

# DRUGS USED IN DIABETES MELLITUS

# Classification of Diabetes

- Type 1 Diabetes
- Type 2 Diabetes
- Diabetes due to secondary causes
- Gestational Diabetes

# Drugs used for diabetes

all lower blood glucose

## INSULINS:

only injectable preparations at present

Other antidiabetes drugs: oral preparations

Known as oral antidiabetes drugs/

Oral hypoglycaemic drugs

# Oral antidiabetes drugs

- Main drug classes can be classified according to,
- (How drugs have been developed)
- Efficacy
- Safety
- Suitability
- Availability
- Cost
- Drug interactions
- New drug classes & their place in therapy

# Main oral antidiabetes drug classes for type 2 diabetes

Considering the defects in type 2 diabetes

- Drugs to increase *insulin secretion*
  1. **Sulphonylureas**
- Drugs to improve *insulin action* (Insulin sensitivity)
  2. **Biguanides**

# Sulphonylureas: classification

## 1<sup>st</sup> generation

- ❖ **Tolbutamide**
- ❖ Tablet strength 500mg
- ❖ T  $\frac{1}{2}$  8 hours
- ❖ 1-3 times/day
- ❖ Max. daily dose 2g
- ❖ With meals
- ❖ Chlorpropamide

## 2<sup>nd</sup> generation

- ❖ **Glibenclamide**
- ❖ Tablet strength 5mg
- ❖ T  $\frac{1}{2}$  10 hours
- ❖ 1-2 times /day
- ❖ Max. daily dose 15mg
- ❖ With meals
- ❖ (up to 10mg before breakfast  
>10mg add before dinner)
- *Glipizide*\*
- *Gliclazide*\*

# Sulphonylureas

- Chance of hypoglycaemia with sulphonamides
- First used for diabetes in 1954
- Efficacy: very effective (good blood glucose lowering capacity)
- Potency: glibenclamide > tolbutamide
- Hypoglycaemia: glibenclamide > tolbutamide

# SU: mechanism of action

## *Main action*

- Promote insulin secretion (“secretagogue”) by degranulation of beta cells of the pancreas (release of stored insulin)
- Action by closure of K channels on the beta cell membrane and facilitate  $\text{Ca}^{++}$  entry to beta cells

## *Other possible actions (long term effects)*

- Increase insulin receptor number at target tissue
- Increase glucose uptake by muscle
- Reduced glycogenolysis

# Pharmacokinetics

- Well absorbed from GIT
- Highly protein bound
- Metabolized in the liver
- Excreted by the kidneys
- Some drugs have active metabolites

# Sulphonylureas: indications

- Non obese type 2 diabetes: not responding to dietary therapy
- Non obese Type 2 diabetes: presenting with a complication  
*eg. a foot ulcer, UTI (together with dietary therapy)*

# Adverse effects

common

- ***Hypoglycaemia***  
More with long t  $\frac{1}{2}$  drugs  
  
Tolbutamide causes  
Prolonged hypoglycaemia  
t  $\frac{1}{2}$  36 hours  
Weight gain

very rare

- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea
- Neutropenia, low platelets
- Skin rashes: ***erythema multiforme, Steven Johnson syndrome***
- Jaundice with chlorpropamide
- Disulfiram like reaction with chlorpropamide
- Liver impairment





# Contraindications / cautions

- Type 1 diabetes
- Pregnancy
- Breast feeding
- Liver disease
- stressful states eg, severe infections, MI, surgery
- Hyperglycaemic emergencies (DKA & HONK)

## ***Caution***

- Renal impairment
- Elderly  
(tolbutamide has a short half life and is not excreted by the kidneys, hence is preferred to glibenclamide)

# Sulphonylurea(SU) failure

- Failure to lower blood glucose with SU

## *Primary failure*

- If it occurs within 1 month of starting therapy

## *Secondary failure*

- due to beta cell exhaustion and failure to produce insulin and insulin resistance

*Insulin therapy is recommended for both types*

# Tolbutamide

- Short acting
- Metabolized in the liver
- Safer in patients with renal impairment
- Safer in elderly

# Chlorpropamide.

- Longer duration of action
- Risk of prolonged hypoglycaemia
- Should not be used in elderly

# Glibenclamide

- Widely used
- Can be given as a single daily dose
- Started with a daily dose of 5mg in the morning before breakfast
- Max dose is 15 mg/day

# Biguanides

**metformin 500mg**

Mechanism of action

- *Increase glucose uptake by muscle in the presence of insulin*
- *Increase **insulin receptor number and affinity** of target tissue*
- *Inhibition of hepatic **gluconeogenesis***
- *Reduced intestinal glucose absorption*
- *Reduced appetite and weight loss*

