# Diabetes in Pregnancy: Diagnosis and Treatment

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#### Disclosure

- No conflicts of interest to report
- Acknowledge off-label uses

#### Objectives

- The learner will be able to:
  - Increase understanding of screening and diagnosis of diabetes in pregnancy
  - Increase understanding of management diabetes in pregnancy
  - Increase understanding of follow up care for diabetes in pregnancy

#### Diabetes in Pregnancy Pictures (1)



# Gestational Diabetes (GDM)?

- Pregnancy: insulin resistance and hyperinsulinemia
- Hormones (growth hormone, cortisol, placental lactogen, progesterone) all boost fetal nutrition
- GDM: maternal pancreatic function isn't sufficient to overcome insulin resistance
- Pregnancy is a diabetes "stress test"

#### **Case Scenario**

- SK 38 yo. G8P7006 presents at 13 weeks by her dates
- OB HX 3 infants > 9 pounds
- Last NSVD 10 lb. 8 oz. stillborn
- Difficult labor: Baby's head came out; shoulders didn't want to come out

# ADA / IADPSG\* System

- First visit
- Evaluate for Overt Diabetes Mellitus
- Add to 1st prenatal labs
  - Random plasma glucose
  - Hgb A1c
  - Or fasting plasma glucose
  - \*International Association of Diabetes and Pregnancy Study Groups

#### **1st Prenatal Lab Results**

- Overt Diabetes
  - FBS > 126 mg/dl
  - Hbg A1c > 6.5%
  - Random glucose > 200 (+ confirmation)

#### Hyperglycemia and Pregnancy Outcomes

- 25,505 pregnant women
- 15 centers in 9 countries
- 75-g OGTT at 24 to 32 weeks
- Blinded if....
- Fasting plasma glucose < 105 mg and</li>
- 2-hour plasma glucose < 200 mg</li>
- N Engl J Med. 2008 May 8;358(19):1991-2002

# Frequency of Primary Outcomes across the Glucose Categories



The HAPO Study Cooperative Research Group. N Engl J Med 2008;358:1991-2002



#### 24 - 28 Weeks, or Later

- 2 hr. 75 gm OGTT
- Use ADA / IADPSG\* criteria
  - \*International Association of Diabetes and Pregnancy Study Groups

#### ADA\* / IADPSG

- Fasting  $\geq$  92 mg/dL or
- One hour ≥180 mg/dL or
- Two hour ≥153 mg/dL
- Only one abnormal value needed (75 gm OGTT)
- \* American Diabetes Association

#### ?Revolutionary OGTT criteria?

- Carpenter and Coustan
- Fasting 95
- 1 hr. 180
- 2 hr. 155
- Two abnormal values

- ADA / IADPSG
- Fasting 92
- 1 hr. 180
- 2 hr. 153
- One abnormal value

#### Early Microscopes Cartoon



Early microscopes

# **Complications of Diabetes in Pregnancy**

#### • GDM

- Macrosomia and related problems (maternal and fetal)
- Insulin Requiring Diabetes
  - Anomalies
  - Macrosomia
  - Placental insufficiency
    - IUGR
    - Fetal Compromise

### Classification

- Pregnancy
  - Pre-gestational: Carbohydrate intolerance diagnosed prior to pregnancy
  - Gestational Diabetes: Carbohydrate intolerance with onset or first recognition during pregnancy

# If Abn OGTT, then GDM

- Dietary consult
- Exercise consult
- Home glucose monitoring
- Give a 2-week trial

#### GDM Classification: A1 vs A2

- FBS > 95 mg/dL.
- 1 hr. pp. > 130 140 mg/dL.
- 2 hr. pp. > 120 mg/dL.

#### Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs) (1)

- 2-week sensor
- Cell phone or reader
- No finger sticks!
- So much data!





#### Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs) (2)





#### Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs) (3)





#### Diabetes in Pregnancy Pictures (2)



![](_page_21_Picture_2.jpeg)

# Case Continued (1)

- Mrs. K's 2-hour glucose tolerance test showed:
  - FBS 98 mg/dL
  - 1 hour 198 mg/dL
  - 2-hour 189 mg/dL

#### Management

- Management of pre-gestational diabetes and insulin requiring GDM is more intensive because of increased risk to the fetus
- Approximately 90% of GDM patients are non-insulin requiring

# **Initiating Therapy**

Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT)

- 50 90% can be managed with MNT
- Limit carbohydrates to 35 45% of total caloric intake
- Utilize complex carbohydrates
- Culturally appropriate food choices
- Exercise
  - Lowers fasting and postprandial glucose levels
  - Aerobic, 30minutes, 5x/week

![](_page_24_Picture_9.jpeg)

#### Diet

- Viana et al systematic review and meta-analysis of RCTs, n = 884
- Low glycemic index (GI) versus
- Total energy restriction versus
- Low carbohydrates
- Low GI reduced insulin use and BW
- Diabetes Care. 2014 Dec;37(12):3345-3355.

