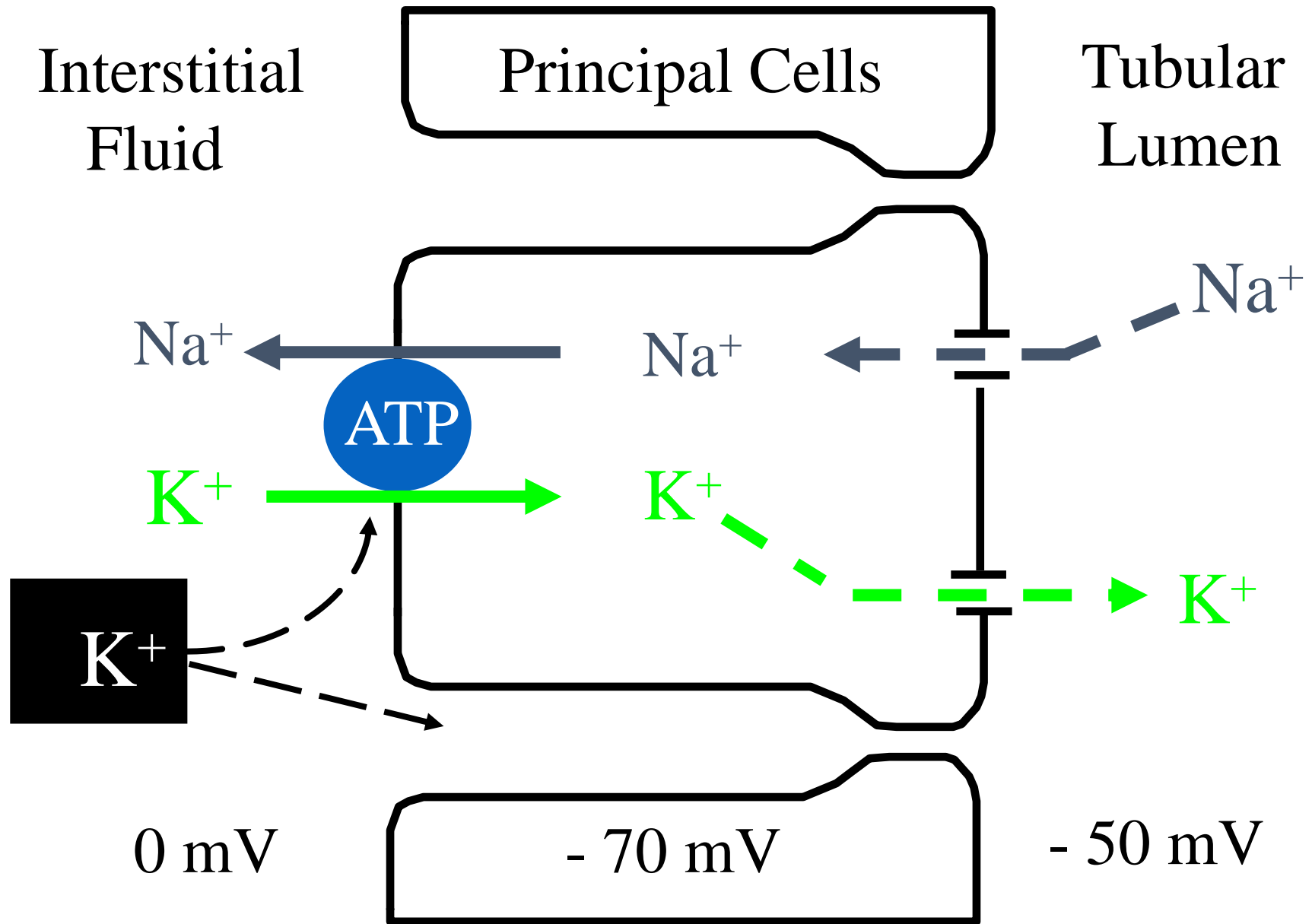
## Control of Cortical Collecting Tubule (Principal Cells) $K^+$ Secretion

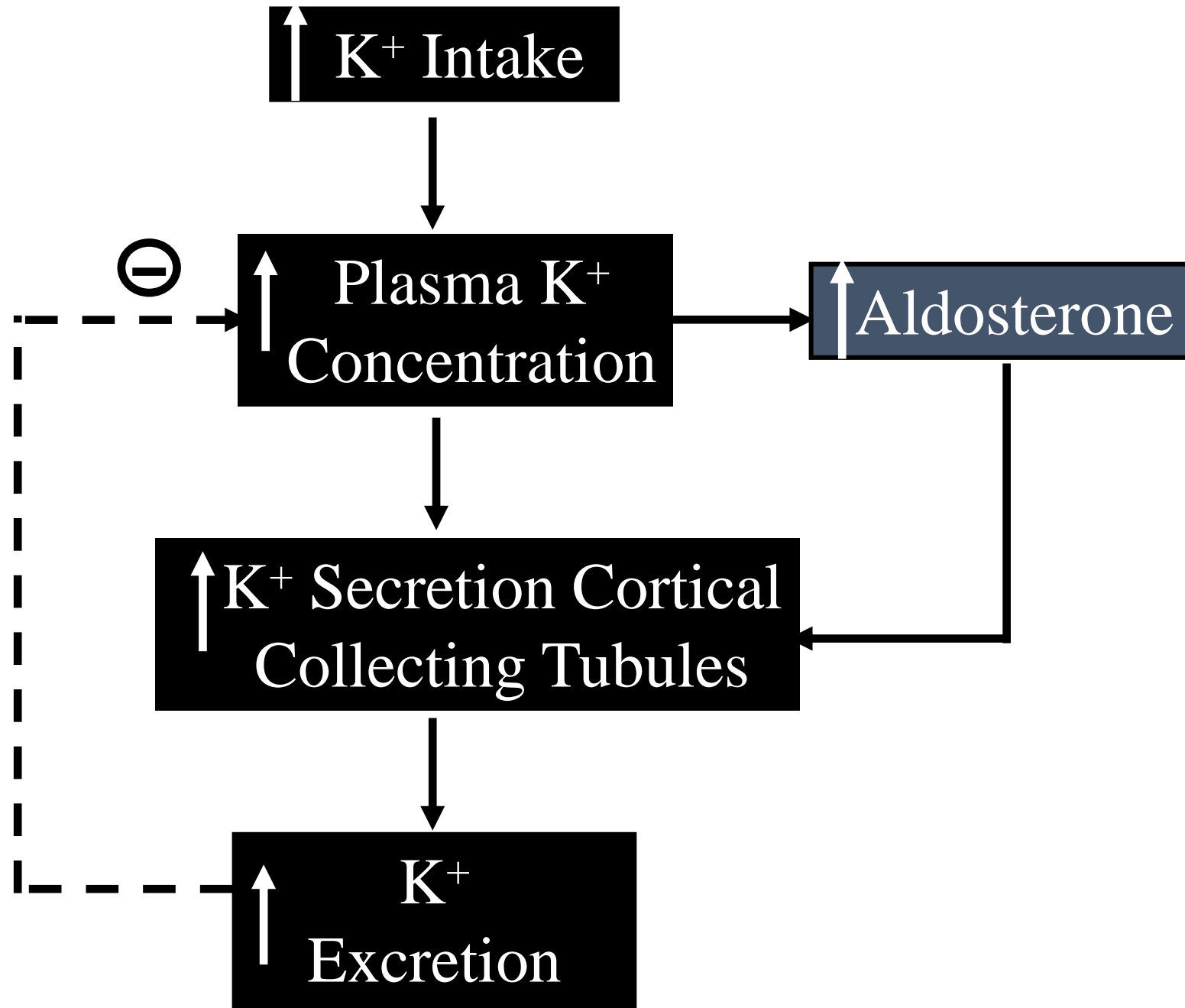


- Extracellular  $K^+$  concentration : increases  
 $K^+$  secretion
- Aldosterone : increases  $K^+$  secretion
- Sodium (volume) delivery : increases  $K^+$  secretion
- Acid - base status:
  - acidosis : decreases  $K^+$  secretion
  - alkalosis : increases  $K^+$  secretion

