

How Sweet It Is: Managing Hyperglycemic Emergencies

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PRESENTED BY

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PROVIDENCE ALASKA MEDICAL CENTER



▶ No disclosures

▶ No COI

Learning Objectives

- ▶ **By the end of this presentation the learner will be able to:**
 - ▶ identify two precipitating risk factors leading to hyperglycemic emergencies.
 - ▶ compare and contrast the clinical presentation of a patient with DKA and a patient experiencing HHS.
 - ▶ list three critical interventions for the management of the patient with a hyperglycemic emergency.

A bit about.....

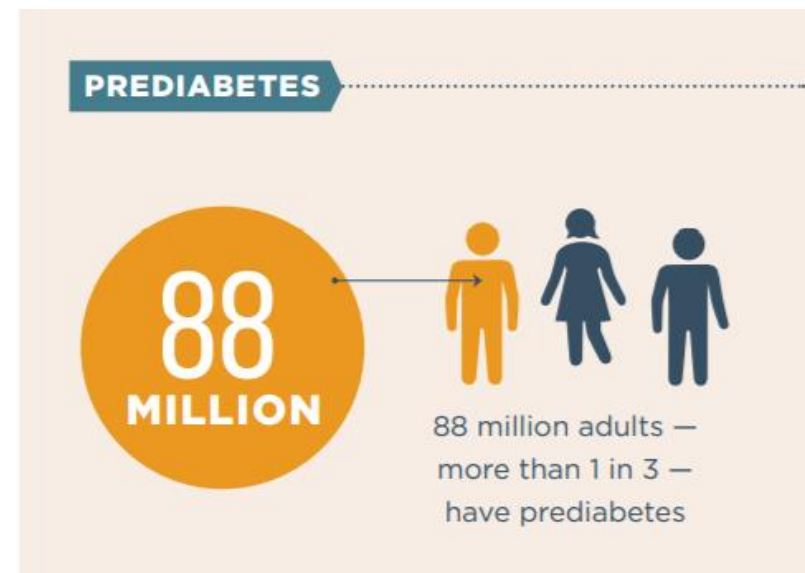
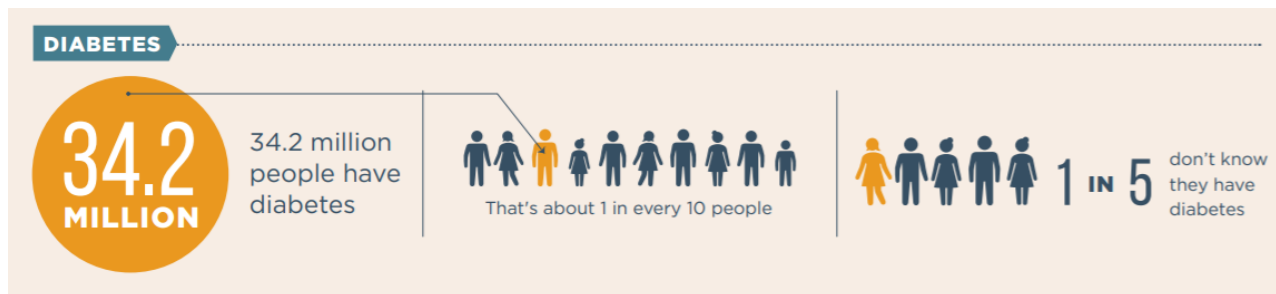
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DM in US

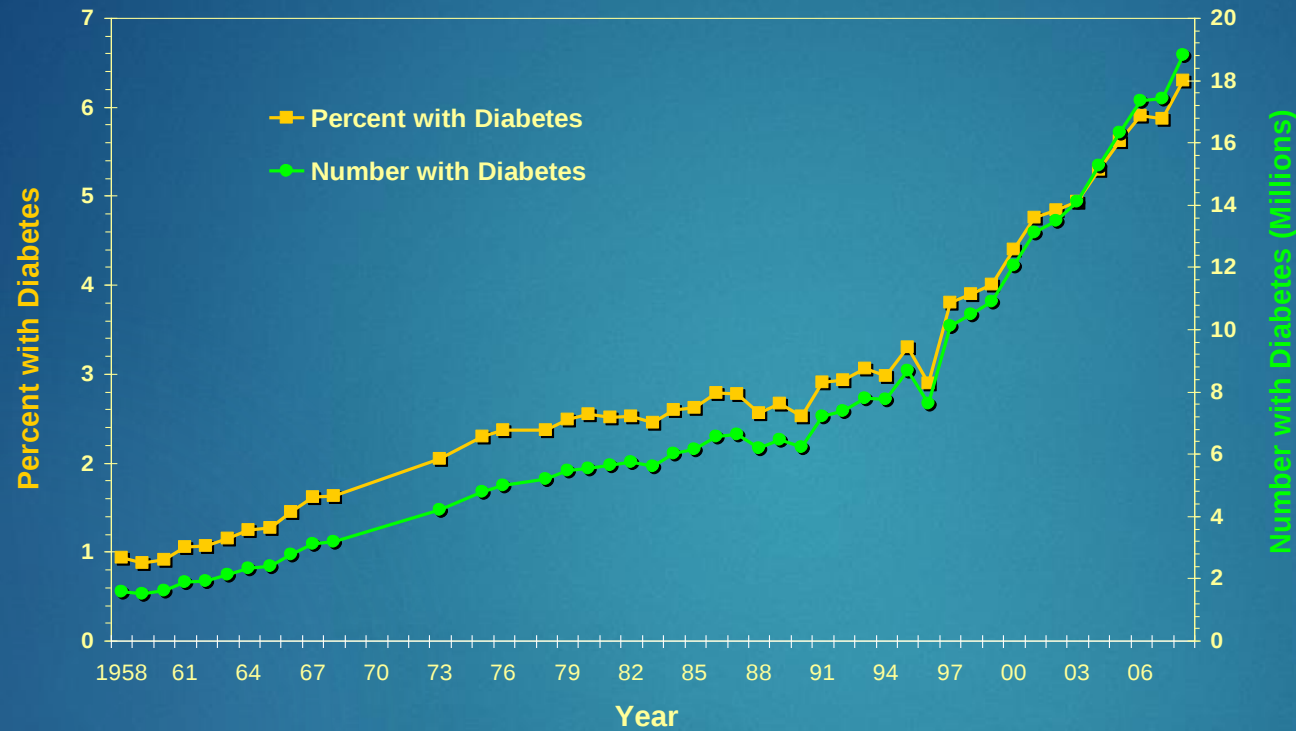
- ▶ 34.2 million
 - ▶ 10.5% of the population
 - ▶ 21.4% undiagnosed

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Number and Percentage of U.S. Population with Diagnosed Diabetes, 1958-2008

