

## **Metabolic Acidosis: An Important Morbidity in SAM Children**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This observational prospective study was conducted among 100 children between 6 to 60 months of age group of Nutritional Rehabilitation Unit in a tertiary care hospital with the purpose to study arterial blood gas status in severely malnourished children (SAM: Severe Acute Malnutrition). Children were identified, arterial blood sample was taken at admission and results were correlated with nutritional status of the children at discharge. Statistical data was analysed by using graph-pad. Sixty two percent children were male and 38% were female (MF Ratio 1.63:1) with 69% being in the age group 6-18 months. Children with pH 7.35-7.45 were 50%, whereas those with pH <7.35 and pH >7.45 were 34% and 43.6% respectively. About 88% were discharged, 4 % expired and 8% patients left the treatment. Maximum mortality was noted at pH <7.35 group (p value < 0.0149). Duration of hospital stay was more or less similar in all pH groups. There was no observed difference in weight gain in pH groups. The study concludes that metabolic acidosis is associated with poor outcome, while duration of hospital stay and weight gain has no effect.