

DKA, HHS, and Hypoglycemia

Approaches for Diabetes Management
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Disclosures

I have no conflicts of interest or other disclosures relevant to this presentation.

Learning Objectives

1. Discuss three acute complications of diabetes with treatment approaches
2. Summarize clinical findings, management, and complications of DKA, HHS and hypoglycemia
3. Recognize the similarities and differences between DKA and HHS
4. Define prevention strategies for hypoglycemia in diabetes

Case 1

18 year-old man presented to the emergency department with 2 days of vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and malaise

He had prior symptoms of polyuria and polydipsia

He has been drinking Gatorade to try to stay hydrated.

He had not had any recent medical care

An initial blood sugar by POC fingerstick is >600



Case 1

Chemistry

138	112	38	1600
6.4	9	3.2	

- WBC's 12,000; + urine ketones
- VBG: pH 7.02, PCO₂ 30, HCO₃ 8

Hyperglycemic Crisis: DKA vs. HHS

Hyperglycemic Crisis

- NATIONAL DIABETES STATISTICS REPORT, 2017

207,000 ER visits for hyperglycemic crisis in 2014

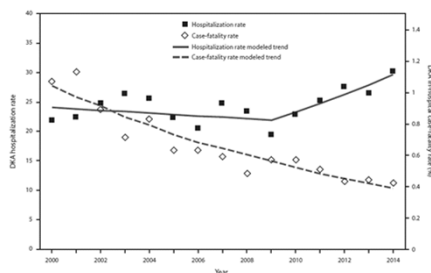
- 9.5 per 1000 persons with diabetes (95% CI)

168,000 admissions for DKA in 2014

- 7.7 out of every 1000 persons with diabetes

HHS in children has increased by 52.4% from 1997 to 2009

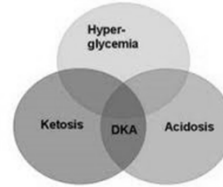
- TRENDS IN DKA HOSPITALIZATIONS, 2000-2014



DKA in persons < 45 years is 27 X the rate for persons ≥ 65 years.

Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA)

Uncontrolled hyperglycemia
 Metabolic acidosis
 Increased ketones



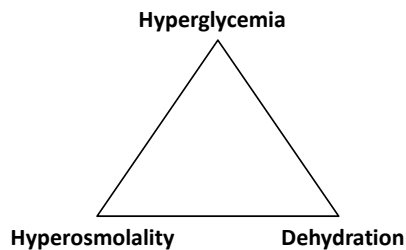
	Mild DKA	Moderate DKA	Severe DKA
Anion-gap acidosis	pH 7.25-7.30	pH 7.00- <7.24	pH < 7.00
	Bicarb <15-18	Bicarb 10 to <15	Bicarb <10
	Anion gap >10	Anion gap >12	Anion gap >12
Hyperglycemia	>250	>250	>250
Ketonemia/ketonuria	Present	Present	Present
Mental Status	Alert	Alert/drowsy	Stupor/coma

Kitabchi, 2009

Hyperosmolar Hyperglycemic State (HHS)

PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS:

Hyperglycemic hypersomolar nonketotic coma (HONK) or
 hyperglycemic hyperosmolar nonketotic state (HHNK)



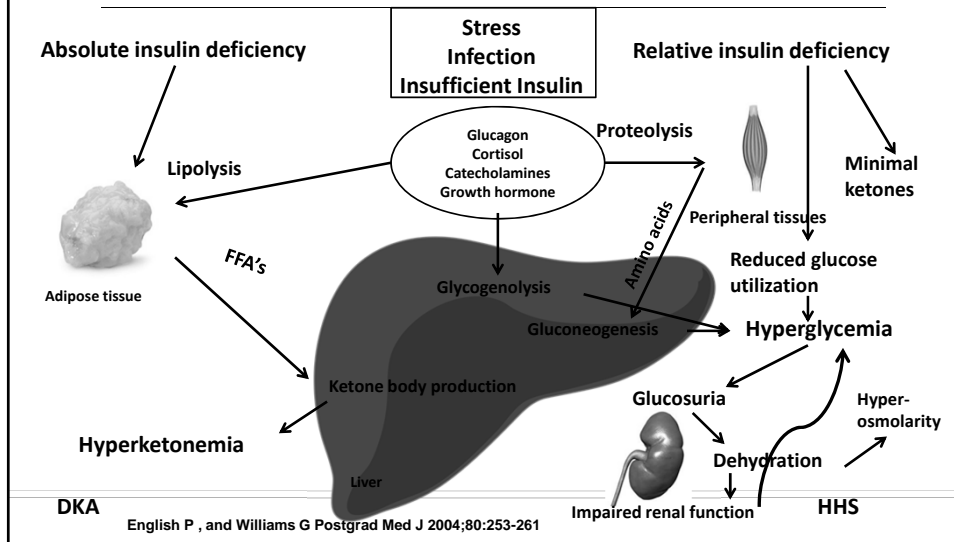
Endogenous insulin is enough to prevent lipolysis and ketogenesis but inadequate to facilitate glucose utilization

Dehydration >>> than in DKA

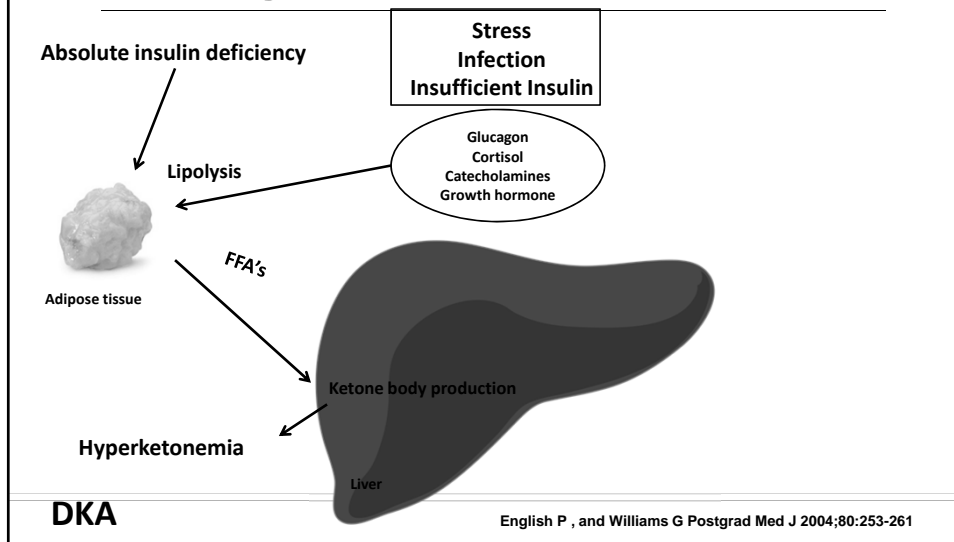
- Total body water deficit usually 7-12 liters

