

Diabetic Emergencies

Insulin is a hormone excreted by the pancreas into the bloodstream, and it enables the body cells to absorb glucose (sugar). Without insulin, the body cells cannot get absorb the nourishment that they need, and the body will start to shut down.

If the body does not produce the correct amount of insulin, it results in a diabetic condition. You can be born with this condition (Juvenile Diabetes) or it can develop later (Adult Onset Diabetes). It can usually be quite easily controlled through diet and medication, however if either of these are not carefully done, two possible diabetic emergencies can occur:

Diabetic Coma - Hyperglycemia ('too much sugar')

Insulin Shock - Hypoglycemia ('too little sugar')

Signs and Symptoms

- fruity breath
- ‘drunken’ behaviour
- flushed, warm & dry skin
- thirst and frequent urination
- slow decrease in LOC, eventually life-threatening

Treatment

- medication
- EMS
- ABC's

Signs and Symptoms

- dizziness and weakness
- pale, cool, and clammy
- rapid & weak pulse
- hunger
- fast decrease in LOC, immediately life-threatening

Treatment

- glucose (real sugar) + starch
- EMS
- ABC's

**Note that all unconscious diabetic patients should receive _____

Drugs and Poisons

Ingestion:

Inhalation:

Absorption:

Injection:

