

Weill Cornell-Qatar  
Qatar University

# Management of diabetes

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# Session objectives

- Discuss the initial approach to patients with newly-diagnosed type 2 diabetes
- Recognize the different non-insulin glucose-lowering agents including their characteristics, indications, advantages and disadvantages
- Explain the indications for insulin therapy and types of insulin
- Describe the aspects of standards of diabetes care

# CASE 1

- A 41-year-old man with no past medical history
- Routine check up
- Normal physical exam
- Fasting plasma glucose of 10 mmol (180 mg)
- Kidney and liver function tests: normal
- Repeat (after 3 days) fasting glucose 9.5 mmol (171 mg)
- **How would you approach?**

# Case approach

- Does he have diabetes?
- Fasting glucose 10 mmol (180 mg)
- Repeat glucose 9.5 mmol (171 mg)
- The diagnosis of diabetes can be made as fasting plasma glucose is  $\geq 7$  mmol (126 mg) confirmed on a repeat test
- **What is next?**

# Approach to DM: history

- Duration of diabetes
- Medications and any side effects
- Adherence to medications
- Follow up (frequency, regular?)
- Presence of complications (acute or chronic)
- Screening for complications (eye, foot, lab. tests)
- Home glucose monitoring
- Comorbidities (HTN, ASCVD, HF, CKD...)

# Approach to DM: history

- Social history: smoking, alcohol, work
- Social determinants of health (family support, housing stability, financial security, transportation access)
- Lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, sleep behaviors)
- Visits to the educator and dietitian
- Visits to the dentist
- Family history (DM, HTN, CVD)
- Vaccination

# Approach to DM: physical exam

- Blood pressure
- Weight, height, BMI
- Thyroid
- Skin
- Foot

# Approach to DM: lab. tests

- A1c
- Complete blood count (CBC)
- Lipids
- Serum creatinine, eGFR
- ALT, AST
- Urine albumin creatinine ratio (UACR)
- TSH for patients with type 1 DM



# Setting glucose targets depends on:

- Age
- Duration of DM
- Comorbid conditions
- Vascular complications
- Life expectancy
- Risks associated with hypoglycemia
- Patient needs & preferences

# Individualized A1c targets in DM

<7



General (for most adults)

<6.5



- Consider if low risk of hypoglycemia
- Was shown to reduce the risk of CKD & retinopathy

7 to 8.5



- Advanced complications or
- Extensive comorbid conditions or
- Functionally dependent or
- Severe hypoglycemia or
- Limited life expectancy

# Home glucose monitoring: general targets

Before meals:

80-130 mg  
(4.4-7.2 mmol)

2 hours after meals:

<180 mg  
(10 mmol)



# Back to our patient

- Fasting glucose 10 mmol (180 mg)
- Repeated 9.5 mmol (171 mg)
- A1c 8.1%
- **What is next?**

# Aspects of lifestyle in diabetes

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- 1) Education
- 2) Medical nutrition therapy (MNT)
- 3) Physical activity
- 4) Smoking cessation counselling (when needed)
- 5) Psychological care
- 6) Sleep health

# Self management education and support

- Provided by a diabetes (or health) educator
- Empower the patient with:
  - **Knowledge**
  - **Skills**
  - **Decision-making**
- Individual or group education
- Regular follow up

# Medical nutrition therapy in diabetes

- There is no “diabetic diet”
- There is no ideal calorie percentage (carbs, fat, protein)
- Assess willingness & ability to make behavioral changes
- Meal planning should be individualized
- Individualized session by a registered dietitian
- Consider personal and cultural preferences

# Medical nutrition therapy in diabetes

- Aim for weight loss of at least 5% of body weight
- Weight loss of 10-15% in selected patients
- No specific diet has shown superiority
  - Low calorie diet with meal replacements
  - Mediterranean diet
  - Low carbohydrate diet
- Very low carbohydrate & high carbohydrate ketogenic diets are not recommended



# Physical activity in diabetes

- Improves glucose, BP, and lipids parameters
- Target of  $\geq 150$  minutes/week
- Moderate to vigorous intensity aerobic activity
- Distributed over 3-5 days/week
- No more than 2 consecutive days without activity
- Prolonged sitting should be interrupted every 30 min.
- Resistance exercise: 2-3 sessions/week

# Psychological care in DM

- Assessment for:
  - **Depression**
  - **Anxiety**
  - **Diabetes distress**
- Using age-appropriate validated tools (questionnaires) at the initial visit & at periodic intervals as needed
- Referral to mental health if positive screening

# Sleep health in diabetes

- Higher risk of disturbed sleep, insomnia, obstructive sleep apnea, restless leg syndrome
- Abnormal sleep duration (<6 hours or >8 hours) negatively affects glucose, depression, quality of life
- Good quality of sleep improves glucose, BP, lipids, quality of life and ↓ depression
- Early chronotype vs late: has better glucose control

# When to start medications in DM 2?

- American diabetes association recommends starting medications at the time of diagnosis
- Canadian diabetes association provides an option to start with lifestyle changes only for 3 months
- If A1c is  $\geq 1.5\%$  above target (consider 2 medications)

# When to start medications in DM 2?

- In the presence of any of the following (regardless of A1c level):
  - ◆ Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD)
  - ◆ High risk for ASCVD
  - ◆ Chronic kidney disease (CKD)
  - ◆ Heart failure

