





A study of the etiology, risk factors, clinical features and pitfalls in management of newly diagnosed diabetic children and adolescents

Thesis

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Abstract

Introduction: Diabetes mellitus is a group of metabolic disorders characterized by hyperglycemia and accompanied by long term damage, dysfunction and failure of various organs.

Aim of the study: to identify the etiology, risk factors and the most common clinical features of newly diagnosed diabetes in children and adolescents. And identification of the factors related to delayed diagnosis or mismanagement in these children.

Methods: Ninety nine children (52 males and 47 females), aged from few days to 13 years, diagnosed with newly diagnosed diabetes, referred and managed at DEMPU in Children's Hospital, Cairo University.

Results: Classic symptoms (polyuria, polydipsia and weight loss) were the most common symptoms (95.9% &90.7%) preceding the diagnosis; and diabetic ketoacidosis was present in 51.5%. Delayed and missed diagnosis was recorded in 49.5 %, with no significant relation to age, district of accommodation or family history of diabetes. Cow's milk feeding was more frequent, being recorded in 79.3% vs. 20.7% with exclusive breast feeding, and positive family history of diabetes was recorded in 77.3%. Severity at presentation showed no significant relation to age, type of feeding, family history of diabetes or C-peptide level.

Conclusion: the classic triad of diabetes is the commonest presenting symptom of diabetes in children. Misdiagnosis and mismanagement are common and accounts for more severe presentation among newly diagnosed diabetic children, with infants below 2 years of age being the most vulnerable group to such problem. Positive family history of diabetes is high and positive FH of type 2 diabetes mellitus is more frequent than type 1 or both. Early introduction of cow's milk appears to be a risk factor for the development of type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM).

Keywords: Diabetes, Children, clinical picture, misdiagnosis.

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List of Abbreviations

AAP American Academy Of Pediatrics

ADA American Diabetes Association

AN Acanthosis Nigricans

BCG Bacillus Calmette-Guerin

BMI Body Mass Index

CDC Centers For Disease Control And Prevention

CSII Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion

CVB 1-6 Group B Coxsakie Viruses

DAISY Diabetes Autoimmunity Study In The Young

DEMPU Diabetic, Endocrine And Metabolic Pediatric Unit

DCCT Diabetes Control And Complications Trial

DKA Diabetic Ketoacidosis

DM Diabetes Mellitus

DPP-IV Dipeptidyl Peptidase-IV

DPT Diabetes Prevention Trial

FDA US Food And Drug Administration

FPG Fasting Plasma Glucose

GAD₆₅ Glutamic Acid Decarboxylase

GADAs Glutamic Acid Decarboxylase Antibodies

GDM Gestational Diabetes Mellitus

GLP-1 Glucagon-Like Peptide 1

HbA₁C Glycosylated Hemoglobin

HEV-B Human Enterovirus B

HLA Human Leukocyte Antigen

HNF Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor

IAAs Anti-Insulin Autoantibodies

IA2/ICA512 Anti-Tyrosine-Phosphatase Antibodies

ICAs Islet Cell Antibodies

IDDM Insulin Dependant Diabetes Mellitus

IFG Impaired Fasting Glucose

IGT Impaired Glucose Tolerance

IPF Insulin Promoter Factor

IPEX syndrome Immunodysregulation Polyendocrinopathy Enteropathy X-

Linked Syndrome

IR Insulin Resistance

IRR 84/510 International Reference Reagent

ISPAD International Society For Pediatric And Adolescent Diabetes

IZS Insulin Zinc Suspension

LADA Latent Autoimmune Diabetes Of The Adult

LADC Latent Autoimmune Diabetes In Children

LDL-C Low Density Lipoprotein - C

MHC Major Complex Of Histocompatibility

MODY Maturity Onset Diabetes Of The Young

MRDM Malnutrition-Related Diabetes Mellitus

NDM Neonatal Diabetes Mellitus

NPH Neutral Protamine Hagedorn Insulin

NIDDM Non-Insulin Dependant Diabetes Mellitus

NRC National Research Centre

OGTT Oral Glucose Tolerance Test

OR Odds Ratio

PCOS Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome

PNDM Permanent Neonatal Diabetes Mellitus

PTPN 22: Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase, Nonreceptor-Type

SAS Statistical Analysis Systems

SES Socioeconomic Status

SDS Standard Deviation Score

SGA Small For Gestational Age

SPIDDM Slowly Progressing Insulin Dependent Diabetes

T1BDM Type 1 B Diabetes Mellitus
TCF7L2 Transcription Factor 7-Like 2

T1DM Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus

T2DM Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

Th₁, **Th**₂ T Helper 1, 2

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Introduction

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a group of metabolic diseases characterized by hyperglycemia resulting from defects in insulin secretion, insulin action or both. The chronic hyperglycemia of diabetes is associated with long term damage, dysfunction, and failure of various organs especially the eyes, kidneys, nerves, heart and blood vessels (*Craig et al.*, 2009).

The vast majority of cases of diabetes fall into 2 broad etiopathogenetic categories: type 1 DM (T1DM) caused by absolute deficiency of insulin, and type 2 DM (T2DM) which is characterized by the presence of insulin resistance with inadequate compensatory increase in insulin secretion. Other uncommon types of diabetes include those caused by infections, drugs, endocrinopathies, pancreatic destruction and genetic defects (*ADA*, *2010*).

T1DM is the most commonly diagnosed type in children and adolescents and usually presents with symptomatic hyperglycemia and imparts the immediate need for exogenous insulin replacement (*Haller*, 2005)

T2DM is the most common in adults and its prevalence in children is increasing. Pediatric patients with T2DM are likely to be obese or overweight and present with glycosuria without ketonuria, absent or mild polyuria and polydipsia and little or no weight loss (*Reinehr*, 2005).

The presentation of T1DM is either as classic new onset (most common), silent diabetes or diabetic ketoacidosis – DKA (20-40%) (*Haller*, 2005)

Classic new onset T1DM patients present with polyuria, polydipsia, polyphagia, weight loss and lethargy; while those with silent T1DM are typically diagnosed by families or physicians with high index of suspicion. Children who present with DKA present with dehydration, vomiting, altered mental status and rapid deep respiration (Kussmaul's breathing) (*Craig et al.*, 2009).

Because DKA is a potentially preventable acute complication of diabetes mellitus and a predominant cause of mortality in these children, early recognition and prompt treatment should substantially reduce childhood mortality in children with type 1 DM (*Scibilia et al.*, 1986)

Increased public awareness of early symptoms of diabetes is needed to reduce the frequency and severity of ketoacidosis. In addition, greater medical alertness to the possibility of T1DM in a young child should be stressed (Mallare et al., 2003)