

Diagnosis Pearls

Presented by Dr Kevin Fernando, GP Partner & Medical Education & Scottish Lead, North Berwick Health Centre, GPwSI Diabetes, Primary Care Diabetes Society



	Type 1 diabetes	Type 2 diabetes LADA	LADA	MODY
Pathophysiology	Autoimmune destruction of pancreatic beta cells	Insulin resistance & relative insulin deficiency	Gradual autoimmune destruction of beta cells	Genetic mutation causing diabetes
Age at diagnosis	Usually <25y but can occur at any age	Both adults & children at any age	Can occur at any adult age	Usually <45y
Weight at diagnosis	Usually thin but can be overweight	Usually overweight	Variable	Variable
Family history of diabetes	Infrequent (5- 10%)	Frequent (75- 90%)	Variable	Autosomal dominant
History of autoimmunity	Often personal or FH e.g. thyroid & coeliac	Variable	Variable	Variable
Pancreatic autoantibodies	Present	Absent	Eventually present	Absent
C-peptide levels	Low/absent	Normal to high	Initially high then low/absent	Normal
Insulin sensitivity	Normal when treated	Reduced	Some insulin resistance	Normal
Insulin requirements	Immediate	Variable	Latent; months- years	Variable
Risk of ketoacidosis	High	Low	Low initially but high once insulin-deficient	Low



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NICE NG12 Suspected cancer: recognition and referral 2015 & Scottish referral guidelines for suspected cancer 2015

- Consider an urgent direct access CT scan (to be performed within 2 weeks)
 or an urgent ultrasound scan if CT is not available, to assess for pancreatic
 cancer in people aged 60 and over with weight loss and any of the following:
 - Diarrhoea
 - Back pain
 - Abdominal pain
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Constipation
 - New-onset diabetes

Type 3c Diabetes

- Diabetes of the exocrine pancreas
- Structure and function of the pancreas is disrupted by disease:
 - Acute & chronic pancreatitis
 - Cystic fibrosis
 - Haemachromatosis
 - Pancreatic cancer
- Features that may suggest pancreatic exocrine insufficiency (PEI):
 - Diarrhoea & steatorrhoea
 - Abdominal discomfort
 - Flatulence & bloating
 - Fatique
 - Erratic blood glucose control if severe
- Diagnose by sending a stool sample for faecal elastase
 - Low levels suggest PEI
- TREND UK (https://trend-uk.org) have produced a useful leaflet for healthcare professional about pancreatic exocrine insufficiency and diabetes