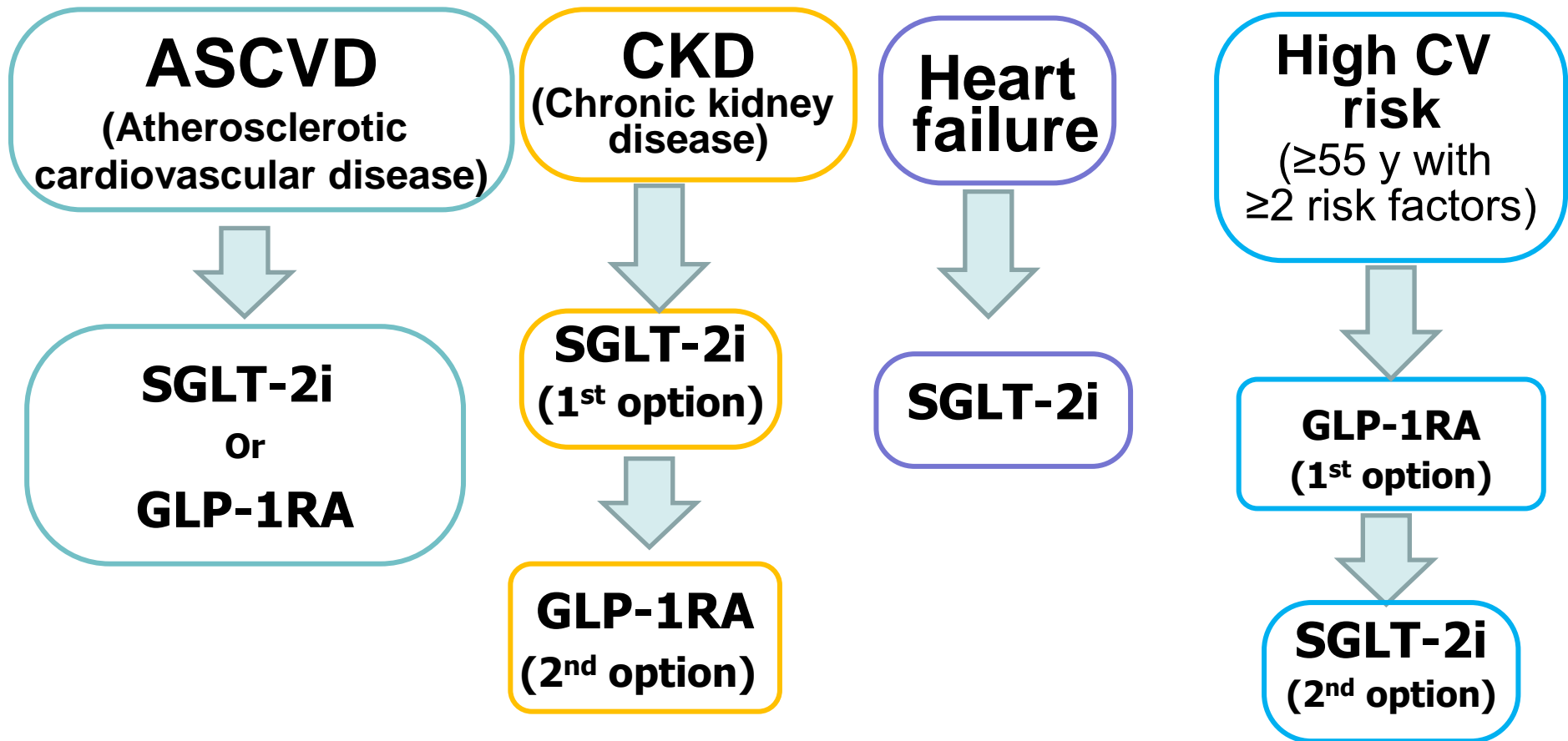
# Which medication to choose?

Metformin

or

Other agents  
(depending on  
the situation)

# Choice of DM agent and comorbid conditions



# Benefits of Metformin

- High efficacy:
  - ↓ A1c by 1 to 1.5%
- Rare hypoglycemia
- Weight loss or weight neutral
- Low cost
- Potential ↓ cardiovascular events & CV mortality



# Metformin: Side effects

- GI side effects (gastric upset, nausea, diarrhea)
- Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> deficiency:
  - Periodic monitoring is recommended after 4 years of use (especially if there is anemia or peripheral neuropathy)
- Avoid in unstable or hospitalized patient with heart failure. Can be used in stable HF
- Hold if contrast procedure when eGFR 30-60. Resume after 48 hours if serum creatinine is stable

# CASE 2

- A 42-year-old woman with type 2 DM for 2 years
- On Metformin 1000 mg bid
- Following lifestyle changes
- BMI 29
- HbA<sub>1c</sub> 8.2%, Fasting glucose 10 mmol (180 mg)
- Kidney and liver function tests are normal
- **How to approach?**

# Case approach

- Complete history, exam and labs
- Adherent to lifestyle changes?
- Follows with educator/dietitian?
- Adherent to medication?
- What are glucose targets?

# Patient assessment

- Uncontrolled DM (A<sub>1c</sub> 8.2)
- A1c target:
  - ◆ <7
- Patient is already following lifestyle changes
- Metformin alone is not enough
- **We need to add another agent**
- **Which medication?**

# What's best after Metformin?

- Decision is based on:
  - Comorbidities (such as ASCVD, HF, CKD)
  - Glucose lowering effect
  - Effect on weight
  - Side effects
  - Risk of hypoglycemia
  - Cost
  - Patient preference

# 2<sup>nd</sup> line agents

- Sulfonylureas
- SGLT-2 inhibitors
- DPP-4 inhibitors
- GLP-1 receptor agonists
- GLP-1/GIP agonists
- Glitazones (TZD)
- Basal insulin

(Meglitinides & Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors are less commonly used)

# Sulfonylureas

- Stimulate insulin secretion
- Examples: Glimepiride, Gliclazide, Glyburide, Glipizide
- **Advantages:**
  - Effective:
    - Lower A1c by 1 to 1.5%
  - Low cost
- **Disadvantages:**
  - Hypoglycemia
  - Weight gain
  - Glucose control may not be durable

# SGLT-2 (sodium glucose cotransporter) inhibitors

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- ↓ Glucose reabsorption at the kidney causing glucosuria
- **Canagliflozin, Dapagliflozin, Empagliflozin**
- Modest effect: lower A1c by 0.5-0.7%
- ↓ Weight
- Rare hypoglycemia
- Benefit in ASCVD, heart failure and CKD



# SGLT-2i: disadvantages

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- UTI, genital infections
- Dehydration, hypotension (in high-risk patients such as CKD, elderly, use with diuretics, low BP)
- Diabetic ketoacidosis (rare)
- ↑ risk of bone fractures (Canagliflozin)
- High cost

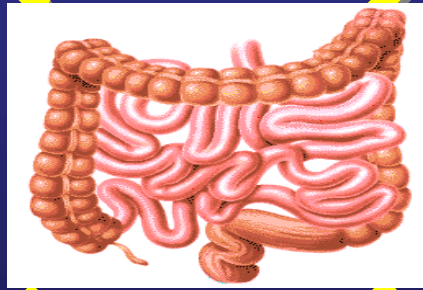
# 2<sup>nd</sup> line agents

- Sulfonylureas
- SGLT-2 inhibitors
- DPP-4 inhibitors
- GLP-1 receptor agonists
- GLP-1RA/GIP agonists
- Glitazones (TZD)
- Basal insulin

# The incretin system

↑ **Insulin secretion**

↓ **Glucagon secretion**



**GLP-1**  
(Glucagon-like peptide 1)

↓ **Gastric emptying**

↓ **Appetite**

# DPP-4 inhibitors



- **DPP-4 = "Dipeptidyl peptidase"**  
inhibits GLP-1
- Inhibition of DPP-4 will make more GLP-1 available

# DPP-4i: pros & cons

- Moderate effect ( $\downarrow$  A1c by 0.5 to 0.7%)
- **Advantages:**
  - Well tolerated
  - Weight neutral
  - Rare hypoglycemia
- **Disadvantages/side effects:**
  - GI upset, upper respiratory tract infections, joint/limb pains, acute pancreatitis
  - High cost

# DPP-4 inhibitors (Gliptins)

- Taken with or without food
- Sitagliptin (Januvia<sup>®</sup>)
- Vildagliptin (Galvus<sup>®</sup>)
- Linagliptin (Trajenta<sup>®</sup>)
- Saxagliptin (Onglyza<sup>®</sup>)

