

Understanding Type 3c Diabetes

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Sarah Davies

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Vicki Alabraba

Dexcom, Novo Nordisk, Eli Lilly, Sanofi, Menarini, AstraZeneca

Declaration of Interest:

DSN Forum UK LTD Director

What this session will cover

- What is type 3c diabetes?
- Can patients be misclassified as type 1 or 2?
- How to diagnose type 3c diabetes?
- How can we recognise these patients?
- Treating type 3c diabetes, what are the differences to type 1 and 2?

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Definitions

Type 3c diabetes (also known as **pancreatogenic diabetes**) is diabetes that comes secondary to pancreatic diseases, involving the exocrine and digestive functions of the pancreas.

Gudipaty, Lalitha. Rickels, Michael R. (2015). Pancreatogenic (Type 3c) Diabetes.

[*Pancreapedia: Exocrine Pancreas Knowledge Base*](#),

DOI: [10.3998/panc.2015.35](https://doi.org/10.3998/panc.2015.35)

Pancreatic diabetes includes both structural and functional loss of glucose-normalising insulin secretion in the context of exocrine pancreatic dysfunction.

- It is commonly misdiagnosed as type 2 diabetes
- True prevalence is not fully understood
- Estimated that 5-10% of western diabetes population have T3cD

What are the causes?

- Pancreatitis (acute and chronic)
- Trauma or pancreatic surgery
- Pancreatic cancer
- Cystic fibrosis
- Haemochromatosis
- Rare genetic disorders
- Idiopathic forms

.....as such, pancreatic or Pancreatogenic diabetes is the preferred umbrella terminology

However, pancreatitis is the commonest cause

Pancreatitis, even a single episode, can lead to post-pancreatitis diabetes mellitus (PPDM)



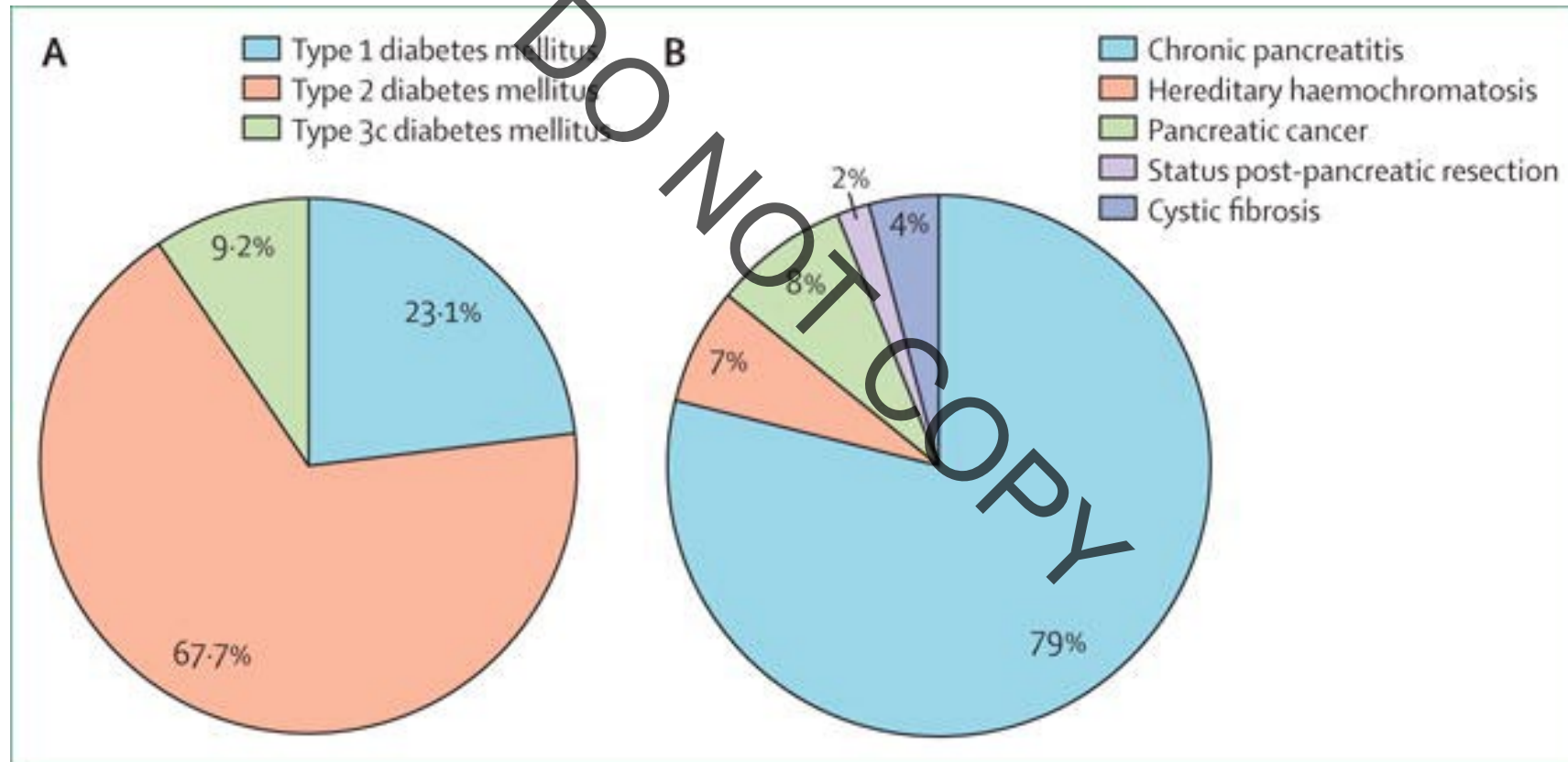
Both acute and chronic pancreatitis can lead to PPDM



The risk is highest with recurrent episodes

Prevalence and causes of type 3c diabetes mellitus

Prevalence of type 3c diabetes in a cohort of 1868 participants with diabetes



Incidence, Demographics, and Clinical Characteristics of Diabetes of the Exocrine Pancreas (Type 3c):

A Retrospective Cohort Study

31,789 new cases of adult onset diabetes were identified. Diabetes following pancreatic disease was more common than type 1 diabetes.