Maletkovic, 2013; Gouveia, 2013; Pasquel 2014

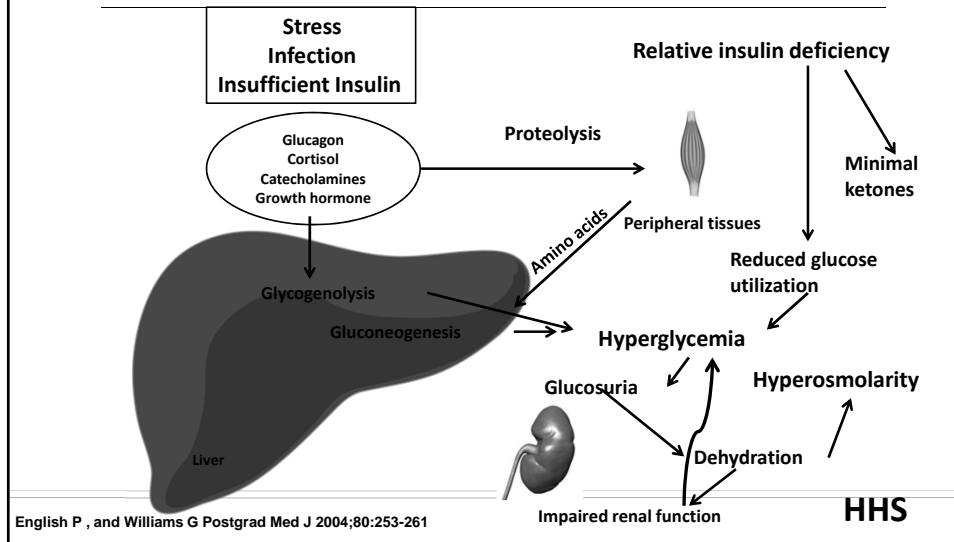
Pathogenesis of DKA and HHS



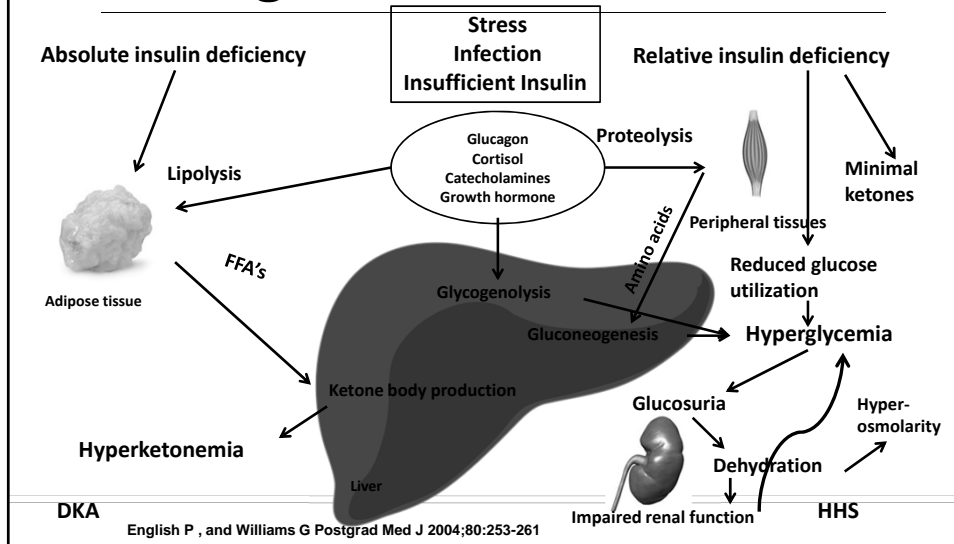
Pathogenesis of DKA



Pathogenesis of HHS



Pathogenesis of DKA and HHS



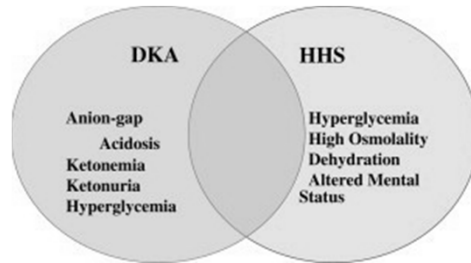
DKA and HHS

Polyuria and polydipsia

Nausea and vomiting

Anorexia

Fatigue/malaise

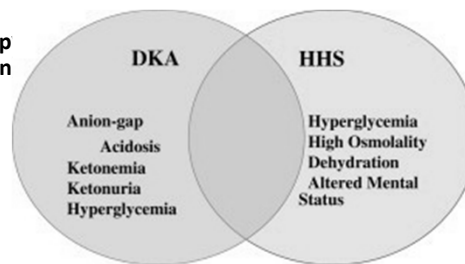


Maletkovic, 2013

DKA and HHS

Precipitating factors

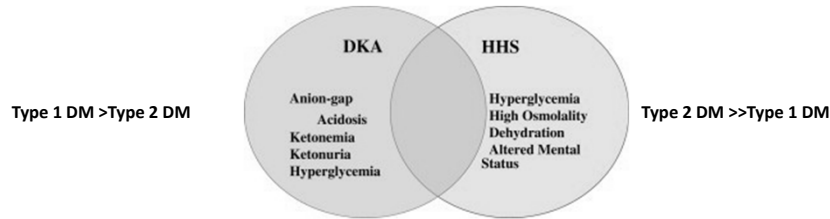
- Infection
- Extreme physical stress
- Missed or inadequate insulin therap (including insulin pump malfunction)
- Medications
 - Corticosteroids
 - Pentamidine
 - Terbutaline
 - Anti-psychotics
- Cocaine
- Religious fasting
- Cannabis—hyperemesis syndrome
- DKA: SGLT2-inhibitors—70% of reported cases in literature were euglycemic



Maletkovic, 2013; Gallo, 2016; Goldenberg 2016;

