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Disturbances of volume and concentration of body fluids



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Anaesthesia
Intravenous Fluids

Methods of movement of ions and molecules between compartments

Diffusion

Movement of a substance from an area of high concentration to one of low concentration. This results from random movement of the fluid's constituent particles.

Facilitated diffusion

Carrier molecules transport substances from high to low concentrations. (Does not require energy).

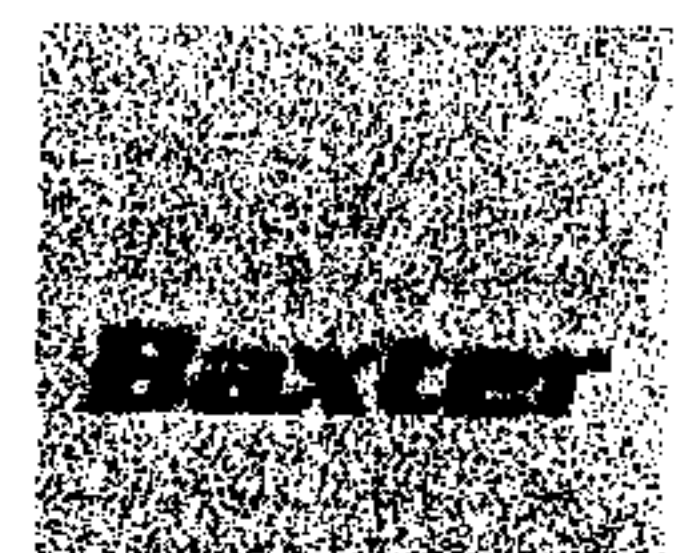
Active transport

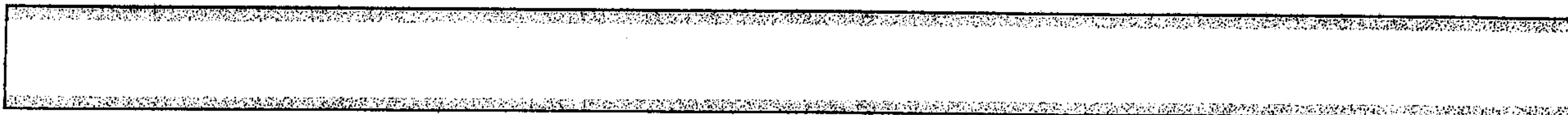
Protein pumps within the membranes use energy which is usually supplied by ATP. These pumps can move substances against concentration gradients.

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No?

I've probably heard about the wonders of water, how you're supposed to drink your 8 big glasses a day and if you can possibly drink anymore without spending all your time in the bathroom then even better, right? But maybe you've also heard that drinking too much water when exercising is bad and possibly even life threatening! So how do you know how much is too much?

Hyponatraemia results from excessive fluid consumption, which lowers the concentration of sodium in the blood, in extreme cases, and for a very small number of people, this can be fatal. But just before you swear either never to exercise again or vow to stop drinking water while you're doing it, let's get some things straight.

Let's say you exercise regularly, about 1 1/2 hours a day, and during that time you work up a nice sweat but you're also taking small sips of water when you feel the need to. What are the chances of you suffering from hyponatraemia? Virtually none. And if you exercise for 1 1/2 hours without any water at all, what are the chances of you becoming dangerously dehydrated? Pretty slim also.

For marathon runners, dehydration is a normal but temporary condition on crossing the finish line. And even if you're pretty quick, we're still talking between 2 and 5 hours here, which is a pretty serious bout of exercise no matter how you look at it. And it's under conditions like this, where you're exercising and sweating for long periods of time, when plain water just isn't good enough.

Usually after about 90 minutes of exercise your body needs a little more than just water and that's when sports drinks come in handy. Amongst other things they contain carbohydrates - that's where the energy comes from to keep you going - and a small amount of sodium to replace any that you've lost by sweating. Of course, as I've said that, everyone is different: men generally sweat more than women - besides women don't sweat, we menstruate. And if you're exercising during the hottest part of the day you'll sweat (or glow) more than you would by exercising at a cooler time, and if you're on holiday and not used to exercising in the heat at all, you'll need to be a little more aware of how much you're perspiring compared to normal.

Generally most of us will adequately replace any lost sodium, fluids and depleted energy stores by what we eat and drink afterwards. And considering that water makes up about 60% of our total body weight, experts agree that adequate hydration is crucial for the body to function optimally. So how much water is enough?

For moderately active men and women:

Male: Bodyweight (lbs) x 10.36
Female: Bodyweight (lbs) x 9.176

So a 119lbs woman needs to drink 1091ml of water a day ($119 \times 9.176 = 1091$), which is very slightly over 1 litre.

But don't forget that if you're exercising you'll need to drink more to compensate for sweat loss.

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