

Hiba Abbasi,  
MD, Endocrinologist  
Department of  
Internal Medicine  
School of Medicine  
University of Jordan

Diabetes mellitus

*Modified by: Nermeen Abukhalaweh*

# Definition

□ The term DIABETES MELLITUS refer to a state of HYPERGLYCEMIA resulting usually from progressive loss of insulin secretion from the beta cell (  $-/+$  ) <sup>combination of variable degrees</sup> superimposed on a background of insulin resistance, resulting in relative insulin deficiency.

- Insulin resistance  $\rightarrow$  mostly associated with DM2.
- Insulin-deficiency  $\rightarrow$  mostly associated with DM1.

# PREVALENCE

- ❑ Diabetes is estimated to affect > 500 millions adults worldwide, with a global prevalence of 10.5% among adults. *In Jordan, 25% prevalence [prediabetic, diabetic].  
11-13% (diabetic)*
- ❑ Type 2 diabetes accounts for 90-95% of cases of diabetes worldwide.
- ❑ The prevalence of type 2 diabetes has risen alarmingly in the past decade, linked to the trends in obesity and sedentary lifestyle. *among adults and children*
- ❑ Given the marked increase in childhood obesity, there is concern that the prevalence of diabetes will continue to increase substantially.
- ❑ Type 1 diabetes accounts for another 5 to 10% diabetes in adults .
- ❑ Known monogenic causes of diabetes represent a small fraction of cases.

# Classification of Diabetes Mellitus by Etiology

Types based on etiology of hyperglycemia:

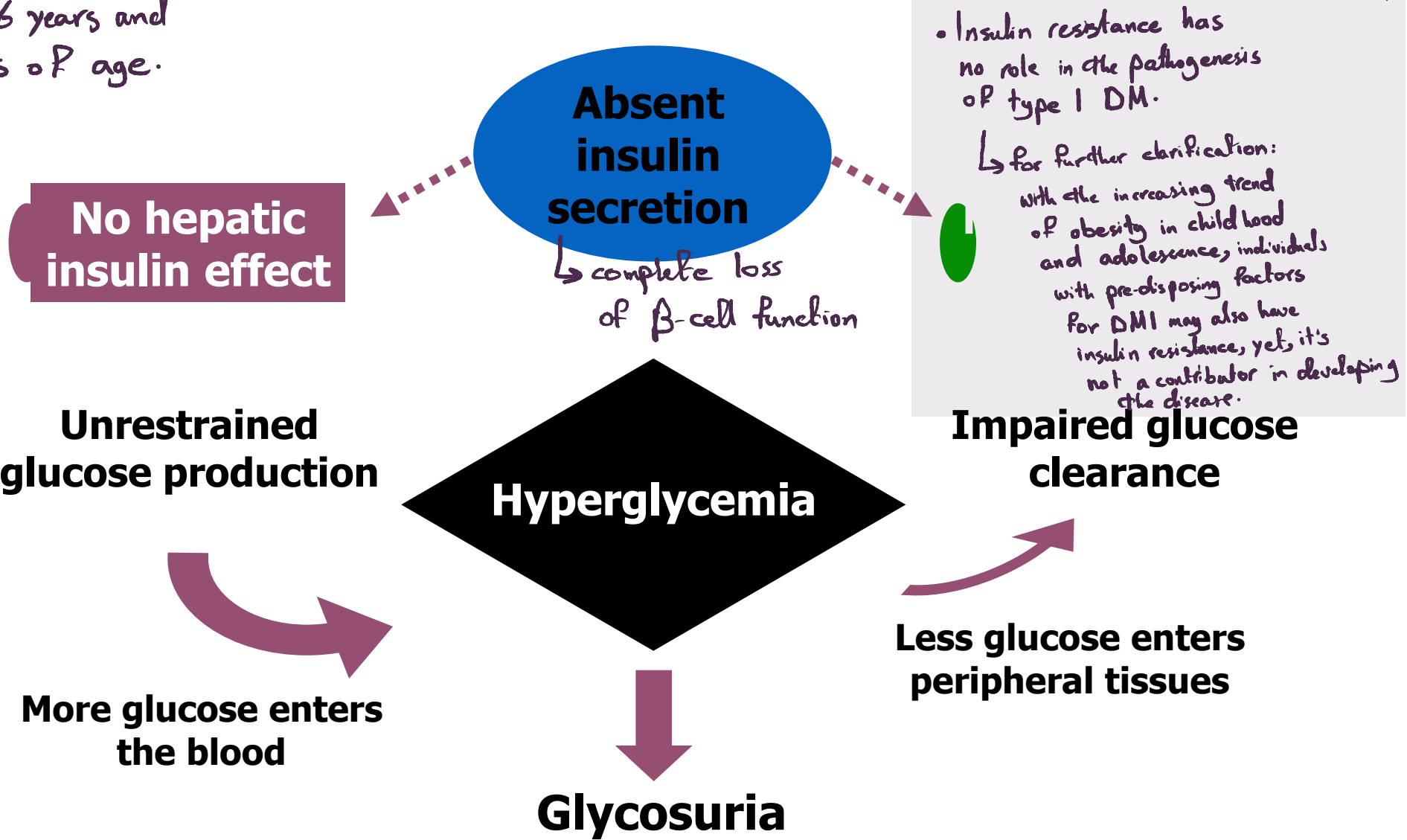
- **Type 1**                    autoimmune destruction of the beta cells (type 1A)  
                                  nonautoimmune islet destruction (type 1B)
- **Type 2**                     $\beta$ -cell dysfunction and insulin resistance
- **Gestational**               $\beta$ -cell dysfunction and insulin resistance during pregnancy
- **Other specific types**
  - Pancreatic diabetes.
  - Endocrinopathies
  - Drug- or chemical-induced
  - Other rare forms



