

# Pharmacological Management of Diabetes

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*Based on* the a Position Statement of the American Diabetes Association (ADA)  
and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD)

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# OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

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## 1. IMPORTANCE OF PATIENT-CENTERED CARE

## 2. BACKGROUND

- Epidemiology and health care impact
- Relationship and importance of glycemic control to outcomes
- Overview of the pathogenesis of Type 2 diabetes

## 3. ANTI-HYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY

- Glycemic targets
- Therapeutic options
  - 3.0. Lifestyle modifications
  - 3.1. Insulin
  - 3.2. Oral agents & non-insulin injectables

# OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

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## 4. ANTIHYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY

- Drug combinations, and drug interactions
- Special consideration in case of hypoglycemia, weight gain

## 5. SPECIAL CONDITIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Treatment of ketoacidotic coma
- Treatment of hypoglycemia
- Age, Weight, Sex/racial/ethnic/genetic differences
- Comorbidities (*CAD, HF, CKD, Liver disease, Hypoglycemia-prone*)

## 6. CLINICAL GUIDE FOR ANTIHYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY

- Implementation Strategies
  - Initial drug therapy
  - Advancing to dual combination therapy
  - Advancing to triple combination therapy
  - Transitions to and titrations of insulin

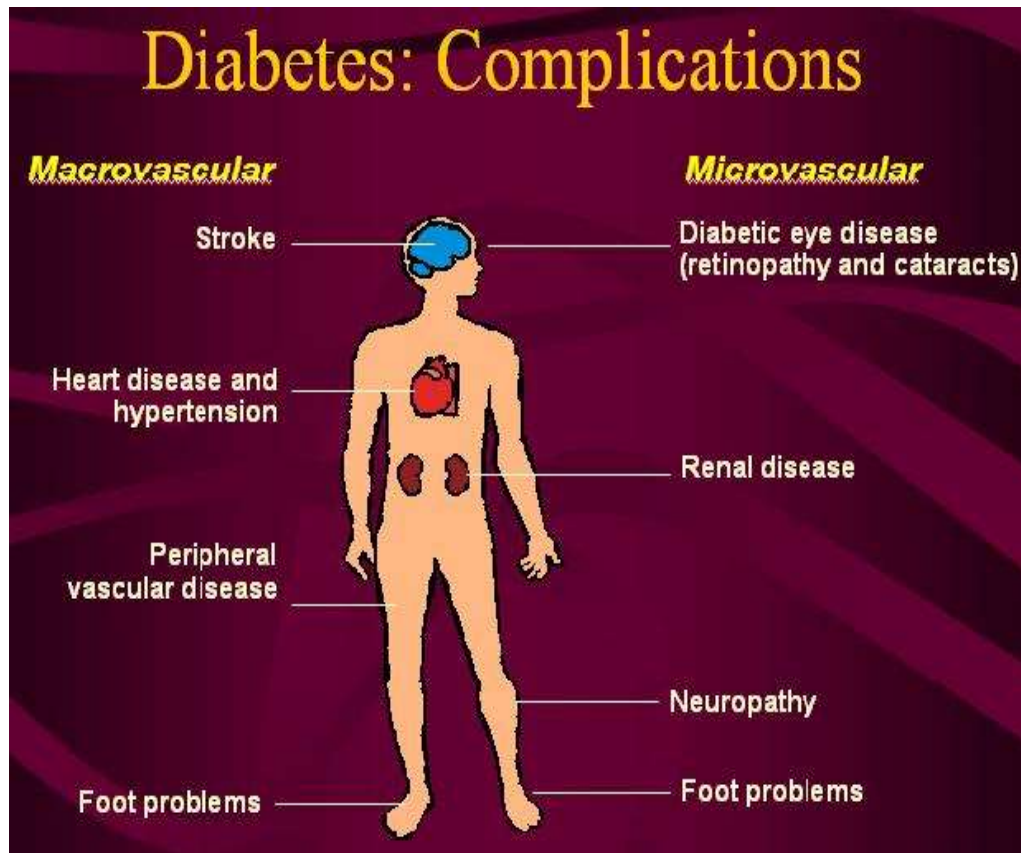
# 1. Patient-Centered, evidence-based approach

*“...providing care that is respectful of and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs, and values - ensuring that patient values guide all clinical decisions.”*

- Gauge patient’s preferred level of involvement.
- Explore, where possible, therapeutic choices. Consider using decision aids.
- Shared Decision Making – a collaborative process between patient and clinician, using best available evidence and taking into account the patient’s preferences and values
- Final decisions regarding lifestyle choices ultimately lie with the patient.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- About 27% of the population over 65 has diabetes. If this trend is going on by 2050 every third adult will be diabetic (USA data)



- There is a tight relationship of glycemic control to microvascular and macrovascular outcomes.

# Impact of Intensive Therapy for Diabetes: Summary of Major Clinical Trials

Study	Microvasc		CVD		Mortality	
	Initial Trial	Long Term Follow-up	Initial Trial	Long Term Follow-up	Initial Trial	Long Term Follow-up
<b>UKPDS</b> (1977-1998) SU, INSULIN, METFORMIN	↓	↓	↔	↓	↔	↓
<b>DCCT</b> (1982-1993)	↓	↓	↔	↓	↔	↔
<b>EDIC*</b> (1994-) INSULIN (intensive vs. standard)	↓	↓	↔	↓	↔	↔
<b>ACCORD</b> (2001-2005) INSULIN (intensive vs. standard)	↓		↔			↑
<b>ADVANCE</b> (SU – gliclazide- based intensive vs. standard therapy)	↓		↔		↔	↔
<b>VADT</b> (intensive therapy with rosiglitazone and insulin)	↓		↔		↔	↔

UK Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS) Group. *Lancet* 1998;352:854.

Holman RR et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2008;359:1577. DCCT Research Group. *N Engl J Med* 1993;329:977.

Nathan DM et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2005;353:2643. Gerstein HC et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2008;358:2545.

Patel A et al. *N Engl J Med* 2008;358:2560. Duckworth W et al. *N Engl J Med* 2009;360:129.

Moritz T. *N Engl J Med* 2009;361:1024)



**Initial Trial**

\* in T1DM

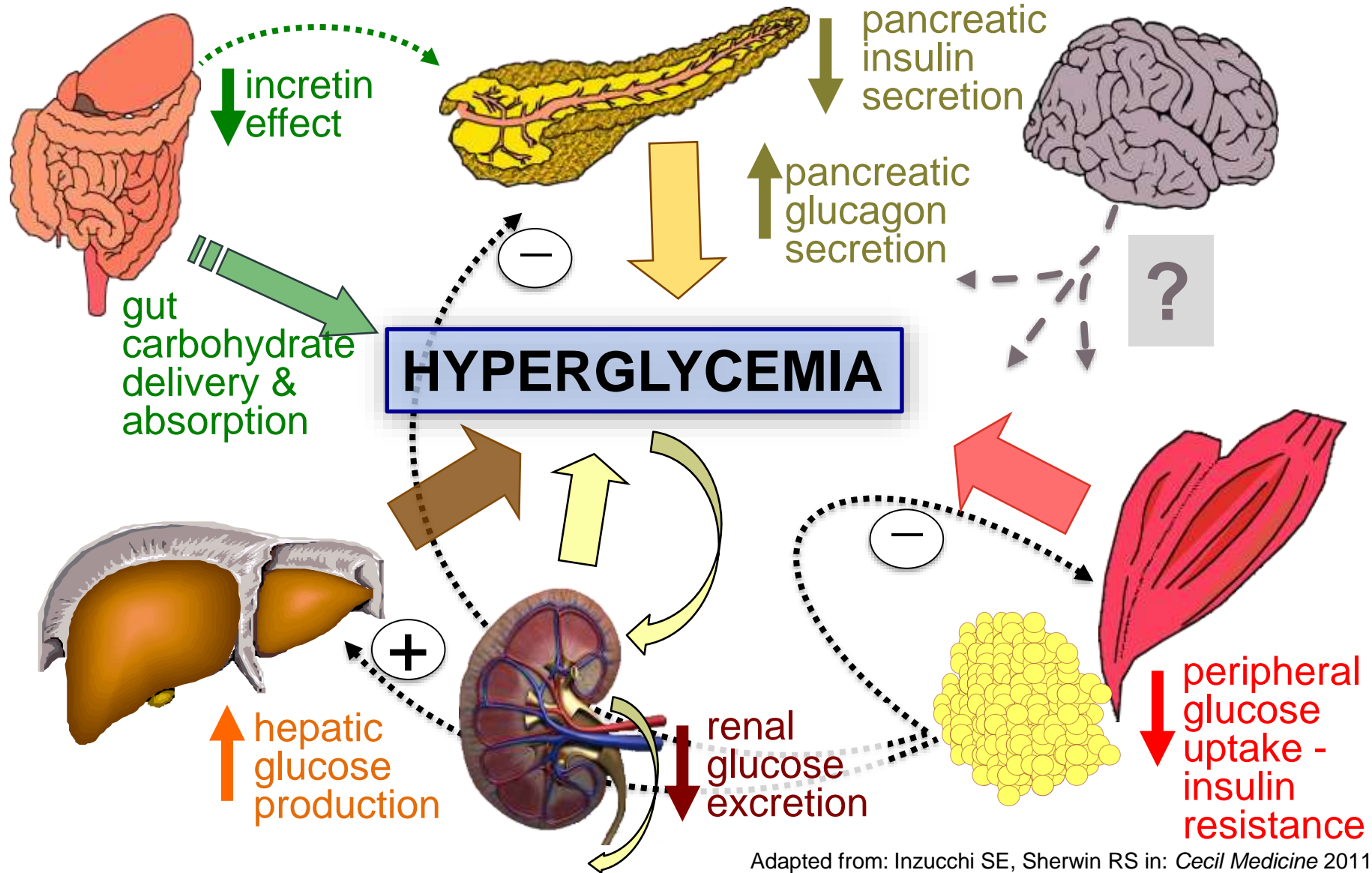


**Long Term Follow-up**

## **2. BACKGROUND**

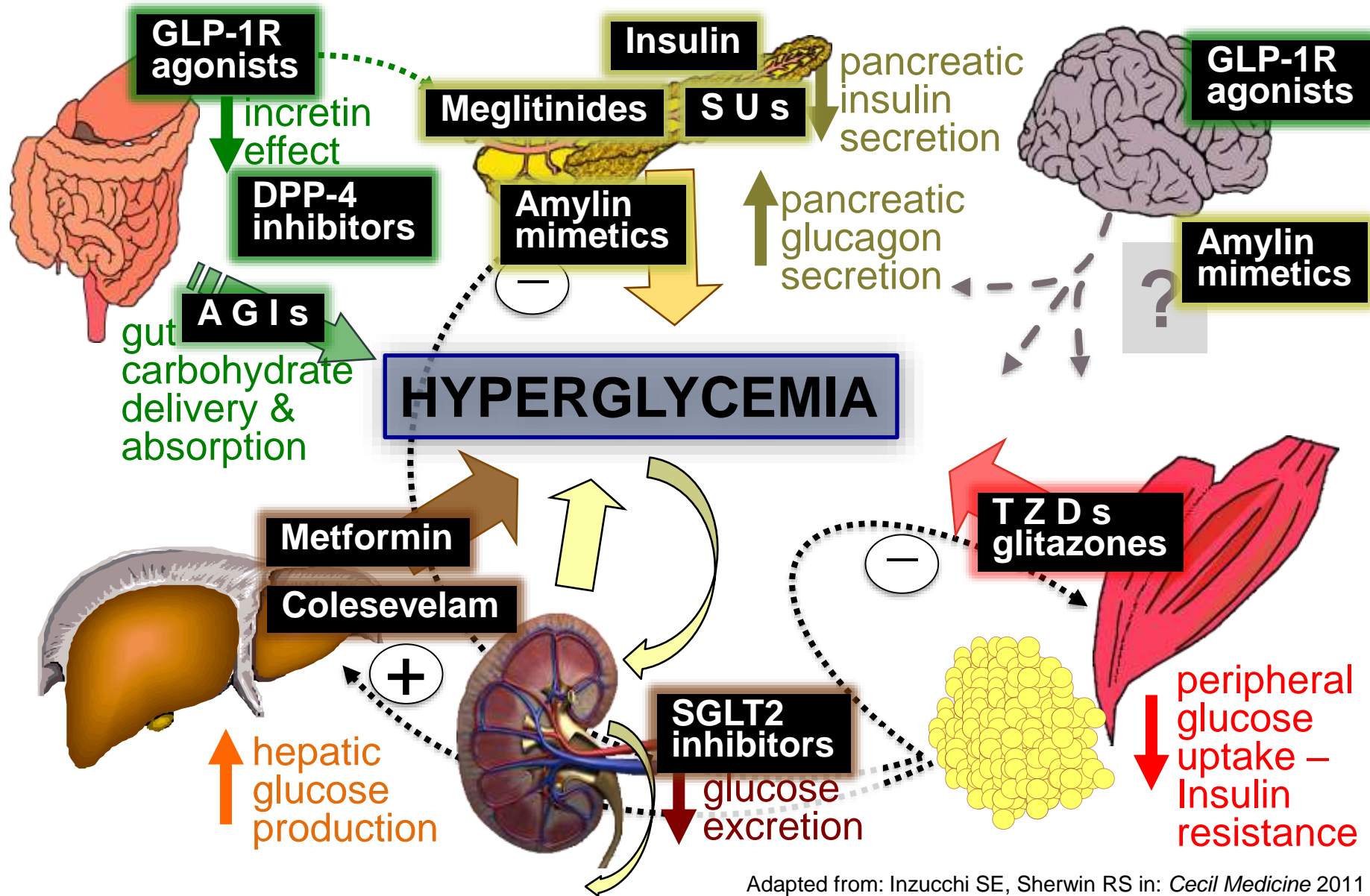
- **Overview of the pathogenesis of T2DM**
  - **Insulin secretory dysfunction**
  - **Insulin resistance (muscle, fat, liver)**
  - **Increased endogenous glucose production**
  - **Decreased incretin effect**
  - **Deranged adipocyte biology**
  - **...**

# Multiple, Complex Pathophysiological Abnormalities in T2DM





# Multiple, Complex Pathophysiological Abnormalities in T2DM



# 3. THERAPEUTIC AIMS OF ANTI-HYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY

- **To reach glycemic targets**
  - **HbA1c < 7.0%** (mean PG ~150-160 mg/dl [8.3-8.9 mmol/l])
  - Pre-prandial PG <130 mg/dl (7.2 mmol/l)
  - Post-prandial PG <180 mg/dl (10.0 mmol/l)
  - ***Individualization*** is key:
    - Tighter targets (6.0 - 6.5%) - younger, healthier
    - Looser targets (7.5 - 8.0%<sup>+</sup>) - older, comorbidities, hypoglycemia prone, etc.
  - Avoidance of hypoglycemia

# 3. ANTI-HYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY

## 3.0. Therapeutic options: Lifestyle

- Weight optimization



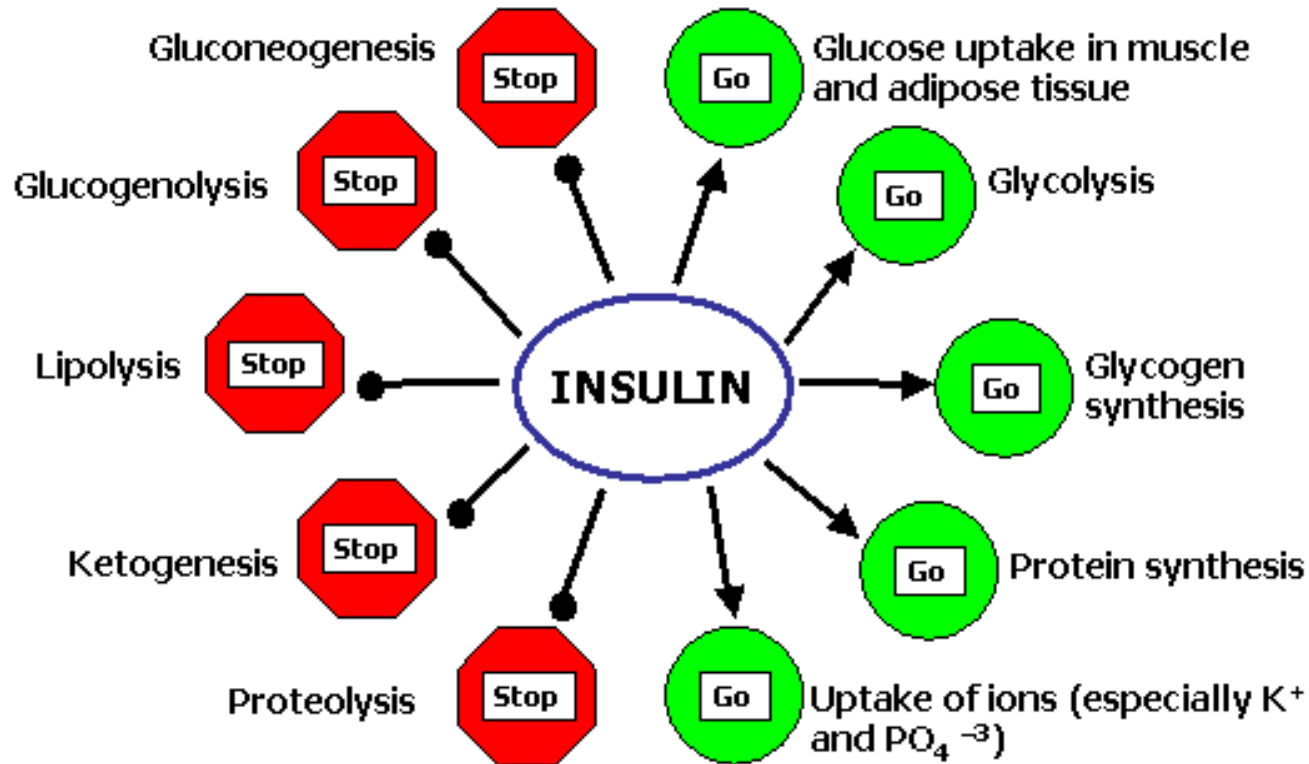
- Healthy diet

- Increased physical activity level



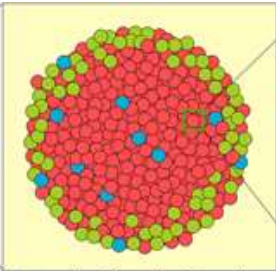
# 3. ANTI-HYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY

## 3.1. Insulin



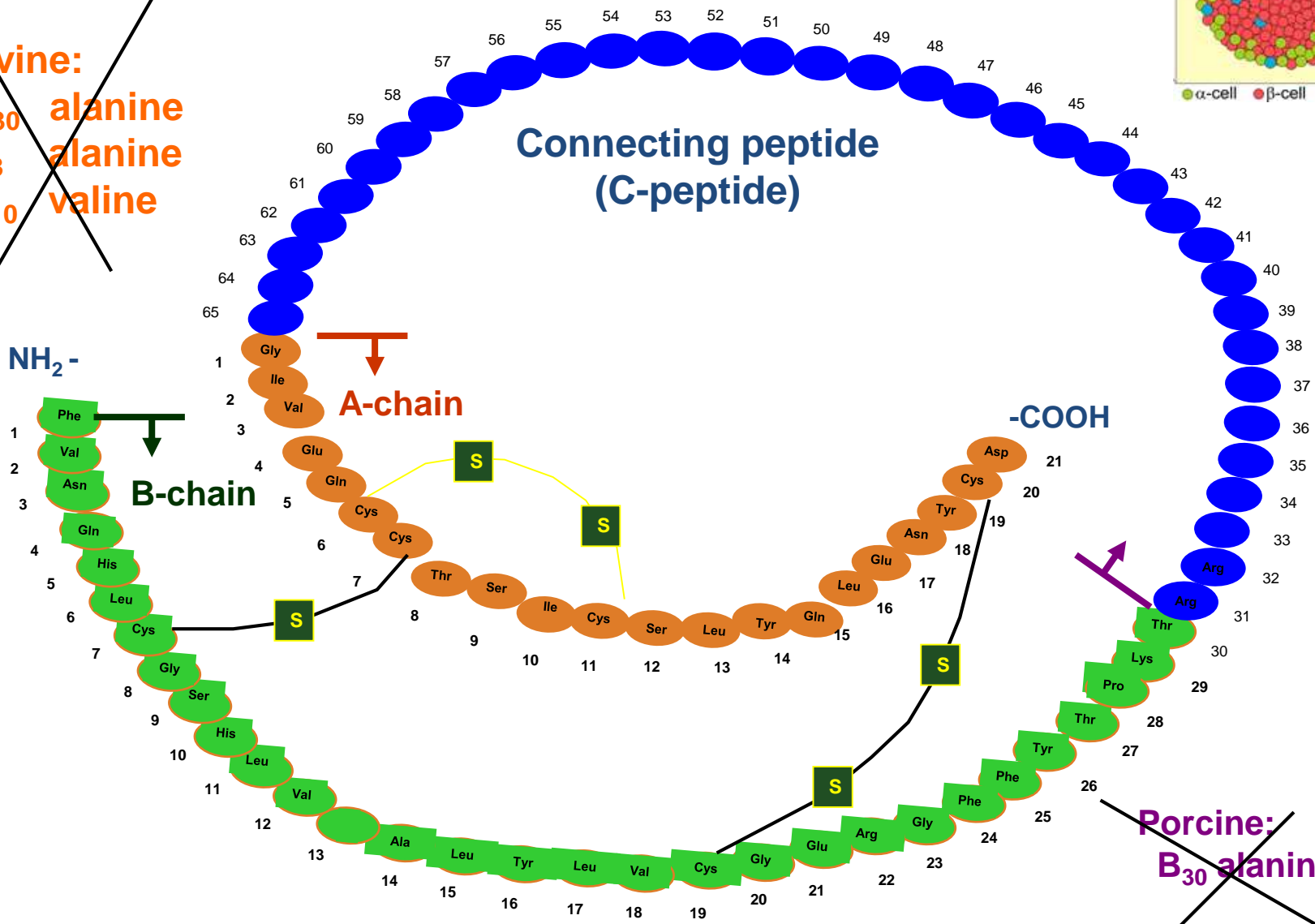
Modified from Clinical Biochemistry, A. Gaw et al, Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1995.

