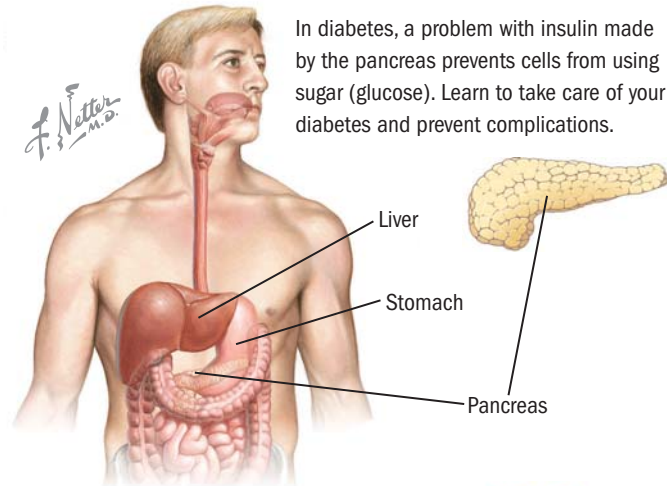


MANAGING YOUR DIABETES MELLITUS TYPE 2



In diabetes, a problem with insulin made by the pancreas prevents cells from using sugar (glucose). Learn to take care of your diabetes and prevent complications.



Diabetes is very common, especially in overweight people who have relatives with diabetes.



Gangrene



Ulcers



Uncontrolled diabetes can cause eye disease.



Loss of feeling



Diabetes may reduce circulation in your feet and cause ulcers, infections, and other problems.

Untreated diabetes may lead to kidney failure that could require dialysis.

What Is Diabetes Mellitus Type 2?

Diabetes mellitus type 2, or type 2 diabetes (abbreviated DM), is one type of diabetes. In DM, a problem with insulin prevents body cells from using sugar (glucose) in food. Insulin is a chemical made by the pancreas. Insulin helps sugar enter body cells, which use the sugar for energy. DM involves poor responses of cells to insulin (insulin resistance) in type 2 DM, lack of insulin in type 1 DM, and too much sugar in the blood (hyperglycemia) in both types of DM.

People of any age can have DM. Type 2 DM occurs more often in overweight adults, especially those with diabetic relatives. DM is a lifelong illness.

Another name for type 2 DM is adult-onset diabetes.

What Causes Type 2 Diabetes?

In DM, when cells don't have or don't respond to insulin, they can't get the sugar. Sugar stays in the blood until some extra sugar goes into urine and is removed. Too much blood sugar damages blood vessels, which can cause serious diseases.

What Are the Symptoms of Type 2 Diabetes?

Symptoms start slowly but get worse, although some people have no symptoms. Some people complain of often being thirsty and hungry and may need to urinate often.

More symptoms are tiredness, blurred vision, chest pain or other heart trouble, weight gain or loss, foot ulcers, numbness or tingling in hands or feet, sores that don't heal, infections, and impotence (in men).

Serious complications of long-term DM include blindness, kidney failure, nerve damage, coronary heart disease, and peripheral vascular disease.

How Is Type 2 Diabetes Diagnosed?

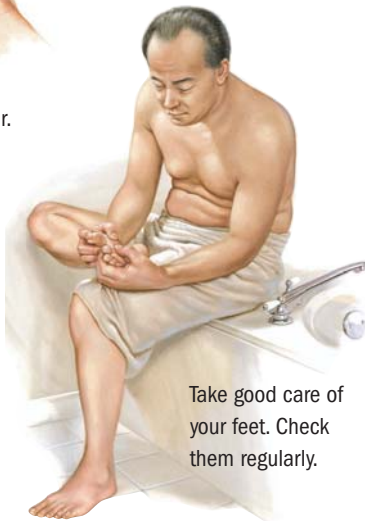
The doctor uses a medical history, physical examination, and blood sugar levels for diagnosis.

Other laboratory tests include average sugar levels during 2 to 3 months (hemoglobin A1C [HbA1c] test) and glucose tolerance test. The doctor will also test the kidneys with blood and urine tests and the blood fat (lipid) level.

All diabetics should check blood glucose levels at home. You can learn the signs that tell you that your sugar level is too low. Your doctor will also order special tests on your urine (urine microalbumin level).



Always take medicine as prescribed by your doctor. Don't smoke.



Take good care of your feet. Check them regularly.



A healthy diet of lean protein and high fiber is essential.

How Is Type 2 Diabetes Treated?

Many people control DM through just diet and exercise. New diet rules allow many food choices, but avoiding high-sugar and high-fat foods is important. Exercise helps control weight and keep blood sugar level down, and the body uses insulin better.

Some people need medicine, however. Medicine for type 2 DM usually consists of pills to help the body use sugar. If the pills don't work, insulin is given by injection.

Blood sugar levels must be tested often (usually at least daily). Being under the care of specialists (endocrinologist, podiatrist, eye doctor) in addition to your primary care doctor can also help prevent complications from diabetes.

DOs and DON'Ts in Managing Diabetes Mellitus Type 2:

- ✓ **DO** keep your blood sugar level near normal.
- ✓ **DO** exercise regularly.
- ✓ **DO** keep to a normal body weight.
- ✓ **DO** eat regular meals.
- ✓ **DO** eat healthy: whole-grain foods, fruit, vegetables, and high-quality proteins. Avoid high-sugar, high-fat, and white flour foods.
- ✓ **DO** keep alcohol intake low.
- ✓ **DO** have your eyes checked yearly and visit the dentist twice yearly.
- ✓ **DO** quit smoking.
- ✓ **DO** take good care of your feet. Visit your podiatrist at least twice per year.
- ✓ **DO** call your doctor if you have a fever or vomiting and cannot eat or drink.
- ✓ **DO** call your doctor if you have high or low blood sugar levels that you cannot explain.
- ⊗ **DON'T** smoke.
- ⊗ **DON'T** drink liquor or high-sugar liquids.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the following sources:

- National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse
Tel: 1-800-860-8747
Website: <http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health/diabetes/diabetes.htm>
- American Diabetes Association
Tel: 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383)
Website: <http://www.diabetes.org>