Arterial blood gas (ABG) analysis is an essential part of diagnosing and managing a patient's gas exchange and acid-base balance status, and can also be useful in providing immediate information about electrolyte status.

It provides a near immediate reflection of the physiology of your patient, allowing you to recognise and treat pathology more rapidly.

The usefulness of this diagnostic tool is dependent on being able to correctly interpret the results, therefore, it is a crucial skill for health professionals.

ABG interpretation is something many medical students find difficult. This learning resource aims to provide a systematic approach to ABG interpretation, whilst also increasing understanding of each results relevance, as well as presenting them to a healthcare professional.

About this guide

My name is James Lloyd and I am a fourth year (2017-18) medical student from the Hull York Medical School, and I decided to create this learning package as part of my SSIP curriculum. I chose the topic after struggling to find a complete and systematic guide to ABG interpretation that worked for me. This learning package has been designed for both self-directed study, revision, and as a teaching aid.