# Pathogenesis of Type 1 Diabetes : One Defect

→ less complicated pathogenesis than type II DM

• Peaks at 4-6 years and ~10-15 years of age.



## Type 1A diabetes:

- *\*Mainly\** Autoimmune destruction of the insulin-producing beta cells in the islets of Langerhans leading to **absolute** insulin deficiency.   
*→ certain antibodies directed against pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell antigens (auto-antigens).*
- Occurs in **genetically susceptible** subjects, triggered by one or more **environmental agents**, and usually progresses over many months or years during which the subject is asymptomatic and euglycemic. This long latent period is a reflection of the large number of functioning beta cells that must be lost before hyperglycemia occurs.
- *Auto-immune destruction is confirmed by serologic testing (increased AB titers of one or more auto-antibodies).*

## ❑ **Genetic susceptibility :**

- Polymorphisms of multiple genes are known to influence the risk of type 1A diabetes.
- Family history: Up to 10% of patients with T1DM have an affected close relative.

❑ **Target autoantigens :** There are a number of autoantigens within the pancreatic beta cells play important roles in the initiation or progression of autoimmune islet injury including: glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD), insulin, insulinoma-associated protein 2 (IA-2), and zinc transporter ZnT8.

❑ **Environmental factors** include pregnancy-related and perinatal influences, viruses, and ingestion of cow's milk and cereals.

# Confirmed targets of autoantibodies in type 1 diabetes

Insulin → the most important regulator of glucose-homeostasis

Glutamic acid decarboxylase

Insulinoma associated antigens 2 (alpha and beta)

ZnT8 (zinc transporter)

LiInTo

Type 1B or "idiopathic" diabetes:

*↳ -ve titer*

*\*Still under excessive research\**

*• Negative titer doesn't exclude type 1 DM.*

➤ Some patients with absolute insulin deficiency have no evidence of autoimmunity and have no other known cause for beta cell destruction.

➤ Presence of nonautoimmune pathophysiologic processes leading to near-complete loss of beta cell function.