# 3.1. Insulin: Structure of proinsulin



●  $\alpha$ -cell ●  $\beta$ -cell ●  $\delta$ -cell

~~Bovine:  
B<sub>30</sub> alanine  
A<sub>8</sub> alanine  
A<sub>10</sub> valine~~



~~Porcine:  
B<sub>30</sub> alanine~~

# 3.1. Insulin: The fate of secreted/administered insulin

half-life in plasma < 9 min

## The main sites of degradation

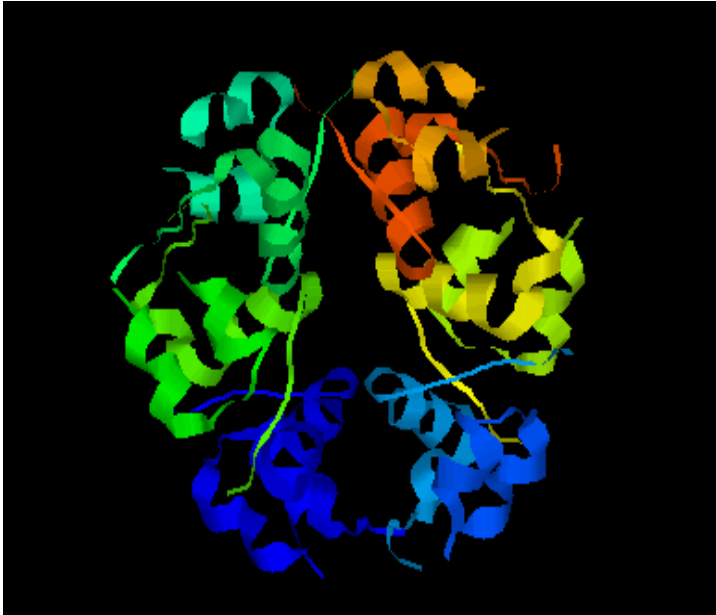
**liver** - about 50% is destroyed in a single passage without reaching the general circulation

**kidney** - filtration by glomeruli, reabsorption by tubuli, degradation in the tubuli

**muscle** - of minor significance

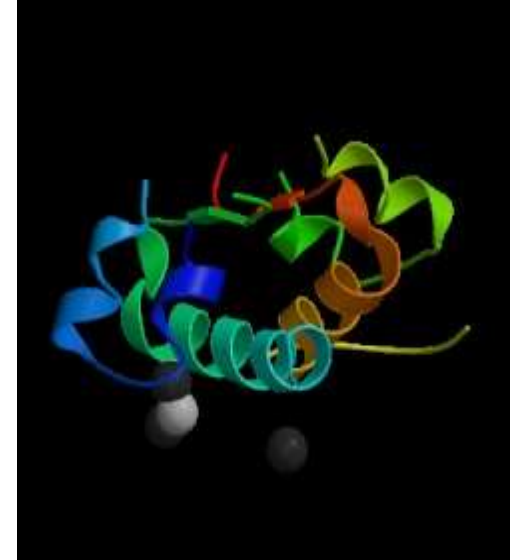
In severe impairment of renal function, or in liver cirrhosis breakdown of insulin decreases – increased risk of hypoglycemia

# 3.1. Insulin: Hexamer/monomer form of human insulin



in the pancreas  
in case of sc. administration

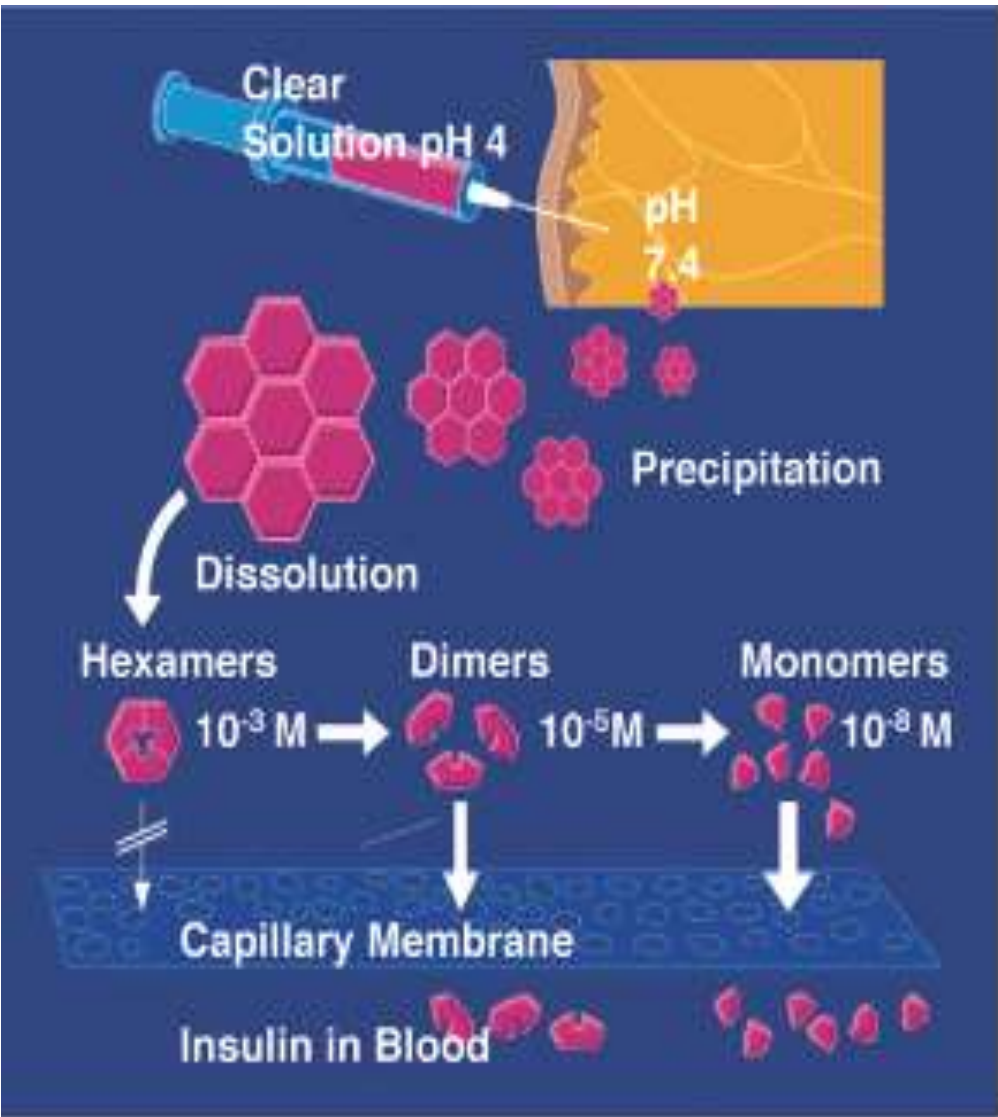
**hexamer**



in the circulation

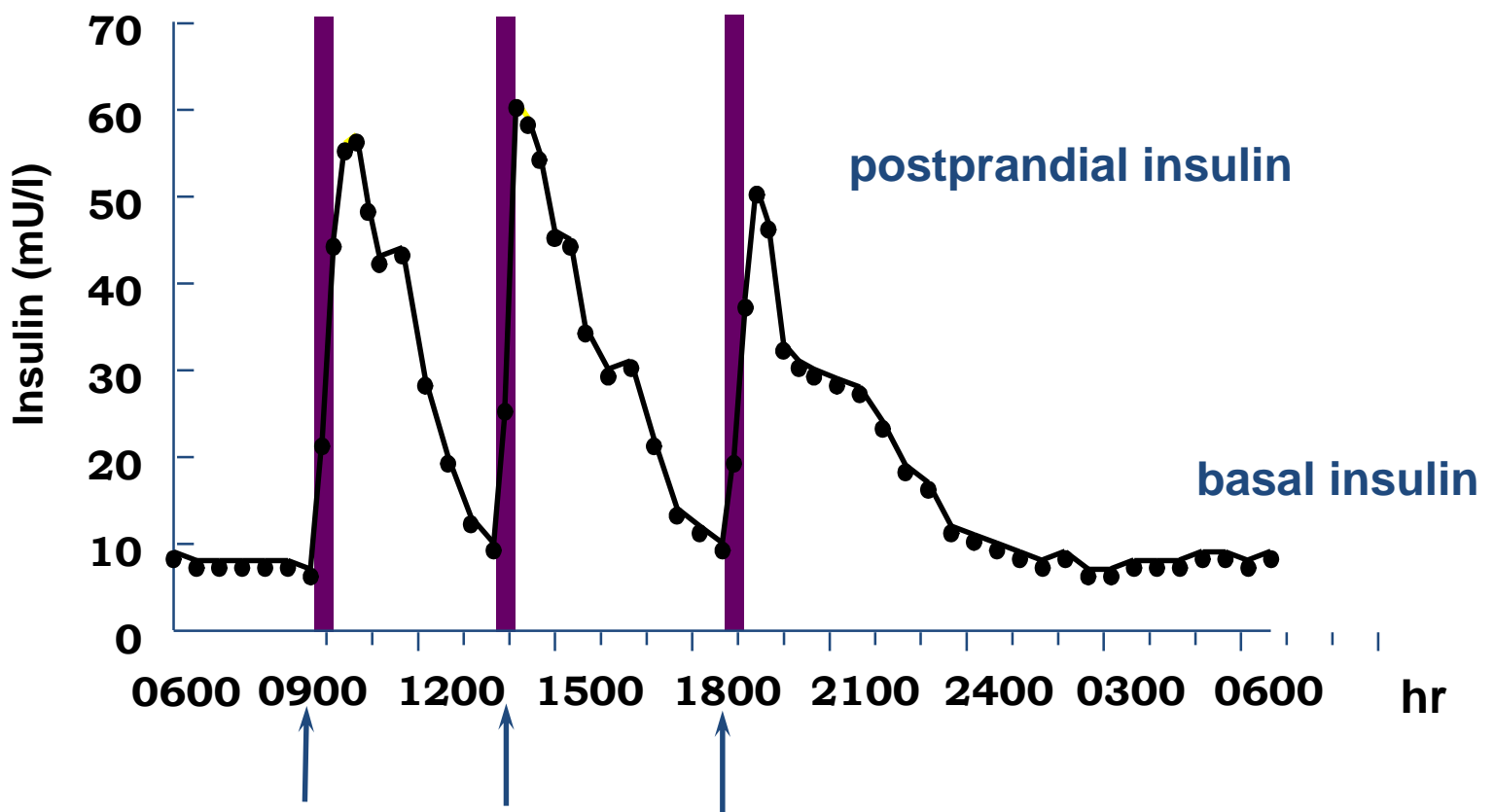
**monomer**

# 3.1. Insulin: Dissociation of insulin hexamers to monomers after s.c. injection





# 3.1. Insulin: Daily Insulin levels in healthy humans



**Total daily insulin need (in Units)**  
= weight (kg) x 0.55  
= weight (pound) / 4

Adapted from Polonsky et al. 1988

## 3.1. Insulin classes: According to the duration of action I

- **short acting - regular human insulin**  
(onset ~ 30min-1 hr, duration ~ 5-6 hr)
- Good for i.v. administration (e.g. for diabetic ketoacidosis/hyperkalemia)

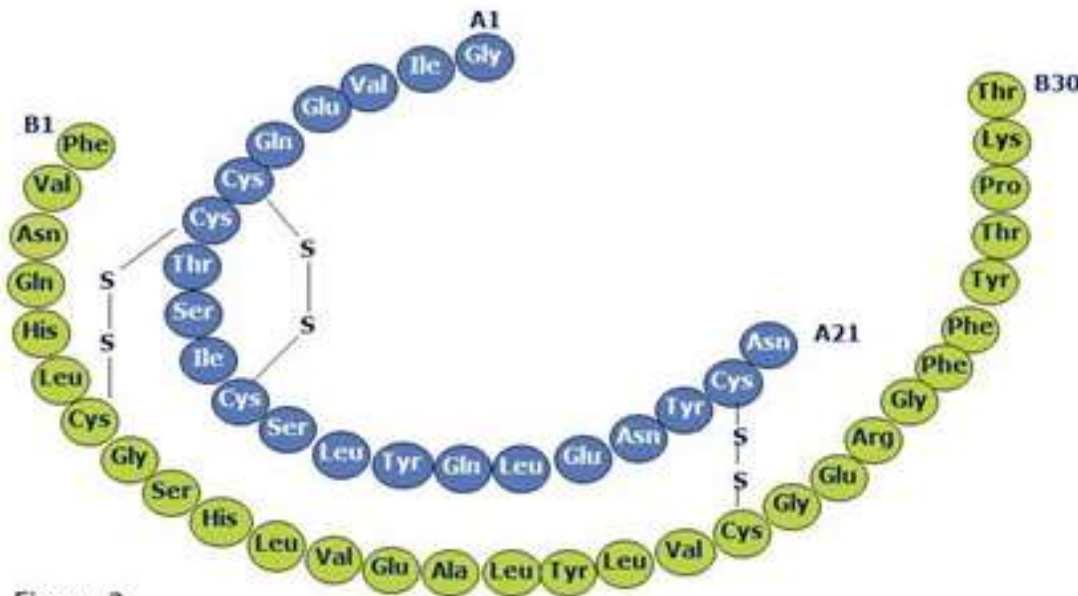
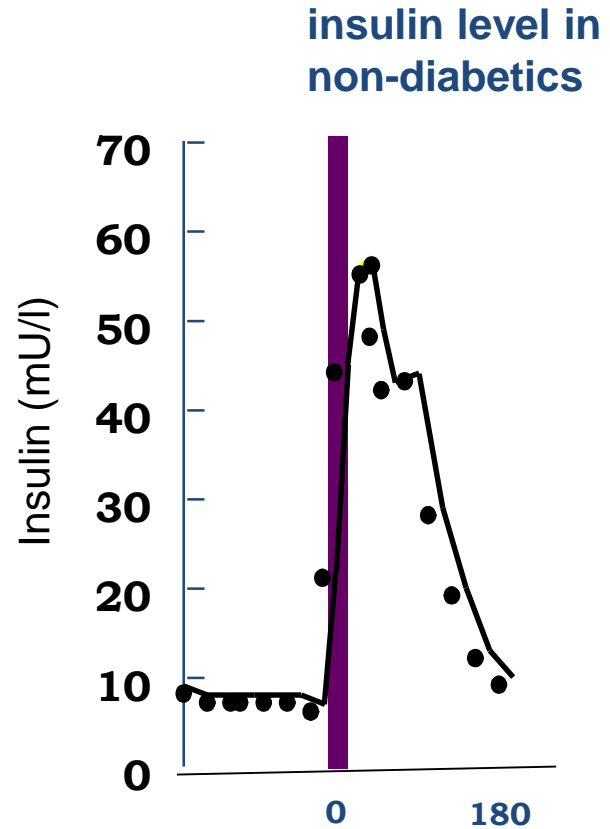
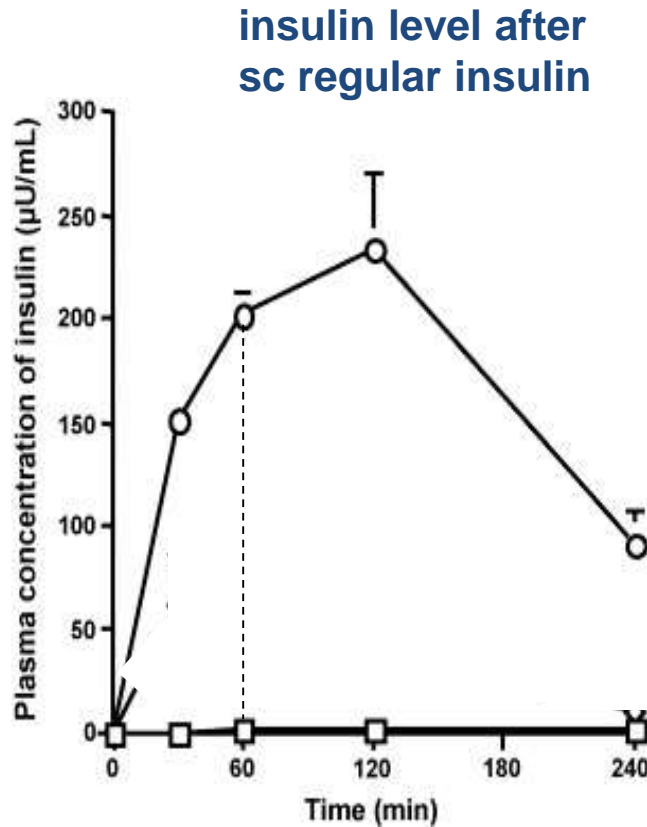


Figure 2

# 3.1. Insulin: Activity profile of regular insulin



Optimal time for preprandial sc. injection - 60 min before meal

If given at the time of meal:

– prandial hyperglycemia, postprandial hypoglycemia

## 3.1. Insulin classes: According to the duration of action II

### ➤ fast (ultra-short) acting insulin analogs

(onset ~ 20-30 min, duration ~ 3-4 hr)

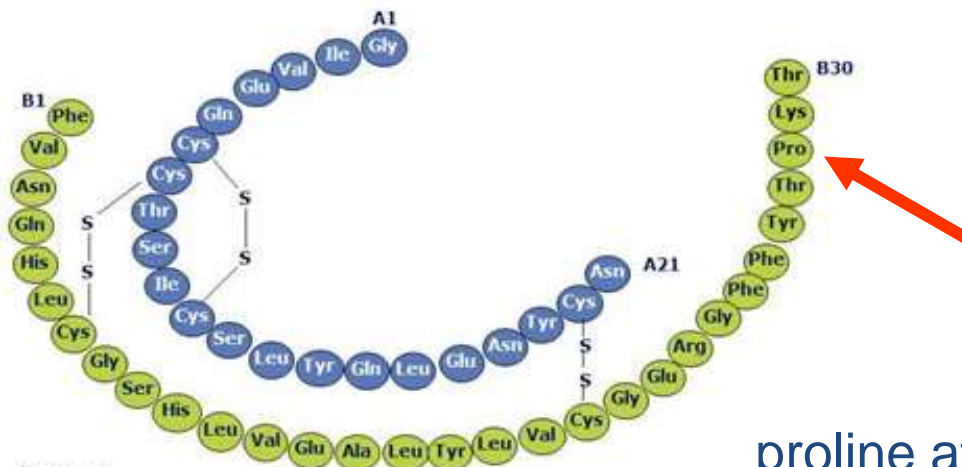
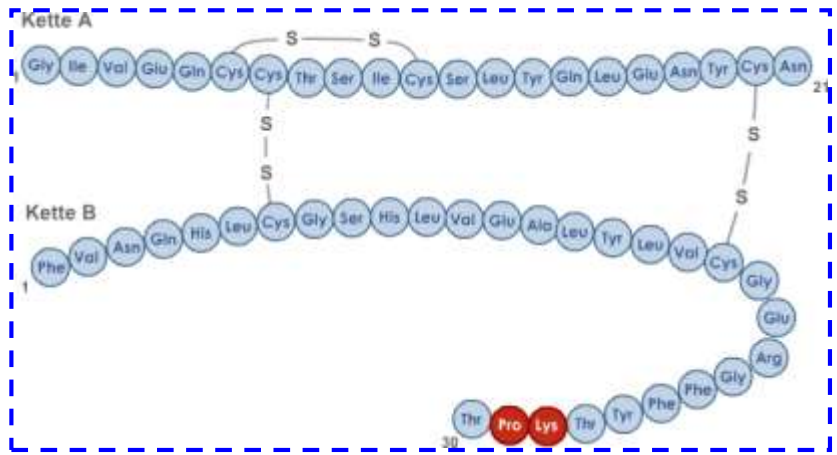


