

# Gas exchange

How to express the amount of  $O_2$  and  $CO_2$  present in our airways and blood?

- Partial pressure

## Outside

$$P_{O_2} = f_{O_2} \times P_{atm} \\ = 0.21 \times 760$$

160mmHg



## Conducting zone

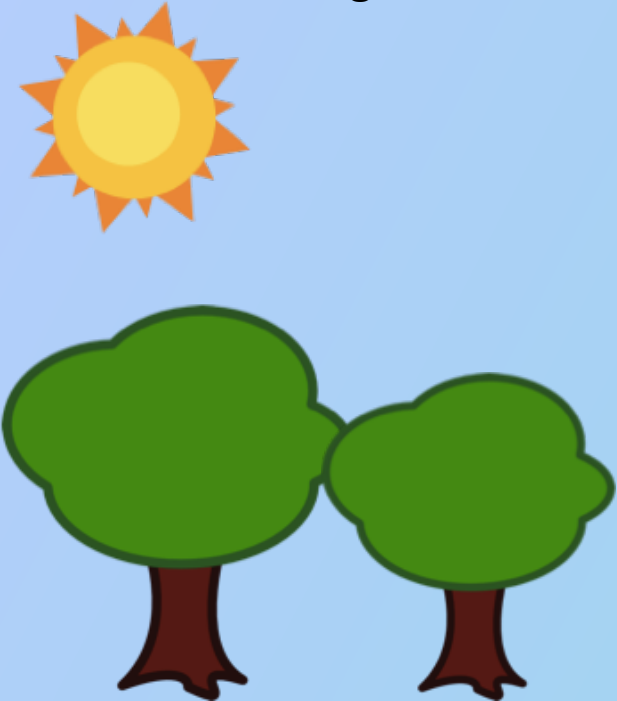
$$P_{O_2} = f_{O_2} \times (P_{atm} - P_{H_2O}) \\ P_i = 0.21 \times (760 - 47)$$

150mmHg

## Respiratory zone

$$P_{A_{O_2}} = P_i - (P_{CO_2} / R) \\ = 0.21(760 - 47) - (40 / 1)$$

100mmHg



# Alveolar oxygen

- Dependent on how much oxygen consumed
- $\uparrow$  Oxygen consumption  $\rightarrow$   $\downarrow$  Alveolar oxygen
- Measurement of  $O_2$  consumption  $\rightarrow$   $CO_2$
- $\uparrow CO_2 \rightarrow \uparrow O_2$  consumption  $\rightarrow$   $\downarrow$  Alveolar oxygen