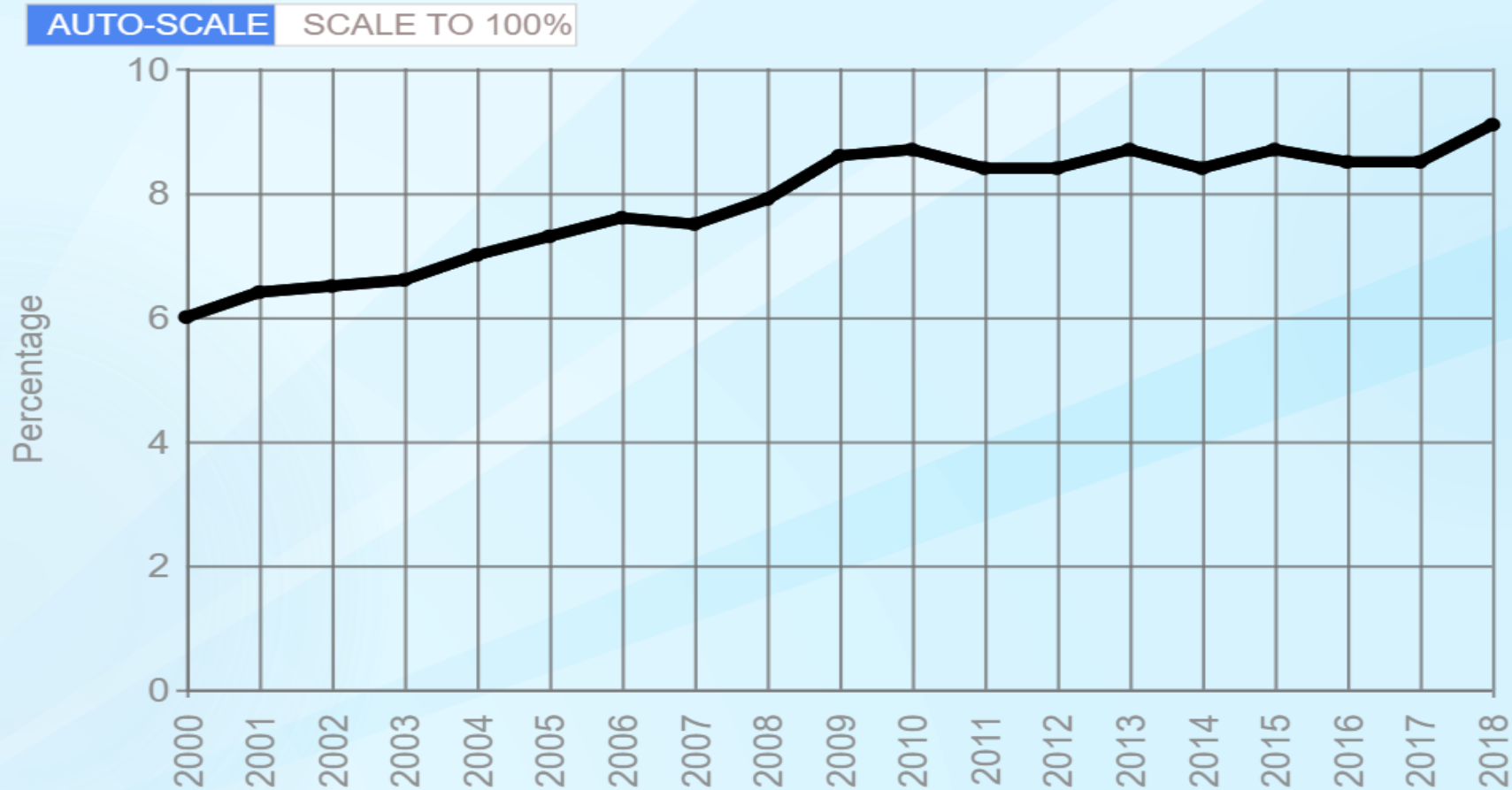
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CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation. National Diabetes Surveillance System
available at <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/statistics>

Diagnosed Diabetes, Total, Adults Aged 18+ Years, Age-Adjusted Percentage, National

Percent Diagnosed with DM in US Adults ≥ 18 years



Source: www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data

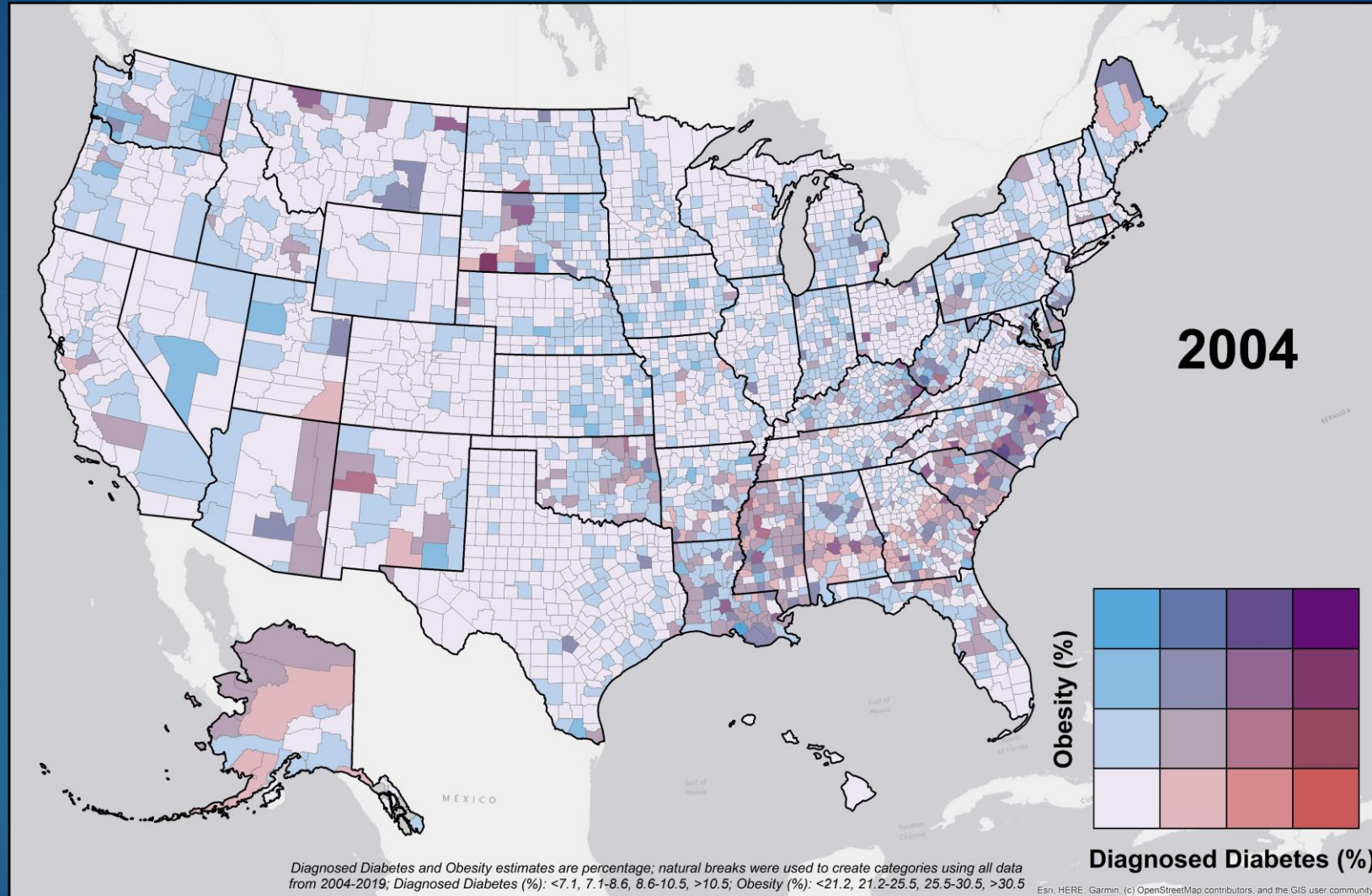
Disclaimer: This is a user-generated report. The findings and conclusions are those of the user and do not necessarily represent the views of the CDC.

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

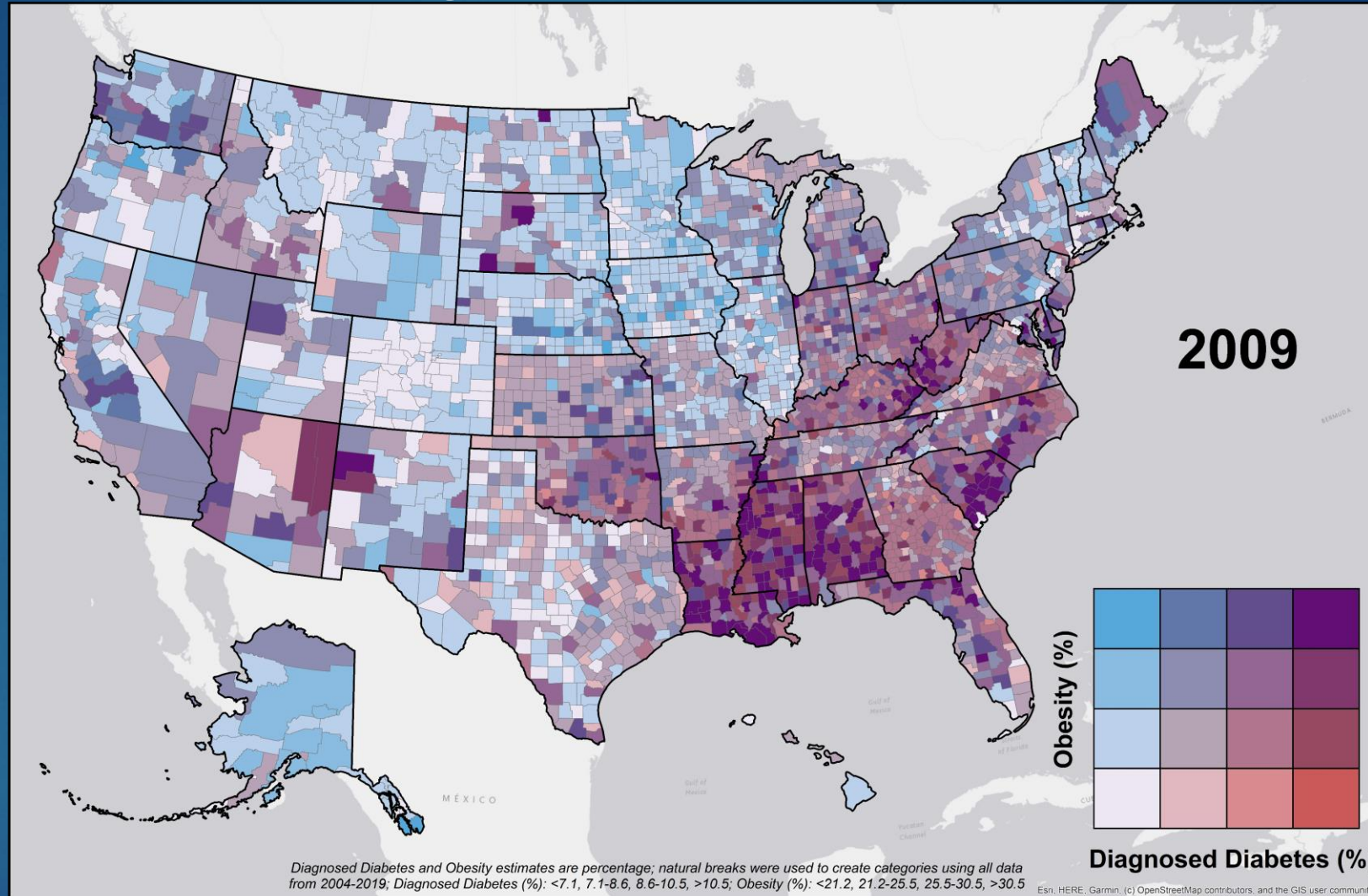
Division of Diabetes Translation



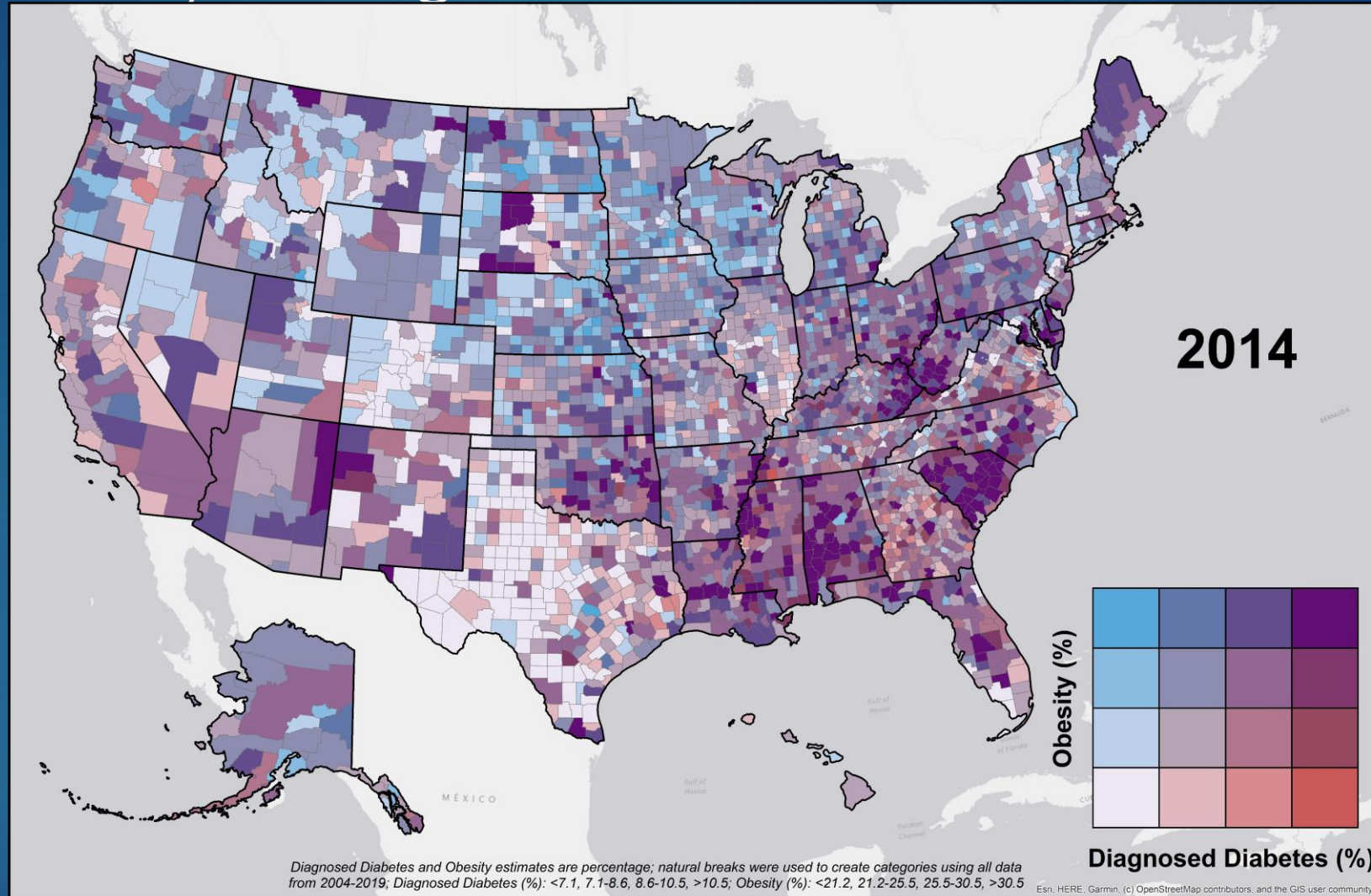
Map of diagnosed diabetes vs obesity by county among US adults, 2004.