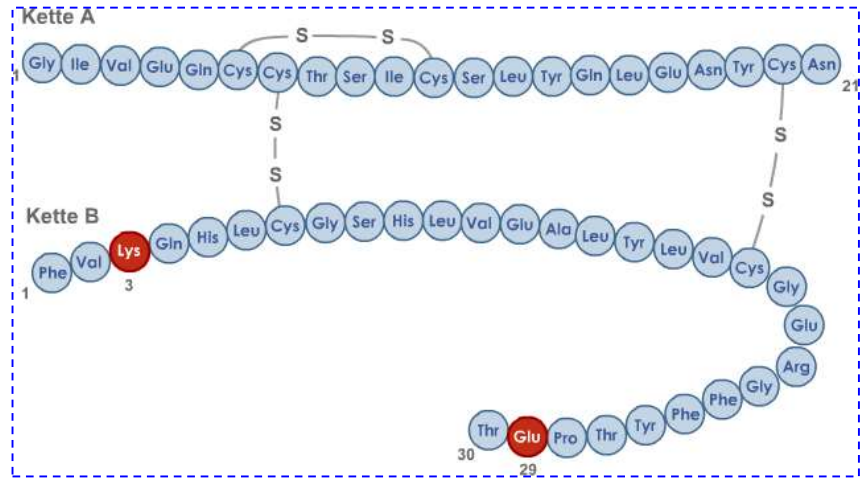
Figure 2

proline at B28 position is rather active in the formation of hexamer binding – **target of modifications** – **no hexamer production** – **rapid action** – to mimic normal post-prandial insulin spike

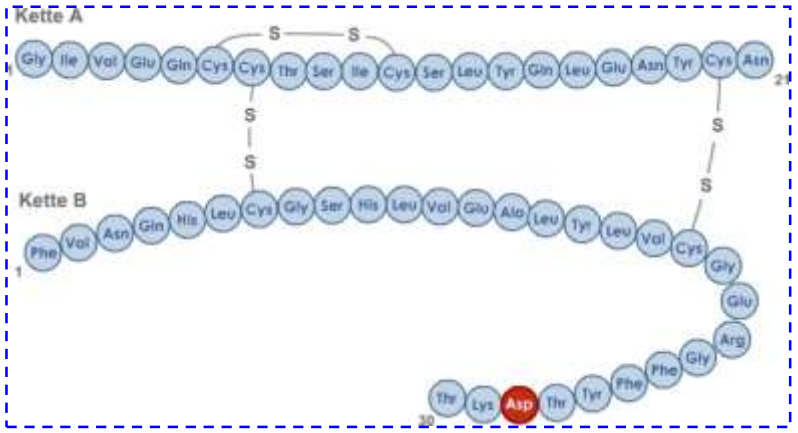
# 3.1. Insulin classes: Fast acting insulin analogs



*lispro*



*glulisine*

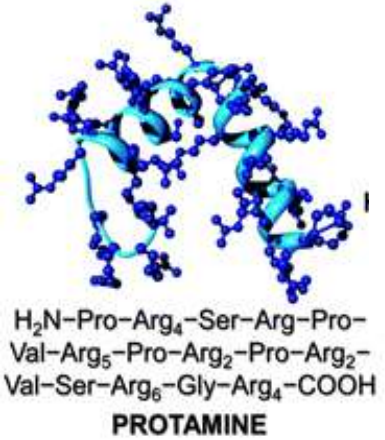
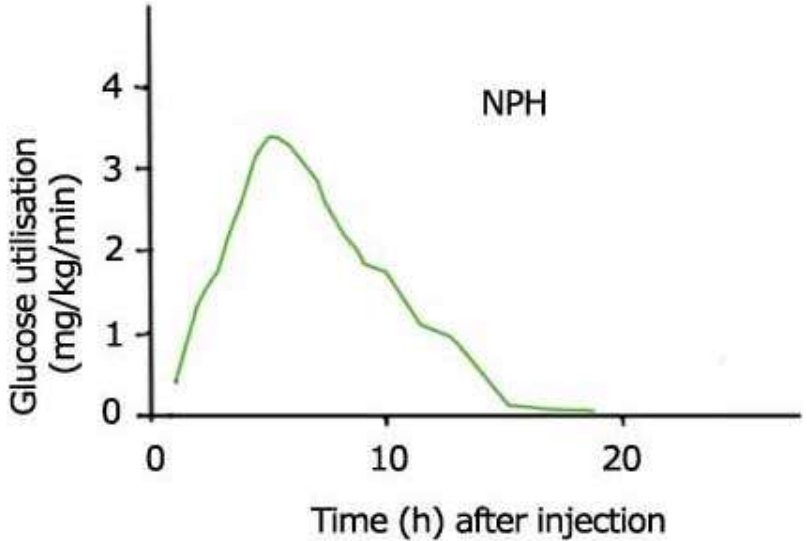


*aspart*

# 3.1. Insulin classes: According to the duration of action III

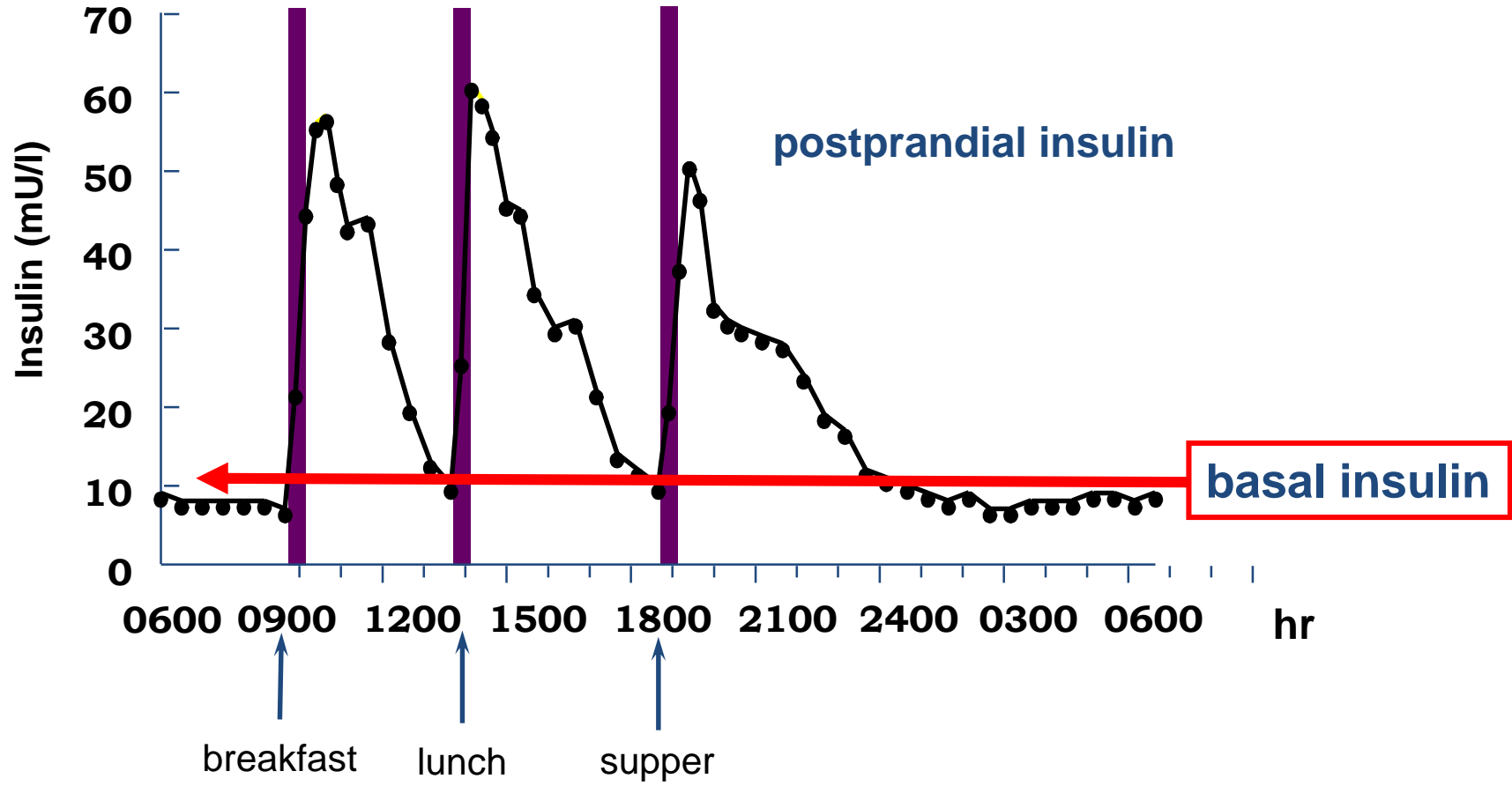
➤ **intermediate acting - isophane/NPH insulin – (Neutral Protamine Hagedorn)**

➤ (onset ~ 4-5 hr, duration ~ 12-14 hr)



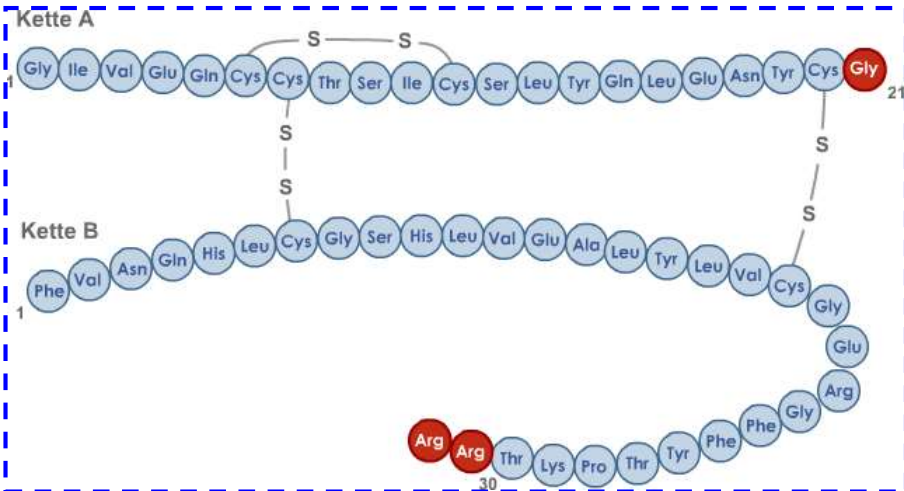
Protamine hypersensitivity is more common in males after vasectomy or in patients who are allergic to fish.

## 3.1. Insulin classes: Ultra long acting insulin analogs IV



Adapted from Polonsky et al. 1988

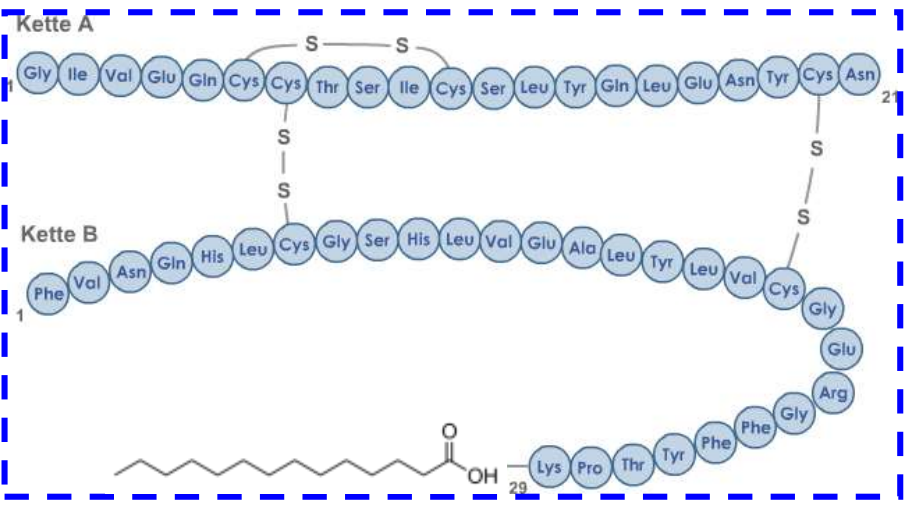
# 3.1. Insulin classes: Ultra long acting insulin analogs



*glargine*

Addition of two Arg after B30 –Thr

Isoelectric point - human insulin pH 5.4; glargine insulin pH ~7.0



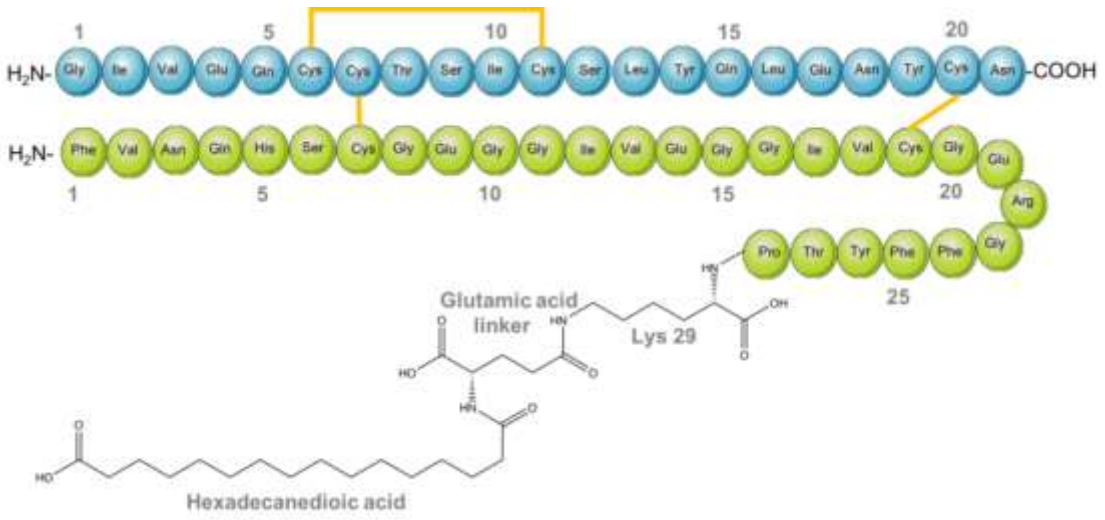
*detemir*

Thr in position B30 has been omitted and myristic acid was coupled to B29-Lys

→ More apolar character and enhanced albumin binding

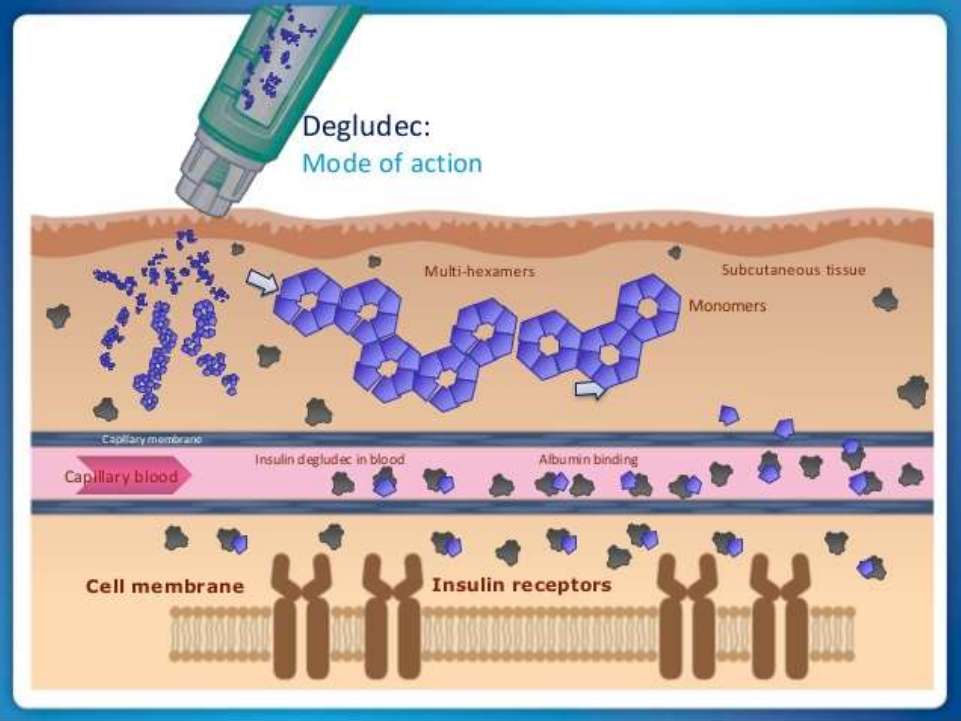


# 3.1. Insulin classes: Ultra long acting insulin analogs



*degludec*

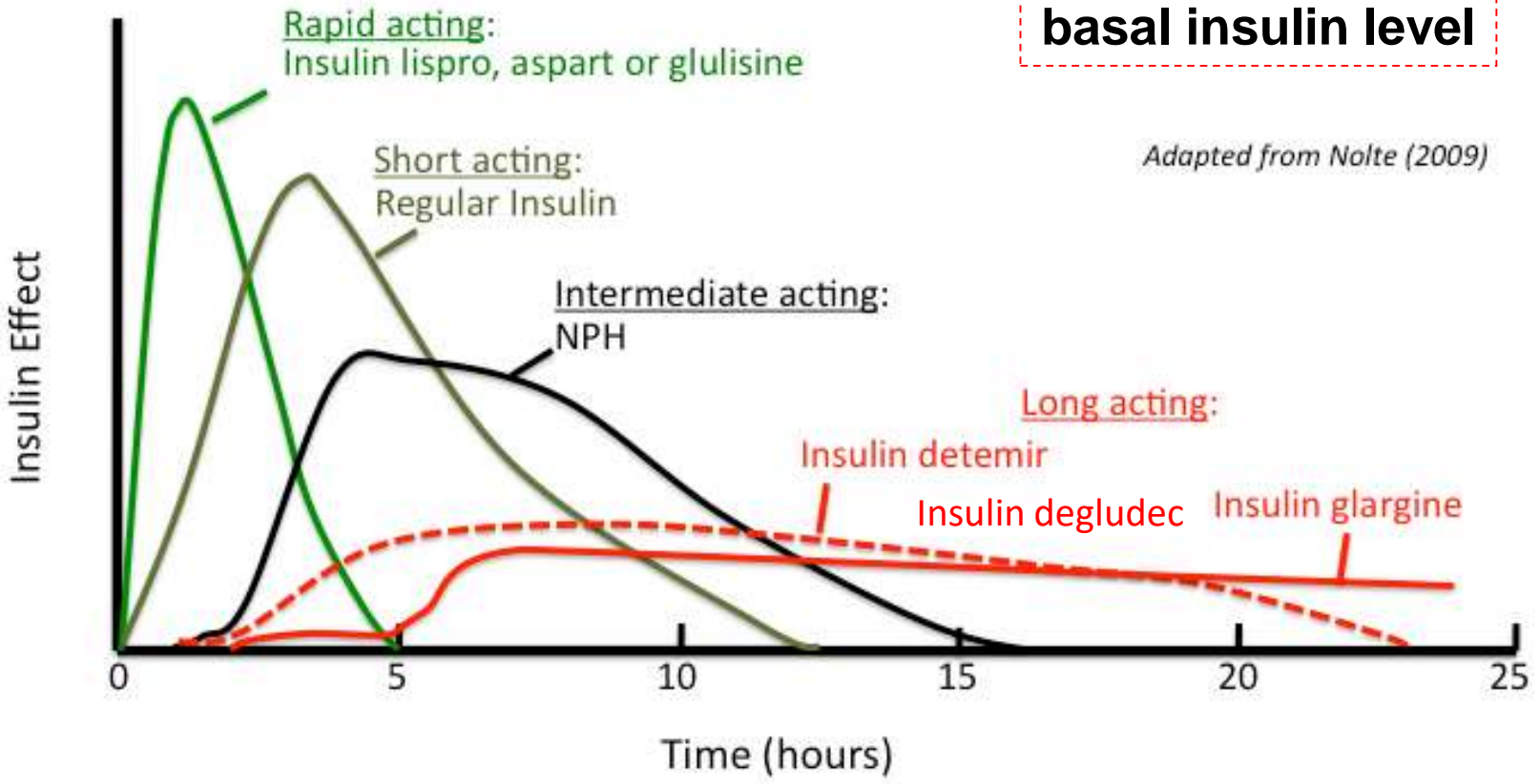
Thr - B30 has been omitted and the Lys - B29 has been coupled to **hexadecanedioic acid** via a glutamic acid linker.