# Effect of Extracellular $K^+$ on Excretion of $K^+$







# Increased serum $K^+$ stimulates aldosterone secretion

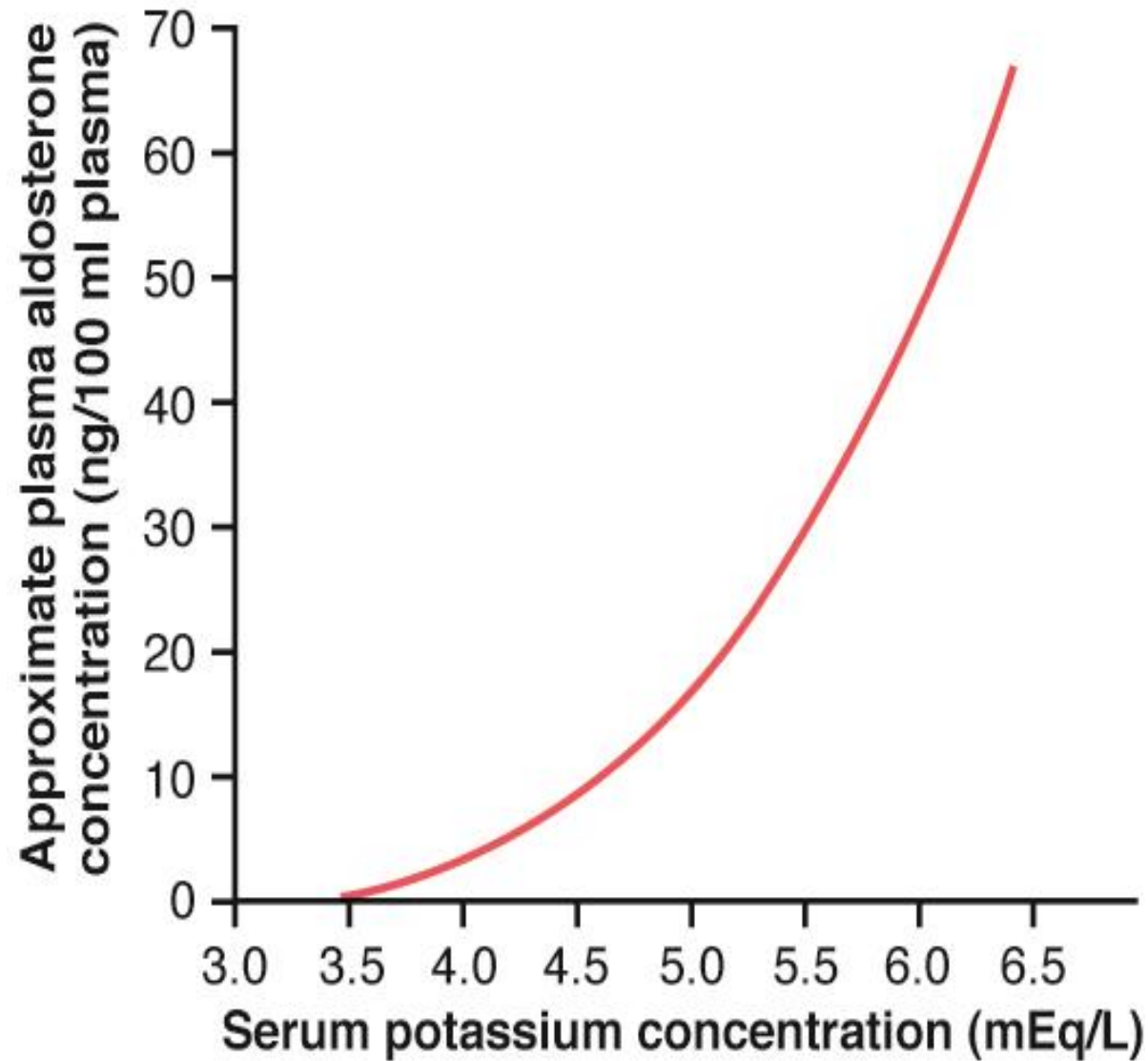
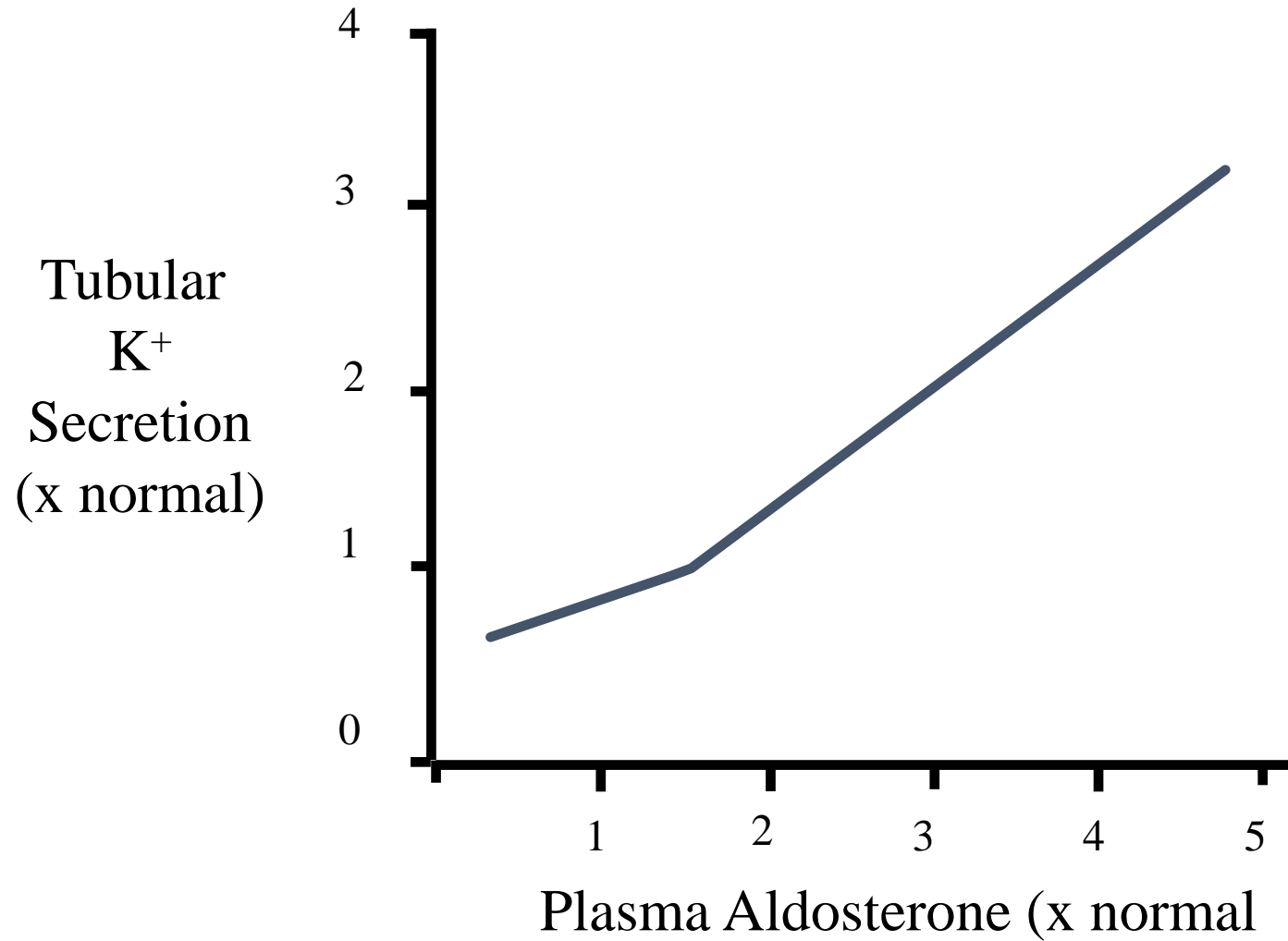