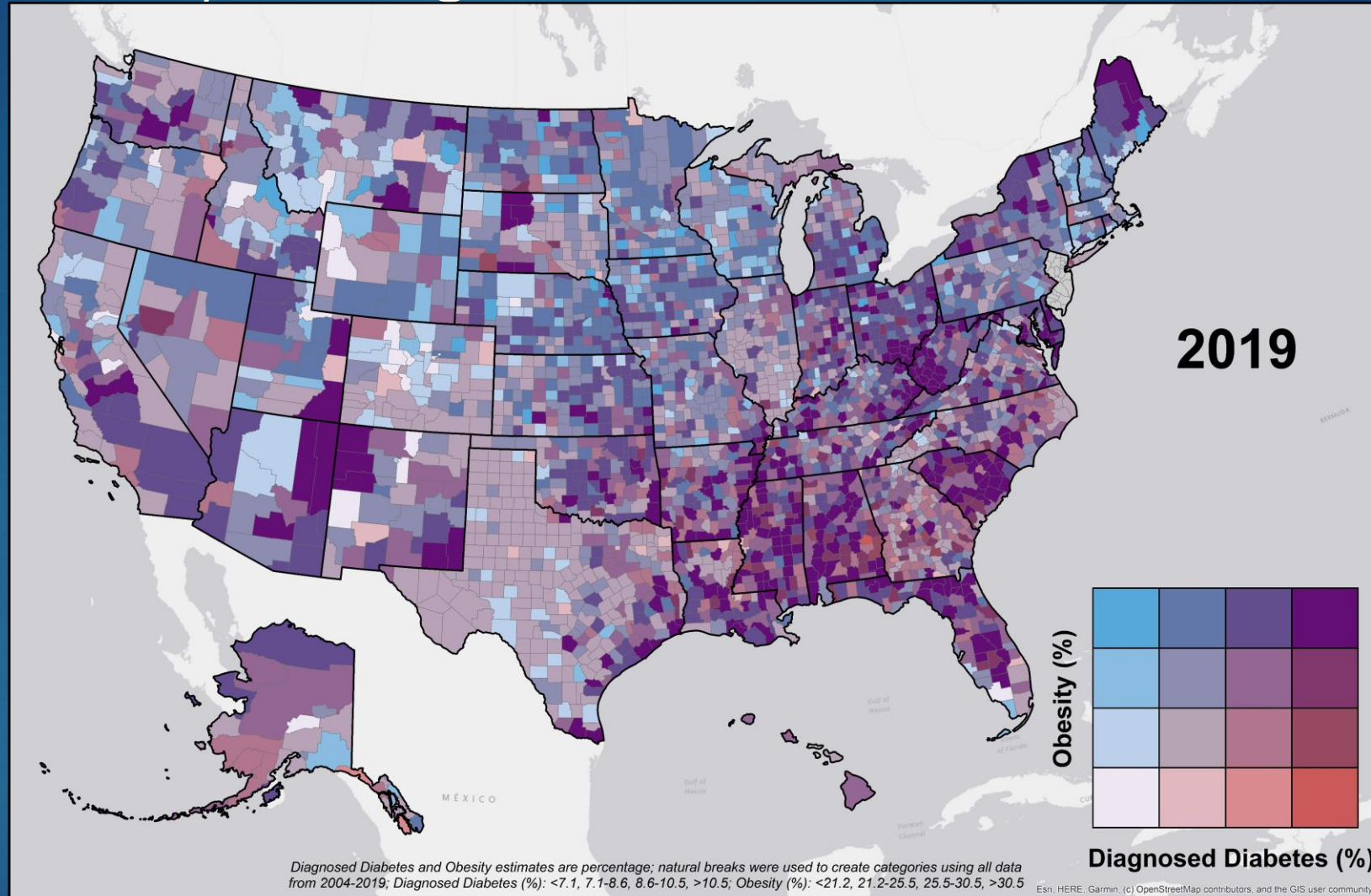
Map of diagnosed diabetes vs obesity by county among US adults, 2009



Map of diagnosed diabetes vs obesity by county among US adults, 2014

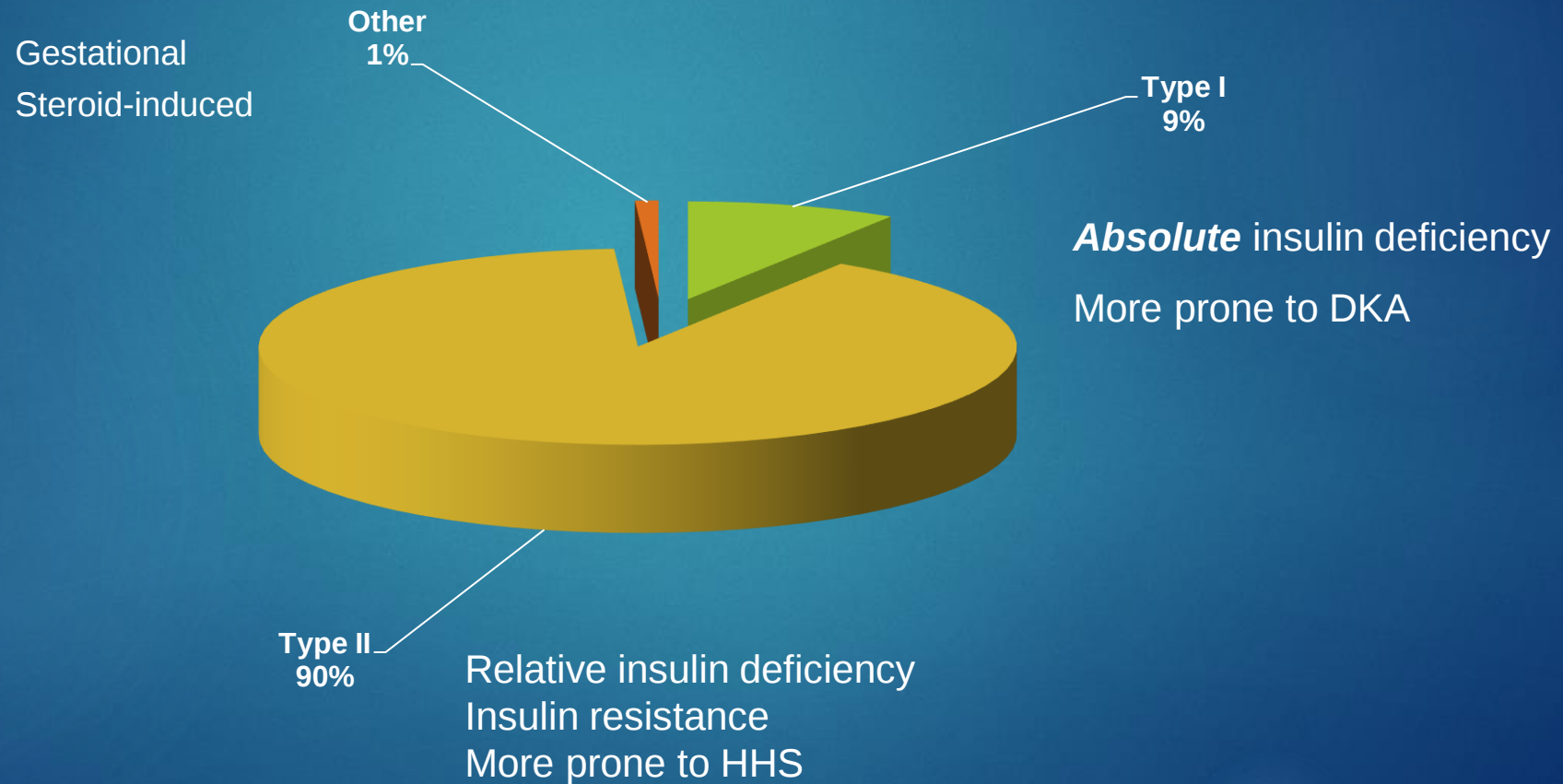


Map of diagnosed diabetes vs obesity by county among US adults, 2019



Diabetes Mellitus

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Hyperglycemic Crises in Adult Patients With Diabetes

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glucose utilization by peripheral tissues (12–17). This is magnified by transient insulin resistance due to the hormone im-

DIABETES CARE, VOLUME 32, NUMBER 7, JULY 2009

Curr Diab Rep (2017) 17: 33
DOI 10.1007/s11892-017-0857-4



HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT OF DIABETES (A WALLIA AND JJ SELEY, SECTION EDITORS)

Treatment of Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA)/Hyperglycemic Hyperosmolar State (HHS): Novel Advances in the Management of Hyperglycemic Crises (UK Versus USA)

Ketan K. Dhatariya^{1,3} • Priyathama Vellanki²

Guidelines

Pathogenesis of Hyperglycemic Emergencies

▶ **Inadequate insulin**

- ▶ Decreased insulin production - Undiagnosed DM
- ▶ Failure to administer enough insulin
- ▶ Increased insulin requirements

▶ **Concomitant elevation of counter-regulatory hormones**

- ▶ Glucagon
- ▶ Catecholamines
- ▶ Cortisol
- ▶ Growth hormone
- ▶ Produced during periods of physical stress
- ▶ Gluconeogenesis - increased hepatic glucose production