# 3.1. Insulin: Duration of action of insulin preparations

postprandial insulin level

basal insulin level



## 3.1. Insulin: Preparations of insulin according to the solubility

**watery (clear) solution**

*regular (human) insulin*

*insulin analogs*

**suspension (cloudy solution)**

*protamine insulin*

The various insulin preparations contain generally 40-100 NE/ml insulin

# 3.1. Insulin: Routes of administration

- i.v.** Only clean solution (human and fast acting analogs)  
Emergency situations e.g. coma due to diabetic ketoacidosis

## **s.c. – retarded absorption**

Clean solution and suspension



**„artificial pancreas” / insulin pumps** human and fast acting analogs

- closed system - according to actually monitored glucose level (for children only this system is prescribed)
- open system - according to a program

**by inhalation** – only clean solution for adults

– withdrawn from the market in 2016 due to safety concerns

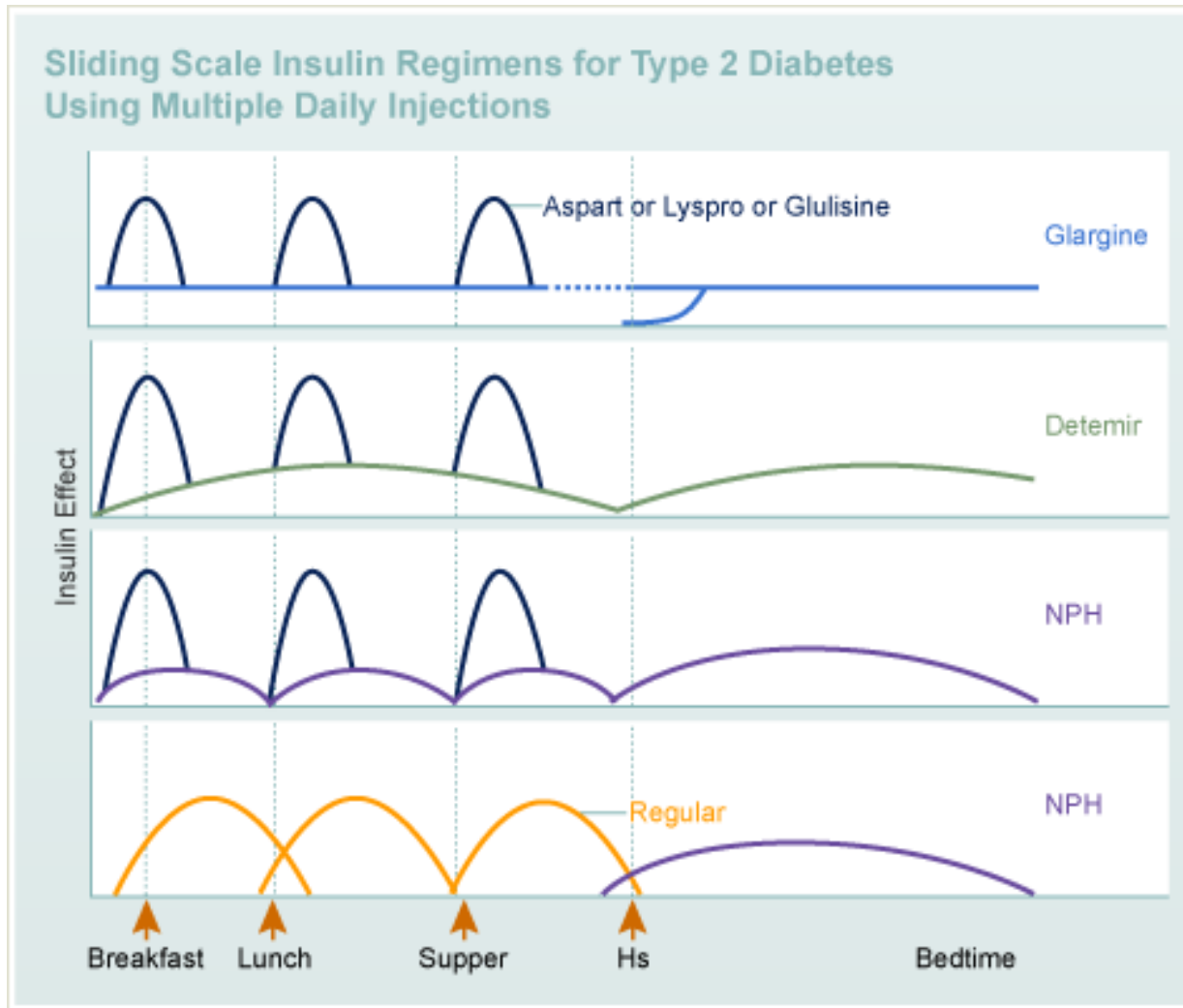
(decline in pulmonary function and a slight increased incidence of lung cancer)

## 3.1. Insulin: CLINICAL USAGE OF INSULIN

- **Diabetes mellitus:** Type 1 always, Type 2 – in case the endogenous insulin stores are exhausted
- **Gestational diabetes:** oral antidiabetics are contraindicated !!
- **Diabetic critical care states :** diabetic ketoacidosis, hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state  
(human insulin/ultrashort acting insulin analogs)
- **Hyperkalemia critical treatment:** insulin + glucose enhances the  $K^+$  intake of the cells  
(human insulin/ultrashort acting insulin analogs)

# 3.1. Insulin: INTENSIVE INSULIN THERAPY

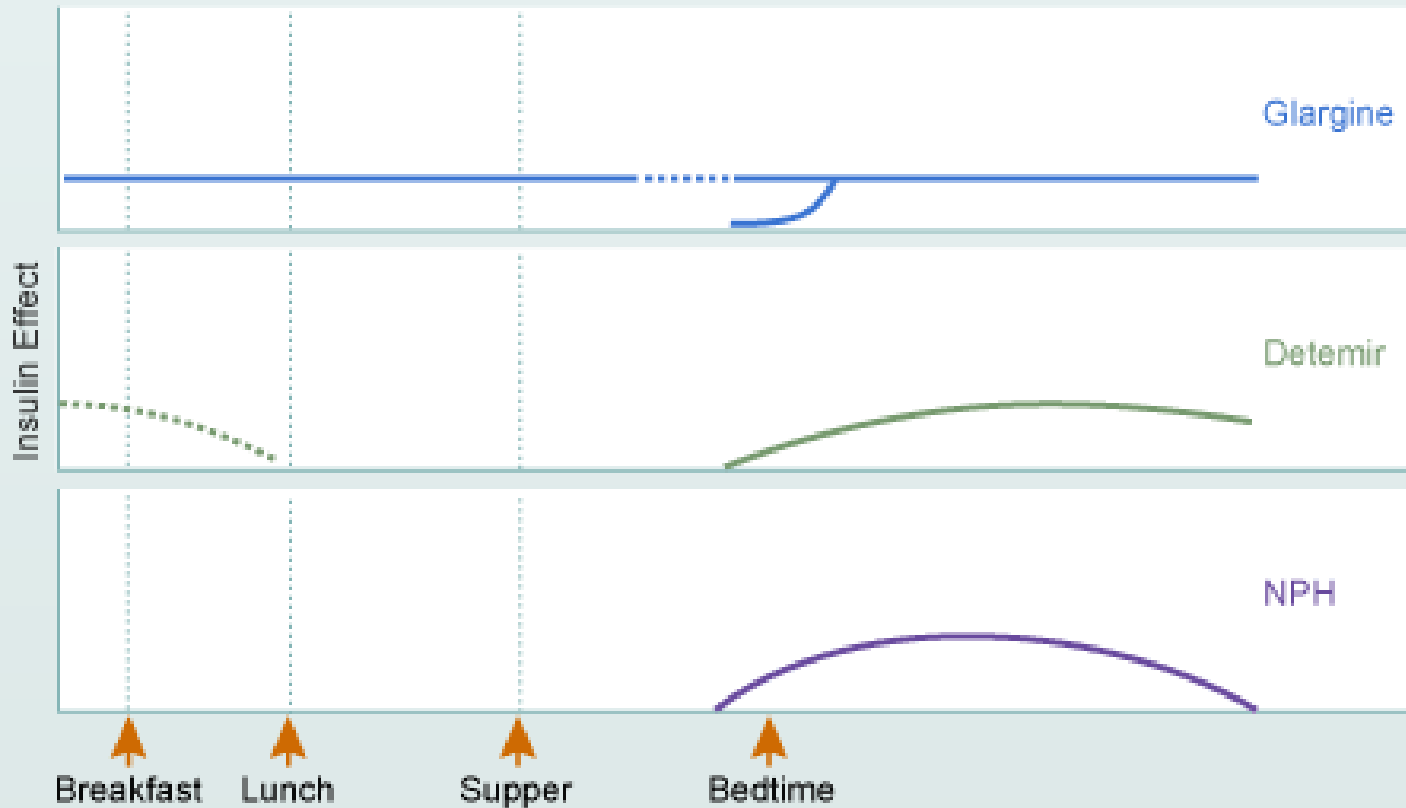
## Tight glycemic control with multiple daily injections



# 3.1. Insulin: INTENSIVE INSULIN THERAPY

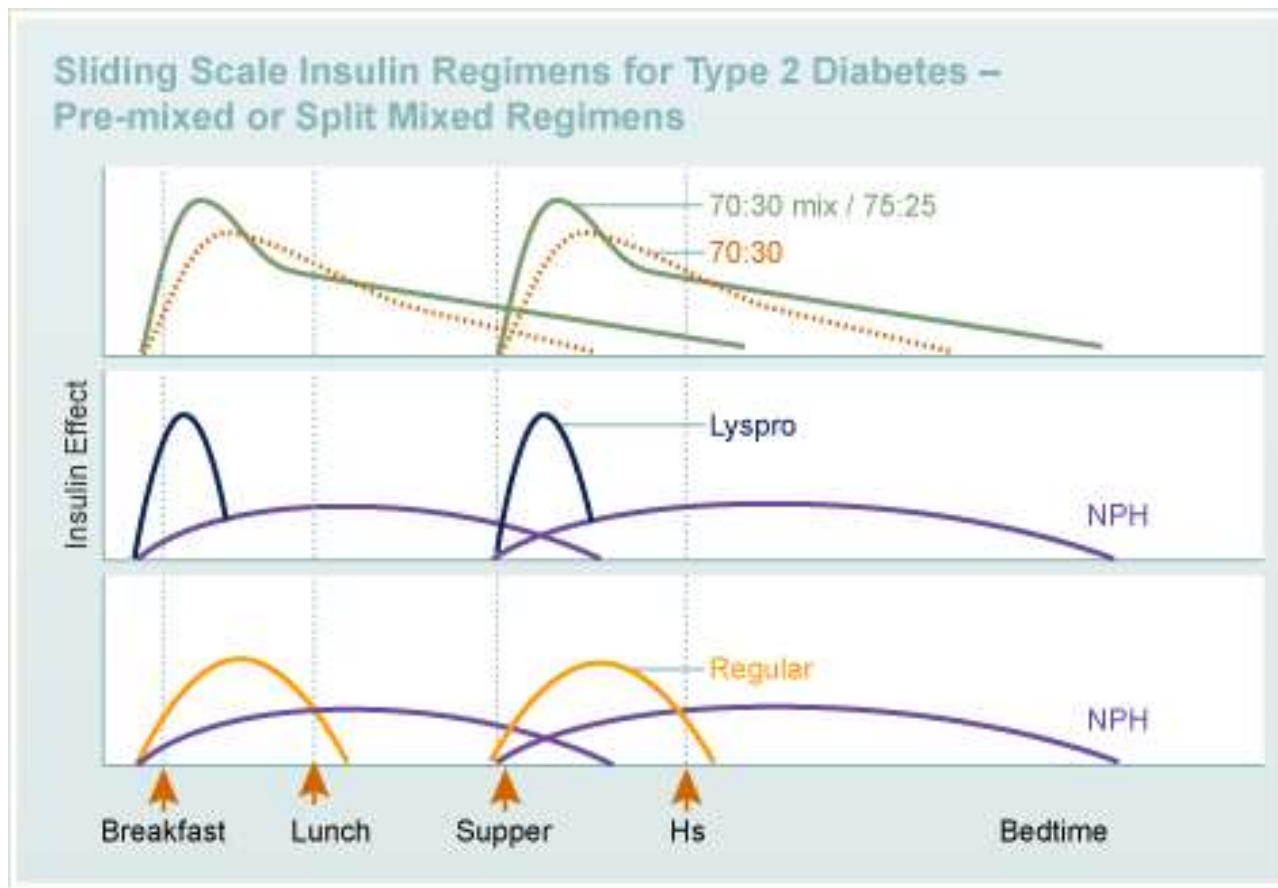
## Glycemic control with single daily injections

Insulin Regimens for Type 2 Diabetes Using One Daily Injection of Insulin



# 3.1. Insulin: Premixed preparations for better glycemic control and patient compliance

- Premixed prep.:
- NPH form + water soluble (most common 30:70 ratio)
  - degludec + aspart (70:30 ratio)





# 3.1. Insulin: ADVERSE EFFECTS OF INSULIN

## ➤ Hypoglycemia

**with rapid onset** sympathetic and parasympathetic stimulation

**with slow onset** - CNS symptoms

**th: glucose orally or i.v.**

**glucagon i.m. 0.5-1 mg (only within 45 min)**

- lipodystrophy (hypertrophy/atrophy)
- oedema
- allergic skin symptoms
- anaphylaxia (rare)
- hypokalaemia (insulin enhances  $K^+$  influx into the cells)

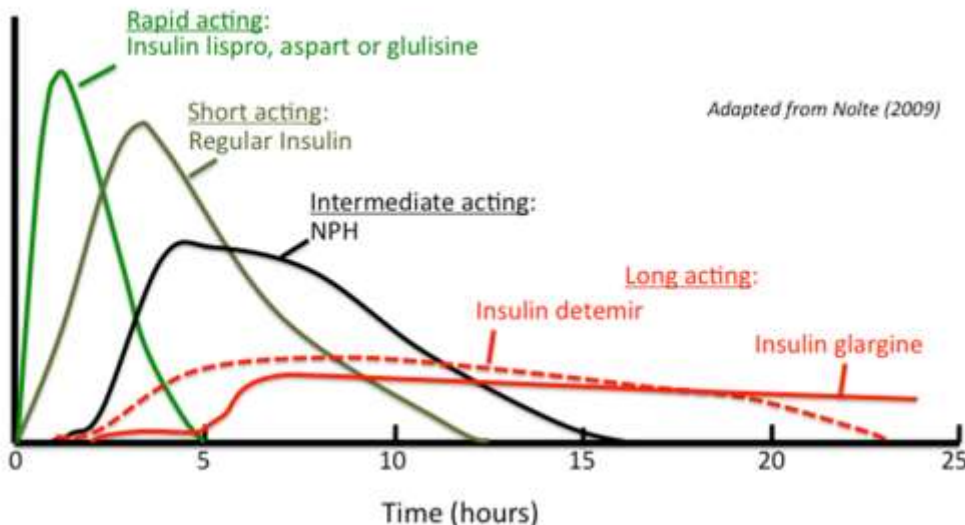
### **special adverse effect of inhaled insulin**

acute bronchospasm, decrease of lung function, lung tumor ?

# 3.1. Insulin: Summary of insulins



- short acting –regular human insulin
- fast (ultra-short) acting insulin analogs:
  - Lispro, Aspart, Glulisin
- intermediate acting insulins:
  - Isophane/NPH insulin (Neutral Protamine Hagedorn)
- ultra-long acting insulin analogs:
  - Glargin, Detemir, Degludec



Hans Christian Hagedorn (1888 – 1971)  
The creator of NPH insulin

# 3.2. ANTI-HYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY

## Oral agents

Sulfonylureas

Meglitinides

Metformin (biguanides)

Thiazolidinediones (glitazones)

DPP-4 inhibitors

$\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitors (AGIs)

SGLT-2 inhibitors

Dopamine-2 agonist (low dose bromocriptine – only in US)

Bile acid sequestrants

## Non-insulin injectables

GLP-1 receptor agonists

Amylin mimetics

insulin release enhancing  
(insulinotrop/secretagog) compounds

insulin effect enhancing  
compounds

incretin effect prolonging  
compounds

insulin-independent  
compounds

parenteral – non-insulin injectables

insulin-dependent  
compounds



## 3.2. Insulinotrop (hypoglycemic) compounds

### sulfonylureas



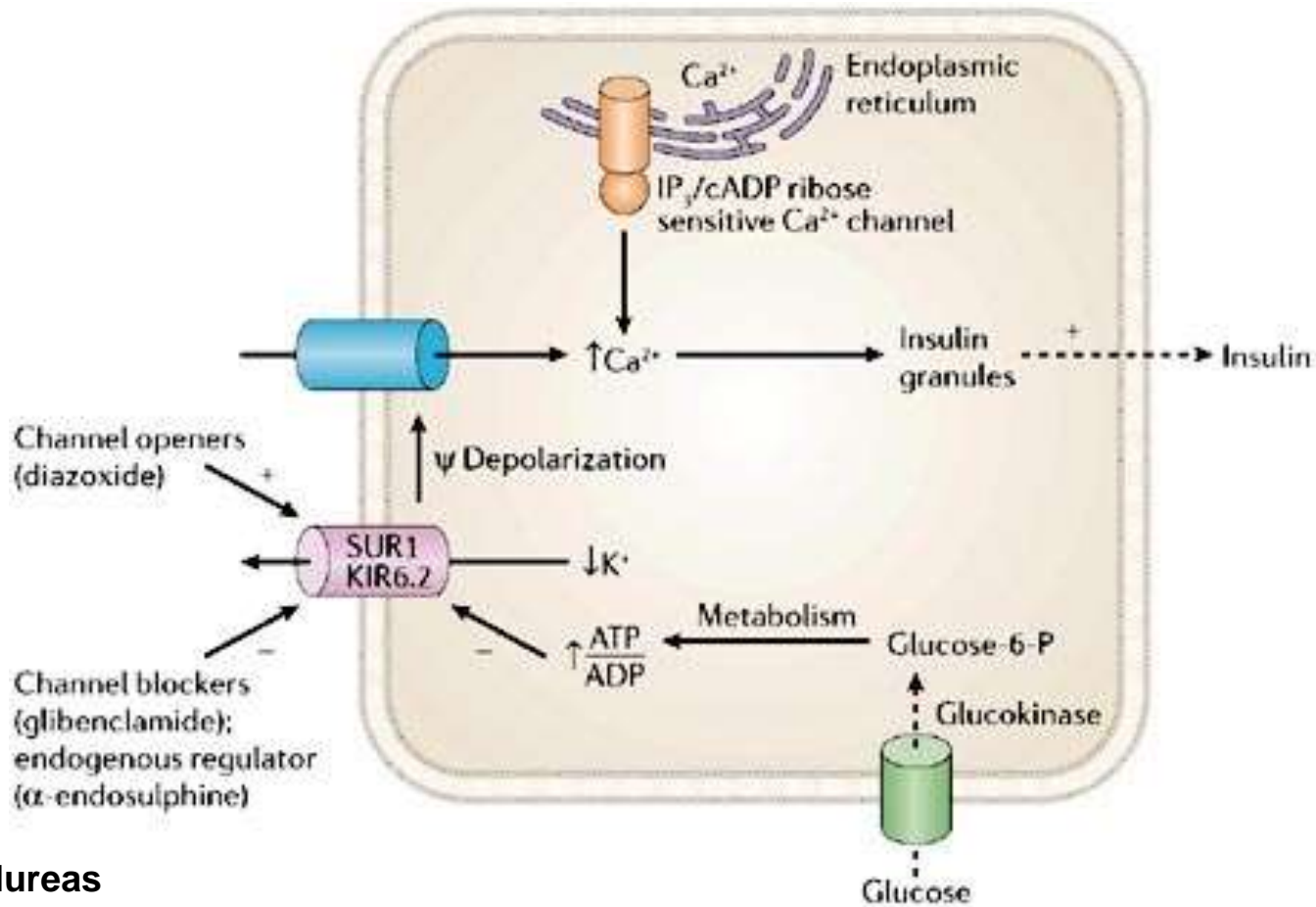
- ◆ stimulate release of insulin from  $\beta$ -cells  
(~ 30% activity is necessary)
  - ◆ reduce serum glucagon level (via insulin release ?)
  - ◆ do have effect on  $K^+$ -channels in extrapancreatic tissue

### non-sulfonylureas

**PRG - prandial regulators of glucose**

- ◆ acute increase of insulin release  
(should be taken in connection with meals)

