Potassium

Potassium is a chemical element with symbol K (derived from Neo-Latin kalium) and atomic number 19.

Elemental potassium is a soft silvery-white alkali metal that oxidizes rapidly in air and is very reactive with water, generating sufficient heat to ignite the hydrogen emitted in the reaction and burning with a lilac flame.

Naturally occurring potassium is composed of three isotopes, one of which, 40K, is radioactive. Traces (0.012%) of this isotope are found in all potassium making it the most common radioactive element in the human body and in many biological materials, as well as in common building substances such as concrete.

Increased extracellular concentrations of potassium during deep brain stimulation DBS may change the dynamics of both cells and axons, contributing not only to the intermittent excitation and inhibition of these elements but also to interrupt abnormal pathological activity [1].

Hyperkalemia

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1)
Florence G, Sameshima K, Fonoff ET, Hamani C. Deep Brain Stimulation: More Complex than the Inhibition of Cells and Excitation of Fibers. Neuroscientist. 2015 Jul 6. pii: 1073858415591964. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 26150316.