



# Obesity



- People are often said to be obese if they have a weight to height ratio or BMI (body mass index) over 30
- Around 24 million adults in the UK are overweight or obese<sup>1</sup>
- In the past 10 years obesity has doubled in six year olds and trebled amongst 15 year olds<sup>2</sup>
- Almost 20% of Scottish 12 year olds are obese<sup>3</sup>
- Overweight adolescents have a 70% chance of becoming overweight or obese adults<sup>4</sup>
- Obesity may be caused by inappropriate diet, sedentary life style and genetic factors
- Chronic health problems linked to obesity include: heart disease, high blood pressure, osteoarthritis and Type 2 diabetes

# Type 2 Diabetes



- By 2010, 221 million people worldwide will have diabetes<sup>5</sup>
- Type 2 diabetes reduces life expectancy on average by up to 10 years<sup>6</sup>
- The vast majority of people with Type 2 diabetes are overweight or obese<sup>7</sup>
- Type 2 diabetes is usually diagnosed when the body can no longer effectively use insulin to transfer glucose to cells and tissues
- Type 2 diabetes is now being seen in obese schoolchildren – previously it was only seen in adults<sup>8</sup>
- Type 2 diabetes is a progressive disease of both glucose and lipid metabolism
- Controlling blood glucose levels is only one part of the problem for patients with diabetes – it is a complex metabolic disorder requiring early diagnosis and a variety of treatments and changes in lifestyle

# Diet, Diabetes and Obesity & Lifestyle



- Type 2 diabetes is inextricably linked with diet and obesity
- Children in Britain eat on average only 2 portions of fruit and vegetables per day<sup>9</sup>
- 4–18 year olds eat higher than recommended amounts of saturated fat and sugar<sup>10</sup>
- Portion sizes are increasing, particularly of 'energy dense' snack and fast foods<sup>11</sup>
- Schoolchildren spend £549 million a year on snacks on the way to and from school in the UK<sup>12</sup>
- Around 50% of children have less than the one hour recommended physical activity per day<sup>13</sup>





#### DRUG TREATMENTS

**OBESITY** – diet is the primary means of treatment. For 'morbid' obesity, some drugs are available which work mainly by suppressing the appetite.

**DIABETES** – is treated in a variety of ways e.g. insulin is often given by injection to help to control blood sugar level. A class of drugs called statins are given to diabetic patients to reduce their cholesterol (LDL) and triglycerides. PPAR agonists are new molecules which may improve glucose metabolism and improve lipid profile<sup>14</sup>.

More detailed information can be found at:

http://www.abpi.org.uk/publications/publication\_details/targetDiabetes2/dandp1.asp

# PREDICTIONS AND RISKS

By 2010 it is predicted that one in four adults will be obese costing an estimated £3.6 billion to the NHS and the economy  $^{15}$ . It is predicted that by 2011, 10% of the NHS budget will go on treating diabetes  $^{16}$ . Obesity is associated with more chronic health problems than is smoking  $^{17}$ .



Allocate one risk factor per group of students. Each group should (a) discuss and determine the issues associated with each risk factor, (b) check out the information boxes and suggested web sites for each, and (c) feedback their findings to the rest of the class in a creative style.

#### DIET

GI-glycemic index and Glycemic loading: High fat diet suppresses a key enzyme that triggers beta cells in pancreas to produce insulin.

http://www.hhmi.org/news/marth20051229.html

#### **GENETICS**

How many people in your family have been diagnosed with diabetes?

http://www.diabetes.org.uk/Guide-to-diabetes/

http://genome.wellcome.ac.uk/doc\_wtd020843.html

#### **FOETAL HISTORY**

Is there a history of gestational diabetes in your family? Any babies born over 4 kg? Any babies of very low birth weight?

http://www.diabetes.org.uk/Guide-to-diabetes/

## **IMPAIRED GLUCOSE TOLERANCE: PRE-DIABETES**

Effects of blood glucose being higher than normal.

http://www.diabetes.org.uk/Guide-to-diabetes/

#### AGE

Type 2 diabetes is mainly found in over 40s but is increasingly being diagnosed in younger age groups.