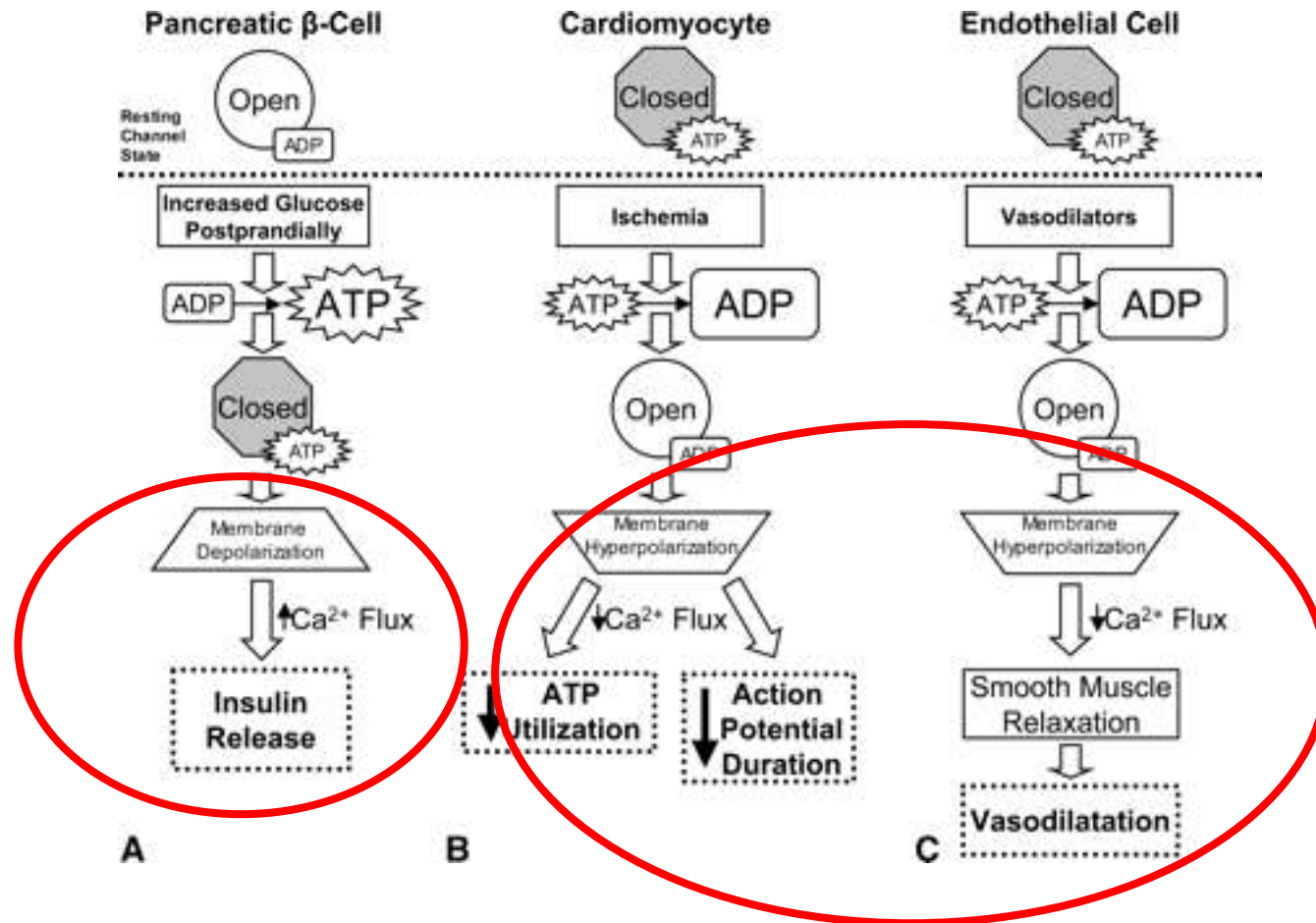
## 3.2. Effect of insulinotropic agents on the pancreatic $\beta$ -cells



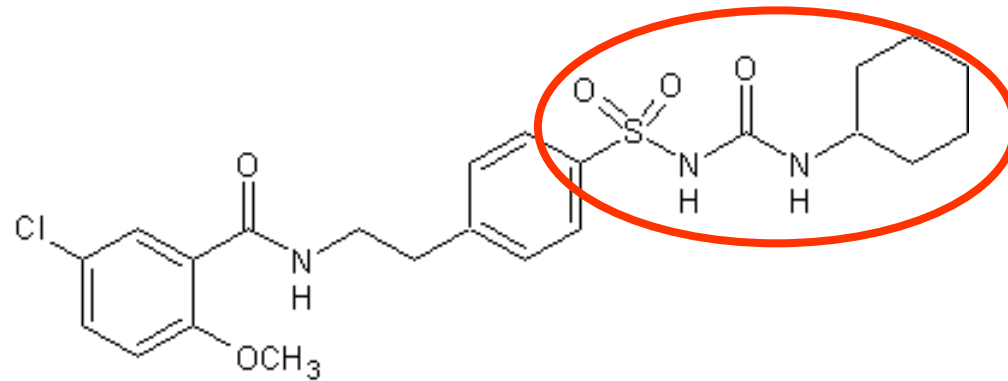
sulfonylureas

## 3.2. SU receptor

Combination of subunits is different in pancreatic  $\beta$  cells, vascular smooth muscle and in cardiomyocytes



## 3.2. Sulfonylureas



First generation – long duration of action

tolbutamide, tolazamide, chlorpropamide

### Second generation

**glyburide (aka. glybenclamide):** high hypoglycemia risk

**gliclazide, glimepiride:** pancreas selective drugs

**glipizide:** shortest duration of action (less hypoglycemia risk)

## 3.2. Advantages of sulfonylureas

- potent drugs
- generally the action is maintained for longer period
- pancreas-selective drugs (gliclazide, glimepiride) are safer
- gliclazide - SUR 1 selective
  - antioxidant and antiproliferative effect
  - does not enhance Epac 2 (transcription factor affecting the glucose sensitivity) expression
  - smaller risk of hypoglycemia (action rather on the first phase of insulin release)

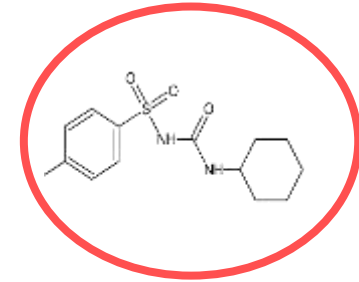
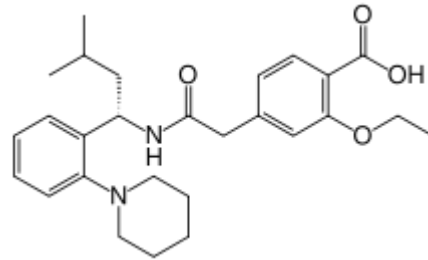


## 3.2. Disadvantages of sulfonylureas

- risk of hypoglycemia (prolonged)
- increased food intake 5 x /day – weight gain is associated with SU use (and meglitinide use)
- cardiovascular risk due to inhibition of cardiac SU receptor
- hematological abnormalities (thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, hemolytic anemia)

## 3.2. Meglitinides (PRGs – prandial regulators of glucose)

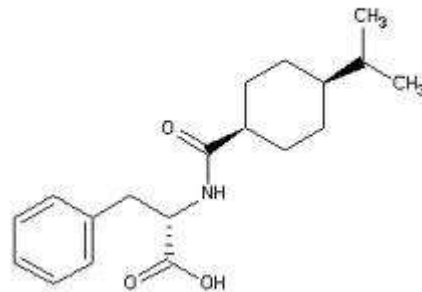
repaglinid



Sulfonylurea group is not present in meglitinides:

A cause of „sulfa“-allergy

nateglinid

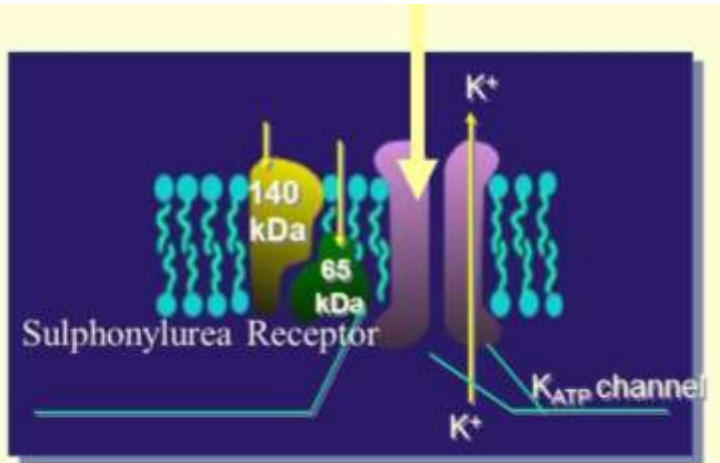


# 3.2. Meglitinides

**repaglinide**

**nateglinide**

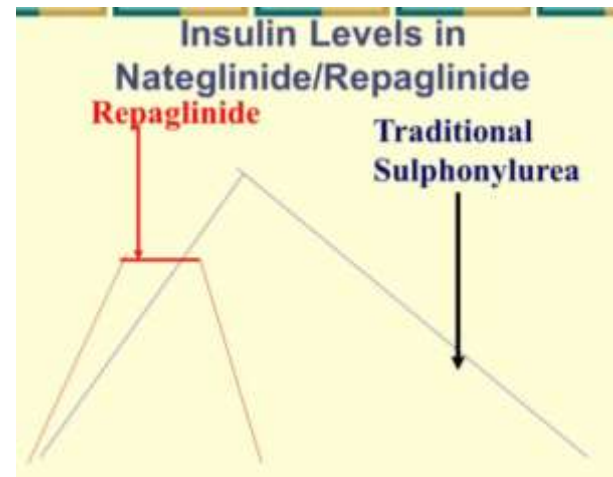
They bind to specific sites in the SUR with different binding characteristics



*Quicker attachment*

*Earlier Detachment*

$T_{max}$



Plasma half-life

Duration of action

Glibenclamide

4-6 hrs

10 hrs

16-24 hrs

PGR

40 min

1-1,5 hrs

4-5 hrs

**should be taken in connection with meals**

# 3.2. ANTI-HYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY

## Oral agents

Sulfonylureas ✓

Meglitinides ✓

Metformin (biguanides)

Thiazolidinediones (glitazones)

DPP-4 inhibitors

α-glucosidase inhibitors (AGIs)

SGLT-2 inhibitors

Dopamine-2 agonist (low dose bromocriptine – only in US)

Bile acid sequestrants

## Non-insulin injectables

GLP-1 receptor agonists

Amylin mimetics

insulin release enhancing  
(insulinotrop/secretagog) compounds

insulin effect enhancing  
compounds

incretin effect prolonging  
compounds

insulin-independent  
compounds

parenteral – non-insulin injectables

insulin-dependent  
compounds



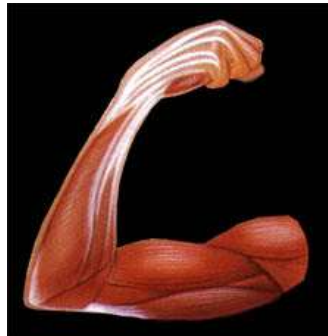
## 3.2. Non-insulinotrop (euglycemic) compounds

### ❖ Biguanids



Decrease of hepatic glucose production, intestinal glucose absorption, and increase of peripheral insulin sensitivity/glucose utilization

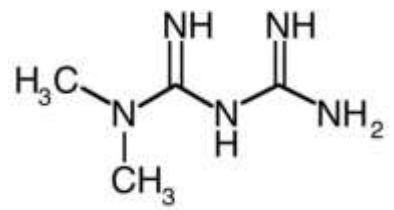
### ❖ Thiazolidenediones (glitazones)



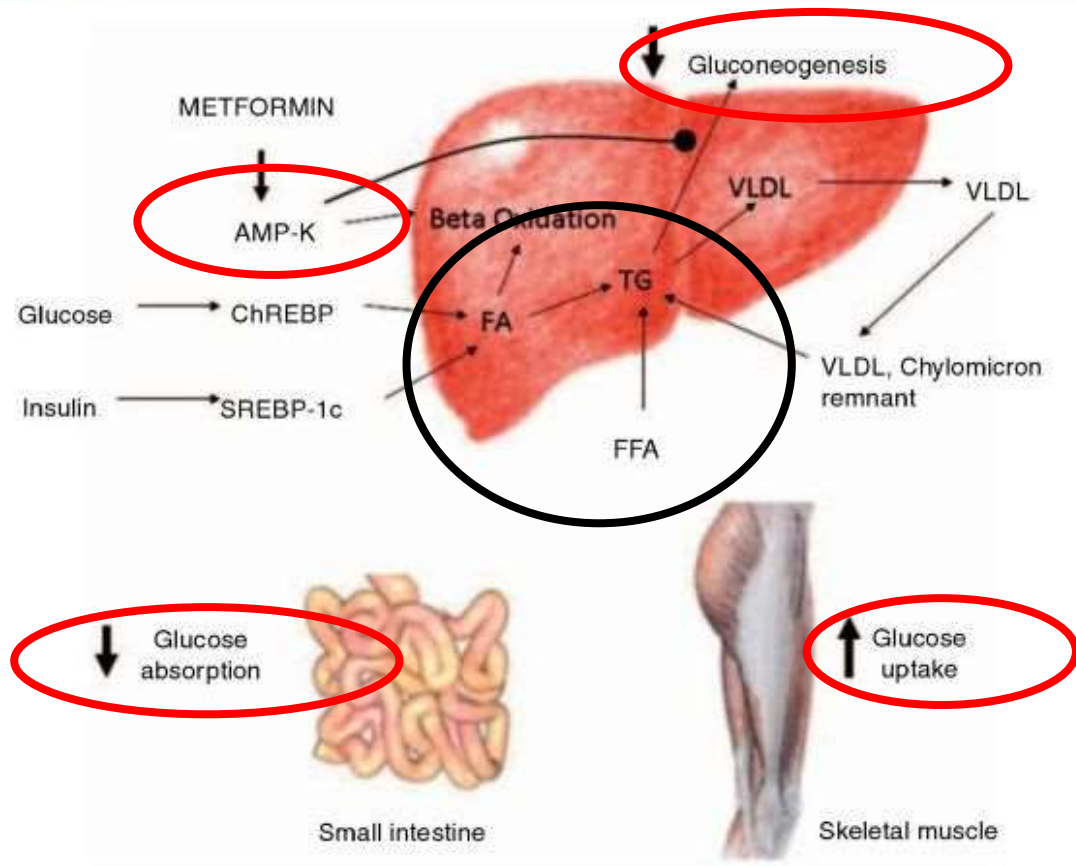
Increase of insulin sensitivity and peripheral glucose uptake

# 3.2. Biguanids

## Metformin (Phenformin, Buformin)



### Pharmacodynamic



Via acting on the AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) it harmonizes the carbohydrate and fat metabolism

## 3.2. Metformin

### Other pharmacodynamic effects

- reduction of plasma glucagon level (inhibition of glucagon mobilization)
- reduction of triglyceride level
- antioxidant effect – decrease of formation of advanced glycation end products

### Side effects

- GI: nausea, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea, metallic taste
- Impaired vitamin B12 absorption – anaemia
- Lactic acidosis (see on next slide)

## 3.2. Disadvantages of Metformin

➤ rare, but very significant adverse effect could be lactic acidosis

### Contraindications:

- acute metabolic acidosis
- **severe kidney impairment** (GFR < 30 mL/min)
- acute states, which may affect the kidney function, (e.g. dehydration, severe infection, shock)
- states may induce tissue hypoxia (e.g. cardiac or respiratory insuff., MI)
- liver impairment, acute alcoholic intoxication, alcoholism

Conditions that increase the overall risk of lactic acidosis



## 3.2. Advantages of Metformin

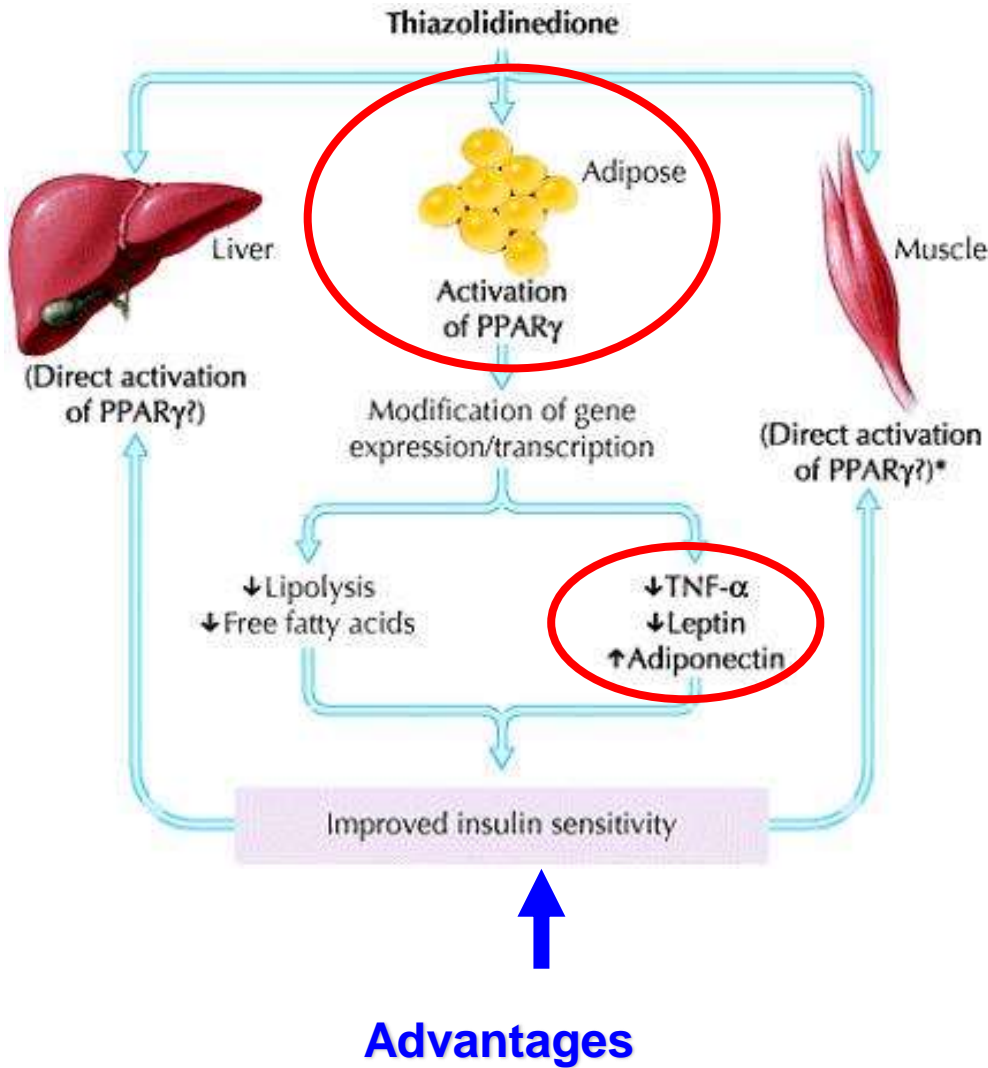
Acts on determining factors involved in the pathogenesis

- decreases insulin resistance
- decreases body weight
- positively affects lipid levels

**First drug of choice in type 2 diabetes**

- Additional benefit in:
  - polycystic ovary syndrome (hyperinsulinemic state)
  - Hyperinsulinemia / insulin resistance

## 3.2. Thiazolidinediones (glitazones)



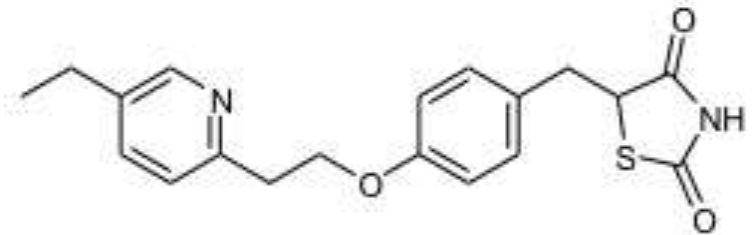
### PPAR $\gamma$ stimulators

PPAR – intracellular nuclear receptor family

### Rosiglitazone

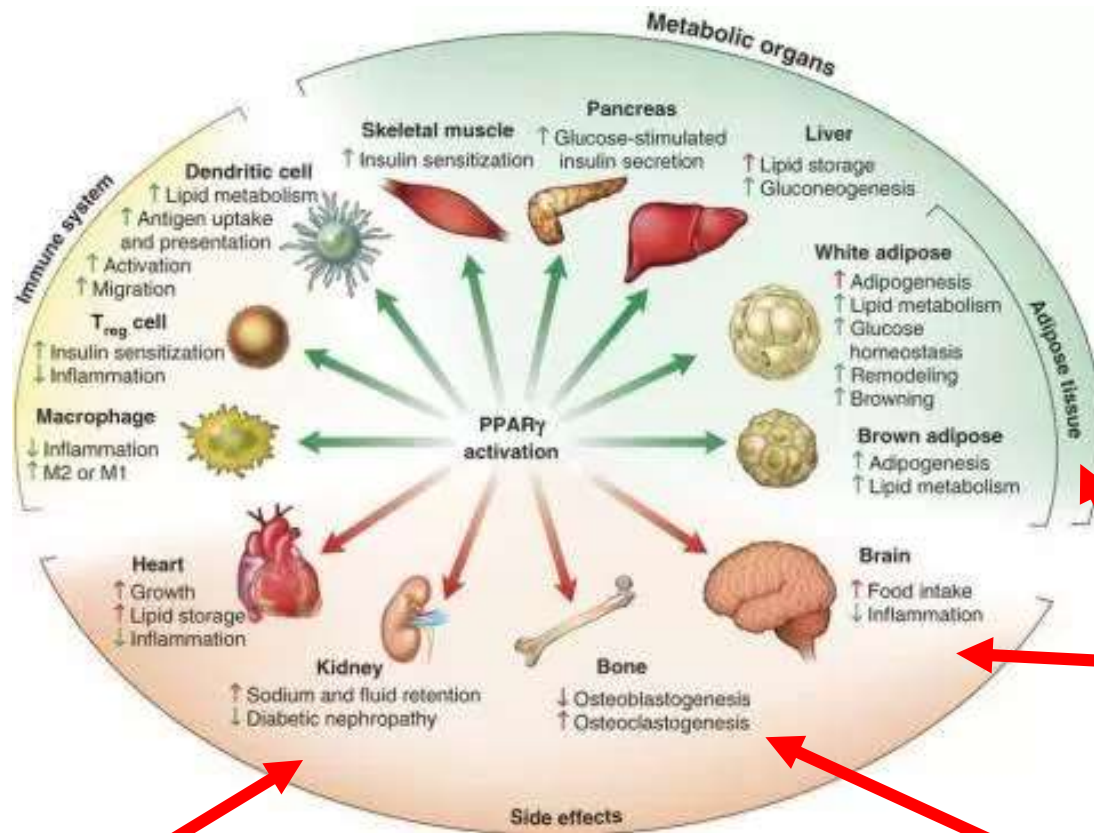
(withdrawn from market)

### pioglitazone



Pioglitazon

## 3.2. Disadvantages of thiazolidenediones



➤ Side effect: increase of body weight – adipocyte proliferation

➤ increase of plasma volume (edema formation – contraindicated in heart failure,

➤ decrease of hemoglobin and hematocrit level)

➤ Side effect: increased risk of bone fracture (osteoporosis??)