### GDM A1 - Follow-up

- Glucose Monitoring Home versus Clinic
  Insulin if FBS > 95, 2hr > 120, 1 hr. > 140\*
- Fetal kick counts
- Repeat Ultrasound at 28-32 weeks
- Delivery at 41 0/7 weeks

# Case Continued (2)

- Mrs. K returns after 2 weeks on diet and exercise therapy with this glucose log
  - FBS: 98-121
    2 hr. pp 131-203
    2 hr. pp lunch 123-129
  - 2 hr. pp lunch 123-129
    2 hr. pp dinner 122-128

# The Diabetes in Pregnancy "Team"

- Case Manager
- Diabetes Educator
- Nutritionist
- Exercise Specialist
- Maternity Care Provider
- Antenatal Testing Staff
- Ultrasound Technologist
- Traditional Healer
- Lactation and Family Planning Educators

# **Medication Requiring - Initial**

- Diet
- Exercise
- Assess renal function (Level B)
- Eye exam (Level B)
- Re-education
- Ultrasound
- ? EKG
- ?HgAlc

# Pharmacologic Therapy

- Goal is euglycemia
- Home monitoring is essential
  - FBS < 95 mg/dL
  - 2 hours post prandial < 120 mg/dL
  - 1 hour pp < 130 -140 mg/dL
    - (Level I data)

# Initiation of Insulin Therapy

- Single dose of long acting
  - (e.g., 20u NPH), or
- 0.7 units/kg in divided doses
  - (2/3 and 1/3)
- May be as high as 1.5 2 units /kg in morbidly obese women
- Goal is euglycemia (80+% at target)

#### Insulin

- Various regimens, no clear best approach:
- Novolog and NPH in am and pm combined doses
- Novolog and NPH (Novolog & NPH before breakfast; Novolog before dinner; NPH at bedtime)
- Novolog pre-meal with Basal Insulin

#### **Detemir Regimen**

• Pre-meal Novolog and Bedtime Detemir

![](_page_33_Figure_2.jpeg)

### **Oral Agents: Metformin**

- Multiple studies
- Start low and slow: GI side effects
- Perhaps even 250 mg day to start
- Goal 1500 2000 mg /d
- Need insulin too 35-50%
  - Not FDA approved, Class B

## Oral Agents: Glyburide

- + crosses the placenta
- 16-40% may require insulin added
- 2.5 mg 20 mg
- 2018 ACOG: "Not recommended as first-choice pharmacologic treatment because, in most studies, it does not yield equivalent outcomes to insulin"
  - Not FDA approved, Class C

#### **Oral Agents: Meta-analysis**

- Metformin results in a lower rate of macrosomia than use of glyburide
  - Minus 209 g
- Metformin users are more likely to require supplemental insulin to maintain euglycemia than glyburide users
  - 4 -16% vs 33%
  - Balsells BMJ 2015

# **Oral Agents: Comparison**

- Metformin
- First choice, if you have time:
- Start low, go slow
- High rate of needing insulin
- Crosses placenta please caution pt
- See glyburide comparison

# Comparison: Glyburide

- Single agent
- Conflicting data
  - Transplacental passage
- Versus insulin: macrosomia, neonatal wt, neonatal hypoglycemia
- Versus metformin: above plus more maternal weight gain

### FDA Approved?

- Oral agents = not FDA approved
- Both are endorsed by ACOG and ADA with cautions
- DOCUMENT:
  - Insulin offered as first-line and recommended therapy
  - Glyburide/metformin discussed, including placental transfer, unknown long-term effects, lack of FDA approval

# Antenatal Follow-Up: Class A2 (1)

- Visits q 2-4 weeks till 36 weeks
- Home glucose monitoring
- Fetal echo/Level II ultrasound at 18-22 weeks (if pregestational)

