

# *O<sub>2</sub> & CO<sub>2</sub> transport in the blood*

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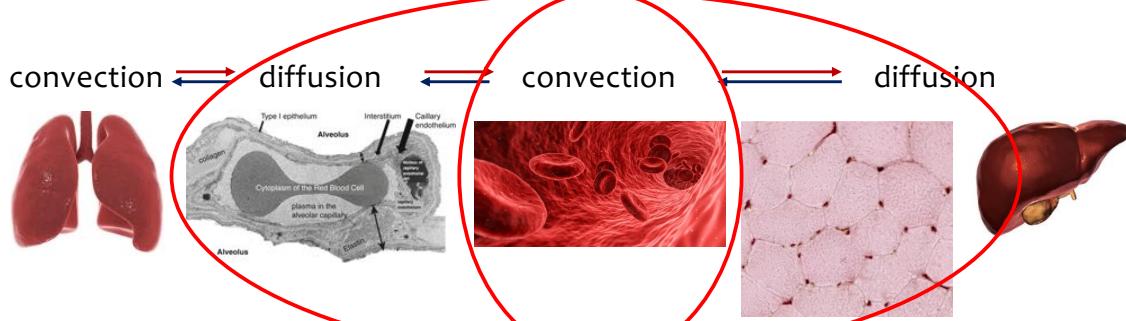


CHARLES UNIVERSITY  
Second Faculty of Medicine



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## Transport of O<sub>2</sub> & CO<sub>2</sub> („blood gases“) in the body



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## Diffusion

- Fick's first law (1855):  $J = -D/RT \times \Delta P / \Delta x$



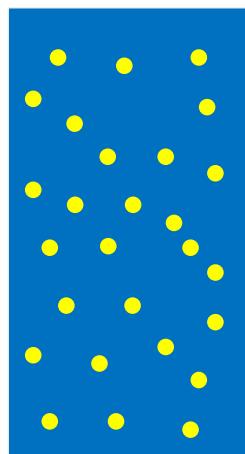
- large surfaces
- short distances
- large differences in partial pressures
- $\text{CO}_2$  20x faster than  $\text{O}_2$



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## Concentration & partial pressure

$\text{O}_2$  molecules in air



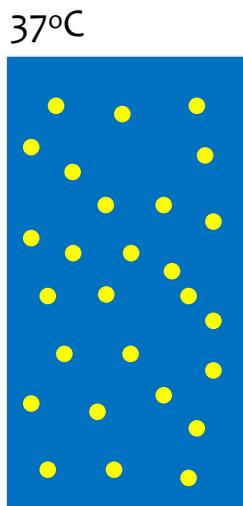
Dry air: 21% is  $\text{O}_2$   
 $F_{\text{O}_2} = 0.21$   
 $[\text{O}_2] = 210 \text{ ml/l}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{As } P_B &\sim 760 \text{ mmHg} \\ P_{\text{O}_2} &= 0.21 \times 760 \text{ mmHg} \\ &= 160 \text{ mmHg} \end{aligned}$$



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## Effect of water vapor

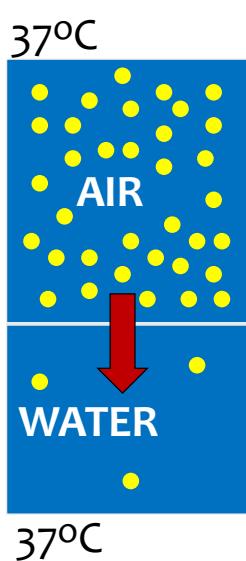


$$\begin{aligned}
 P_B &\sim 760 \text{ mmHg} \\
 P_{H_2O} &= 47 \text{ mmHg} \text{ (at } 37^\circ\text{C)} \\
 P_{DRY} &= 713 \text{ mmHg} \\
 PO_2 &= 0.21 \times 713 \text{ mmHg} \\
 &= 150 \text{ mmHg}
 \end{aligned}$$



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## O<sub>2</sub> in physical solution



After equilibration:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{AIR: } PO_2 &= 150 \text{ mmHg} \\
 \text{WATER: } PO_2 &= 150 \text{ mmHg}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{AIR: } [O_2] &= 210 \text{ ml/l} \\
 \text{WATER: } [O_2] &= 4.5 \text{ ml/l}
 \end{aligned}$$

O<sub>2</sub> solubility

$$= 4.5 / 150 = 0.003 \text{ ml/(dl.mmHg)}$$



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## O<sub>2</sub> transport in solution during exercise

- solubility = 0.003 ml/(dl.mmHg)
- PO<sub>2</sub> in arterial blood = 100 mmHg
- [O<sub>2</sub>] = 3 ml/l
- cardiac output = 30 l/min
- maximum O<sub>2</sub> available = 90 ml/min

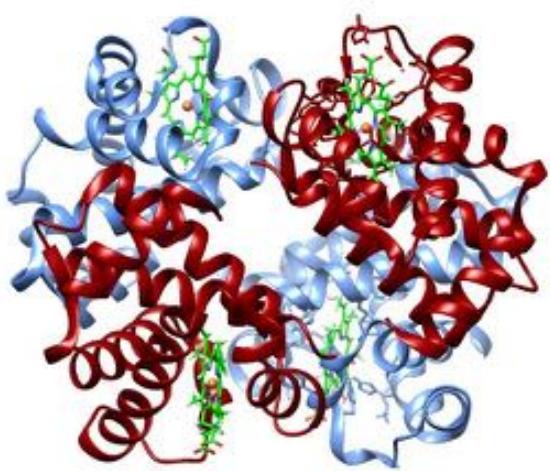
**But O<sub>2</sub> requirement is 3000 ml/min!**



CO<sub>2</sub> similarly (solubility 0.067 ml/(dl.mmHg))

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## Hemoglobin (Hb)



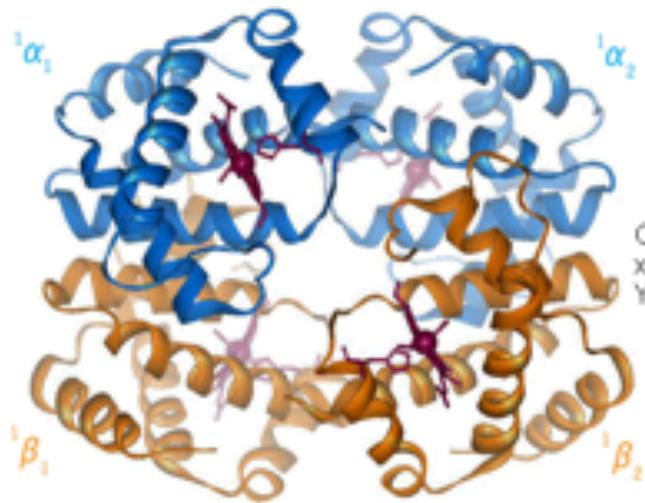
- both CO<sub>2</sub> & O<sub>2</sub> transport
  - NH<sub>2</sub> groups of N-terminal val
  - heme Fe<sup>2+</sup>
  - RBC (35% of it)
- 
- 4 globins + 4 hemes (Fe<sup>2+</sup> in porphyrin ring)