# GLP-1 receptor agonists

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- ↑ GLP-1: leading to ↑ insulin, ↓ glucagon, ↓ appetite
- Effective (↓ A1c by 0.5-1.8%)
- Weight loss
- Rare hypoglycemia
- Benefit in ASCVD
- Benefit in high CV risk
- Kidney benefit (↓ albuminuria)

# GLP-1 receptor agonists

- Subcutaneous injection
  - Exenatide, Liraglutide, Dulaglutide, Semaglutide
- Oral formulation (Semaglutide)
- GI side effects (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)
- Acute pancreatitis?
- Should not be used in cases of medullary thyroid cancer (based on animal studies)
- Gall bladder disease (stones, cholecystitis)
- Very high cost



# GIP/GLP-1 receptor agonists

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- GIP (glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide) & GLP-1 receptors agonist
- Tirzepatide
- Subcutaneous injection
- Very high glucose lowering efficacy
- Very high weight loss efficacy
- GI side effects (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)
- Very high cost

# TZD (Glitazones)

- ↑ glucose uptake in muscle and fat tissue
- Pioglitazone (Actos<sup>®</sup>)
- Taken at any time of the day
- **Advantages:**
  - Effective (but variable: ↓ A1c 0.5 to 1.5%)
  - Rare hypoglycemia
  - Low cost
  - Potential benefit in ASCVD
  - Benefit in NASH (nonalcoholic steatohepatitis)

# Disadvantages of TZD

- Lower limb edema
- Weight gain
- Increased risk of heart failure
- Bone fractures
- Urinary bladder cancer (FDA & EMA warnings)

# Diagnosis of type 2 DM

Lifestyle changes  
Assess comorbid conditions

ASCVD, HF, or CKD

No ASCVD, HF, or CKD

Irrespective of A1c level or target

Start **Metformin** if A1c is not at target after 3 months

Add next step medication if A1c is not at target after 3 months

ASCVD  
(atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease)

Heart failure

CKD

SGLT-2i

SGLT-2i

SGLT-2i  
(Empagliflozin<sup>1</sup> or Canagliflozin<sup>2</sup>)  
Or  
GLP-1RA  
(Liraglutide<sup>1</sup> or Dulaglutide<sup>2</sup>)

Glucose lowering

Weight lowering

Cost concern

Hypoglycemia concern

High CV risk  
(≥55 y with ≥2 risk factors)

GIP/GLP-1 agonist  
GLP-1RA (Dula, Sema)

GIP/GLP-1 agonist  
GLP-1RA (Semaglutide)

SU  
TZD

SGLT-2i  
GLP-1RA  
GIP/GLP-1 agonist  
TZD

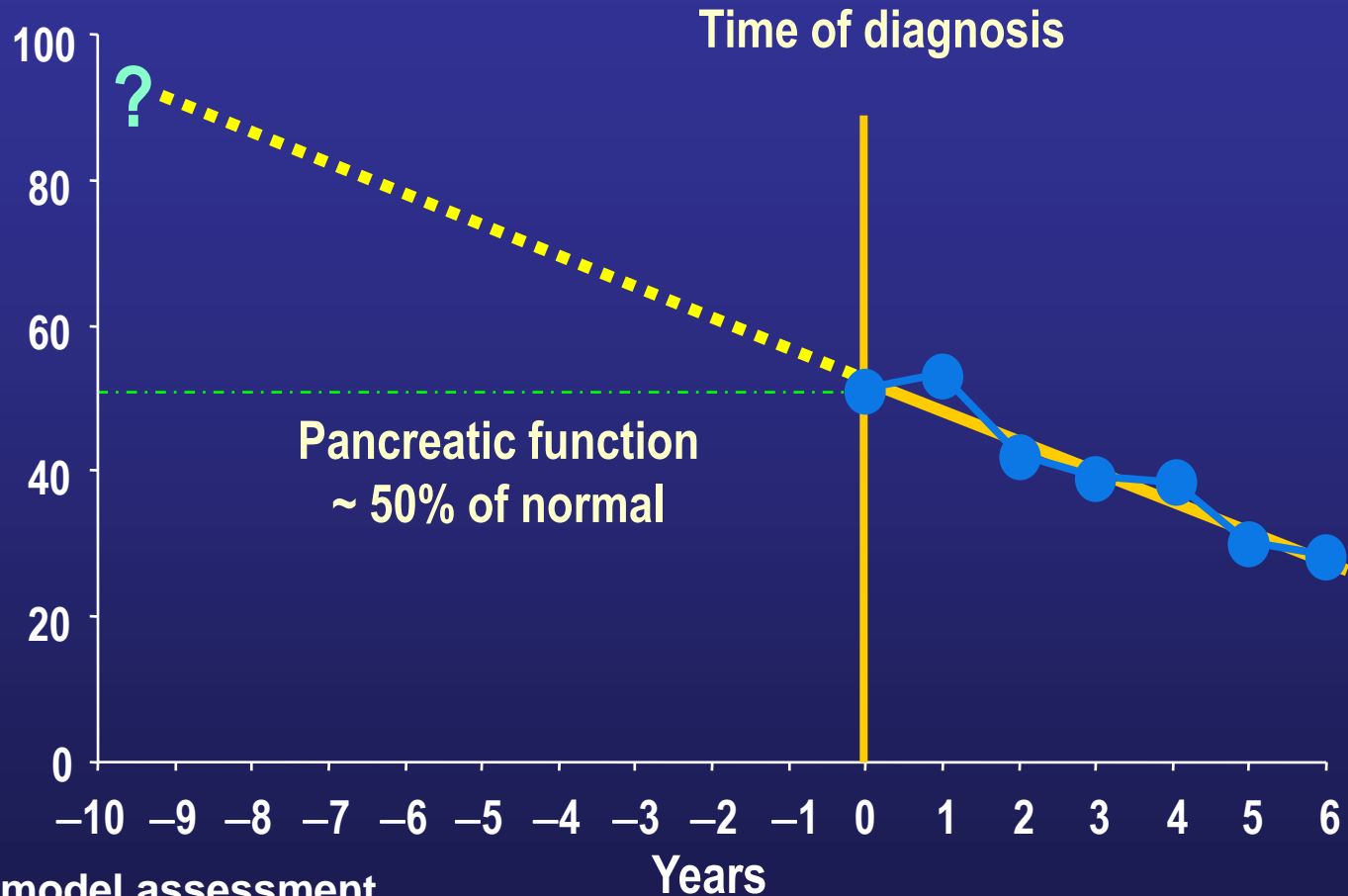
GLP-1RA  
(Dulaglutide)