Diabetic Ketoacidosis

Definition

- Inadequate insulin
- Hyperglycemia
- Accumulation of ketones

Mortality ~ 1 - 9% in experienced centers

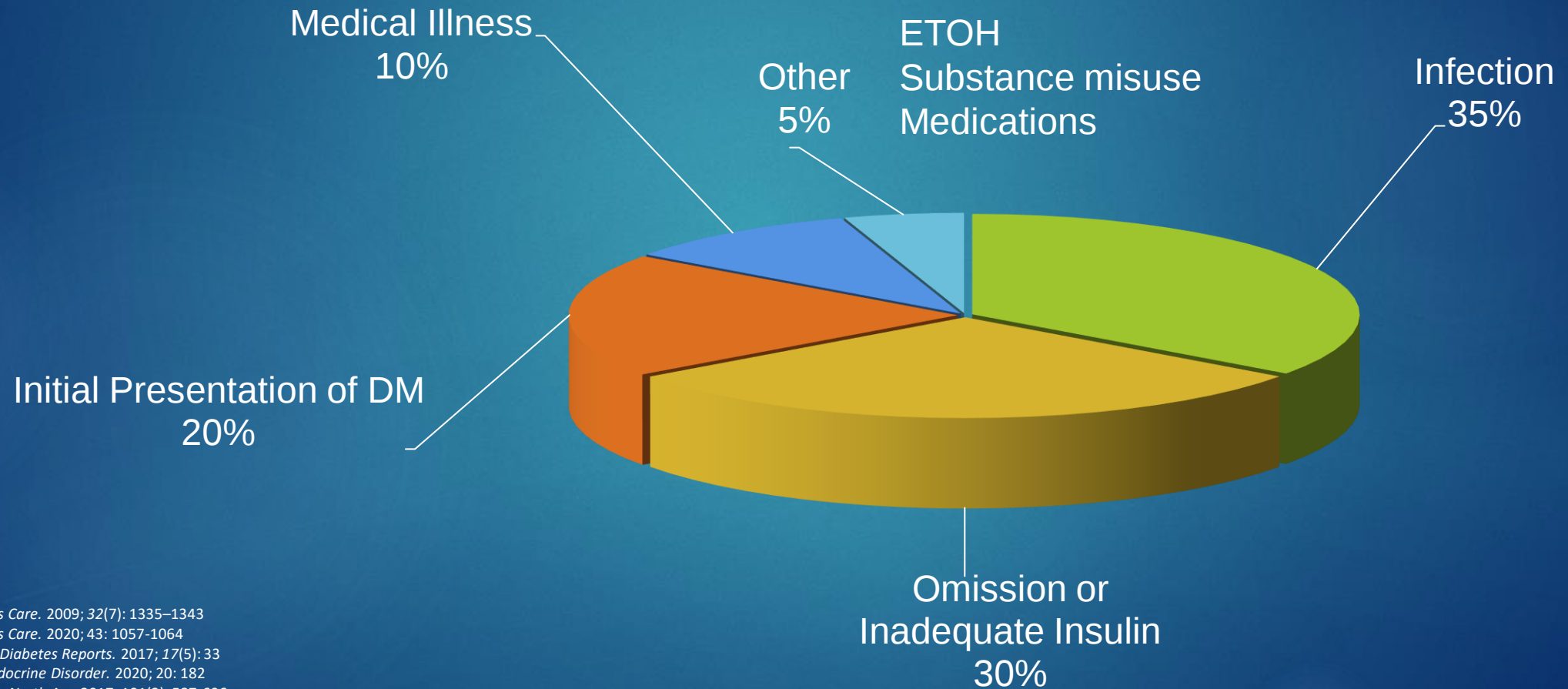
More common in people with Type I DM

Can occur in people with Type II DM

- Beta cells severely depleted
- Under stress of acute illness

DKA Precipitating Factors

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Euglycemic DKA (euDKA)

DKA without
hyperglycemia

- Normal or near normal glucose (< 250 mg/dL)
- Anion gap
- Low pH

Risk factors

- SGLT2 inhibitor “glifozin”
- Acute illness, trauma, surgery
- Substance misuse
- Pregnancy
- Prolonged fasting
- Acute illness
- Surgery
- Dehydration

↓ CHO
availability

High index of
suspicion

SGLT2 Inhibitors

- canagliflozin (Invokana)
- empagliflozin (Jardiance)
- dapagliflozin (Farxiga)
- ertugliflozin (Steglatro)

SGLT2 Inhibition

↓ glucose & Na⁺ reabsorption



↑ glucose & Na⁺ excretion
Osmotic diuresis & natriuresis

Negative caloric balance
Starvation state

Lipolysis & ↑ FFA oxidation

Ketogenesis

HHS

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Previously known as HHNK,
HHNC

Less common than DKA

Mortality rate 5 – 20%

Mean age of onset – 7th
decade of life

HHS Precipitating Factors

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Inadequate insulin secretion

- Usually with type 2 diabetes
- Onset slow as beta cell function diminishes
- 20% have no Hx DM – delays recognition

Often in older adults in LTC facility

- Chronically ill or disabled
- Altered thirst mechanism
- Lack of ability to take care of themselves

Acute illness - stress response – most common

Medications

Medications

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- ▶ Affect blood glucose levels
 - ▶ Thiazides
 - ▶ Phenytoin
 - ▶ Glucocorticoids
 - ▶ Beta blockers
 - ▶ Calcium channel blockers
 - ▶ Catecholamines
 - ▶ Loop diuretics
 - ▶ Quetiapine (Seroquel)
 - ▶ Risperidone
 - ▶ Olanzapine