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## 2 Hb conformation states

- R (relaxed):
  - high O<sub>2</sub> affinity
  - stabilized by ↑pH
- T (tense)
  - low O<sub>2</sub> affinity
  - stabilized by CO<sub>2</sub> & H<sup>+</sup>



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## CO<sub>2</sub> transport in the blood

### 2 compartments:

- plasma

- RBC

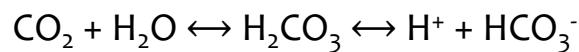
### 3 mechanisms:

- dissolved (~8%)  
solubility > O<sub>2</sub> (22x)
- as HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (~70%)
- as carbamino protein complexes (R-NH<sub>2</sub>+CO<sub>2</sub>) (~20% (Hb))

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## CO<sub>2</sub> transport as HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>

Carboanhydrase in RBC:



Free H<sup>+</sup> quickly buffered by Hb

(↓pH → ↓ transport as HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>)

Part of HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> diffuses from RBC x Cl<sup>-</sup> in

(electroneutrality, osmotic =): chloride shift



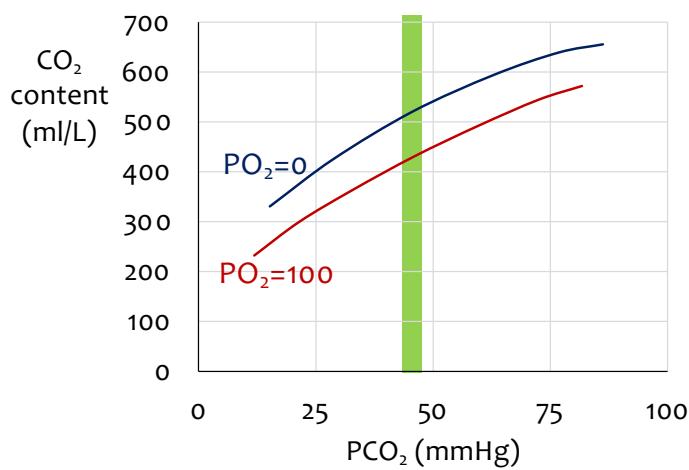
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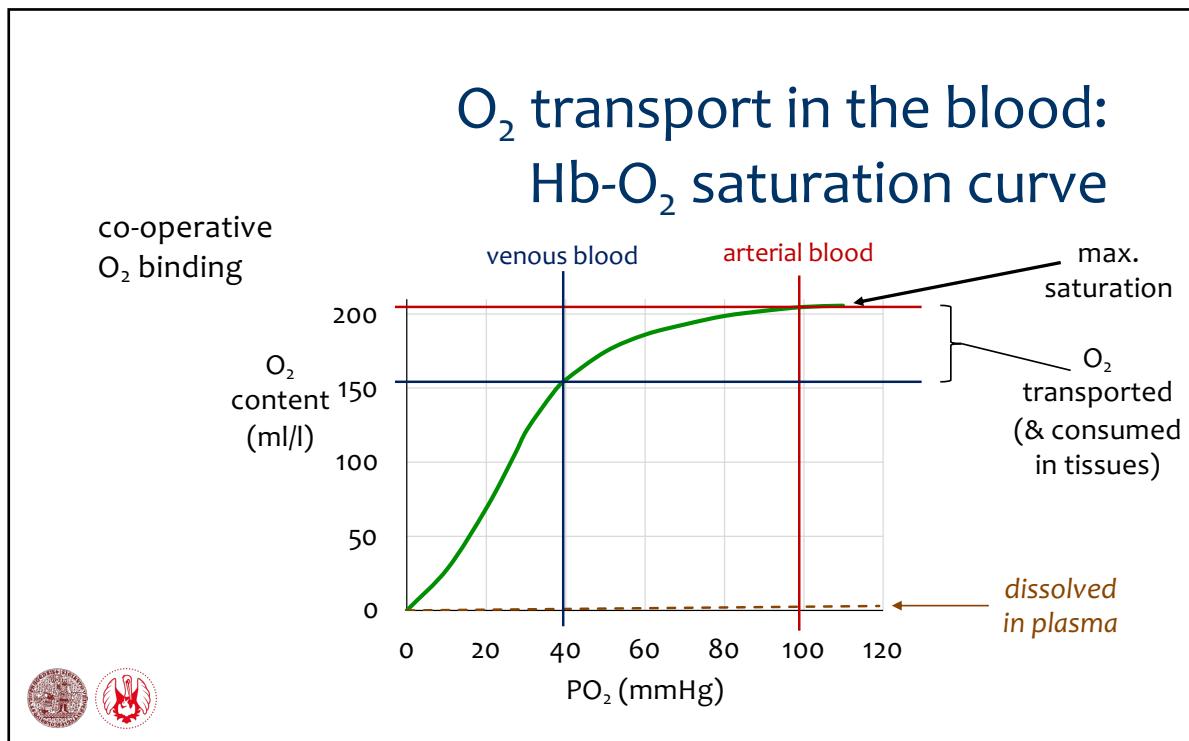
John Scott Haldane  
(1860-1936)