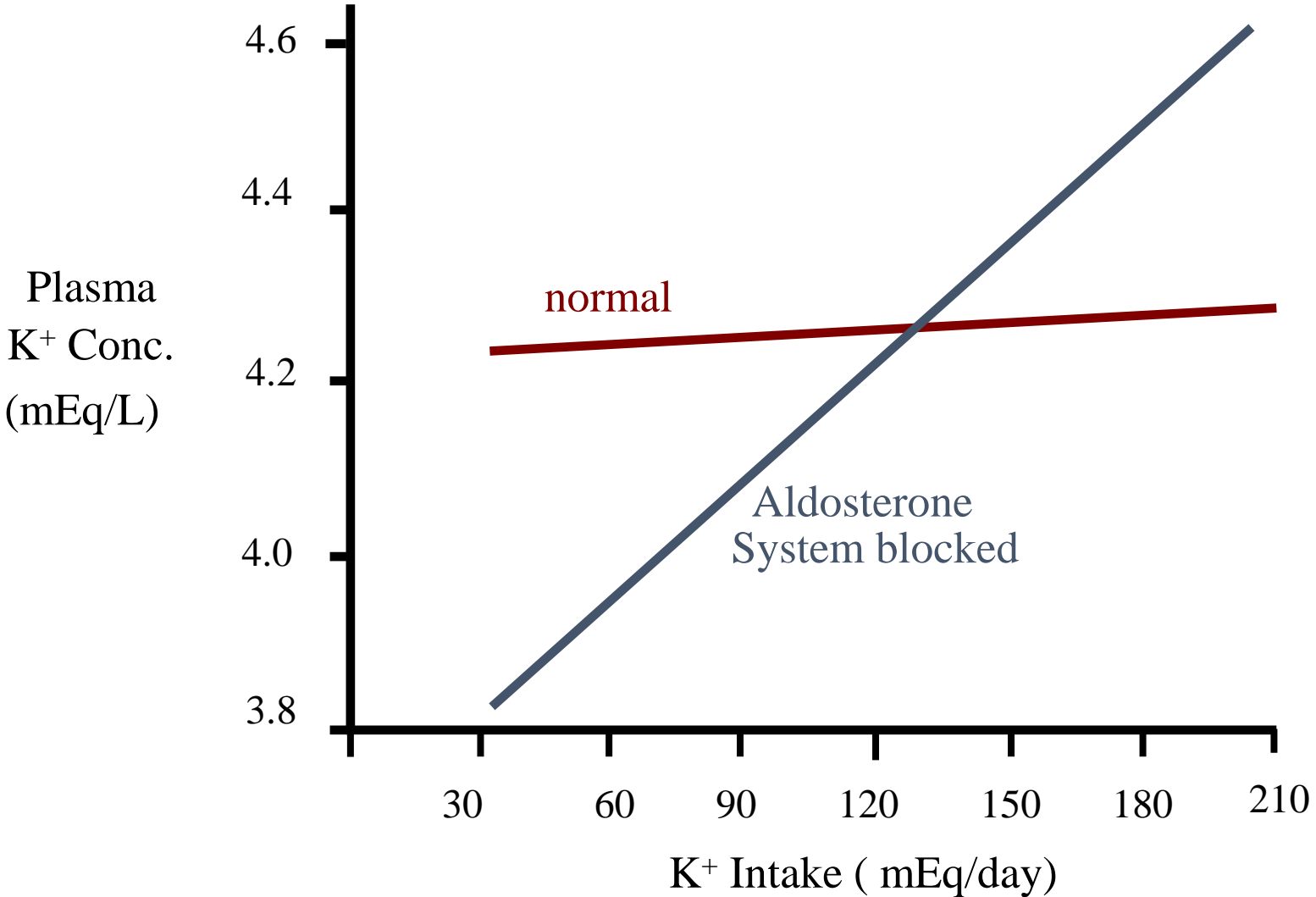
Figure 29-5

# Effect of Aldosterone on $K^+$ Excretion





# K<sup>+</sup> After Blocking Aldosterone System



# Effect of collecting tubule flow rate on $K^+$ secretion

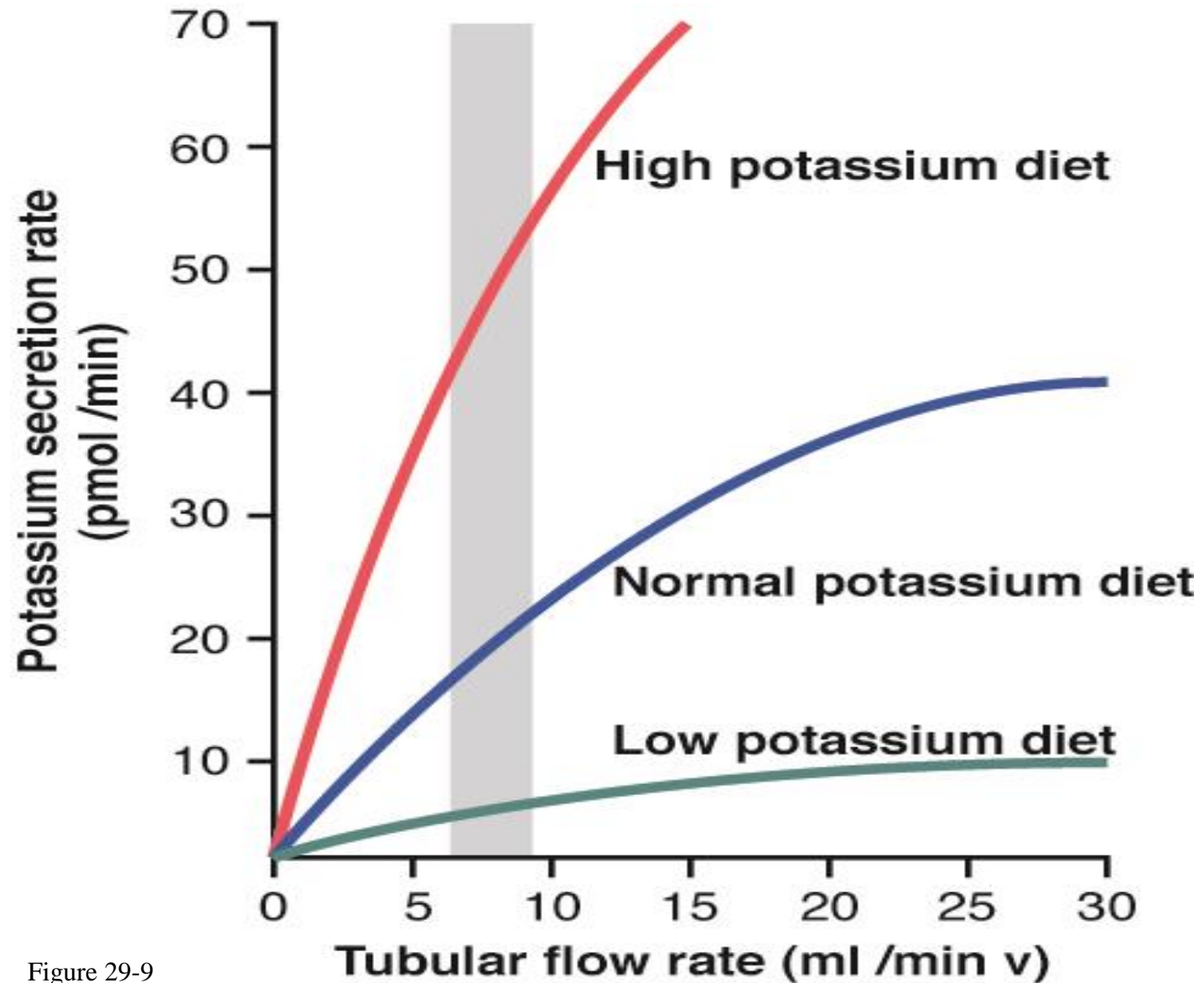
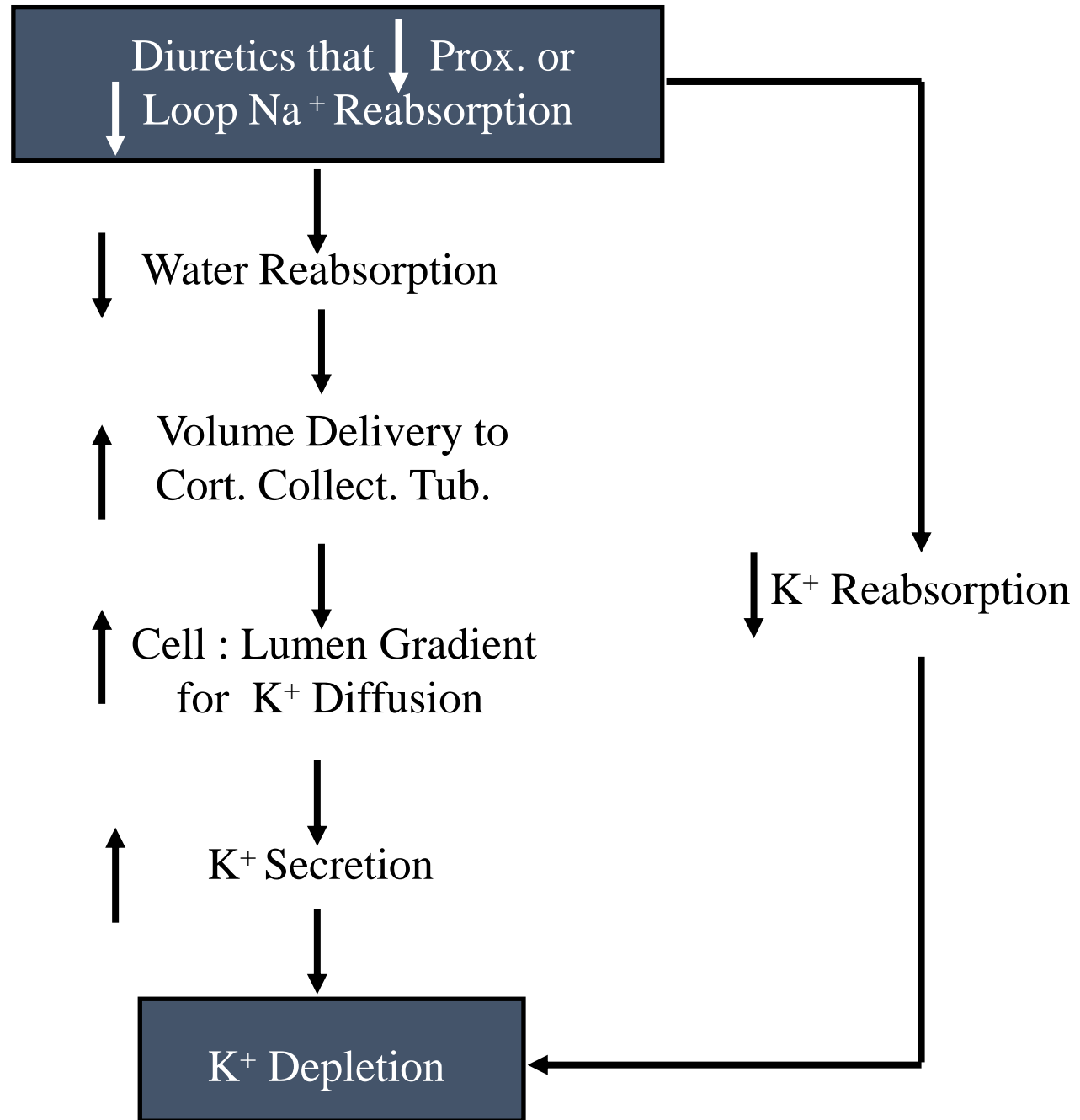
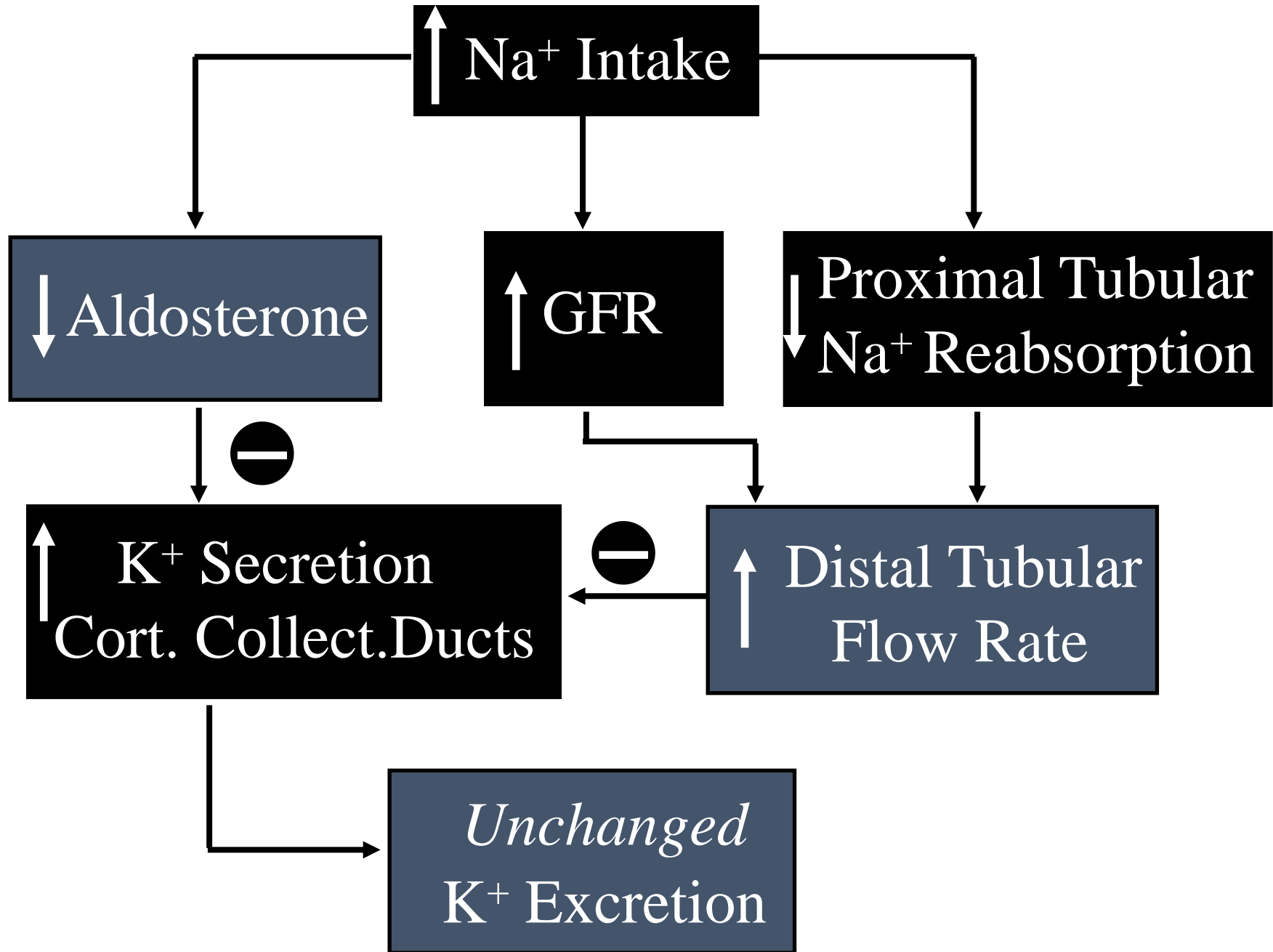