*\*Stages of type 1 diabetes:*

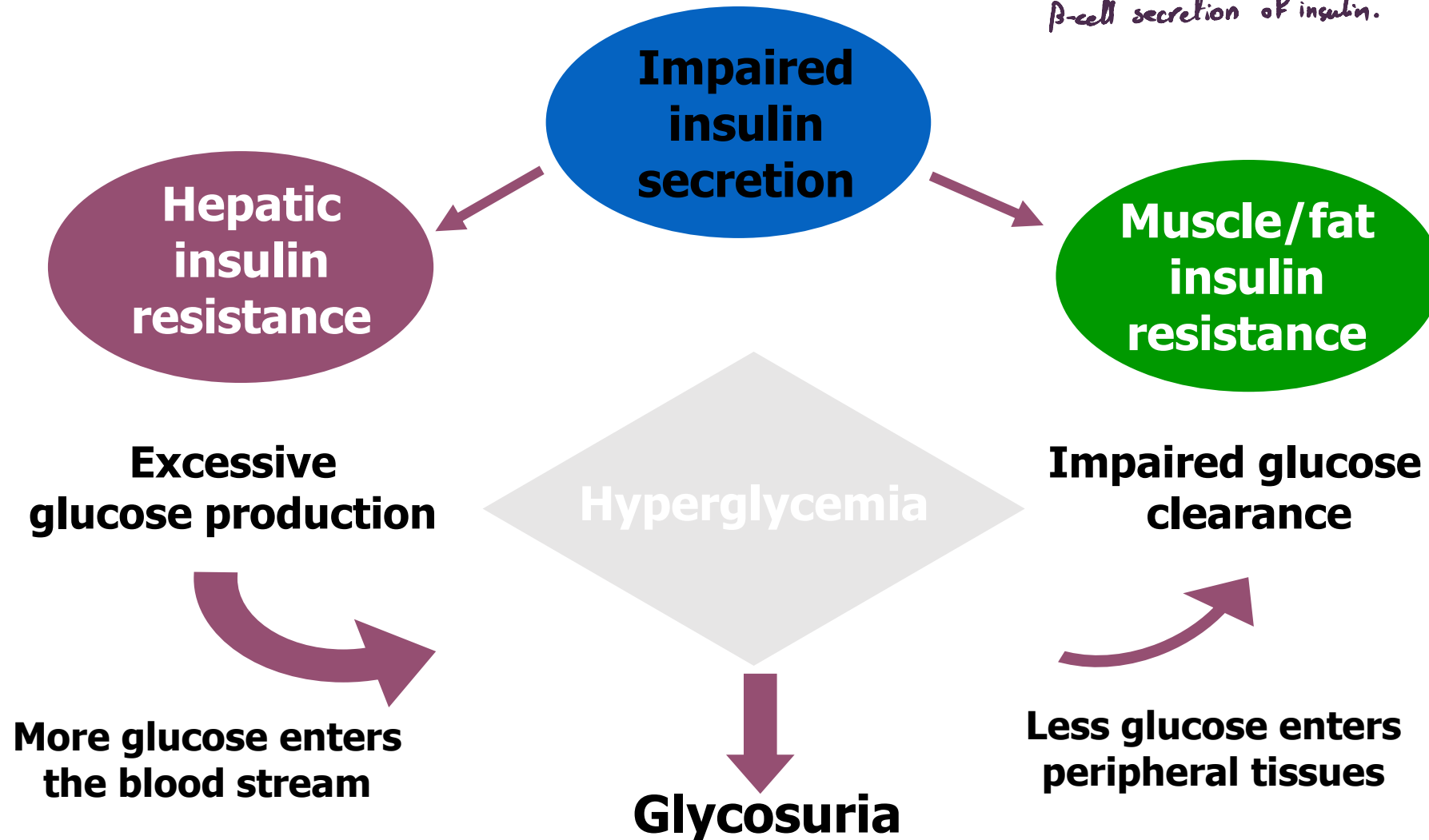
*• Genetics.*

*• Histologic markers.*

*• Antibody titers.*

# Pathogenesis of Type 2 Diabetes : Two Defects

• Natural history of type II diabetes is progressive decline in the endogenous  $\beta$ -cell secretion of insulin.



# Pathogenesis of type 2 diabetes mellitus

☐ Multifactorial (*complicated, polygenic*)

☐ Type 2 diabetes is a polygenic disease, with complex interaction between genetic and environmental factors contributing to disease risk.

☐ Patients typically present with a combination of :

1- Varying degrees of peripheral insulin resistance

2- Relative or absolute defective insulin secretion (beta cell dysfunction).

- **Insulin resistance :**

Attributed to predominantly "environmental" factors related to <sup>obesity results from:</sup> \*overeating, \*sedentary lifestyle, and resulting overweight and obesity, with less prominent contributions from aging and genetics. <sup>non-modifiable, healthy lifestyle habits may help in minimizing the progression of DMII.</sup>

↳ with aging, there's physiologic insulin resistance.

↳ can be overcome by:  
• healthy lifestyle  
• physical activity

- **Impaired insulin secretion:**

Resulting from genetic influences and the programming of the beta cell mass and function in utero.

- Hyperglycemia itself can <sup>further</sup> impair pancreatic beta cell function and exacerbate insulin resistance ("glucotoxicity"), leading to a vicious cycle of hyperglycemia causing a worsening metabolic state.

- Transient shutdown of pancreas (inflamed/exhausted pancreas) may improve by initiating treatment (lifestyle modification, controlling of blood-glucose level).
- Resolved hyperglycemia leads to increased endogenous insulin secretion (resolved glucotoxicity).



## Monogenic diabetes (formerly called maturity onset diabetes of the young)

- ❑ Diabetes diagnosed at a young age (<25 years)
- ❑ Autosomal dominant transmission with lack of autoantibodies.
- ❑ MODY is the <sup>-Rare-</sup> most common form of monogenic diabetes, accounting for 1-2 % of diabetes.
- ❑ Many patients are misclassified as having either type 1 or 2 diabetes.
- ❑ The original MODY nomenclature ("MODY1," "MODY2," "MODY3," etc) has been replaced by the term "monogenic diabetes" with the name of the gene associated with the trait.

- Multi-generational family history of DM.

- ❑ The genes involved control pancreatic beta cell development, function, and regulation, and the mutations in these genes cause **impaired glucose sensing and insulin secretion with minimal or no defect in insulin action.**
- ❑ Mutations in <sup>most common</sup> hepatocyte nuclear factor-1-alpha (HNF1A, 50-65%) and the glucokinase (GCK, 15-30%) genes are the most commonly identified.  
*\*The doctor only mentioned the most common mutation.*
- ❑ Mutations in hepatocyte nuclear factor-4-alpha (HNF4A) account for approximately 10% of MODY cases.
- ❑ Some members of a family have the genetic defect but do not develop diabetes; the reason for this is unclear. Other patients may have the MODY phenotype but do not have an identifiable mutation in any of the known MODY genes.

