# Metabolic Syndrome Demystified

### Alex Wilber, PhD IFMCP







Functional Medicine Global age-standardised prevalence of type 1 and type 2 diabetes from 1990 through 2050 forecasts

Ong, Kanyin Liane et al "Global, regional, and national burden of diabetes from 1990 to 2021, with projections of prevalence to 2050: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021". Lancet, Volume 402, Issue 10397, 203 - 234



#### Share of adults that are obese, 1975 to 2016



Obesity is defined as having a body-mass index (BMI) equal to, or greater than, 30. BMI is a person's weight (in kilograms) divided by their height (in meters) squared.









CAMBRIDGE

Functional Medicine Ghith, Nermin. (2022). Estimation of the global prevalence of dementia in 2019 and forecasted prevalence in 2050: an analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. The Lancet. 7. e105-e125.



#### Exhibit 5: Top 25 diagnoses ranked by average aggregate annual expenditure

Heart conditions	]					\$100,996
Trauma-related disorders					\$92,137	
Cancer					\$87,538	
Mental disorders				\$8	3,598	
COPD, asthma	-			\$75,906		
Osteoarthritis and other non-traumatic joint disorders	-			\$73,823		
Diabetes mellitus			\$59,249			
Hypertension	-	\$47,229				
Back problems	-	\$41,333				
Gallbladder, pancreatic, and liver disease	-	\$41,304				
Normal birth/live born		\$39,287				
Other CNS disorders		\$37,183				
Systemic lupus and connective tissues disorders		\$36,456				
Skin disorders		\$35,584				
Hyperlipidemia	-	\$35,148				
Kidney Disease		\$34,303				
Residual Codes	\$30	,073				
Disorders of the upper GI	\$25,706					
Other circulatory conditions arteries, veins, and lymphatics	\$25,369					
Infectious diseases	\$24,381					
Pneumonia	\$20,022					
Other bone and musculoskeletal disease	\$19,950					
Other care and screening	\$18,234					
Stroke	\$17,592					
Cerebrovascular disease	\$16,940					
S	0 \$20,000	\$40,000 \$60	0,000	\$80,000	\$100,0	00 \$120,000

Source: National Medical Expenditures Panel Survey of 2012 (MEPS)

#### Exhibit 5: Top 25 diagnoses ranked by average aggregate annual expenditure



Source: National Medical Expenditures Panel Survey of 2012 (MEPS)

#### Exhibit 5: Top 25 diagnoses ranked by average aggregate annual expenditure



Source: National Medical Expenditures Panel Survey of 2012 (MEPS)

## Metabolic syndrome – 5 hallmarks

High waist circumference Population- and country-specific cut-offs

High triglycerides ≥150mg/dL, or relevant drug treatment

Low HDL cholesterol

<40mg/dl in males, <50mg/dL in females, or relevant drug treatment

High blood pressure

Systolic ≥130mmHg and/or diastolic ≥85mmHg, or antihypertensive treatment and a history of hypertension

High fasting glucose

≥100mg/dL, or relevant drug treatment





# a proxy for insulin resistance





## Prevalence

- In the US:
  - In 2018: **41.8%** of adults
  - Up from 37.6% in 2012
  - 64.7% of adults had elevated fasting glucose
  - Over 50% of over-60s had metabolic syndrome

Xiaopeng Liang et al., Prevalence of metabolic syndrome in the United States National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2011–18, *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, Volume 99, Issue 1175, September 2023, Pages 985–992

- In the UK:
  - Much less data, estimated at 25% of adults

Angelo Scuteri et al., Metabolic syndrome across Europe: Different clusters of risk factors, European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, Volume 22, Issue 4, 1 April 2015, Pages 486–491











# Why is this happening?

















# Mechanisms











## Visceral adipose tissue

#### Lean adipose tissue



Ferrazzi, Enrico & Stampalija, Tamara & Aupont, Jean Edgard. (2013). The evidence for lateonset preeclampsia as a maternogenic disease of pregnancy. Fetal and Maternal Medicine Review. 24. 10.1017/S0965539513000028.



- Frequent cell death
- Macrophage recruitment (up to 50%!)
- Release of proinflammatory cytokines and free fatty acids



















# But why does all this matter?











## Example consequences - hypertension



Functional Medicine



## Metabolic syndrome – 5 hallmarks







ledicine

## So what can we do about it?





## Multifactorial -> multifixorial











## Case study - Peter







## Interventions

- Avoid sugar, minimise alcohol
- Diverse, nutrient dense diet
- Mindful eating
- Pre- and probiotics
- Breathing exercises for stress management





## Case study - Peter

Broaden Mindful Repetitive Parents, any history Probable diet of antibiotics eating diet nutrient Avoid sugar, insufficiencies Prebiotics ~ minimise alcohol Sugar Frequent stools Alcohol **Energy dips** Probiotics Dysbiosis Gout (Bacteria Bloating 4 Frequent Test and address urination microbiome Fasting imbalances Chronic Blood sugar fluctuations and stress → Thirst Stress metabolic issues management Weight gain practice High Nutrient dense Feeling cholesterol Reduced Occasional stressed diet and libido sleep issues supplements





# Thank you