$PAO_2 = P_i - \text{Oxygen consumption}$

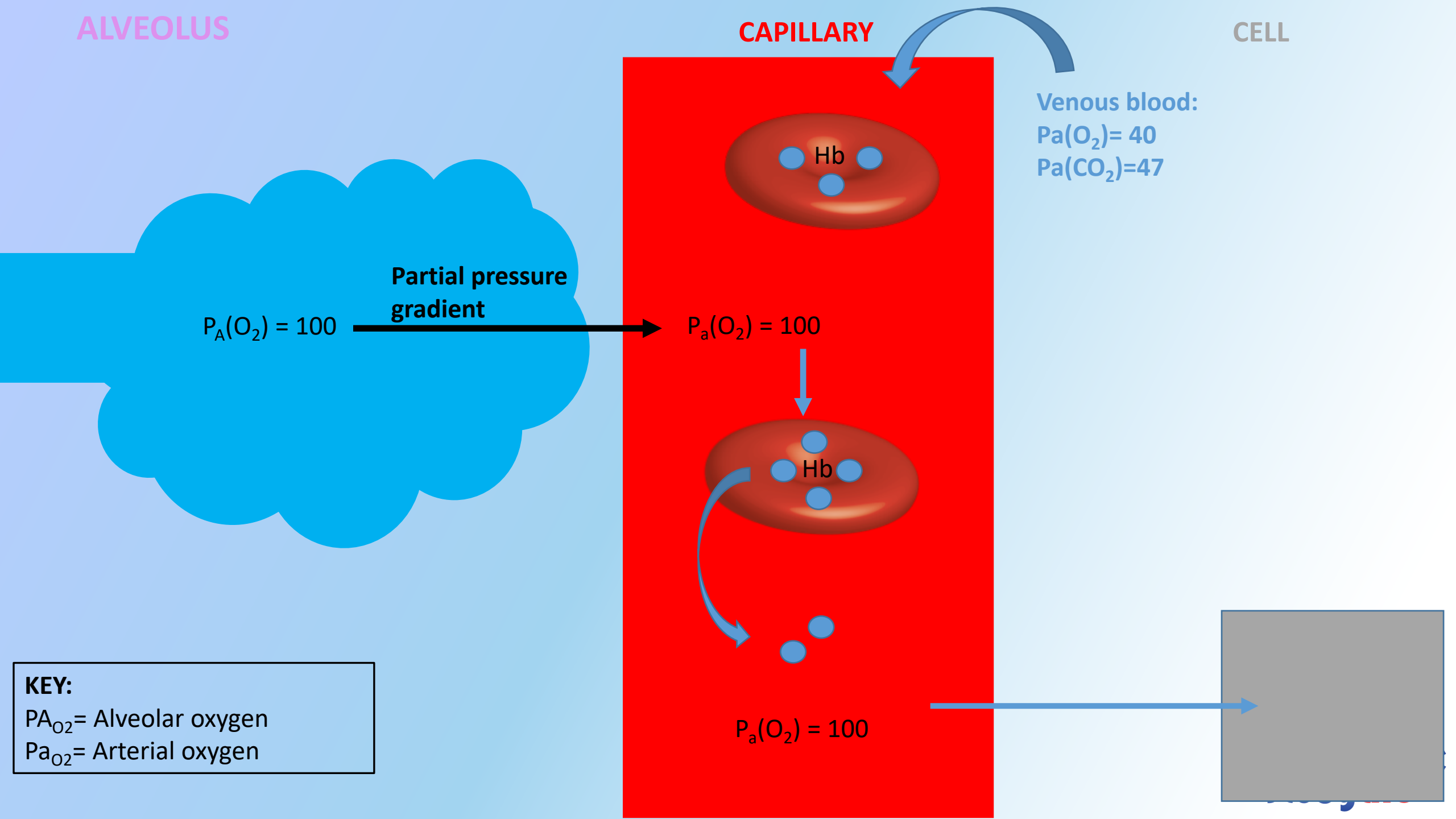
$PA_{O_2} = P_i - (P_{CO_2}/R)$

$PAO_2 = P_i - PCO_2$

ALVEOLUS

CAPILLARY

CELL



$P_A(O_2) = 100$

Partial pressure  
gradient

$P_a(O_2) = 100$

Venous blood:  
 $P_a(O_2) = 40$   
 $P_a(CO_2) = 47$

Hb

Hb

$P_a(O_2) = 100$


**KEY:**

$P_{A_{O_2}}$  = Alveolar oxygen

$P_{a_{O_2}}$  = Arterial oxygen

- Diffusion of gases follow a **pressure gradient**
  - High → Low
- Only gases **dissolved** in **blood** ( $\text{PaO}_2$ ) can participate in the pressure gradient
- Gases bound to hemoglobin does not participate in the pressure gradient

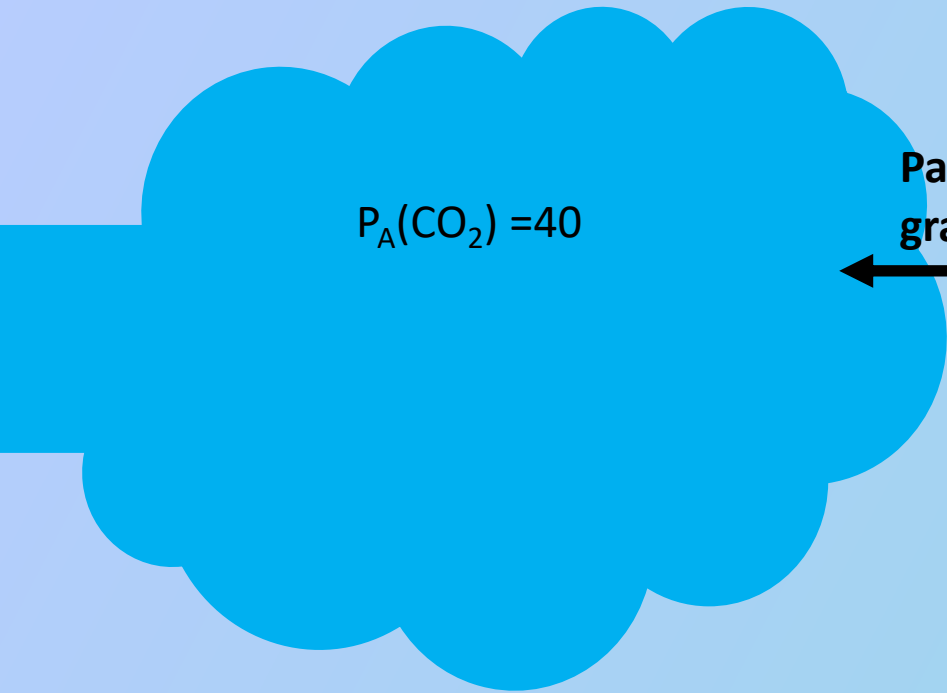
The partial pressure of  $\text{CO}_2$  in venous blood entering the lung is 47 mmHg. The partial pressure of  $\text{CO}_2$  in the alveoli is 40mmHg. In which direction will  $\text{CO}_2$  move?