## Latent autoimmune diabetes in adults (LADA) -20-30 ages -

### □ Diagnosis :

- In an adult who are positive for at least one islet autoantibody with prolonged preservation of insulin secretion.
- LADA may be considered a slowly progressive variant of type 1 diabetes. Patients with LADA are a heterogeneous group with variable titers of antibodies, BMI, and rate of progression to insulin dependence.
- Adults with LADA may not require insulin treatment at diagnosis but typically progress to insulin dependence after several months to years.
- The clinical utility of the diagnosis lies in the identification of patients with a clinical course that will differ from that in patients with type 2 diabetes. The presence and degree of elevation of anti-GAD or anti-ICA antibodies can help predict accelerated disease progression, an earlier requirement for insulin therapy, subtherapeutic responses to oral hypoglycemic medications, and greater risk of ketoacidosis.
- **Genetics:**  
LADA shares genetic features of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

## • When to perform islet autoantibody testing

1. We measure autoantibodies when the diagnosis of type 1 or type 2 diabetes is uncertain by clinical presentation.
2. Patients who have a sub-therapeutic response to initial therapy with sulfonylureas or metformin
3. Those without overweight or obesity.
4. Individuals with a personal or family history of autoimmune disease. *→ such as Hashimoto thyroiditis.*
5. Young adults (age <35 years)
6. Adults age  $\geq 35$  years who present with unintentional weight loss or ketoacidosis at the time of diagnosis.
7. Absence of family history of type 2 DM. *(Family history is significant in both types of diabetes, yet, more significant in type II).*
8. Catabolic presentation (eg, weight loss, ketonuria)

# Gestational Diabetes

- ❑ Occurs when a woman's pancreatic function is insufficient to overcome the insulin resistance associated with the pregnancy state (placental secretion of diabetogenic hormones)
- ❑ Develops in the second or third trimester and usually resolves after birth.
- ❑ High risk of perinatal morbidity and mortality

# Gestational Diabetes

*It is very important to screen and control gestational diabetes as it carries high risk of mortality and*

- High risk of later type 2 diabetes in both mother and baby.
- Diagnosed by specific glucose tolerance test methods.
- Requires intensive dietary and glycemic management.

- Summary -

**Clinical features distinguishing type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes, and monogenic diabetes\***

Clinical features	Type 1 diabetes mellitus	Type 2 diabetes mellitus	Monogenic diabetes
Age of diagnosis (years)	Majority <25, but may occur at any age	Typically >25 but incidence is increasing in adolescents, paralleling increasing rates of obesity in children and adolescents <sup>¶</sup>	<25
Weight	Usually thin, but with obesity epidemic overweight and obesity at diagnosis becoming more common	>90% at least overweight	Similar to general population
Autoantibodies	Present	Absent	Absent
Insulin dependent	Yes	No	No
Insulin sensitivity	Normal when controlled	Decreased	Normal (may be decreased if obese)
Family history of diabetes	Infrequent (5 to 10%)	Frequent (75 to 90%)	Multigenerational, ie, ≥3 generations
Risk of diabetic ketoacidosis	High	Low	Low

# Major Risk Factors (Type2 DM)

## Categories of increased risk for diabetes (prediabetes)\*

*\*Most prediabetes eventually develop diabetes, therefore, they should stay under annual screening.*

FPG 100 to 125 mg/dL (5.6 to 6.9 mmol/L) – IFG

2-hour post-load glucose on the 75 g OGTT 140 to 199 mg/dL (7.8 to 11.0 mmol/L) – IGT

A1C 5.7 to 6.4% (39 to 46 mmol/mol)



**Medical conditions** associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes including:

1. Gestational diabetes *(both mother and baby).*
2. Polycystic ovary syndrome
3. Metabolic syndrome *→ hypertension, hyperlipidemia, hyperglycemia and the most important obesity.*

# Obesity

↳ lifestyle modifications, pharmacologic treatment and lastly surgery.

- ❑ Obesity is the most important modifiable risk factor for type 2 diabetes.
- ❑ Inducing resistance to insulin-mediated peripheral glucose uptake.
- ❑ The mechanism by which obesity induces insulin resistance is poorly understood.
- ❑ Reversal of obesity decreases the risk of developing type 2 diabetes and improves glycemic management and can lead to remission in diabetic patients.

- ❑ The degree of insulin resistance and the incidence of type 2 diabetes are highest in those with central or abdominal obesity, as measured by waist circumference.
- ❑<sup>\*</sup>Intra-abdominal (visceral) fat rather than subcutaneous or retroperitoneal fat appears to be of primary importance.
- ❑ Why the pattern of fat distribution is important and the relative roles of genetic and environmental factors in its development are not known!