Figure 29-9

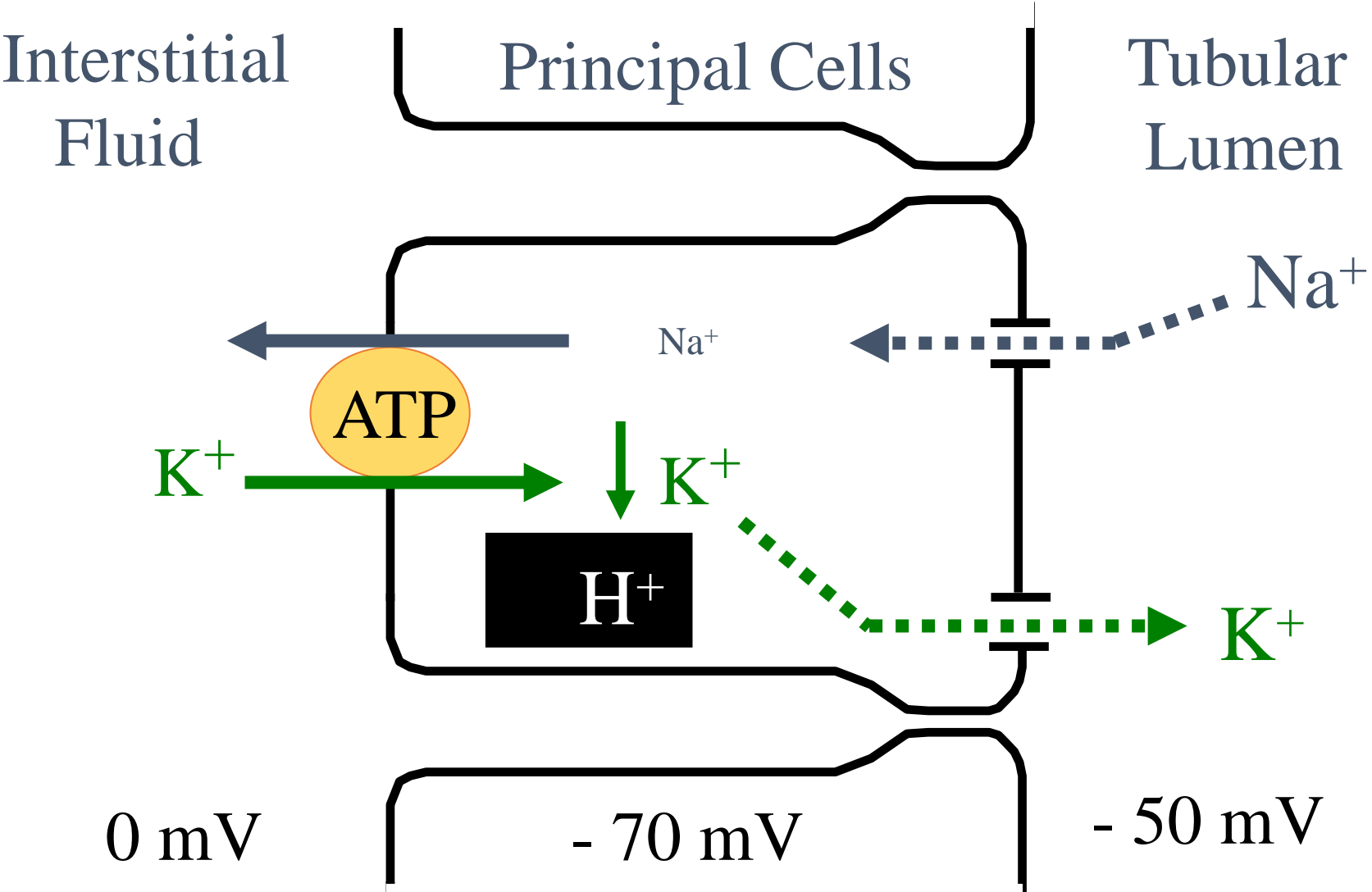


# Clinical Perspective





# Acidosis Decreases Cell $K^+$



Alkalosis



K<sup>+</sup> in Cells



K<sup>+</sup> Secretion



K<sup>+</sup> Excretion



K<sup>+</sup> Depletion

# Clinical Perspective      Causes of Hyperkalemia

- Renal failure
- Decreased distal nephron flow (heart failure, severe volume depletion, NSAID, etc)
- Decreased aldosterone or decreased effect of aldosterone
  - adrenal insufficiency
  - K<sup>+</sup> sparing diuretics (spironolactone, eplerenone)
- Metabolic acidosis (hyperkalemia is mild)
- Diabetes (kidney disease, acidosis, ↓ insulin)



## Clinical Perspective

# Causes of Hypokalemia

- Very low intake of  $K^+$
- GI loss of  $K^+$  - diarrhea
- Metabolic alkalosis
- Excess insulin
- Increased distal tubular flow /
  - salt wasting nephropathies
  - osmotic diuretics
  - loop diuretics
- Excess aldosterone or other mineralocorticoids





## Question

- Which of the following would cause the most serious hypokalemia?
  - A) A decrease in potassium intake from 150 mEq/day to 60 mEq/day
  - B) An increase in sodium intake from 100 to 200 mEq/day
  - C) Excessive aldosterone secretion plus high sodium intake
  - D) Excessive aldosterone secretion plus low sodium intake
  - E) A patient with Addison's disease
  - F) Treatment with a beta-adrenergic blocker
  - G) Treatment with spironolactone