http://www.channel4.com/health/microsites/09/4health/body/ill\_diabetes.html

## **INACTIVITY**

Brisk walking of at least 30 minutes for five days a week can lower the risk of developing diabetes.

http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ats/Oct22/

#### WHICH GROUPS ARE MOST AT RISK?

African-Caribbean, South Asian people.

http://www.diabetes.org.uk/Guide-to-diabetes/

#### **BODY SHAPE**

Apple or pear? Calculate your BMI. Or is waist size a better measurement?

http://www.diabetes.org.uk/Guide-to-diabetes/

http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=21444

#### **INSULIN RESISTANCE**

Blood glucose and insulin levels can be high at the same time. Muscle, fat liver cells do not use insulin properly.

Metabolic Syndrome

http://diabetes.niddk.nih.gov/dm/pubs/insulinresistance/

#### **HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE**

(Hypertension) Treating hypertension reduces the risk of developing diabetes.

http://www.endocrine-abstracts.org/ea/0006/ea006ds3.htm

#### **HIGH CHOLESTEROL**

Increased LDL, decreased HDL, increased triglycerides, increased blood pressure.

http://www.diabetes.org/type-1-diabetes/well-being/treating-cholesterol.jsp

# PRACTICAL ACTIVITY: ESTIMATING GLUCOSE CONCENTRATION IN SOLUTION

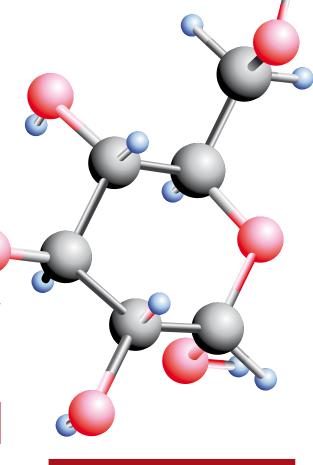
People with diabetes have to monitor and control their diet carefully to ensure that their blood glucose concentrations remain within an acceptable range, as levels outside this range result in short and long-term health problems. The blood glucose concentration, therefore, has to be checked regularly, usually using a meter (biosensor).

In this practical you will test the percentage of glucose present in a variety of solutions of known concentration and you will draw a graph (a standard curve) to show your results. You will then use this graph to estimate the concentrations of glucose present in some unknown solutions.

Glucose (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>6</sub>) is a monosaccharide reducing sugar (i.e. it donates electrons under acidic conditions). In this reaction the electrons are accepted by a pink solution of potassium permanganate reducing it to a colourless solution of manganese ions. The time taken for the loss of colour from a standardised solution of permanganate is directly related to the concentration of glucose present in solution.



- 1 Label your syringes (G for Glucose, P for Potassium permanganate and S for Sulfuric acid).
- 2 Label the boiling tubes with the different glucose concentrations.
- 3 Use the correct syringe to place 10 cm<sup>3</sup> of the 2% glucose solution into the boiling tube marked '2%'.
- 4 Add 5 cm<sup>3</sup> of sulfuric acid.
- 5 Add 2 cm<sup>3</sup> of potassium permanganate and start the timer.
- 6 Stir with a stirring rod and stop the timer as soon as the pink colour disappears.
- 7 Record the time taken (in seconds) and the concentration of glucose solution used.
- 8 Repeat using the other glucose solutions of known concentration, working from the least to most concentrated solution in order.
- 9 Using fresh boiling tubes repeat steps 4–7 for each of the glucose solutions of unknown concentration (A, B and C).
- 10 Record your own results and, if possible, class average results in a table.
- 11 Plot a standard curve of the class results on graph paper and use this to estimate by interpolation the concentrations of the three unknown solutions. Show your interpolation on the graph.
- 12 Now plot a graph showing the rate of reaction (i.e. -1/t against concentration of glucose) using class average results.



