

Critical Care Topics

Areas that you should be covering in revision:

Respiratory system

- Normal respiratory physiology
- Interpretation of arterial blood gases
- Understanding ventilatory/respiratory failure
- Understanding methods of supporting ventilation
- Acute respiratory distress syndrome

Cardiovascular system

- Normal cardiac physiology
- Control of cardiac output
- Factors involved in blood pressure control
- Understand the use of inotropic support

Renal system

- Normal renal physiology
- Understand the function of nephrons
- Endocrine functions of kidney
- Types and causes of renal failure
- Understanding renal replacement therapy – haemodialysis vs. haemofiltration, transplantation

General principles

- Types of shock – including neurogenic and spinal
- Define and understand SIRS
- Define multi-organ dysfunction syndrome (MODS)
- Acid / base balance – metabolic vs. respiratory
- Sepsis – definition, septic shock
- Fluid balance – calculating requirements, types of fluid, electrolyte balance
- Bleeding and coagulation
- Nutritional support – TPN vs. enteral
- Hypothermia - prevention, treatment
- Burns: classification, assessment of depth and extent, complications