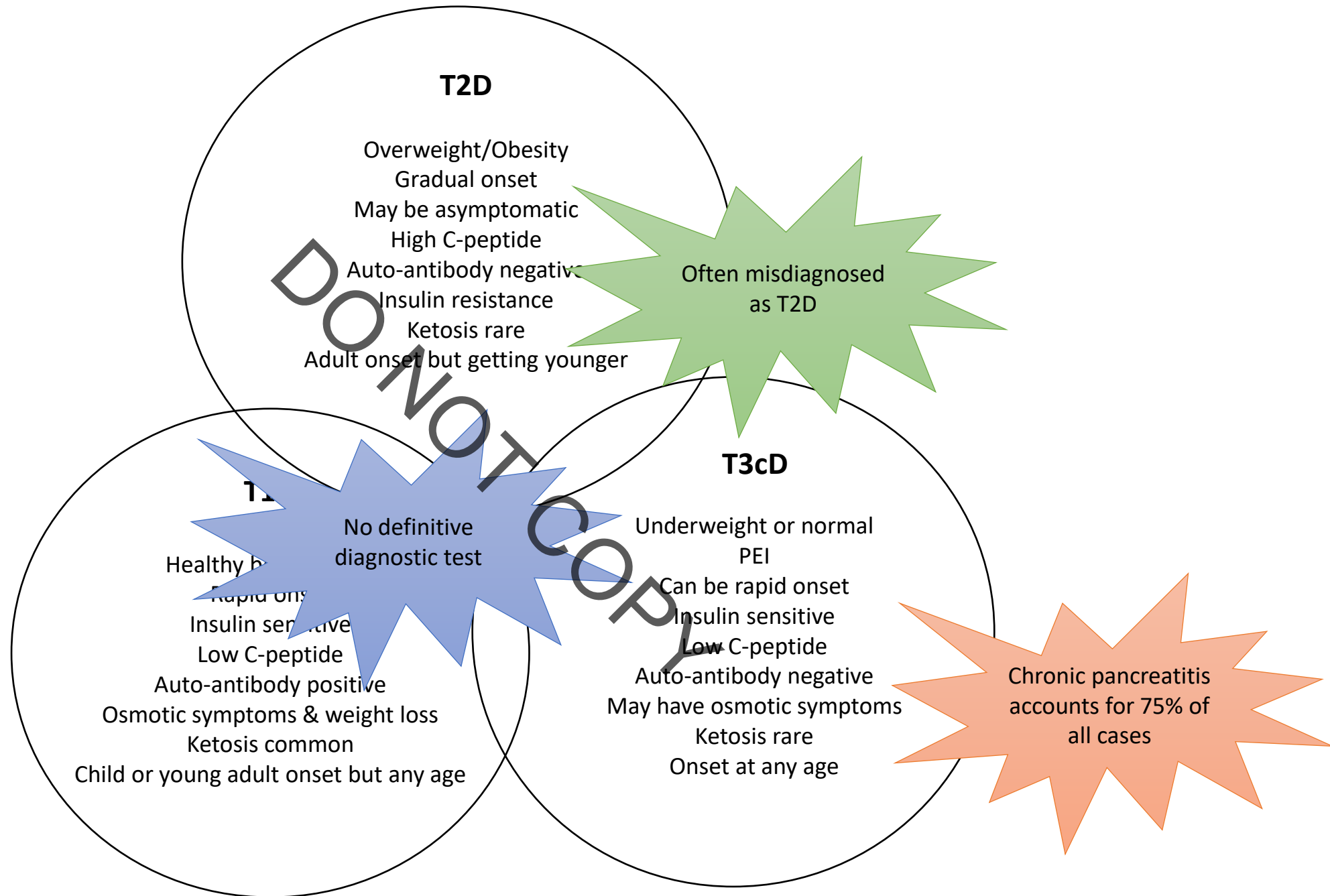
Diabetes following pancreatic disease is frequently labelled type 2 diabetes

Only 2.7% of people with diabetes following pancreatic disease are diagnosed with 'diabetes of the exocrine pancreas', most (87.8%) patients were labelled type 2 diabetes

Clinicians should elicit whether a patient has any history of pancreatic disease when they first present with diabetes and consider the diagnosis of diabetes of the exocrine pancreas

How do you
diagnose type 3c?





Common Symptoms of type 3c diabetes

May include symptoms of both hyperglycaemia and exocrine insufficiency

Hyperglycaemia	Exocrine insufficiency
Polyuria	Abdominal pain/discomfort
Polydipsia	Bloating and/or wind
Tiredness/lethargy	Tiredness/lethargy
Weight loss	Weight loss
Slow healing wounds/skin infections	Fatty/greasy stools

How do we differentiate type 3c diabetes from type 1 or 2 diabetes?

NO universally accepted diagnostic criteria

So conceptually the three following criteria need to be met:

diagnosis of diabetes

present disease of the exocrine pancreas

diabetes is reasonably certain to be secondary to their exocrine pancreatic disease

So how do we do this?

A distinguishing feature is concurrent pancreatic exocrine insufficiency (defined by monoclonal faecal elastase 1 test or direct function tests)

Pathological pancreatic imaging (endoscopic ultrasound, MRI, computed tomography)

An absence of type 1 diabetes–associated autoimmunity

Feacal Elastase-1 test



Feacal Elastase 1 (FE-1) usually repeated to ensure accuracy of result.

<100 mcg/g indicates severe PEI

<200 mcg/g indicates mild/moderate PEI

A value of 200-250 mcg/g is considered borderline with retesting recommended



FE-1 may be reduced in patients diagnosed with coeliac disease or IBS suggesting PEI may be the cause of symptoms in these patients or the patient may have both conditions.