- A. Into the lung capillaries
- B. It will be transported by active transport into the alveoli
- C. Into the alveoli by passive diffusion 
- D. It will not diffuse at all since the partial pressure of  $\text{CO}_2$  in the venous blood and alveoli is at equilibrium

ALVEOLUS

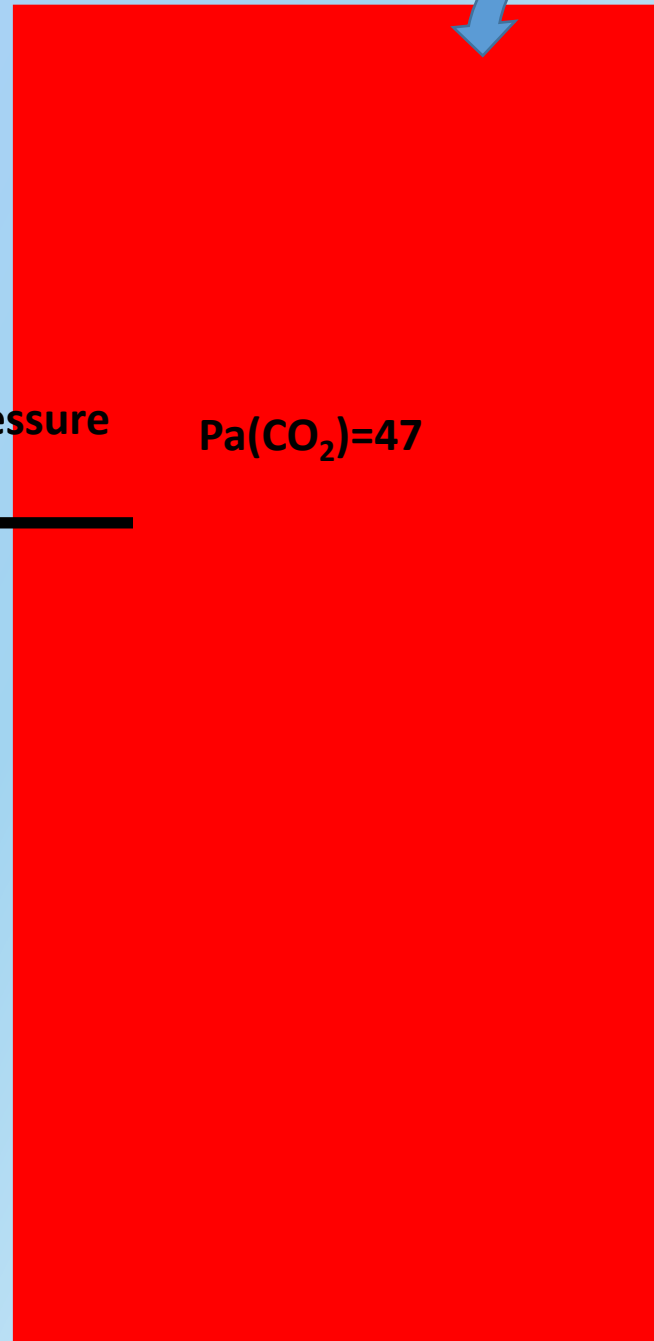
CAPILLARY

CELL



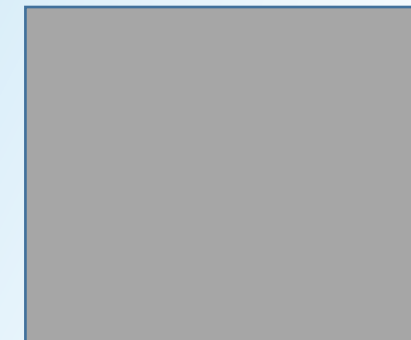
$P_A(\text{CO}_2) = 40$

Partial pressure  
gradient



$P_a(\text{CO}_2) = 47$

Venous blood:  
 $P_a(\text{O}_2) = 40$   
 $P_a(\text{CO}_2) = 47$





# Fick's law

- **Rate** of diffusion of a gas across a permeable membrane depends on:
  - Gas
    - Solubility
    - Molecular weight
    - Partial pressure gradient
  - Lung
    - Surface area
    - Membrane thickness

$$D = \frac{\cancel{SA} \times \Delta P \times S}{\cancel{T} \times \sqrt{\cancel{mw}}}$$

↓

$$D = \Delta P \times S$$

D= Diffusion rate  
ΔP= Pressure gradient  
S= Solubility of gas  
T= Thickness of membrane  
mw=molecular weight

