

## HYPERKALAEMIA

Hyperkalaemia is defined as a serum potassium concentration of  $>5.5$  mmol/L. It is usually caused by the kidney failure that is well recognised.

**What is the normal range for serum potassium?**

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**Why does serum potassium rise?**

This condition can be caused by a variety of factors, including the following: renal failure, Addison's disease, hypothyroidism, and certain medications. It is also caused by a shift of potassium from the intracellular space to the extracellular space, which is caused by:

1. **Acidosis** - causes a shift of potassium from the intracellular space to the extracellular space.

2. **Insulin deficiency** - causes a shift of potassium from the intracellular space to the extracellular space.

3. **Insulin resistance** - causes a shift of potassium from the intracellular space to the extracellular space.

4. **Insulin therapy** - causes a shift of potassium from the intracellular space to the extracellular space.

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