

Urea

Urea or carbamide is an organic compound with the chemical formula $\text{CO}(\text{NH}_2)_2$. The molecule has two —NH_2 groups joined by a carbonyl (C=O) functional group. Urea serves an important role in the metabolism of nitrogen-containing compounds by animals, and is the main nitrogen-containing substance in the urine of mammals.

Despite widespread use of a number of [osmolar](#) agents ([mannitol](#), [urea](#), and [glycerol](#)) up until the late 1970s ^{1) 2)}, mannitol gradually became the agent of choice to manage ICP ³⁾.

¹⁾ , ³⁾

James HE, Langfitt TW, Kumar VS, et al: Treatment of intracranial hypertension. Analysis of 105 consecutive, continuous recordings of intracranial pressure. Acta Neurochir (Wien) 1977; 36:189–200 ²⁾

Pitlick WH, Pirikitakuhl P, Painter MJ, et al: Effect of glycerol and hyperosmolality on intracranial pressure. Clin Pharmacol Ther 1982; 31:466–471

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