## Family history/Genetic susceptibility

- ❑ The risk is likely mediated through genetic, anthropometric (BMI and waist circumference), and lifestyle (diet, physical activity, smoking) factors.
- ❑ Family history: Up to 75 to 90% of those with T2DM have an affected close relative.
- ❑ Any first degree relative ..... 2X-3X increase risk of developing DM.
- ❑ With both a maternal and paternal history of type 2 diabetes...5X-6X increase risk of DM .
- ❑ Insulin resistance and impaired insulin secretion in type 2 diabetes have a substantial genetic component.

## Lifestyle factors

- ❑ Insulin resistance and impaired insulin secretion in type 2 diabetes have a substantial genetic component, and can be influenced, both positively and negatively, by behavioral factors, such as **physical activity, diet, smoking**, alcohol consumption, body weight, and sleep duration. Improving these lifestyle factors can reduce the risk of diabetes mellitus.

## Exercise

- ❑ A sedentary lifestyle lowers energy expenditure, promotes weight gain, and increases the risk of type 2 diabetes .
  - ❑ Among sedentary behaviors, prolonged television watching is consistently associated with the development of obesity and diabetes.
  - ❑ Physical inactivity, even without weight gain, appears to increase the risk of type 2 diabetes.
  - ❑ Physical activity of moderate intensity reduces the incidence of new cases of type 2 diabetes, regardless of the presence or absence of IGT.
- Even if there's no weight loss, physical activity has a direct benefit on glucose control (improves insulin-sensitivity).

## **Smoking** → *Active and passive smoking*

- Several large prospective studies have raised the possibility that cigarette smoking increases the risk of type 2 diabetes.
- Secondhand smoke also increases the risk.
- While a definitive causal association has not been established, a relationship between cigarette smoking and diabetes mellitus is biologically possible based upon a number of observations:
  1. Smoking increases the blood glucose concentration after an oral glucose challenge.
  2. Smoking may impair insulin sensitivity.
  3. Cigarette smoking has been linked to increased abdominal fat distribution.

**Dietary patterns** → type of food (it's not only associated with calorie restrictions).

Adherence to a diet high in fruits, vegetables, nuts, whole grains, and olive oil is associated with a lower risk of type 2 diabetes.



# CLINICAL PRESENTATION

> 95% of adult diabetes

Type 2 DM:

→ Degree of hyperglycemia is mild-moderate, in addition to increased awareness and frequency of screening.

□ The majority of patients are asymptomatic at presentation, with hyperglycemia noted on routine laboratory evaluation.

-incidental-

□ The frequency of symptomatic diabetes has been decreasing in parallel with improved efforts of screening.

□ The classic symptoms of hyperglycemia (including polyuria, polydipsia, polyphagia, nocturia, blurred vision, and weight loss) are often noted only in retrospect after high blood glucose reading.

osmotic symptoms →

→ unintentional, significant (~10% of body mass) / catabolic state

• Remember: Insulin has anabolic actions on cells (protein synthesis, triglyceride synthesis, etc).

### *Diabetic keto acidosis*

- ❑ DKA (as the presenting symptom of type 2 diabetes) is uncommon but may occur under certain circumstances (usually severe infection or other acute illness). *→ severe stress such as shock and sepsis.*
- ❑ Hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state (marked hyperglycemia, severe dehydration, and obtundation, but without ketoacidosis) is rare.

**Type 1 DM** *↳ usually presents with severe hyperglycemia (symptomatic).*

❑ DKA is the initial presentation in about 25% of adults with newly diagnosed type 1 diabetes.

❑ DKA is more common in children than in adults with type 1 DM.



❑ Up to 12% of adults, the clinical presentation is similar to that of type 2 diabetes (older-age onset and not initially insulin dependent), with autoimmune-mediated insulin deficiency developing later in the course of disease (This is sometimes referred to as LADA).

❑ Adults with type 1 diabetes ( with a longer estimated period prior to diagnosis) are likely to have more prolonged symptoms of hyperglycemia (polyuria, polydipsia, fatigue) than children as the loss of insulin secretory capacity usually is less rapid over time in adults with type 1 diabetes.

- Honeymoon phase (related to type 1 DM): characterized by residual B-cell mass that persists for unknown period (weeks to months) from the time of diagnosis before total insulin dependence.

# Diagnostic Criteria

→ applies on type I, type II, LADA and not on gestational diabetes.