8 I's

Insulin: deficiency/insufficiency

Iatrogenic: steroids, thiazides, atypical antipsychotics

Infection: most common

Ischemia: gut, foot

Infarction: ACS, stroke

Inflammation: acute pancreatitis, cholecystitis

Intoxication: alcohol, cocaine

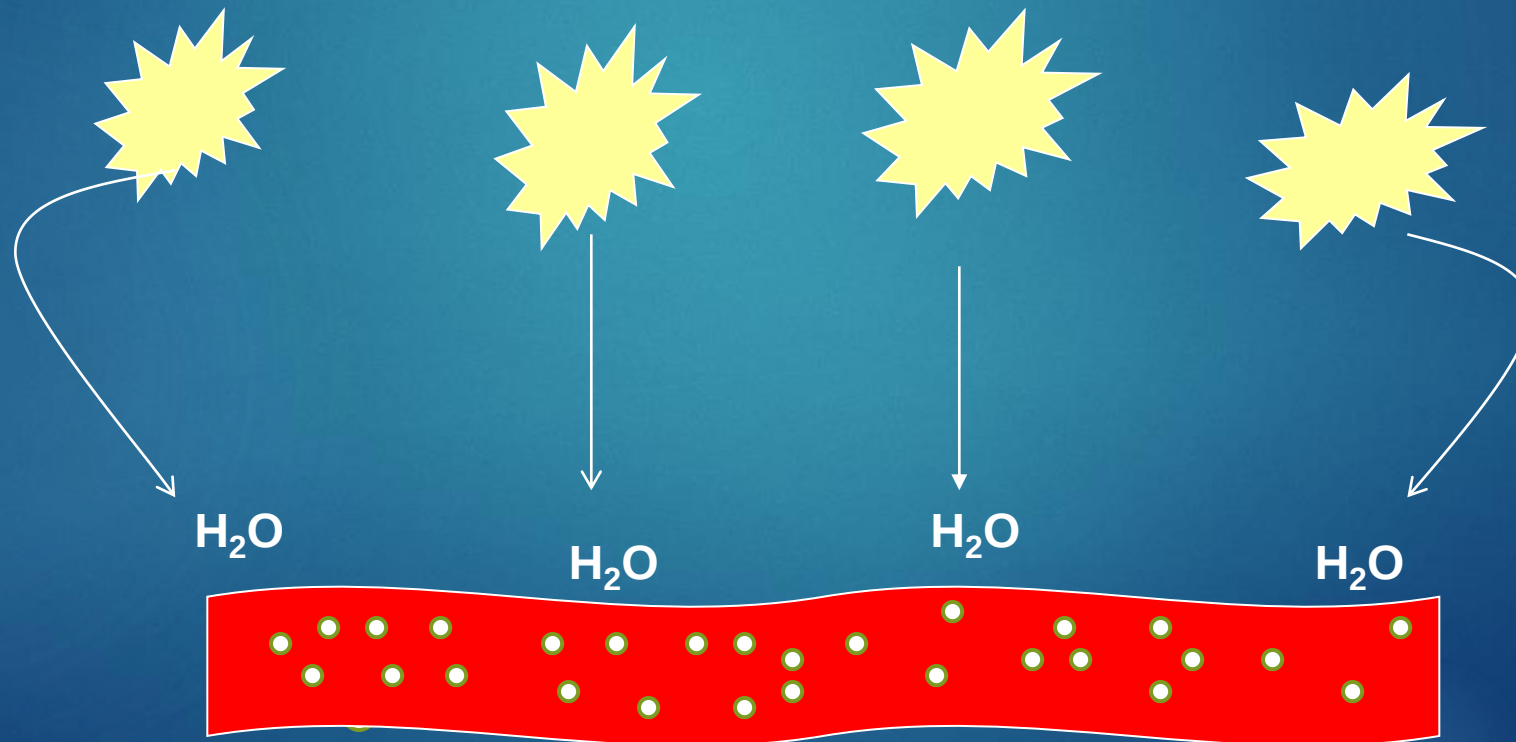
Infant on board

Pathophysiology

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High serum glucose level → osmotic gradient → fluid moves out of cells & interstitial space → osmotic diuresis

Dehydration
Electrolyte loss



Serum Sodium

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- ▶ Usually present with a low serum Na^+
 - ▶ Pseudo-hyponatremia
 - ▶ Sodium-poor intracellular fluid moves into vascular space
- ▶ Normal or increased serum Na^+ indicates profound dehydration

Corrected Serum Na⁺

- ▶ Add 1.6 mEq to Na⁺ value for each 100 mg/dL glucose over 100

- ▶ Example: Blood glucose = 600 mg/dL

Serum Na⁺ = 130

- ▶ Corrected serum Na⁺ = $1.6 \times 5 = 8$

$$130 + 8 = 138$$

DKA Pathophysiology

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Inadequate insulin

- Cells are starving

Gluconeogenesis

- Breakdown of protein and fat
- Protein breakdown
 - ↑ urea production → ↑ osmotic diuresis & dehydration

Release of free fatty acids

- Unrestrained hepatic fatty acid oxidation
- Ketone body production
 - Acetoacetate
 - B-hydroxybutyrate
 - Acetone
- Metabolic acidosis

DKA Pathophysiology

- ▶ Dehydration →
- ▶ ↓ perfusion →
- ▶ Tissue hypoxia
- ▶ Anaerobic metabolism →
- ▶ Lactic acid production
- ▶ Worsening metabolic acidosis

Diabetes care. 2009. 32(7), 1335–1343
Current Diabetes Reports. 2017, 17(5), 33
Frontiers in Endocrinology. 2017, 8(106), 1-13
J Emerg Med. 2020; 59: 373-383
Font. Clin Diabetes Healthc. 2022;2.

DKA Pathophysiology

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- ▶ Anion Gap – presence & severity of metabolic acidosis

$$[\text{Na}^+ - (\text{Cl}^- + \text{HCO}_3^-)]$$

Normal = 7 – 9 mEq/L

> 10 - 12 mEq/L indicates the presence of excess organic acids (ketone bodies)

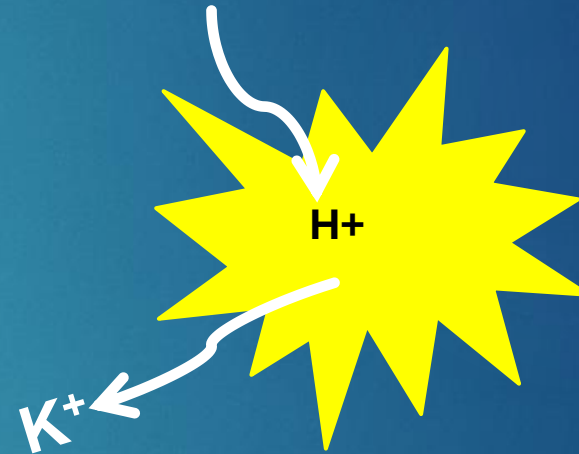
Metabolic acidosis

DKA → Anion Gap > 20 mEq/L

Serum Potassium

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- ▶ May be falsely elevated
- ▶ Movement of K^+ out of cells
 - ▶ Solute drag
 - ▶ Acidosis $\rightarrow$ H^+ shift
- ▶ Total body K^+ may be low
- ▶ Watch K^+ as acidosis resolves



Criteria for DKA

	Mild	Moderate	Severe
D: glucose level	> 250 mg/dL	> 250 mg/dL	> 250 mg/dL
K: presence of ketones	Urine or serum +	Urine or serum +	Urine or serum +
A: acidosis	7.25 – 7.30	7.0 to < 7.24	< 7.0
Anion gap	>10	>12	> 12
Mental status	Alert	Alert or drowsy	Stupor/coma

HHS Pathophysiology

Relative insulin deficiency

Insulin resistance

Increased production of glucose

- Stress of acute illness

Occurs slowly over days

Extreme hyperglycemia

- Usually > 600 mg/dL

HHS

Pathophysiology

Increased serum
osmolality

Severe osmotic
diuresis

Profound
dehydration

Altered mental
status
• 25 – 50% comatose

Ketosis and acidosis
is mild or absent
• Enough insulin to prevent
lipolysis and ketosis

Diagnostic Criteria for HHS

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Blood glucose > 600mg/dL

- Average ~ 1000 mg/dL

Arterial pH >7.3

Serum HCO_3^- >15 mEq/L

Serum osmolality > 320 mOsmol/kg

- May be as high as 380

Absent or mild ketonuria

Mental status change

DKA versus HHS

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- DKA
 - ▶ Blood sugar >300 mg/dl; average 600 mg/dl
 - ▶ Evolves over 24 hours
 - ▶ Metabolic acidosis
 - ▶ $\text{HCO}_3^- < 15 \text{ mEq/L}$
 - ▶ $\text{pH} < 7.3$
 - ▶ Kussmaul's respirations
 - ▶ Acetone excreted in lungs
 - ▶ Fruity breath
 - ▶ Ketones in urine and blood
- HHS
 - ▶ Blood sugar >600 mg/dl; average 1000 mg/dL
 - ▶ Higher serum osmolarity
 - ▶ $> 320 \text{ mOsm}$
 - ▶ Altered LOC
 - ▶ More electrolyte imbalances
 - ▶ Evolves over days to weeks
 - ▶ More "normal" ABGs
 - ▶ $\text{pH} > 7.30$
 - ▶ Ketosis absent or mild

euDKA Pathophysiology

Diagnosis

- Blood glucose < 250 mg/dL
- Anion gap
- pH < 7.3
- Serum bicarbonate < 18 mgEq/L;
- Ketosis

Precipitating factors

- SGLT2 inhibitors
- Substance misuse
 - ↓ CHO intake, liver dysfunction
- Pregnancy
 - Hypoinsulinemia & resp. alkalosis → loss HCO_3^-
- Prolonged fasting

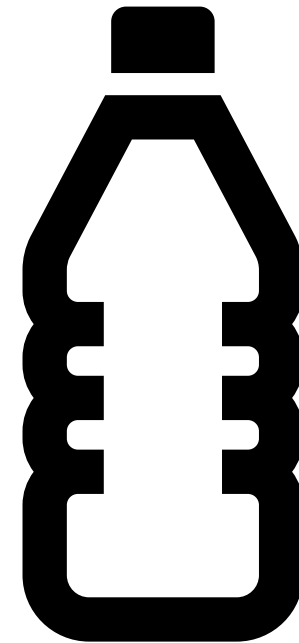
Treatment:

- High index of suspicion
- IV Dextrose with insulin

Clinical Manifestations: Physical Exam

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- ▶ Dehydration
 - ▶ Polyuria
 - ▶ Polydipsia
 - ▶ Tachycardia
 - ▶ Poor skin turgor
 - ▶ Dry buccal mucosa
 - ▶ Sunken eyeballs
 - ▶ Orthostatic hypotension
 - ▶ Hypotension
 - ▶ Prolonged capillary refill
 - ▶ Weakness



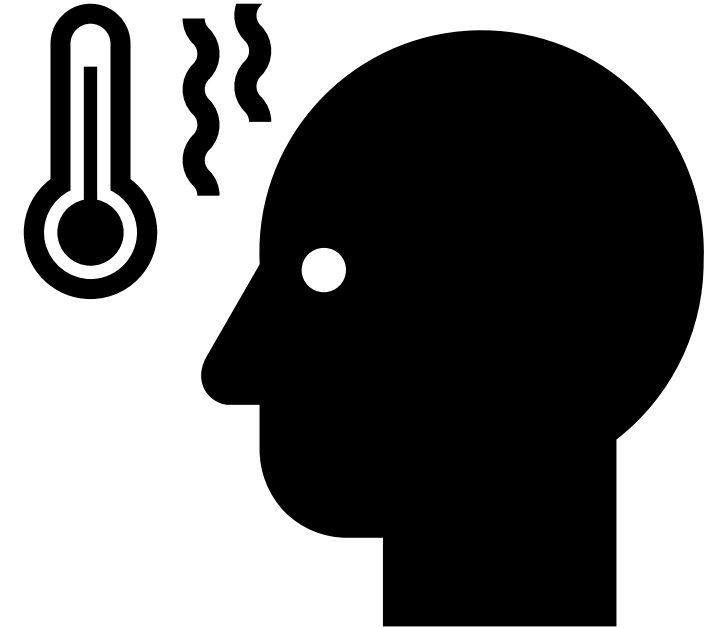
Clinical Manifestations: Physical Exam

37

- ▶ Abdominal pain
 - ▶ More common with DKA
 - ▶ Correlates with severity of acidosis
 - ▶ Ketone have paralytic effect on smooth muscles
 - ▶ Relieved with reversal of dehydration
 - ▶ Consider other intra-abdominal pathology

Clinical Manifestations: Physical Exam

- ▶ Frequently afebrile
- ▶ Altered LOC
 - ▶ Cellular dehydration in CNS
 - ▶ More common with HHS
 - ▶ Confusion, somnolence, coma
 - ▶ Focal neurological signs (hemiparesis)
 - ▶ Seizures
 - ▶ Consider other neuro pathology if serum osmo is < 320 mOsm/kg



euDKA Clinical Manifestations



NAUSEA



VOMITING



ABDOMINAL PAIN



FATIGUE



HYPERVENTILATION
OR KUSSMAUL
BREATHING



SOMNOLENCE OR
CONFUSION

Diagnostic Testing

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Serum glucose

Chemistry panel

- Na & K
- Anion gap

Serum β -OHB

ABGs

- Venous pH correlates

Serum osmolality

BUN/Cr

Hgb A₁C

Look for Causative Factors

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CBC

- Mild leukocytosis due to ketosis
- > 25,000 or >50% bands highly suggestive of infection

Lipase & amylase

CT scan

CXR if pneumonia suspected

Blood, sputum, & urine cultures

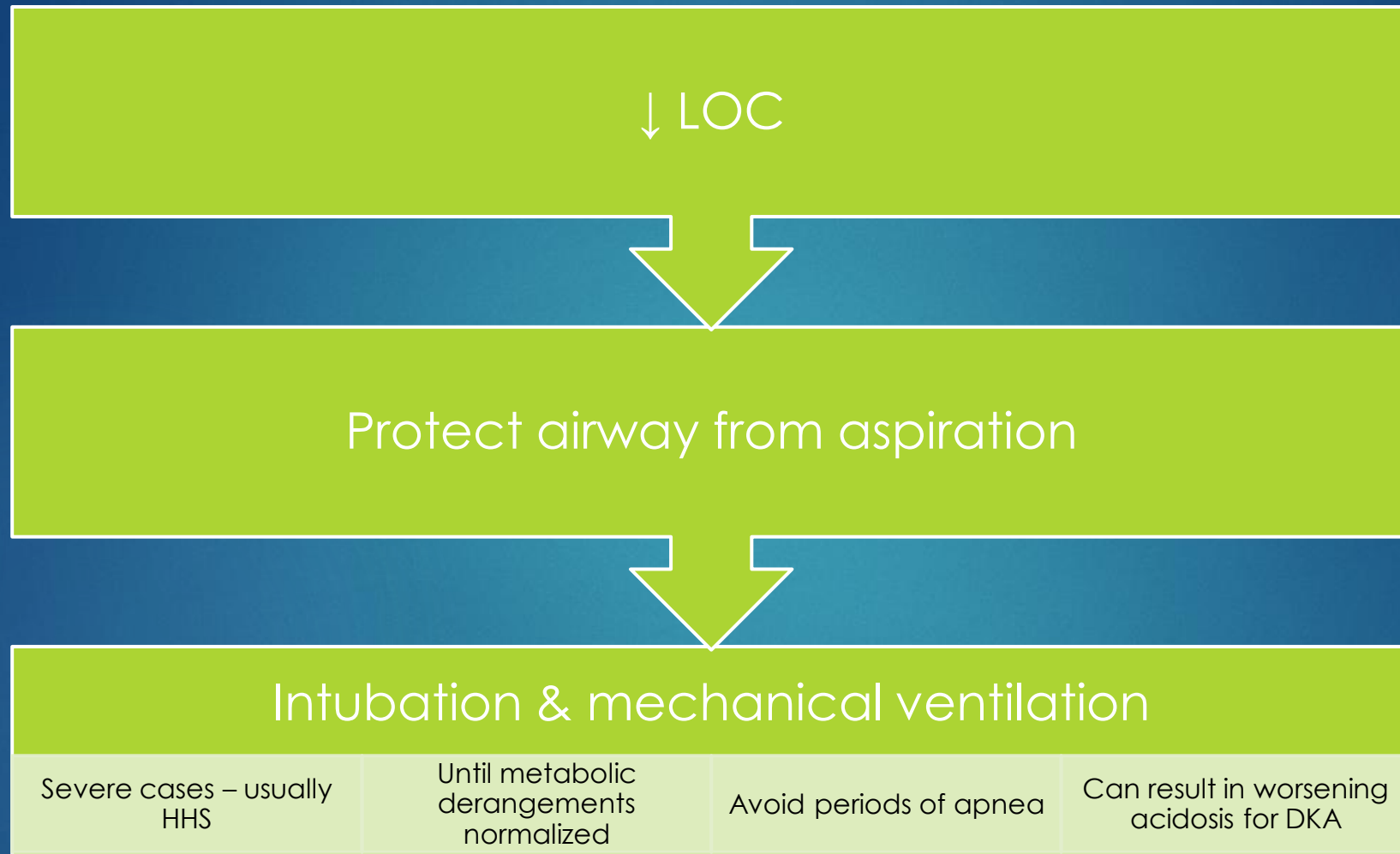
UA & cultures

Cardiac enzymes

12-lead EKG

Respiratory Support

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A
B
C
D

Fluid Replacement

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Severe dehydration

Fluid deficit up to **6** liters DKA
9 -12 liters with HHS



Aggressive fluid replacement

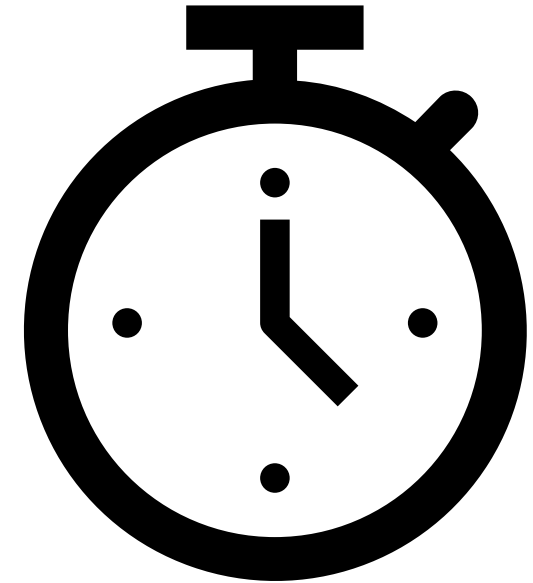


Goals

Reverse extracellular volume depletion
Restore renal perfusion

Fluid Replacement

- ▶ IV fluid
 - ▶ Lowers blood glucose independent of insulin
 - ▶ Reverses hypotension
 - ▶ Improves tissue/organ perfusion
- ▶ Replace $\frac{1}{2}$ fluid deficit over 1st 8 hours
- ▶ Then 2nd $\frac{1}{2}$ over next 16 hours