Be aware that this measure can be unreliable if the patient has very loose stools

If the patient has persistent, very loose stools, refer to GI services

How do we recognise these patients?

Distinguishing pancreatogenic diabetes from type 1 or type 2 diabetes^{4,8}

Clinical feature	Type 1 diabetes	Type 2 diabetes	Pancreatogenic diabetes
Age of onset of diabetes	Mainly children and young adults	Commonly adults >40 years	Chronic pancreatitis: usually >40 years Cystic fibrosis: usually <30 years Pancreatic resection: within 5 years of surgery
Presentation	Rapid onset, osmotic symptoms, DKA	Gradual onset, DKA rare	Can be rapid decompensation, DKA rare
Obesity	Uncommon	Common	Uncommon
Autoimmunity	Islet cell antibodies, other autoimmune diseases	Rare	Rare
Insulin levels (C-peptide)	Low	High	Low



Incidence, Demographics, and Clinical Characteristics of Diabetes of the Exocrine Pancreas (Type 3c): A Retrospective Cohort Study

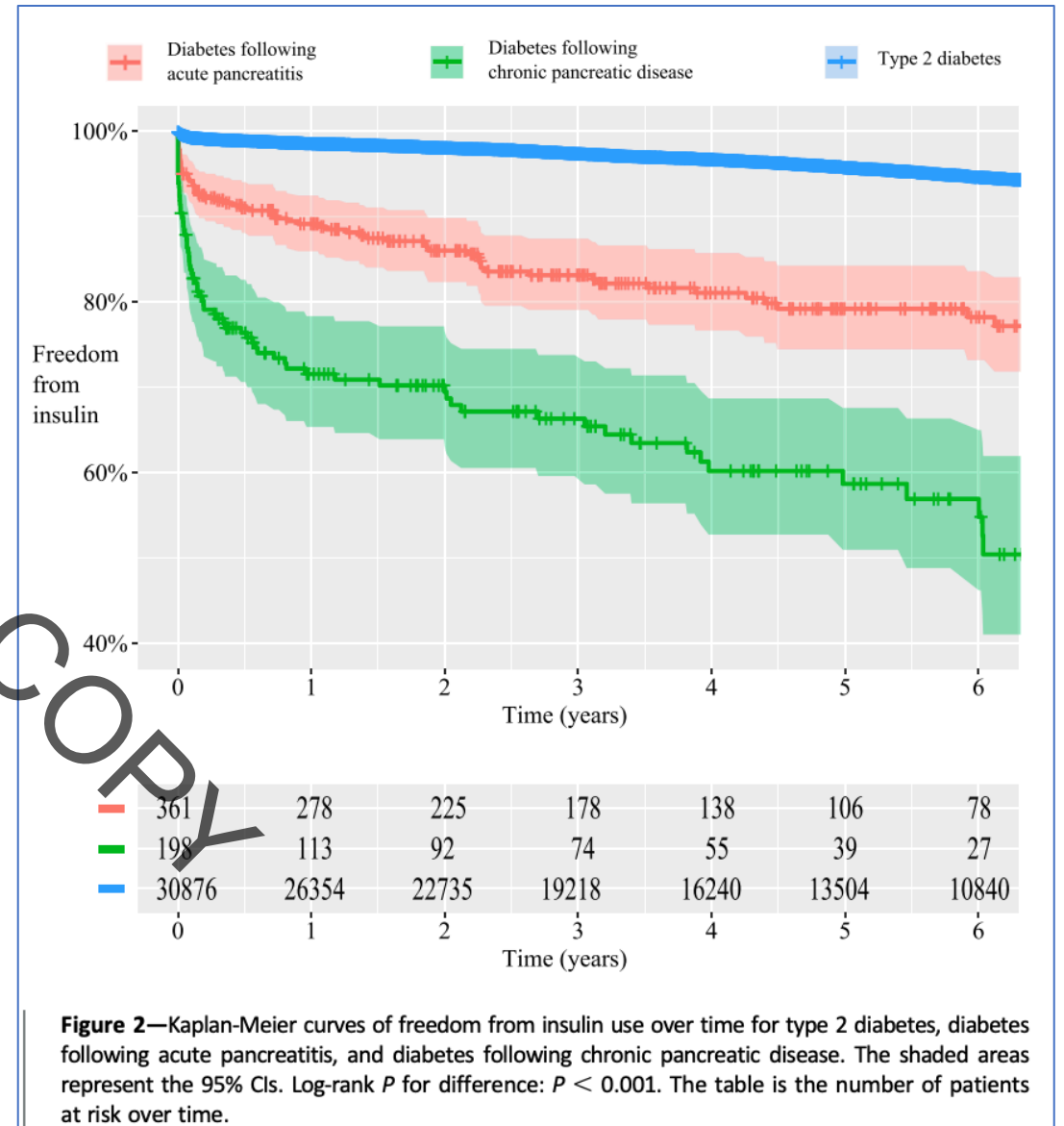
Diabetes Care 2017;40:1486–1493 | <https://doi.org/10.2337/dc17-0542>