# Which gas will diffuse first? O<sub>2</sub> or CO<sub>2</sub>?

O<sub>2</sub>

$$D = \Delta P \times S$$

$$D = (100 - 40) \times 1$$

$$D = 60$$

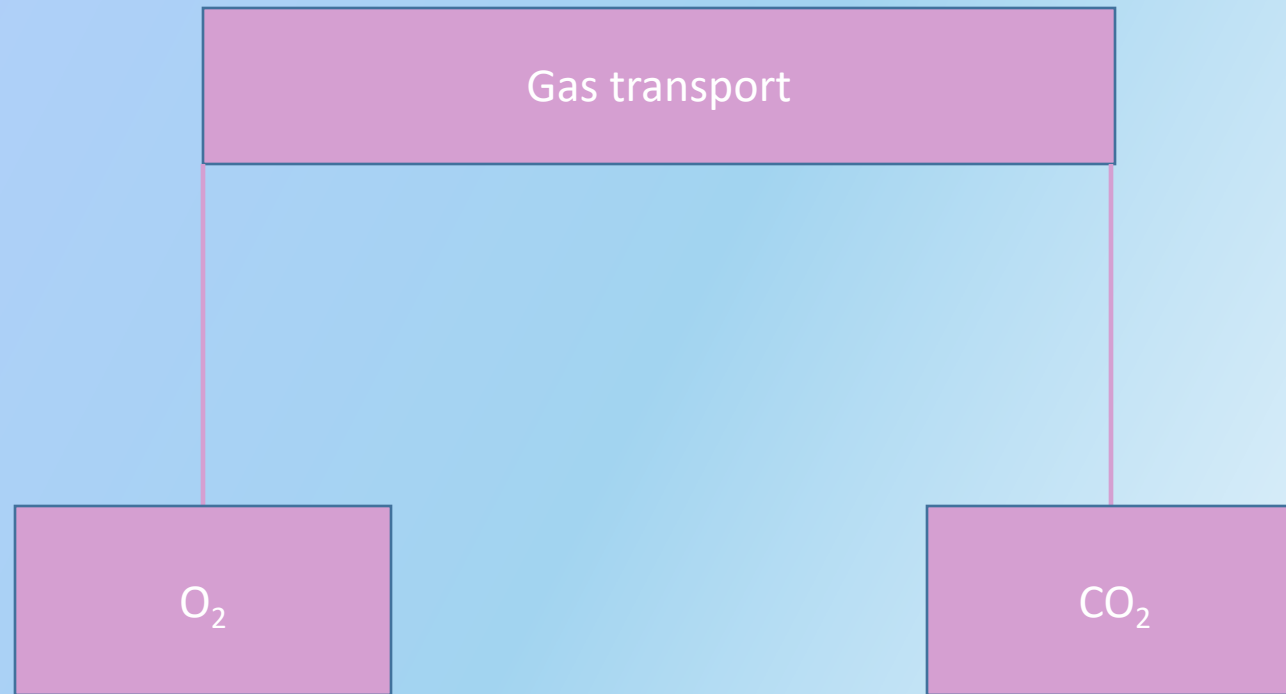
CO<sub>2</sub>

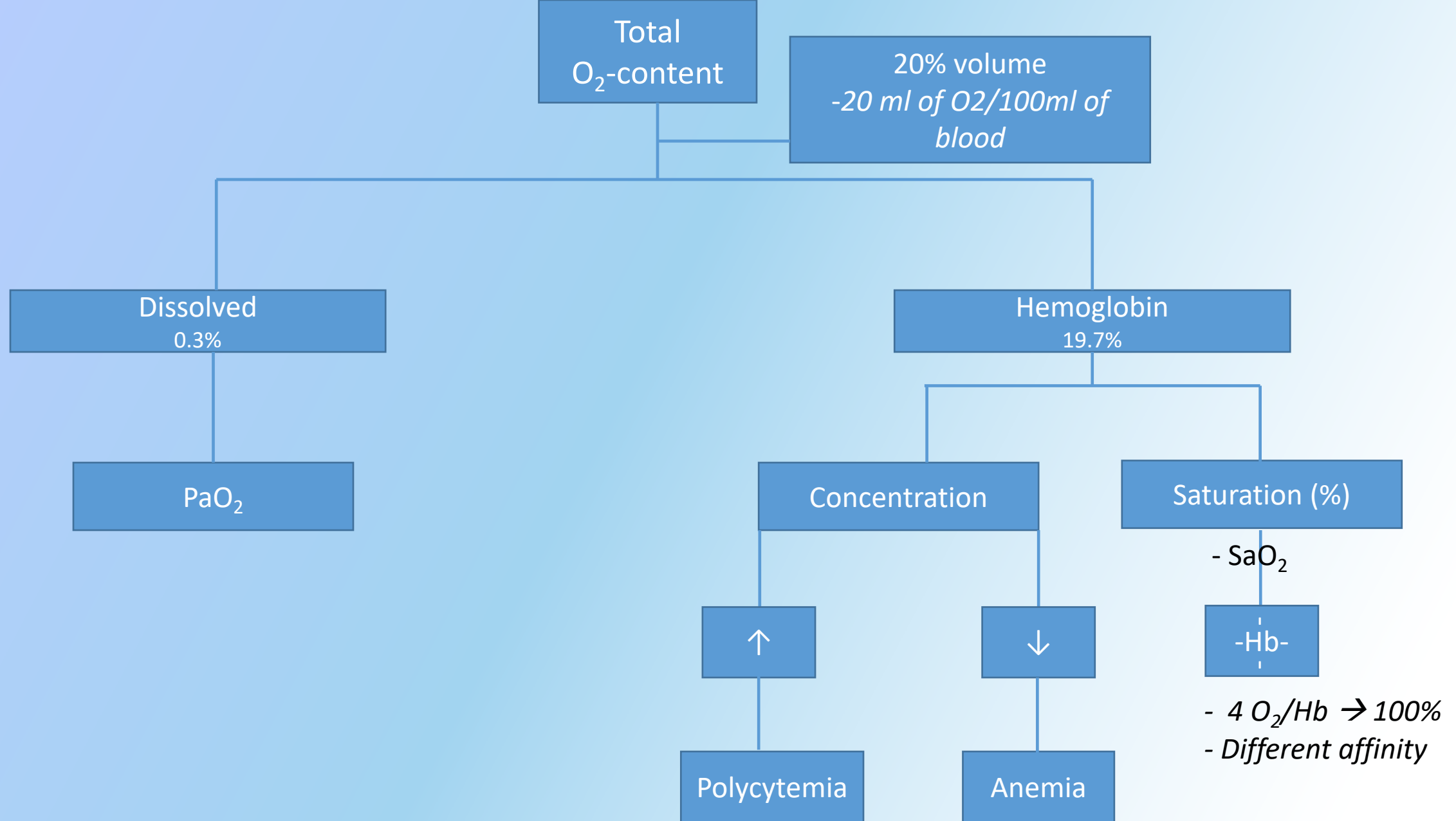
$$D = \Delta P \times S$$

$$D = (47 - 40) \times 20$$

$$D = 140$$

*«Even though O<sub>2</sub> has a larger pressure gradient, CO<sub>2</sub> is 20 times more soluble than O<sub>2</sub> → CO<sub>2</sub> will therefore diffuse first!»*





