

Table 2. Differential diagnosis of NG metabolic acidosis

Clinical process		Note
Medications	CaCl	HCO ₃ loss from GI tract
	Acetazolamide	Increase renal HCO ₃ loss
	Amiloride	Decrease renal acid excretion
Toxins: Toluene		Impair renal acid excretion (6)
Diarrhea	Loss of NaHCO ₃ from GI tract, with retention of NaCl from kidney to preserve intravascular volume	
Pancreatic fistula		
ileostomy		
Renal tubular acidosis(RTA)		Loss of NaHCO ₃ in type II RTA and secondary NaCl retention. Impaired renal acid excretion in type I & IV RTA
Chronic kidney disease (CKD)		Decreased renal H ⁺ excretion and sulfate reabsorption
Ureteral diversion/fistula		Urine from the ureter is diverted to the sigmoid colon, urinary Cl ⁻ is absorbed by the colonic mucosa in exchange for HCO ₃ ⁻ , thus increases the loss of HCO ₃ ⁻ from GI tract
Others	Dilutional	Effect is less from the degree of volume expansion, due to compensatory effect from intracellular and bone buffers
	TPN	Extra chloride (Cl), from NH ₄ Cl or amino-acid chloride
	Diabetic ketoacidosis	Typically following insulin therapy with excretion of ketoacids