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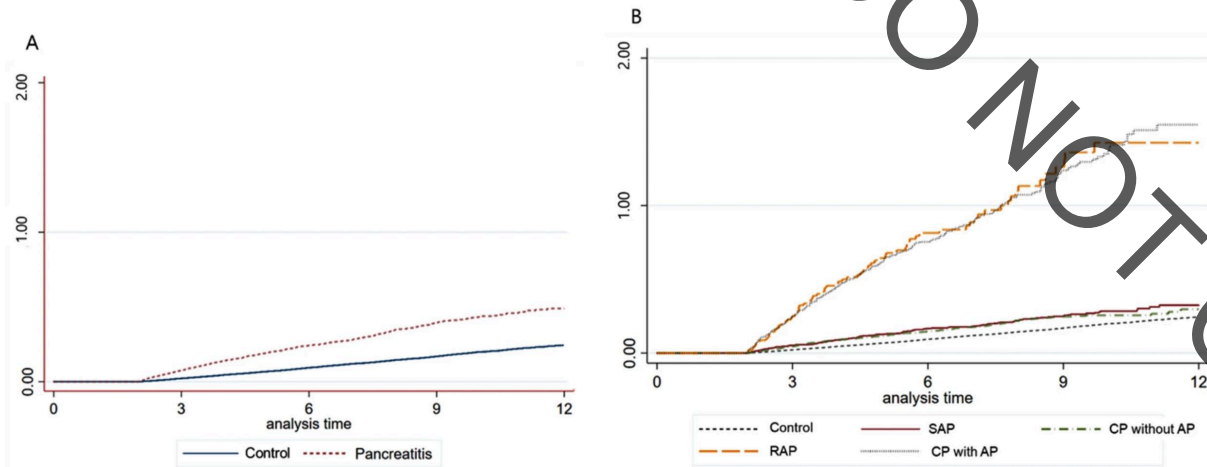
Insulin use within 5 years was:

- 4.1% (3.8–4.4) with type 2 diabetes,
- 20.9% (14.6–28.9) with diabetes following acute pancreatitis
- 45.8% (34.2–57.9) with diabetes following chronic pancreatic disease.

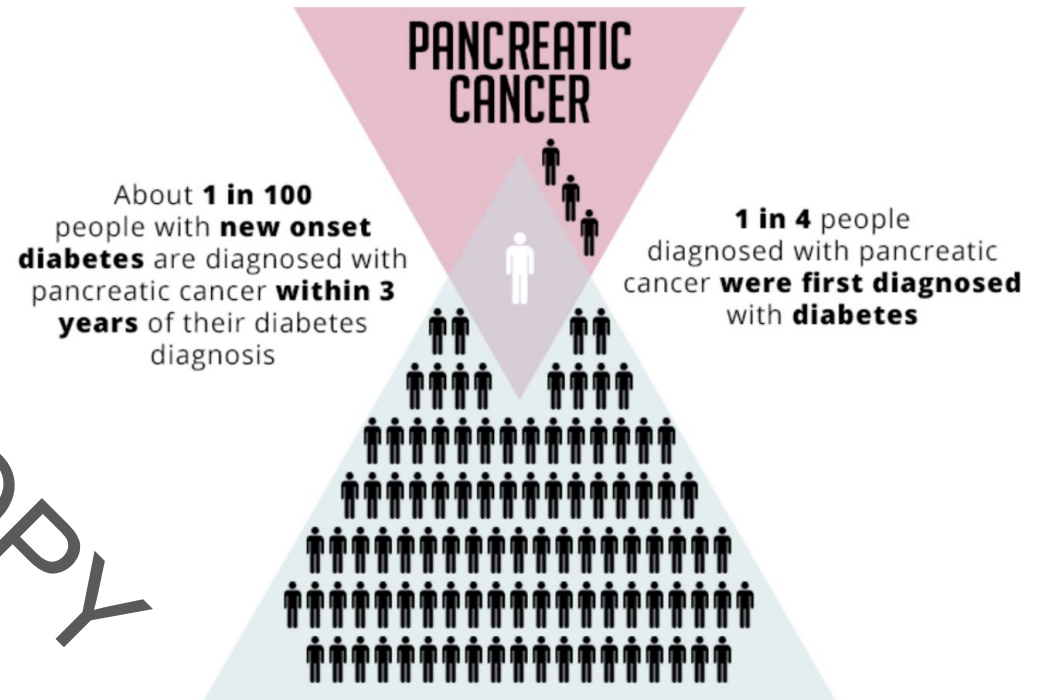


Pancreatic cancer is a known complication of chronic pancreatitis and sometimes manifests with new onset diabetes.

From: [Incidence and risk of pancreatic cancer in patients with acute or chronic pancreatitis: a population-based cohort study](#)



Cumulative incidences of pancreatic cancer among patients with pancreatitis followed for more than 2 years and controls. (A) Comparison between pancreatitis and control groups. (B) Comparison among SAP, RAP, CP with AP, CP without AP and control groups. SAP, single episode of acute pancreatitis; RAP, recurrent acute pancreatitis; AP, acute pancreatitis; CP, chronic pancreatitis.



Park, S.M., Kim, K.B., Han, JH. *et al.* Incidence and risk of pancreatic cancer in patients with acute or chronic pancreatitis: a population-based cohort study. *Sci Rep* **13**, 18930 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-45382-y>

National Cancer Institute (2019) <https://prevention.cancer.gov/news-and-events/blog/new-onset-diabetes-cohort-sought-unravel-complexities-pancreatic-cancer>

Treating type 3c
diabetes, what are the
differences to type 1
and 2?



Management

The evidence base to guide management of type 3c diabetes is weak and there are no specific guidelines.

Treatment goals are derived from randomised controlled trials from type 1 and type 2 diabetes, and expert opinion but include the following:

Diet and lifestyle

Reducing
cardiovascular risk

Glycaemic
management

Exocrine issues

Type 3c diabetes

1.3.15 Assess people with type 3c diabetes every 6 months for potential benefit of

Nutrition
Specialist dietitian

CVD risk reduction
Blood pressure
Lipids
Smoking cessation
Urine ACR

Lifestyle
Alcohol
Smoking cessation
Physical activity

Metformin
if no contraindications

Insulin
Often needed due to insulin deficiency

Pioglitazone
Avoid in HF
Bladder cancer
Risk of fractures

1.3.18 Avoid in HF and pancreatitis. Risk of fractures requiring insulin, see [recommendations on education and information in the NICE guideline on diagnosing and managing diabetes in adults](#) and [managing diabetes in young people](#).