# Metformin: Pharmacokinetics and indications

- Well absorbed
- Renal excretion (unchanged)

## *Indications*

- Obese type 2 diabetes not responding to diet alone
- Obese type 2 diabetes presenting with a complication such as UTI or a foot ulcer
- Type 2 diabetes: when hypoglycaemia is a risk to life

# Metformin: Adverse effects

## Common

- ***Gastrointestinal disturbances***
- Anorexia , nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea
- Malabsorption  
(B12 absorption)

***Start with a low dose***  
***Immediately after meals***  
***1-3 times /day***  
***Max daily dose 3g (1gx3)***

## Rare

- ***Lactic acidosis***  
***(A serious condition)***
- ***Hypoglycaemia***  
***(Very rare)***

# Metformin:

## contraindications and caution

- Major organ failure (liver, heart, respiratory, renal)
- Radiological investigations with contrast (dye)
- Pregnancy & breast feeding
- Surgery (perioperative)
- Type 1 diabetes
- Hyperglycaemic emergencies

### **Caution**

- Elderly and people with renal impairment  
Use a lower daily dose (<2g)

# Comparison of

## Sulphonylureas

- Weight gain
- Hypo: common
- GIT side effects rare
- Metabolised in liver
- Excretion liver/renal

## Metformin

- No weight gain  
(weight loss)
- Hypo: rare
- GIT side effects common
- Not metabolized
- Renal excretion

- ***A sulphonylurea drug may be combined with metformin***
- ***Two sulphonylurea drugs should not be combined***

# New oral antidiabetes drugs

- **Alpha glucosidase inhibitors** eg. acarbose

Delayed conversion of disaccharides to monosaccharides

Problems: intolerable GIT side effects

Liver toxicity (hepatitis), monitor liver function

**Meglitinides:** insulin secretogauges (non SU)

eg repaglinide, nateglinide

**Thiozolidinediones:** Improves insulin sensitivity

eg pioglitazone, rosiglitazone

Problems: Heart failure and liver failure

# Insulin

- Polypeptide with 2 peptide chains
- Linked by 2 disulphide Bonds
- Metabolic activity is common to all mammalian species
- Daily secretion 30-40 units

# Pharmacokinetics

- Injected because digested if swallowed
- Absorbed in to the blood inactivated in the liver & kidney.
- 10% appear in urine.
- $T_{1/2}$  is 5 min
- Peak plasma concentration is in 30-90 min

# Insulin Receptors

- Bound to a receptor Tyrosine kinase on the surface of target cell.
- Insulin receptor complex enters the cell

# Preparations of Insulins.

- Source of Insulin(Human,Bovine,Porcine)
- Formulation
  - Short acting
  - Intermediate acting
  - Long acting
  - Bi phasic

# Short Duration Of action Insulins

- Rapid onset of action
  - Soluble Insulin
  - Insulin Lispro

# Intermediate duration of action

- Isophane Insulin - A suspension with protamine
- Amorphous - Insulin zinc suspension

# Longer duration of action Insulin

- Insulin Zinc suspension -Crystalline

# Biphasic Insulins

- Mixture of soluble insulin & Isophane insulin
- Most commonly used ones are human Insulins
- Soluble Insulin at 10-50% of total Insulin concentration
- Remove the need for patients to mix Insulin

# Indications for use of Insulin.

- Type 1 Diabetes mellitus
- Type 11 Diabetes
  - Diabetic ketoacidosis
  - Non ketotic hyper osmolar coma
  - Surgery
  - Infections
  - Pregnancy

# Side effects of Insulin

- Hypoglycaemia
  - Warning signs due to Neuroglycopenia (refers to a shortage of glucose (glycopenia) in the brain, usually due to hypoglycemia.)
  - Coma ,Convulsions & Death
- Allergic reactions
- Lipoatrophy (adverse immunologic response)
- Lipohypertrophy (lipogenic properties of insulin)

# Soluble Insulin

- Short duration of action
- Used 30m before meals
- 3 times a day
- Colourless.
- Is given I.V in diabetic ketoacidosis.

# Insulin zinc suspensions

- Amorphous
- Crystalline

# Dose of Insulins

- 100u/ml
- Total daily output is 30-40 units a day
- A dose of over 100u/day is due to noncompliance.

# Advice to the patient

- Don't skip a meal
- Signs of hypoglycaemia
- Diet planning
- Regular checkups



THANK YOU