

To the Editor—Hyperkalaemia is one of those medical emergencies that requires prompt identification and treatment to save life. Having encountered patients who died following inappropriate management for hyperkalaemia, we always try to ensure our junior staff and medical students have adequate knowledge about the management of this situation. The most commonly used treatments include: intravenous calcium gluconate (for membrane stabilisation), sodium bicarbonate and insulin-dextrose infusion (to shift potassium into the intracellular compartment), and resonium (to remove potassium from the body). Lastly, if the medical approach fails, one should proceed to dialysis.^{1,2}

In order to facilitate the recall of these common treatment steps, we have developed a new mnemonic “BRIC(K)”, whilst “BRIC” is also the acronym for the four fast-growing developing economic areas in the world, namely Brazil, Russia, India, and China. In our mnemonic “B” stands for sodium Bicarbonate, “R”

stands for Resonium, “I” stands for Insulin-dextrose infusion, and “C” stands for Calcium gluconate, which are the four commonest treatments for hyperkalaemia. To make the list more complete, we also added “(K)” at the end of mnemonic, which stands for Kidney (renal) replacement therapy, ie dialysis. Moreover, “K” will remind us that the mnemonic is for potassium (symbol “K”). We trust that this “BRIC(K)” mnemonic can help our frontline doctors better manage patients with hyperkalaemia so as to avoid death.

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