DKA vs. HHS

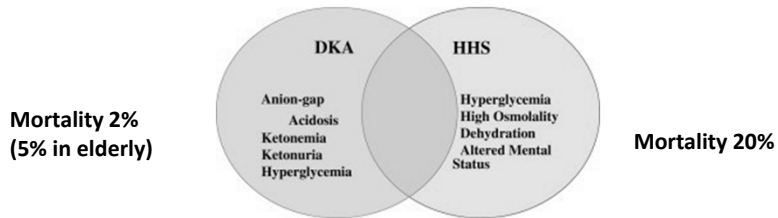
	DKA	HHS
Timing	Develops over hours to days	Develops over days to weeks
Hyperventilation	+ (Kussmaul breathing)	-
Abdominal pain	+	-
Mental status change	+/-	+
Dehydration	+	++



Maletkovic, 2013

DKA vs. HHS

	DKA	HHS
Anion-gap acidosis	pH <7.3	pH >7.3
	Bicarbonate <15	Bicarbonate >18
	Anion gap >10	Anion-gap variable
Osmolality	<320	>320
Hyperglycemia	>250	>600
Ketonemia/ketonuria	Present	Rare



Kitabchi, 2009; Maletkovic, 2013

Approach to Patient with Hyperglycemic Crisis

STABILIZE PATIENT

Airway

Ventilation & Oxygenation

IV Access

Cardiac Monitor

Urinary Catheter



Maletkovic, 2013

Evaluation of Patient with Hyperglycemic Crisis

HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAM



History

- Precipitating factors
- Symptoms of infection
- Missed insulin

Physical Exam

- Mental status
- Respirations (Kussmaul)
- Fruity breath
- Signs of infection
- Signs of dehydration

Maletkovic 2013; English 2004

Case 1

Exam:

- T 38.4 C (101 F); BP 112/57; HR 146, RR 60 (Kussmaul respirations)
- Obtunded: GCS 9
- Obese, BMI 33 kg/m²
- Acanthosis nigricans of neck
- Pupils sluggish, dry mucous membranes



Evaluation of Patient with Hyperglycemic Crisis

LABORATORY EVALUATION

- Glucose, Metabolic Panel, Phosphate, Magnesium, ABG
- CBC, Serum Ketones, Urinalysis, Cardiac Enzymes, A1C, Coagulation profile, Urine Pregnancy Test
- Consider also Urine & Blood Cultures, Lumbar Puncture, Amylase and Lipase, CPK

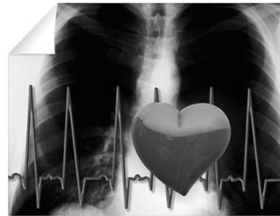


Maletkovic, 2013

Evaluation of Patient with Hyperglycemic Crisis

OTHER STUDIES AND IMAGING

- EKG
- Chest Radiograph
- Additional Imaging of Chest, Abdomen, Brain



Maletkovic, 2013

Interpretation of Labs

Calculating Anion Gap:

- (Serum sodium) - (Chloride + bicarbonate)

Sodium: osmotic forces drive water into vascular spaces

- Corrected sodium: Add 1.6 mEq/L for every 100 points glucose is elevated
- Some laboratories will reflect additional decreases in sodium measurement due to pseudohyponatremia from elevated lipids

Serum Osmolality

- $(2 \times \text{serum sodium}) + (\text{glucose in mg/dL divided by } 18) + (\text{BUN in mg/dL divided by } 2.8)$
- Effective Osmolality
 $(2 \times \text{serum sodium}) + (2 \times \text{potassium}) + (\text{glucose in mg/dL divided by } 18)$



Maletkovic, 2013; Baldrighi, 2018; Cardoso, 2016

Case 1

Chemistry

138	112	38	1600
6.4	9	3.2	

- WBC's 12,000; + urine ketones
- VBG: pH 7.02, PCO₂ 30, HCO₃ 8

Hyperglycemic Crisis: DKA vs. HHS

Interpretation of Labs

Calculating Anion Gap:

- (Serum sodium)- (Chloride +bicarbonate)

Case 1

$$138 - (112 + 9) = 138 - 121$$

17



Maletkovic, 2013

Interpretation of Labs

Sodium: osmotic forces drive water into vascular spaces

- Corrected sodium: Add 1.6 mEq/L for every 100 points glucose is elevated

Case 1

Sodium 138 but glucose 1600...

Step 1: $1600 - 100 = 1500$

Step 2: $1500 \div 100 = 15$

Step 3: $15 \times 1.6 = 24$

Step 4: $138 + 24 =$
162



Maletkovic, 2013

Interpretation of Labs

Serum Osmolality

- $(2 \times \text{serum sodium}) + (\text{glucose in mg/dL divided by } 18) + (\text{BUN in mg/dL divided by } 2.8)$

- **Case 1**

- $(2 \times 138) + (1600/18) + (38/2.8) =$

- $276 + 88.9 + 13.6 =$

- **378**

- **Effective Osmolality** (does not include BUN since it does not affect osmotic gradient)

- $(2 \times 138) + (2 \times 6.4) + (1600/18) =$

- $276 + 12.8 + 88.9 =$

- **378**

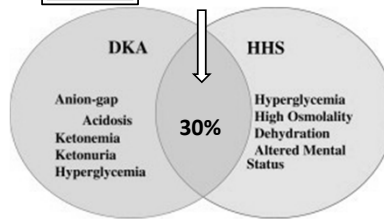


Maletkovic, 2013

Case 1: DKA versus HHS

	DKA	HHS
Anion-gap acidosis	pH < 7.3 Bicarbonate < 15 Anion gap > 10	pH > 7.3 Bicarbonate > 18 Anion-gap variable
Osmolality	< 320	> 320
Hyperglycemia	> 250	> 600
Ketoneuria/ketoneuria	Present	Rare

Mortality 2%
(5% in elderly)

