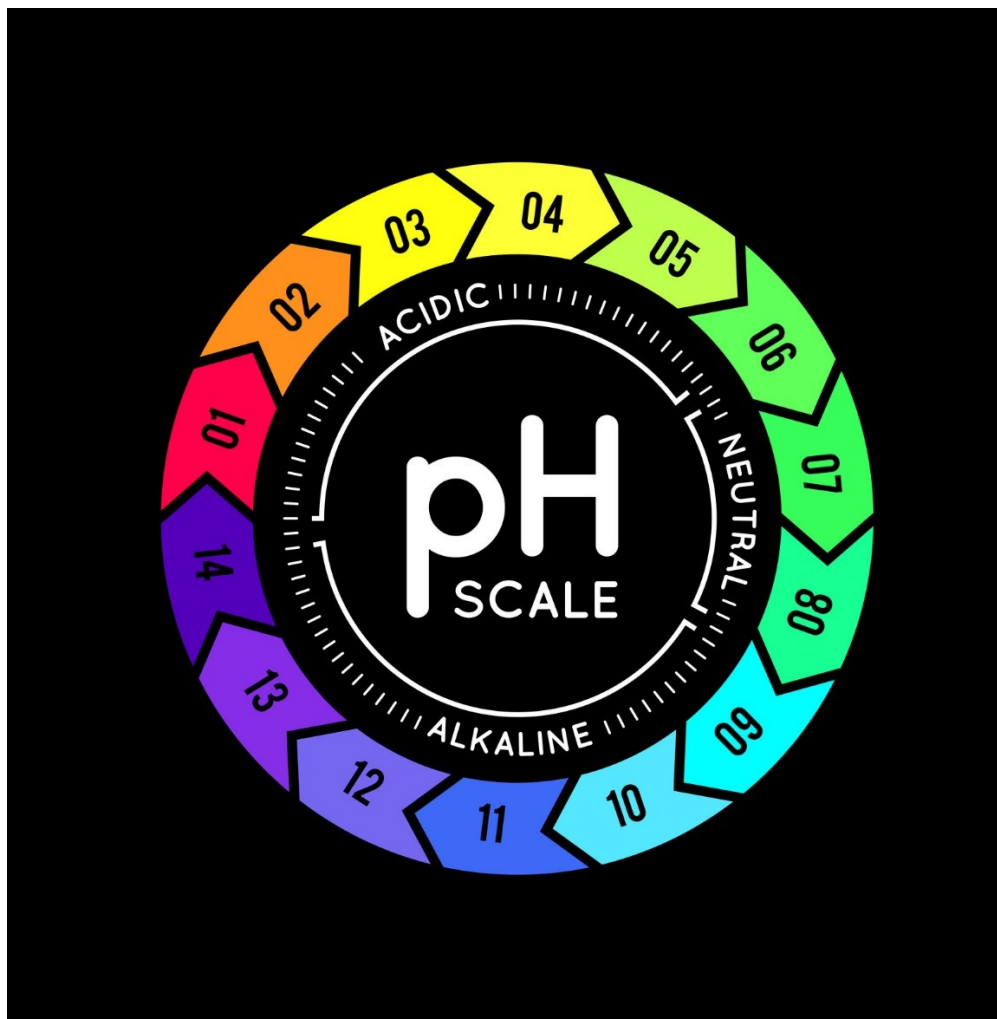


Word for Word

Basic Facts about Acidemia and Acidosis



The terms *acidemia* and *acidosis* are often used interchangeably and are even described in the same way in many dictionaries. Both terms refer to acid-base disorders; however, these terms have different meanings.

Acidemia: The kidneys and lungs maintain the proper balance of acids and bases in the body. When excessive amounts of acid accumulate in the blood or in tissue, acidemia develops. Thus, *acidemia* refers to the state of abnormally high acidity (pH <7.35) in the body.

Acidosis: *Acidosis* refers to the physiologic processes that lead to acidemia. Acidosis is classified as either metabolic (occurring when the kidneys do not eliminate enough acid) or respiratory (occurring when too much carbon dioxide—which is mildly acidic—accumulates in the body). Therefore, the

type of acidosis depends on the clinical context and the source of the change in pH (for example, ingestion of acid, decreased excretion of renal acid, or hypoventilation).

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– Tammy Locke

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