

Hyperglycaemia in a boy of 13 years old: Not always Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus. A case report

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Introduction

Type 1 Diabetes (T1D), the most frequent type of diabetes in Paediatrics, can be easily misdiagnosed.

Objectives

We report a 13 year old boy with monogenic diabetes, initially diagnosed and treated as T1D.

Methods

The patient presented at 7.5 years of age with a febrile illness and mild hyperglycaemia. An Oral Glucose Tolerance Test (OGTT) then was normal, HbA1c 6.3% (45 mmol/mol), (table 1). Slowly progressing T1D was diagnosed; he stayed under follow-up with routine BMstix measuring at home (max blood glucose (BG) 153 mg/dl (8.5mmol/l). A repeat OGTT at the age of 9y showed BG 127mg/dl (7.1mmol/l) at 0' and 258 mg/dl (14.3mmol/l) at 120', HbA1c 6.7% (50mmol/mol) (tabl. 2). He started on small doses of insulin. His glycaemic control was excellent; he remained on small doses of insulin (0.1U/Kg/d) for four years. The patient discontinued insulin without medical advice. Six months later, he had mild fasting hyperglycaemia, (BG 107-148mg/dl (6-8mmol/l)), HbA1c 6.2% (44 mmol/mol); Anti-GAD, ICA and IA2 were negative (tabl 3). OGTTs were normal for father and younger sister aged 2 years. His mother, 37 year old, had gestational diabetes, her OGTT showed BG 147mg/dl (8.2 mmol/l) at 0' and 121mg/dl (6.7mmol/l) at 120', HbA1c 6.4% (46mmol/l); negative anti-IA2 antibodies. DNA analysis was carried out for the presence of mutations in *HNF1A* and *GCK* genes employing bidirectional sequencing of the coding regions of the two genes. MLPA was employed to search for deletions in the genes *GCK*, *HNF1A*, *HNF4A*, *HNF1B*.

Table 1. Initial OGTT, age 7.5 y old

	0'	120'
Glu (mg/dl)	115 (6.4 mmol/l)	91 (5 mmol/l)
HbA1c (4.3-5.7%)	6.3% (45.4 mmol/l)	

Table 2. OGTT, age 9 y old

	0'	120'
Glu (mg/dl)	127 (7.0 mmol/l)	258 (14.3 mmol/l)
Ins (mIU/ml)	7.3	78
HbA1c (4.3-5.7%)	6.7% (49.7 mmol/l)	

Table 3. OGTT, 13y old

	6 months after no insulin Tx	0'	60'	120'
Glu (mg/dl)		120 (6.7 mmol/l)	170 (9.4 mmol/l)	97 (5.4 mmol/l)
Ins (2.6-25 mIU/ml)		8.3		
C-peptide (0.5-4.4ng/ml)		1.9		
HbA1c (4.3-5.7%)		6.2% (44/3 mmol/l)		

Results

Point mutations were not detected in the genes *GCK* and *HNF1A*. The MLPA revealed that the patient and his mother harbor a heterozygote *GCK* gene deletion (exons1-10), confirming the diagnosis of maturity onset diabetes of the young type 2 (MODY 2).

Conclusions

MODY is a heterogeneous group of monogenic diabetes that result in β -cell dysfunction (table 4, 5 & 6). Diagnosis in paediatric patients may be challenging. It has an estimated prevalence of just 1%-2% of all diabetes in industrialized countries, however this prevalence is probably underestimated since large population screening studies have not been performed. MODY2 is characterized by mildly elevated fasting blood sugars and HbA1c ranging from 5.6-7.6% (38-60 mmol/mol). It is frequently unrecognized or misdiagnosed as T1D or T2D, resulting in unnecessary insulin treatment. The suggested treatment for MODY 2 is normally a lifestyle modification with regular physical activity and a well balanced diet. Molecular diagnosis is, therefore, very important for recognising the type of MODY, deciding the appropriate treatment for the patient and providing a reliable long term prognosis for individual patients and their relatives.