# Compensatory responses to decreased plasma ionized calcium

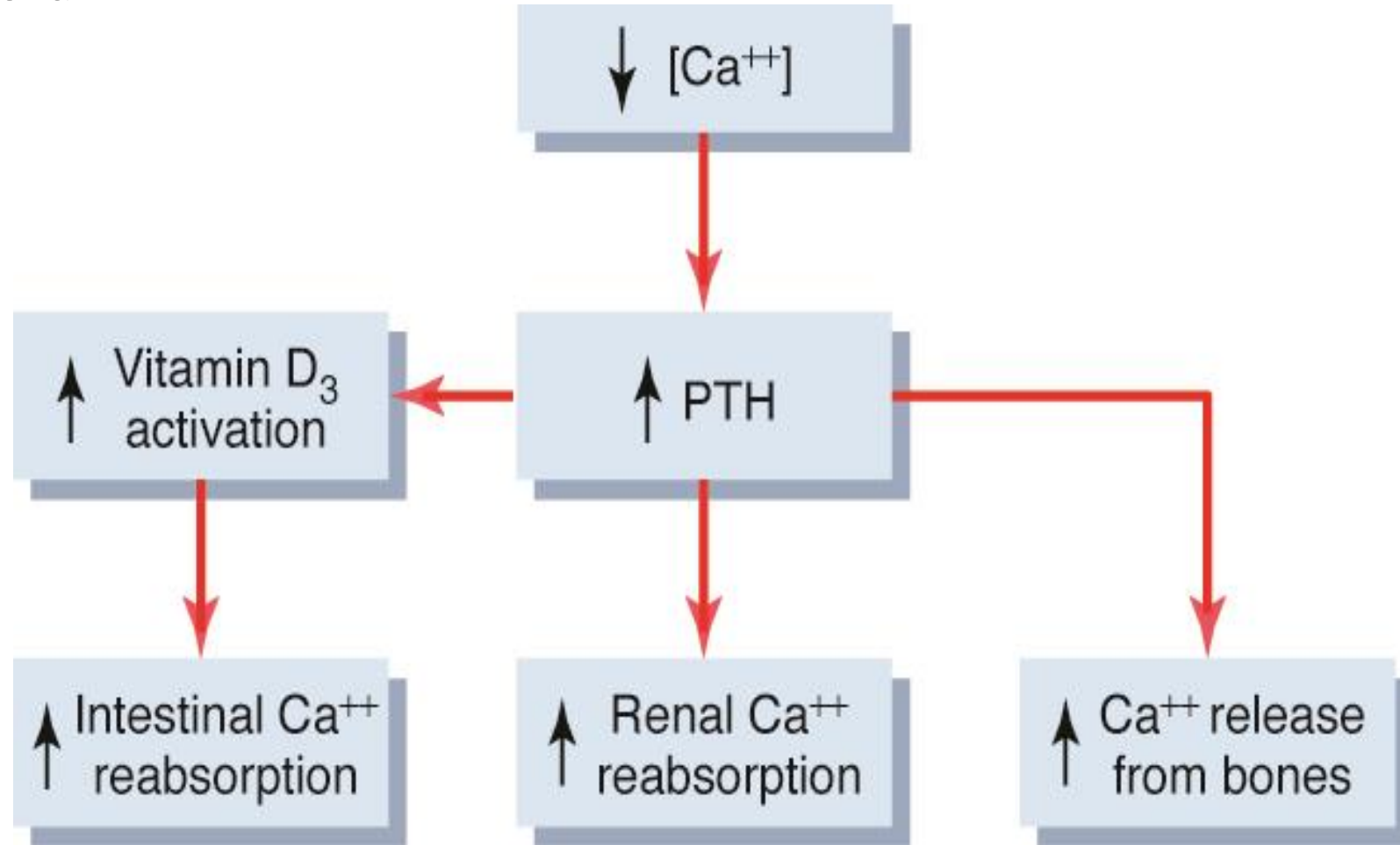


Figure 29-11

# Proximal tubular calcium reabsorption

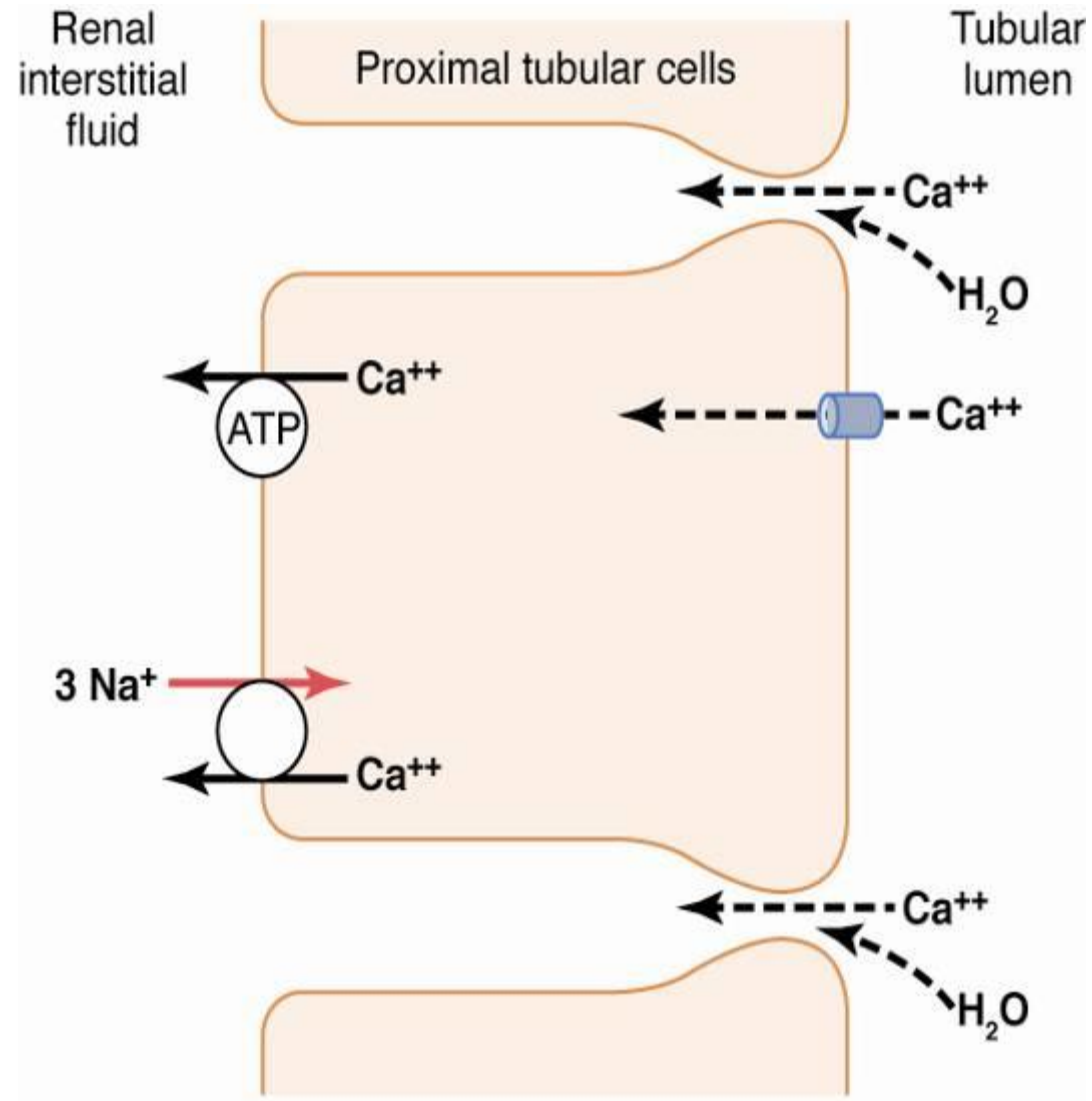


Figure 29-12

# Integration of Renal Mechanisms for Regulation of Body Fluids

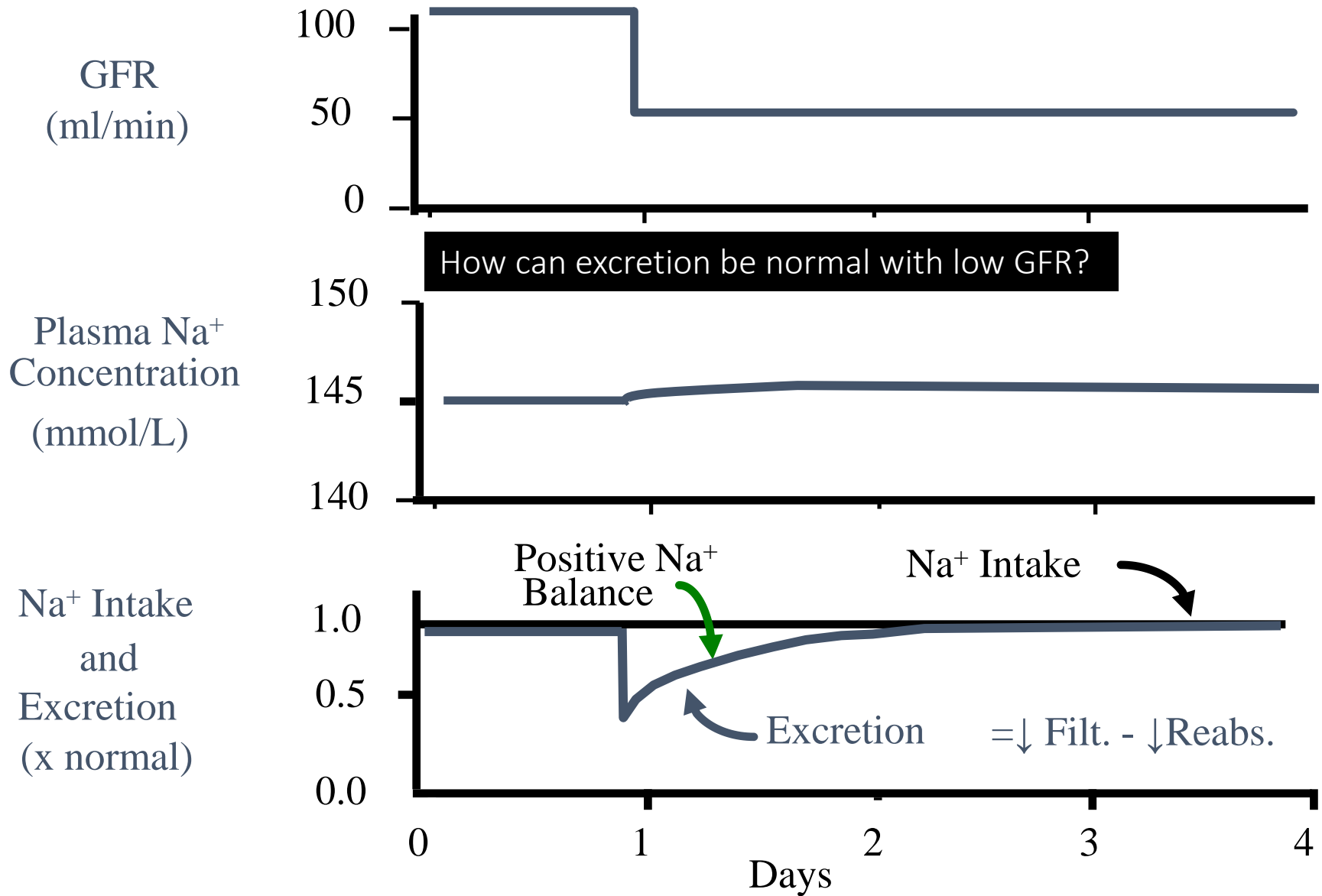
$$\text{Excretion} = \text{Filtration} - \text{Reabsorption} + \text{Secretion}$$