## CO<sub>2</sub> transport as carbaminoHb: Haldane effect

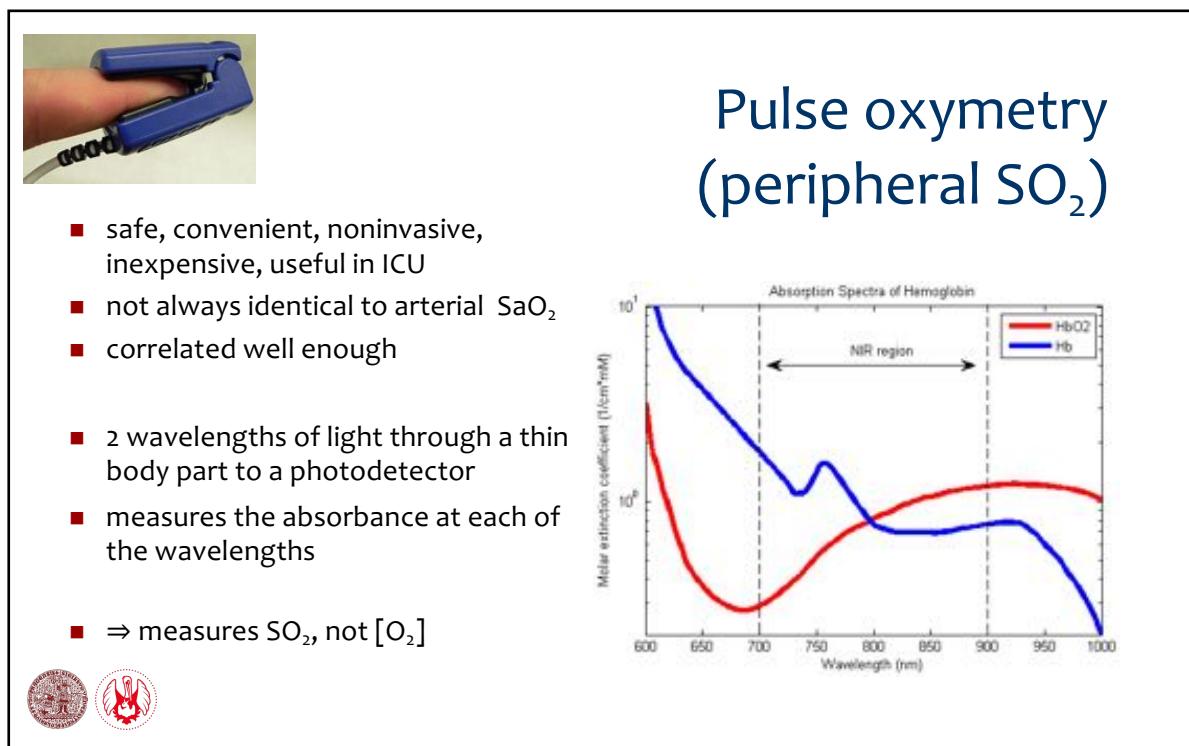
CO<sub>2</sub> + NH<sub>2</sub> groups  
of N-terminal *val* of  
deoxyHb α & β  
chains  
→ 1 Hb molecule  
transports up to 4  
CO<sub>2</sub> molecules



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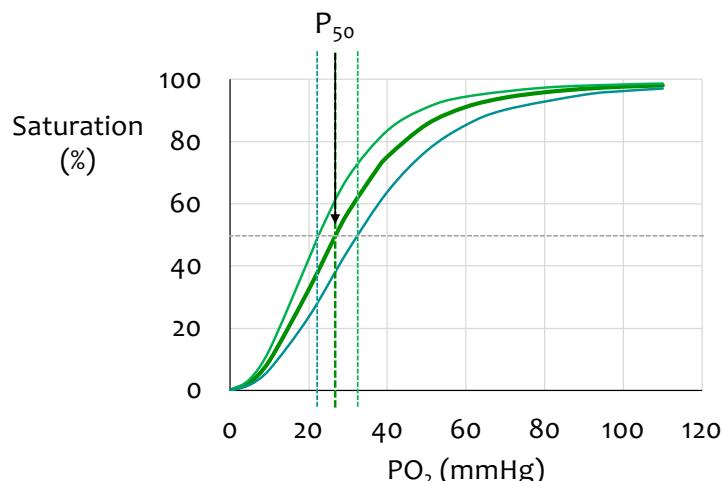
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## O<sub>2</sub> transport in the blood: Hb-O<sub>2</sub> saturation curve

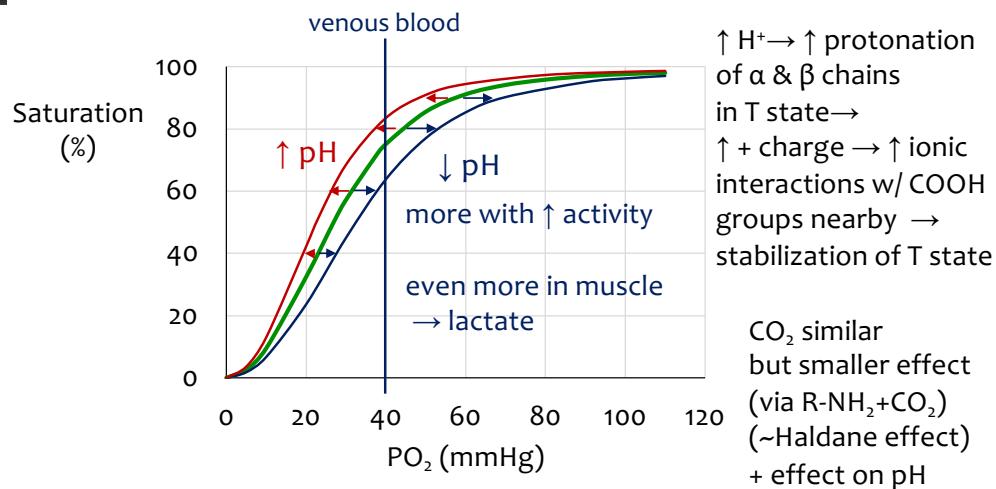


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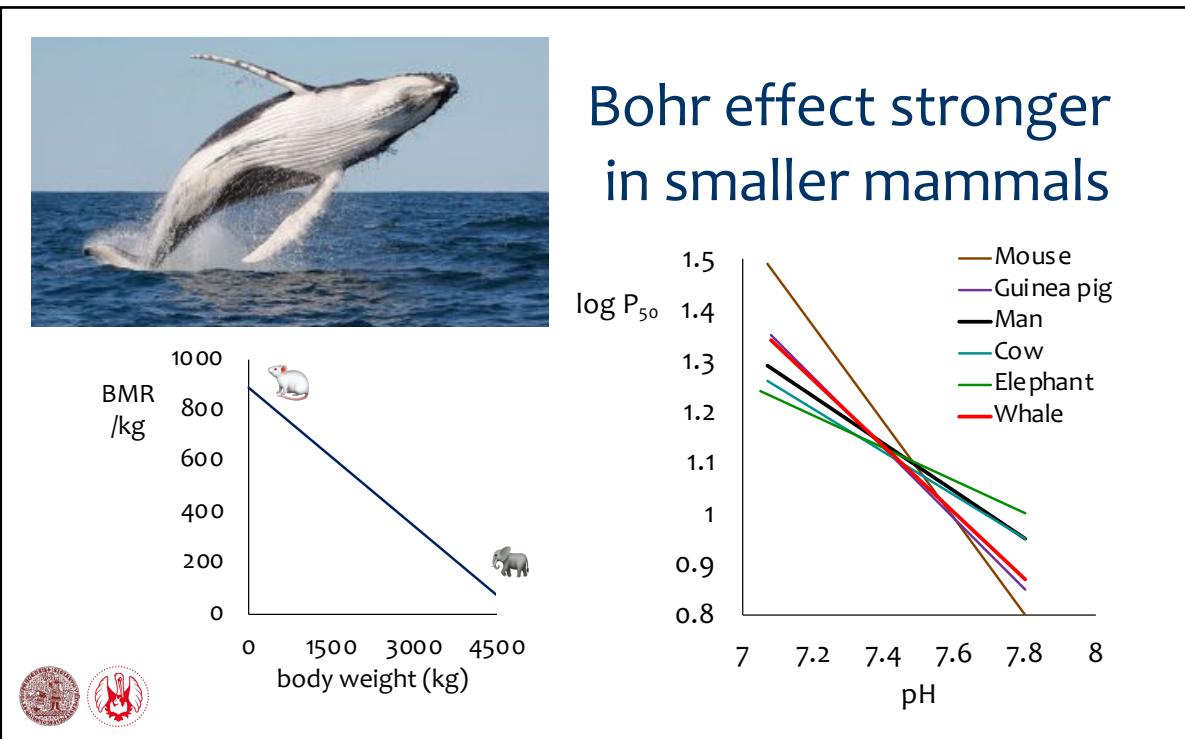