Fluid Replacement

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▶ 0.9% NS

- ▶ Initial resuscitation
- ▶ Replaces extracellular fluid
- ▶ Start at 15 – 20 ml/kg/hr
 - ▶ 1 – 1.5 L in 1st hour
- ▶ Then 4 – 14 ml/kg/hr until BP normalizes

▶ 0.45% NS

- ▶ When serum Na⁺ normalizes
- ▶ Replaces intracellular fluids



Insulin Therapy Goal

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Interrupt ketosis

Restores normal glucose uptake by cells

Steady ↓ in serum glucose of 50 – 75 mg/dL per hour

- Blood glucose should not fall too fast or too far
- Sudden and rapid lowering allows water to move very rapidly back into the cells
- Lead to vascular collapse
- Early volume replacement before

Insulin Therapy

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Initial IV bolus: 0.15 Units/kg regular insulin

Insulin infusion: 0.1 Units/kg/hr

- Short $\frac{1}{2}$ life
- Titrate to achieve a steady decrease in blood glucose
- If serum K^+ < 3.3 hold insulin it is ≥ 3.5

Subcutaneous insulin

- Mild DKA



Insulin Therapy

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Monitor

Monitor blood glucose hourly & prn

Glucose

When blood glucose approaches

- 250 for DKA
- 300 mg/dL for HHS
- Add dextrose to IV fluid
- $\bar{}$ insulin infusion to 0.02 – 0.05 Units/kg/hr

Adjust

Adjust insulin to maintain blood glucose

- 150 – 200 mg/dL in DKA
- 250 – 300 mg/dL in HHS

Resolve

While dehydration & ketosis resolve

Insulin Therapy

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Transition to subcutaneous insulin

- After resolution of hyperglycemia, dehydration, hypotension, & acidosis
- Regain baseline mental status
- When able to take oral diet
- Overlap 1 – 2 hour overlap for long-acting insulins

Known diabetics may return to previous regimen if it was controlling blood glucose

Multi-dose insulin for insulin-naïve patients

Use combination of long and short-acting insulins

- Basal-bolus regimens
- Proposed as more physiologic

Electrolyte Replacement

50

K⁺ loss with diuresis

- May ↓ even further with insulin therapy & correction of acidosis
 - K⁺ moves into cells
- Total K⁺ deficit as high as 600 mEq

Start K⁺ replacement after 1st liter of IV fluid replacement

- 20 mEq/liter if serum level 3.5 – 5.5
- 40 mEq/liter if serum level < 3.5
- May also require IVPB

Hold insulin <3.3
Stop K⁺ > 5.2

Electrolyte Replacement

- ▶ KPO_4^- Replacement
 - ▶ If $\text{PO}_4^- < 1 \text{ mg/dL}$
 - ▶ Cardiac dysfunction
 - ▶ Respiratory depression
 - ▶ Anemia
- ▶ Add 20 – 30 mEq KPO_4^- to replacement fluids

Acidosis Correction

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NaHCO_3^- usually not administered

- Fluid replacement & insulin administration will interrupt the ketotic cycle

NaHCO_3^- may cause CNS acidosis if too aggressive

- Bicarb combines with H^+
- Dissociates to CO_2 and H_2O
- CO_2 diffuses freely through the blood-brain barrier causing cerebral acidosis and depression

Acidosis Correction

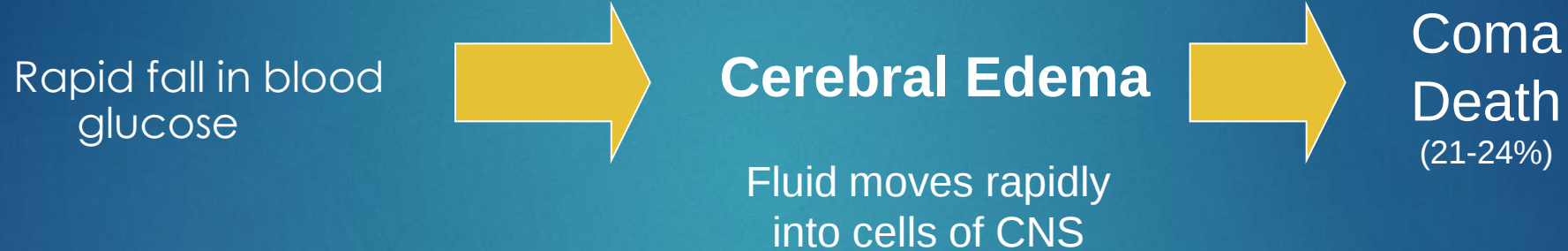
- ▶ NaHCO_3^- if $\text{pH} < 7.0$
- ▶ Replace slowly
- ▶ Only correct to $\text{pH} 7.0$
- ▶ Replace K^+ concurrently to prevent hypokalemia
- ▶ Kidneys will conserve HCO_3^- once fluid & electrolyte imbalances are corrected



Cerebral Edema

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Pathophysiology is poorly understood



Lower blood glucose slowly

Perform neuro assessment
hourly & prn

Cerebral Edema

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- ▶ Symptoms:
 - ▶ Headache
 - ▶ Lethargy
 - ▶ Gradual ↓ in LOC
 - ▶ Cranial nerve palsies
 - ▶ Seizures
 - ▶ Pupil changes
 - ▶ Bradycardia
 - ▶ Elevation in BP
 - ▶ Respiratory arrest



- Treatment
 - Mannitol
 - HTS

Cerebral Edema

► Prevention

- Avoid excessive hydration and rapid reduction of plasma osmolarity
 - Max reduction 3 mOsm/kg H₂O per hour
- Gradually lower serum glucose
- Maintain blood glucose 250 – 300 mg/dL until serum osmolality is normalized and mental status improved

Resolution of Hyperglycemic Emergency

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▶ DKA

- ▶ Blood glucose < 200 mg/dL
- ▶ Serum $\text{HCO}_3^- \geq 15$ mEq/L
- ▶ pH > 7.30
- ▶ Calculated anion gap < 12 mEq/L

• HHS

- Normal serum osmolality
- Regain normal mental status

Diabetic Sick Day Management

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Usual basal insulin
or oral anti-
diabetic agents



Liberal fluid intake



Easily digestible
CHO if unable to
eat normal diet

- Custard, pudding, cream soup, toast
- Gelatin, broth, juice, soda

Have family
member check on
them q 4 hrs



Early consultation
with PCP



Diabetic Regimen Adherence

► Complex issues

- Knowledge deficit
- Health beliefs
- Culture
- Mental health
- Substance misuse
- Financial resources
- Insurance
- Social support

► Consultations

- Social services
- Psychiatry
- Discharge planner
- Spiritual care
- Registered Dietician



Summary

- ▶ Fluids, insulin, & electrolytes
 - ▶ How much?
 - ▶ How fast?
- ▶ Treat underlying illnesses
- ▶ Sick day management

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Questions?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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