If there is a steady - state :

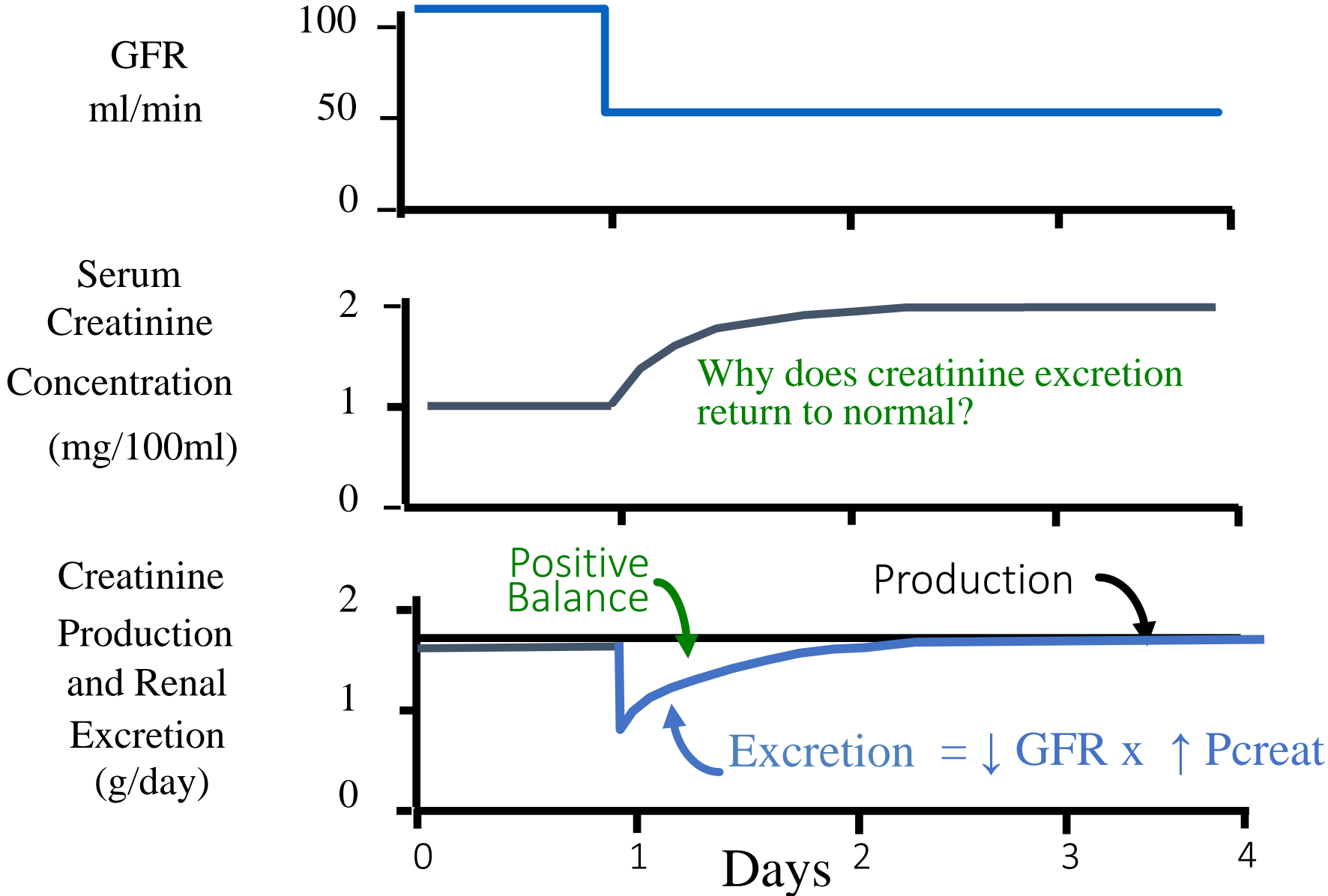
$$\text{Fluid Excretion} = \text{Fluid Intake}$$

