

Aldosterone maintains acid–base balance and K^+ homeostasis by controlling H^+ and K^+ secretion in renal epithelial cells. This supports the hypothesis that intracellular H^+ activity, regulated by the Na^+/H^+ exchanger, serves as the signal to couple aldosterone–induced K^+ secretory flux to H^+ secretion in renal tubules. Since H^+ secretory fluxes are paralleled by K^+ secretion, it was postulated that the hormone–induced increase of intracellular pH activates the lumenally located K^+ channels.