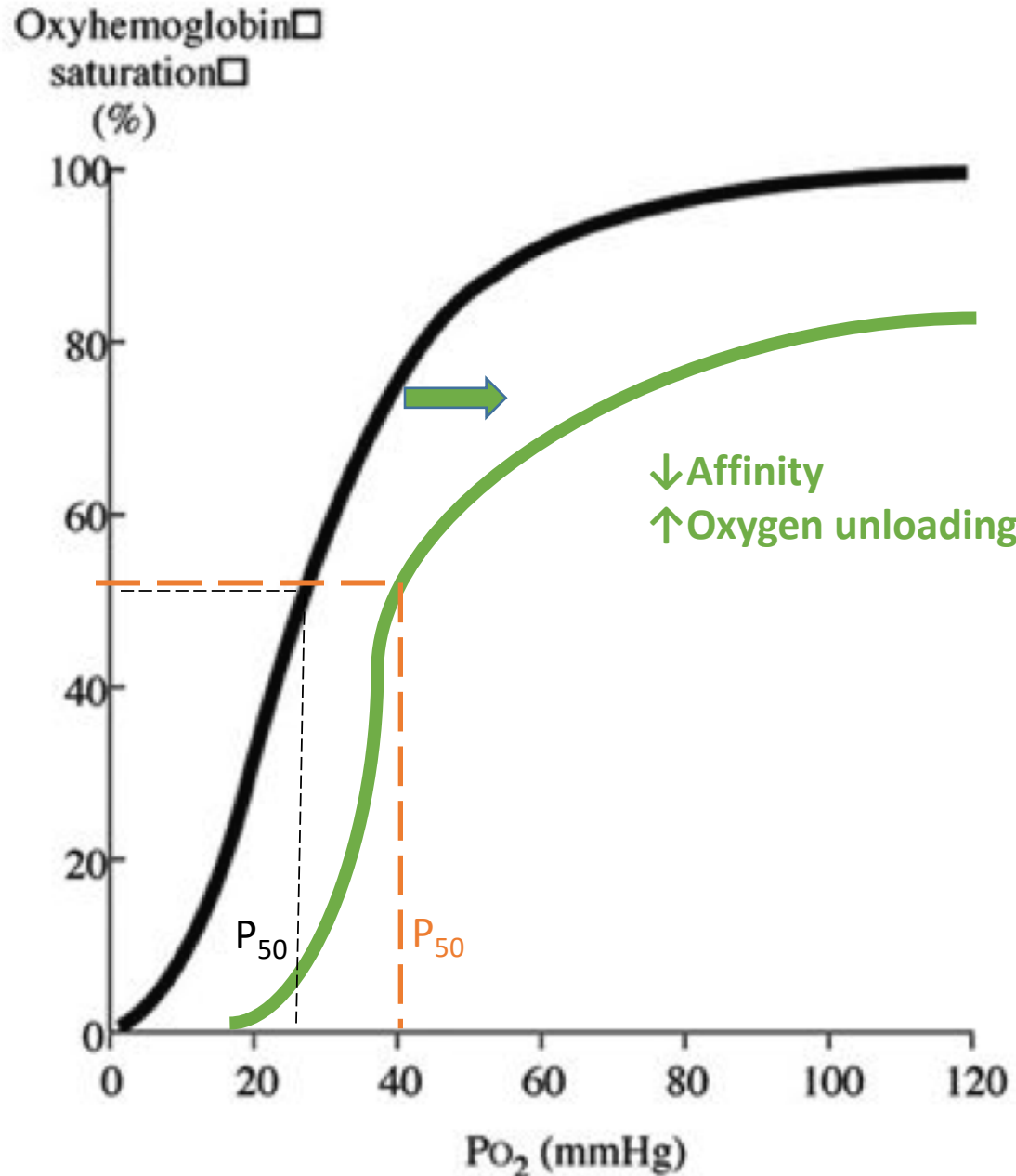
# O<sub>2</sub>-binding capacity



PO <sub>2</sub> (mmHg)	Saturation (%)
100	>97
80	96
60	90
50	85
40	75
<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>
20	35

→ P<sub>50</sub>

# O<sub>2</sub>-Hemoglobin Dissociation Curve



## Right shifts

Factor	Comment
↑PaCO <sub>2</sub> and ↑H <sup>+</sup> (↓pH)	- ↑Metabolic activity - ↑Oxygen demand - Bohr effect!
↑Temperature	- ↑Metabolic activity - ↑Heat production - ↑Oxygen demand
↑ 2,3-diphosphoglycerate (2,3-DPG)	- Product of RBC glycolysis - Produced in periods of tissue hypoxia