$$\text{Electrolyte Excretion} = \text{Electrolyte intake}$$

# Effect of Decreased GFR on Sodium



# Effect of Decreased GFR on Creatinine



Plasma concentrations of solutes in chronic renal failure

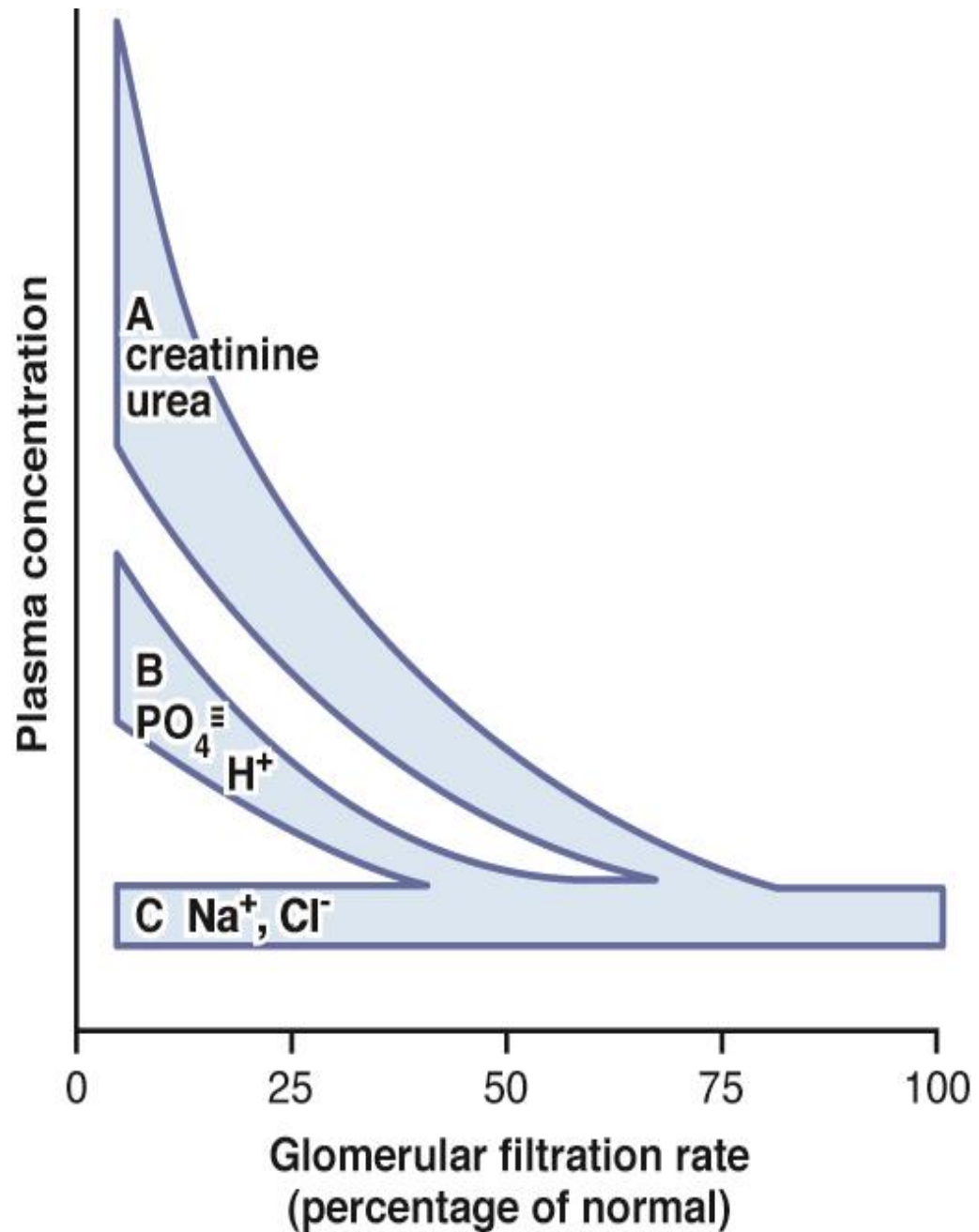


Figure 31-5

# Hierarchy of Responses to Disturbances of Body Fluid Regulation

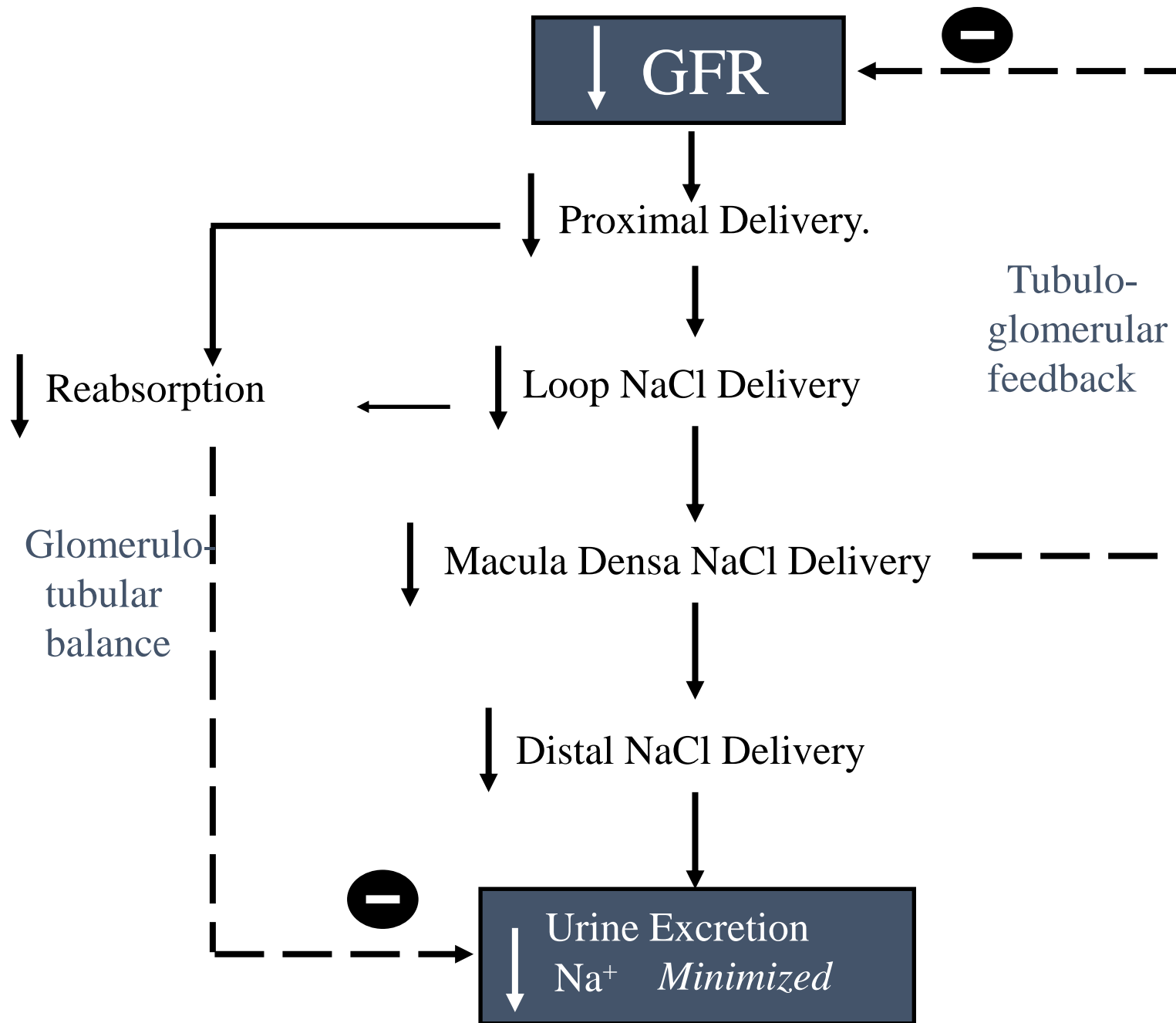
## 1. Local renal mechanisms

- changes in GFR
- changes in tubular reabsorption
- changes in tubular secretion

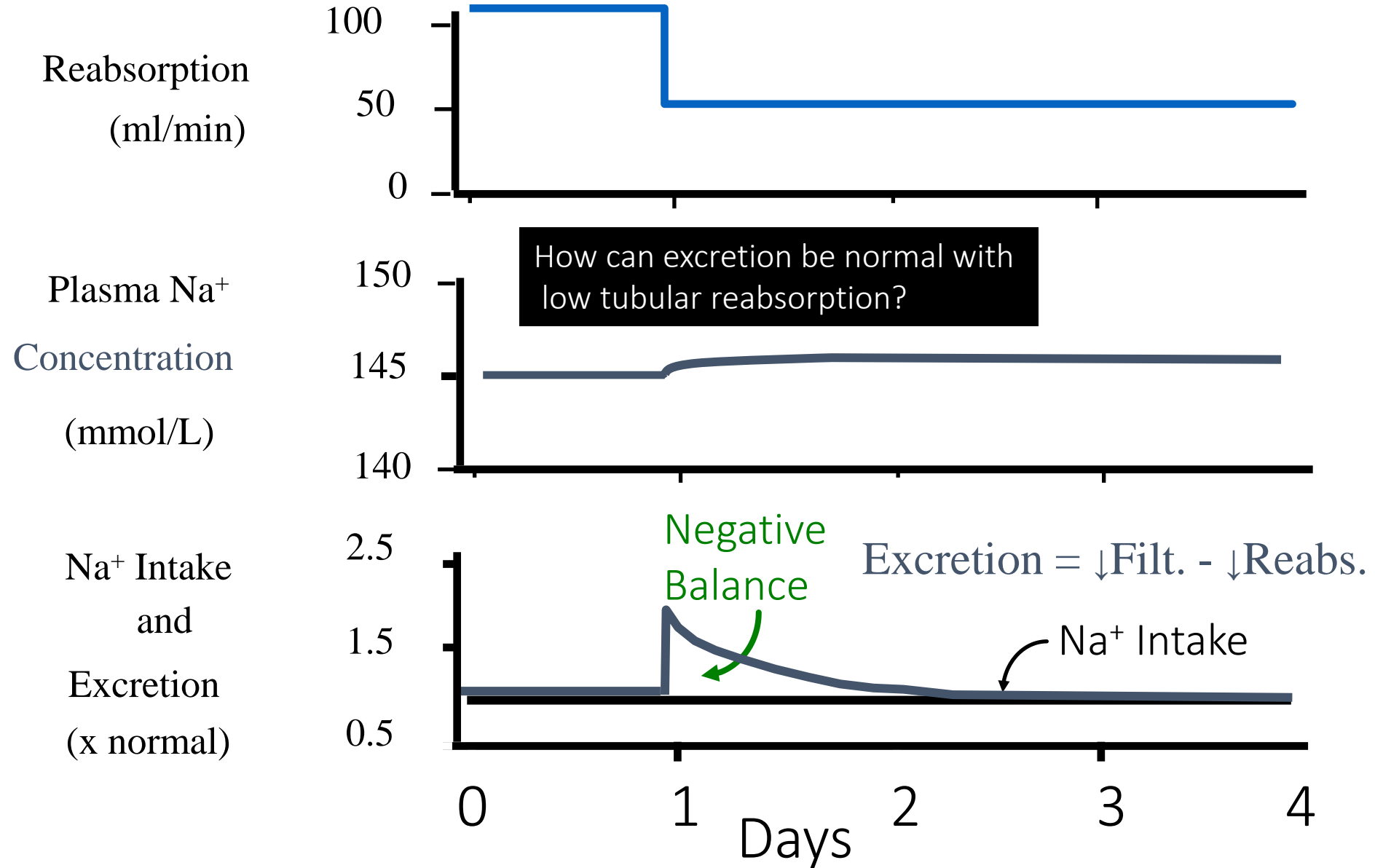
## 2. Systemic mechanisms (which can affect the whole body)

- changes in hormones
- changes in sympathetic activity
- changes in blood pressure
- changes in blood composition

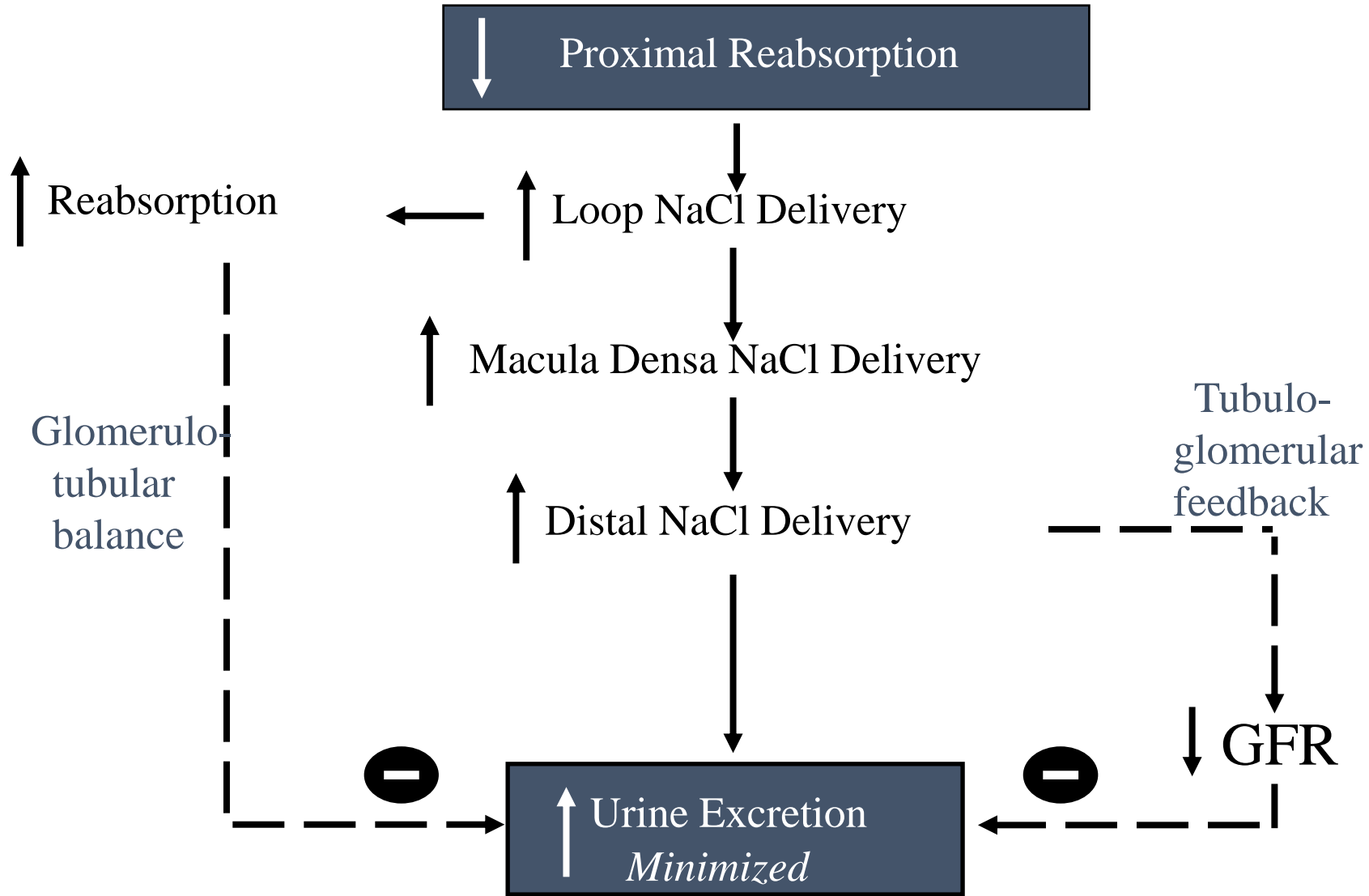




# Effect of Decreased Reabsorption on Sodium Balance



# Maintenance of Sodium Balance After Decreased Proximal Reabsorption



# Hierarchy of Responses to Disturbances of Body Fluid Regulation

In steady-state, Intake = Output

## 1. Local renal responses

- changes in GFR
- changes in tubular reabsorption
- changes in tubular secretion