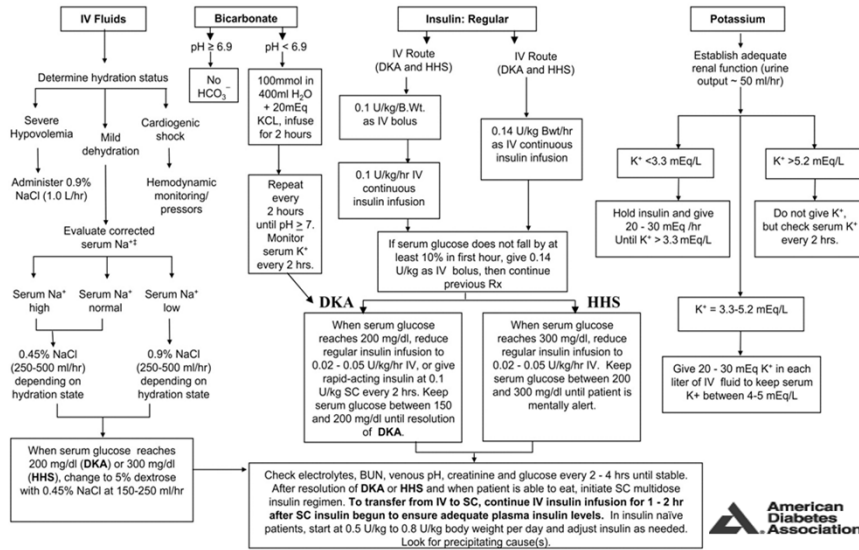


Mortality 20%

Kitabchi, 2009; Maletkovic, 2013; Cardoso, 2016

Protocol for management of adult patients with DKA or HHS

Complete initial evaluation. Check capillary glucose and serum/urine ketones to confirm hyperglycemia and ketonemia/ketoneuria. Obtain blood for metabolic profile. Start IV fluids: 1.0 L of 0.9% NaCl per hour.¹

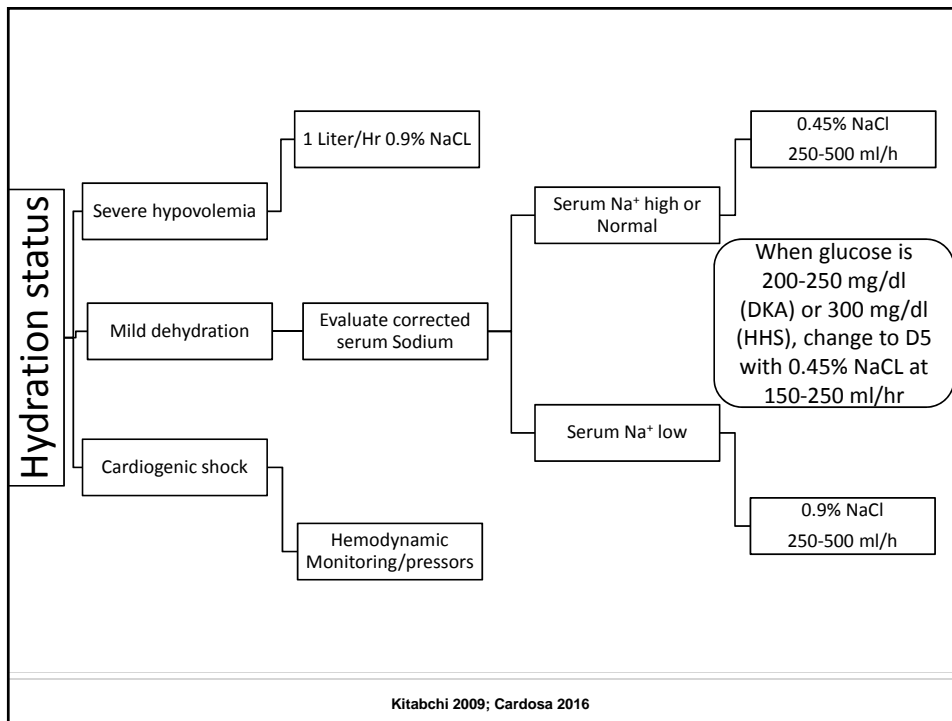


Treatment of DKA and HHS

Fluid replacement

- Start normal saline at **10-20 ml/kg**
 - **Patients under 18—no evidence that less rapid or isotonic saline protects from cerebral edema**
- Once euvolemia is achieved, may change to ½ NS for those with normal sodium or hypernatremia
 - In HHS, some experts recommend continuing isotonic saline unless osmolality is not falling despite adequate fluid resuscitation
- Dextrose should be added at glucose of **<250 mg/dL in DKA or <300 mg/dL in HHS**
 - Two-bag system may be used: one with needed electrolytes and no dextrose; one with needed electrolytes and 10% dextrose
 - Proportion of rate from 2-bag methods determines dextrose infusion and allows for easy adjustment for maintaining glucose in target range
 - Used primarily in Pediatric DKA but used effectively in adults with DKA as well with faster resolution of anion gap and reduced hypoglycemia

Maletkovic 2013, Glaser 2005; Fluid regimes for DKA 2018; Glaser 2018; Munir 2017



Kitabchi 2009; Cardoso 2016

Treatment of DKA and HHS

Fluid Replacement Goals

- Total fluid replenishment over 24-48 hours (or more slowly if baseline kidney failure or heart failure)
- Avoid rapid correction of osmolality
- Keep change of corrected sodium to ≤ 0.5 mg/dl per hour and ≤ 10 mg/dl per 24 hours