Christian Bohr  
1904

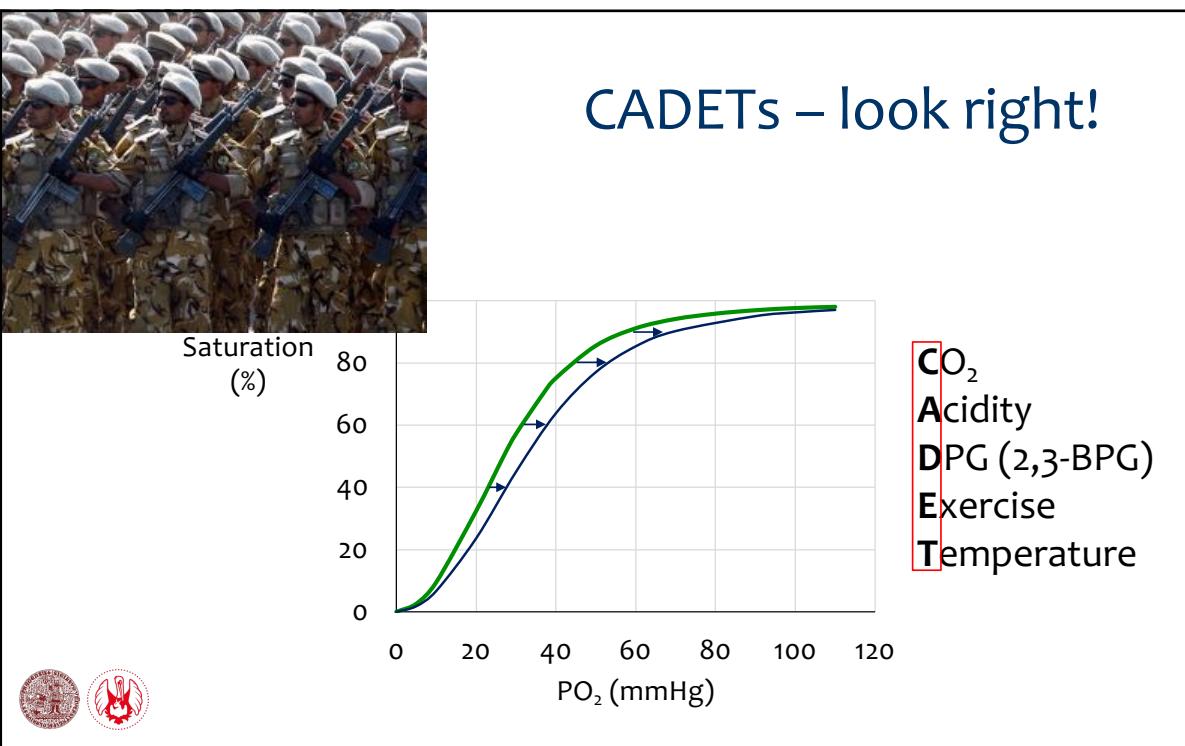
## H<sup>+</sup> → ↓ Hb-O<sub>2</sub> affinity: Bohr effect



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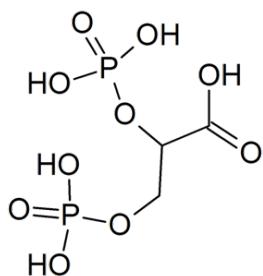


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## 2,3-bisphosphoglycerate (2,3-BPG) (2,3-diphosphoglycerate, 2,3-DPG)

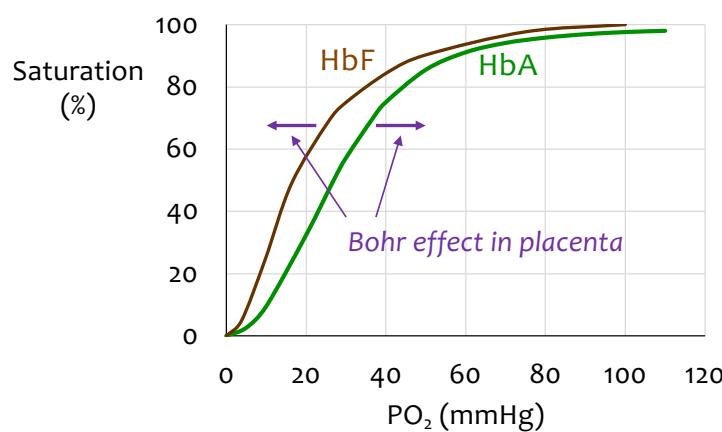


- intermediate of glycolysis in RBC (~ 5 mM)
- rapidly consumed at normal PO<sub>2</sub>, accumulates at ↓PO<sub>2</sub>
- binds preferentially to β chains
- at ~9 Å, it fits in the deoxyHb form (11 Å pocket), not in the oxyHb form (5 Å)

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## Fetal Hb (Hb F: α<sub>2</sub>γ<sub>2</sub>)

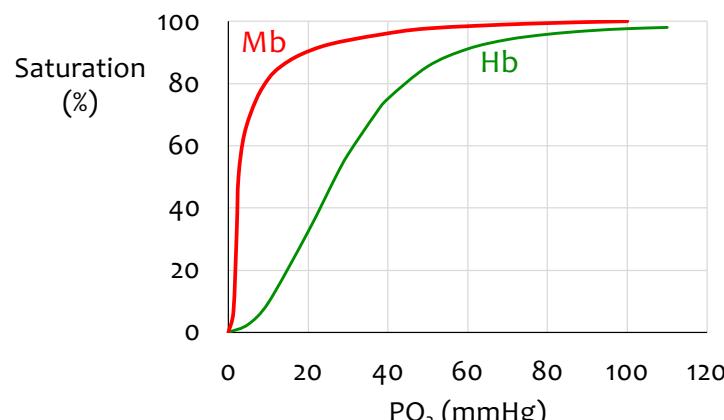
- BPG binding: γ<α<β
- γ has less + charges that attract the - charges on BPG
- ↑ BPG formation in placenta