DPP4-inhibitors
Pancreatitis risk

SGLT-2 inhibitors
DKA risk
Little evidence

1.3.19 For guidance on insulin therapy and insulin delivery (including rotating injection sites within the same body region) in the [NICE guidelines on type 1 diabetes in children, young people and adults](#), and [blood glucose management in the NICE guideline on diagnosing and managing diabetes in young people](#), see the [recommendations on blood glucose management in the NICE guideline on diagnosing and managing diabetes in adults](#), and [blood glucose management in the NICE guideline on diagnosing and managing diabetes in young people](#).

Sulfonylurea
may be less effective dependent on beta cell function

GLP-1 RA
Pancreatitis risk
Appetite suppression
Weight loss

The challenge of glucose management in type 3c

Glucose metabolism ranges from a mild impairment to a severe form characterised by frequent episodes of hypoglycemia, commonly referred to as 'brittle diabetes'.

Blood glucose control may be unstable due to:

the loss of glucagon response to hypoglycemia,

carbohydrate malabsorption

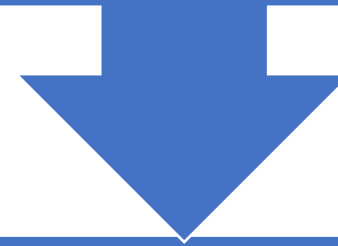
reduction in pancreatic polypeptides leading to reduced hepatic insulin sensitivity and subsequent increase in hepatic glucose production.

and/or inconsistent eating patterns due to concomitant pain

and/or nausea or chronic alcohol abuse.

Exocrine issues

Malabsorption not only increases malnutrition, but it also presents problems for blood glucose management.



Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT)

PERT can improve digestion of carbohydrates and increase glucose levels.	PERT may unmask diabetes in an individual with previously normal HbA1c.	Vitamin D supplements if proven deficiency. Consider investigations for osteoporosis.
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Cui Y, Andersen DK (2011) Pancreatology 11: 279–94
Gudipaty L, Rickels M (2015) Pancreatogenic (Type 3c) Diabetes. APA: bit.ly/2No0Vtl
Makuc J (2016) Diabetes Metab Syndr Obes 9: 311–15
Gupte A et al (2018) BMJ 361: k2126
Duggan SN, Conlon KC (2017) Practical Gastroenterology 41: 14–23
Ewald N, Hardt PD (2103) World J Gastroenterology 19: 7276–81

Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT)

Recommended Creon® (pancreatin) Dosing

KEY ✔ Successful ✘ Unsuccessful

Suggested follow-up timing

Week 0

Starting dose of Creon® minimicrospheres¹⁻³

Main meal (300-600kcal) **2 x Creon[®] 25000**

Snacks **1 x Creon[®] 25000**

Explain why patients need to take Creon® with meals

What does unsuccessful ✘ look like?

- Symptoms of maldigestion including; abdominal pain, flatulence & diarrhoea.
- Lack of weight increase or continual weight loss despite good oral intake.
- Nutritional markers not improving despite good oral intake.

Recheck dietary intake and compliance ✔

Instruct patients to increase dose and consider timing
Titrated dose example³

Main meal **4 x Creon[®] 25000**

Snacks **2 x Creon[®] 25000**

Ensure adequate acid suppression by use of PPI

Continue with current treatment

Week 12

Recheck dietary intake and check compliance ✔

Instruct patients to increase dose and consider timing
Titrated dose example³




Main meal **5 x Creon[®] 25000**

Snacks **3 x Creon[®] 25000**

Continue with current treatment

Week 16

- Reconsider the diagnosis of pancreatic insufficiency
- Check coeliac status
- Ensure effective acid suppression
- Is biliary obstruction contributing?
- Increase dose again. If unsuccessful, consider alternative formulation

Creon® is Indicated for the treatment of pancreatic exocrine Insufficiency.

Capsules shown not actual size.
Adapted from Layer P et al. *Curr Gastro Rep.* 2001; Lohr JM et al. *United European Gastroenterol J.* 2017; 5(2): 163-199.
Prescribing information can be found overleaf. CRE-2021-1087 Date of preparation: January 2022