## 2. Systemic mechanisms (which can affect the whole body)

- changes in hormones
- changes in sympathetic activity
- changes in blood pressure
- changes in blood composition

Sodium excretion and extracellular fluid volume during diuretic administration.

Compensations that Permit  $\text{Na}^+$  balance:

- $\downarrow$  blood pressure
- $\uparrow$  renin, angiotensin II
- $\uparrow$  aldosterone

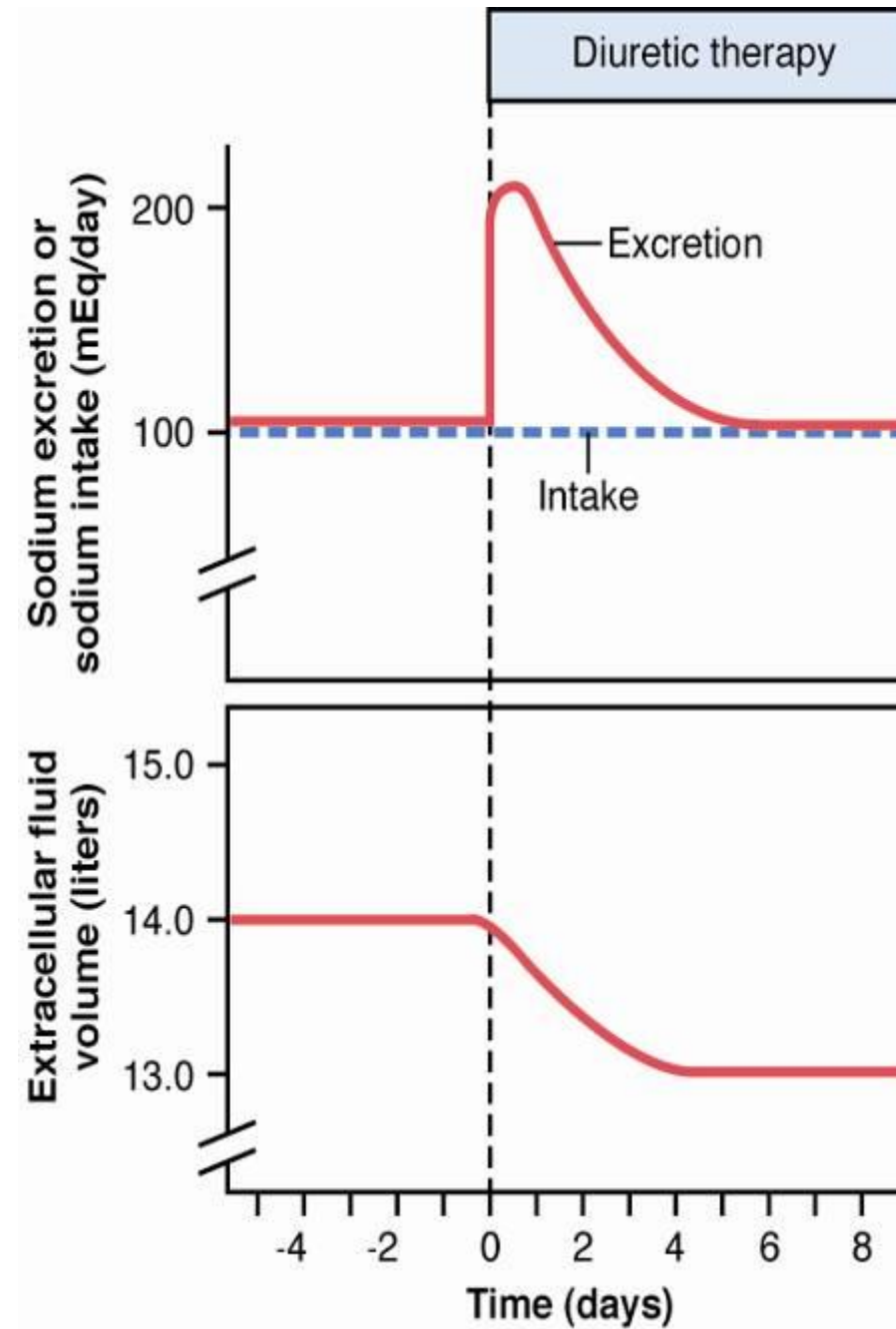
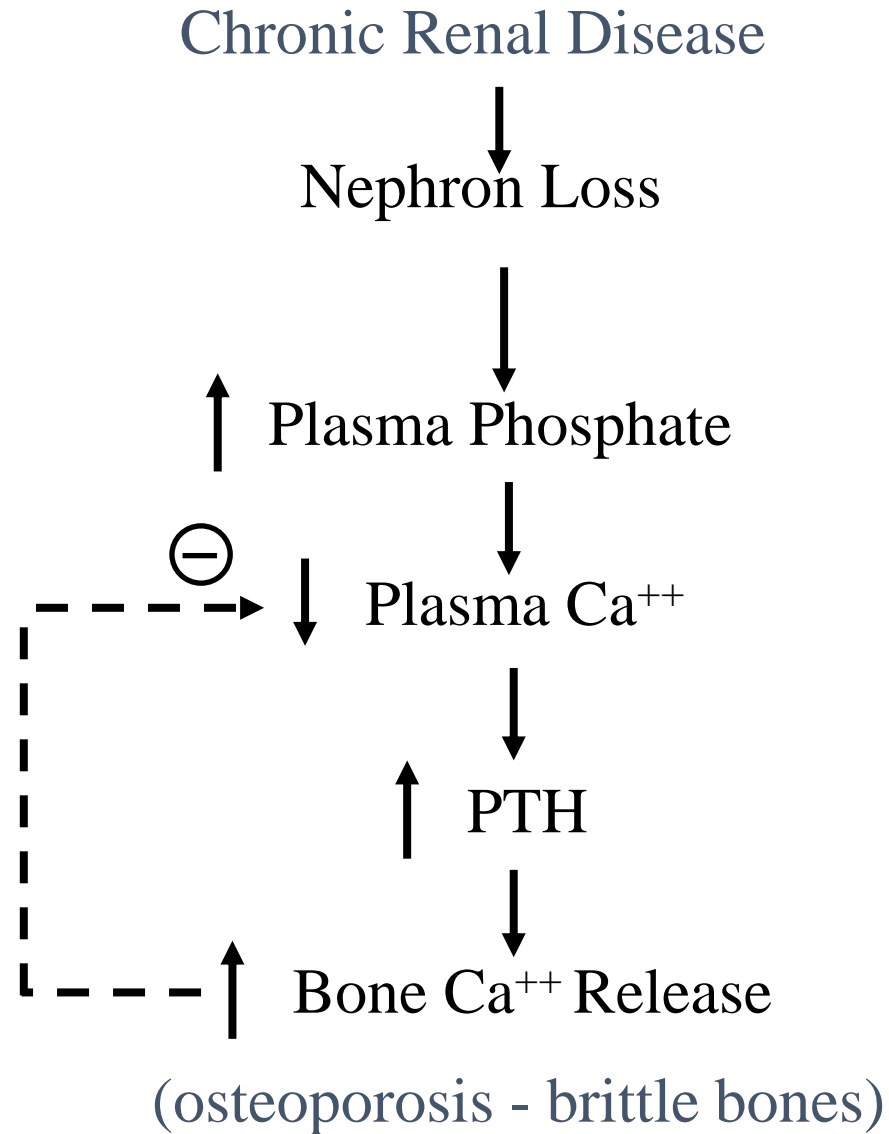


Figure 31-1

# Hormonal Response to Chronic Renal Disease - PTH



# Hierarchy of Responses to Disturbances of Body Fluid Regulation

In steady-state, Intake = Output

## 1. Local renal responses

- changes in GFR
- changes in tubular reabsorption
- changes in tubular secretion

## 2. Systemic mechanisms (which can affect the whole body)

- changes in hormones
- changes in sympathetic activity
- changes in blood pressure
- changes in blood composition





# Integrated Responses to High Na<sup>+</sup> Intake

$$\text{Excretion Na}^+ = \text{Filtration Na}^+ - \text{Reabsorption Na}^+$$

1. Small increase in GFR
2. Decreased Na<sup>+</sup> Reabsorption is caused by:
  - small increase in blood pressure
  - increased peritubular capillary pressure
  - decreased angiotensin II
  - decreased aldosterone
  - Increased natriuretic hormones (e.g. ANP)

Net effect = increased Na<sup>+</sup> excretion