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## Myoglobin (Mb)

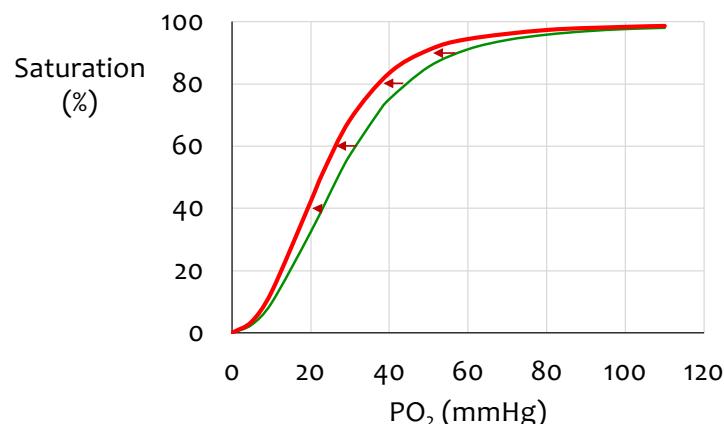
1 chain → no cooperative O<sub>2</sub> binding (“all or nothing”)



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## Methemoglobinemia

- Fe<sup>2+</sup> in heme oxidized to Fe<sup>3+</sup> (NO & its donors, CO, C≡N)
- Fe<sup>3+</sup> impairs Hb cooperativity → ↓ O<sub>2</sub> unloading in tissues (~Mb)

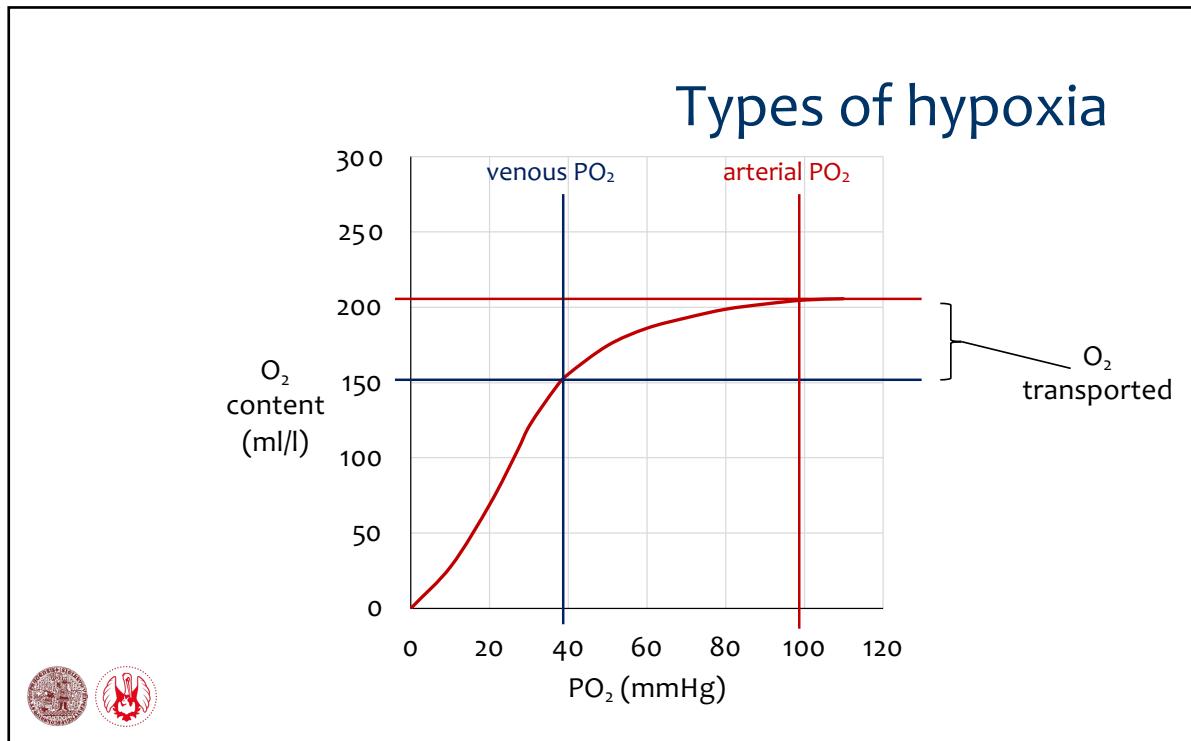


- normally 1-2%
- >5-7% hazard
- smokers <10%

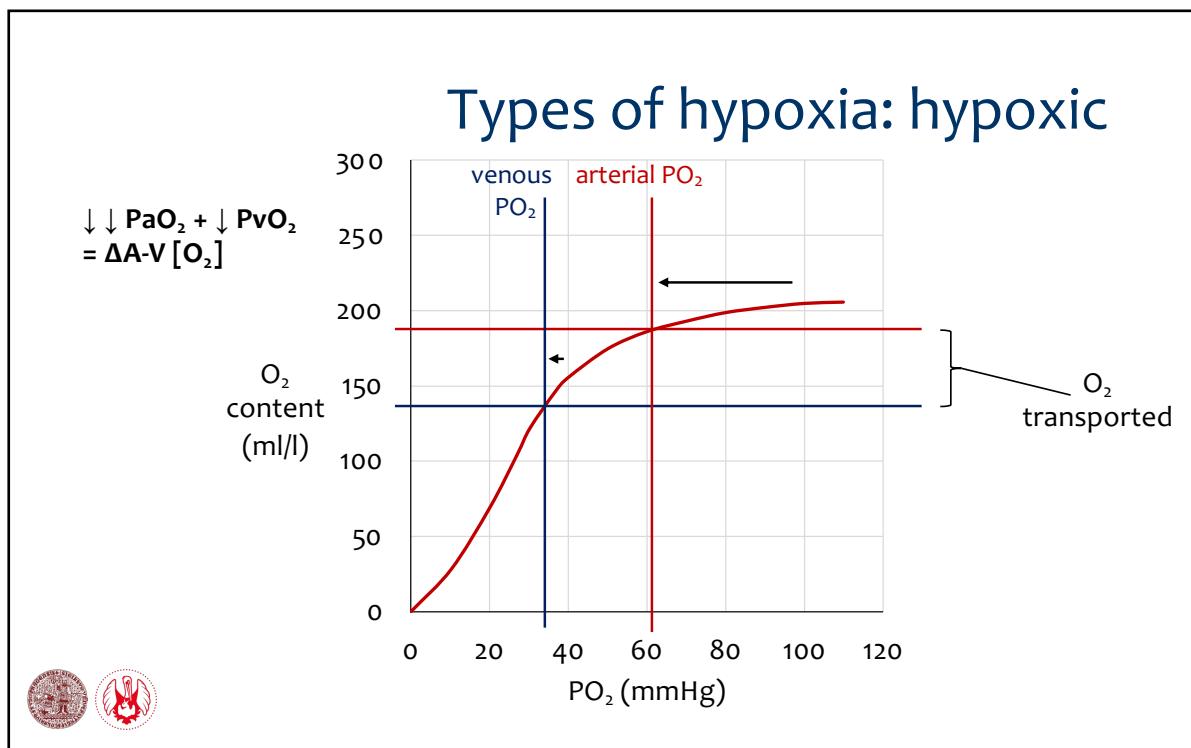
Correction:  
NADH metHb  
reductase  
(cytochrome-b5 reductase)