Creon[®]
pancreatin

Other brands of PERT are available: Pancrease®, Nutrizym®, Pancrex®

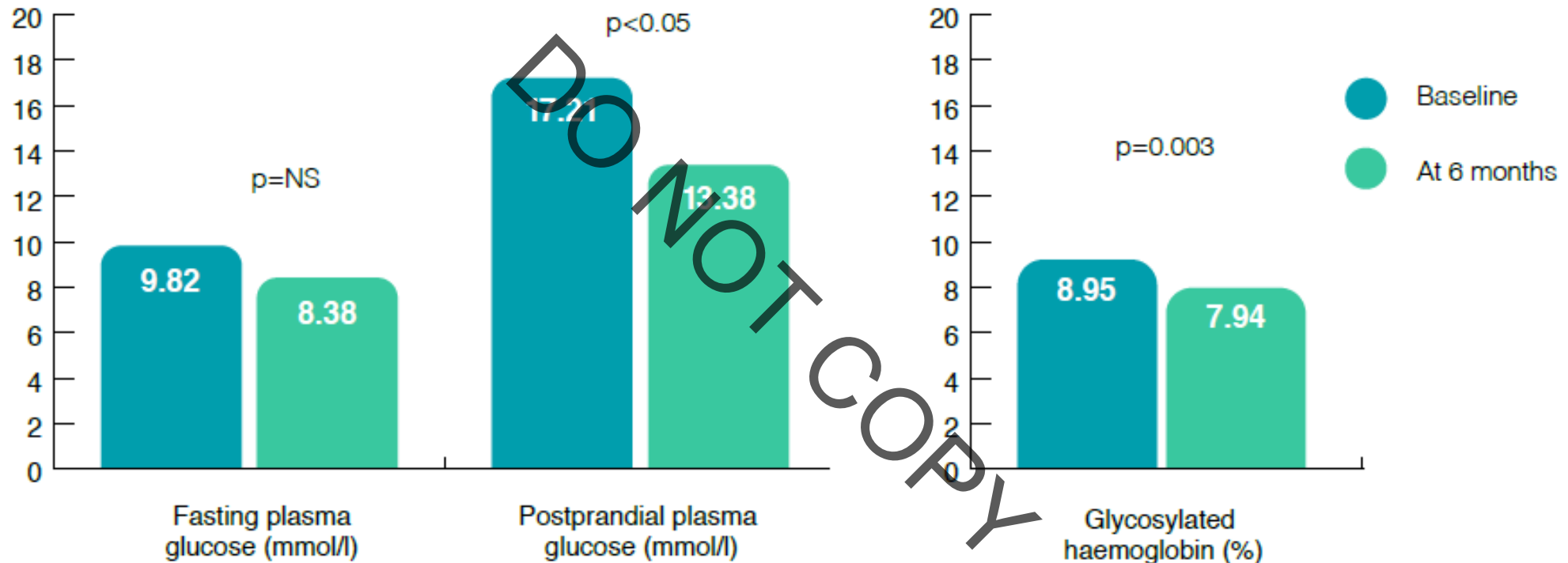
Glycaemic Management

PERT can affect glycaemic control pathways via:

The altered action of the hormones, leptin and incretins on glucose homeostasis; for example, it may improve the incretin response to food and consequently lower blood glucose levels

The patient's glycaemic response and blood glucose levels should be checked frequently during treatment as the dose of the diabetes medication may need adjusting (especially sulfonylureas and insulin)

Clinical study – Could PERT improve glucose management?



The improvement in diabetes control as shown by significant improvements in postprandial plasma glucose and HbA1c. HbA1c is reduced by 11 mmol/mol

For further advice



Recognition and management of pancreatogenic (type 3c) diabetes

At a glance factsheet



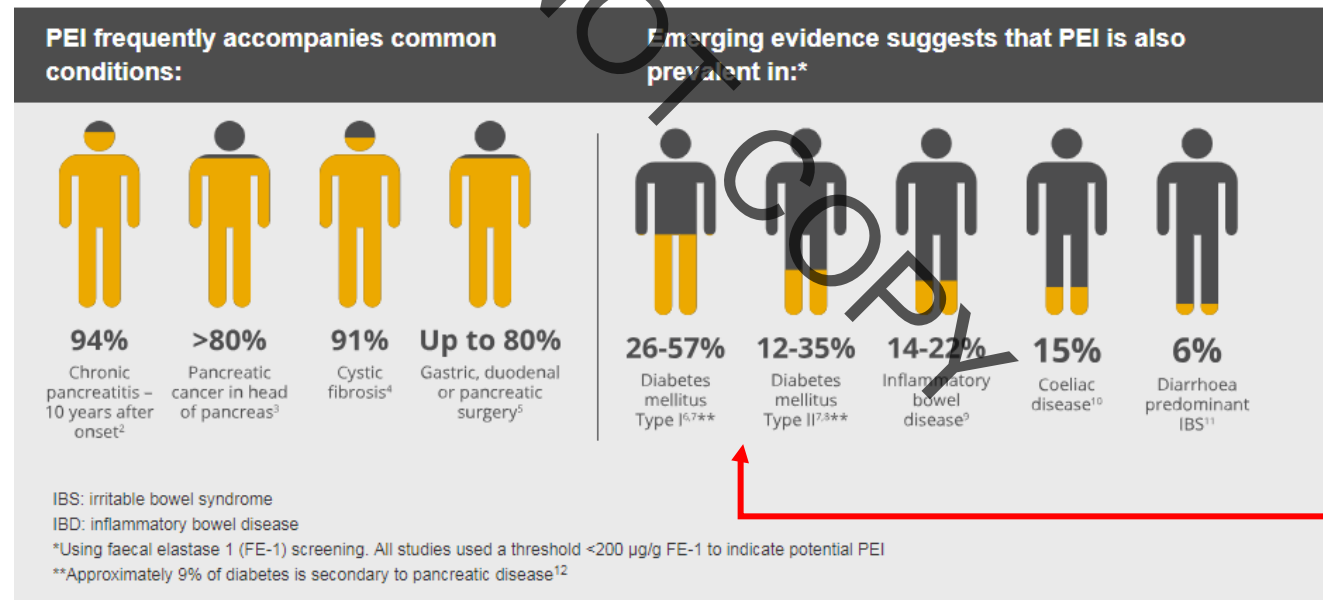
Morris D (2020) Recognition and management of pancreatogenic (type 3c) diabetes. *Diabetes & Primary Care* **22**:111–12

Remember:
Type 3c diabetes not to be
confused with Pancreatic
Exocrine Insufficiency
(PEI) in Diabetes