- **Symptomatic hyperglycemia**

The diagnosis of diabetes mellitus is established when a patient presents with classic symptoms of hyperglycemia (thirst, polyuria, weight loss) with a <sup>random blood glucose</sup> RBG of 200 mg/dL. (Random → regardless of meal time)

(Most patients with type 1 diabetes and some patients with type 2 diabetes are symptomatic and have plasma glucose concentrations well above  $\geq 200$  mg/dL)

\*Important

Normal RBG  
< 140 mg/dL  
140-199 mg/dL  
→ prediabetic

- **Asymptomatic hyperglycemia**

The diagnosis of diabetes in an asymptomatic individual (generally type 2 diabetes) can be established with any of the following criteria:

- FPG values  $\geq 126$  mg/dL.
- Two-hour plasma glucose values of  $\geq 200$  mg/dL during a 75 g OGTT.
- A1C values  $\geq 6.5\%$
- In the absence of unequivocal symptomatic hyperglycemia, the diagnosis of diabetes must be confirmed on a subsequent day by repeating the same test for confirmation.
- If two different tests are available and are concordant for the diagnosis of diabetes, additional testing is not needed . If two different tests are discordant, the test that is diagnostic of diabetes should be repeated to confirm the diagnosis.

# American Diabetes Association criteria for the diagnosis of diabetes

\*Abnormal results of RBG of asymptomatic patients should be confirmed by test repeat.

glycosylated hemoglobin (السكر التراكمي)

1. **A1C  $\geq 6.5\%$** . The test should be performed in a laboratory using a method that is NGSP certified and standardized to the DCCT assay.\*

**OR Normal A1C (4.2–5.6%)**

**Prediabetic A1C (5.7–6.4%)**

\*You should memorize those percentages.

2. **FPG  $\geq 126$  mg/dL (7 mmol/L)**. [Fasting is defined as no caloric intake for at least 8 hours.]\*  $\rightarrow$  Fasting over 8 hrs may result in falsely elevated glucose.

Fasting-blood glucose

**OR**

**Normal FPG ( $< 100$  mg/dL)**

**Prediabetic FPG (100–125 mg/dL)**

3. 2-hour plasma **glucose  $\geq 200$  mg/dL (11.1 mmol/L)** during an OGTT. The test should be performed as described by the World Health Organization, using a glucose load containing the equivalent of 75 g anhydrous glucose dissolved in water.\*  $\rightarrow$  less commonly used test (inconvenient).

**OR**

\*same as RBG\*

4. In a patient with classic symptoms of hyperglycemia or hyperglycemic crisis, a random plasma glucose  $\geq 200$  mg/dL (11.1 mmol/L).

# Management of diabetes

## 1. Lifestyle modifications:

- Medical nutrition therapy
  - increased physical activity
  - weight reduction
- or at least weight maintenance
- aiming to

• Insulin and sulfonylurea may cause weight gain.

## 2. Oral Drug Therapy/Noninsulin SC therapy <sup>subcutaneous</sup> → such as GLP-1 analog.

## 3. Insulin therapy



## TREATMENT GOALS

- 1- **Diabetes Education** : instruction on nutrition, physical activity, optimizing metabolic control, and preventing complications.
- 2- Evaluation for micro- and macrovascular complication
- 3- **Attempts to achieve near normoglycemia**
- 4- Minimization of cardiovascular and other long-term risk factors
- 5- Avoidance of drugs that can exacerbate abnormalities of insulin or lipid metabolism.

# Diabetes Education

## Intensive lifestyle modification

Intensive behavioral modification interventions including weight reduction and increasing activity levels are successful in

- Reducing weight
- Improving glycemic management
- Reducing the need for glucose-lowering medications.

# 1- Medical nutrition therapy

Aiming for weight reduction or at least weight maintenance.

# 2- Weight reduction *(Anti-obesity drugs) → one instance is GLP-1 analog.*

- By diet control, pharmacological or surgical therapy.
- Improved glycemic state is induced by weight loss through partial correction of the two major metabolic abnormalities in type 2 diabetes: insulin resistance and impaired insulin secretion.
- Weight loss and weight loss maintenance supports all effective type 2 diabetes therapy and reduces the risk of weight gain associated with sulfonylureas and insulin.

### **3- Exercise**

- Regular exercise is beneficial for diabetics independent of weight loss.
- It leads to improved glycemic management due to : increased responsiveness to insulin and so delay the progression of impaired glucose tolerance to overt diabetes.
- These beneficial effects are directly due to exercise.
- Unfortunately, in one study, only 50% of patients with type 2 diabetes were able to maintain a regular exercise regimen.

# PHARMACOLOGIC THERAPY

## when to start ???

- A reasonable goal of therapy might be an A1C of <sup>7-7.5%</sup>  $\leq 7\%$  for most patients.
- Target A1C goals in patients with type 2 DM should be tailored to the individual, balancing the potential for improvement in microvascular complications with the risk of hypoglycemia,  
So there is NO (( ONE SIZE FITS ALL ))
- Glycemic targets are generally set somewhat higher for older adult patients and those with comorbidities or a limited life expectancy who may have little likelihood of benefit from intensive therapy.

