

Table 1. Emergency treatment of hyperkalemia

Agent	Dose	Onset	Duration	Complications
<b>Membrane stabilization</b>				
Calcium gluconate (10%)	10 mL IV over 10 min	Immediate	30–60 min	Hypercalcemia
Hypertonic (3%) sodium chloride	50 mL IV push	Immediate	Unknown	Volume overload hypertonicity
<b>Redistribution</b>				
Insulin (short acting)	10 units IV push, with 25–40 g dextrose (50% solution)	20 min	4–6 hrs	hypoglycemia
Albuterol	20 mg in 4 mL normal saline solution, nebulized over 10 min	30 min	2 hrs	Tachycardia inconsistent response
<b>Elimination</b>				
<b>Loop diuretics</b>				
Furosemide	40–80 mg IV	15 min	2–3 hrs	Volume depletion
Bumetanide	2–4 mg IV			
Sodium bicarbonate	150 mmol/L IV at variable rate	Hours	Duration of infusion	Metabolic alkalosis volume overload
Sodium polystyrene sulfonate (Kayexalate, Kionex)	15–30 g in 15–30 mL (70% sorbitol orally)	>2 hrs	4–6 hrs	Variable efficacy intestinal necrosis
Hemodialysis		Immediate	3 hrs	Arrhythmias (?)

IV, intravenously.