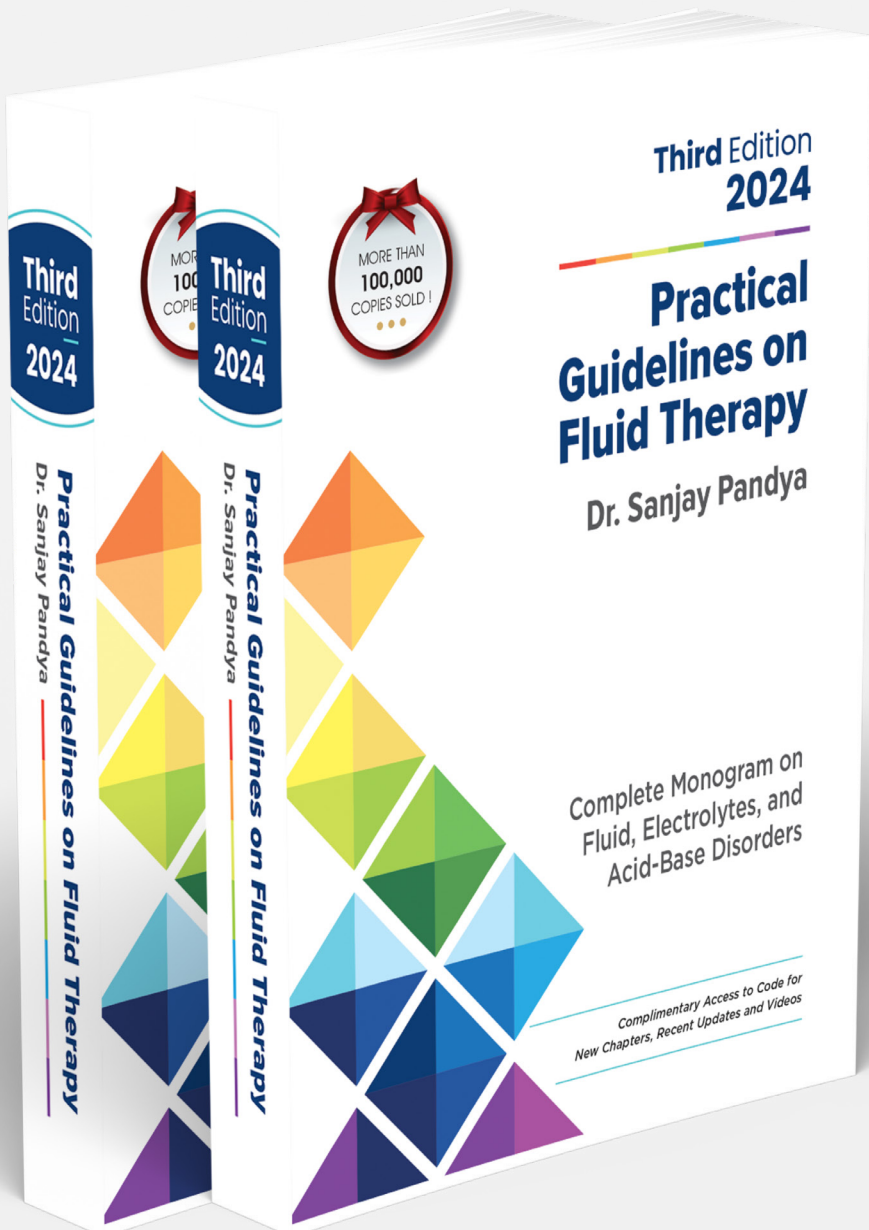




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## Chapter 25: Hypercalcemia



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# 25 | Hypercalcemia

<b>Etiology</b> .....	<b>299</b>	Selection of modality .....	305
Primary hyperparathyroidism .....	299	To increase urinary excretion .....	305
Malignancy .....	300	Isotonic saline hydration.....	305
Vitamin D toxicity.....	300	Furosemide .....	307
Milk alkali syndrome .....	301	To inhibit bone resorption .....	307
Granulomatous diseases.....	301	Calcitonin.....	307
Thiazide diuretics .....	301	Bisphosphonates.....	307
Immobilization .....	301	Denosumab.....	308
<b>Clinical Features</b> .....	<b>301</b>	To decrease intestinal absorption..	308
<b>Diagnosis</b> .....	<b>302</b>	Glucocorticoids.....	308
Confirm the diagnosis.....	302	Phosphate .....	308
History and physical examination..	302	To remove calcium directly .....	308
Measure serum PTH .....	303	Dialysis .....	308
Order other tests .....	304	Specific treatment of underlying	
<b>Management</b> .....	<b>305</b>	causes .....	309

Hypercalcemia is a less common disorder than hypocalcemia, occurring in about 0.6–7.5% of hospitalized and less than 1.0% of outpatients [1–6].

Hypercalcemia is defined as total serum calcium >10.5 mg/dL (>2.6 mmol/L) with normal serum albumin or ionized calcium >5.2 mg/dL (>1.3 mmol/L) [7].

When total serum calcium is >14.0 mg/dL (>3.5 mmol/L) or ionized calcium is >7.0 mg/dL (>1.7 mmol/L), it is considered severe hypercalcemia [7]. Early detection and prompt treatment of hypercalcemia are essential because

it carries high morbidity and mortality [7, 8].

## ETIOLOGY

Primary hyperparathyroidism and malignancy are the two most common causes of hypercalcemia in more than 90% of patients [7, 9]. In recent times, there has been a significant rise in hypercalcemia due to Vitamin D toxicity.

Mechanisms by which different etiologies cause hypercalcemia are enhanced bone resorption, increased intestinal absorption, or decreased renal calcium excretion (Table 25.1).

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