Maletkovic, 2013, Glaser 2005; Cardoso,2016

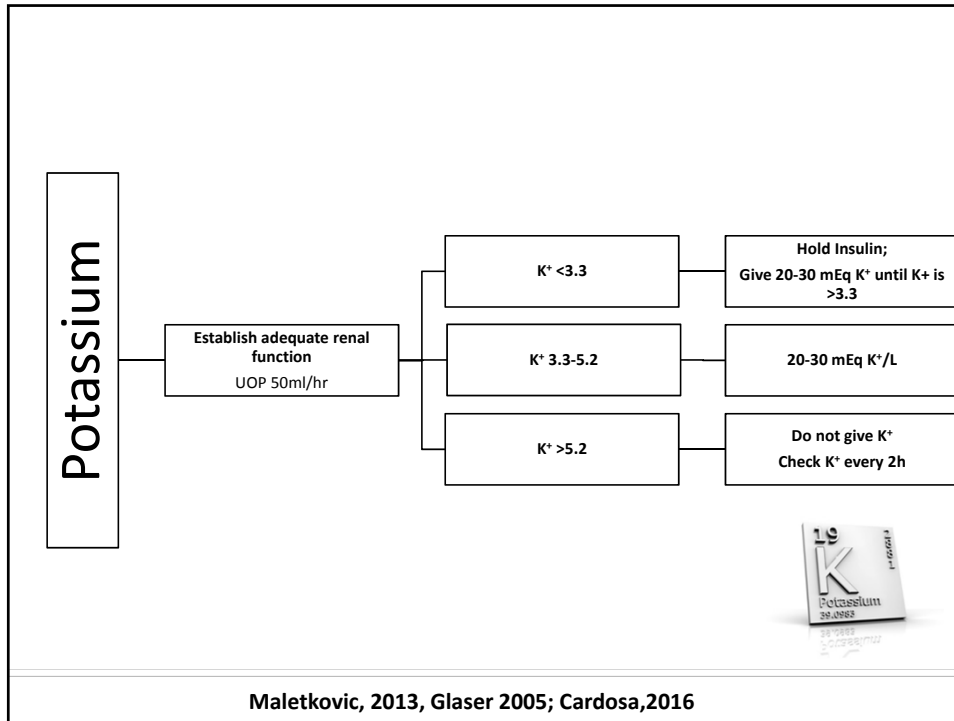
Treatment of DKA and HHS

Potassium

- Total body depletion of potassium due to urinary and gastrointestinal losses
 - Glucosuria may result in **70mEq/L** loss of potassium
- Shift of potassium out of cells from insulin deficiency, acidosis, and proteolysis will reverse with fluids and insulin
- Start potassium supplementation at potassium of **<5.3mEq/L**
- **Monitor for arrhythmias**




Maletkovic, 2013, Glaser 2005



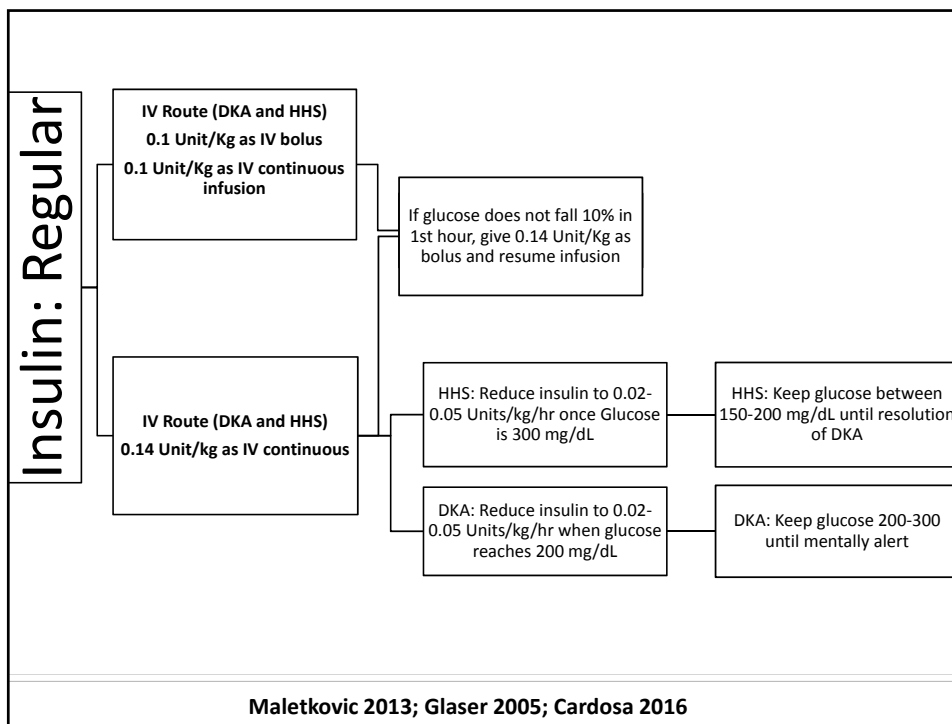
Treatment of DKA and HHS

Insulin

- Start after initial fluid resuscitation; delay if potassium is **<3.3 mEq/L**
- Initial insulin bolus does not offer significant benefit
- Regular insulin via IV is preferred therapy (**0.1 unit/kg/hr in DKA**); rapid analogs may be used but higher cost
- Delay or reduce insulin rate in HHS in favor of hydration to avoid rapid osmotic shifts
- Intramuscular injection of rapid-acting analogues has been studied as well—may reduce cost if performed on general floor instead of ICU
- Insulin should continue until resolution of anion gap in DKA, not resolution of hyperglycemia



Maletkovic 2013; Glaser 2005; Cardosa 2015



Treatment of DKA and HHS

Insulin

- Check electrolytes, BUN, venous pH, Creatinine, glucose every 2-4 hours until stable
- After resolution of DKA or HHS and when able to eat, may initiate subcutaneous insulin regimen:
 - Continue IV infusion for 1-2 hours after subcutaneous insulin is given
 - In insulin naïve patients, start 0.5-0.8 Unit/Kg per day
 - Children: (0.5-1 Unit/kg/day)
 - Look for precipitating causes
- Continuation of basal insulin
 - Continuation of basal insulin during intravenous infusion of insulin may result decreased rebound hyperglycemia after insulin infusion is discontinued
 - In one small pediatric study (13), it reduced time to DKA resolution



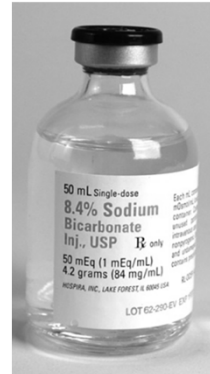
Maletkovic, 2013; Glaser 2005; Cardosa 2015; Hsia, 2012