Equi	pmen	t An	d Ma	terial	s
Rea	uired	Bv E	ach	Grour	,

Safety spectacles

Labels/marker pens

Timer

Glucose solutions (2%, 4%, 6%, 8% and 10%)

Glass rod

3 solutions of unknown glucose concentration marked A, B and C

**Boiling tubes** 

Boiling tube rack

Sulfuric acid

3 syringes

Potassium permanganate

#### **EVALUATING YOUR EXPERIMENT**

In your evaluation of the experiment you should discuss:

The effectiveness of the procedure (e.g. compare class average results with your group's results, and with the actual concentrations of the unknown solutions which your teacher will tell you)

The limitations of the equipment

Sources of error

Possible improvements in your method

Ideas for further work

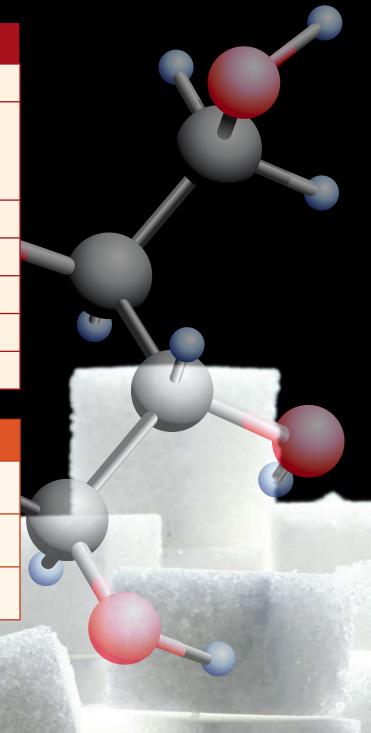
The importance of the procedure

#### CONCLUSIONS

Describe any trend you see in your graphs

Relate your results back to the aim of the experiment

Estimate the concentrations of the unknown solutions



People with Type I diabetes have to test their blood sugar levels much more frequently than those with Type 2 diabetes. In small groups discuss the possible reason(s) for this difference.

Summarise your explanation in writing for presentation to the rest of the class.

Discuss what you have learned about diabetes and its prevalence and write down three points about diabetes which you think people of your age should be aware of.

#### References:

http://www-saps.plantsci.cam.ac.uk/worksheets/scotland/glucose.htm Freeland, P.W. (1985). Problems in Practical Advanced Level Biology. Hodder and Stoughton, London.



Pick a box. Think about what it shows. Is this a problem? Do you have any concerns? Can society make a difference? Who should be involved? How does it make you feel?

Although this is a fictional memo, it should be noted that there are NHS Trusts that have suggested this strategy.

DIRECTOR OF FIELD OPERATIONS (South East England)

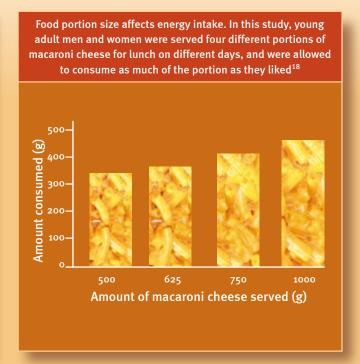
To: all Orthopaedic Surgeons
(D of O)

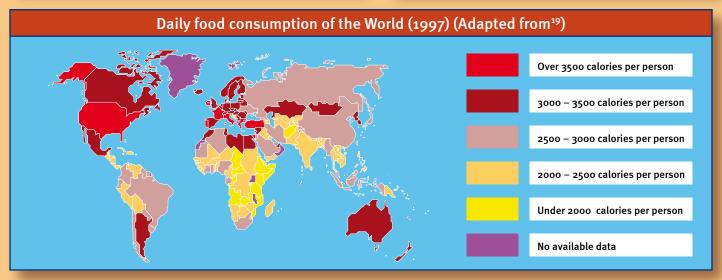
Date: 10th September 2006

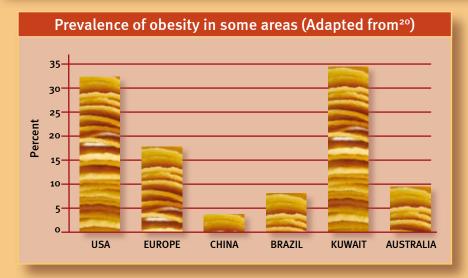
ISSUE: Knee and Hip Replacement Surgery
ACTION: To cascade to staff

TIMING: Immediate

The East Lexton NHS Trust proposes that no knee or hip replacement surgery will be carried out on patients who have a BMI of over 30. The Trust will provide support of said patients in weight loss programmes but regrets that due to financial restrictions is unable to carry out replacement surgery.