# CASE 3

- A 52-year-old man with type 2 DM diagnosed 8 years ago.
- He is on Metformin 1000 mg twice daily, Gliclazide MR 60 mg daily, Sitagliptin 100 mg daily, and Dapagliflozin 10 mg daily
- He is following the advised diet and exercise.
- HbA1c 8.8. Liver & kidney function tests are normal.
- His physician decided to start insulin.
- **Do you agree? How would you approach?**

# Diabetes: a progressive disease

$\beta$ -cell function  
(% of normal by  
HOMA)



HOMA=homeostasis model assessment

At diagnosis, ~ 50 % of  
insulin production is lost

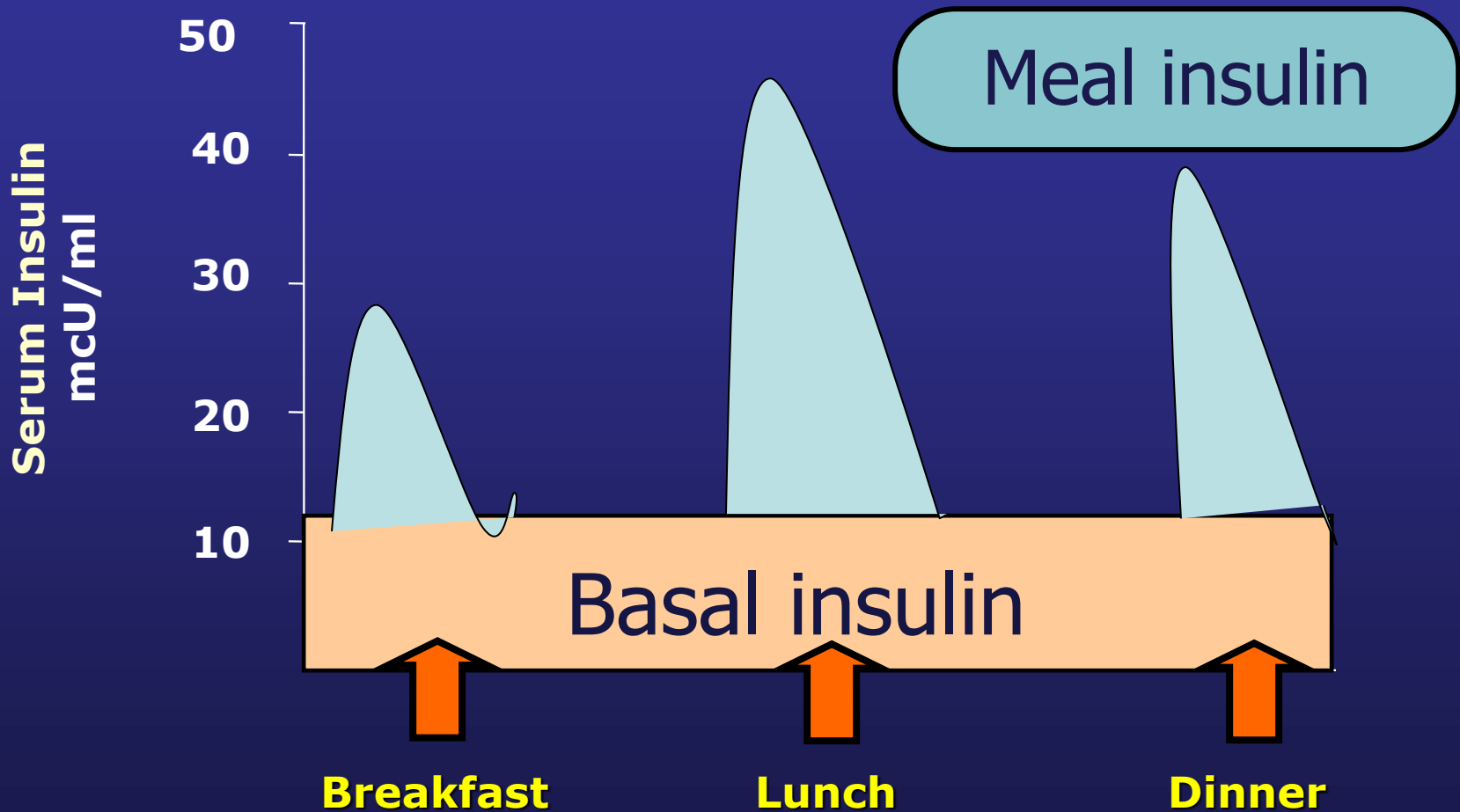
# Indications for insulin

- Failure of non-insulin glucose-lowering therapy
- Type 1 DM
- Pregnancy
- Significant symptomatic hyperglycemia ( $\geq 300$  mg or A1c  $\geq 10$ )
- During hospitalization

# Types of insulin



# Insulin secretion



# Types of insulin

- Basal insulin
- Meal insulin

# Basal insulin

## Intermediate -acting:

NPH (Humulin N<sup>®</sup>, Insulatard<sup>®</sup>)

## Long-acting:

Glargine U-100 (Lantus<sup>®</sup>)

Glargine U-300 (Toujeo<sup>®</sup>)

Detemir (Levemir<sup>®</sup>)

Degludec (Tresiba<sup>®</sup>)

# Meal Insulin

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- Short-acting:

Regular insulin (Actrapid<sup>®</sup>, Humulin R<sup>®</sup>, Novolin R<sup>®</sup>)