MODY type	Frequency (% from MODYs)	Age at dx (y)	Hyperglycemia	Complications	Other features	Treatment
<i>GCK</i>	15-20	newborn or older	Mild	Very rare	Mild hyperglycemia already from newborn, homozygote: PNDM	Diet
<i>HNF-4A</i>	5	From puberty	Progressive	as T1D	Neonatal hyperinsulinemia, LGA, low triglycerides	OHA or insulin
<i>HNF-1A</i>	almost 60	From puberty	Progressive	as T1D	reduced renal glucose threshold	OHA or insulin
<i>HNF-1B</i>	2	> 20	Progressive	as T1D	Renal anomalies, renal insufficiency, pancreatic hypoplasia, genital anomalies	OHA or insulin
<i>Pdx1</i>	< 1	> 35	Progressive	N.A	Homozygote: pancreatic agenesis	Diet or OHA or insulin
<i>Ins</i>	2	Infant to adult	Varies	Mild but can be as T1D	Can also present as PNDM	Diet or OHA or insulin
<i>CEL</i>	< 1	> 30	N.A	N.A	Exocrine insufficiency, lipomatosis	OHA or insulin
<i>NeuroD</i>	< 1	20-30	Progressive	N.A	Homozygote: PNDM and neurological abnormalities	OHA or insulin
<i>KLF11</i>	< 1	20-30	Variable	N.A	N.A	OHA or insulin
<i>Pax4</i>	< 1	> 20	Progressive	N.A	N.A	Diet or OHA or insulin
<i>Kir6.2</i>	< 1	From early puberty to adulthood	Variable	N.A	Homozygote: neonatal diabetes	Diet or OHA or insulin
<i>SUR1</i>	< 1	From early puberty to adulthood	Variable	N.A	Homozygote: permanent neonatal diabetes; heterozygote: transient neonatal diabetes	OHA (sulphonylurea)