For most patients with A1C at or above target level ( >7.5 to 8%), pharmacologic therapy should be initiated at the time of diagnosis (along with lifestyle modification). *\*Insulin has the highest efficacy in glucose control.*

- A 3-6 month trial of lifestyle modification prior to initiation of pharmacologic therapy is reasonable for :

1- patients with A1C at or above the target ( 7.5 – 8%) who have clear and modifiable contributors to hyperglycemia and who are motivated to change them.

2- highly motivated patients with A1C near target ( <7.5% ).

# Choice of initial therapy??

## Considerations:

1. Patient presentation: presence or absence of symptoms of hyperglycemia (unintentional weight loss without loss of appetite) ↗ polyuria, polydipsia and polyphagia
2. Comorbidities
3. Baseline A1C level
4. Individualized treatment goals and preferences
5. The glucose-lowering efficacy of individual drugs, and their adverse effect profile, tolerability, and cost.

good luck <3

## Patient presentation:

*\* From this slide and after are not required.*

### Asymptomatic, not catabolic:

- The majority of patients with newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes are asymptomatic, without symptoms of catabolism ( without polyuria, polydipsia, or unintentional weight loss).
- Hyperglycemia may be noted on routine lab test or detected by screening.
- **Metformin:** In the absence of specific contraindications, it can be used as an initial therapy for those patients.

Dosing: We begin with 500 mg once daily with the evening meal and, if tolerated, add a second 500 mg dose with breakfast. The dose can be increased slowly (one tablet every one to two weeks) as necessary to reach a total dose of 2000 mg per day.



## Advantages of Metformin :

- 1- It is the preferred initial therapy because of **glycemic efficacy ( 1-2%)**
- 2- Absence of weight gain
- 3- Absence of hypoglycemia ( very rare side effect )
- 4- General tolerability, and favorable cost.
- 5- It appears to decrease cardiovascular events and does not have adverse cardiovascular effects.

## Adverse effects :

### 1- Gastrointestinal:

- are the most common side effects including a metallic taste in the mouth, mild anorexia, nausea, abdominal discomfort, and soft bowel movements or diarrhea.

- usually mild, transient, and reversible after dose reduction or discontinuation of the drug. They are minimized by taking the medication with food.

### 2- Vitamin B12 deficiency

- Due to reduced intestinal absorption of vitamin B12 by metformin.

- In some patients, vitamin B12 deficiency may present as peripheral neuropathy.

### 3- lactic acidosis : very low incidence but high mortality rate!!

## **Symptomatic (catabolic) or severe hyperglycemia:**

The frequency of symptomatic or severe diabetes has been decreasing in parallel with improved efforts to diagnose diabetes earlier through screening.

### **-Ketonuria and/or weight loss present**

- Insulin, rather than oral hypoglycemic agents, is often indicated for initial treatment of symptomatic (polyuria or weight loss ) or severe hyperglycemia (fasting plasma glucose >250 mg/dl ,RBG >300 mg/dl or A1C >10%)
- Insulin should also be initiated whenever there is a possibility of undiagnosed type 1 diabetes, which should be suspected among those who are **lean** or present with **marked catabolic symptoms**, especially in the presence of a **personal or family history of other autoimmune disease** and/or the **absence of a family history of type 2 diabetes**.

- **Ketonuria and weight loss are absent**
- For patients presenting with severe hyperglycemia but without ketonuria or spontaneous weight loss ( i.e type 1 diabetes is not likely) insulin or GLP-1 receptor agonists may be used (with or without metformin, depending on contraindications or intolerance).
- For patients who refuse injections, initial therapy with high-dose sulfonylurea is an alternative option.
- Metformin monotherapy is not helpful in improving symptoms in this setting ,however, it can be started at the same time as the sulfonylurea, slowly titrating the dose upward.

## **Comorbidities:**

### **Established cardiovascular or kidney disease**

- Patients with cardiorenal comorbidities should be treated with glucose-lowering medications that have evidence of cardiorenal benefit such as GLP-1 receptor agonists and SGLT2 inhibitors.
- The cardiorenal benefits of GLP-1 receptor agonists and SGLT2 inhibitors have not been demonstrated in drug-naïve patients without established CVD (or at low cardiovascular risk) or without severely increased albuminuria.

## **Without established cardiovascular or kidney disease**

For patients without established CVD or kidney disease who cannot take metformin and :

**A1C >9-10%** we suggest insulin or a GLP-1 receptor agonist for initial therapy.

Insulin may cause weight gain and hypoglycemia.

If weight loss is a priority, a GLP-1 receptor agonist is a reasonable alternative to insulin.

For patients without established CVD or kidney disease who cannot take metformin and :

**A1C  $\leq$  9%** : options includes insulin, GLP-1 receptor agonists, sulfonylureas, SGLT2 inhibitors, DPP-4 inhibitors, repaglinide, or pioglitazone.

