



Figure 2. Assessment of Alkalosis.

Reference values for the alveolar–arterial (A–a) oxygen tension difference are less than 10 mm Hg in young persons and less than 20 mm Hg in the elderly. $Paco_2$ denotes partial pressure of arterial carbon dioxide (mm Hg), and PaO_2 partial pressure of arterial oxygen (mm Hg). To convert the values for $Paco_2$, PaO_2 , and the alveolar–arterial difference to kilopascals, multiply by 0.1333.