

Malignant hyperthermia clinical features

1. earliest possible sign: increase in end-tidal pCO₂
2. tachycardia (early) and other arrhythmias
3. with progression:
 - a) coagulation disorder (DIC) (bleeding from surgical wound and body orifices)
 - b) ABG: increasing metabolic acidosis & decreasing pO₂
 - c) pulmonary edema
 - d) elevated body temperature (may reach ≥ 44 °C (113 °F) at rate of 1 °C/5-min) (normal patients become hypothermic with general anesthesia)
 - e) limb muscle rigidity (common, but late)
 - f) [rhabdomyolysis](#) → elevated CPK & myoglobin (late)
4. terminal:
 - a) hypotension
 - b) bradycardia
 - c) [cardiac arrest](#)

Classical manifestations comprise of tachycardia, increase in expired carbon dioxide levels, muscle rigidity, hyperthermia ($>38.8^{\circ}\text{C}$) and unexpected acidosis ¹⁾.

¹⁾
Rosenberg H. Clinical presentation of malignant hyperthermia. Br J Anaesth. 1988;60:268–73.

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