**Right** shift—**ACE BATs right** handed:

**A**cid

**C**O<sub>2</sub>

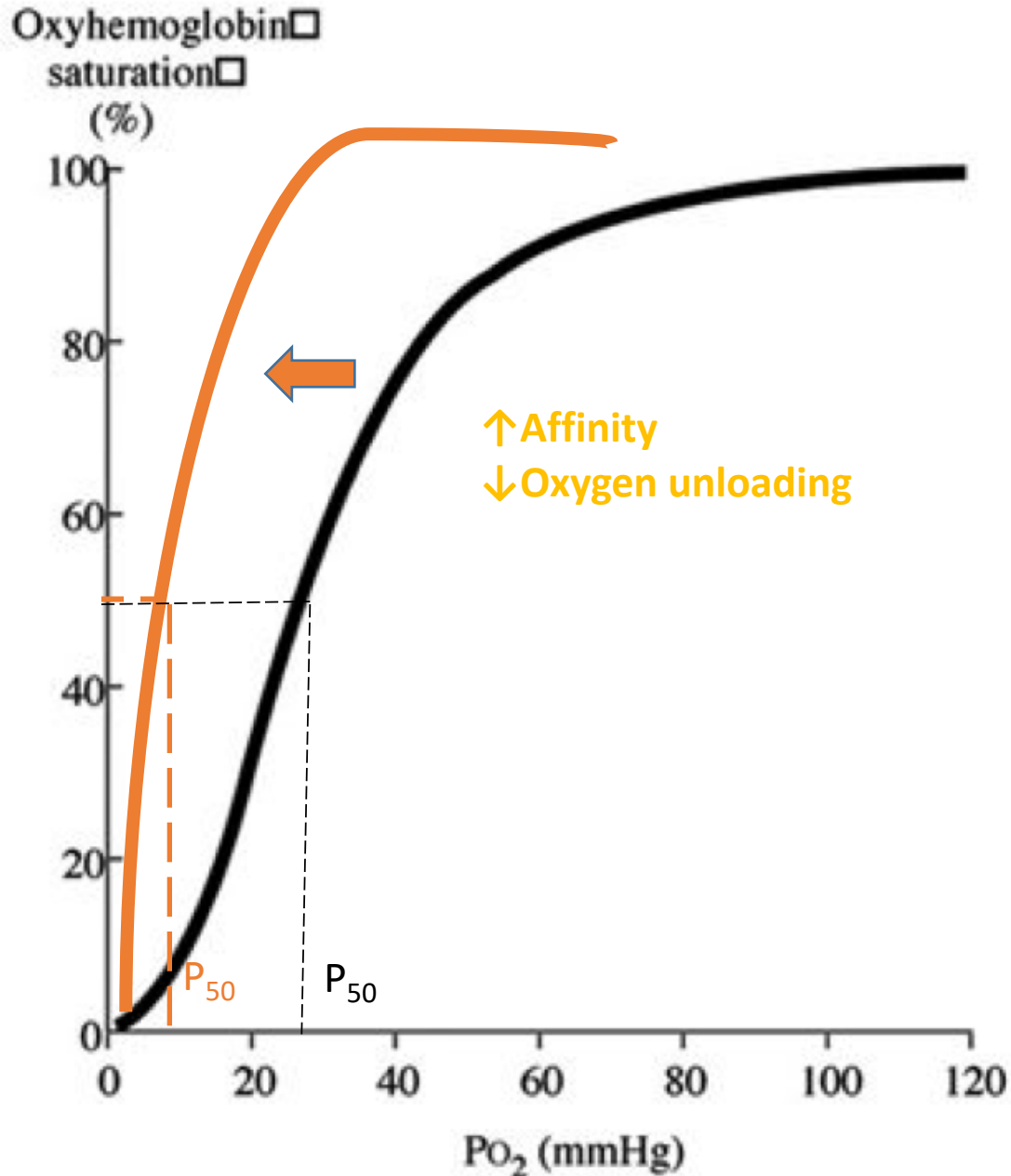
**E**xercise

2,3-**B**PG

**A**ltitude

**T**emperature

# O<sub>2</sub>-Hemoglobin Dissociation Curve

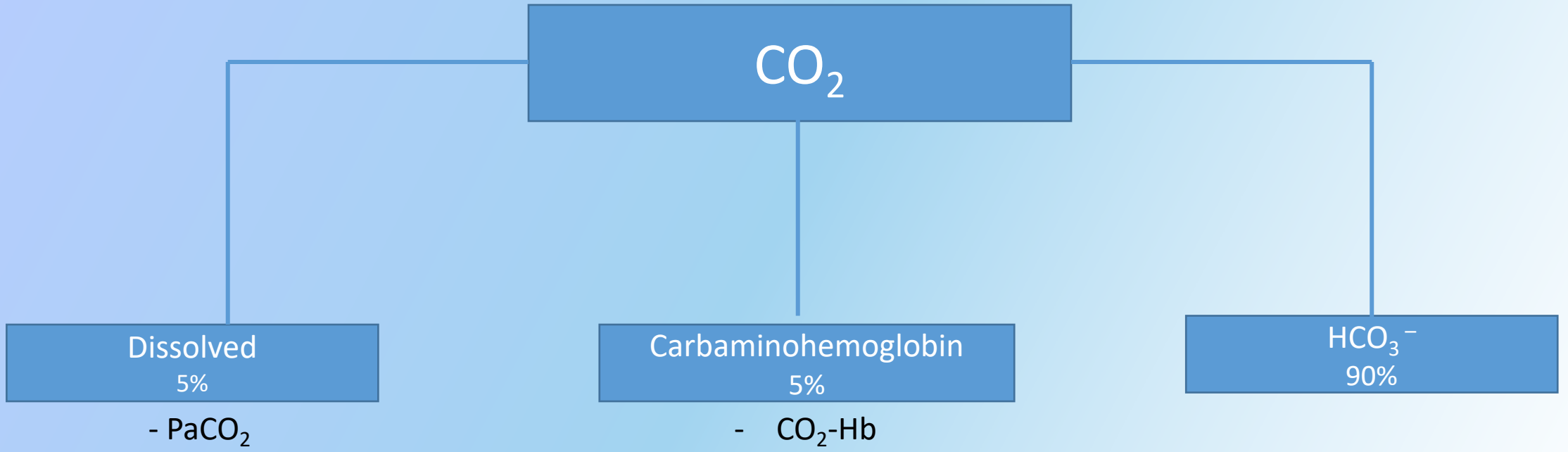


Left shifts	
Factor	Comment
↓ PaCO <sub>2</sub> , ↓ H <sup>+</sup> (↑ pH)	- ↓ Tissue metabolism - ↓ Oxygen demand
↓ Temperature	- ↓ Tissue metabolism - ↓ Heat production - ↓ Oxygen demand
↓ 2,3-diphosphoglycerate (2,3-DPG)	
Hemoglobin F	- ↑ Oxygen affinity
CO	- ↑ Oxygen affinity