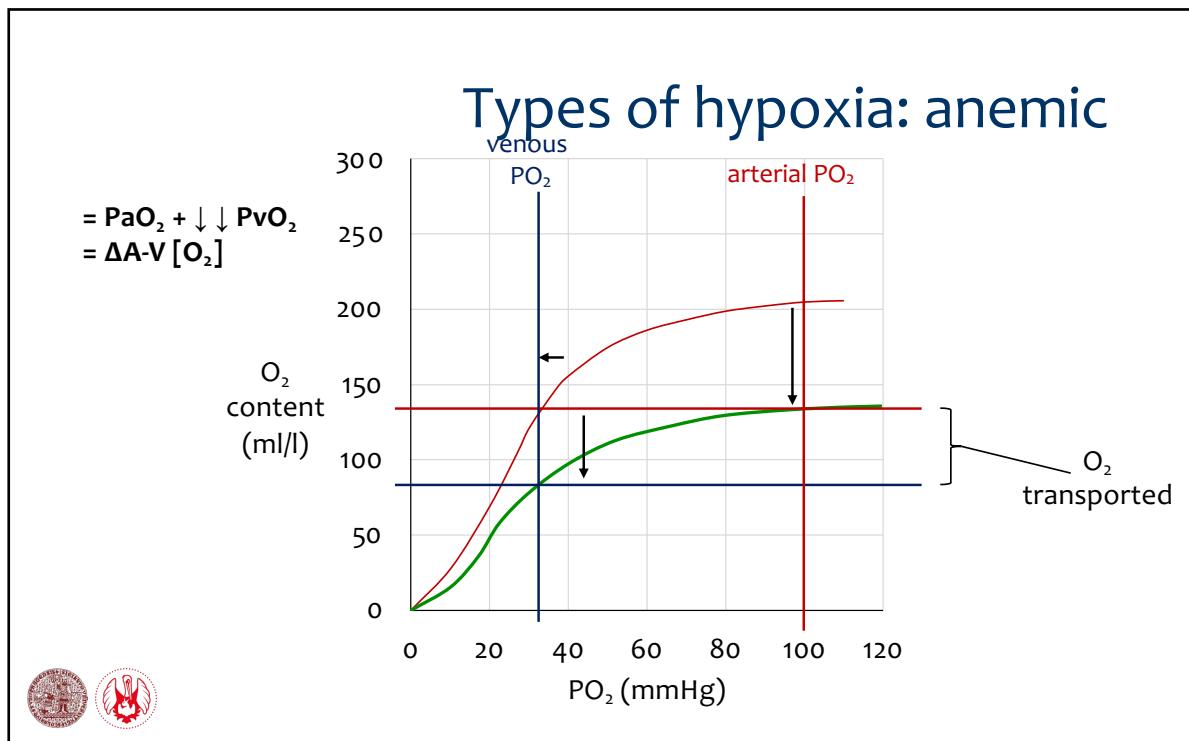
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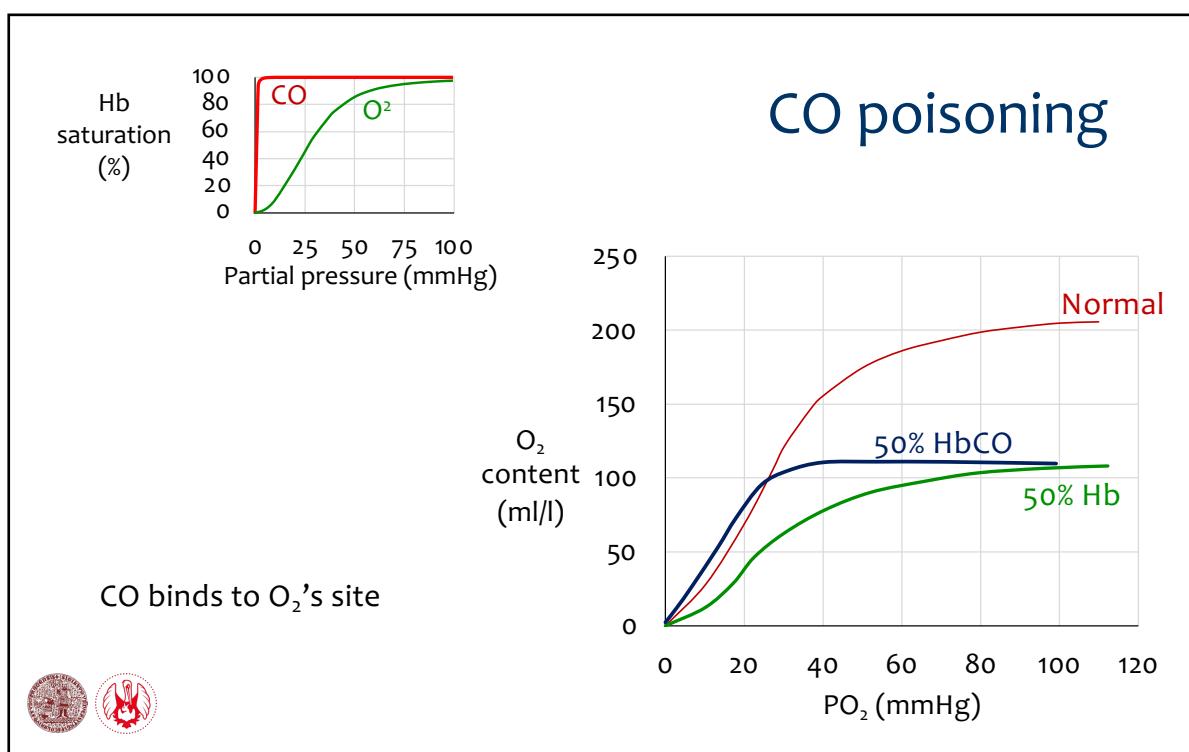
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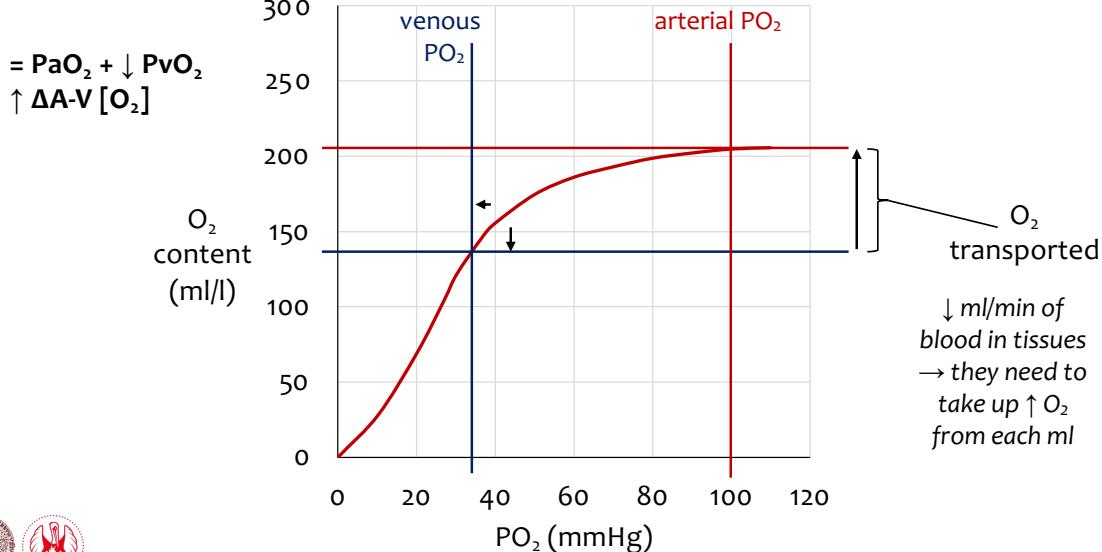