Treatment of DKA and HHS

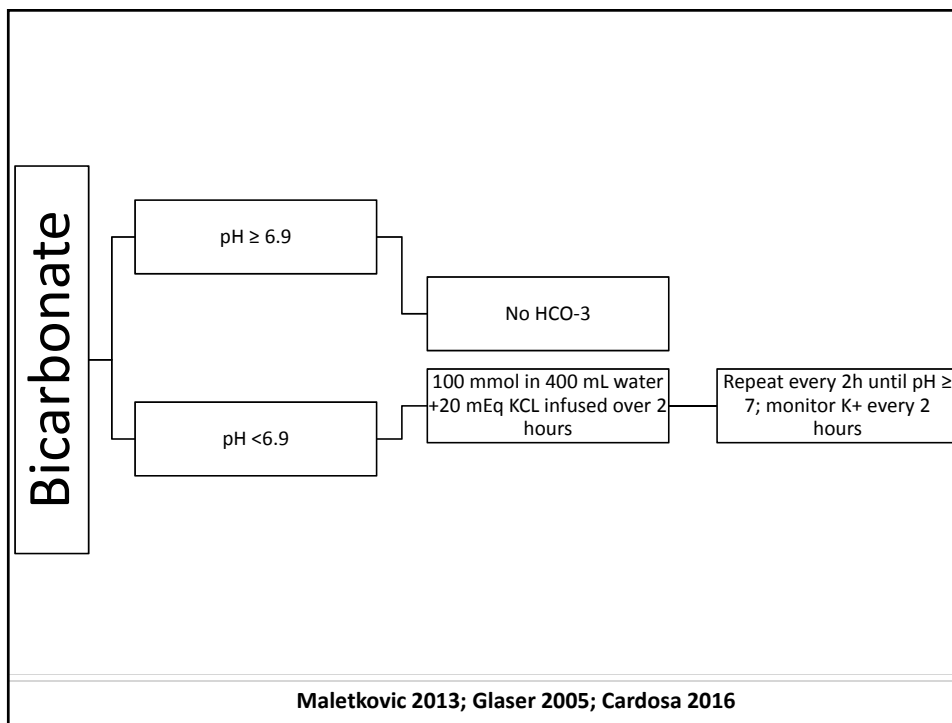
BICARBONATE

Administration is controversial and limited to severe acidosis

- Risks of hypokalemia, hypernatremia, paradoxical CNS acidosis
- Children with DKA treated with bicarbonate were more likely to have cerebral edema



Maletkovic, 2013; Glaser, 2005; Glaser, 2001; Cardosa, 2016



Maletkovic 2013; Glaser 2005; Cardosa 2016

Treatment of DKA and HHS

PHOSPHATE

- Not clearly beneficial in all patients
-
- Risk of hypocalcemia



Maletkovic, 2013; Glaser, 2005; Glaser, 2001

Phosphate

Consider with Phos <1 mg/dL
OR
Cardiac dysfunction, anemia, or
respiratory distress

20-30 mmol/L/day K_2PO_4
(max rate of 4.5 mmol/h and
90 mmol per day)

Cardosa 2016

Case 1: Review Question #1

Which lists the proper treatment and order of treatment for this patient?

A	Fluids	Potassium	Insulin	Bicarbonate
B	Insulin	Bicarbonate	Fluids	Potassium
C	Insulin	Fluids	Potassium	No bicarbonate
D	Fluids	Insulin	Potassium	No bicarbonate

Case 1

Chemistry

138	112	38	1600
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Hyperglycemic Crisis: DKA vs. HHS

Case 1: Review Question #1

Which lists the proper treatment and order of treatment for this patient?

A	Fluids	Potassium	Insulin	Bicarbonate
B	Insulin	Bicarbonate	Fluids	Potassium
C	Insulin	Fluids	Potassium	No bicarbonate
D	Fluids	Insulin	Potassium	No bicarbonate

Normal saline bolus, followed by 250-500 ml/hr of NS or 0.45 NS depending on sodium and osmolality trend

Insulin IV at 0.05 to 0.1 unit/kg/hr

Potassium once potassium is less than 5.3 and UOP has been established

No bicarbonate indicated; pH is not <6.9

Case 1: Clinical Course

He was admitted to the ICU

Given NS bolus over the first hour

Given NS of 250 ml/hr

Developed cardiac arrhythmia due to hyperkalemia in first 3 hours

- Insulin started at 0.03 units/kg/h along with dextrose

Developed status epilepticus and was intubated in first 12 hours

Insulin infusion and dextrose were carefully titrated to bring about slow correction of glucose and sodium



Case 1: Clinical Course

CT scan was normal (no edema)

Seizures resolved day 2

He developed rhabdomyolysis and pancreatitis

He has persistent hypertension

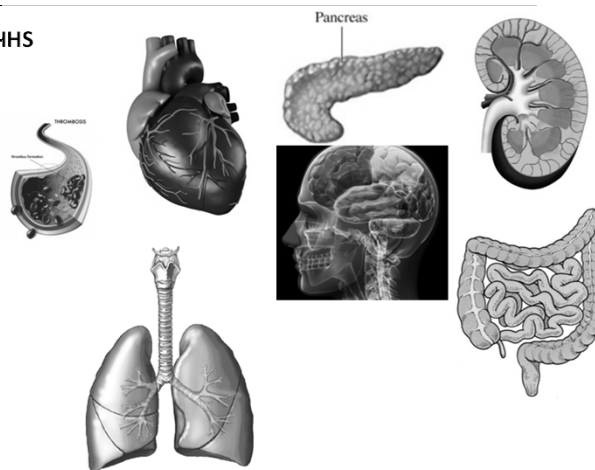
He was extubated day 4

He was transitioned to subcutaneous insulin



Complications of DKA and HHS

- Thrombosis—Particularly in HHS
- Cardiac arrhythmias
- Hypotension
- Cerebral edema
- Cerebral hemorrhage
- Pulmonary edema
- Renal failure
- Intestinal necrosis
- Pancreatitis
- Hypoglycemia
- Hypokalemia



Maletkovic, 2013; Glaser 2005

Complications of DKA and/or HHS

DKA

- Cerebral edema in children with DKA (**0.3-1%**) with mortality of **21-24%** in those who develop cerebral edema and permanent neurologic morbidity in **21-26%**
 - Prompt administration mannitol (**0.25-1g/kg**) may be beneficial
 - Hypertonic saline (**3%**) has grown in favor but increased mortality over mannitol seen in retrospective analysis

HHS

- Malignant hyperthermia-like syndrome
 - Hyperpyrexia and rhabdomyolysis



Maletkovic 2013; Glaser 2005, DeCoursey 2013

Prevention of DKA and HHS

Education regarding sick day management for patient and caregivers

- Early contact with health care team
- Education about importance of insulin during illness
- In pediatric cases, responsible adult assuming role of administering insulin
- Initiation of easily digestible liquid diet containing carbohydrates and salt when needed



Use of home ketone monitoring

Kitabchi 2009; Lewis 2013; Wolsdorf 2018

Prevention of DKA and HHS



CLINICAL
PSYCHOLOGIST

Assess economic factors, social, and psychological factors

- Lack of resources to afford insulin or regular diabetes care
- Cutting insulin to facilitate weight loss
- Psychological reasons for missing insulin: depression, or other mood disorder:
 - 58% of patient with recurrent DKA at MUSC Children's Hospital had psychological diagnosis (depression, ADHD, bipolar disorder)

Kitabchi 2009; Lewis 2013; Wolsdorf 2018

Transition from Acute Care Setting

A structured discharge plan tailored to the individual's needs

- Outpatient follow-up with diabetes care provider within 1 month or 1-2 weeks if glycemic control is not optimized prior to leaving the hospital of
- Clear communication with outpatient providers (directly or via discharge summary)
- Medication reconciliation
- Prescriptions filled and reviewed with patient before discharge
- Follow-up is enhanced if inpatient team schedules outpatient follow-up
- Educational assessment and review of glucose self-monitoring, hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, medication plan, healthy meal planning, sick-day management

ADA Standards of Care, 2019

Case 1: Review Question #2

Which of the following would you NOT recommend for this patient's tailored diabetes discharge plan?