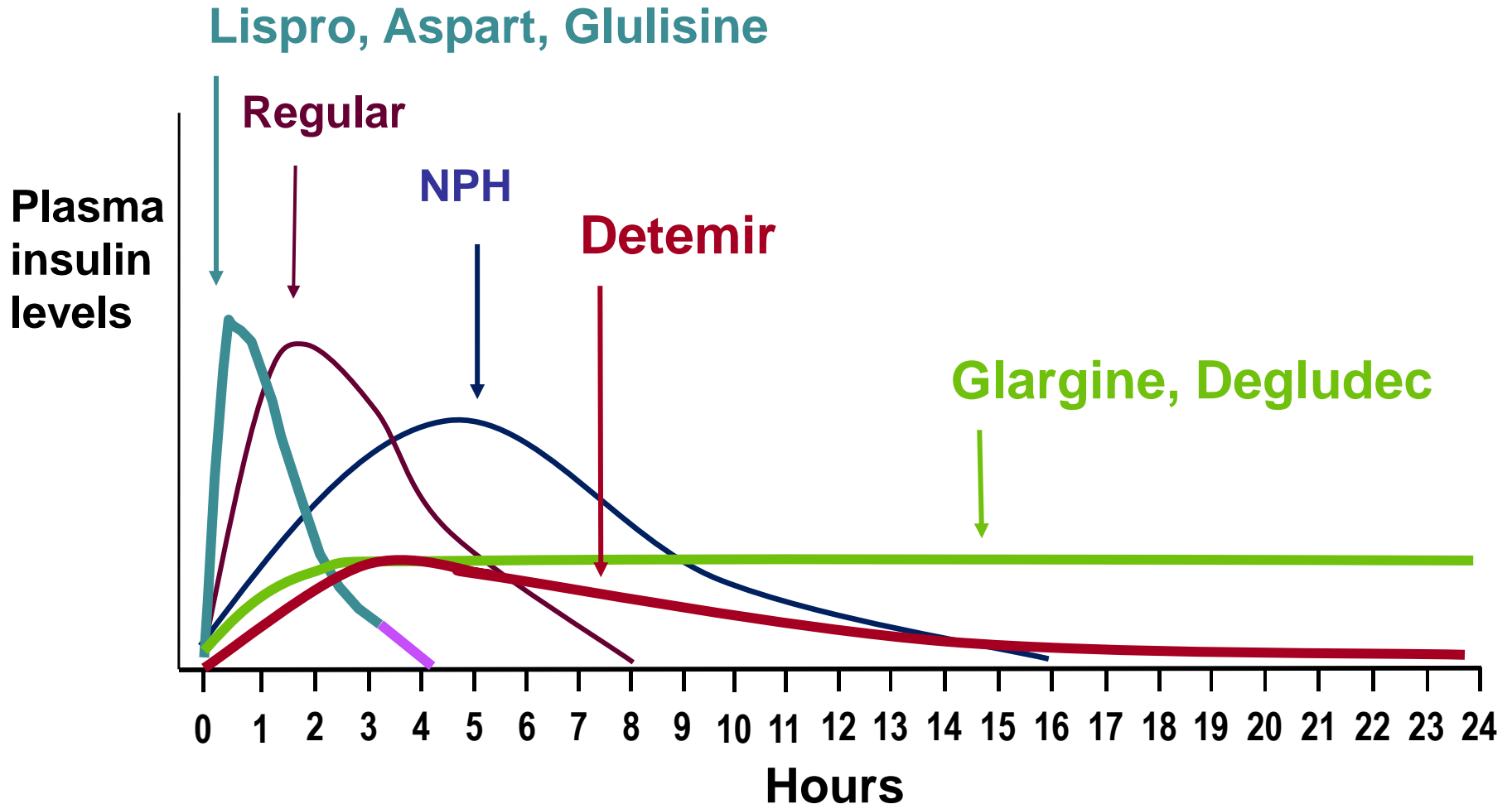
- Rapid-acting:

- Aspart (Novorapid<sup>®</sup>, Novolog<sup>®</sup>)

- Glulisine (Apidra<sup>®</sup>)

- Lispro (Humalog<sup>®</sup>)

# Action Profiles of Insulins



# Premixed insulins

- 70/30 (Mixtard 30<sup>®</sup>, Humulin 70/30<sup>®</sup>)

70% NPH, 30% Regular

- Aspart 70/30 (Novomix 30<sup>®</sup>, Novolog<sup>®</sup> mix 70/30 )

70% Aspart protamine + 30% Aspart

# Premixed insulins

- Lispro 75/25 (Humalog 25<sup>®</sup>, Humalog Mix 75/25<sup>®</sup>)

75% Lispro protamine + 25% Lispro

- Lispro 50/50 (Humalog 50<sup>®</sup>, Humalog Mix 50/50<sup>®</sup>)

50% Lispro protamine + 50% Lispro

# Which insulin to use?

Depends on:

**Glucose control**

**Patient characteristics**

**Lifestyle**

**Patient preference**



# Insulin regimens in DM 2

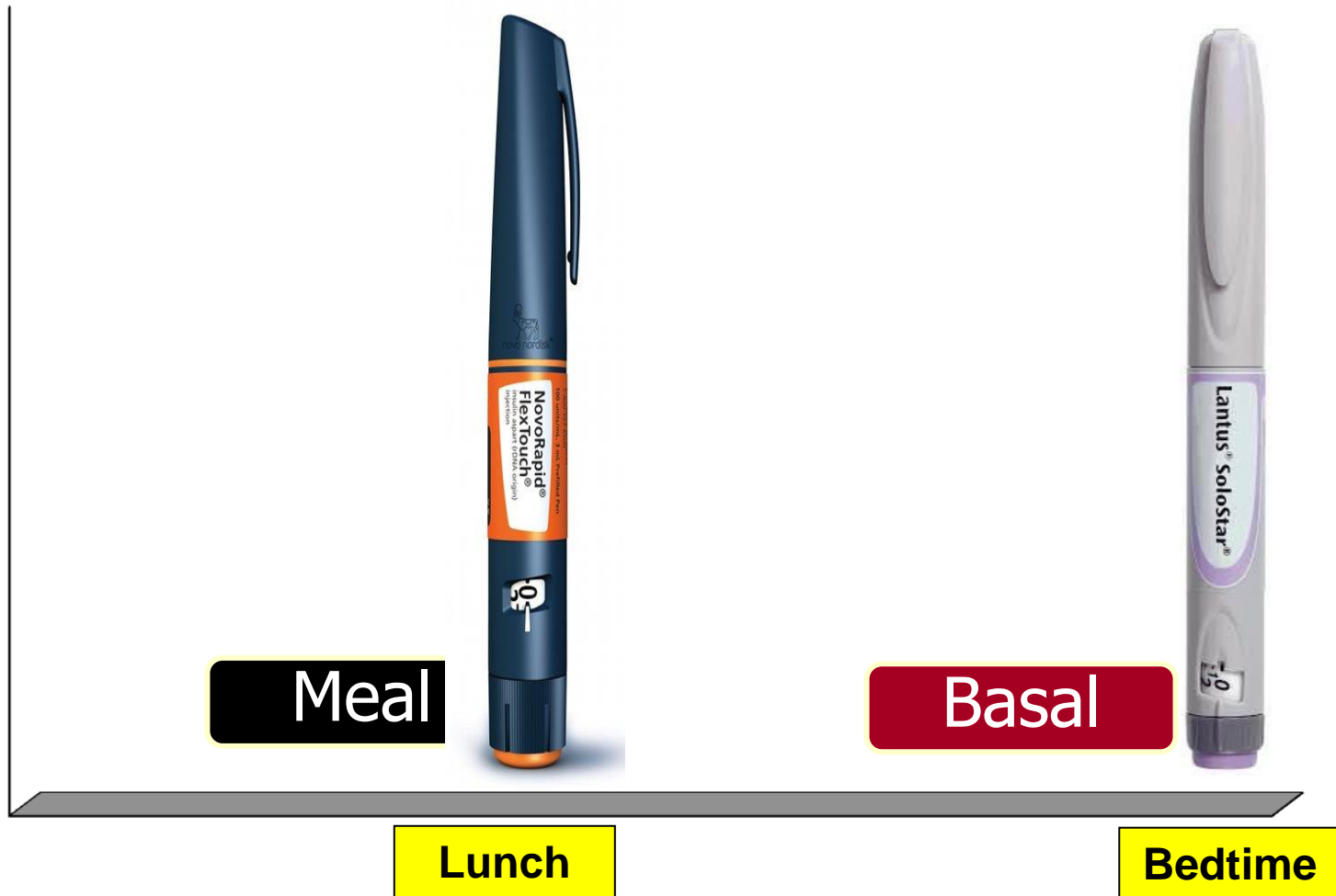
Basal only



Bedtime

# Insulin regimens in DM 2

Basal + 1 Meal



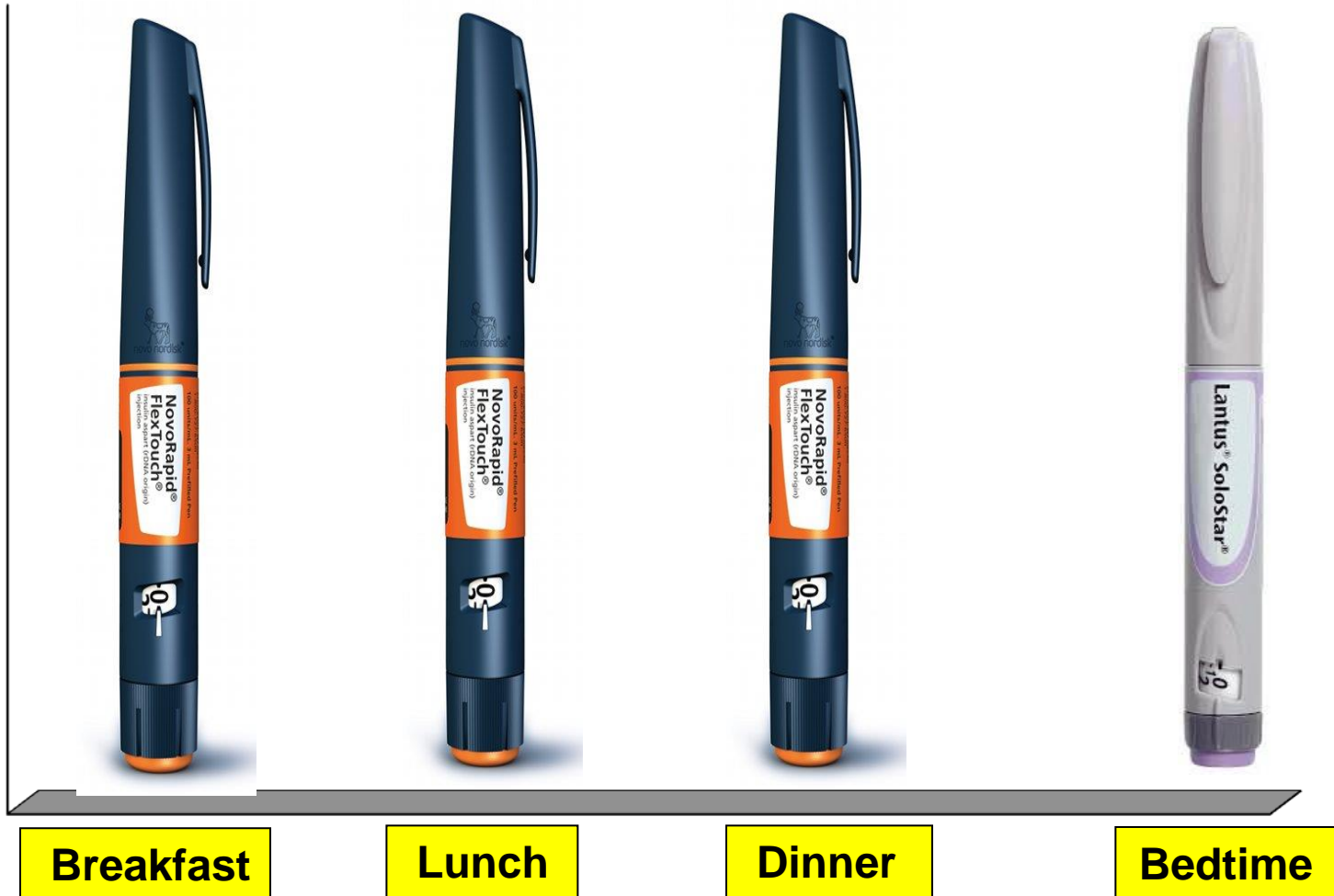
# Insulin regimens in DM 2

Basal + 2 Meal



# Insulin regimens in DM 2

Basal + 3 Meal



# Insulin regimens in DM 2

2 Premixed



Breakfast



Dinner

# Insulin regimens in DM 2

3 Premixed



Breakfast



Lunch



Dinner

# CASE 4

- A 55-year-old man with DM 2 and hypertension
- Tries with lifestyle changes, but no regular exercise
- Metformin, Insulin, Lisinopril, Amlodipine
- B.P. 152/84, BMI 32
- HbA1c 8.1
- LDL 2.4 mmol (92 mg), HDL 1 mmol (38 mg), TG 1.7 mmol (150 mg)
- Kidney & liver function tests are normal
- **How to apply a comprehensive plan of care?**

# Standards of diabetes care

- History, physical examination & basic labs
- Lifestyle changes
- Glucose control
- Screening for complications (periodic exams/tests)
- Cardiovascular disease
  - Lifestyle changes
  - Blood pressure
  - Statins for high risk
- Liver health
- Vaccination



# Standards of diabetes care

- History, physical examination & basic labs
- Lifestyle changes
- Glucose control
- Screening for complications (periodic exams/tests)
- Cardiovascular disease
  - Lifestyle changes
  - Blood pressure
  - Statins for high risk
- Liver health
- Vaccination

# Approach to DM: history

- Duration of diabetes
- Medications and any side effects
- Adherence to medications
- Follow up
- Presence of complications (acute or chronic)
- Screening for complications (eye, foot, tests)
- Home glucose monitoring
- Comorbidities (HTN, dyslipidemia,...)