Table 4. MODY types

Table 6. MODY2 inheritance

Table 5. MODY2 pathophysiology

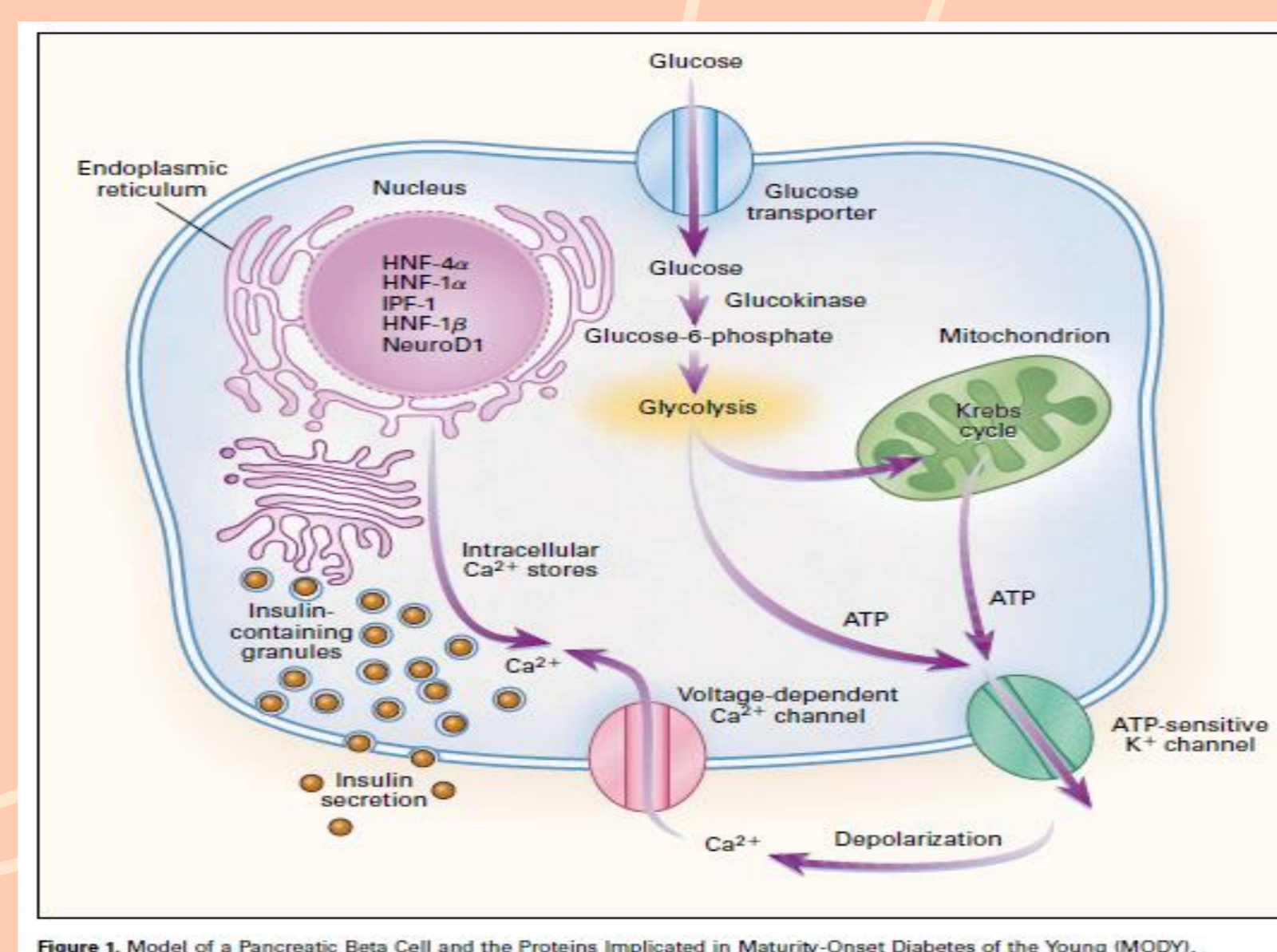
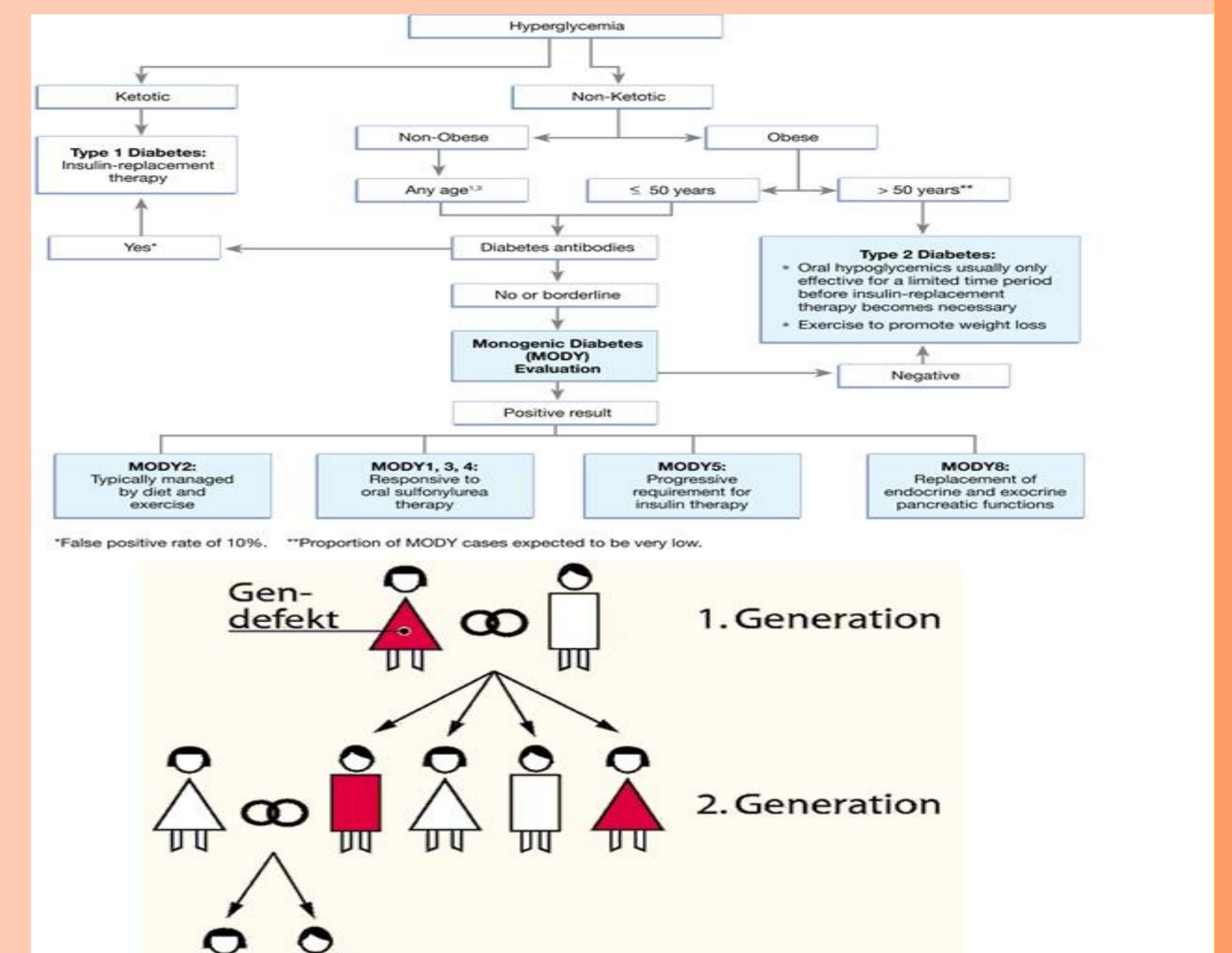


Figure 1. Model of a Pancreatic Beta Cell and the Proteins Implicated in Maturity-Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY).



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