Pathophysiology of Type 1 Diabetes

Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus

- Characterized by absolute insulin deficiency
- Pathophysiology and etiology
 - Result of pancreatic beta cell destruction
 - Prone to ketosis
 - Total deficit of circulating insulin
 - Autoimmune
 - Idiopathic

Type of Diabetes in Youth by Race/Ethnicity and Etiology

SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth Study (N=2291)



AA, African American; AI, American Indian; API, Asian/Pacific Islander; IR, insulin resistant; IS, insulin sensitive; NHW, non-Hispanic white. Dabelea D, et al. *Diabetes Care*. 2011;34:1628-1633.

Type 1 Diabetes Pathophysiology

- β-cell destruction
 - Usually leading to absolute insulin deficiency
- Immune mediated
- **I**diopathic



Maahs DM, et al. Endocrinol Metab Clin North Am. 2010;39:481-497.

Pathophysiologic Features of Type 1 Diabetes

- Chronic autoimmune disorder
 - Occurs in genetically susceptible individuals
 - May be precipitated by environmental factors
- Autoimmune response against
 - Altered pancreatic β -cell antigens
 - Molecules in β -cells that resemble a viral protein
- Antibodies
 - Approximately 85% of patients: circulating islet cell antibodies
 - Majority: detectable anti-insulin antibodies
 - Most islet cell antibodies directed against GAD within pancreatic β -cells

GAD, glutamic acid decarboxylase.

Maahs DM, et al. Endocrinol Metab Clin North Am. 2010;39:481-497.

Trends in T1D Immunophenotype at Diagnosis

- Prevalence of IA-2A and ZnT8A has increased significantly, mirrored by raised levels of IA-2A, ZnT8A, and IA-2β autoantibodies (IA-2βA)
- IAA and GADA prevalence and levels have not changed
- Increases in IA-2A, ZnT8A, and IA-2βA at diagnosis during a period of rising incidence suggest that the process leading to type 1 diabetes is now characterized by a more intense humoral autoimmune response

Autoantibodies to insulin, IAA; GAD, GADA; islet antigen-2, IA-2A; T1D, type 1 diabetes; zinc transporter 8, ZnT8A.

Autoimmune Basis for Type 1 Diabetes



Models for Pathogenesis of T1D



Models for Pathogenesis of T1D



Models for Pathogenesis of T1D: Fertile Field Hypothesis



How Type 1 Diabetes Might Arise



Insulin and Glucose Metabolism

Major Metabolic Effects of Insulin

- Stimulates glucose uptake into muscle and adipose cells
- Inhibits hepatic glucose production

Consequences of Insulin Deficiency

Hyperglycemia → osmotic diuresis and dehydration

Major Metabolic Effects of Insulin and Consequences of Insulin Deficiency

Insulin effects: inhibits breakdown of triglycerides (lipolysis) in adipose tissue

• Consequences of insulin deficiency: elevated FFA levels



Adipose

tissue

Insulin effects: inhibits ketogenesis

 Consequences of insulin deficiency: ketoacidosis, production of ketone bodies



Insulin effects in muscle: stimulates amino acid uptake and protein synthesis, inhibits protein degradation, regulates gene transcription

• Consequences of insulin deficiency: muscle wasting