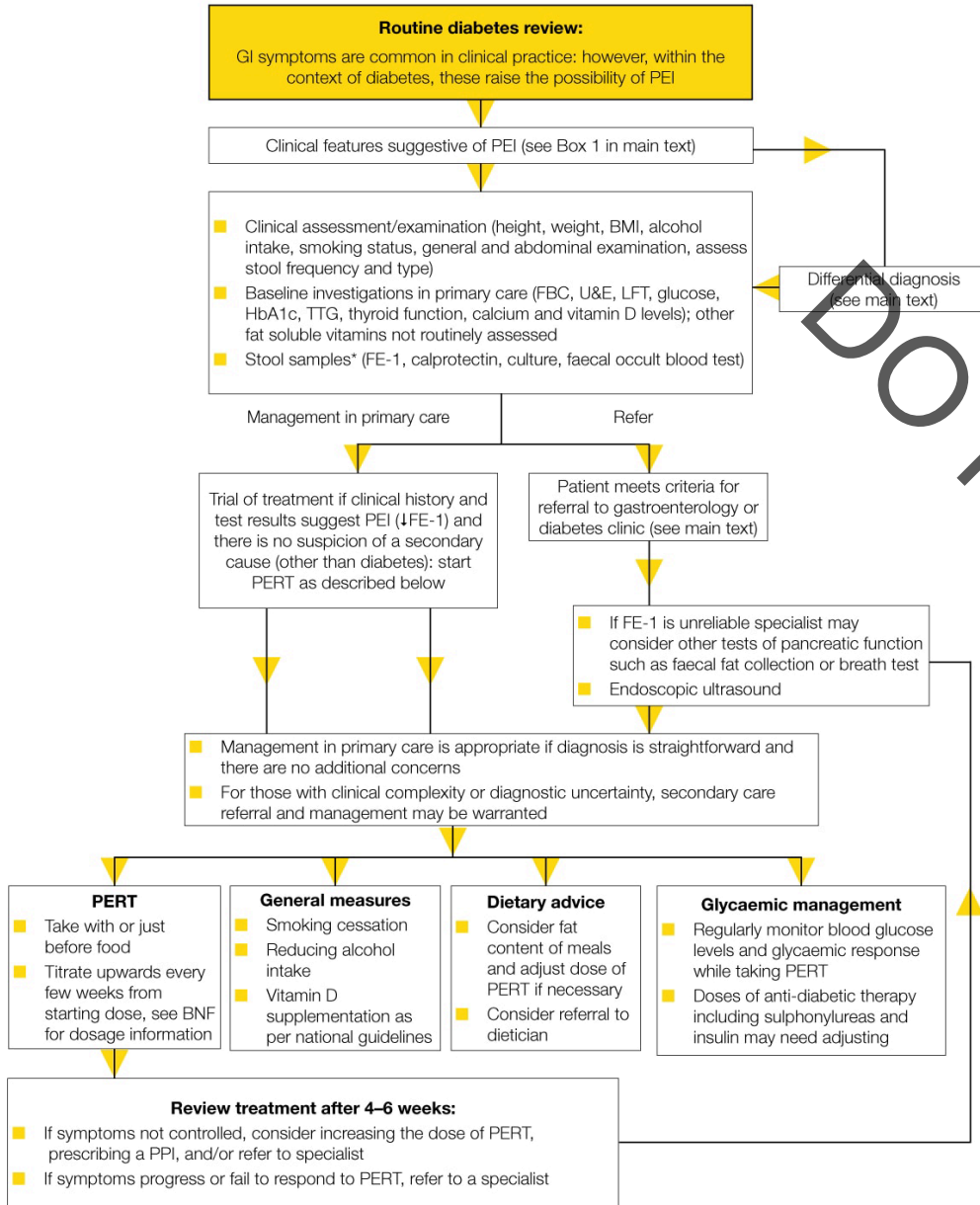


Pathophysiological Concepts of PEI in Diabetes

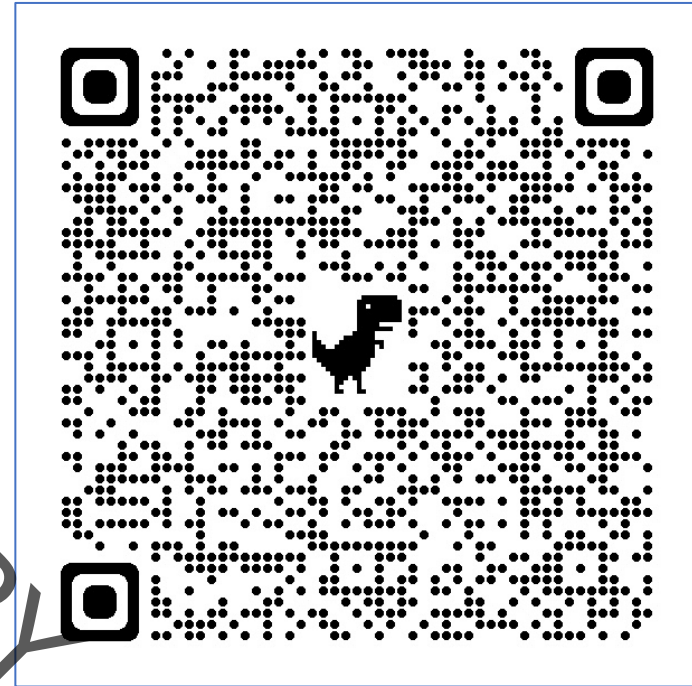
- The prevalence of PEI is reportedly higher in Type 1 DM than in T2DM
- Type 1 DM (26-57%) than in T2DM (20-36%) - Singh V *et al*, *World J Gastroenterol* 2017
- T1DM 38.62% vs T2DM 28.12% - Mohapatra S *et al*, *Pancreas* 2016



Use these figures for consistency



* FE-1 is an unreliable measure if the patient has very loose stools; elevated levels of calprotectin are suggestive of inflammatory bowel disease and warrant specialist referral



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Does technology help
people living with type
3c diabetes?

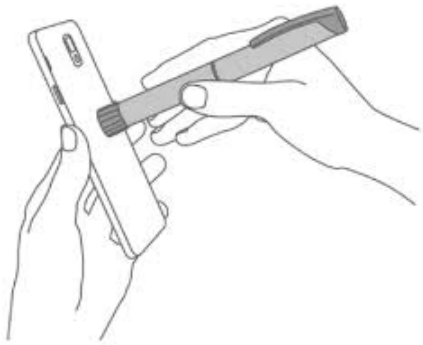


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Continuous Glucose Monitoring



