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## Metabolism

ACCIDENTAL HYPOTHERMIA The authors discuss a case of accidental hypothermia (initial rectal temperature 84.0 F) in an elderly woman found in her frigid, unheated home. On admission to the hospital, blood pressure and pulse rate (atrial fibrillation) were 90/40 torr and 127/min respectively. The patient was semiconscious, with blanched, anesthetic extremities. Arterial blood *p*H was 7.29. Azotemia, hemoconcentration, and hyperglycemia were also present. The patient was warmed over 14 hours by immersion in hot water (104 F) and with heating blankets. With warming, administration of intravenous fluids, and basic medical support, all pathologic conditions reverted to normal; a spontaneous return to normal sinus rhythm occurred at 89 F. At discharge the patient was asymptomatic. The shifts of plasma in the peripheral vasculature (as a cause for hemodilution upon rewarming), the effects of hypothermia on renal function (poor tubular water resorption with cold), general enzyme-activity depression (van't Hoff–Arrhenius' law) and attenuation of neurologic processes are discussed. *(Meriwether, E. D., and others: Severe Accidental Hypothermia with Survival after Rapid Rewarming. JAMA 53: 505–510, 1972.)*