- A. Education on glucose monitoring, hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia, sick-day management, and insulin administration
- B. Follow-up appointment in 6 weeks
- C. Dietary counseling/education
- D. Written discharge summary faxed to outpatient provider
- E. Assessment of any economic barriers to ongoing care and address as needed
- F. Outpatient prescriptions filled and reviewed with patient prior to discharge

Learning Objectives

1. Discuss three acute complications of diabetes with treatment modalities
2. Summarize clinical findings, management, and complications of DKA, HHS and hypoglycemia
3. Recognize the similarities and differences between DKA and HHS
4. Define prevention strategies for hypoglycemia in diabetes

Hypoglycemia Symptoms



Adrenergic Symptoms	Neuroglycopenic Symptoms
Pallor	Confusion
Diaphoresis	Slurred Speech
Shakiness	Irrational behavior
Hunger	Disorientation
Anxiety	Loss of consciousness
Irritability	Seizures
Headache	Pupillary Sluggishness
Dizziness	Decreased response to noxious stimuli

Kalra, 2013

Hypoglycemia Classification

Level	Description
Level 1	Glucose <70 mg/dL and \geq 54 mg/dL
Level 2	Glucose <54 mg/dL
Level 3	A severe event characterized by altered mental status and/or physical status requiring assistance

ADA Standards of Medical Care 2019

Hypoglycemia Treatment

Level 1 or Level 2 Hypoglycemia

- **15-20 g of carbohydrate** in the form of **glucose tablets (3-4)**, or **other glucose-containing food/beverage**; **sources high in fat or protein are not recommended**



Level 3 Hypoglycemia

- **Glucagon 1 mg SQ or IM**
 - Nausea and vomiting, hyperglycemia
 - Provide to all patients at risk for level 2 hypoglycemia
- **IV Glucose 25g** followed by glucose infusion

Sulfonylurea overdose may lead to prolonged

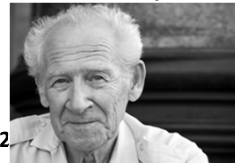
hypoglycemia

Cryer, 2009; ADA Standards of Medical Care 2019

Case 2

A 77 year old man with type 1 diabetes for 50 years is admitted to the hospital after a severe hypoglycemic event at home where he was found unconscious by his wife

- Initial glucose reading on home meter was 37
- His wife called EMS who gave D50 (25g)
- His blood sugar on arrival to the emergency room was 2
- A1C 6.8%
- He manages his diabetes with an insulin pump
- His wife notes that the patient has increased forgetfulness and repeated episodes of severe hypoglycemia



How would you classify his Hypoglycemia?

Hypoglycemia Classification

Level	Description
Level 1	Glucose <70 mg/dL and ≥ 54 mg/dL
Level 2	Glucose <54 mg/dL
Level 3	A severe event characterized by altered mental status and/or physical status requiring assistance

ADA Standards of Medical Care 2019

Causes of Hypoglycemia

Too Much Insulin	Not Enough Glucose
Incorrect amount of insulin	Inadequate carbohydrate intake or absorption
Increased insulin sensitivity	Decreased endogenous glucose production
Decreased insulin clearance	Increased utilization of carbohydrates and /or depletion of hepatic glycogen stores
Delayed gastric emptying: mismatch of timing of insulin and carbohydrate absorption	

Kalra, 2013

Hypoglycemia Risk Factors

- Duration of diabetes and age
- C-peptide negativity
- History of severe hypoglycemia
- Impaired awareness of hypoglycemia
- Strict glycemc control
- Sleep/general anesthesia or other sedation
- Reduced oral intake; emesis
- Critical illness
- Unexpected travel after rapid-acting insulin

Kalra, 2013

Hypoglycemia Risk Factors

- Sudden reduction in corticosteroid dose
- Reduced IV dextrose administration
- Interruption of enteral feedings or TPN
- Drug dispensing error
- Renal and hepatic dysfunction
- Endocrine deficiencies
 - Hypothyroidism
 - Hypopituitarism
 - Primary adrenal insufficiency
 - Growth hormone deficiency

Kalra, 2013

Hypoglycemia Outcomes

Functional brain failure reversed by correction of glucose levels

Long term cognitive effects seen in children (< 5, particularly vulnerable)

Prolonged hypoglycemia can cause brain death

Increased dementia, cerebral ataxia, cognitive problems in elderly

Glucose reperfusion in rat studies suggest that extreme hyperglycemia after hypoglycemia may contribute to neuronal death



Cryer, 2009; Halimi 2010, Kalra, 2013, Seaquist 2013, Ebadi 2018

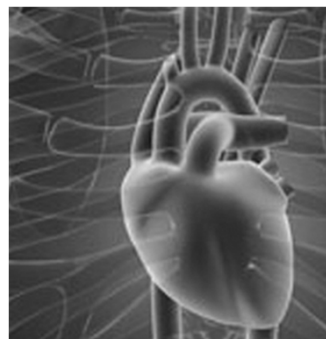
Hypoglycemia Outcomes

Hypoglycemia may lead to sudden cardiac death from arrhythmia

“Dead in bed” syndrome: death in young Type 1 patients likely due to prolonged QT and arrhythmia (**Accounts for 5-6% of deaths in this demographic**)

Increase mortality in ACCORD (Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes) study in intensive group (**goal a1C <6.5%**) and **3 fold** higher incidence of hypoglycemia

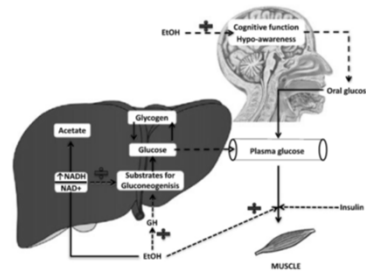
In the LEADER study, participants with type 2 DM with severe hypoglycemia (267 of 9,340) had increased risk of major cardiac events, CV death, and all-cause death