## Considerations in drug selection:

- i. If weight loss is a priority, GLP-1 receptor agonists or SGLT2 inhibitors may be a helpful choice. DPP-4 inhibitors, which are weight neutral, also may be reasonable options.
- ii. If cost is a concern, a short- or intermediate-acting sulfonylurea, remains a reasonable alternative. The choice of sulfonylurea balances glucose-lowering efficacy, universal availability, and low cost with risk of hypoglycemia and weight gain.
- iii. Pioglitazone is another relatively low-cost oral agent, may also be considered in patients with specific contraindications to metformin and sulfonylureas. BUT..... The Side effects and risk of weight gain, heart failure, fractures, and the potential increased risk of bladder cancer may sometimes approach or exceed its benefits.
- iv. If avoidance of hypoglycemia is a priority (ie, because of potentially dangerous work or an elderly patient with inability to self-manage himself at all times) ,GLP-1 receptor agonists, SGLT2 inhibitors, DPP-4 inhibitors are options as they are associated with a low hypoglycemia risk.



## Insulin therapy:

Although historically insulin has been used for type 2 diabetes only when inadequate glycemic management persists despite oral agents and lifestyle intervention, there are **increasing data to support using insulin earlier** and more aggressively in type 2 diabetes.

### **Benefit ??!!**

By inducing near normoglycemia with intensive insulin therapy, both endogenous insulin secretion and insulin sensitivity improve; this results in better glycemic management, which can then be maintained with diet, exercise, and oral hypoglycemic for many months thereafter with less future risk of microvascular complications.

## Cardiovascular outcomes

- Virtually all trials evaluating the safety and efficacy of all anti diabetes drugs have recruited patients who were already had preexisting CVD or were at very high risk for CVD. So the long-term benefits and risks of using one agent over another in the **absence** of diagnosed CVD are unknown.
- Cardiovascular benefit has been demonstrated for many of these medications, but benefit has not been investigated in drug-naïve patients without established CVD or at low cardiovascular risk.

## **Microvascular outcomes**

- In trials designed to evaluate renal outcomes in patients with DKD and severely increased albuminuria , SGLT2 inhibitors reduced the risk of kidney disease progression and death from renal disease.
- In trials of patients with type 2 diabetes with and without chronic kidney disease, GLP-1 receptor agonists slowed the rate of decline in eGFR and prevented worsening of albuminuria.

## MONITORING

- We obtain A1C at least twice yearly in patients meeting glycemic goals and more frequently (quarterly) in patients whose therapy has changed or who are not meeting goals.
- Self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) is **not** necessary for most patients with type 2 diabetes who are on a stable regimen of diet or oral agents and who are not experiencing hypoglycemia.
- SMBG may be useful for some type 2 diabetes patients who use the results to modify eating patterns, exercise, or insulin doses on a regular basis.

## **PERSISTENT HYPERGLYCEMIA**

- For patients who are not meeting glycemic targets despite diet, exercise, and metformin, combination therapy is necessary to achieve optimal results.
- The balance among efficacy in lowering A1C, side effects, and costs must be carefully weighed in considering which drugs or combinations to choose.
- Avoiding insulin, the most potent of all hypoglycemic medications, at the expense of poorer glucose management and greater side effects and cost, is not likely to benefit the patient in the long term.

# Challenges in management

## 1- Adherence to Treatment Plans:

❑ Patients may face various barriers to adhering to their treatment plans: lack of motivation, financial constraints, cultural beliefs, and psychological issues.

❑ Strategies to address these challenges:

Engaging in patient education, setting realistic treatment goals, providing support systems, and involving patients in shared decision-making to promote adherence to treatment plans.

## 2- Glycemic Control:

- ❑ Achieving and maintaining optimal glycemic control needs real effort healthcare providers by regular assessment and adjustment of the treatment plan based on individual patient needs and characteristics.
- ❑ Titrating medications, adjusting insulin doses, and addressing lifestyle factors.
- ❑ Regular monitoring of blood glucose levels, HbA1c levels, and other relevant parameters can provide valuable feedback on the effectiveness of the treatment plan and guide necessary modifications.

### 3- Patient Education and Self-Management:

Empowering patients to self-manage their diabetes is an essential component of long-term diabetes care.

- Assess patients' knowledge, skills, and confidence in self-management and provide tailored patient education.
- Teaching patients about the importance of self-monitoring blood glucose levels, medication adherence, healthy eating, regular physical activity, and self-care practices.
- Engaging patients in shared decision-making.
- Setting achievable goals.
- Providing ongoing support and follow-up.



#### 4- Psychosocial Challenges:

- ❑ Diabetes is not just a physical condition, but it also has a significant psychosocial impact on patients.
- ❑ Patients with diabetes may experience emotional distress, depression, anxiety, diabetes-related distress, and other psychosocial challenges that can affect their self-care behaviors and glycemic control.
- ❑ Healthcare providers need to be aware of the psychosocial challenges associated with diabetes and address them proactively.



Questions  
are  
guaranteed in  
life;  
Answers  
aren't.