# Antenatal Follow-Up: Class A2 (2)

- Antepartum testing at 32 weeks\*
- Visits q week after 36 weeks
- Delivery 39 weeks, if good control
- Delivery 38 weeks, if 'issues'
- \*if adequate control (>90% in range), may just do kick counts till 36 weeks

### Intrapartum Management

- GDM Non-medication requiring
  - Routine
- Medication requiring
  - Goal: 70-110 to avoid neonatal complications
  - Monitor q 1-4 hours
  - Monitor for ketonuria q void
  - Insulin/dextrose as needed

# Case Continued (3)

- Mrs. K cervical ripening scheduled at 38 wks.
- Insulin drip
- NSVD 8 lb. 2 oz girl Apgars of 9 and 9
- Baby's heel-stick glucose is 42 mg/dL
- Above 40 mg/dL hourly over the next 4 hrs.

#### Post Partum - General Concepts

- Non pregnant "normal" levels higher
- "Honeymoon" period insulin requirements markedly decreased
- Lactation decreases Type 2 DM
- Glucose drops on average 60 mg/dL with breastfeeding episode

# Immediate Post Partum (1)

- Non-medication requiring
  - Routine
- Medication requiring
  - Monitor FBS, 2° PP
  - Reinstitute insulin conservatively
  - Follow-up in 1-2 weeks to adjust insulin / change to oral hypoglycemic

#### Post Partum - 6 weeks

- 75 gm, 2 hr. OGTT
- Fasting > 126 mg/dL and/or 2 hr. > 200 mg/dl\*
- Impaired fasting glucose > 100 and < 126\*\*
- Impaired glucose tolerance > 140 and <200\*\*
  - \* Diabetes \*\* Pre-diabetes

#### Immediate Post Partum (2)

- Hospital glucose monitoring:
  - A1 No monitoring
  - A2 24 hours of F / 2hr PP monitoring
  - DM Ongoing F/PP monitoring
  - \*\* Use non-pregnant goals: F < 126 & Post-meal <200
- Medications
  - A2 Usually no medication required (\*Consider Metformin)
  - DM Anticipate insulin needs to drop by 50%

#### Post Partum

- Alternative, slightly less accurate
  - FBS
    - > 126 x2 Diabetes
    - 100-125 Impaired fasting glucose
      - (Pre-diabetes)
    - <100 Normal

# Post Partum - Long Term

- GDM: q 3-year glucose screening
- Lifestyle modification
- Preconceptual counseling
- Contraception
- Offspring risks

# Family Planning

- OCPs
- Depo-Provera
- IUD
- All barrier methods
- Sterilization

# **Pre-Conception Counseling**

- Folic acid
- Maintain euglycemia / SABs (Level B)
- Avoid teratogens
- Healthy behavior
- Safer sex

#### Recurrence Risk GDM

- 33 50% with subsequent pregnancies
- Obese women who lost at least 10 pounds pre-pregnancy decreased their risk of GDM by 40%
- Obese women who gained 10+ pounds pre-pregnancy increased their risk of GDM by 50%

# Long Term Follow Up (1)

- Subsequent pregn.: 1/3
- IGT:
- Metabolic Synd.:
- Type II

• 15 mo. 4.9%

- 5 yr. 13.1%
- 9 yr.

20% in early f/u 1/3 at 5-10 yrs.

18.9%

# Long Term Follow Up (2)

- > 70% in studies to 28 years postpartum
- No differences between ethnic groups
- Incidence increased most in first 5 yrs.
- Plateau after 10 yrs.
- Elevated fasting increased future risk
- Kim C et. Al. Gestational diabetes and the incidence of type 2 diabetes: a systematic review. Diabetes Care 2002

### 10 Yr. Follow-Up: DPP

- History of GDM: Intensive Lifestyle Interventions (ILS) and metformin reduced progression to diabetes by 35% and 40%
- No GDM: ILS reduced the progression to diabetes by 30%, and metformin did not
  - Consider offering metformin to A2 GDM
- Aroda et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2015 Apr;100(4):1646-53

#### **Bonus Track**

- 300 GDM pts enrolled in a prospective cohort
- 2-day PP OGTT have similar diagnostic value as 4- to 12-week PP OGTT in predicting DM at 1 yr. with nearly 100% adherence
- Similar ROC curves in identifying DM at 1 year after delivery.
- SMFM.Am J Obstet Gynecol 2020 Sep;223(3):439.e1-439.e7.