# 3.2. ANTI-HYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY

## Oral agents

Sulfonylureas ✓

Meglitinides ✓

Metformin (biguanides) ✓

Thiazolidinediones (glitazones) ✓

DPP-4 inhibitors

insulin release enhancing  
(insulinotrop/secretagog) compounds

insulin effect enhancing  
compounds

incretin effect prolonging  
compounds

insulin-dependent  
compounds



α-glucosidase inhibitors (AGIs)

SGLT-2 inhibitors

insulin-independent  
compounds

Dopamine-2 agonist (low dose bromocriptine – only in US)

Bile acid sequestrants

## Non-insulin injectables

GLP-1 receptor agonists

Amylin mimetics

parenteral – non-insulin injectables



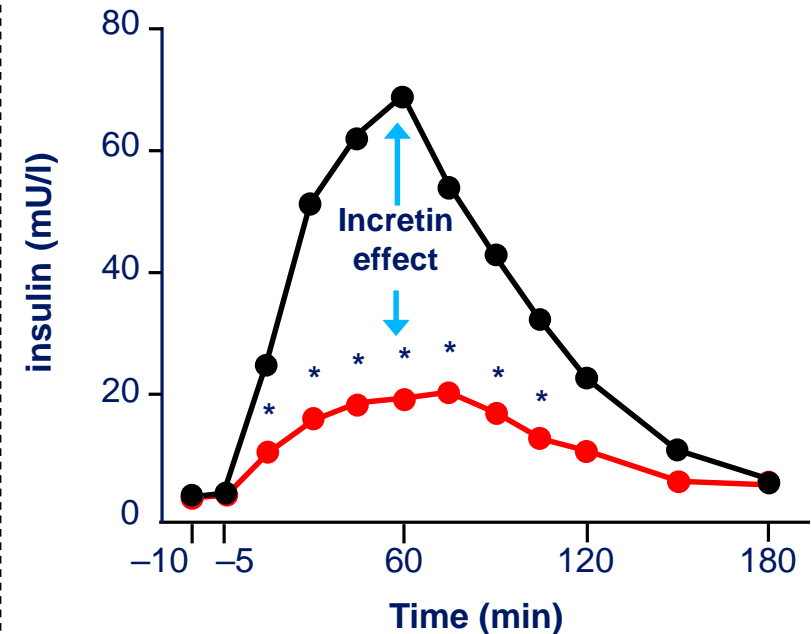
## 3.2. insulin-dependent, incretin effect prolonging compounds - definition of incretins and their functions

**GLP-1** – produced in the ileum and colon - insulin release  $\uparrow$ ; glucagon release  $\downarrow$

**GIP** – produced in the duodenum and jejunum - insulin release  $\uparrow$

GLP-1 – glucagon like peptide  
GIP – glucose-dependent insulinotropic peptide

**EFFECTS ARE GLUCOSE-DEPENDENT**

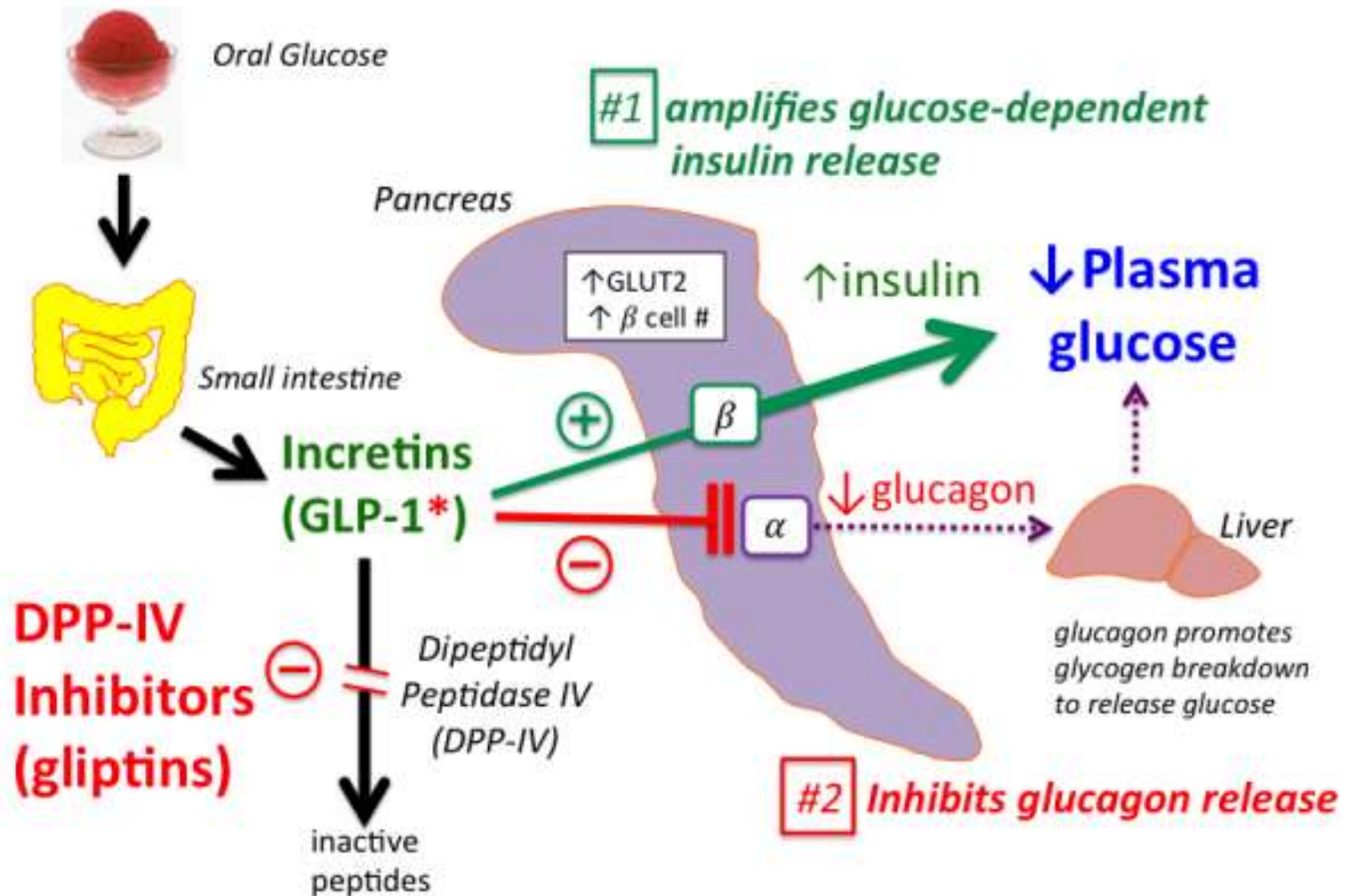


Insulin response to oral glucose load (50 g/400 ml, ●) and during isoglycemic i.v. glucose IV (◦)

In T2DM the effect of **GIP** on insulin release is lost.

The effect of **GLP-1** is still possible.

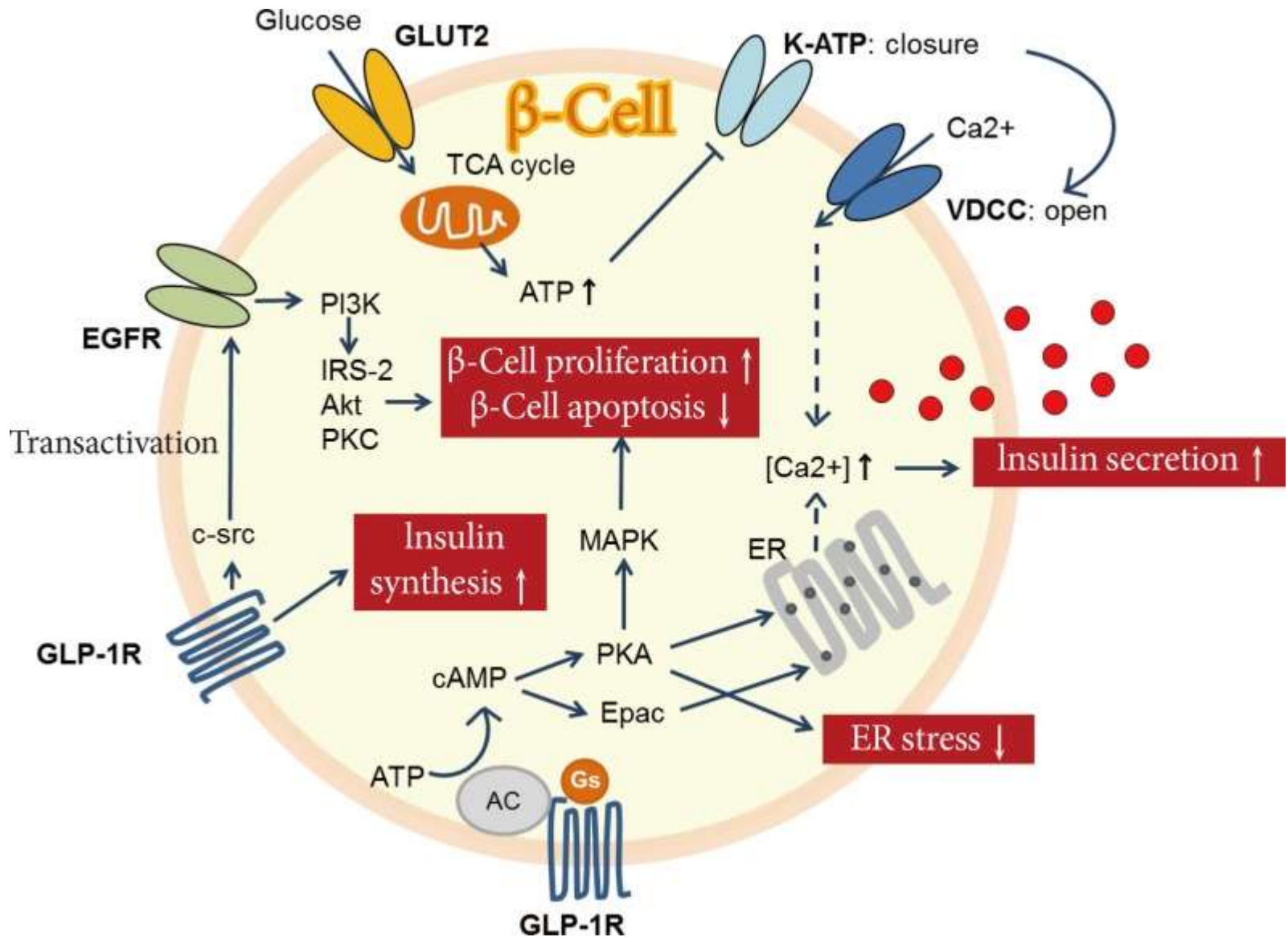
## 3.2. Physiological actions of endogenous GLP-1



\* Physiological  $t_{1/2} = 2$  mins due to rapid inactivation by DPP-IV



## 3.2. Cellular actions of GLP-1 on the $\beta$ -cell



## 3.2. DPP-4 inhibitors: to increase endogenous GLP-1 levels and GLP-1 action

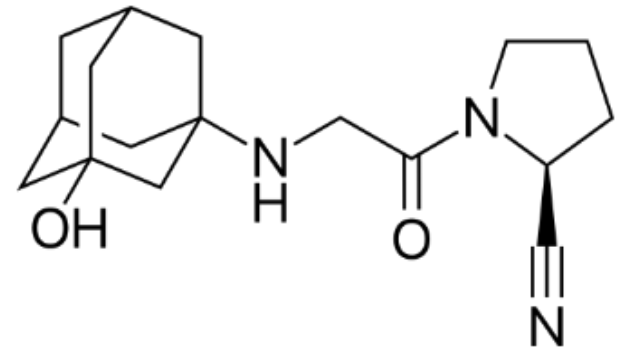
*vildagliptin, sitagliptin, saxagliptin, linagliptin, alogliptin*

### Advantages

- effect is glucose dependent
- no hypoglycemia
- no change in of body weight

### Disadvantages/side effects

- Nasopharyngitis, headache, nausea, skin hypersensitivity
- Increased risk of pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer? Increased risk of inflammatory bowel disease?
- Saxagliptin may increase the morbidity in patients with heart failure



vildagliptin



# 3.2. ANTI-HYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY

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insulin-dependent  
compounds



α-glucosidase inhibitors (AGIs)

SGLT-2 inhibitors

Dopamine-2 agonist (low dose bromocriptine – only in US)

Bile acid sequestrants

insulin-independent  
compounds

## Non-insulin injectables

GLP-1 receptor agonists

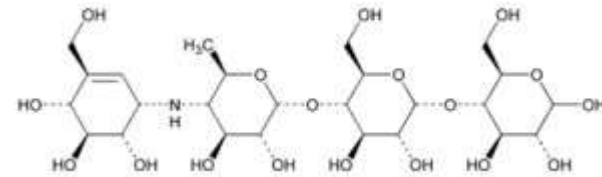
Amylin mimetics

parenteral – non-insulin injectables



## 3.2. Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors

**acarbose, miglitol**

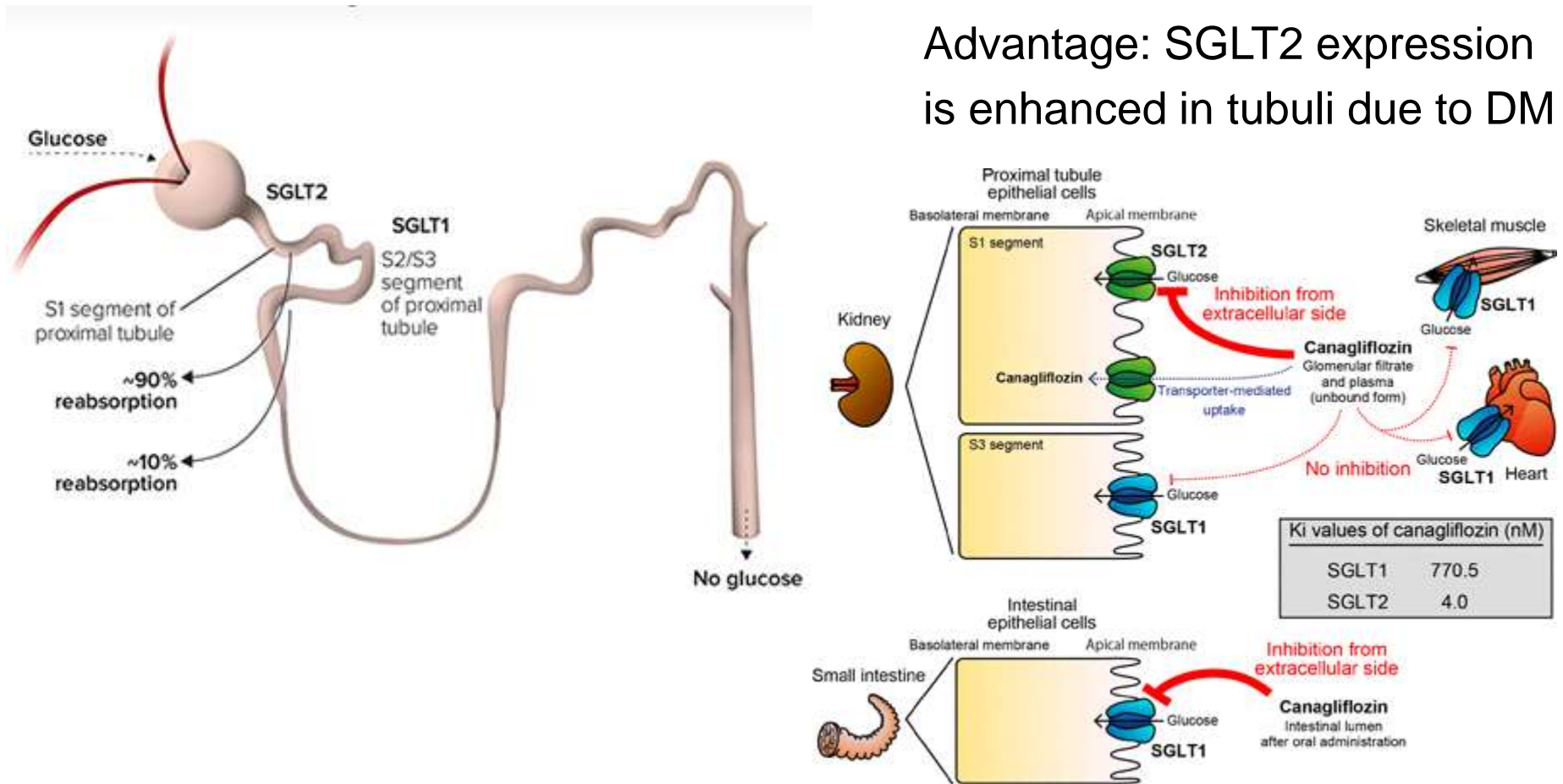


- inhibition of the splitting of di-, oligo- and polysaccharides by enzymes of the intestinal brush border - reduction of carbohydrate absorption (not that of lactose !!)  
Result: **reduction of postprandial hyperglycemia**
- Recommended for obese patients, taken together with meal
- **Side effects: meteorism, abdominal pain, flatulence, diarrhea (due to fermentation of undigested carbohydrates)**

# 3.2. Sodium-glucose transporter-2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors

*dapagliflozin, canagliflozin, empagliflozin, ertugliflozin*

Advantage: SGLT2 expression is enhanced in tubuli due to DM



They decrease the glucose reabsorption by about 30-50% (the effect on other SGLT might also contribute to the overall efficacy?)

## 3.2. SGLT-2 inhibitors

### Advantages

- The effect does not depend on the beta cell function and they do not influence the function of beta cells
- They decrease the body weight
- They decrease intestinal glucose absorption as well for a small extent.
- They decrease the blood pressure
- Good candidates for treating obese patients with Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction (HFpEF).

### Disadvantages

- Given their mode of action, the SGLT2 inhibitors are less effective in case of impaired kidney function, when  $eGFR < 60$  ml/min they does not work
- Blood pressure may decrease

### Side effects

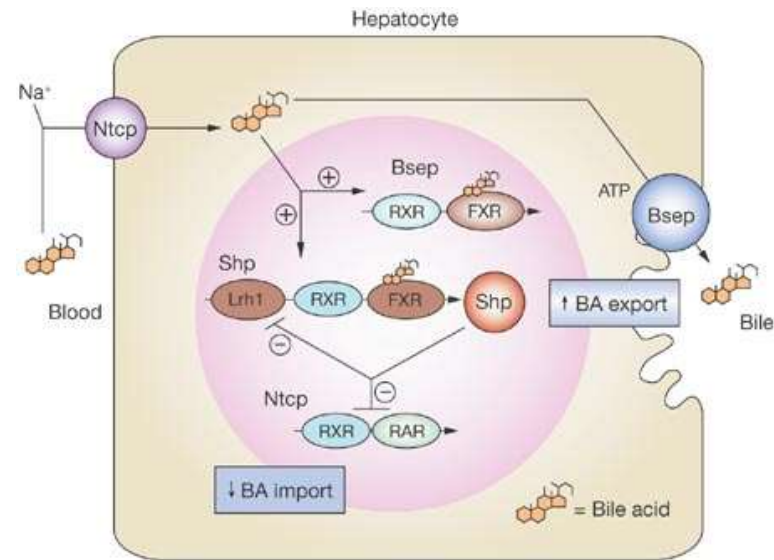
- Urinary tract infections, mycotic infections (e.g. vaginal candidiasis)
- Increased risk of bone fractures
- Increased risk of polyuria, dehydration, hypotension and hypoglycemia.