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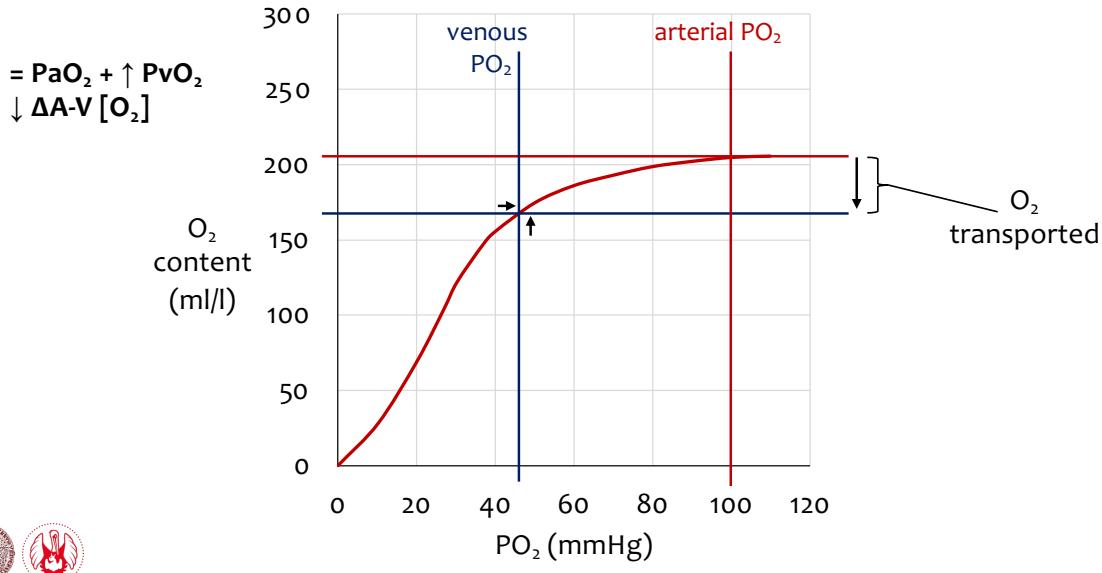
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## Types of hypoxia: ischemic (stagnant)