# Approach to DM: history

- Social: smoking, work, alcohol
- Social determinants of health (family support & financial status)
- Lifestyle changes (diet, exercise)
- Visits to educator and dietitian
- Psychological status & support
- Family history (DM, HTN, CVD)
- Vaccination

# Approach to DM: physical exam

- Blood pressure
- Weight, height, BMI
- Thyroid
- Skin
- Foot

# Approach to DM: baseline lab. tests

- A1c
- CBC
- Lipids
- Serum creatinine, eGFR
- ALT, AST
- Urine albumin:creatinine ratio (UACR)
- TSH for type 1 DM

# Standards of diabetes care

- History, physical examination, basic labs
- Lifestyle changes
- Glucose control
- Screening for complications (periodic exams/tests)
- Cardiovascular disease
  - Lifestyle changes
  - Blood pressure
  - Statins for high risk
- Liver health
- Vaccination

# Aspects of lifestyle in diabetes

- 1) Education
- 2) Medical nutrition therapy (MNT)
- 3) Physical activity
- 4) Smoking cessation counselling (when needed)
- 5) Psychological care
- 6) Sleep health

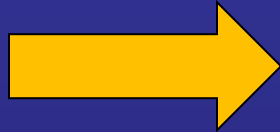
# Standards of diabetes care

- History, physical examination, basic labs
- Lifestyle changes
- **Glucose control**
- Screening for complications (periodic exams/tests)
- Cardiovascular disease
  - Lifestyle changes
  - Blood pressure
  - Statins for high risk
- Liver health
- Vaccination



# Individualized A1c targets in DM

<7



General (for most adults)

<6.5



- Consider if low risk of hypoglycemia
- Was shown to reduce the risk of CKD & retinopathy

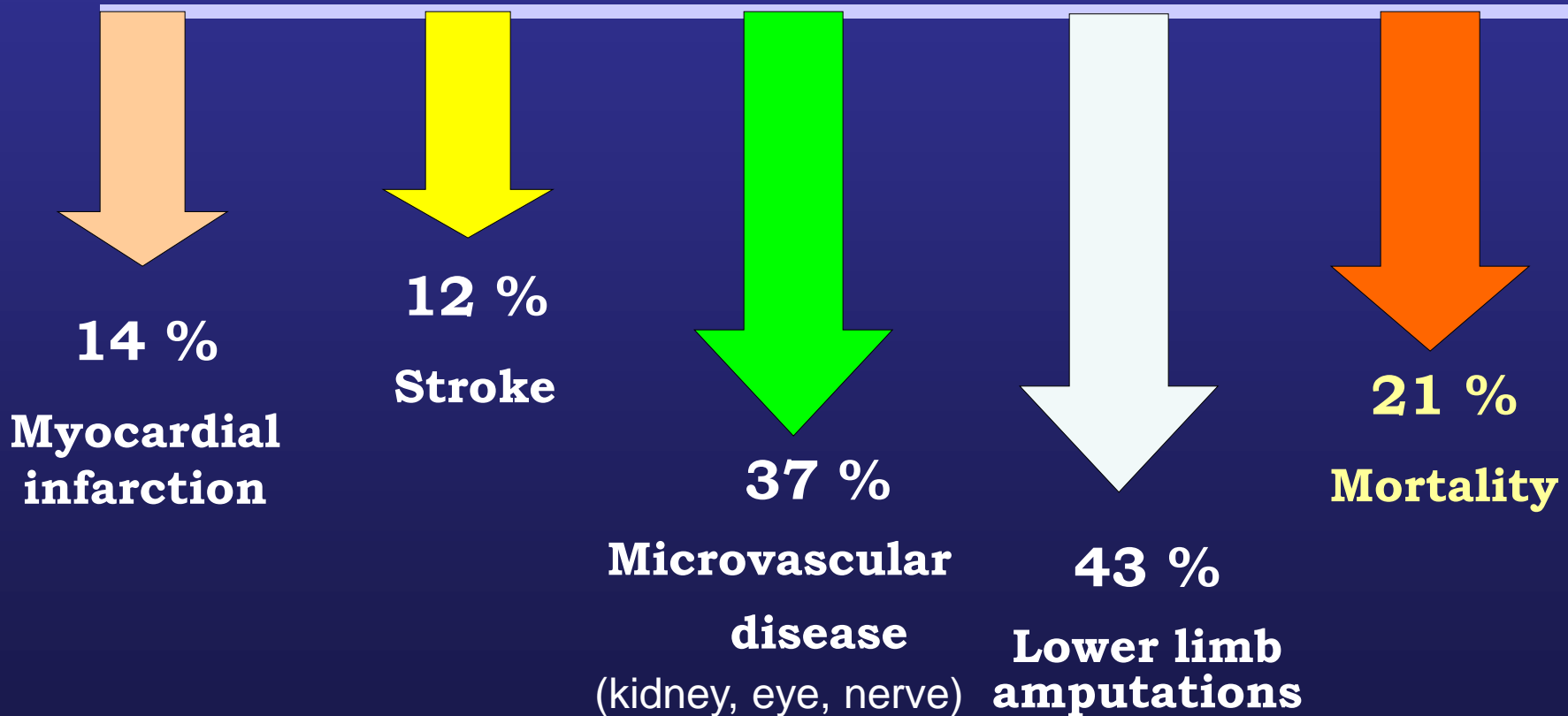
7 to 8.5



- Advanced complications or
- Extensive comorbid conditions or
- Functionally dependent or
- Severe hypoglycemia or
- Limited life expectancy

# Benefits of glucose control

Effect of ↓ A1c by 1 %



# Standards of diabetes care

- History, physical examination, basic labs
- Lifestyle changes
- Glucose control
- Screening for complications (periodic exams/tests)
- Cardiovascular disease
  - Lifestyle changes
  - Blood pressure
  - Statins for high risk
- Liver health
- Vaccination

# Periodic exams & referrals

- Refer to educator
- Refer to dietitian
- Dilated eye exam
- Comprehensive foot exam
- Dental examination
- Family planning for women of reproductive age

# Screening for diabetic retinopathy

## Dilated eye examination

- Type 2 DM:
  - At the time of diagnosis then yearly
- Type 1 DM:
  - Start 5 years after diagnosis then yearly

# Screening for diabetic neuropathy (distal symmetric)

- History & comprehensive foot examination:
  - Type 2 DM :
    - ◆ At the time of diagnosis then at least yearly
  - Type 1 DM :
    - ◆ Start 5 years after diagnosis then every year
- Inspect feet at each visit for high-risk patients (sensory loss or prior ulceration or amputation)

# Foot examination

- Visual inspection
- Vibration sensation (for large fiber function)
- 10-gram monofilament test (for large fiber function)
- Temperature or pinprick sensation (for small fiber function)
- Ankle reflex
- Pedal pulses (dorsalis pedis, posterior tibial)

# Periodic lab. tests

## 1) A1c

- Every 6 months if controlled
- Every 3 months if not controlled

## 2) Serum creatinine, eGFR:

- Yearly
- More frequent if CKD or changing HTN medications

## 3) Urine albumin creatinine ratio:

- Yearly
- More frequent if abnormal



# Periodic lab. tests

## 4) Lipids

- Yearly
- More frequent if not at target or changing doses/therapy

## 5) ALT, AST

- Yearly

## 6) Serum vitamin B<sub>12</sub>:

- Monitoring if on metformin for >4 years
- Every year in such cases

## 7) Complete blood count (CBC):

- Yearly

# DM & the kidneys

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- Diabetes: the commonest cause of CKD & dialysis
- Serum creatinine, eGFR at least yearly
- Check random urine albumin:creatinine ratio (UACR)
  - If normal, check every year

# Screening for diabetic kidney disease

## Urine albumin:creatinine ratio

- Type 2 DM:
  - At the time of diagnosis then yearly
- Type 1 DM:
  - Start 5 years after diagnosis then yearly