## 3.2. Other compounds I

- **Colesevelam** (used as bile acid sequestrant, antihyperlipidemic agent) decreases the blood glucose level, in US registered for treatment of DM too

**Mechanism of action** not clear, perhaps it activates the farnesoid X receptor (FXR).

FXR in the liver has a key role in the regulation of the cholesterol, glucose and bile acid metabolism



- **Bromocriptine** – it decreases the plasma glucose level with an unknown mechanism (registered in the US as adjuvant drug)

## 3.2. Other compounds II

Drugs in the management of diabetic neuropathia

**Benfotiamine** – lipid soluble prodrug of vitamin B<sub>1</sub>

**Thioctic acid (alpha lipoic acid)** – a vitamin like compound, essential for aerobic metabolism, antioxidant

# 3.2. ANTI-HYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY

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Metformin (biguanides) ✓

Thiazolidinediones (glitazones) ✓

DPP-4 inhibitors ✓

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SGLT-2 inhibitors ✓

Dopamine-2 agonist (low dose bromocriptine – only in US)

Bile acid sequestrants ✓

## Non-insulin injectables

GLP-1 receptor agonists

Amylin mimetics

insulin release enhancing  
(insulinotrop/secretagog) compounds

insulin effect enhancing  
compounds

incretin effect prolonging  
compounds

insulin-independent  
compounds

parenteral – non-insulin injectables

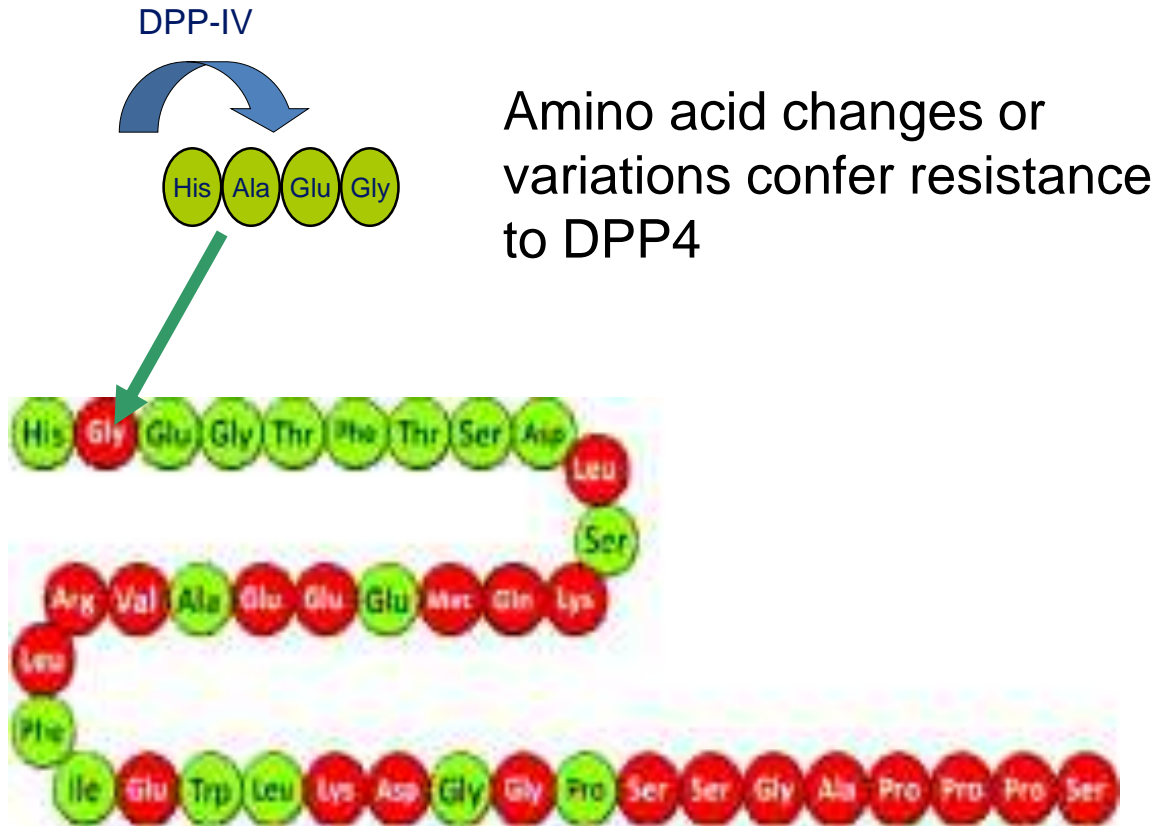
insulin-dependent  
compounds



## 3.2. Agents acting on the GLP-1 receptor

### *exenatide*

Originally was discovered in the saliva of glia monster



administration sc. twice a day, connected to food intake  
retard preparation is available





# 3.2. Ultra long acting GLP-1 analogs

***albiglutide***

Fusion to human albumin



withdrawn from market in 2018 (probably due to lower efficacy to reduce HbA1c levels)

***dulaglutide***



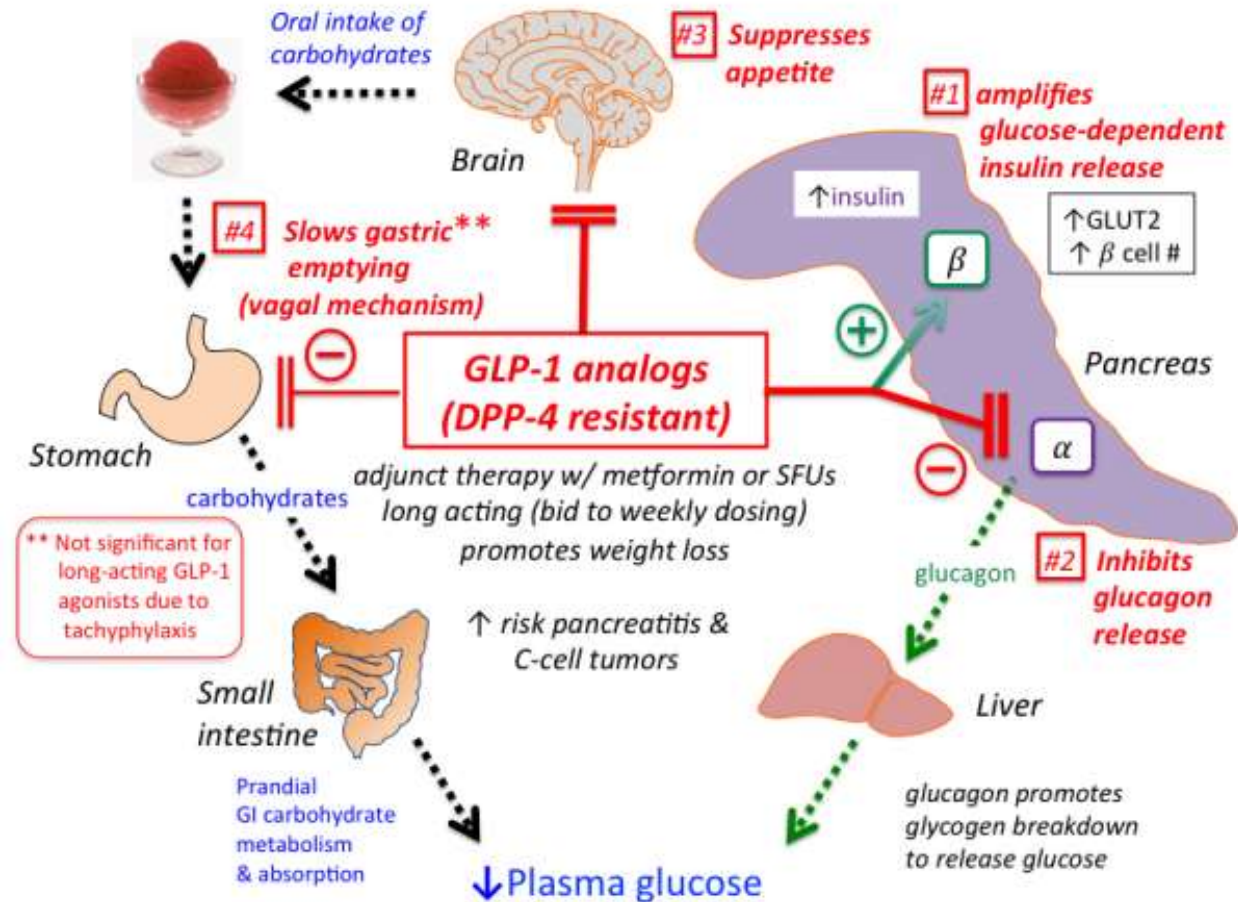
- Recombinant GLP-1 Fc fusion protein linking GLP-1 analog to a human IgG4 Fc fragment

sc. once a week

# 3.2. Agents acting on the GLP-1 receptor

## Effects of the GLP-1 analogs

- glucose-mediated insulin release
- reduction of the postprandial glucagon release
- delaying gastric emptying
- decrease of appetite (central effect)



## 3.2. Agents acting on the GLP-1 receptor

### Advantageous characteristics

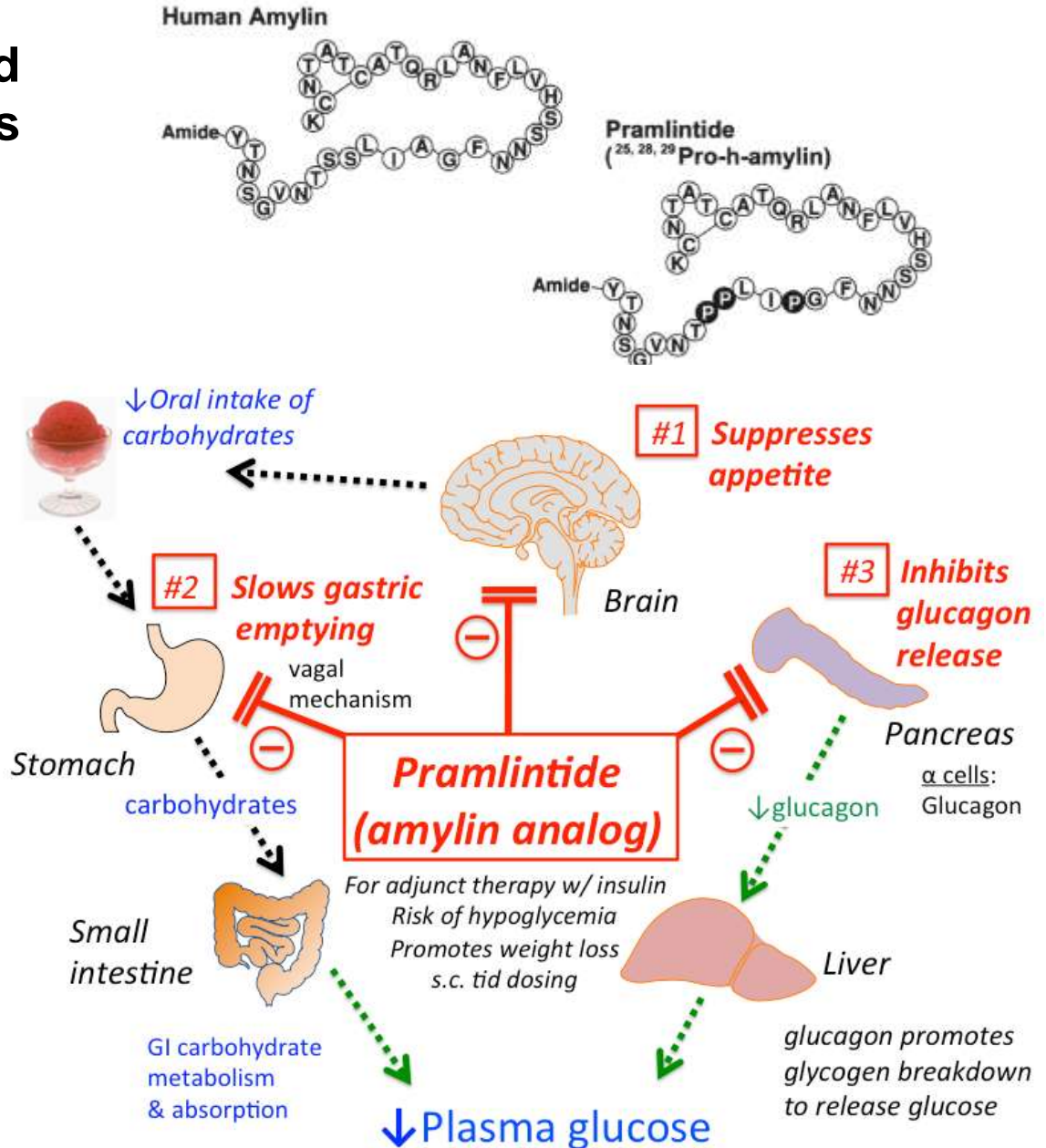
- Effect is glucose dependent, influence the postprandial glucose level – no hypoglycemia
- Decrease of body weight

### Therapeutical use

- Adjuvant treatment in T2DM
- Liraglutide is used in obesity for weight reduction

## 3.2. Amylin analog: *pramlintide*

- Islet amyloid polypeptied (IAPP – human amylin) is co-secreted with insulin from  $\beta$ -cells.
- There is amylin deficiency in diabetes (Type I and II.)
- Synthetic analog: pramlintide
- used in Type I and Type II diabetes as well as in morbid obesity sc., preprandial
- Relatively high risk of hypoglycemia
- GI side effects: nausea, anorexia, vomiting



# 3.2. ANTI-HYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY

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Amylin mimetics ✓

insulin release enhancing  
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insulin effect enhancing  
compounds

incretin effect prolonging  
compounds

insulin-independent  
compounds

parenteral – non-insulin injectables

insulin-dependent  
compounds





# 4. Combination therapy in T2DM

## First drug of choice - metformin

### ➤ combination of OADs (double or triple therapy)

metformin + DPP4 inhibitor

metformin + sulfonylureas

metformin + glitazones

+ alpha glucosidase inhibitors

+ SGLT-2 inhibitors



### ➤ in case metformin is contraindicated

- DPP4 inhibitor alone, SGLT2 inhibitor alone, or SU alone

- DPP4 inhibitor + SGLT2 inhibitor



For better patient compliance fixed drug combinations are available.

### ➤ combination with insulin (not the sulfonylureas !!!)

combination with GLP-1 analogs

➤ during surgery, serious infection, etc. – **switch to insulin**

**in pregnancy always use insulin**

# 4. Effect of antidiabetics on the body weight

body weight ↓

Metformin  
SGLT-inhibitor  
GLP-1 analogs

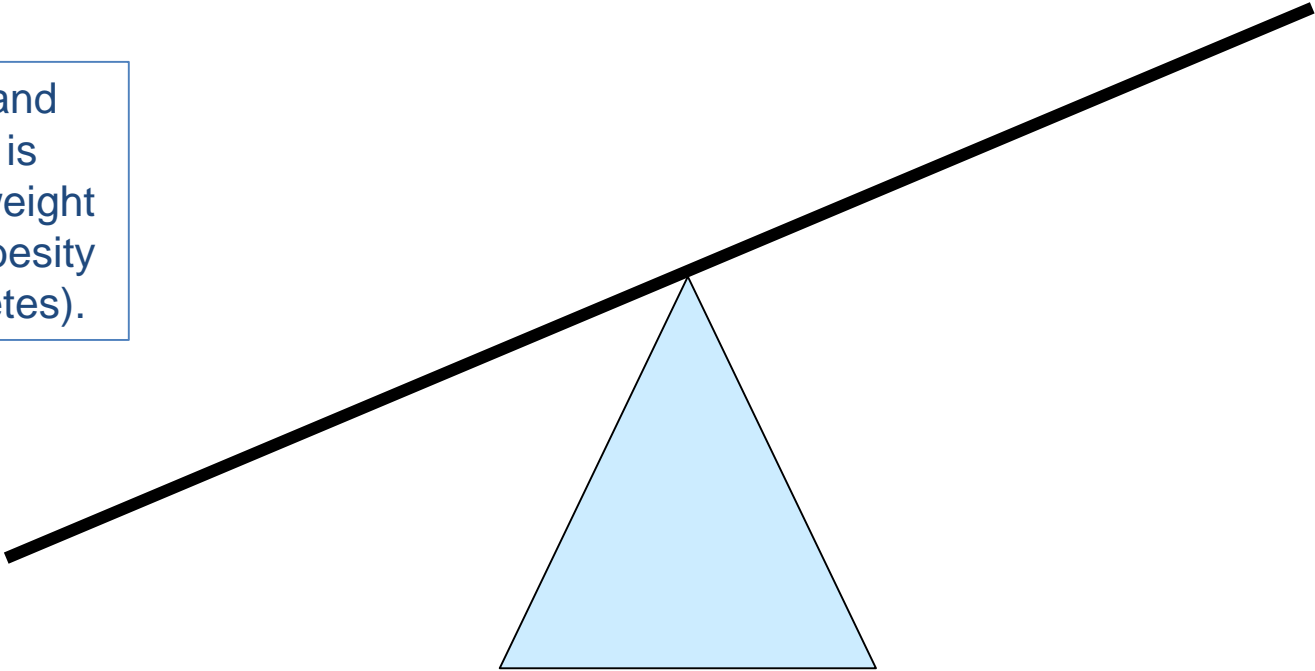
body weight ∅

Metformin  
DPP-4 inhibitors

body weight ↑

SU  
Meglitinides  
TZD  
insulin

Liraglutide, and pramlintide is indicated for weight reduction in obesity (without diabetes).