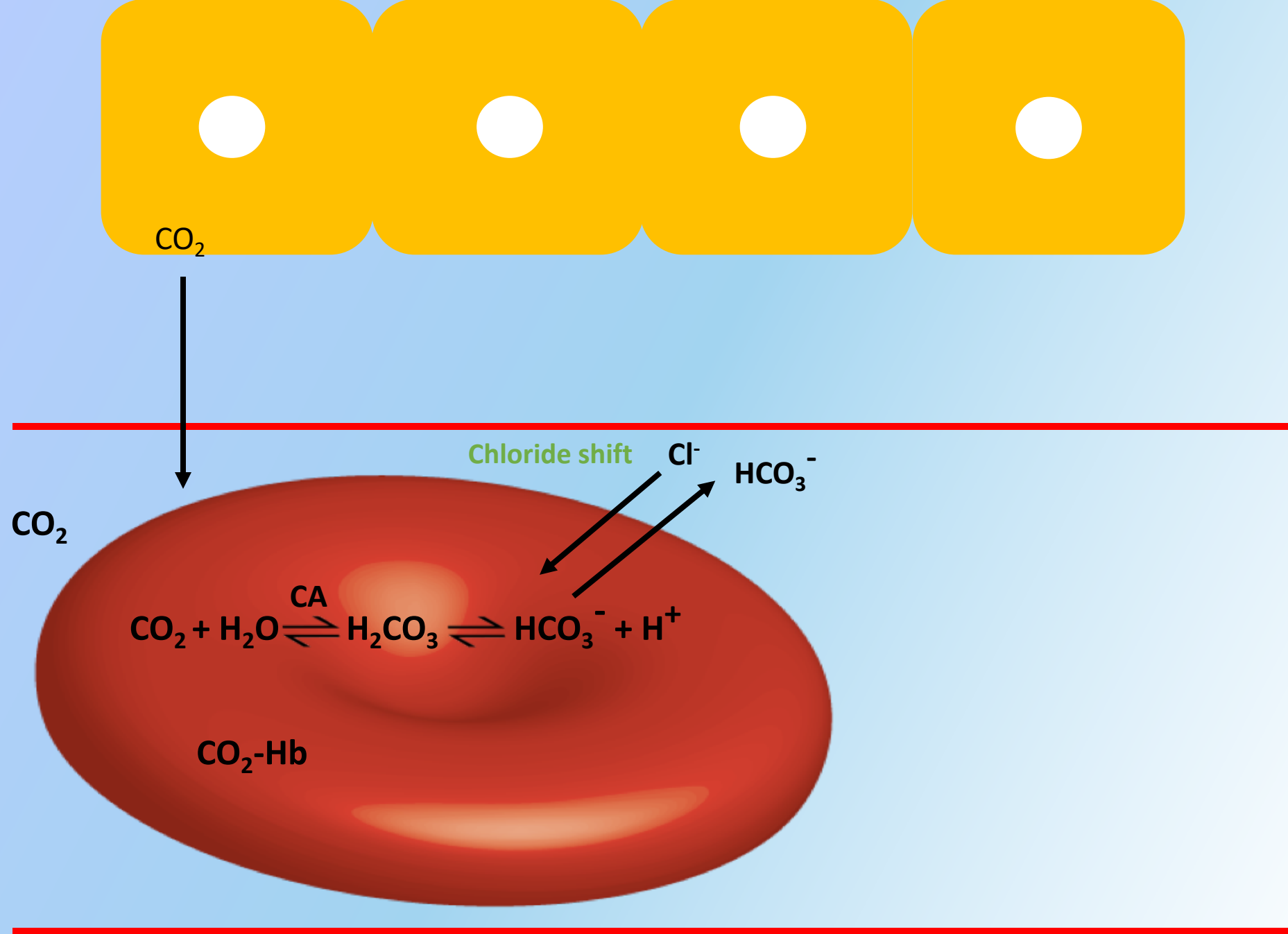


Select the correct statement concerning  $P_{50}$  when the  $O_2$ -hemoglobin dissociation curve is shifted to the right:

- A. It is the same as under normal circumstances
- B. It is increased
- C. It is decreased
- D.  $P_{50}$  is a gas transported in blood
- E. Only D is correct



CA: Carbonic anhydrase



# Most of the CO<sub>2</sub> transported in the blood is:

- A. dissolved in plasma
- B. in carbamino compounds formed from plasma proteins
- C. in carbamino compounds formed from hemoglobin
- D. bound to Cl<sup>-</sup>
- E. in HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> ←