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  Stationery Office, London www.archive2.official-documents.co.uk/document/deps/doh/survey01/hse01.htm

  (cited in Food Standards Agency: http://www.food.gov.uk/healthiereating/advertisingtochildren/promotion/promofacts/).
- 3 Scottish Health Statistics. Obesity Statistics (2005). ISD Scotland www.isdscotland.org/files/Childhood\_Obesity
- 4 Parliamentary Office of Science & Technology Postnote (2003). Childhood Obesity. No. 205.
- 5 Amos AF, et al. (1997). The rising global burden of diabetes and its complications: estimates and projections to the year 2010. Diabet Med 14(Suppl.5):S1–85.
- 6 Department of Health (2001). National Service Framework for Diabetes Standards. www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/05/89/38/04058938.pdf
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  http://www.sodexho.co.uk/uken/services/food-services/our-markets/education/secondary-schools/secondary.asp
- 13 Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer (2002). Department of Health www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/AnnualReports
- 14 Target Diabetes (2005). Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry. www.abpi.org.uk/publications/publication\_details/targetDiabetes2/dandp1.asp
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- 16 Levene LS (2003). Management of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Primary Care. Butterworth Heinmann, New York (cited in Diabetes UK (2004); *Diabetes in the UK 2004*).
- 17 Sturm R (2002). The effects of obesity, smoking and drinking on medical problems and costs. Health Aff (Millwood) 21:245-253.
- 18 Rolls BJ, *et al.* (2002). Portion size of food affects energy intake in normal-weight and overweight men and women *Am J Clin Nutr* **76**:1207–1213.
- 19 FAO: www.fao.org/News/1998/981204-e.htm
- 20 Hoffman DJ for FAO: http://www.fao.org/documents/show\_cdr.asp?url\_file=/DOCREP/003/Y0600M/y0600m05.htm





Curriculum Links	
SCOTLAND Advanced Higher Biology	Cell and Molecular Biology: Structure and function of cell components. Carbohydrates, lipids, cell signalling.  Physiology, Health and Exercise: b) Exercise and metabolism. Link between diet and obesity; Effects of exercise on weight control; Control of blood glucose levels; Non-insulin dependent diabetes; Diabetes and obesity; Effect of exercise on diabetes.
ENGLAND and WALES A/AS Level Biology	Edexcel  4.2 Regulation of the internal environment.  Action of insulin and glucagon in the regulation of the blood glucose level.  C.2 Exercise physiology.  Exercise and the cardiovascular system.  C.3 Human disorders – coronary heart disease.  AQA A2 module 6  Physiology and the environment.  Control of blood glucose concentration – role of insulin and glucagon.  Diabetes and its control with insulin and by manipulation of carbohydrate intake.  Salter-Nuffield Advanced Biology AS  Topic 1 Lifestyle, health and risk.  The role of diet and other lifestyle factors in maintaining good health.
NORTHERN IRELAND	CCEA – AS and A Level GCE Biology  Module 1 – Molecules – carbohydrates.  Module 4 – Homeostasis – the principles of endocrine control.

#### Materials for the practical activity

10 cm<sup>3</sup> of each glucose solution (2%, 4%, 6%, 8%, and 10%).

3 solutions of unknown glucose concentration (A - 8% glucose, B - water, C - 5% glucose); (Any number of solutions of unknown concentration could be provided).

50 cm<sup>3</sup> 1 M sulfuric acid (mol dm<sup>-3</sup>).

20 cm<sup>3</sup> potassium permanganate (0.4 g dm<sup>-3</sup>).

(N.B. potassium permanganate must be made up just before use).

It is advisable to have slightly more of each solution available as some groups may need to repeat parts of the experiment.

#### Links to related resources

OBESITY: THE BIG PICTURE http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/node5951.html

http://www.food.gov.uk/healthiereating/advertisingtochildren/promotion/promofacts/

http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/hottopics/obesity/index.shtml

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