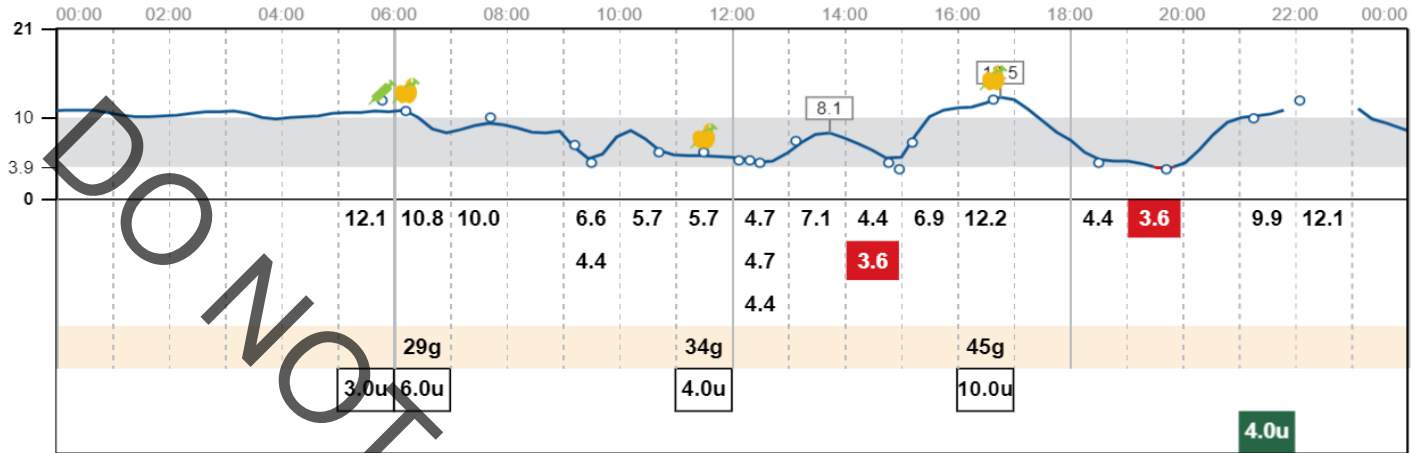
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TUE 11 Jul

Glucose mmol/L

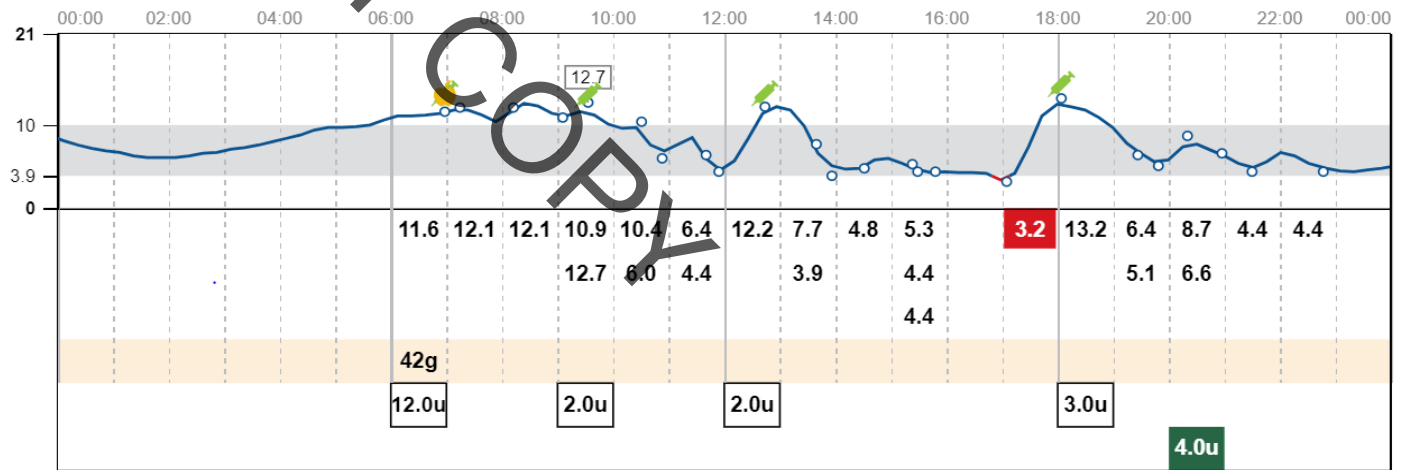
- Carbs grams
- Rapid-Acting Insulin
- Long-Acting Insulin



WED 12 Jul

Glucose mmol/L

- Carbs grams
- Rapid-Acting Insulin
- Long-Acting Insulin



Who is eligible for CGM in England or Wales?

Type 1 diabetes: NICE NG17

**Type 1
diabetes**

- ✓ All adults with type 1 diabetes
- ✓ All children and young people with type 1 diabetes
- ✓ Consider CGM for pregnant women who are on insulin therapy but do not have type 1 diabetes if:
 - ✓ Problematic severe hypoglycaemia (with or without impaired awareness of hypoglycaemia)
 - ✓ Unstable blood glucose levels that are causing concern despite efforts to optimise glycaemic control

Who is eligible for CGM in England or Wales?

Type 2 diabetes: NICE NG28

**Type 2
diabetes**

For adults with type 2 diabetes on multiple daily insulin injections if any of the following apply:

- ✓ Recurrent hypoglycaemia or severe hypoglycaemia
- ✓ Impaired hypoglycaemia awareness
- ✓ User would otherwise be advised to self-monitor capillary glucose at least 8 times a day
- ✓ A condition or disability (including a learning disability or cognitive impairment) that means the user cannot self-monitor capillary blood glucose but could use an isCGM device (or have it scanned for them) or could use rtCGM

OR

- ✓ Otherwise need help from a care worker or healthcare professional to monitor their blood glucose.

What about type 3c diabetes?

Type 3c diabetes: Pancreatitis NICE NG104

**Type 3c
diabetes**

For guidance on self-monitoring blood glucose for people with pancreatitis and type 3c diabetes requiring insulin see:

- ✓ Type 1 diabetes NICE NG17 &
- ✓ Diabetes in children & young people NICE NG18

Summary

- Type 3c diabetes is diabetes due to pancreatic damage, it is little recognised and often misdiagnosed
- Management of type 3c covers both endocrine and exocrine functionality
- Typically, glycaemic management is achieved with Metformin and insulin with glucose monitoring to avoid hypoglycaemia
- Diabetes technology (CGM) may improve glucose management and reduce hypoglycaemia in type 3c
- Exocrine management is achieved with enzyme replacement and vitamins

Thank you for listening, any
questions?