Cryer, 2009; Halimi 2010, Kalra, 2013; Zinman 2018

Hypoglycemia and Alcohol

- Alcohol impairs endogenous glucose release
- Alcohol may also...
 - Blunt ability of patient to respond appropriately to early symptoms of hypoglycemia
 - Impair counter-regulatory response
 - May enhance cognitive deficits caused by hypoglycemia
- Hypoglycemic symptoms may be mistaken by others as intoxication
- May cause delayed hypoglycemia with increased risk lasting also long as 24 hour after ingestion



Choudhary, 2011; Richardson, 2005; Tetzschner, 2017

Hypoglycemia and Alcohol

- Advise to patients:
 - Don't include alcohol in their carb coverage/carb counting
 - Eat with ingestion of alcohol
 - Be prepared to monitor frequently
 - Target blood sugar of **100-140** before bed



Choudhary, 2011; Richardson, 2005

Hypoglycemia Unawareness

- Loss of adrenergic symptoms prior to onset of neuroglycopenic symptoms



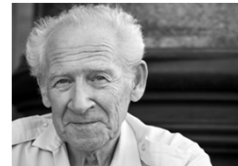
- Hypoglycemia-associated autonomic failure (HAAF):
 - Defective counter-regulatory decrease in insulin and increase in glucagon and attenuated epinephrine release
 - May be reversed at least partially by avoidance of hypoglycemia, is maintained by recurrent hypoglycemia
 - 25-fold increased risk of severe hypoglycemia during intensive diabetes management

Seaquist 2013; Moheet 2013

Case 2

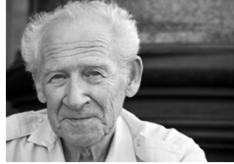
What additional information would you like to know about this patient?

- Current pump settings and review of insulin use
- History of recent hypoglycemic patterns
- History of reduced oral intake, emesis, or diarrhea
- History of increased activity
- Renal impairment, recent change of medications, symptoms of adrenal insufficiency, symptoms of hypothyroidism, weight loss
- Alcohol intake



Case 2

- **Review of patient's insulin pump shows large bolus of insulin just before the hypoglycemic event occurred**
 - **Patient does not recall giving this bolus and his wife is adamant that he was not eating during that time and she does not participate in his pump management**
- **No other changes in eating pattern, activity pattern were noted; he has not had a change in his pump settings or other medications**
- **His wife has concerns about his insulin pump management given is increasing forgetfulness**



Technology and Hypoglycemia

Predict low suspend features of integrated continuous glucose monitors with insulin pumps can reduce hypoglycemia

Continuous glucose monitoring can reduce hospitalizations for severe hypoglycemia, reduce work absenteeism, and reduce fear of hypoglycemia

Continuous glucose monitoring can be a useful tool to monitor glucose trends while driving

Abraham, 2018; Charleer 2018

Driving Safety

- Patients with diabetes demonstrate a **12-19% increased risk of motor vehicle accident**
- **Prospective multi-center study:**
 - **185 (41%)** participants reported **503 episodes** of moderate hypoglycemia
 - **23 (5%)** participants reported **31 episodes** of severe hypoglycemia while driving
- **Main factor: hypoglycemia**
 - Peripheral neuropathy and visual impairment should also be considered



Lorber, 2013; Cox 2013

Driving Safety

Patient counseling:

- **Be prepared:** meter, source of quick-acting sugar, snacks providing complex carbohydrate in the vehicle
- **Start out right:** Blood sugar target before driving: **100** or greater
- **STOP** vehicle with any symptoms of low blood sugar: Measure and treat
- **Wait:** do not resume driving until cognition and blood sugar have recovered (**20-30 minutes**)
- **Check again:** recheck blood sugars periodically if driving for extended period of time



Lorber, 2013; Choudhary, 2011

Hypoglycemia Prevention

- **Monitoring and goal setting**
 - Glucose self-monitoring, A1C goals, use of CGM
- **Patient education**
 - How to prevent and treat hypoglycemia
- **Dietary intervention and counseling**
 - Regular eating patterns, alcohol intake
- **Exercise counseling**
 - Monitoring, use of carbohydrate intake around exercise, reduced insulin dosing around exercise



Seaquist, 2013; Cryer, 2009; Choudhary, 2011

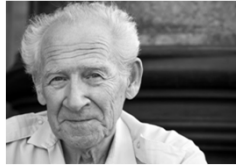
Hypoglycemia Prevention

- **Medication adjustment**
 - Evaluate regimen, consider agents without hypoglycemic potential if appropriate
- **Evaluation for additional underlying causes**
 - Kidney impairment or liver disease
 - Endocrine deficiencies
 - Celiac disease; malabsorption
 - Insulin binding antibodies

Seaquist, 2013; Cryer, 2009; Choudhary, 2011

Case 2

- **The patient was taken off of his insulin pump and placed on a conservative basal bolus insulin regimen by injection**
- **His wife was provided diabetes education to assist in co-management of his diabetes, and she was trained on administration of glucagon**
- **He was discharged with plan for outpatient assessment of dementia**
- **Consideration for a continuous glucose monitor was discussed with patient and his wife**



Related Cases

Admission for severe hypoglycemia in patient with diet-controlled type 2 diabetes

- Evaluation showed elevated insulin and C-peptide; + sulfonylurea screening
- Patient mistakenly took sulfonylurea (had been prescribed in past) instead of pain medication post-operatively
- No further episodes

Recurrent severe hypoglycemia in adolescent on insulin pump for type 1 diabetes

- Bolus history unrevealing
- “Priming” history on pump scrutinized—priming with site connected as a way to manipulate insulin

Unexplained fasting hypoglycemia of 40 on meter download in patient with type 1 diabetes being seen for the first time as an outpatient; all other morning values at target or above target

- After counseling patient about effect of alcohol on blood sugars, he refers back to meter download and reports—“yeah, I was drinking the night before that.”

Conclusions

Acute diabetes complications associated with hyperglycemia include diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) and hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state (HHS)

DKA and HHS have some unique characteristics and treatment approaches

Patients may have a mixed picture of DKA and HHS

Hypoglycemia is common in diabetes and can result in significant morbidity as well as mortality

Prevention of acute diabetes complications requires adequate patient education, assessment of patient risk, an individualized treatment approach, and sometimes some very careful investigation

Questions?

Thank You!



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