# 4. Risk of hypoglycemia with various antidiabetics

Low risk

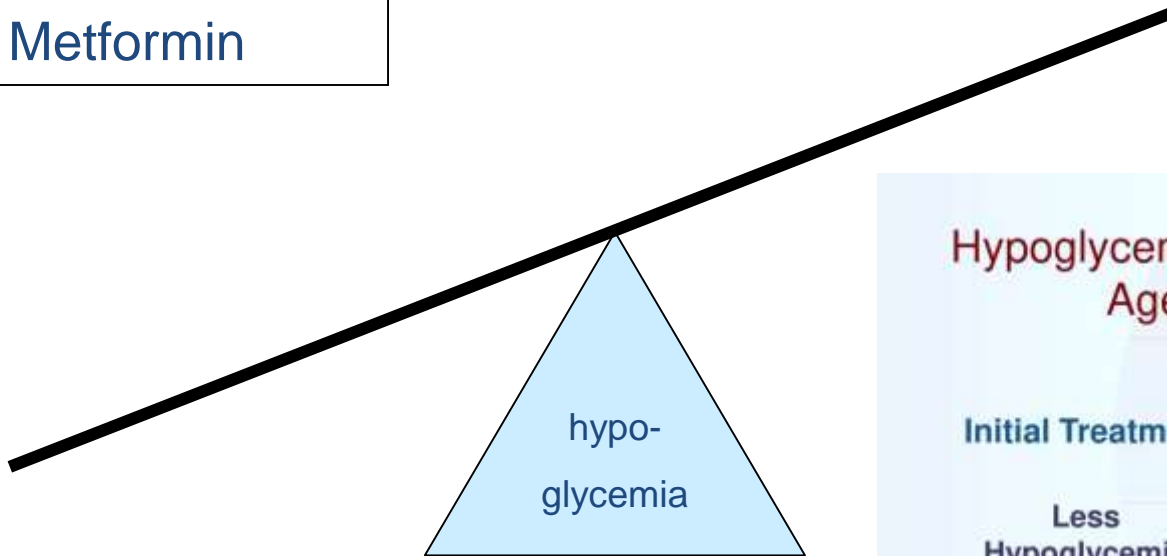
Moderate risk

High risk

TZD  
GLP-1 analogs  
AGIs  
DPP-4 inhibitors  
Metformin

SGLT2-inhibitors

SU  
Meglitinides  
Insulin



## Hypoglycemia Risk With Antihyperglycemic Agents Added to Metformin

Initial Treatment

Additional Treatment

Less Hypoglycemia

Metformin

More Hypoglycemia

DPP-4 inhibitors

GLP-1 receptor agonists

TZDs

Sulfonylureas

Insulin (basal, basal-plus, premixed)

## 4. DRUG INTERACTIONS I.

### *Potentialiation of the insulin effect (hypoglycemia)*

- **decrease of carbohydrate absorption, anorectic drugs, drugs inducing emesis (anticancer therapy!)**
- **reduction of gastric emptying - parasympatholytics, opioids**
- **inhibition of the sympathetic answer**  
**β-blockers, adrenergic neuron blockers**  
(they, prolong the hypoglycemia, mask the symptoms of hypoglycemia)
- **Ethanol** - increase in insulin secretion, decrease in glyconeogenesis
- **Salicylates**

## 4. DRUG INTERACTIONS II

### *Potentialiation of the effect (hypoglycemia)*

Oral antidiabetics as with insulin

+

- **agents competing for plasma protein**  
(eg. salicylates, phenylbutazone, sulfonamides, cumarines, etc.)
- **drugs inhibiting the metabolism**  
(eg. sulfonamides, phenylbutazone, chloramphenicol)
- **drugs inhibiting kidney elimination**  
(eg. salicylates, phenylbutazone, probenecid, acidosis in the urine)

## 4. DRUG INTERACTIONS III

### Decrease of insulin effect (hyperglycemia)

- enhancement of glucose absorption (e.g. cough syrups!)
- $\beta$ -stimulators (dobutamine, terbutaline, e.g.)
- insulin antagonist hormones  
corticosteroids,  
contraceptives,  
thyroid hormone
- thiazide diuretics
- phenytoin by decreasing insulin release

## 4. DRUG INTERACTIONS IV

### Decrease of insulin effect (hyperglycemia)

Oral antidiabetics as with insulin

+

- enzyme inducers (phenytoin, barbiturate, rifampin)
- enhancement of kidney elimination

# 5. TREATMENT OF DIABETIC COMA

- **Volume replacement**  
(isotonic sodium chloride or 0.45%)
- **Insulin**  
aim – slow decrease of blood glucose (max 3 mmol/l/hr)  
below 13 mmol/l very slow decrease (until 8 mmol/l during 12-24 hr)
- **Glucose** - when the blood glucose falls below 10-13 mmol/l
- **K<sup>+</sup>** (from the 3<sup>rd</sup> hours)
- **Bicarbonate** - only if plasma pH < 7.0

***Drugs enhancing the  
blood glucose level***

## 5. TREATMENT OF HYPOGLYCEMIA I

*Glucagon – in acute case 0,5-2 mg i.m.*



# 5. TREATMENT OF HYPOGLYCEMIA II

## (insulinomas)

### Diazoxide

**mechanism of action:** activation of the K<sup>+</sup>- dependent ATP channel  
reduction of insulin secretion, reduction of glucose utilization

**adverse effects:** oedema, tachycardia

### Octreotide

**mechanism of action:** somatostatin analog – inhibition of insulin secretion

### Streptozocine (nitrosourea - cytostatic)

for malignant pancreatic insulinoma

**mechanism of action:**

**reduction of DNA synthesis**

**adverse effects:** tubular necrosis,  
hepatotoxicity, hematological  
abnormalities



## **6. EXTRA SLIDES**

**- COMPREHENSIVE TABLES**

**- CLINICAL GUIDE FOR ANTIHYPERGLYCEMIC  
THERAPY**

Oral Class	Mechanism	Advantages	Disadvantages	Cost
<b>Biguanides</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activates AMP-kinase (?other)</li> <li>• ↓ Hepatic glucose production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive experience</li> <li>• No hypoglycemia</li> <li>• Weight neutral</li> <li>• ? ↓ CVD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gastrointestinal</li> <li>• Lactic acidosis (rare)</li> <li>• B-12 deficiency</li> <li>• Contraindications</li> </ul>	Low
<b>Sulfonylureas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closes <math>K_{ATP}</math> channels</li> <li>• ↑ Insulin secretion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive experience</li> <li>• ↓ Microvascular risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypoglycemia</li> <li>• ↑ Weight</li> <li>• Low durability</li> <li>• ? Blunts ischemic preconditioning</li> </ul>	Low
<b>Meglitinides</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Closes <math>K_{ATP}</math> channels</b></li> <li>• <b>↑ Insulin secretion</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>↓ Postprandial glucose</b></li> <li>• <b>Dosing flexibility</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hypoglycemia</b></li> <li>• <b>↑ Weight</b></li> <li>• <b>? Blunts ischemic preconditioning</b></li> <li>• <b>Dosing frequency</b></li> </ul>	<b>Mod.</b>
<b>TZDs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPAR-<math>\gamma</math> activator</li> <li>• ↑ Insulin sensitivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No hypoglycemia</li> <li>• Durability</li> <li>• ↓ TGs (pio)</li> <li>• ↑ HDL-C</li> <li>• ? ↓ CVD events (pio)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ↑ Weight</li> <li>• Edema/heart failure</li> <li>• Bone fractures</li> <li>• ↑ LDL-C (rosi)</li> <li>• ? ↑ MI (rosi)</li> </ul>	Low

**Table 1. Properties of oral anti-hyperglycemic agents**

<b>Oral Class</b>	<b>Mechanism</b>	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b><math>\alpha</math>-Glucosidase inhibitors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inhibits <math>\alpha</math>-glucosidase</li> <li>• Slows carbohydrate digestion / absorption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No hypoglycemia</li> <li>• Nonsystemic</li> <li>• <math>\downarrow</math> Postprandial glucose</li> <li>• ? <math>\downarrow</math> CVD events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gastrointestinal</li> <li>• Dosing frequency</li> <li>• Modest <math>\downarrow</math> A1c</li> </ul>	Mod.
<b>DPP-4 inhibitors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inhibits DPP-4</li> <li>• Increases incretin (GLP-1, GIP) levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No hypoglycemia</li> <li>• Well tolerated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angioedema / urticaria</li> <li>• ? Pancreatitis</li> <li>• ? <math>\uparrow</math> Heart failure</li> </ul>	High
<b>Dopamine-2 Agonist bromocriptine (only in US)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activates DA receptor</li> <li>• Alters hypothalamic control of metabolism</li> <li>• <math>\uparrow</math> insulin sensitivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No hypoglycemia</li> <li>• ? <math>\downarrow</math> CVD events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modest <math>\downarrow</math> A1c</li> <li>• Dizziness, fatigue</li> <li>• Nausea</li> <li>• Rhinitis</li> </ul>	High
<b>SGLT2 inhibitors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inhibits SGLT2 in proximal nephron</li> <li>• Increases glucosuria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\downarrow</math> Weight</li> <li>• No hypoglycemia</li> <li>• <math>\downarrow</math> BP</li> <li>• Effective at all stages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GU infections</li> <li>• Polyuria</li> <li>• Volume depletion</li> <li>• <math>\uparrow</math> LDL-C</li> <li>• <math>\uparrow</math>Cr (transient)</li> </ul>	High

**Table 2. Properties of oral anti-hyperglycemic agents**

<b>Injectable Class</b>	<b>Mechanism</b>	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Amylin mimetics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activates amylin receptor</li> <li>• ↓ glucagon</li> <li>• ↓ gastric emptying</li> <li>• ↑ satiety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ↓ Weight</li> <li>• ↓ Postprandial glucose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gastrointestinal</li> <li>• Modest ↓ A1c</li> <li>• Injectable</li> <li>• Hypo if insulin dose not reduced</li> <li>• Dosing frequency</li> <li>• Training requirements</li> </ul>	High
<b>GLP-1 receptor agonists</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activates GLP-1 R</li> <li>• ↑ Insulin, ↓ glucagon</li> <li>• ↓ gastric emptying</li> <li>• ↑ satiety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ↓ Weight</li> <li>• No hypoglycemia</li> <li>• ↓ Postprandial glucose</li> <li>• ↓ Some CV risk factors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gastrointestinal</li> <li>• ? Pancreatitis</li> <li>• ↑ Heart rate</li> <li>• Medullary ca (rodents)</li> <li>• Injectable</li> <li>• Training requirements</li> </ul>	High
<b>Insulin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activates insulin receptor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universally effective</li> <li>• Unlimited efficacy</li> <li>• ↓ Microvascular risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypoglycemia</li> <li>• Weight gain</li> <li>• ? Mitogenicity</li> <li>• Injectable</li> <li>• Patient reluctance</li> <li>• Training requirements</li> </ul>	Variable

**Table 3. Properties of injectable anti-hyperglycemic agents**

**CLINICAL RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR SEQUENTIAL  
ANTIHYPERGLYCEMIC THERAPY**

# Mono-therapy

Efficacy\*  
Hypo risk  
Weight  
Side effects  
Costs

Healthy eating, weight control, increased physical activity & diabetes education

## Metformin

high  
low risk  
neutral/loss  
GI / lactic acidosis  
low

If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of monotherapy, proceed to 2-drug combination (order not meant to denote any specific preference – choice dependent on a variety of patient- & disease-specific factors):

# Dual therapy<sup>†</sup>

Efficacy\*  
Hypo risk  
Weight  
Side effects  
Costs

Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +
Sulfonylurea	Thiazolidinedione	DPP-4 inhibitor	SGLT2 inhibitor	GLP-1 receptor agonist	Insulin (basal)
high efficacy moderate risk weight gain hypoglycemia low costs	high efficacy low risk weight gain edema, HF, fxs low costs	intermediate efficacy low risk neutral weight rare side effects high costs	intermediate efficacy low risk weight loss GI dehydration high costs	high efficacy low risk weight loss GI side effects high costs	highest efficacy high risk weight gain hypoglycemia variable costs

If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of dual therapy, proceed to 3-drug combination (order not meant to denote any specific preference – choice dependent on a variety of patient- & disease-specific factors):

# Triple therapy

Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +
Sulfonylurea	Thiazolidinedione	DPP-4 Inhibitor	SGLT-2 Inhibitor	GLP-1 receptor agonist	Insulin (basal)
+ TZD or DPP-4-i or SGLT2-i or GLP-1-RA or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	+ SU or DPP-4-i or SGLT2-i or GLP-1-RA or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	+ SU or TZD or SGLT2-i or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	+ SU or TZD or DPP-4-i or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	+ SU or TZD or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	+ TZD or DPP-4-i or SGLT2-i or GLP-1-RA

If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of triple therapy and patient (1) on oral combination, move to injectables, (2) on GLP-1 RA, add basal insulin, or (3) on optimally titrated basal insulin, add GLP-1-RA or mealtime insulin. In refractory patients consider adding TZD or SGL T2-i:

# Combination injectable

Metformin + basal Insulin + Mealtime Insulin or GLP-1-RA
---

**Figure 2. Anti-hyperglycemic therapy in T2DM: General recommendations**

# Mono-therapy

Efficacy\*  
Hypo risk  
Weight  
Side effects  
Costs

Healthy eating, weight control, increased physical activity & diabetes education

## Metformin

high  
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# Dual therapy†

Efficacy\*  
Hypo risk  
Weight  
Side effects  
Costs

Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +
<b>Sulfonylurea</b>	<b>Thiazolidinedione</b>	<b>DPP-4 inhibitor</b>	<b>SGLT2 inhibitor</b>	<b>GLP-1 receptor agonist</b>	<b>Insulin (basal)</b>
high efficacy moderate risk weight gain hypoglycemia low costs	high efficacy low risk weight gain edema, HF, fxs low costs	intermediate efficacy low risk neutral weight rare side effects high costs	intermediate efficacy low risk weight loss GI, dehydration high costs	high efficacy low risk weight loss GI side effects high costs	highest efficacy high risk weight gain hypoglycemia variable costs

If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of dual therapy, proceed to 3-drug combination (order not meant to denote any specific preference – choice dependent on a variety of patient- & disease-specific factors):

# Triple therapy

Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +
Sulfonylurea	Thiazolidinedione	DPP-4 Inhibitor	SGLT-2 Inhibitor	GLP-1 receptor agonist	Insulin (basal)
+ TZD	+ SU	+ SU	+ SU	+ SU	+ TZD
or DPP-4-i	or DPP-4-i	or TZD	or TZD	or TZD	or DPP-4-i
or SGLT2-i	or SGLT2-i	or SGLT2-i	or DPP-4-i	or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	or SGLT2-i
or GLP-1-RA	or GLP-1-RA	or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	or Insulin <sup>§</sup>		or GLP-1-RA
or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	or Insulin <sup>§</sup>				

If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of triple therapy and patient (1) on oral combination, move to injectables, (2) on GLP-1 RA, add basal insulin, or (3) on optimally titrated basal insulin, add GLP-1-RA or mealtime insulin. In refractory patients consider adding TZD or SGL T2-i:

# Combination injectable

Metformin +	basal Insulin +	Mealtime Insulin	or	GLP-1-RA
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**Figure 2. Anti-hyperglycemic therapy in T2DM: General recommendations**



# Mono-therapy

Efficacy\*  
Hypo risk  
Weight  
Side effects  
Costs

Healthy eating, weight control, increased physical activity & diabetes education

## Metformin

high  
low risk  
neutral/loss  
GI / lactic acidosis  
low

If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of monotherapy, proceed to 2-drug combination (order not meant to denote any specific preference – choice dependent on a variety of patient- & disease-specific factors):

# Dual therapy<sup>†</sup>

Efficacy\*  
Hypo risk  
Weight  
Side effects  
Costs

Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +
Sulfonylurea	Thiazolidinedione	DPP-4 inhibitor	SGLT2 inhibitor	GLP-1 receptor agonist	Insulin (basal)
high efficacy moderate risk weight gain hypoglycemia low costs	high efficacy low risk weight gain edema, HF, fxs low costs	intermediate efficacy low risk neutral weight rare side effects high costs	intermediate efficacy low risk weight loss GI, dehydration high costs	high efficacy low risk weight loss GI side effects high costs	highest efficacy high risk weight gain hypoglycemia variable costs

If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of dual therapy, proceed to 3-drug combination (order not meant to denote any specific preference – choice dependent on a variety of patient- & disease-specific factors):

# Triple therapy

Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +
Sulfonylurea	Thiazolidinedione	DPP-4 Inhibitor	SGLT-2 Inhibitor	GLP-1 receptor agonist	Insulin (basal)
+ TZD or DPP-4-i or SGLT2-i or GLP-1-RA or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	+ SU or DPP-4-i or SGLT2-i or GLP-1-RA or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	+ SU or TZD or SGLT2-i or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	+ SU or TZD or DPP-4-i or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	+ SU or TZD or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	+ TZD or DPP-4-i or SGLT2-i or GLP-1-RA

If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of triple therapy and patient (1) on oral combination, move to injectables, (2) on GLP-1 RA, add basal insulin, or (3) on optimally titrated basal insulin, add GLP-1-RA or mealtime insulin. In refractory patients consider adding TZD or SGL T2-i:

Metformin +

basal Insulin + Mealtime Insulin or GLP-1-RA

**Figure 2. Anti-hyperglycemic therapy in T2DM: General recommendations**

Healthy eating, weight control, increased physical activity & diabetes education

**Mono-therapy**

Efficacy\*  
Hypo risk  
Weight  
Side effects  
Costs

**Metformin**

high  
low risk  
neutral/loss  
GI / lactic acidosis  
low

*If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of monotherapy, proceed to 2-drug combination (order not meant to denote any specific preference – choice dependent on a variety of patient- & disease-specific factors):*

**Dual therapy<sup>†</sup>**

Efficacy\*  
Hypo risk  
Weight  
Side effects  
Costs

Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +
<b>Sulfonylurea</b>	<b>Thiazolidinedione</b>	<b>DPP-4 inhibitor</b>	<b>SGLT2 inhibitor</b>	<b>GLP-1 receptor agonist</b>	<b>Insulin (basal)</b>
high efficacy moderate risk weight gain hypoglycemia low costs	high efficacy low risk weight gain edema, HF, fxs low costs	intermediate efficacy low risk neutral weight rare side effects high costs	intermediate efficacy low risk weight loss GI, dehydration high costs	high efficacy low risk weight loss GI side effects high costs	highest efficacy high risk weight gain hypoglycemia variable costs

*If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of dual therapy, proceed to 3-drug combination (order not meant to denote any specific preference – choice dependent on a variety of patient- & disease-specific factors):*

**Triple therapy**

Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +
<b>Sulfonylurea</b>	<b>Thiazolidinedione</b>	<b>DPP-4 Inhibitor</b>	<b>SGLT-2 Inhibitor</b>	<b>GLP-1 receptor agonist</b>	<b>Insulin (basal)</b>
+ <b>TZD</b>	+ <b>SU</b>	+ <b>SU</b>	+ <b>SU</b>	+ <b>SU</b>	+ <b>TZD</b>
or <b>DPP-4-i</b>	or <b>DPP-4-i</b>	or <b>TZD</b>	or <b>TZD</b>	or <b>TZD</b>	or <b>DPP-4-i</b>
or <b>SGLT2-i</b>	or <b>SGLT2-i</b>	or <b>SGLT2-i</b>	or <b>DPP-4-i</b>	or <b>Insulin<sup>§</sup></b>	or <b>SGLT2-i</b>
or <b>GLP-1-RA</b>	or <b>GLP-1-RA</b>	or <b>Insulin<sup>§</sup></b>	or <b>Insulin<sup>§</sup></b>		or <b>GLP-1-RA</b>
or <b>Insulin<sup>§</sup></b>	or <b>Insulin<sup>§</sup></b>				

*If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of triple therapy and patient (1) on oral combination, move to injectables, (2) on GLP-1 RA, add basal insulin, or (3) on optimally titrated basal insulin, add GLP-1-RA or mealtime insulin. In refractory patients consider adding TZD or SGL T2-i:*

**Combination injectable therapy<sup>‡</sup>**

Metformin +	<b>Basal Insulin + Mealtime Insulin</b> or <b>GLP-1-RA</b>
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## Mono-therapy

Efficacy\*  
Hypo risk  
Weight  
Side effects  
Costs

Healthy eating, weight control, increased physical activity & diabetes education

## Metformin

high  
low risk  
neutral/loss  
GI / lactic acidosis  
low

*If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of monotherapy, proceed to 2-drug combination (order not meant to denote any specific preference – choice dependent on a variety of patient- & disease-specific factors):*

## Dual therapy<sup>†</sup>

Efficacy\*  
Hypo risk  
Weight  
Side effects  
Costs

Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +
Thiazolidinedione	DPP-4 inhibitor	SGLT2 inhibitor	GLP-1 receptor agonist
high	intermediate	intermediate	high
low risk	low risk	low risk	low risk
gain	neutral	loss	loss
edema, HF, fxs	rare	GU, dehydration	GI
low	high	high	high

*If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of dual therapy, proceed to 3-drug combination (order not meant to denote any specific preference – choice dependent on a variety of patient- & disease-specific factors):*

## Triple therapy

Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +
Thiazolidinedione	DPP-4 Inhibitor	SGLT-2 Inhibitor	GLP-1 receptor agonist
+ or or or	+ SU or or or	+ or or	+ or
DPP-4-i	TZD	TZD	TZD
SGLT2-i	SGLT2-i	DPP-4-i	
GLP-1-RA	Insulin <sup>§</sup>		

Figure 2A. Anti-hyperglycemic therapy in T2DM:  
Avoidance of hypoglycemia

## Mono-therapy

Efficacy\*  
Hypo risk  
Weight  
Side effects  
Costs



## Dual therapy<sup>†</sup>

Efficacy\*  
Hypo risk  
Weight  
Side effects  
Costs



## Triple therapy

Healthy eating, weight control, increased physical activity & diabetes education

### Metformin

high  
low risk  
neutral/loss  
GI / lactic acidosis  
low

*If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of monotherapy, proceed to 2-drug combination (order not meant to denote any specific preference – choice dependent on a variety of patient- & disease-specific factors):*

Metformin +	Metformin +	Metformin +
DPP-4 inhibitor	SGLT2 inhibitor	GLP-1 receptor agonist
intermediate	intermediate	high
low risk	low risk	low risk
neutral	loss	loss
rare	GU, dehydration	GI
high	high	high

*If HbA1c target not achieved after ~3 months of dual therapy, proceed to 3-drug combination (order not meant to denote any specific preference – choice dependent on a variety of patient- & disease-specific factors):*

Metformin +	Metformin +
DPP-4 Inhibitor	SGLT-2 Inhibitor
+ SU	+
or TZD	
or SGLT2-i	or DPP-4-i
or Insulin <sup>§</sup>	

Figure 2B. Anti-hyperglycemic therapy in T2DM:  
Avoidance of weight gain

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## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- **Age**
- **Weight**
- **Sex / racial / ethnic / genetic differences**
- **Comorbidities**
  - **Coronary artery disease**
  - **Heart Failure**
  - **Chronic kidney disease**
  - **Liver dysfunction**
  - **Hypoglycemia-prone**

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## KEY POINTS

- Glycemic targets & BG-lowering therapies must be individualized, based on a variety of patient and disease characteristics.
- Diet, exercise, & education: foundation of any T2DM therapy program.
- Unless contraindicated, metformin remains the optimal first-line drug.
- After metformin, data are limited. Combination therapy with 1-2 other oral / injectable agents is reasonable. Try to minimize side effects.
- Ultimately, many patients will require insulin therapy alone or in combination with other agents to maintain BG control.
- All treatment decisions should be made in conjunction with the patient (focusing on his or her preferences, needs & values.)
- Comprehensive CV risk reduction - a major focus of therapy.