# Urine albumin:creatinine ratio (UACR)

- A spot random urine sample
- Normal: <3 mg/mmol (30 mg/g)
- If high: **Repeat**
- Causes of high UACR:
  - Exercise within 24 hours, infection, fever, menses, heart failure, menses, marked hyperglycemia, uncontrolled BP
- **Albuminuria:** 2 out of 3 abnormal UACR samples collected within 3-6 months

# Management of albuminuria

- Glucose control
- Blood pressure control
- ACEI or ARB
- Combination of ACEI & ARB is not recommended
- Follow UACR & electrolytes
- ACEI/ARB are not recommended for primary prevention of diabetic kidney disease (*normal B.P. & normal UACR*)

# Standards of diabetes care

- History, physical examination, basic labs
- Lifestyle changes
- Glucose control
- Screening for complications (periodic exams/tests)
- Cardiovascular disease
  - Lifestyle changes
  - Blood pressure
  - Statins for high risk
- Liver health
- Vaccination

# DM & cardiovascular disease

- ↑ Risk of coronary artery disease by 200-400%
- ↑ Risk of ischemic stroke
- ↑ Rate of heart failure hospitalization
- ↑ Short- & long-term mortality after acute coronary syndrome
- ↑ Post-MI complications (recurrent ischemia, failure, shock)
- It is the major cause of death in DM

# Primary prevention of CVD in DM

- Lifestyle (diet, exercise, healthy weight)
- Smoking cessation
- Blood pressure control
- Statins for high-risk patients
- Glucose control
- Need for aspirin?



# **Assess patient's risk of CVD**

Using ACC/AHA 10-year  
ASCVD risk calculator

# Diabetes & blood pressure

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- Patients with DM have higher risk of hypertension
- Hypertension ↑ risk of cardiovascular complications (MI, stroke, PAD)
- Hypertension ↑ risk of microvascular complications (nephropathy, retinopathy, possibly neuropathy)
- Treatment of HTN reduces ASCVD events, heart failure & microvascular complications

# Lifestyle changes in HTN

- Diet

- DASH diet

- Rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts
    - Low fat dairy products, poultry, fish, vegetable oil
    - Reduce saturated and trans fat
    - Limit red meat, sweets and sweet beverages

- Reduced salt (<2300 mg/day)

- Weight loss, physical activity, smoking cessation

# CVD protection in DM

- **HTN control:**
  - Target BP: < 130/80
  - Some guidelines recommend ACEI or ARB as 1<sup>st</sup> choice
- **Statins:**
  - Secondary prevention for ASCVD
  - Primary prevention for all patients age  $\geq 40$  years
- **Aspirin:**
  - Is generally not recommended
  - Consider if high CVD risk with low bleeding risk

# Statins in DM

**With ASCVD**  
(Atherosclerotic  
Cardiovascular disease)

All ages



High intensity  
statin

# Statins in diabetes

## Primary prevention

Age  $\geq 40$  years

Moderate intensity statin

- Age 40-75 with no CV risk
- Age  $>75$  years

High intensity statin if:

- Age 40-75 &  $\geq 1$  CV risk factor(s)  
(HTN, smoking, CKD, albuminuria, family history of premature CVD)

# Statins in diabetes

## Primary prevention for age 20-39 years

***Consider*** moderate intensity statin  
if **multiple** CV risk factors

# Moderate-intensity statins

- Atorvastatin 10 or 20 mg
- Pravastatin 40 or 80 mg
- Rosuvastatin 5 or 10 mg
- Simvastatin 20 or 40 mg



# High-intensity statins

- Atorvastatin 40 or 80 mg
- Rosuvastatin 20 or 40 mg

# Standards of diabetes care

- History, physical examination & basic labs
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  - Lifestyle changes
  - Blood pressure
  - Statins for high risk
- Liver health
- Vaccination

# NAFLD & diabetes

- NAFLD = Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
- NASH = Non-alcoholic steatohepatitis
- DM 2 is a major risk factor & causes worse outcomes
- Number 1 cause of liver disease in western countries
- The most rapidly growing contributor to liver mortality and morbidity
- Asymptomatic, underdiagnosed & underrecognized

**Screening for NAFLD  
should be done for  
patients with type 2 DM**

- **Using FIB-4 index**  
(Age, ALT, AST,  
platelet count)

## Fibrosis-4 (FIB-4) Index for Liver Fibrosis

☆  
Noninvasive estimate of liver scarring in HCV and HBV patients, to assess need for biopsy.

When to Use ▼    Pearls/Pitfalls ▼    Why Use ▼

Age  
Use with caution in patients <35 or >65 years old, as the score has been shown to be less reliable in these patients

  
years

AST  
Aspartate aminotransferase

  
U/L

ALT  
Alanine aminotransferase

  
U/L

Platelet count

  
× 10<sup>9</sup>/L ↔

**Result:**  
Please fill out required fields.

# Screening for NAFLD in DM 2

Calculate FIB-4 score

FIB-4 <1.3

FIB-4 1.3-2.67

FIB-4 >2.67

Low risk

Indeterminate risk

High risk

Repeat in  
2-3 years

Transient elastography  
Or Enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) blood test

Low risk

Indeterminate risk

Refer to  
specialist

# Standards of diabetes care

- History, physical examination & basic labs
- Lifestyle changes
- Glucose control
- Screening for complications (periodic exams/tests)
- Cardiovascular disease
  - Lifestyle changes
  - Blood pressure
  - Statins for high risk
- Liver health
- Vaccination

# Vaccination in DM

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- Influenza
- Pneumococcal
- COVID-19
- Hepatitis B
- Others as people without DM



# Do patients with DM need vitamins?

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- No evidence for benefit for vitamins or supplements in patients with no deficiency
- Routine supplements with vitamins/antioxidants is not recommended
- Omega-3 supplements are not recommended for the prevention or treatment of CVD

# Treatment of DM: Summary

- Lifestyle changes for all patients with DM 2
- ADA recommends medication at the time of diagnosis of DM 2; some start by lifestyle changes alone
- The choice (Metformin or others) depends on:
  - Comorbid conditions, effect on weight, cost, risk of hypoglycemia & patient's preference
- Use insulin if uncontrolled glucose on 3 or 4 agents

# Diabetes Care (1)

- **Lifestyle**: Education, diet, exercise, psychological care, sleep health
- **Glucose**: Target A<sub>1c</sub> <7 (individualize)
- **Vascular**: Statins for age ≥40
- **Blood pressure**: Target: <130/80  
ACEI or ARB for hypertension
- **Kidneys**: Serum creatinine, urine albumin creatinine ratio

# Diabetes Care (2)

- **Eyes:** Dilated eye exam
- **Foot:** Comprehensive exam
- **Liver health:** Screen for NAFLD with FIB-4 index
- **Vaccination:** Influenza, Pneumococcal,  
COVID-19, Hepatitis B