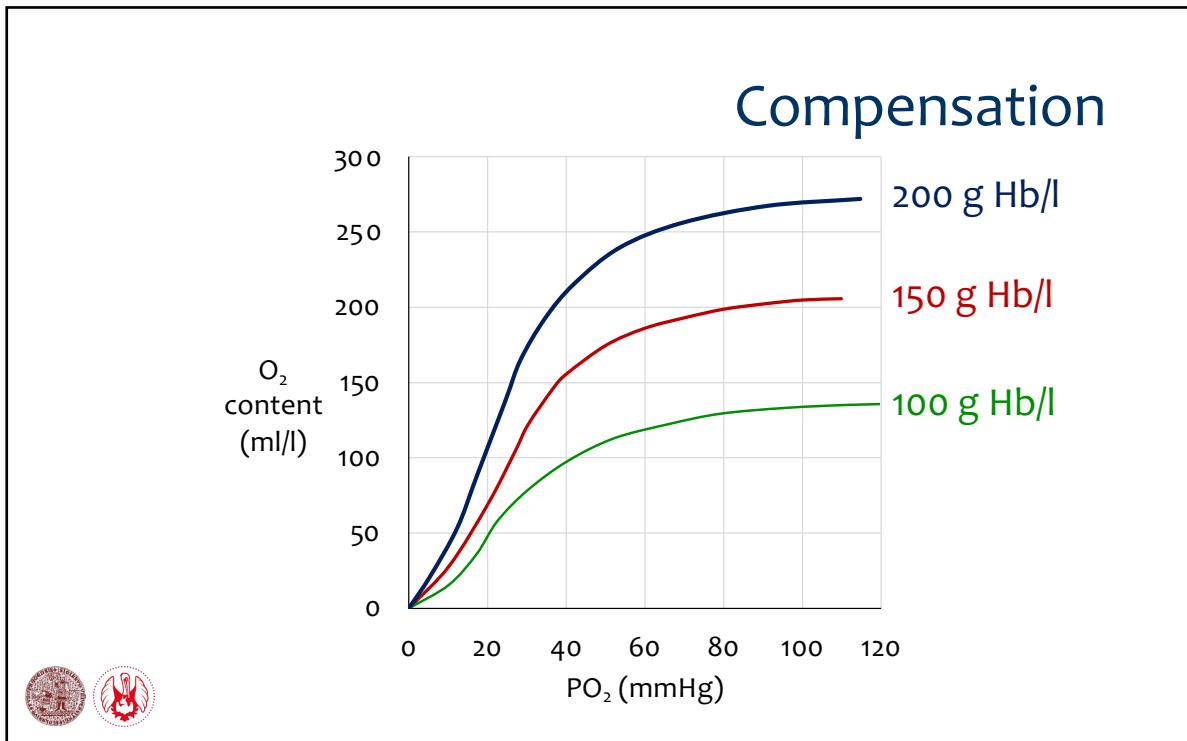


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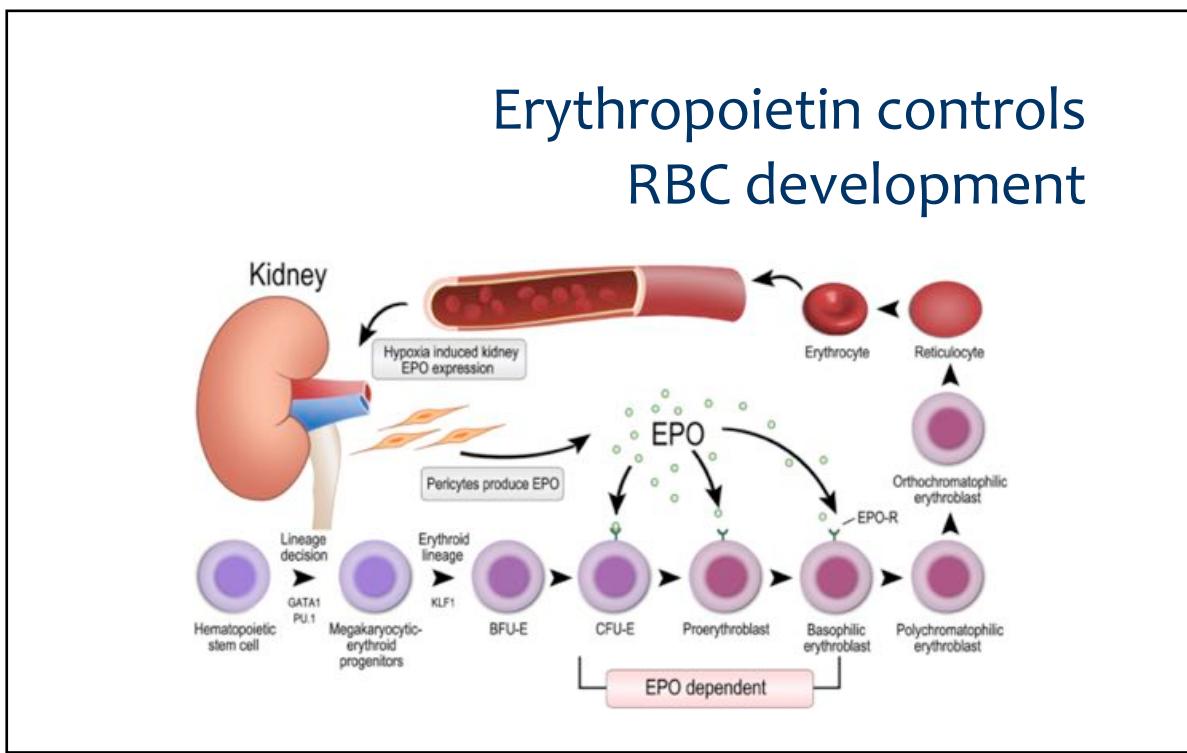
## Types of hypoxia: histotoxic



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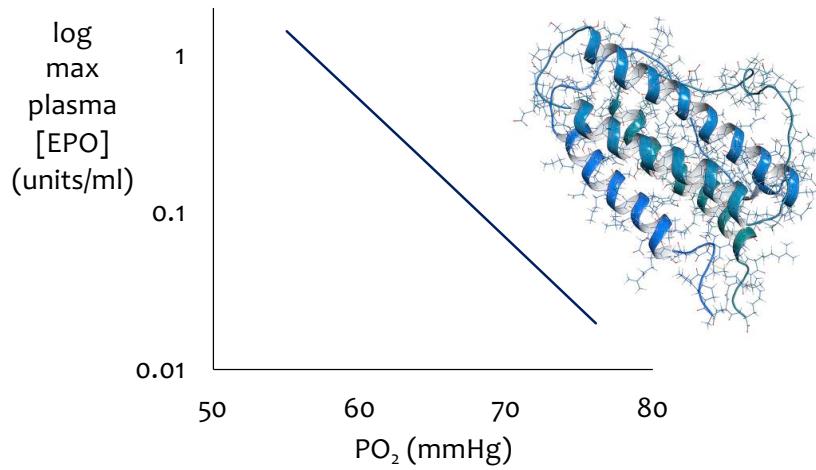


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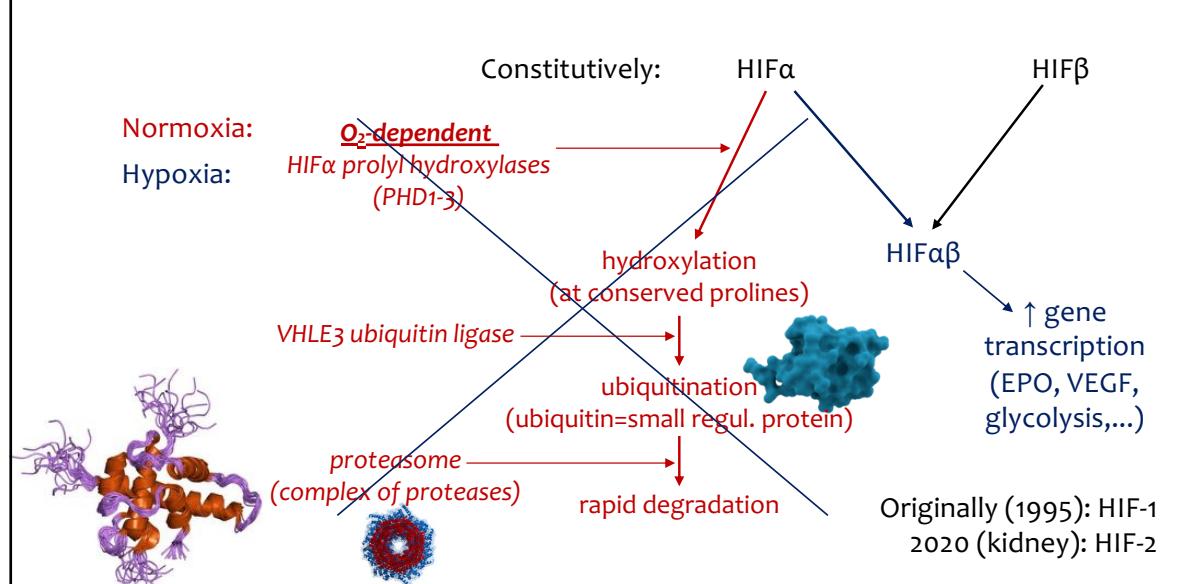
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## Erythropoietin release controlled by hypoxia



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## Hypoxia-inducible factors (HIF 1-3)



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